

MSPA US Meeting

May 2, 2018 (8:50 am - 9:35 am)

Welcome! Thank you w"rap" up!

Mary Pinkus, US Co-President

To close out the year, Mary and Alli rapped to Vanilla Ice's hit "Ice, Ice Baby." Here are their adapted lyrics:

Thanks, Thanks Menlo!!

Yo, VIP, let's kick it!

Thanks, thanks Menlo

Thanks, thanks Menlo

All right stop

Collaborate and listen

We are back with our same intention

Gratitude grabs a hold of us tightly

Please show your thanks daily and nightly

Will it ever stop

Yo, we say no

Turn off the lights-huh-and we'll throw

To the extreme we rock your thanks like a vandal

Light up a page and write a note you can handle

Thanks!

Then, Mary thanked some groups and individuals:

- Hospitality
- Everyone who wrote kind notes to teachers, staff and coaches
- Everyone who supported Mary and Alli this year
- Than, for his leadership

Finally, Mary passed the baton to Liz Weingart.

Hard Day's Knight

Kim Guthrie and Jill Layman, Auction Co-Chairs

After Mary and Alli played a British word game to thank the Auction Co-Chairs, Kim and Jill reported on the auction by playing Menlo-by-the-Numbers:

12: Number of families who underwrote the auction so everything earned could go to financial aid

19: Live Auction items

52: Count-Me-In parties donated to raise money and build community

473: Attendees

47K: Starting donation for Fund a Future

1.5M: Amount earned for financial aid (estimated number)

Nominating

Elizabeth Dumanian, VP Nominating

Liz Weingart and Jenn Miller have already been voted in as Co-Presidents next year.

Elizabeth nominated Devon Gold and Christina Tudor as Co-President Elects, to take over the following year. Mary moved to elect Devon and Christina; Elizabeth seconded; the parents in attendance voted unanimously to elect Devon and Christina as Co-Presidents Elect.

M Term Volunteers

Diana Ekstrand, VP Student Enrichment

Menlo is looking for volunteers as chaperones and back-up chaperones for field trips in the Bay Area. Please use the link in the last eNotes.

Oliver!

Steven Minning, Director of Creative Arts

Forty-five students, from the MS and US, will be on stage, and many more will be behind the scenes. Please bring blankets because it will be cold. A distinguished alum has designed the set. Mr. Minning asked the parents to post the six Oliver! posters he brought in their communities.

Senior Student Panel

John Schafer, Upper School Director

Seniors have a more mature, reflective perspective on Menlo. He introduced a panel of seniors: Ian Costello, Ryan Thompson, Will Crandall, Kelly Campa, Sarah Kornfeld.

The things they enjoyed most about Menlo:

- Connecting with teachers
- Extracurriculars
- Research
- Abroad programs
- Classroom engagement
- CADC
- Arts program
- Friends
- Humanities program
- Weekend trips
- Neuroscience
- STEM classes, especially math which is taught with no textbook
- Sports, even if you aren't any good
- Whitaker Lab and ASR
- Model UN
- Endless opportunities

Things they would do differently if they could do Menlo over:

- Spend more time in the Whitaker Lab
- Go all out for spirit days
- Go to more Valpo Bowls and other sporting events
- Build the skills needed in high school during freshman year
- Be more efficient with time
- Take the classes I am interested in, not the STEM ones I felt pressured into taking
- Take CS and mechanical engineering earlier

Advice for parents of 8th graders:

- Be your kid's cheerleader

- Encourage them to take classes for the right reasons, not because it will help them get into college
- Allow them to be in a bad mood
- Legitimize their stress
- Don't talk about college
- Help them get off the computer so they have time to study, see friends and get involved
- Encourage them to be different and to reach out to different types of kids

How should parents help their kids get off the computer and get involved:

- It will come from the child when he or she is ready and finds a niche
- It's hard for a kid to understand how great it is to get involved until they do it, so just point them to items in the eNotes and hope they try them out
- Parents shutting off the computer is a short term solution; the long-term one comes when the kid realizes they want to do other things

What were the highs and lows of the college process:

- Visit colleges so you know you will be happy wherever you get in
- Don't be worried about the brand; go where you are happy
- Understand which colleges give you a real boost for applying early
- Talk to professors in the department at the school you want to go to; anyone can read the website
- Don't go overboard; only apply to 8-12 schools
- Look at lots of different types of schools and try to find Menlo students there to talk to
- Everything in high school is not an audition for college; it's to help prepare you for life
- Talk to other kids who are not in Top 10 schools because they are learning and are happy

Parents wanted the panel to talk to the US students and the incoming 9th graders. John said that US students are repeatedly told these things at Menlo, but he finds that they really need to learn it for themselves.