

MSPA US Meeting
August 29, 2018
8:45am - 10:00am

Welcome by Liz Weingart, MSPA US Co-President

This is the season for new beginnings, new teachers, classmates, and friends. The Menlo community is encouraged to reach out at events and meet new people. Together we can strengthen our community. Challenge: reach out and speak to 3 new people you do not know.

We are continuing the theme of “Attitude of Gratitude” that was started last year: positive communication with faculty/staff and with each other.

MSPA council recited a poem to kick off the new school year:

We know Menlo is MINT to succeed
With all of you SMARTIES!
We can all KISS our worries away
Because our community is full of LIFESAVERS
And LUCKY CHARMS who are always willing to jump in
Especially during a CRUNCH
To provide a LAFFY and ensure
That we will BLOW (Pop) this year out of the park!

Than Healy, Head of School: Back to School Updates

He is starting the school year from a place of deep gratitude. The Seniors did a wonderful job welcoming the new students.

A video was shown of the seniors’ chalking of the sidewalk with directions to rooms, words of encouragement, etc.

Announcement: Director of Diversity and Inclusion position is still open
In the interim, the leadership roles and responsibilities have been decentralized and separated out amongst the faculty and staff. (The Diversity and Inclusion Staffing plan will be sent out via enotes)

Thoughts from last school year to continue this year:

Metaphor of parenting: Carpenters are those who start with a finished product in mind and sculpt opportunities to get to that preconceived end result. Gardeners are those who cultivate and enrich establishing an environment for growth. Gardeners are focused on longer term.

Than would like us to be more “gardener” type parents vs. “carpenter”
Menlo School offers all kinds of pathways for enrichment and a wide span of opportunities and experiences. Menlo School is our garden. We are set up to nurture kids to grow and be resilient.

Let’s be Gardeners.

Introduction of new US Athletic Director, Earl Koberlein

Athletic department updates:

- Three new head coaches (Josh Bowie, football; Clare Howie, girls water polo; Mark Madayag, girls golf)
- New Head Athletic Trainer: Aubrey Yanda
- The athletics department is working on bringing in a physical therapist to Menlo.
- Facility update: tennis courts and track have been resurfaced; and the pool renovation is currently in process
- Cartan Field project is on the to-do list

Earl emphasizes to his coaches to value integrity, education, sportsmanship, and a safe environment (physically and mentally). He wants his coaches to be great teachers and role models and to provide a fun environment.

Goal for the athletic program: when students leave Menlo and look back at their experience, he wants them to say “My athletic experience was the best I’ve ever had”. Finally, Earl encourages the athletes to advocate for themselves (empower them to learn and grow).

John Shafer, US Director

Introduction of New Upper School Faculty/Staff

Otis Bryant: Modern World History, US World History

He is originally from NY and most recently worked at the Key School in Annapolis, MD and Western Reserve Academy in Ohio. He is a big Fan of korean hip hop because they pay homage to the greats in hip hop.

Midori “Dori” Hosobuchi: Lab technician supporting all the science teachers. She has a PhD in genetics and postdoctoral work and used to teach elementary and middle school science. She is excited she can bring everything she has learned from her science background to the classroom.

Matt Granoff: 9th grade English. He grew up in Moraga and has most recently lived in Minnesota. He was hired at Menlo 2 weeks ago and is excited to be back in the area.

Jake Fauver: Upper school counselor working with Tracey Bianchi. Originally from east coast (NJ), Most recently was at Nueva School. He will be doing counseling as well as teaching the Freshman Seminar course on Identity.

Natalie Ford: College Counselor who has worked in college admissions (most recently Lehigh and Princeton). She is mostly working with Juniors this year.

Chris Young: Director of Community Engagement
Chris believes we need leadership of our young people to help make this world better. He would like to see Menlo School become a world Class Leader in School Community Engagement & Programming. One exciting project is that Knight Vision and Student Council are already working to host a youth summit on a topical issue of their choice.

Chris led the group in a Pair Share activity: What do we do well? What can we do so that Menlo students go deeper and bigger with their community and engagement?

Announcements

Alex Tenorio, Chief Development Officer: annual fund

The start of school is the beginning of the annual fund effort and concludes at end of calendar year.

A gift to the annual fund is a great way to assist in watering the entire garden.

Goal for 2018-19: 100% participation (every gift to the annual fund, big or small, is appreciated).

Introduced Allison Chao who along with her husband are Co-Chairs of Annual Fund.

Vidya Kagan in Development is a great resource in the department for anyone with questions on the annual fundraising efforts of Menlo School.

Mary Pinkus and Valpo Fun Run Committee

6th Valpo Run: community event to support Peninsula Bridge summer program for underprivileged kids in the area

October 7, 2018 at 9 am Menlo Loop

Signups at active.com

Volunteer opportunities for Fun Run can be found in enotes

Students can get Community Engagement Credits

Connections Beyond Classroom description read by Liz Weingart and sign up clipboards were sent around. First general meeting for the Connections Beyond Classroom Committee is September 7th at Noon-1:30pm in the CADC. Any questions should be directed to parent co-chairs: Reema Shah and Denise Geschke.