



The Menaul Parent Association Newsletter December 31, 2015

Every family at Menaul is automatically part of the Menaul Parent Association (MPA). Board members of the MPA are nominated and elected by members of the association. This year's board members include Annette Anaya, President; Katharine Boggess, Vice President; Jewel Richardson, Treasurer; April Serrano, Secretary; Jessica Alcala, Staff Appreciation Chairperson; Monica and Ralph Frakes, Panther Den Chairpersons; and Katharine Boggess, Menaul MPA Volunteer Coordinator. Tiffany Yoder and Julie Webb attend MPA board meetings as representatives of the school. Mary Spring, Director of Advancement, frequently attended the MPA meetings as well.

The MPA board meets the third Wednesday of every month to discuss issues that concern students and families. Every meeting is open, and feedback and attendance from family members is encouraged and welcome. While we once held semi-annual meetings to tell Menaul families what we've been up to, we're instead going to send out updates via newsletter so that families have a better idea of what the MPA Board is up to.

2015-2016 School Year

An important part of what the MPA board does is deciding what to do with the funds given to the association throughout the school year.

This year, the board got a late start because there was very little funding left from the previous year and the fee from tuition was posted in late October for approximately \$3,660. Despite the late start, we paid for monthly recycling, joined with the Alumni association to pay for Homecoming Mums, and supported monthly Staff Appreciation activities where we found various ways to show appreciation to our Menaul staff. This included monthly birthday celebrations or appreciation events where various food items were provided and birthday or appreciation cards presented. We all had a great time manning our homecoming booth where we made about \$419 for MPA and \$345 for Panther Den. We have committed to buy a few more recycling bins for the classrooms. The next newsletter will have a better breakdown on how the funds were distributed. As of the last meeting of 2015, we talked about possibly giving gift cards or funds for teacher homeroom improvements and to support active club needs.

Panther Den

The Panther Den is overseen by the MPA board. Where do the funds from the Panther Den go? Most of the money made goes back into purchasing merchandise for sale. What is left goes back into the Menaul Parent Association account.

Monica and Ralph Frakes currently chair the Panther Den effort and we ensure there are funds to purchase and stock goods like snacks, shirts, hoodies and hats, and the Menaul "M". The day to day operation of the store is made possible by the volunteers who open and close the store every day. Volunteers decide what should be in the store, and how much. During the school year they sell lightly used Menaul uniform shirts and pants, so don't forget to send your lightly used uniforms to them. They do a lot. Please give a warm round of applause to the following: Monica and Ralph Frakes, Samantha Sena, Lilia Acabal, and Jennifer Vargas. Without their dedicated efforts, the Panther Den wouldn't be open at all. Volunteers are still needed for Panther Den right after school - pick a day that is convenient for you. We have permission to sell during the games even for Homecoming so we will be seeing you to get your school related goods.

New this year was implementing a Menaul MPA Volunteer coordinator; many thanks to Katharine Boggess for her efforts to coordinate school wide and MPA requests for volunteers. She also has to track, post, and report volunteer hours as a tool to quantify the Menaul parent contributions and involvement for the purpose of showing the positive financial impact of Menaul parents. You should be proud of your contributions made thus far.

The MPA board is always excited to hear from you. Please don't hesitate to come to our meetings, held the third Wednesday of the month at the Village Inn on Menaul, at 5:30 p.m.