

# news

Menlo Park Academy  
Grades 5-8

## Upcoming Field Trips & Events:

### Saturday, April 26

MPA's Soapbox Team will race at Cleveland derby track at 8:30am. This is a regional race. We'll be up against Westlake City Schools among others.

### Saturday, May 17

MPA's Soapbox Team will race at Akron's Derby Downs track at 8:30am. This is a NATIONAL RACE! MPA community tailgating information will be provided soon... stay tuned!

Friday, May 23 -Menlo Park Students Jasmine H. Grace K and Emily C will compete at the state Power of the Pen Tournament at Wooster College.

## Advisory News:

Mrs. Eby's advisory could use clean #6 plastics for making recycled art

### Mr. Kiddey's & Mrs Belko's Advisories:

Parents must register their students for our service learning trip to the Cleveland Foodbank by following the instructions in the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mpamrkiddey/service-learning>

Please do this as soon as possible. If you have questions please email Mr. Kiddey.



**Menlo Park Academy**  
Developing the Potential of Gifted Learners

## Teacher Talk:

### LANGUAGE ARTS:

- **Mrs. Belko** -
- **6th grade** - Students have begun writing five paragraph essays during Writing Workshop. These essays address a chosen prompt in response to The Giver.
- **7th & 8th** - Threads of Change in 19th century American Literature Unit. Students are embarking on a journey down the river with Huck Finn in Mark Twain's timeless novel, Huckleberry Finn. Students will be constructing a literary raft which, through quotation analysis, reflects the burgeoning friendship between Huck and Jim.
- **High School English** - Students have begun reading A Long Way Gone: The Memoir of a Boy Soldier. They are also writing research papers investigating a chosen thematic element and/or motif from any novel read this year.
- **Shuder**

Classes are getting ready to launch into new novels next week. This week we have been focusing on different types of figurative language.

### MATH:

- **Mrs. Theiss**
  - Fifth Grade
    - This week, students will be comparing what should happen (theoretical probability) with what does happen (experimental probability) in an experiment.
  - Sixth Grade
    - This week, students will be hosting kindergarten and first grade students at the third annual Probability Carnival. Students have been working hard creating games that appear fair, but are actually unfair.
- **Mr. Burton**
  - 5th grade
    - Students will start looking at the basics of probability.
  - 7th grade
    - The finish working with compound probability and take a test by the end of the week
  - 8th grade
    - Welcome Back! we will look at find roots of quadratic equations through different methods
  - Geometry
    - Welcome Back! We will continue the study on Surface area and finish chapter 11

## Project:

The Giver Essay - April 28

Civil War Test - May 2nd

Literary Raft 7% - May 12

Research Paper - HS English - May 27

Modified Paper -HS English May 21

## Service Learning

### Trimester Three Service Projects :

- Belko: *Cleveland Food Bank* - Packaging food for people in need
- Burton: *Cleveland Metroparks* - Removal of invasive plant species
- Cook: *Cleveland Metroparks* - Removal of invasive plant species
- Eby: *Cleveland Metroparks* - Cleanup of refuse from the beach
- Kennedy: *Cleveland Metroparks* - Removal of invasive plant species
- Kiddey: *Cleveland Food Bank* - Packaging food for people in need
- Kneidel: *Shoes & Clothes For Kids* - Packaging clothing for children in need
- Macey: *Cleveland Metroparks* - Cleanup of refuse from the beach
- O'Donnell: *Cleveland Metroparks* - Cleanup of refuse from the beach
- Theiss: *Shoes & Clothes For Kids* - Packaging clothing for children in need
- Weber: *Medwish International* - Packaging medical supplies for 3rd world countries

MPA's Service Learning Program is designed to empower students to use their gifts/talents to be the change they want to see in the world. Each

- Algebra 2
  - Students will finish probability and test chapter 11. This will follow with chapter 12 and Matrix Math
- Math club
  - 4 Math clubs left. We will play a math game

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### • Ms. Shuder.

- Students are exploring the different beliefs and influences of Hinduism in India.
- Tests over Indian culture and geography will be returned early next week.

### • Mrs. Weber

- 7th/8th Grade American History:
  - This week, since our 8th graders are in DC, our student teacher will be doing a unit on Abraham Lincoln.
    - I have reviewed this unit and am very excited for the students to take part in it.
  - May 2nd -Civil War Test - Chapters 21 and 22 .
- 9th Grade American History:
  - This week the students will be working a video project!
    - Looks for links in upcoming newsletters to see their final project.
  - Topics left to cover this year - Civil Rights, Johnson Administration, Nixon Administration, 1970s, Regan, End of the Cold War.
    - We have a lot to do, but I have faith these students can get there!

## SCIENCE

### • Mrs. Eby

- 5th & 6th Grade Science:
  - Students are learning about cellular reproduction (mitosis) this week. We will be observing mitosis in onion root tip cells.
  - **Mohican - a second field trip form(the standard Menlo field trip form) on a neon yellow sheet was handed out to students on Tuesday. Please let me know if you did not receive that handout. Click here for forms, due 4/28.**  
<http://www.mohicanoutdoorschool.org/outdoor-education/resources-forms.html>
  - Biology: Even though most of the class is in DC this week, we still are having fun in biology. We have been learning to take our blood pressure and are studying respiration in goldfish.

**Garden club distributed decorated pots with tiny snapdragons or coleus plants to all our dedicated teachers and administrators. A big "Thank You" to Mrs. O'Neill for the plant donations!**

### • Mr. Kiddey

<https://sites.google.com/site/mpamrkiddey/>

- **Grade 7 & 8 Science:** Students not on the Washington DC trip will

advisory will choose a new service project to work on each trimester. Students also learn the deeper reasons and misfortunes behind the causes of their projects. For more information or project ideas please contact Ryan Kiddey at [ryan.kiddey@menloparkacademy.com](mailto:ryan.kiddey@menloparkacademy.com).

conclude their city planning project this week by studying the ecological impact (or lack thereof) of their created city. Students will be working on their own personal cities and justifying why they designed it how they did and how the city interacts with the environment. They will do this in the form of a written report.

- **Invention Convention:** Regional Competition at the Great Lakes Science Center on May 3rd.

- **Engineering:**

- Students will continue constructing their bridges this week. The bridges they are building must be 40cm long and weigh no more than 400g. The bridge will be built entirely of popsicle sticks and wood glue, nothing else. We will work on this project through April. **This is the last week for students to construct their bridges.**

- **Entrepreneurship (ENT):**

- Designing Marketing Materials.

- **STEM Design:**

- Students will continue studying electricity and how to batteries actually create electricity through hands-on activities and research.

- **Soapbox Derby Team (SBD):**

- Practice on Tuesday, construction continues! See website for more information:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/mpamrkiddey/home/SBD>
- The release form from All American Soapbox Derby must be returned ASAP.
- First race is Saturday, April 26 at Cleveland's Derby Track. All are welcomed. MPA will be competing with Westlake City Schools and other youth organizations from across the area.