

November 2011

### Students Prepare for Success after Graduation with Pathways Program

The Pathways program is a small learning community that began in August, 2011 at San Andreas High School. The program is designed to prepare students for careers and life after high school graduation. The development of the program was guided by a Harvard Graduate School of Education study which states that students benefit from more access to career counseling and opportunities for work-based learning. The goal of Pathways is to help students find their passions and future careers through off-site experiences, including internships, college courses, or vocational training.

Students in Pathways participate in off-site career-related experiences Monday through Thursday mornings and attend school at San Andreas in the afternoons and on Fridays to earn credit towards high school graduation. Students also receive support for their college courses, internships, and vocational training from the San Andreas staff. There are currently twelve students participating in the program, in the areas of culinary arts, pottery, drawing and painting, medical assisting, music production, early childhood education, filmmaking, and sociology.



These students have already experienced a great deal of success as a result of their participation in Pathways. All students are earning grades of A or B

in their college courses, and all internship supervisors have given the students positive feedback. In his online blog, Pathways student Chris Trentino said, "Why am I in the Pathways program? I joined, because I really wanted to expand my culinary horizons and when I found out that I could get on-the-job training that didn't sound too bad to me. My goals are still focused on food preparation and eating food that is healthier. I am excited to be involved and especially excited since I found out more about the jobs that are available in this field."

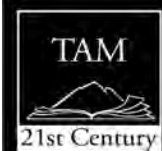


The Pathways program will continue to expand; in fact, five more students will begin the program in January, 2012. For more information, please contact Candace Curtis at [ccurtis@tamdistrict.org](mailto:ccurtis@tamdistrict.org).

### The Tam District "Gets out the Vote"

Election day will be here on November 8. For registered voters, this is the ultimate opportunity to exercise a significant personal freedom and be an active participant in our government. While casting a vote does not guarantee that your preferences will prevail, your vote allows you to express your choice and have a say in our democracy.

The Tamalpais Union High School District urges all registered voters to exercise their right to vote on November 8, 2011; polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are being accepted now, and must be received (in the envelope provided) by 8:00 p.m. on election night. Absentee ballots may also be dropped off at the Registrar of Voters/Elections Department office or, on election day, at any polling place in Marin County during operating hours. If you have lost your absentee ballot, contact the Registrar of Voters/Elections Department office for a replacement ballot, or request a provisional ballot from your polling place on election day.



Tamalpais Union High School District  
District Office  
395 Doherty Drive  
Larkspur, California 94939

For further information contact:

**(415) 945-3720**

or access the district web site at

**[www.tamdistrict.org](http://www.tamdistrict.org)**

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2011

*On October 28, Drake students and staff formed a human "pink ribbon" to raise awareness for breast cancer, as orchestrated by the Leadership class and teacher Kendall Galli. Jeff Martz, fine arts teacher, photographed the event.*

Sir Francis Drake High School

### Good News of the Tam District

*"Good News of the Tam District"* is a recently added segment to the Tamalpais Union High School District board meetings which provides an opportunity to celebrate positive activities related to our students and our schools. This year, "Good News" honorees have included:

**From San Andreas High School:** Milly Murrin and Makayla Wisdom are two San Andreas seniors finding success in the Pathways program. Milly has an internship with a preschool and is taking relevant courses at College of Marin. Makayla is an intern in Kaiser's radiology department and is taking medical assistant coursework at the IVC campus of College of Marin. Both young women are excited to gain college and career experience while still in high school.

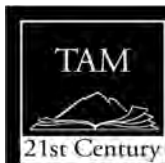
**From Sir Francis Drake High School:** Joe Spinelli and Dennis Puccinelli have volunteered countless hours over the years in Drake math classes. Mr. Spinelli usually attends several classes and tutorial periods each week where he helps students 1:1 with algebra and geometry. After school, he also tutors several students who need additional support. Mr. Puccinelli volunteers in advanced algebra and calculus classes, and students find his help invaluable. He also tutors students who have been absent to help them get back on track.

**From Redwood High School:** Michael Amos, Daniel Matteo, and Doug Pardella are juniors at Redwood. For several years, they have been instrumental in producing internet radio broadcasts of Redwood football games. In addition to producing the programs, these young men also provide the play-by-play and color commentary that make these broadcasts informative and fun.

**From Tamiscal High School:** Laney Eddington is enrolled in Team, Tamiscal's one-year academic and experiential program open to Tam District juniors. She credits the program with helping her work through some significant personal losses and educational challenges, and as a result, she has gained independence and tremendous confidence in her abilities. Laney shared with the trustees that the challenges faced during Team's 11-day hiking and camping trip in the Sierras were a turning point in her life.

**From Tamalpais High School:** Each year, Tam's Global Studies program provides meaningful educational travel opportunities for students. One such opportunity is the exchange program between teachers and students at Tam with their counterparts in Orthez, France. For a few weeks each year, Global Studies students live with Orthez families--speaking French, going to school, and learning about the culture. Orthez students repeat the process at Tam. At a board meeting in October, four Orthez students and their teacher shared their unique perspectives on Tamalpais High School and American culture.

Tamalpais Union High School District board meetings are held on Tuesdays. Upcoming meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 15, and December 6. For a full list of TUHSD board meetings, or to view agendas and supporting materials, please go to our Agenda Online website: <http://tamusd.csbaagendaonline.net>.



Tamalpais Union High School District  
District Office  
395 Doherty Drive  
Larkspur, California 94939

For further information contact:  
**(415) 945-3720**  
or access the district web site at  
**[www.tamdistrict.org](http://www.tamdistrict.org)**