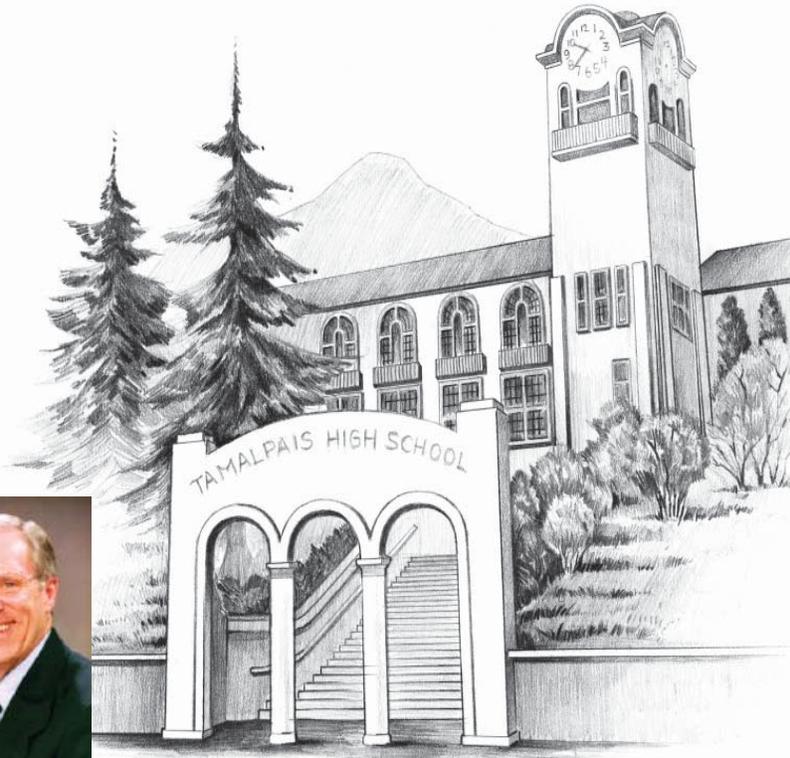




David Brown, Principal



# The Squawking Hawk

## Tamalpais High Community News

February 2016  
Issue 4

As I become more acculturated to Tamalpais High School, one thing has become extremely clear – Students, Teachers, and Community support, the key foundational ingredients in every high school environment, are all significant strengths at this school. Teachers seem to enjoy their work, in large part due to the quality and general attitudes of their students. Students, although no different than the imperfect adults who support them, are almost always respectful, decent, and supportive of their peers. Parents and other members of the broader THS community seem to provide virtually no end of professional and financial support that ensures the continuation of quality educational experiences for Tam students.

I'd like to express appreciation to all of you who weathered the storm and attended this year's "Open House." The event was earlier in the year and featured an opportunity for 8th grade families to receive an introduction to T.H.S. Many parents indicated that they appreciated the less formal, but warm and inviting environment.

**Principal Search:** The search for a Principal who will begin service on July 1 of this year is well underway. Parents, students, and other community members have had opportunities to provide input into the process, which it is hoped, will culminate in the hiring of a new administrator sometime in April.

**Spirit Rally, Winter Formal, One-Act Plays:** These two events held in the last two weeks demonstrated profoundly how students grow and perform when given responsibility for school activities. The rally involved staff and students and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

The Winter Formal was planned and executed by students who transformed the Ruby Gym into an impressive and elegant ballroom environment for the approximately 450 students who attended. One Act Plays are directed by our own THS students who provide quality guidance and direction to freshmen students.

**Tam High Foundation Recognition:** Teachers and students presented to parents, board members, our Marin County and Tamalpais Union High School District Superintendents, and other contributors, the results of programs enabled by the generous contributions of our school's Foundation. Those in attendance were indeed grateful to be associated with such a creative, enthusiastic, and positive group of teachers. The innovations and quality learning experiences for students were clearly apparent. We're deeply grateful to the leadership of the Tam Foundation, as well as to the donors and recipients who have enhanced the quality of the educational program at THS through incredibly strong financial support provided by parents and community members invested in THS. Thank you!

Again, your support and input is always appreciated. Please feel free to contact any member of the T.H.S. Administrative team if we can be of service in helping you ensure the best educational experiences we can collectively envision for Tam students.

Sincerely,

David Brown  
Principal

# Good News!

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT!



Mock Trial takes home the 2016 County Championships!

Great job  
Alicia McMahon!



National Medical Essay Contest  
3rd Place  
*Advancing Safety in Healthcare*

### Poetry Out Loud 2016

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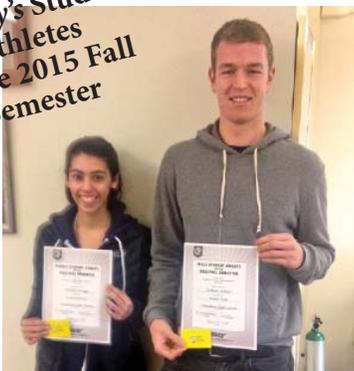
The Tam POL Finals Competition was held on January 27th. A tie breaking round was held on February 1st. Thank you to Barbara Kurita-Ditz for all your hard work with the **Poetry Out-Loud** competition.

Congratulations to Maxine Flasher-Duzgunes, the first place winner in a tie breaker round last week, Christina Graham with second place, and Griffin Diekes and Emma Weinswig who tied for third place. Thank you to all the students who shared their talent with us.

Maxine represented Tam High at the Marin County Finals at the Mill Valley Library on February 7th and finished in second place.

Thank you to Mike Levinson for all you do to help with the POL organization and management. Claire Blotter, who retired from Tam last year, works as a Poet in the Schools to coach the performers and help organize the county event. Thanks to Melissa Bowman who judged during the main Tam finals event, and special thanks to Augusto Andres, Mike Levezzo and Catherine Bruno for helping judge in the tie-breaker round.

Subway's Student Athletes of the 2015 Fall Semester



Annika Levaggi (Cross Country) & Jackson Hettler (Water Polo)

Congratulations to all the winter sports athletes!!!! Go Hawks!



# Tam Tidbits

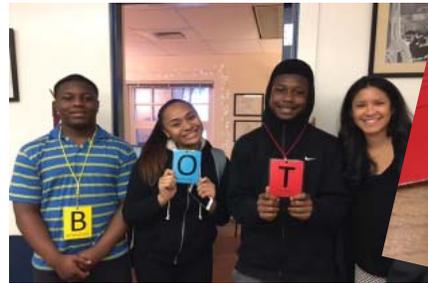
## Detention Reimplementation & Attendance Passes

Tamalpais High School is dedicated to providing students with the educational foundation necessary to succeed in school and in life. Attendance is essential for students' success.

As of February 1st, 2016, Tamalpais High School has begun implementing detention as a means to address student attendance and tardy issues.

Detention will be held on Monday 2:30pm -3:30pm, and Tuesday/Thursday each week from 3:30pm - 4:30pm in room 348. Detention will be assigned to a student once they accumulate 3 or more tardies, 3 or more unexcused absences, or any combination of the preceding.

We appreciate your support in facilitating and encouraging daily school attendance.



**THANK YOU TAM HIGH FOUNDATION** for supporting Tam High's attendance initiative and the purchase of hall passes. Campus Supervisors are thrilled to be able to identify a student's purpose for being out of class. Thank you to the attendance team, comprised of teachers, classified staff, and students, for your successful efforts in bringing the passes to life.

**Scheduling for 2016-2017:** It's that time of year again to begin selecting course schedules for the 2016-2017 school year. 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students and parents should go online to the student home access account to complete the process. Guidelines and instructions were emailed last week. If you need assistance with scheduling classes for next year, counselors will be available in the computer lab on 2/9 -2/11 before and after school. The deadline for scheduling online is Friday, February 12th.

**Fire Drill:** Tam High held a fire drill on January 27th. New exit routes were successfully implemented. Staff provided valuable feedback as Tam continually strives to improve our emergency preparedness practices.

**Wellness:** A team, comprised of teachers, counselors, administrators, students, classified staff and parents, has been formed to assess our students' social, emotional and health needs at Tam. The team will be meeting over the next month to develop assessment tools to be given to students, parents and staff. Based on assessment results, the team may make recommendations for Wellness programs and services for Tam in the coming school year.

**Advanced Placement (AP) Tests in May:** It's time for current AP students to sign up for testing. Registration for the AP exams open this week and ends March 4th. Exams this year are \$95 per exam. A late fee of \$50 will be charged after the March 4th deadline. A letter and registration form was emailed in January. Students can register for exams through the Tam's web-store. An inability to pay should not prevent a student from taking an AP exam. Students with financial need can go to the Assistant Principals' office for more information on full and partial fee waivers.



**Thank you to all the staff and Link Crew who assisted with the registration for next year's incoming freshman!**

# Upcoming Events

Check the [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org) calendar for details

**February 10: Solo and Ensemble Concert #2, Caldwell Theater, 7pm**

**February 11:** Superintendent's Parent Forum, 6pm-7pm - Classroom 2020

**February 24:** Boosters Meeting, 7p @ the Tam Library

**February 26:** Report Cards Mailed

**February 26-March 1:** CTE Presents "Mother Courage", 7pm - Caldwell Theater

**March 1:** PATH Meeting

**March 2:** College of Marin Information Night

**March 9:** Parent Ed Event - Jeff Leiken

**March 11:** "Live!" from the Student Center

**March 14:** Staff Development Day - No School

**March 16:** Boosters Meeting

**March 20-24:** CTE Presents "Inherit the Wind", Caldwell Theater, 7pm

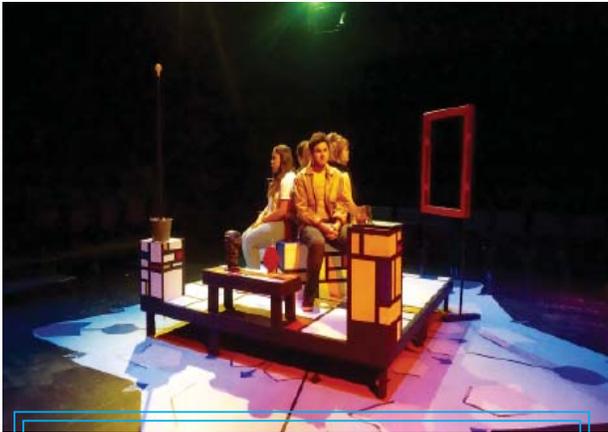
**April 11-15:** Spring Break

**April 22:** Report Cards Mailed

## RECENT HAPPENINGS!

### Tam High Foundation and PTSA

held a joint meeting on February 8th in Classroom 2020. Teachers and students gave presentations and attendees were given a demonstration in the Tam World Languages Lab. This was a wonderful opportunity to hear some of the amazing things teachers are doing at Tam!



Our CTE program had another successful run with the One-Act Plays in January!



Thank you to Jessica Variz and Tim Morgan and the Leadership Class for an exciting Winter Rally and teacher danceoff. Winter Formal was also a huge success!

## SPRING SPORTS HAVE BEGUN!

