

## THE HOME PAGE

By Jayne Greenberg, PTSA Executive Vice President

### December PTSA Meeting: Increased Drug Use on Campus

New protocols in effect for students caught under the influence.

Please join Tam Support Services Staff members Linden Berry, MFT, of Full Circle and Lizzie Stevenson, MFT, of New Perspectives. They will address the drug issues on campus as well as student stress, depression, and anxiety. Student survival handbooks will be available for \$10 each.

When: Monday, December 4 at 8:45 am

Where: Caldwell Theatre Lobby

### Bakers Needed

Annual Staff Appreciation Holiday

Coffee/Breakfast—Parents are invited! Friday, December 8 in the Staff Lounge—see page 4 for details

### Annual Staff Party—Help Needed

The Tam staff is having its annual holiday party and we're hoping that parents would like to show their appreciation to teachers and staff by bringing small gifts for the annual giveaway. Please bring them to the principal's office by December 14. Thanks so much for your support.

### CTE Presents the Winter One Act Festival

Not to be missed—the Winter One Acts in our new Daniel Caldwell Theater. The One Acts are a vital part of the Tam drama curriculum—upper classmen actually direct the younger drama students in the plays. This year tickets may be purchased in advance. Please see page 10 for details as well as the One Act schedule.

### Spring Internship Applications Due February 2

Spring Internship Program applications will be available to students after the holiday break and will be due on February 2, 2007. School to Career is a very valuable program that the school offers. Please see page 9 for more information.

### Major Tam High Foundation Donors—Save the Date

For your 2007 calendar: A party to honor the major donors to the Tam High Foundation (gifts of \$1,000 or more) will be held Thursday, February 8, 2007, from 6-8 pm at Masonic Hall in downtown Mill Valley. There's still time to get in on the fun. Just get your donation in by the end of 2006.



Above, left: BEFORE—The strip outside the Student Center is strewn with the remnants of remodeling. right: AFTER—A new garden transforms the area into a tropical oasis.

## Diggin' in the Dirt

By Gail Mason

As the rains begin we are happy to announce that four new gardens have been planted around the Student Center and they are ready to be rained upon. Next time you are on campus check out the two new tropical gardens on the north side of the Student Center. The longer garden with all the palm trees was completely sponsored by Sloat Garden Center and looks great with the four benches donated by The Village at Corte Madera. Sloat has been very generous every year with Tam High and this is a lovely visual aid to that generosity. Thank you Sloat!

We will be planting a garden on the south side of the Student Center with plants donated by Kevin of Green Jeans in Mill Valley. Another grateful thank you to Green Jeans for its continued support of the beautification of Tam. The garden may not be in by the December 3 opening of Caldwell Theater but will slowly appear over the winter. Even as we hunker down for the winter there will be a couple of opportunities for hardy volunteers to help out with our landscape beautification.

In January we will have a Saturday morning "Weeding Party" since it is always much easier to pull out the huge number of pesky weeds that appear throughout the campus after it rains.

The front of the school doesn't look much better yet (although check out the beautiful, new garbage cans or "trash receptacles" in front of the school!) but in the spring we hope to make some headway. The lawn can't be irrigated and resodded until the ADA elevator location is determined and built so we'll concentrate on all other aspects of the campus in the meantime.

We are grateful to all of you who have helped so far this year and really appreciate any of you who are willing to donate plants, money or time to help improve the landscape.

Have a good holiday season and, if you're in a generous mood, please donate to the Tam Beautification Fund of the PTSA. Our budget is now at zero so any help is a bonus! ♣

**FINALS WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Monday, December 18**

Regular Monday Schedule

**Tuesday, December 19**

8-10 am - 7th period final  
 10-10:15 am - break  
 10:20-11 am - 1st period  
 11:05-11:45 am - 2nd period  
 11:50 am - 12:30 pm - 3rd period  
 12:30 am - 1:05 pm - lunch  
 1:10-1:50 pm - 4th period  
 1:55-2:35 pm - 5th period  
 2:40-3:20 pm - 6th period

**Wednesday, December 20**

8-10 am - 1st period final  
 10-10:20 - break  
 10:25-12:35 - 2nd period final

**Thursday, December 21**

8-10 am - 3rd period final  
 10-10:20 - break  
 10:25-12:35 - 4th period final

**Friday, December 22**

8-10 am - 5th period final  
 10-10:20 - break  
 10:25-12:35 - 6th period final

***Principles from the Principal***

by Chris Holleran

**The Importance and Relevance of STAR Testing**

Every spring, usually in April, all students in grades 9-11 take state tests called STAR. The tests are now completely based on state academic content standards. The results of these tests provide important information for teachers to determine how well we are teaching to the standards and they do affect the curriculum and instructional practices. This is why the validity of the test results is crucial. While many Tam students give their best effort on these tests, there is evidence that a significant number do not. Another use of the STAR results is to help determine Tam's API (Academic Performance Index). The API is a number between 250 and 1000 derived from STAR testing and the results of the CAHSEE (high school exit exam). Tam's API based on the 2005 STAR is 803. While this exceeds the state goal of 800, our score has declined slightly and we have been passed by a considerable number of high schools in the state rankings. *These API rankings are referred to by colleges when evaluating our students' applications for entrance.* I would ask parents to encourage their students to take the tests seriously and give them their best effort when the tests are administered next spring. Thank you for your support.

*Continued on page 13*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Colleges care about your school's API score. Tam High School's API scores are slipping because of reduced participation and poor effort on the STAR tests.

**STAR testing is important!**

All 9th - 11th grade students will be tested April 23-27, 2007.

**Notice to Seniors and Their Parents:**

All seniors who have not met the graduation outcome for computer proficiency by the end of the semester will automatically be enrolled in the Intro to Computers class for 2nd semester. Taking a computer challenge exam is one way to avoid taking the semester class, but this must be done soon! For sample tests and more information, please go to [www.tamdistrict.org/instr/assessment/computers/index.htm](http://www.tamdistrict.org/instr/assessment/computers/index.htm).

If you have questions about outcomes or graduation progress, please see your counselor or Assistant Principal.

Counseling Office: 380-3537

Assistant Principal's Office: 380-3512.q

**The Whole Tam Family**



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**Holiday Gifts for Tam Staff**

Tam staff members are holding their annual holiday party on December 15. In the past, parents have donated little gifts for the raffle held at the party. Parents enjoyed donating a little something like a gift card or See's candy as their way of expressing thanks to teachers and staff members. Would you like to donate a small gift item this year? Items can be dropped off with Eileen in the Principal's Office between now and December 14. Thanks so much! ✪

**Lost & Found Going, Going, Gone ...**

Please remind your students to come to the main office and look through the bins for any lost articles. All clothing will be donated to Goodwill during the holiday break. ✪

## News from the Tam District Modernization Team

### Meet the Players

The Tamalpais Union High School District has a new team in place to manage the modernization work for the 2006 Measure A Bond. Senior Director of Facilities for TUHSD, Sarah Schoening, is a licensed Architect, with years of experience in the building industry. Education is a mission for Mrs. Schoening, who also has taught at the college level. Regarding the modernization work at hand, Mrs. Schoening says, "Our vision is to match the quality of the District facilities with our quality of education—which is excellent."

George Baranoff is no stranger to Bond Program Management. After years of working as a civil engineer, Baranoff was drawn to facilities modernization, and recently managed a \$20M bond for the Ross Valley School District.

Andrea Dawson understands the local construction business as well as anyone. She has worked as a construction project manager for 20 years. Ms. Dawson will be coordinating modernization work primarily at Redwood and Drake High Schools.

A recent arrival to the Bay Area, Wayne Van Loon brings experience in construction management and architecture from Portland, Oregon. As a Modernization Liaison Coordinator, Mr. Van Loon will focus on the work at Tamalpais High School in what he calls "a truly lovely place; a vibrant community with a first rate high school."

Laurel Stone, Bond Accounting Coordinator, is one organized person who can crunch numbers with the best of them. Mrs.



L to R: Andrea Dawson, Wayne Van Loon, Sarah Schoening, George Baranoff, and Laurel Stone.

Stone joined our team with years of school facilities accounting in the East Bay.

The '06 Modernization Team will be an integral part of the District's efforts to improve facilities. So keep an eye out for the new team. They will be working closely with TUHSD staff and faculty as the campuses undergo these improvements.

*Continued on page 5*



IN THE EARLY 1990S, on average, someone in the United States was killed by a drunk driver every 15 minutes. Although the implementation of new laws and emergence of groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) have reduced the incidence of fatal alcohol-related accidents to once every 20 minutes, this figure continues to be unacceptable.

On March 27 & 28, 2007, the students at Tamalpais High School will have the opportunity to participate in a program which may result in saving lives. In cooperation with the Mill Valley Police and Fire Departments; the California Highway Patrol; the Marin County Sheriff, Medical Examiner and Coroner; as well as numerous local businesses and private citizens, Tam High will present "Every 15 Minutes." This is a two-day simulation which challenges students to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, the responsibility of making mature decisions, and the impact their decisions have on family, friends, and many others.

Every 15 Minutes was created and is sponsored by the California Highway Patrol in conjunction with a small grant

which falls far short of covering the program's true expense. Pledges from the PTSA, the Tam High Site Council, and private donations will help to defray some of the costs, but additional contributions are needed to cover the full cost of this program.

Many volunteers are needed to make this program happen and we will ask for volunteers after winter break. We are asking all Tam families to help with the costs involved in providing this program to our students. Please send in your contribution. Thanks for your support!

YES, I would like to make a contribution:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check one)

\$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Tam PTSA

Mail check & form to:

Every 15 Minutes/Tam PTSA,  
700 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941



## Tam Teens are Frank with Parents at the Teen Panel Parent Education Evening

There were 125 eager parents in attendance at the parent education event on election evening. Tam teens Annie Steinberg, Elena Alcedo, Brooke Laland, Kat Cermak, Lynn Bagley, Caleb Prigian and Lemeki Salusalu were on a panel alongside Social Issues teacher Yvonne Milham and MFT Bruce Chernack that was moderated by Gail Mason, a local therapist and Tam parent. For two hours parents in the audience asked questions of the panel and were rewarded with frank, funny, honest and thoughtful answers to questions about the social and emotional world of Tam teenagers today.

This evening is always an eye-opener and inevitably helpful for parents in getting a clearer understanding of the reality of the worlds their kids inhabit. Information was presented about what really goes on at parties (there are alcohol/drugs present but not all kids participate in using them), what "hooking up" is (anything from holding hands to sexual intercourse), and what parents should do (don't repeat questions over and over, do tell straight out what you know or want to ask, do let your kids know what your values are, and trust your kids to have some sense and judgment of their own). The big message seems to be that there is a wide range of experiences that the kids have, that these experiences increase with each grade in school at Tam and that talking to your kids with respect and not just suspicion will get you much further. Mutual respect seemed to be the order of the night and was also the request by the kids in general of the adults.

We thank the PTSA for sponsoring this important evening and we thank the Tam students, as well as Bruce, Yvonne, and Gail for their participation in making the evening possible.

As one of the evaluations said, "What great kids they are!" We couldn't agree more. ✪

### PLEASE NOTE:

The next meeting of the traffic and safety committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23 at 9 am.

### Tam PTSA Meeting Agenda

December 4, 2006

8:45 a.m.

Daniel Caldwell Theatre Lobby

1. Call to order
2. Principal's report
3. Guest speakers—Tam Support Services
4. Upcoming hospitality events
5. Board Update
6. Approve minutes—November 2006
7. Treasurer's report
  - a. Approval of budget
  - b. Approval of checks
8. Announcements
9. Updates from Thumb, Foundation, Boosters

## Safe and Sober Grad Night 2007—Your Commitment Needed



The Safe & Sober Grad Night party is a gift the parents give their graduating seniors. It lets the class spend a wonderful evening together on a milestone day in their lives, keeps the class from splintering into different groups for parties, and keeps our teenagers safe from DUI accidents and other scary incidents that occur all too commonly with graduation celebrations. It is also a lot of fun, with dancing, swimming, movies and lots of other activities taking place throughout the Mill Valley Community Center.

The Safe & Sober Grad Night 2007 won't happen unless many parents step up to take roles in producing this event; a handful of volunteers simply can't accomplish what needs to be done. Most of the planning takes place far in advance. If you volunteer, you will be able to attend your student's graduation ceremony. What occurs before and during graduation night (decorations, food, etc.) is handled by the junior class parents and others. The Grad Night Event begins at 11 pm and is chaperoned by both senior and junior class parents.

Take a minute to envision your senior's grad night WITHOUT the safe & sober component. Scariest than Halloween? Well, won't you consider the tremendous advantages of giving the seniors the gift of being together in a safe and fun environment that night? Please contact Diana Jansen or Leslie Wachtel and let them know that you are willing to help make this event happen.

The next Safe & Sober Grad Night 2007 meeting will be December 12, 2006 at 7:30 pm in the Library. We hope to see you there! ✪

Diana Jansen, 381-5448, [bljansen@pacbell.net](mailto:bljansen@pacbell.net)

Leslie Wachtel, 388-7766, [leslieann@ix.netcom.com](mailto:leslieann@ix.netcom.com)

### PTSA Sponsors Staff Appreciation Day

Yes, it is time for the annual Staff Appreciation Holiday Coffee/Breakfast on Friday, December 8 in the Staff Lounge at Wood Hall. Please thank the Tam staff by contributing a favorite morning treat for this much-anticipated event.

**WHEN:** Friday, December 8. Please drop off your treats or send them with your student between 7 and 7:30 am. Parents are welcome to stay for coffee and greet the staff.

**WHERE:** Faculty Room, Wood Hall opposite the main office. Or you may drop your food contribution at the front desk.

**WHAT:** Baked goods, fruit, quiche, morning egg or meat dishes—whatever sounds good to start their day with our students.

**WHO:** This is for the Tam staff. Parents are welcome. Please confirm your contribution or ask questions: Helene Siegel-Fotos [bash5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bash5@sbcglobal.net)

**Reminder:** Please label all serving bowls and utensils clearly. They will be in the faculty room on the counter to the right of the sink at the end of the day. ✪

## Tam Teachers & Staff Treated to Halloween Breakfast

Thanks so much to all the parents who contributed to the ghoulishly great spread for the Staff Appreciation Breakfast on October 31. Sharon Straus did a wonderful job coordinating the morning. Not only did the staff have breakfast, but trays of meats, cheeses, and breads arrived just in time for lunch.

A big thanks to Peet's of Mill Valley for their generous donation of coffee. When you are in getting your caffeine fix, please thank them. ✦



*Clockwise from upper right: These characters mistook Mill Valley for Springfield on Halloween. Some of the appetizing morning treats at the Halloween staff breakfast. A particularly tough day on campus.*

## TAM DISTRICT MODERNIZATION, continued

### *Keyser Hall Takes Shape*

As difficult as it was to say goodbye to the old Keyser Hall, it is with great anticipation that the designs for the new Keyser Hall arrive. WLC Architects of Emeryville has approached the requirements of the new Keyser Hall with tremendous insight. Their design carefully integrates the building into a varied landscape while providing strong connections to the existing campus.

Visually, the new Keyser Hall pays homage to the storied past of the historic buildings as well as responding to the more modern façades on campus. Viewed from the east, the new Keyser Hall seamlessly integrates with Wood and Hoetger Halls. From scale to ornamentation, the new building convincingly utilizes the campus's historic vernacular. From the east, the building will take a more modern appearance. Mirroring the newly remodeled Mary Baker Student Center and Palmer Hall, the New Keyser Hall's east façade will use less ornamentation. It will rely instead upon strong vertical and horizontal elements incorporating a "punctured" glass breezeway that beckons students into the hall.

In a word, the new Keyser Hall is about connections: connecting the past and future while providing a link between buildings on campus.

### *Tam High PA System Nearing Completion*

Thanks to recent weekend work, the portable classrooms at Tam High are now in tune with the rest of the campus. Each classroom has a speaker connected to the campus-wide public-address system. In addition, five exterior-mounted speakers deliver addresses to the open spaces near the portables.

Beyond keeping staff and students updated on emerging events on campus, the system provides a vital emergency alert function. In addition to updates, Principal Holleran expects to use the system for some selected arias (now in rehearsal), a few ballads, and his specialty, some throat singing. Applause, of course, is MANDATORY.

### *Upgrades Currently Underway*

- New pool
- Replace field house
- New elevator
- New announcer booth
- New entrance & drop-off

## Parent to Parent Connection

Dear Tam Parents:

Is your high school student wondering about post-high school options for kids not on “the Harvard track?” We have great news—there are lots of options, and we have two programs coming up in January and February expressly designed to tell you all about them. At our next meeting on January 10, 2007, Jane McClure, a high-powered educational consultant from the San Francisco firm of McClure, Mallory & Baron, will speak about four-year college options for students with learning challenges. Our February 14, 2007, meeting will feature a panel of experts talking about the two-year college and vocational opportunities for kids not on or not yet ready for the four-year college track. We strongly advise parents of sophomores and even of freshmen to attend this talk; it is not too early to start becoming acquainted with what options exist for your student!

Parent-to-Parent Connection (“p2p”), offers support and information to parents of high school students with learning challenges the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month, at 6 pm for informal parent discussions and at 7 pm for our monthly meeting program. A site representative from your school helps to plan these meetings and also liaisons with District administrators each month to discuss concerns and questions about how the IEP and 504 plans programs are working in our schools. Please voice your questions and concerns to your high school p2p rep listed on our web page at [www.tamdistrict.org/p2p](http://www.tamdistrict.org/p2p), or e-mail us at [p2p@tuhsd.marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:p2p@tuhsd.marin.k12.ca.us).

All meetings are at Krepes Conference Center, off the back (east) parking lot of Redwood High School at the intersection of Lucky and Doherty Drives. Our meeting agenda for the rest of the 2006-07 school year follows below:

Becky Foust Pilcher  
Parent to Parent Connection (p2p) Coordinator

### Upcoming p2p Meetings

(No December meeting)

- 1/10/07 **What’s next? Four-year colleges for students with learning Issues:** which ones to pick, how to get in; everything you wanted to know about four-year colleges but were afraid to ask.
- 2/14/07 **What’s next? Four-year college isn’t the only way: Real-life options that work for kids with learning challenges**
- 3/14/07 **Broadening high school experience: Some new and non-traditional options** (TEAM, Internships, ROP, Drake’s Engineering Academy, Outward Bound, Peer Counseling, Pilot Program: Teen Emergency Response Team, Construction Technology class)
- 4/18/07 **Get me outta here!** Meeting Graduation Outcome and High School Exit Exam Requirements/issues for LD kids
- 5/02/07 **Help! My kid forgets everything and is disorganized! Executive functioning problems and how to solve them** (Dr. Ellen Krantz) Also, Getting ready for a Successful High School Experience: How to develop a four-year plan, tips for making the transition easier, the summer transition workshop.

(no June, July, or August meetings)

## High Notes

*from the Music Department*



Last month all music students were treated to the experience of playing with professional musicians who were brought in for Clinic Days.



Planning for the NY trip is going full speed ahead, which is exciting. The dates are March 28-April 1.

On December 3, look for the Advanced Band and Jazz Horns playing from 1-1:30 pm at the Depot, for Mill Valley’s Snow Day, sponsored by Piazza D’Angelo.

At our THUMB meeting on November 8, Cindy McCauley, chairman of the Tam High Foundation gave us an overview of the Daniel Caldwell Performing Arts Center opening on December 3. This is an event that you will not want to miss. Dan Caldwell will be there. There will be backstage tours, performances, and fabulous music performed by our Chamber Choir and Jazz Band. The event will go from 4 - 6 pm. Food is being provided by Linda Rosso and Patti Bertenthal. Ruby Scott Auditorium will be open to see with all its new improvements.

### WINTER CONCERT

The culmination of all the music classes can be heard at our Winter Concert, December 13 at 7 pm, in Ruby Scott Auditorium, which will be beautifully decorated. Please join us!

Volunteers are needed to help with different functions for this concert. Any music parents who would like to help, please contact Christina Pettigrew at 388-9108 or [christinapettigrew@yahoo.com](mailto:christinapettigrew@yahoo.com). Thanks in advance.

### UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2007

- Solo and Ensemble concerts, February 7 and 13.
- THUMB’s Annual Valentine’s Fundraiser on Friday, February 9, in Ruby Scott Auditorium. Along with beautiful music from our students, we will serve a delicious dinner from Gira Polli Restaurant. Please plan to attend this very special evening. ✦

### Spot the Light Bulb

*Throughout this issue, look for this light bulb. It’s there to show you that the group you are reading about is funded, at least in part, by donations to the Tam High Foundation.*



*Thank you Tam High Foundation for lighting up this issue!*

## Your Contributions At Work

By Cynthia Chiarappa



IT'S DECEMBER AND THE FIRST SEMESTER is winding down. Have you done your part to meet the Tam High Foundation's goal of 100% family participation? If not, you are not too late to save tax dollars and benefit your child.

The Tam High Foundation has just awarded \$87,679 to teachers across Tam for mini grants. Chances are your child is in one or more of these classes or programs, and is already benefiting from donor generosity:

Hardware/Software for "Artist's Voice" (Fine Arts), Computer/iMac, LCD projectors, document cameras, books (Fine Arts), Poets in the Schools (English), Guest Artist Series—Shakespeare (English), Probeware equipment (Science/Math), LCD projectors with documentary cameras (Math), Nuclear Lab Systems (Science), Scrabble Boards (World Language), LCD projector (Physical Education), Blackhawk AutoMuseum (Auto Tech), Subscriptions/equipment (Special Education), Equipment for Tam News Office (Tam News), Link Crew training (Link Crew), Equipment for Literacy Support Collaborative (Assist. Principal), Historical Plaques (ESL), Tables for Freshman Court (Fine Arts), Every 15 Minutes (PTSA)

Not to mention the "Major Grants" that the Foundation has funded in the past six months:

Auto Shop hydraulic lift, Social Studies technology, Historical Plaques, Library improvements, Library mobile computer lab, Daniel Caldwell Performing Arts Center digitization, CTE/drama computer lab, Podcast initiative, AIM technology equipment, Tam's Webmaster, Library after-school staffing

Take advantage of a tax write-off for 2006, support your child and support Tam learning at the same time!

Please donate today by completing the pledge below and see the difference you can make in your child's education.

Tam High students thank you for putting education first.

Cut out and mail this pledge form to:

Tam High Foundation  
700 Miller Ave.  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

## There Is Such a Thing as Free Money for Tam High!



*It's Easy and Costs You Nothing!  
But You Must Renew Annually.*

Here's how it works:

- **ESCRIP**—Participating merchants include SAFEWAY, WHOLE FOODS, MOLLIE STONE'S, MACY'S and many others. You must register your Safeway Club Card, Macy's card, debit and credit cards annually to participate. Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to renew, update and make sure that you are supporting Tam High, group # 137140398.
- **BELL MARKETS**—Register your Bell Market Card online today at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com). Go to Community Contribution, click on participant sign-up and enter the Tam High NPO number 81067.
- **MILL VALLEY MARKET'S "Shop & Give"** Program—3% of every designated purchase will be donated to Kiddo! Just let the checker know before the end of your transaction that you'd like the contribution to go to Tam High.
- **Online shopping with SCHOOLPOP.COM**—go to [Schoolpop.com](http://Schoolpop.com), select Tam High as your organization, and shop at hundreds of online sites including Nordstrom, Old Navy, Gap and eBay to do your shopping and a percentage of your purchases will go to Tam High. Over 250 name brand merchants participate.
- In addition if you have an old vehicle of any kind that you want to get rid of, donate it to Tam High School. Simply call the Tam High Foundation office at 380-3565 and we will take care of logistics. It's easy as that!

Questions? Contact Joanne Robinson at 415-381-0992 for additional information or for registration or renewal help.★

### TAM HIGH ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge:  \$100  \$300  \$500  \$1,000 (Major Donor)

\$2,500  \$5,000  \$10,000  other \_\_\_\_\_

My company participates in a matching fund program.

THF ID#63-0385326

Please check the appropriate boxes:

My check for \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, payable to TAM HIGH Foundation

Charge to my credit card  Visa  Mastercard

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

charge entire amount now

charge monthly, divided evenly now until June

charge in \$ \_\_\_\_\_ increments until pledge is met

Online Giving: [www.tamhighfoundation.org](http://www.tamhighfoundation.org)

## College and Career Center

Susan Gertman  
sgertman@tuhsd.marin.k12.ca.us  
380-3582

The College and Career Center is sponsoring several events to help students and parents become familiar with college requirements and financial aid.

If you missed **College Planning Night for Juniors**, you can access the presentation and other useful information online at the College and Career Center link at [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org). Click on college bound and then junior packet. A pdf of the presentation is at the bottom of the page.

### FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 pm.

Tam Student Center.

Olga Tapia, PhD, assistant director of financial aid at UC Berkeley, will give an overview of financial aid and explain how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Financial Aid Night is open to the entire Tam community.

### ADMISSIONS TESTING NIGHT

Thursday, January 18, 6:30pm.

Tam Student Center.

Bruce Reed, northern California regional director of Compass Education Group, will give an in-depth explanation of college admissions tests and review PSAT results. Students who took the PSAT should receive their results this month.

### MARIN EDUCATION FUND AT TAM—Help With Scholarship Applications.

Three visits in January and February.

Dates and times to be announced.

Representatives from Marin Education Fund will come to Tam in January and February to help students and parents complete the FAFSA, Cal Grant and Marin Education Fund Undergraduate Scholarship applications.

### PRACTICE SAT AT TAM

Wednesday, February 7, 1:15-5:45 pm, (a minimum day). Sign-ups begin in January.

This practice test, co-sponsored with Revolution Test Prep, is a great opportunity for students to become familiar with the SAT. To sign up, bring \$5 in cash or check,

### SAT & ACT REGISTRATION DATES

#### SAT 2006-2007

Test Date	Registration Deadline (Regular Fee)	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee)
December 2	<del>November 1</del>	<del>November 9</del>
January 27	December 20	January 4
*March 10	February 2	February 14
May 5	March 29	April 11
June 2	April 27	May 9

\*On March 10, only the SAT Reasoning Test is offered.

#### ACT 2006-2007

Test Date	Registration Deadline (Regular Fee)	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee)
December 9	<del>November 3</del>	<del>November 16</del>
February 10	January 5	January 19
April 14	March 9	March 23
June 9	May 4	May 18

Students are encouraged to register online for the SAT at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). Registration forms are available in the College and Career Center. Tam is not a test site. Register early for a convenient location.

made out to the Tam High PTSA, to the College and Career Center by February 2.

### BEYOND TAM

National Portfolio Day for Visual Artists  
Saturday, January 20, San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St.

Students can receive feedback on their visual arts portfolio from representatives of art colleges from across the country. For more information, go to [npda.org](http://npda.org).

### ATTENTION: UC APPLICANTS

The University of California expects all applicants to complete the courses listed for senior year with a grade of "C" or better. It is the student's responsibility to notify the university if he or she receives a grade lower than a "C" for first semester or expects to receive a grade lower than a "C" for the second semester. Students must also notify the University if they drop a class listed on the application, add a new one or decide to audit a class previously taken for credit.

Students also need to notify the University if there is a change in their mailing or e-mail address.

### SOPHOMORE PARENTS NEEDED

The College and Career Center will need volunteers in February when sophomores take a career interest inventory to assess possible career paths. Please call 380-3582 or email [sgertman@tamdistrict.org](mailto:sgertman@tamdistrict.org) to volunteer. There will be a training session and volunteers will have an opportunity to take the test themselves. The evaluation will be given Tuesday through Friday.

### INTERESTED IN THE BUILDING TRADES?

A construction class, sponsored by the county's Regional Occupational Program (ROP), will begin Wednesday, January 17, at Redwood High School. The course covers plumbing, electrical, cabinetry, roofing, blueprint reading, use of hand

*Continued on next page*

## School to Career

### Internship News

Students are now finishing their internships for the fall semester. Spring Internship Program applications will be available to students after the holiday break and will be due on February 2. Spring internships will begin on February 26 and will continue through April 30. Students are required to work a minimum of six hours per week at their internship placements.

### Youth Citizen's Academy

The fall semester of the Youth Citizen's Academy at the Sheriff's Department was a great success. Students met twice per week for eight weeks and learned about different aspects of law enforcement including patrol, investigations, criminal science investigation, custody, court services, defensive tactics, special response team, major crimes task force, search and rescue, and the marine patrol/dive team. This academy is "hands-on" and provided students with some incredible experiences within the realm of law enforcement. Students

**Camille Borgo, School to Career Liaison**  
College and Career Center  
cborgo@tamdistrict.org

participated in a graduation ceremony which included officers from many departments of law enforcement such as the Marin County Sheriff's Department, the San Rafael Police Department, State Department of Fish and Game, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### Architecture-Engineering-Contractor Job Shadow Day

Many Tam students applied for and participated in the AEC Job Shadow Day on November 2. Students were able to "shadow" architecture, engineering and contractor professionals in the community for half of the day. Afterwards the students and professionals gathered together for a luncheon at the Marin Builders Association to share experiences from the morning. Some Tam students were able to visit Kwan Henmi, an architecture firm in San Francisco. Other students visited and shadowed an engineer at Autodesk. The students were able to ask for advice from the professionals they visited about further-

Redwood High School (415) 945-3604  
Tamalpais High School (415) 380-3558

ing their education, job possibilities, and aspects of the profession they had questions about. The Architecture -Engineering- Contractor Job Shadow Day is offered once per year in the fall semester.

### Other School to Career Services and News

As the School to Career Liaison for Tamalpais High School, I am available in the College and Career Center on Wednesdays and Fridays 7:45 am -4 pm and Thursdays 7:45-11:30 am. I am available to assist students with internship placement and preparation, provide students with job shadows, and help students with finding informational interviewing opportunities. I also assist students with resume writing, interviewing skills, and participation in other organized career exploration events and activities. ✦

### COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER, continued

tools and more. Students, who must be at least 16, will receive hands-on training from master craftsmen and earn up to five credits. Summer internships, some paid, with local contractors will be available to students who complete the program. The class meets from 5 to 9 pm. An added bonus: dinner is provided. To register, call ROP at 499-5860.

### WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

[cxonline.bridges.com](http://cxonline.bridges.com)

Thanks to the Marin County Office of Education, Tam families have access to [cxonline.bridges.com](http://cxonline.bridges.com), a website with outstanding career search information and links to college and financial aid data. Please ask your student to come to the College and Career Center to ask for Tam's user name and password. ✦

## On the Shelf

*Mill Valley Public Library*

Here's what's happening in December for teens at the Mill Valley Public Library. Remember, events at the library are always FREE. On Thursday, December 7, from 7-8:30 pm, comic artist and author Oliver Chin will lead a "Graphic Novel Workshop." After a discussion and demonstration of graphic novel basics, participants can practice their own art and writing skills through a guided exercise. This event is for middle and high school students only. Then on Thursday, December 14, from 7-8:30 pm, we'll get ready for the holiday season with a program called "All Wrapped Up" where we'll use ribbon and paper to design tags, bows, and gift wrap accessories. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 389-4292 x203.

On Thursday, January 11, from 7-8:30 pm, we're presenting a "Henna Workshop" where Darcy Van Gelder-Vasudev will return to the library to bring the ancient art of Henna painting to our Creekside Room. This workshop includes a discussion of the origins and history of henna, safety issues, recipes for mixing henna, elements of design, a demonstration, and hands-on practice. Space is limited. Preference will be given to teens and sign up is required at the Library Reference Desk. Parental permission is also required for teens under 18.

For more information about programs and services for teens at the library, contact Donna Brown at 389-4292 x125 or email [dbrown@cityofmillvalley.org](mailto:dbrown@cityofmillvalley.org). ✦

## CTE Presents the Winter One-Act Festival

EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATORY THEATER ENSEMBLE is busy preparing for Tam's annual Winter One-Act Festival. This year's festival marks the first opportunity for all the classes in the Ensemble to take advantage of our fantastic new theater in the the Daniel Caldwell Performing Arts Center. The One-Acts are a vital part of our drama curriculum—upperclassmen actually direct the younger drama students in the plays.

For CTE's advanced drama students, directing is a way to broaden their theatrical experience. Student directors are introduced to crucial aspects of theater beyond acting and production. As CTE senior Ander Frischer puts it, "You learn how to approach a play from a completely different point of view." Senior Nathan Birnbaum adds, "You become the storyteller instead of just being players in the story." Directors move from focusing on an individual character to interpreting the meaning of a play and working to best convey it to the audience through staging, movement, props and direction of the actors.

For CTE's beginning and intermediate students, One-Acts provide an equally rich opportunity to learn. These students gain not only the experience of a complete acting process, but a working knowledge of theater that comes from their own peers. "It gives you great perspective because it's [the director's] own experiences," says sophomore Gabe Grossman. "It is easier to relate to them than to a teacher." Essentially, the one-act process is a channel through which the philosophy and teachings of CTE are sustained as they are passed through generations.

The One-Act tradition brings greater unity to our program. "It teaches some people to take leadership positions and it teaches others to take direction—it facilitates teamwork," says CTE senior Cassandra Bell. Student directors must strike a balance between being supportive mentors and authority figures to their younger cast members. "It's probably the most difficult thing I've ever done," adds Bell. However students feel it is worth the hard work, as they "become great role models," according to sophomore Hannah Gordon. Teaching and learning from each other, students gain a deeper understanding of theater and form relationships that cross grade lines.

The festival will feature plays from a variety of genres by established playwrights. From absurdist to realist, playwrights will include Eugene Ionesco, William Saroyan, Alan Ayckbourn, Terrence McNally, Ted Mosel and many others.

Tickets for One-Acts will be available for purchase before each show and during specific box office hours. **The box office will be open starting after school at 12:30 pm, December 19-22, the Tuesday-Friday of finals week. Student and Senior tickets: \$5, adults: \$10.** So, give your children money if you would like to purchase advance tickets. If you do buy advance tickets, the day of the performance you must be in your seat 15 minutes before the performance starting time or your ticket will be void and nonrefundable. You can call the box office at 380-3535 for more information. ✪

### WINTER ONE-ACT FESTIVAL SCHEDULE (By Class Period)

#### PERIOD 1

<i>Show Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Mother Figure	Jan 17 (7pm) Jan 21 (2pm)
The Future Lies and Eggs	Jan 17 (7pm) Jan 21 (2pm)
Visit to a Small Planet	Jan 12 (7pm) Jan 26 (7pm)
So Nice Not to See You	Jan 18 (7pm) Jan 24 (7pm)

#### PERIOD 2

Constantinople Smith	Jan 16 (7pm) Jan 20 (7pm)
Impromptu	Jan 14 (2pm) Jan 25 (2pm)
Subway Circus	Jan 19 (7pm) Jan 27 (7pm)
Midnight Caller	Jan 19 (7pm) Jan 27 (7pm)

#### PERIOD 3

Bringing it all back home	Jan 16 (7pm) Jan 26 (7pm)
The Lottery	Jan 18 (7pm) Jan 25 (2pm)
Forbidden Copy	Jan 16 (7pm) Jan 26 (7pm)
Watermelon Nights/ Night Swim	Jan 14 (7pm) Jan 25 (7pm)
Sorry Wrong Number	Jan 18 (7pm) Jan 24 (7pm)
The Bald Soprano	Jan 13 (7pm) Jan 20 (7pm)

#### PERIOD 4

<i>Show Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>
A Dream Play	Jan 13 (7pm) Jan 27 (7pm)
Dear Departed	Jan 13 (7pm) Jan 26 (7pm)
Gosforth's Feast	Jan 17 (7pm) Jan 21 (7pm)
Just	Jan 12 (7pm) Jan 23 (7pm)
Drinking Companions	Jan 17 (7pm) Jan 19 (7pm)

#### PERIOD 5

Overtones	Jan 19 (7pm) Jan 27 (7pm)
Cinderella wore Combat Boots	Jan 14 (2pm) Jan 25 (7pm)
Final Dress Rehearsal	Jan 13 (7pm) Jan 24 (7pm)
Another way Out	Jan 16 (7pm) Jan 20 (7pm)

#### PERIOD 6

Cagebirds	Jan 12 (7pm) Jan 23 (7pm)
Aria De Capo	Jan 18 (7pm) Jan 24 (7pm)
Jack or the Submission	Jan 16 (7pm) Jan 23 (7pm)
Gloria Mundi	Jan 12 (7pm) Jan 23 (7pm)

## Reel News

### News from The Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media (AIM)

By Chelsea Walsh, AIM student writer

IT HAS ONLY BEEN NINE WEEKS since the school year began and already the new students of AIM are reaping the benefits of their bravery to take on the myriad of risks intrinsic to joining the program. Junior Kenya Thompson commented on the “honesty” of the program, and that she appreciates the truthful and straightforward nature of the community within AIM—which is appropriate considering this year’s theme is “truth.” Kenya and the rest of the new juniors got their first genuine taste of an AIM “Clap n’ Flap” on October 13, a critique in which the movies created in the past few weeks are viewed, dissected, and evaluated by the students and the teachers. Together they applaud each movie—or, clap—and together they discuss and reflect on the intended and inferred messages, the techniques used to convey the message, and the concepts learned—the flap.

The prompt for the year’s first project was in three parts. It emphasized the need for juniors to get to know their peers, to acquaint themselves with the technology, and to understand what constitutes an effective crew. The prompt specifically stated, though, that the students must “practice the creative representation of reality,” which is vital to creating an engaging movie. Ryan Gallagher, a senior in AIM, recently praised the new juniors for their “creative thinking potential.”

Chloe Erskine, a junior, said, “I like learning about life ... I am glad that I am learning things that I am going to use.” Certainly—as evidence suggests—the AIM teachers’ innovative ways of teaching are stirring up the minds of their students. Students are encouraged to connect intellectually and emotionally to their work, and the teachers—Sharilyn Scharf, David Tarpinian, and Mike Goldstein—make it easy to do so. Currently, the students are studying issues of race through studying history, analyzing film, and reading “Invisible Man” by Ralph Ellison, a novel concerning not only racial issues, but also the issue of personal identity.

According to junior Avery Ramin, “In AIM we have the ability to forge our own path ... we are treated like adults that can handle themselves.” As evidenced by the students’ responses, the curriculum is getting through to them; their minds are evolving and maturing. The year may have just begun, but the juniors have already made considerable progress in adapting to this strange and unfamiliar curricular anatomy. The students of AIM clearly are not just making movies—they are becoming creative, analytical, and responsible individuals.

For information concerning AIM, please visit our website: [www.tamaim.com](http://www.tamaim.com). •

## Leadership News

By Peter Berkhout

NOVEMBER’S STUDENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR can be nearly summed up in one word: PIE! Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to bring in pies for our November 17 Thanksgiving Pie Day, our 2nd annual. We served over 1,000 slices of pie, free, to the student body here at Tam. Many thanks to senior Lauren Lorenzi along with the rest of the Tam ASB Student Relations Committee for a great event!

The other committees were at work on a continuing redesign of Tam’s spirit wear, working on selling our Christmas trees, planning our warm clothing drive and food drive, and putting on a volleyball game of the month in early November.

The warm clothing drive benefits the Ritter House and ended on November 29, but the food drive is ongoing until December 15. Students should bring in canned food to their tutorial classrooms. There is a pizza party prize for the winning class. Except for the food drive, December is a very quiet month for student activities. Looking ahead to January, we have a dramatic program called “Secrets,” presented in partnership with Kaiser Permanente. “Secrets” addresses HIV/AIDS awareness and attempts to provide another presentation regarding the facts about HIV and AIDS—not everyone learns best from the classroom presentation. The medical

information in “Secrets” is based on the most up-to-date findings from the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and Kaiser Permanente. “Secrets” will be presented to sophomores on Friday, January 19.

The junior class is looking ahead to the Winter Formal (to be held February 10—save the date!) for juniors and seniors. This winter classic is the first chance for many Tam students to attend a black tie affair.

Finally, thanks to everyone who purchased a tree from the ASB and PTSA this year! Remember that our tree lot is first come—first served among your preordered trees, and we’ll be ready for you at 9 am on Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10. •



### Get More of *Tam News* Online

Did you know that the *Tam News* is now published more frequently? Just check online at [www.tamnews.org](http://www.tamnews.org) for more stories you won’t see in the magazine, updated frequently. Plus, post your comments on each story.

## Student Portfolio

*Selections from the portfolio of  
AP photo student senior Hilary Green*



### Pie Day Thanks

Dear Tam Families,

I just wanted to say thank you so much for donating pie to Pie Day last month! It was a huge success and it was amazing. I have not heard anything other than positive feedback from students and staff. I think we had over 1000 slices and we were only left without about 20 when lunch was over. It was so generous of you to donate pies, and without you this event would not have been possible and as successful as it was. The pies looked amazing, and I heard from students that they were absolutely delicious. I cannot express how grateful I am that Tam has such wonderful parent and family support. Thank you once again for your generous donations, and I hope you had a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Lorenzi



By Tom Davey

## Driving and Putting Past the Competition

KUDOS TO NEW GIRLS' GOLF coach Dustin (named after Dustin Hoffman) Nygaard. The former Sonoma State golfer and current sports medicine teacher at Tam coached the girls, who finished 3-13 last season, to 11-5 this year in league play.



Laura Reed tees off.

A fourth-place finish earned the team its first league playoff berth. All of the other schools in the Marin County Athletic League (MCAL) playoffs—Branson, Marin Catholic and Justin Siena—are private schools that traditionally have great golf teams.

Marin Catholic was the only school to make it as a team to the NCS tournament. But two Tam girls were among only three girls from among all the other MCAL schools to be admitted to the NCS tournament

as individuals due to their scores in the MCAL final at Peacock Gap. Junior Angie Funnell shot an 82 and senior Laura Reed shot an 85. Nygaard expects another great season next year with six members of this year's team returning again next year.

## Girls' Basketball Prospects Looking Up

TAM ATHLETIC DIRECTOR and varsity girls' basketball coach Gene Ng thinks this year's team has a shot at making the six-team Marin County Athletic League playoffs.

No big deal? That hasn't happened in Tam girls' basketball since at least the 1970s. Last year's team, which consisted mainly of freshmen and sophomores, went 3-11 in league play. Even that was a huge improvement from the year before when the team went 0-14.

As of our November 17 editorial deadline, Ng already sees a substantially more potent and mature team this season. Key starters include junior point guard Emma Washauer and junior post player Hannah Wilson, an all-league honorable mention last season.

Tam's boys' basketball team, lead by senior point guard Nick Seraydarian, will host the pre-season Dave Jones Memorial Tournament Dec. 7-9. The tournament has attracted teams from throughout the Bay Area.

### PRINCIPLES FROM THE PRINCIPAL, continued from page 2

#### Sportsmanship

Basketball season is upon us and the MCAL has asked us to remind everyone about displaying good sportsmanship when attending any high school athletic event. Students definitely notice and are influenced by adult behavior, so your support in modeling positive

## Fall Sports Season Round-Up

THE HAWKS GIRLS' WATER POLO TEAM finished the season with a 6-2 record, good enough for third place in the league and a trip to the North Coast section tournament for the first time in nine years. The team awarded senior Aoife Duffy and junior Katie Schlueter, who lead the team with 60 goals, as most valuable players.

The boys' water polo team squeezed into the MCAL playoffs with a sixth place finish and a 9-11 record. Senior Zach Niesen was the team's most valuable player and senior Peter Schwartz was the leading scorer with 50 goals.

Both Hawks cross country teams placed fourth in the MCAL championship meet at Indian Valley College. Tam senior Emilie Olson was the first girl to cross the finish line and was named the Independent Journal's prep of the week.

Tam's much improved girls' volleyball team finished in fourth then lost to Marin Catholic in the MCAL playoffs and to Drake in an NCS showdown. The girls' tennis team, which had a large group of younger players, came in fourth in the MCAL playoffs. Tam's varsity football players deserve credit for enduring a tough injury-plagued season yet managing to pull off a nail-biting 16-15 win over Terra Linda. ♣

*Several TAM student athletes were picked for the ALL MCAL teams:*

#### Boys Soccer

Daniel Leon first team; Spencer Kennedy Second Team; Call Nichols Honorable Mention

#### Girls Water Polo

Katie Schlueter First Team; Aoife Duffy Second Team and Amelia Harvey Honorable Mention

#### Boys Water Polo

Peter Schwartz, Second Team and Zach Niesen Honorable mention and

#### Girls Golf

Laura Reed, First Team and Angie Funnell, Second Team

words and actions at games helps set an appropriate tone. MCAL rules require that unsportsmanlike behavior be addressed with actions up to and including removal from the gym. We appreciate your support in making educational athletics a positive experience for all involved. ♣



PTSA  
**Tamalpais High School**  
 700 Miller Avenue  
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

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**DECEMBER 2006**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time/Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
2	H.S. EXIT EXAM ENGLISH SECTION TEST FOR SENIORS	TBA
3	4-6 PM – THEATER DEDICATION	DANIEL CALDWELL CENTER
4	8:45 AM – PTSA MEETING WITH SPEAKERS LINDEN BERRY AND LIZZIE STEVENSON	DANIEL CALDWELL CENTER LOBBY
4	7 PM – “ALL ABOUT TAM” FOR 8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADERS & PARENTS	DANIEL CALDWELL CENTER
6	7:30 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	LIBRARY
8	7:15 - 11 AM – TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION COFFEE	STAFF LOUNGE
12	4:30 PM – TUHSD BOARD WORKSHOP	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
12	6:30 PM – COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING NIGHT	STUDENT CENTER
13	7 PM – MUSIC DEPT. WINTER CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT AUDITORIUM
20-22	FINAL EXAMS – <b>12:25 DISMISSAL</b> SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS	
25-JAN 9	WINTER RECESS – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	

**JANUARY 2007**

8-9	WORK/STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS – <b>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS</b>	
9	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
10	<b>SCHOOL RESUMES FOR STUDENTS</b>	
10	7 PM – P2P MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
10	7:30 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	LIBRARY
12-27	CTE WINTER ONE ACT FESTIVAL SEE PAGE 10 FOR PLAYS AND TIMES	DANIEL CALDWELL CENTER
15	MLK HOLIDAY – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
16	TIME TBA – TUHSD BOARD WORKSHOP	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
16	WINTER FORMAL TICKETS ON SALE	
17	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	BAND BOX
18	6:30 PM – COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING NIGHT	STUDENT CENTER
23	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL