



F A M I L Y

Published by Tam High PTSA—December 2007

The Home Page

by Jayne Greenberg

PTSA Executive Vice President—Communications

PTSA GENERAL MEETING

Monday December 3

8:45 am in the Hawk's Nest

Getting the Most out of Tam Part II:

Academics and College Prep

Come hear College and Career Specialist Susan Gertman and Tam Counselor Alex Hunt speak about academic opportunities and college/career prep at Tam. Everyone welcome!

"Dead Man Walking", a play adapted from the best-selling book of the same title, will be CTE's next presentation from November 29 - December 3 in the Caldwell Theatre. This project is a collaborative effort among the drama, social studies and English departments and explores the many issues associated with the death penalty.

The Tam Holiday Staff Appreciation

Breakfast will be Friday, December 14.

If you would like to help or bake, please contact Helene Siegel-Fotos at bash5@sbcbglobal.net.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL STAFF PARTY

The Tam staff will have its annual holiday party in December. Donating a small gift is a great way to show your appreciation to teachers and staff. The gifts are distributed through a raffle. If you'd like to make someone's day, please bring your gift to the principal's office by December 14. Thank you for your support!

MISSING SOMETHING?

Parents, please remind your students to check in the Main Office for all lost items. All clothes not claimed by winter break will be donated to a local charity.

After Everytown: Personal Reflections

By Kenzie Schweitzer

Tam High Sophomore

A few weeks ago, I went to Camp Everytown. I didn't know what to expect, but everyone who talked about it said I just gotta go. So here I was, about to hop on a bus, and head for the mountains. It was kinda hectic, getting our luggage together, going to school, then, right after school, getting herded together to get on the bus.

While I was in line for the bus, I noticed that Will Owens, campus supervisor, was telling us which bus to get on. Turns out, he was splitting friends up so they didn't end up on the same bus. Will put me on one bus and my best friend on the other, so right off, I figured it was going to be a bunk ride. There were a lot of people on the bus that I didn't know. I'm usually always with my friends, so being in a big bus surrounded by a bunch of people I didn't really know was weird. But it was ok, because I got to sit next to one friend.

(continued on page 8)

Lucy Litvak

Tam Class of 2006 and Camp Everytown Counselor

Participating this year as a counselor at Camp Everytown as an alumna of Tam, I can testify that Camp Everytown is an invaluable asset to the Tam community. Through the activities done beneath the redwood trees of camp, we engaged in the most important type of learning – that of how to have empathy and respect for our fellow community members.

During the four days there, I saw the Tam students undergo a unique transformation as they discovered things about themselves and others that are otherwise concealed in everyday high school life. I witnessed that by sharing our personal experiences and beliefs we are able to teach each other more than any book or lab ever can. *(continued on page 8)*

By Violet Elson

Tam High Sophomore

About this time last year, I vaguely remember a group of students leaving for a school-funded retreat and that same group of students coming back wearing white shirts with the title "Camp Everytown" emblazoned across the front. Each one of those individuals had a secret smile, a look of wisdom and growth in their eyes that they didn't have when they left.

When I received an invitation to participate in Camp Everytown, I was excited, but nervous. Questions flooded my head. How long would I be gone? What if I didn't like any of the people in my cabin? What if I hated it? But there was no time to think about those thoughts. I packed up my duffle bag and prepared to leave the next day. The night before I left, I changed my Facebook status to "Violet Elson is at Camp Everytown!" and was immediately bombarded by camp graduates. They all said amazing things about Everytown, and how it would be a life-changing experience. I wasn't so sure. I shut down my doubts along with my computer and got dressed for the day.

What I experienced at Camp Everytown was so personal and amazing, that it is hard to put into words. I made close friends with all the students and staff there, and because you learn so much about a group of people, you feel connected with them, like you have a friend for life. Going to Camp Everytown was an experience that I was so lucky to have, and hopefully, I returned with that same look of growth and understanding in my eyes that I saw in others just one year ago. ❖

For more reflections, turn to page 8

Principles from the Principal

By Chris Holleran

Lock Down

One of the topics of discussion after the lock down a couple of weeks ago was that several students did not take direction from staff seriously and were reluctant to comply with the order to return to class immediately. We have made some modifications to our protocol to make sure the procedure is orderly and timely. Please reinforce to your student(s) the need to comply with staff when the lock down order is given. Thank you.

Sportsmanship

With basketball season upon us, this is a reminder for all spectators and participants to display and promote good sportsmanship at all athletic events. Those who do not follow the MCAL code of conduct at athletic events may be asked to leave the event.

You are Invited to Attend the Tamalpais Union High School District Board Reception/Meeting

December 11 at 7 pm

Kreps Conference Center - Redwood High School

The December 11 school board meeting will mark a transition for members of the school board. Jill Sampson will leave the board after eight years. Jill was a Tam High parent and a past school board member of the Mill Valley School District. Jill brought a high level of involvement and passion to her work on the board. She has always been a strong advocate for our students. She has done an amazing job. She has represented our students, our school and our district with dedication and care. She will be missed on the board. Please plan to attend this meeting and reception to thank Jill for her years of service to our educational community and to the students of the district. The reception will be at the start of the meeting.

The November election saw the reelection of Bob Walters to another term, which will continue until 2012, and the election of Cindy McCauley to the board. Cindy is a Tam parent who has been involved in most of the educational activities at Tam High. Cindy brought years of involvement in the Mill Valley School District to Tam. At Tam she has chaired the Tam High Foundation, was parent representative on the modernization oversight committee and the technology committee and chaired a capital fundraising campaign for the Caldwell Theatre from 2004-7. She will be an excellent advocate for the students of our district.

Take this time to say thank you to our outgoing and in-coming school board members. ❖

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE DECEMBER 17-21, 2007

Monday, December 17

Regular Monday schedule

Tuesday, December 18

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
12:30-1:05 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 19

8-10 am	1st period final
10-10:20 am	Break
10:25 am - 12:25 pm	2nd period final

Thursday, December 20

8-10 am	3rd period final
10-10:20 am	Break
10:25 am - 12:25 pm	4th period final

Friday, December 21

8-10 am	5th period final
10-10:20 am	Break
10:25 am - 12:25 pm	6th period final



The Tam Family

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Diggin' in the Dirt

by Gail Mason

On Saturday, November 10, Jill Templeton led eight other stalwart volunteers in planting new trees along the edge of the Almonte Street parking lot. The area looked bleak and was longing for some trees to soften the view, so there are now small but lovely crape myrtle, pistache and other trees, both evergreen and deciduous, in the ground preparing to grow and frame the parking lot. Digging the holes for this planting was no mean feat so much thanks to the folks who turned out to help ... just before the rain started!

We will have one more winter work party to mulch the large Sequoia tree next to the pool area. It needs four inches of mulch to help it survive the construction disruption.

In addition, we will have a major work party in mid-May to spruce up the campus before the May 23 weekend Centennial festivities. Anyone who wants to help, please let me know.

Otherwise, all gardens on campus (except, of course, the front lawn) are now on timed drip irrigation systems and are all settling down to rest for the winter.

Hope you have a wonderful holiday season yourself, hunkered down and cozy. ❖

Parent Ed Evening with Teen Panel was a Success ... If You Could Find It!

by Gail Mason

On Monday night, November 5, the PTSA sponsored its annual Teen Panel, and it was as frank and helpful as always. It began with some rough edges due to a last-minute location change to the Phoenix Building, which is on a less-familiar part of campus for many folks. Finding this lovely last-minute spot proved to be humbling for some. The acoustics in the room also left a lot to be desired, so everyone did their best to adapt. About 90 parents were in attendance, while Tam counselors Alex Hunt and Lizzie Stevenson spoke about the reality of drugs and sex and other social issues in the lives of teenagers in Marin these days.

There were four teen panelists, Chris Mauze, Isabelle Ellingson, Rene Rico and Rachael Pozibenec, and they were wonderfully forthcoming about their struggles with lots of issues, including academic pressures, the tremendous amount of alcohol use among teens (and adults) here and how "hooking up" is truly a reality of the teen world. One of the most valuable outcomes of this evening is always an increase in parents' awareness of the true state of the world our kids inhabit, like it or not. Our job as parents is still to offer guidance and to be tuned into what our teens are grappling with. The evaluations from attendees were uniformly appreciative of the information from kids and counselors, valuing the honesty, humor and poise of all. The evaluations about the room were also forthright and the next Parent Ed evening will certainly take place in a room with better acoustics!

The most important gem of the evening is that our students still want and hope for guidance from us parents and do want us to be there for them when they feel lost. The message: never give up trying to communicate. ❖



Tam parents, students, and future students planting daffodils along Almonte Boulevard.



Emily and her dad, Keith Kauer, along with Ivana Jovanovic prepare the soil for new trees along Almonte Boulevard.



Steve Quarles and Ivana Jovanovic plant trees between the back parking lot and Almonte Boulevard.

Tam PTSA Agenda— December 3, 2007 8:45 am

1. Call to order
2. Announcements
3. Approve Minutes – November
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Approval of checks
5. PTSA event dates
6. Membership Committee Report
7. Tam High 101 – Part 2 –
Susan Gertman – presenter

Senior Parents Needed!

Safe & Sober Grad Night 2008 is right around the corner, and all senior parents are needed! Your child will graduate on June 12, which is about six months from now so it is time for all of us to mobilize and give them a send-off they will never forget.

Grad Night has long been a tradition at Tam and is truly a gift that parents give to their graduating senior. The whole class spends a wonderful evening together on a milestone day in their lives, keeping the class from splintering in different groups for parties, and keeping your teenager safe from DUI accidents or other scary incidents that occur all too commonly with graduation celebrations. It is also a lot of fun, with dancing, swimming, movies, and many other activities taking place at the Mill Valley Community Center. Plus it is absolutely free for all graduating seniors!

Grad Night will not happen unless parents like you step up to take on a role in this event; a handful of volunteers simply can't accomplish what needs to be done. We will have our first informational and volunteer-seeking meeting on Wednesday, January 16, in the school library at 7 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

We know that everyone is busy (we are too!) but we cannot plan and execute this event without you. For further information contact:

Bonnie Freiberg, 388-4785 bkfreiberg1@mac.com
Cindy McCauley, 381-5730 msf49erfan@comcast.net ❖

Tam High Grad Night Needs Raffle Donations

Following graduation on June 12, 2008, the Senior Class will enjoy an all-night, safe party sponsored by the Tam High Grad Night Committee, made up of parent volunteers. As their last school function, the Class of '08 will come together in an environment free of drugs and alcohol, a nineteen-year tradition in Marin. As a result of this tradition, the accident rate on Grad Night caused by intoxicated students has decreased significantly. This party does not cost the student anything and is open for all Tam 2008 graduates, plus it has had an over 90% attendance rate in the past. What a success story!

To help cover the cost of this event, the Grad Night committee will hold a raffle, and we need your help. At this time we are collecting donations. Examples of past years' contributions were: a cabin in Tahoe, a weekend at Sea Ranch, dinner for two at the Buckeye, sporting event tickets, autographed sports paraphernalia, a night at the Westin St. Francis, gift certificates for massages, dinner parties, tire alignments, flower arrangements, manicures – no gift is too small.

If you can contribute or you know of someone or a business connection who can, please contact Patty Trick: ptrickmv@gmail.com or phone 381-4353. Whether your student will be graduating this year or in the coming years, join us in the Tam tradition of providing a happy and safe graduation party for this Class of '08 – they truly appreciate it. **THANK YOU!** – Tam Grad Night '08 ❖

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- Helene Siegel-Fotos and all the PTSA volunteers who put together another festive and delicious Halloween Staff Appreciation Day. The decorations and food were fabulous and a good time was had by all.
- Gail Mason and our student panel for their frank and informative discussion of the issues that students face at Tam and in the greater community. The evening was very well-attended by parents, who undoubtedly came away with a better understanding of teens and their world.
- Everyone who brought pies to celebrate Pie Day at Tam. The staff and kids loved it!

TAM CENTENNIAL MERCHANDISE LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE

Tam High is celebrating its Centennial year.

Commemorative t-shirts and coffee mugs
are now available.

Be one of the few to own a Tam Centennial keepsake.

Go to tam100.org for order information
or contact Bonnie Freiberg
bkfreiberg1@mac.com 388-4785



Your Contributions Making a Difference

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 \$87,750 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:

- I-Mac computers, library books, CDs, films, LCD projector, readers (*World Languages*)
- World history projects including African American Historians Program (*Social Studies*)
- Plasma computer TV monitors (*Math*)
- Shakespeare in the class, poets-in-the-school and poet workshops (*English*)
- Digital camera and Coolpix (*Fine Arts*)
- Computers (*Special Education*)
- Computers, digital cameras (*Tam News*)
- Science materials, pilot garden program for sustainable agriculture program, marine science unit materials and chemistry interactive software (*Science*)
- "Dead Man Walking" theater project materials and speakers (*Drama*)
- Camp Everytown follow-up (*Administration*)
- Guest artist in the classroom (*Music*)
- Classroom projection screen replacement

Take advantage of a tax write-off for 2007, support your child and support Tam learning at the same time!

Please donate today by completing the pledge form 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



TAM HIGH ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Telephone: _____

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

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

Please check appropriate boxes:

My check for \$_____ is enclosed payable to:

TAM HIGH FOUNDATION

Charge to my credit card Visa Mastercard

Signature: _____

_____ exp. _____

charge entire amount now

charge montly, divide now until June

charge in \$_____ increments until pledge is met

My company participates in a matching fund program.

**THF id#63-0385326

****Online Giving: www.tamhighfoundation.org**

News from Parent to Parent Connection

By Sandra Tanner Mack and Janet Miller, p2p Coordinators

At our October meeting, Dr. Virginia Bassi spoke on “Social and Emotional Challenges and Solutions for Students with Learning Disabilities.” Parents walked away with some great tips, strategies and insights. Dr. Bassi underlined the importance of fostering each student’s ability to self-advocate. Here are some highlights from this talk:

- Everyone just wants to be loved
- Learning challenges or differences may lead to emotional distress.
- Teach your children to self-advocate. Do not feel that you must always rescue them. Help them develop problem-solving skills.
- Sincere interest is more effective than praise.
- Emotional health can actually enhance the performance of children with learning disabilities.
- Social-emotional skills are critical to overall development and require a systematic approach that empowers the child.
- Focus on your child’s strengths, interests and skills.
- Communicate your confidence in your child and his or her future.
- Mistakes happen. Use these as a learning experience and opportunity to teach.

Each high school in the district has a Peer Resource group that is headed by a faculty or staff member. The purpose of Peer Resource (at some schools called Link Crew or Ignite) is to help ease the social transition to high school. At Tam High, the faculty contact is Yvonne Milham, ymilham@tamdistrict.org.

We hope you will be able to join us for our first meeting of 2008. On January 16, at 7 pm, Jane McClure will speak on “Four-year Colleges for Students with Learning Issues.” This is traditionally one of our most well-attended meetings, as Jane has years of experience as an educational consultant, successfully placing kids in appropriate colleges.

As usual, we will open each meeting a half hour before the program to allow for informal discussion and networking with other parents.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Upcoming p2p 2007-08 Meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday every month from 6:30-9 pm, in the Kreps Conference Center, Redwood High School. The program begins at 7 pm, and informal parent meeting time is from 6:30-7 pm.

[No December meeting]

January 16, 2008: “What’s next? Four-year Colleges for Students with Learning Issues.” Hear about which college to pick, how to get in; everything you wanted to know about four-year colleges but were afraid to ask. [Jane McClure]

February 9, 2008: Bound4College, Parent/Student Saturday Workshop, 10 am – 12:30 pm. REGISTRATION CLOSED AS OF 11/2/2007. ❖

Winter One-Act Festival Is On the Way!

Tam’s student theater company, Conservatory Theatre Ensemble (CTE), has offered a variety of plays this fall, all performed by the students in the advanced drama classes. Following the successes of “The Diary of Anne Frank” and “Alice,” early December will provide yet another contrast in the production of “Dead Man Walking.” This play was adapted by writer/director Tim Robbins from his screenplay and from the best-selling book of the same title by Sister Helen Prejean. Through special arrangement with the Dead Man Walking School Theatre Project, which required collaboration among the drama, social studies and English departments in order to explore the subject, the production provides the culmination of class-work, discussion and learning about death penalty issues. Each performance is followed by a brief discussion

between performers and audience to open up dialogue about this important subject.

Directed by guest artists John Warren and Julia Mueller, performances will be November 29, through December 3, at 7 pm at the Caldwell Theatre. Lobby displays, student writing publications and guest speakers have been funded by a grant from the Tam High Foundation.

In January, the much-anticipated Winter One Act Festival will present seven different programs of one-act plays performed by first and second year drama students, under the direction of advanced students enrolled in Honors Theater Directing. Rehearsals are underway in drama classes as the students prepare for this popular event. Each play is performed twice during the festival, which opens January 11

and 12 and plays through January 15-19 and January 22-26. Matinees will be at 2 pm on January 19 and 26 and all evening performances take place at 7 pm. The Winter One Act Festival presents classic or contemporary one act plays by well-known playwrights such as Sam Shepard, David Ives, Noel Coward, Anton Chekhov, George Kelly, Horton Foote and others. In the spring, a second festival will feature student-written or adapted works, but in the fall, the emphasis is on established playwrights.

Information about tickets and seating for the One Acts has been distributed to all CTE parents. Check the website at ctetam.org for more details. ❖

Leadership News

by Peter Berkhout, Activities Director
pberkhout@tamdistrict.org

Thanks to everyone who participated in the third annual Thanksgiving Pie Day by donating a pie! This year we served up more than 900 pieces of pie, ranging from your standard pumpkin, to berry, and on to egg custard.

The end of the first week in December also marks the end of our canned food drive. This year, the outreach committee set a goal of 1500 cans schoolwide. Catch updates to the can count on the ASB website at <http://staff.tamhigh.org/berkhout/asb.htm>

Also on December 7, our rally committee is planning a Winter Sports Rally in Gus Gym during tutorial. This optional rally will feature the boys' and girls' basketball teams, the wrestling team, Campus Supervisor and Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach Ralph Wilson, other staff members to be named later, and the unveiling of our new Hawk mascot! It's not to be missed!

After school on the same day, come down to Bruce Grant Field to see the first Powder Puff Football Game at Tam in recent memory! See the Junior ('09) girls face off against the Senior ('08) girls in a flag football game extraordinaire. We hope to recruit some of the boys' varsity football team to run some practices beforehand. Did your student watch the Powder Puff episode on MTV's "Two-a-days" show? They've got nothing on Tam!

The first major Leadership event of 2008 will be organized by the Junior Class: the Junior/Senior Winter Formal. This year's dance will be held at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio on Saturday, February 9. Ticket sales begin the first full week back from Winter Recess on January 14 and continue until February 1. Make sure your student buys his or her tickets early to get the lowest price! See the ASB website after the first week in December to get pricing info.

Tam's administration has updated the school's dance behavior policy. Check out the new procedures by clicking the "Tam Dance Info" link on the ASB website (noted above). You can also download and print the guest form for the Winter Formal from the Tam Dance Info page.

As always, for questions, or to get involved with the Activities Program at Tam, please email me at pberkhout@tamdistrict.org ❖



Before: Leadership students stand amid tables laden with slices of delicious Thanksgiving pie.



After: A few forlorn pieces remain after students partake of the feast. (Time elapsed between the two photographs: 20 minutes.)

On the Shelf

From the 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 6, from 7-8 pm, we are delighted to welcome the Tam High Choir to our Creekside Room for a holiday concert. Then on Thursday, December 13, from 7-8:30 pm we will present a Teen Writers' Open Mic. New works will be read by local teens Delta Williams, Barbara Begley, Chloe Erskine, Alesya Jennings, and Mario Gellegos. For more information or to participate, contact contact Donna Brown at 389-4292 x125 or email: dbrown@cityofmillvalley.org

High Notes

From the Music Department



The Music Department has hired a guest artist, Vince Lars, for all music classes. He will be working five hours a week.

December Events

On December 1, a jazz combo from the Music Department will play at the Mill Valley craft fair at the Mill Valley Community Center.

The Advanced Band and Symphonic Orchestra will warm up the crowd at Winterfest on December 2, in Lytton Square, downtown Mill Valley.

The Tam High Concert Choir will join the Mill Valley Middle School Chamber Singers to perform on December 6, at the Mill Valley Library from 7 to 8 pm. Then they will go caroling in downtown Mill Valley from 8 to 9 pm. This will be a beautiful treat indeed.

The dress rehearsal for the Winter Holiday Concert will take place on December 12, from 6:30 to 8:45 pm.

December 13 is the Winter Holiday Concert, beginning at 7 pm in Ruby Scott Auditorium. Come and be prepared to hear beautiful music from our fabulous music students, directed by our wonderful music director, Sprio Tsingaris.

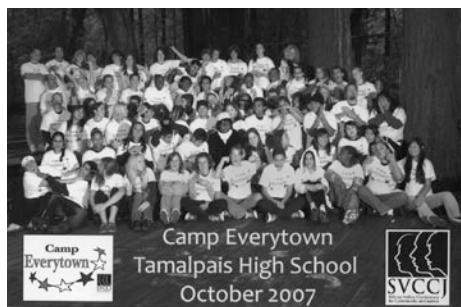
Upcoming Events

Save the date for our annual fundraiser Valentine's Dinner, to be held on February 8, in Ruby Scott Auditorium. This year we will again be providing a delicious dinner catered by Gira Poli, with cheesecake for dessert from Outback Steakhouse. Look forward to an evening of delightful music, provided by our instrumental and choral music students.

There will be a Mill Valley Middle School Student Pops Concert in January, date and time to be announced.

The next THUMB meeting will be January 10, at 7 pm in the Band Box (Music Building). All music parents are encouraged to attend, as always. Besides our usual events, this year the music department will play a large part in the Tam High Centennial Celebration, coming up in May. The event is called "Day on the Green" and will feature three separate stages, with music department students on one stage, alumni on another and community musicians on the third. THUMB will be looking for music alumni to play at this event.

This will be an exciting year for Tam High School! ❖



Camp Everytown

By Kenzie Schweitzer

(continued from front page)

When we got there, Richard, the camp director, welcomed us and talked about what we'd be doing there. He talked about how sometimes you have to reopen a wound to clean it out--- that wasn't a very nice start. But what he meant was we would have to see some stuff and do stuff we might not like to be able to "heal." We started right off with an activity exposing racial stereotypes. At first we thought it was kinda funny and stupid. But seeing other people's faces go from happy to sad really got me thinking that the world is really messed up sometimes. And even our little world at Tam can be messed up. At the end of it all, within just a few hours of arriving, Richard had almost everyone in tears. Later we all talked about why we were crying and how we felt. It was powerful to hear how everyone was feeling and what racial stereotypes meant to them. That night I went to sleep with my head spinning thoughts about everything that was brought up.

That's kinda the way it went for the three nights we were there. We'd get into something that is messed up, and really see how it hurts people and then we'd feel differently about it. We talked about how guys and girls treat each other and how messed up that is. We talked about what we'd like to see in how people treat each other in our school, our families, and our friends and just got real with everyone there. At the end, I couldn't believe how much we did in such a short time. I still can't describe it, or even remember all of it. But I know that as I looked around on the bus on the way home, I now knew just about everyone in the bus, and really cared about how people in general treat each other.

And now when people ask me about Camp, I can't really tell them what to expect, they have to feel the feelings for themselves, so I tell them they just gotta go! ❖

After Everytown: Personal Reflections

By Chris Erlin, Tam Math Teacher

2007 was a year of change for Tam's Camp Everytown. The organization and planning of the event fell to a triad of three veteran teachers, instead of the administration for the first time. The cabin staff at the camp itself included Tam alumni rather than exclusively hired, unrelated counselors. And the founder of Tam's Camp Anytown/Everytown involvement, John Berry, was conspicuously absent in both the planning and the event itself. And yet, despite many elements being new and different, the Camp Everytown experience delivered its full familiar and powerful experience for all those who attended.

This year's group included 56 students from all four grades and a beautifully broad range of racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic groups, as well as a staff of 18, including six teachers, one counselor, and five Tam alumni.

This was my third year attending Camp. And while one might expect the experience to being to tarnish, I was every bit as touched, moved and inspired by the Camp as I was in my first time. This year I participated in a new role as Assistant Director. While I feared that the logistics would isolate me from the really personal, emotional experience that lies at the heart of Camp Everytown, I found I had a uniquely wonderful position.

As it turned out, I was able to wander around the camp and visit many of the small discussion groups as they dug more deeply into the topic at hand ... racism, gender relations, prejudice, equity, and community. Each group welcomed me warmly, and continued to share their feelings, concerns, and experiences in a way that was open, honest and just really brave. I'm constantly in awe of the wisdom that can come from the mouth of a 15 year old when the topic is important to him or her. The students were emotionally and academically engaged because they knew the conversation mattered.

While the tears and tugging at the heart strings tested even the strongest among us, we know that the really tough part has just started. We are now back in reality ... bombarded daily with the "old" ways, unexamined thoughts, and unenlightened interactions. How do we keep the fire alive in the face of our day-to-day urgencies? How do we recreate that space where we are safe to express concern and love for others that we hardly know? How do we start that difficult conversation with a friend acting hurtfully? When do we find time to talk about the important though not urgent issues?

We've taken a few steps already. We've had one reunion meeting that was well attended (about 50-70 students stopped in). We've spawned a student committee which is actively planning our first Movie Night ... where the movie selected will spark similar issues, and we'll have discussion to follow. A group of students is starting a club to keep the ideas and the conversation going. We are looking for opportunities for collaboration with the Beacon Center, with Peer Resource, and with various Marin youth organizations.

As our final night at Camp showed us, while a single candle can feel lost in the brightness of daylight, when brought to the darkest room, that single candle can make all the difference. Each of us has the power to bring about change. I encourage all of us, parents, students and staff, Everytowners and not, to look for opportunities to reward the emotionally brave, to encourage empathy and to model openness to difference. ❖

Camp Everytown

By Lucy Litvak

(continued from front page)

We sat in a circle on the final pitch-black night, passing a small candle around to each person as they offered their wisdom to the group, and a deep feeling of inspiration filled the room. I heard students reflecting on how they realized they're not alone and how they now understand that everyone has a different background and struggles.

I believe that the Tam students can harness this feeling of inspired unity. They can use the lessons learned at Camp Everytown to make tangible improvements at Tam High. ❖

Reprinted from the Tam News Student Newspaper

Saving Face: Staying Connected Through Social Networking Has its Price

By Ella Quittner

From Tamalpais High School Junior Ally Silverstein's Facebook profile page, any Tam student is able to learn the following: she is interested in "arts and crafts" and "Jamba Juice OJ without the pulp." She watches the TV shows "One Tree Hill" and "The OC." Her favorite books include the Harry Potter and Gossip Girl series. She is female, interested in men, currently single, and was born on August 28, 1991.

These personal details, among others, have been readily accessible to the entire Tam student body since the end of Silverstein's freshman year, when she first created her Facebook profile page. Silverstein says that she does not think the personal information on her Facebook page puts her at risk.

"I don't really think safety is an issue," she said. "Yeah, Tam kids can see my page. I know that. But I would have to accept friend requests from other users if they wanted to see my details."

Though Silverstein says she considers her Facebook profile merely a "fun way to procrastinate," information sharing on the site may have larger repercussions than she, and most other Tam students know to consider.

With a "network" of 1,023 members, Tam has a huge number of students that use Facebook (www.facebook.com). "Networks" are simply large groups of members that belong to a common school, company, or geographical location.

As Junior Brewster McCann says, "Facebook is a Tam obsession. Everyone uses it."

Silverstein affirms that "it's really big at Tam."

District Director of Technology Joel Hames said that Facebook was blocked on the school computers because the district considered it to have a "relative lack of instructional purpose."

Just by looking at the "Tamalpais High School" network page, a stranger to the school may learn anything from Tam students' most watched TV show (Family Guy) to the fact that 54 percent of Tam students on Facebook are "single." However, it's not just Tam students who reveal information about themselves. Revealing personal information is one of the most prominent aspects of using any social networking site.

As Facebook's informational section of the

website boasts, all that is needed to become a member is "a valid email address." With such lenient requirements, it is easy to see why 46 million active users exist and are currently sharing their information. Lately though, several studies have been questioning the safety of information shared over Facebook.

As this past summer came to a close, computer-security firm Sophos released a study encompassing Facebook users' willingness to share information. The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) described how the company created a fake account and randomly requested other Facebook users as friends. The WSJ reported that of the 82 people that accepted the request, 41 percent were "willing to divulge personal information such as phone numbers, home addresses, and email addresses to a complete stranger." The WSJ summed up the story with its headline "Facebook Users Share Too Much."

Of Tam students divulging their details, Sophomore Aza Ziegler said, "I think other people are willing to [share personal information] because Facebook, like, seems kind of safe, so you don't really feel weird about putting your phone number and stuff on there."

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo had investigators conduct a similar experiment to that of Sophos, and the results were just as unsettling. As chronicled in The New York Times, after setting up a fake profile for a "14-year-old girl," Cuomo's office received obscene requests from older men within a week for things such as "nude pics."

In a letter to Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Cuomo made the statement that "[Facebook] does not have the right to represent that it's site is safe... when such statements are not accurate," the New York Times reported. Facebook responded, "As our service continues to grow, so does our responsibility to our users to empower them with the tools necessary to communicate efficiently and safely."

However, stalkers and perverts are not the only Facebook information predators. College admissions officers are reported by a Brown student to utilize the site during the admissions process.

"University admission officers sometimes follow up on anonymous tips to examine applicants' profiles," reports Brown Daily Herald reporter Rachel Arndt. While the

Brown Dean of Admissions officer, James Miller, claims that officers do not often use Facebook as a screening tool in the application process, he admitted that they used Facebook to follow up on "outside tips" about applicants.

Tam Senior Sophie Feller said she had heard of this phenomenon.

"As soon as I submit my college applications, I'm going to make sure my picture is appropriate. I think it would be dumb if that were the reason I didn't get into a school I wanted to go to," she said.

"Groups," an application Facebook users may choose to participate in, allow members to unite with other members to virtually show an interest, belief, preference. These "groups" too pose a threat to Facebook information privacy.

A Chicago Sun-Times (CST) reporter was recently able to report that "[Rudy Giuliani's] 17-year-old daughter announced on her Facebook page that she supports Democratic hopeful Barack Obama," based on the fact that he saw her name in the Facebook group "One Million Strong for Barack." This CST reporter was able to procure Caroline Giuliani's personal political views from her membership in a Facebook group, even though the reporter was not her Facebook "friend."

By viewing any group on the site, a Facebook member is able to see a list of every member in that group, regardless of whether the member is friends with any other group members or not. Any Facebook member, therefore, is able to find out a person's personal interests by searching to see if they are in certain groups.

Facebook, which was created in February of 2004 as a site only for college students, has been constantly expanding over the years, and with the current freedom to join has come the jeopardy of user privacy. And, with 46 million current members, the consequences of such a danger may be that much more hazardous.

Silverstein, who says she has no plans of revoking her membership, is only one of presumably 1,023 current or former Tam students who would like the site to continue to develop.

As for safety, Silverstein speculates that she doesn't "think it's too unsafe right now. And," she adds, "I would like it to stay that way." ♦

College and Career Center Services

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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 useful information online at the College and Career Center link at tam-high.org. Click on “college bound” and then on “junior packet.”

Email

If you would like to receive grade-specific email from the College and Career Center, make sure your student has registered with PrepHQ, the district’s new organization and communications tool. To do this, start at tamhigh.org and click on “Academics,” then “Counseling,” then follow the link to PrepHQ. Once at PrepHQ, click on “Click here to register” and follow the instructions.

Financial Aid Night

Thursday, December 6, 6:30 pm. Tam Student Center.

Olga Tapia, Ph.D., 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. Families of seniors who are applying for financial aid are urged to attend.

Admissions Testing Night

Wednesday, January 16, 6:30 pm. Tam Student Center.

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

Marin Education Fund at Tam – Help With Scholarship Applications.

One or two visits this winter- dates and times to be announced.

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

Practice SAT at Tam

Wednesday, February 6, 1:15-5:45pm. (This is a minimum day.)
Sign-ups begin January 14.

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 \$10 in cash or check, made out to the Tam High PTSA, to the College and Career Center by February 1. The fee supports the PTSA Academic Scholarship. No students are turned away for lack of funds.

Beyond Tam

National Portfolio Day for Visual Artists

Saturday, January 19, California College of the Arts, 1111-8th St., SF. 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.

SAT and ACT

You can download the 2007-2008 SAT and ACT testing calendars and register for either test by going online. For the SAT, go to www.collegeboard.com and for the ACT go to www.act.org. Students are encouraged to register online for both tests. Register early for a convenient test site. Tam is not a test site.

Attention: UC Applicants

The University of California expects all applicants to complete the senior year courses listed in their applications 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 they change their mailing or e-mail address.

Interested in the Building Trades?

Marin County’s Regional Occupational Program’s construction class will begin Wednesday, January 16, at Redwood High School. The course covers foundation, flooring, framing, plumbing, electrical, sheet rock, windows, doors, cabinetry, roofing, blueprint reading and use of hand tools. Master craftsmen will give demonstrations, and there will be construction projects and employment opportunities. The class is held from 5-9 pm. An added bonus: dinner is provided. Call 499-5860 for more information.

Useful Website

www.bridges.com

Thanks to the Marin County Office of Education, Tam families have access to 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. ❖

During December, be sure to see the art exhibit created by Tam’s draw/paint & AP studio art students at the Mill Valley Library. An opening reception will be held on December 4 from 6 to 8 pm.

Boys' Cross Country Upsets Redwood

By Tom Davey

The Tam boys' cross country team captured the Marin County Athletic League championship, upsetting unbeaten league favorite Redwood 49 to 79 in the meet that matches all ten schools in the league. Juniors Cory Rand and Kalen Rago, freshman Dan Milechman, and senior Cody Chapman all finished among the top ten runners.

The Hawks ended their spectacular season at the North Coast Section championships where the team came within a hair of an invitation to the state championship meet. The Tam boys finished fifth at NCS but only the top four teams make it to the state finals. The team's chances of going to state look better next year, as five of the top six runners will be returning.

Tam's girls had a respectable season with a fourth place finish despite losing their star runner Emilie Olson to graduation. Sophomore Monica Milstein and junior Devin Patrick both had a great season.

Football's Top Players Back Next Year

The Hawks had another tough season on the gridiron, finishing 0-8 in league play. There are rays of hope, however. Despite the record, Tam scored more points than last year's team and came within a touchdown of beating Redwood, which finished second in league play.

The good news is that this year's team was the youngest in the league with 18 sophomores, 12 juniors and only three seniors on the active roster. A year of maturation should make Tam very competitive next season. This year's stars were lineman JaVan Hall and quarterback Alex Richie, both sophomores; and receiver Jake Orlick and running back Colton Danz, both juniors.

The boys' soccer team finished the regular season tied for sixth (the top six teams make the playoffs), but unfortunately lost to Branson for the final playoff spot. Senior goalie Braden Hoyt was named player of the year. Senior mid-fielder Call Nichols was also responsible for much of the team's success.

Young Tennis Team Near Top

The girls' tennis team ended the regular season in a three-way tie for second place. But a draw for the playoffs gave Tam the fourth seed. The girls won their first-round playoff match then succumbed to league champ San Marin.

Sophomore Emily Prescott was named first team all-league. Second team all-league honors went to sophomore Haley Bronstein and junior Janet Rumsey. Senior Fatima Hansia was an all-league honorable mention.

The boys' and girls water polo teams both finished third in league play. Senior Katlyn Schlueter was named first team all-league. Second team all-league honors went to sophomore Erin Schlueter and junior Avery Mosser while sophomore Amelia Harvey received an honorable mention. On the boys' team, senior Kyle Patrick was named second team all-league.

The girls' golf team placed fourth in the MCAL playoffs. Senior Angie Funnell was named first team all-league and senior Saga Apostol was

all-league second team. Girls' volleyball is in a rebuilding mode, going 0-14 in league play, after losing its stars to graduation.

Girls' Basketball Rebounds

After spending many years as league doormat, the girls' basketball team last year made the MCAL playoffs for the first time in 19 years and the NCS playoffs for the first time ever. Look for more good things to come this year under new head coach Dave Canepa. Key players to watch will be power forward Jamie Andreson and point guard Emma Washauer, both seniors.

After missing last year's playoffs over a controversial disqualified game, the Tam boys' team should be a contender with the return of forwards Ryan Wickham and Mike Mitchell, both seniors.

The wrestling team has seniors Lucas Klabunde and Charles Klag returning after a great season last year.

Parents are encouraged to attend Boosters meetings. The group meets in the school library in Wood Hall at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. ❖



Monica Milstein leads the Hawks to their surprising fourth place finish and a berth in the North Coast Section race.



SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, February 10, 2008

The Fifth Annual Tamalpais High School Crab & Pasta Feed presented by the Tam Boosters to benefit ALL Red Tailed Hawk Sports Teams.

All the fresh Dungeness crab you can eat with salad, pasta, sour-dough bread and dessert. The cracked crab and pasta is specially prepared by Chef Chaz Bornia of San Rafael Joe's. Don't miss out on the special entertainment, a mini live auction and raffle with unique prizes, eating with the coaches and being waited on by Tam's stellar athletes! Be on the lookout for your invitation to arrive soon after New Year's Day. If you are interested in making donations to the auction and raffle or to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Jim Wickham 381-1265 or Patti Boston 381-8959, pj32flynn@aol.com.



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**PTSA
 Tamalpais High School**

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**Calendar of Events
 December 2007**

DATE	TIME/EVENT	LOCATION
1-3	7 PM – CTE PRESENTS “DEAD MAN WALKING”	DANIEL CALDWELL THEATRE
3	8:45 AM – PTSA MEETING WITH COLLEGE AND CAREER SPECIALIST SUSAN GERTMAN AND COUNSELOR ALEX HUNT	HAWK'S NEST (STAFF LOUNGE)
5	7:30 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	LIBRARY
6	6:30 PM – COLLEGE FINANCIAL PLANNING NIGHT	STUDENT CENTER
7	9:45 AM – WINTER SPORTS RALLY	GUS GYM
7	LAST DAY OF CANNED FOOD DRIVE	
7	3 PM – POWDER PUFF FOOTBALL GAME	BRUCE GRANT FIELD
11	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD RECEPTION AND ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
13	7 PM – MUSIC DEPARTMENT WINTER CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT AUDITORIUM
14	7:15-11 AM – TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION COFFEE	HAWK'S NEST
14	SIGN-UPS BEGIN FOR PRACTICE SAT AT TAM	COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER
19-21	FINAL EXAMS – 12:25 DISMISSAL SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS	

24-
 JAN 7 WINTER RECESS – **NO SCHOOL**

January 2008

7	TEACHER WORK DAY – NO SCHOOL	
8	SCHOOL RESUMES FOR STUDENTS	
9	7:30 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	LIBRARY
10	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	BAND BOX
11-12, 15-19, 22-26	CTE WINTER ONE ACT FESTIVAL. SEE CTETAM.ORG FOR PLAYS AND TIMES	DANIEL CALDWELL THEATRE
14	WINTER FORMAL TICKETS ON SALE	WOOD HALL, ROOM 120
15	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
16	6:30 PM – COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING NIGHT	STUDENT CENTER
16	7 PM – PARENT TO PARENT MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
16	7 PM – SAFE AND SOBER GRAD NIGHT PLANNING MEETING	LIBRARY
21	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL	
28	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL	
29	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL