

## The Home Page

by Jayne Greenberg  
PTSA Executive Vice President—  
Communications

### PTSA GENERAL MEETING, Monday March 3, 8:45 am, Hawk's Nest. Tam Spring Projects and Activities

Come hear Tam students speak about various ongoing projects and upcoming programs for this spring. Speakers include Wyatt Frei, Tam High school board representative; Max Perry from Tam High's Recycling Club; a representative from the Associated Student Body; and a special presentation from a representative of the Tam Beacon Center who will discuss the upcoming student trip to New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity. All are welcome.

### CTE's Midsummer Night's Dream: March 11 - 16

A must see – another incredible play directed by guest artist Julianna Rees. In Tam High's upcoming production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," you'll see two very diverse eras meet to form a distinct clash of old and new. It's The Sex Pistols Meet Queen Victoria. You'll see a cast of juniors and seniors sporting Mohawks, outlandish make-up and attitude juxtaposed against other actors in corsets and elegant attire. Page 8.

### Say 'No' to Plastic Water Bottles at Tam Sports Events

Boosters is providing free Tam Centennial Nalgene bottles to all athletes and asking students to fill their own reusable bottles. No longer will the recycling bins overflow with empty plastic bottles. To order your own Tam Centennial water bottle, see page 10.

### Positions Still Available for the Youth Health Forum

For students interested in healthcare, Marin General and Kaiser Hospitals are sponsoring Youth Health Forums on March 14 and 21. For more information, see pg.

### Tam Boasts 17 Winners at Marin County's Office of Education Science Fair

Out of 30 entrants this year, Tam came away with 17 winners. Nine will now move on to the Bay Area Science Fair this month. For the names of the winners, see page 9.

## Tam Hawks Varsity Boys Basketball Makes MCAL Playoffs!

by Barry Bram and Mary McLain, Tam High Parents



Senior Geoff Cohen crashes the boards for a rebound against Marin Catholic during Tam's playoff game.

the playoffs, Tam was 6-8 in league play and 9-16 for the season, having lost several of its close games by just one or two points.

Seniors on the team Aharon Bram, Geoff Cohen, Ciao Ferreiro, Michael Mitchell, JD Reiger, Ryan Wickham, Jordan Hall and Hank Mulholland played their last game for Tam against Marin Catholic. But things unraveled in the second half after a stellar performance in the first two quarters. Fouls by Tam players and strong play by MC in the second half turned the tide and Tam could not recover. If the chance ever arose, surely the competitive Tam players would welcome the opportunity to face MC again.

For many of the seniors, it was bittersweet, having played together since their CYO days. Now, the reins will be handed off to a cadre of underclassmen, including Sean Betzner, JaVon Hall, Mott Schweitzer, Herb Wade and Tomer Sabo. We wish the best to the future players at Tam at all levels. GO HAWKS!



Jerry's mom accepts flowers on behalf of the family as the "Jerry McIntosh's T-High, U-Know" bleachers are dedicated on February 3rd, Tam's last home game.

### Tam's Annual Open House Thursday, March 20, Gus Gym

6:30 pm Jazz Band Performance

7 pm Welcome and Introduction

7:30-8:30 pm Classroom Visits

Students are welcome, but not required, to accompany parents. Note that Friday, March 21, is a minimum day (8 am-12:30 pm).

Be sure to stop by the auction sponsored by the senior class, just outside the Library in Wood Hall.

## Principles from the Principal

By Chris Holleran

### STAR Testing

In April all students in grades 9-11 will take state tests called STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting). 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 do effect the curriculum and instructional practices. This is why the validity of the test results is crucial.

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 2007 STAR is 857. This exceeds the state goal of 800 and represents a significant improvement over previous years. Colleges refer to these API rankings when evaluating our students' applications for entrance.

We appreciate parental support in regard to these tests and I would again ask parents to encourage their students to take the tests seriously and give them their best effort when the tests are administered the week of April 21. Thank you for your support.

## Seniors in Good Standing Policy

The following school policy has been the practice at Tamalpais High School for several years. Designed by parents, teachers, and administrators, the policy holds second-semester seniors to continued academic and behavioral expectations commensurate with Tamalpais's high standards. Participation in the graduation ceremony is voluntary and considered a privilege. Under the policy, a student may qualify to earn a graduation diploma, yet still be excluded from participation in the ceremony. Eligibility to participate in the graduation ceremony is based on the following:

- Meeting district and state graduation requirements
- Grades of F or Incomplete in any second semester course will prevent students from participating in the ceremony
- Students who receive partial credit as a result of excessive unexcused absences (five) in any class, including tutorial, during their final semester will be excluded from the ceremony
- Any student determined by a school administrator to be under the influence of a controlled substance on the way to or at the senior prom will be excluded from the graduation ceremony. Suspensions in the final week of the second semester will prevent a senior from participating in the ceremony. ❖

## Access to the Graduation Ceremony in Mead Theater

Do you have a senior who will be graduating this year? The Tam tradition is to start the ceremony promptly at 6 pm in Mead Theater, the amphitheatre at the back of the campus. Everyone needs a ticket to attend, and tickets will be given out only to seniors at the breakfast on June 12. Each senior receives seven tickets.

Please be aware that the entrance to all seating, except for guests in wheelchairs and their attendants, is from the top of Mead Theater. Allow enough time to park and walk into Mead Theater from the area behind the ceramics building, or have a driver drop off guests at the top of Mead at the Homestead Avenue entrance.

Guests in wheelchairs: ONLY those in a wheelchair and their attendants may enter from the bottom of Mead. There is space at the edge of the stage for eight guests in wheelchairs, and one attendant may sit directly behind each person in a wheelchair. A reservation is required for a wheelchair space.

For guests who have difficulty walking: There is a section at the top of Mead Theatre that is reserved for those with limited mobility. Please note that there are a few steps from the road to this section. To reserve a space in either the wheelchair or limited mobility section, please call the Assistant Principals' Office at 380-3512 before June 12. ❖



### The Tam Family

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## Attention Juniors

The essay portion of the STAR EAP exam will be given in English classes the week of March 10-14.

## High School Exit Exam This Month

Sophomores take the California high school exit exam on Tuesday, March 11, and Wednesday, March 12. Any juniors and seniors who haven't passed both sections will also test. The English section is given on Tuesday and the math section on Wednesday. Study guides are available, and you can check for test updates and general information at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/faq.asp>. If you have any questions about the exam, call the Assistant Principals' Office at 380-3512. ❖

## Time to Plan for 08/09 Class Schedules

Scheduling for Tam's current 9th, 10th, and 11th grades for the 2008-09 school year will start on Friday, March 14, in tutorial. Counselors will be available to answer questions and assist students in the College and Career Center during tutorial on March 19 and 26, as well as before school, after school, during breaks and lunch. Separate counseling appointments for scheduling-related questions cannot be accommodated. Completed scheduling forms are due back in the Counseling Office on Friday, March 26, with a parent/guardian signature. ❖

## Senior Awards Night

Senior Awards Night will be held on Thursday, June 5, at 6:30 pm in the Caldwell Theatre. Seniors receiving scholarships and awards are asked to notify Sue Woods in the Assistant Principals' Office, preferably by email at [swoods@tamdistrict.org](mailto:swoods@tamdistrict.org).

## PTSA General Meeting, Monday March 3, 8:45 am Hawk's Nest Student Presentation: Tam Spring Projects and Activities.

Come hear Tam students speak on various ongoing and upcoming projects for Spring 2008. Speakers include Wyatt Frei, Tam High School Board representative; Max Perry, Tam High Recycling Club; a representative from the Associated Student Body and a special presentation from the Tam Beacon Center discussing an upcoming student trip to New Orleans with Habitat for Humanity. All welcome! ❖

## TAM PTSA MEETING AGENDA March 3, 2008 8:45 am, Hawk's Nest

1. Call to Order
2. School Board Report
3. Guest Speakers: Tam students
4. Upcoming Hospitality Events
5. Traffic Update
6. Approve Minutes – Feb 2008
7. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Approval of Checks
8. Tam High Foundation
9. THUMB Report
10. Boosters Report
11. p2p Report
12. Announcements:

## FOUNDATIONS

### News from Parent to Parent Connection

*By Sandra Tanner Mack and Janet Miller, p2p Coordinators*

Have you ever wondered how to develop a four-year plan for your child's high school years? Are you and your student looking for other options to enrich his/her high school experience? Have you ever asked yourself, "How do I find out about these options?" These and other questions pertaining to enriching the high school experience will be addressed at our next meeting.

On Wednesday, March 12, join us for "Broadening the High School Experience: New Paths for Success," an informative evening that will begin with a "walk-through" of the programs and enrichment opportunities that are available to Tam district students. From there, we will enjoy a panel of speakers who will describe the various programs available at each school including extracurricular activities.

The high school experience mostly emphasizes academic pursuits, as it should. But for the parents of students with learning challenges, finding a balance between academic rigor and fostering growth in other areas is a worthy and rewarding goal. Great value can be gained by broadening the focus to include other opportunities for success and fulfillment.

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

We look forward to seeing you soon!

### p2p 2007-08 Meeting Schedule, for the Remainder of the Year

(2nd Wednesday of every month, 6:30-9pm, Kreps Conference Center, Redwood High School; program at 7 pm, informal parent meeting time, 6:30-7pm.)

**March 12:** Broadening the High School Experience: Some new and nontraditional options (TEAM, internships, Regional Occupational Program, Drake's Engineering Academy, Outward Bound, peer counseling, Teen Emergency Response Team, construction technology class).

**April 16:** Get me Outta Here! Meeting graduation outcome and high school exit exam requirements/issues for LD kids.

**May 14:** Help! My kid forgets everything and is disorganized! Executive functioning problems and how to solve them with Dr. Barbara Easterlin. 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



Music Teacher Spiro Tsingeras conducts (L-R) Christina Breitenbuecher, Samantha Mandell, Georgina Coleman, Janey Rumsey, Ben DeBenedictis, Yuki Sano and Adam Leuin at the second solo and ensemble concert in February.

The Valentine's Dinner on February 7 was a delightful evening for all who attended. We listened to beautiful songs from vocalists and band and orchestra members while dining on a delicious Gira Poli dinner. Thanks so much to Gladys Blose and Andrea Windom for organizing the dinner. Thanks also to all the volunteers: Sacha Bunge, Howard Gillis, Nancy Dunbar, Marion Yee, Juliana Jensen, Dee Bell-Becker, Chiaki Whittermore, Jane McLennan-Evan, Sandy Bertram, David Bickert., Wendy Spears, Michael Jeffries, Christina Pettigrew, Shirley Berman, Carol Stern, Blake Richardson, Maria Gabby Black, Jeannie Lloyd, Janet Hines, Debbie Genzer, Holly Hadlock, Cheryl Kahn, Sheryl Rand, Betsy Chatton and Lis Fuchs. Thanks also to Spiro Tsingaris, as always, for leading every music student.

The two solo and ensemble concerts performed in February in the Caldwell Theatre truly were spectacular this year. There is such a variety of wonderful musical talent in Tam's music department. Rob Ellis and Vincent Lars, two guest artists for the music department, provided professional accompaniment for the music students when needed. They enhanced the student performances. Rob and Vincent have been much appreciated by the students during this school year. As the music department keeps growing and growing more outside help is necessary.

### March Events

**March 6:** The Advanced Band and Symphonic Orchestra go to the District Band Festival at Dominican University, 7 pm.

**March 7:** The Jazz Band goes to the Chabot College Jazz Festival

**March 13:** THUMB meeting at 7 pm in the music room (Band Box.) We will discuss the annual PHONATHON and the Centennial Celebration.

### April Events

**April 3:** Concert Choir performs its "Broadway Revue," 142 Throckmorton Theatre.

**April** (Date to be announced) PHONATHON

**April 30:** Scholarship auditions, 6:30 pm, Caldwell Theatre

On Memorial Day, May 26, the music department will take part in the Centennial Day on the Green Music Festival, as part of the Tam High Centennial Celebration. ❖

## Businesses Supporting Tam – Tam Supporting Businesses

by Cynthia Chiarappa

When a business supports Tam High, Tam High supports the business. It's the perfect synergy that builds a strong community. The Tam High Foundation is about to launch its annual Business Partners Campaign, asking businesses to make tax-deductible contributions to academic programs at Tamalpais High School. We are fortunate to receive support from the community – businesses large and small who realize that their contribution makes a direct impact in the classroom.

We are especially grateful to the **Mill Valley Market**. When you shop there, if you mention "Tam High" before being checked out, they will donate 3% of your purchases directly to the school. In fact, during the month of February, they contributed 4%.

If you are a business owner, or know one, we encourage you to support us – there are many ways to give, and many ways to receive exposure for your business.

This year presents a unique opportunity for businesses and parents in Mill Valley – Tam High is celebrating its centennial in May! Because of this, a centennial theme is running through many of the things we are doing during the course of the academic year. The Business Directory will celebrate this milestone, so we encourage all businesses to participate in the Business Partners Campaign so that you are not left out.

For more information on levels of giving – and advertising opportunities resulting from your contribution – please contact Myra Chow at [chowallace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chowallace@sbcglobal.net) or Deborah Miller at [dl.miller@comcast.net](mailto:dl.miller@comcast.net).

You will receive a letter confirming your tax deductible donation. The Tam High Foundation is a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation, Tam High Foundation Tax ID No. 68-0385326. For more information and a listing of our funded projects please check [www.tamhighfoundation.org](http://www.tamhighfoundation.org). ❖

## Raffle Tickets On Sale Now!

Calling all Tam High Families! Please support Safe and Sober Grad Night by purchasing raffle tickets today. You will not only be supporting a great event, but will have a chance to win fantastic prizes. The drawing is in April so don't delay – buy your tickets now.

Tickets can be purchased from any senior family for \$10 each or three for \$25 and every ticket includes a coupon for \$3 off your next Round Table Pizza! Don't know any senior families? No problem, just contact Jackie Hamilton at [hamilton267@comcast.net](mailto:hamilton267@comcast.net) or 388-8333 and she will fix you right up.

### Fantastic Prizes

Five Nights Lake Tahoe cabin  
 Two nights Tahoe City townhouse  
 One night Holiday Inn Express  
 Zoom Teeth Whitening Session  
 One Month Membership to MV Health Club & Spa  
 Dinner for Four at Unami  
 \$100 Gift Certificate to Paradise Bay  
 \$25 gift Certificate to Kitti's Place  
 Photo sitting  
 Two hour garden consultation  
 Two hours of home repair  
 Chambord Black Raspberry Liquor  
 "The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation"  
 "Enough is Enough! Stop Enduring and Start Living Your Extraordinary Life"

### Courtesy Of:

John and Cindy McCauley  
 Sandra Park  
 Holiday Inn Express  
 Paul Hoyt, DDS  
 MV Health Club & Spa  
 Nate Valentine  
 Charlie and Jackie Hamilton  
 Kitti's Place  
 Nina Leva  
 Gail Mason  
 Peter Graumann  
 Rusty Hendley-Williams  
 Jane Straus, author  
 Jane Straus, life coach and author

## Gala to Highlight Centennial Celebration

By Michelle Klurstein and Erin Geiszler, Publicity Chairs, TAM100 Gala

This Memorial Day weekend, Tamalpais High School will celebrate its 100th year. The three-day Tam100 Centennial Celebration, which will kick off with a special screening of the student documentary "High School," will continue with alumni reunions (over 11,000 alumni will be invited), school tours, parades, and concerts. The highlight of the weekend will be the Tam High Foundation Gala on Sunday, May 25, which will include dinner, dancing, and a silent auction to benefit Centennial Square, the new heart of Tam's renovated campus.

This promises to be one of the greatest celebrations of all time in Mill Valley, so the Tam High Foundation wishes all business owners, Tam families and alumni interested in sponsoring the Gala to show their support. Commit to early donations and table reservations by March 10 and your name, or the name of your company, will appear in the invitation, which will be mailed out to the entire Mill Valley community and alumni. Over 11,000 invitations will be sent!

And be sure to get your auction donations in by March 25 in order to be mentioned in the auction catalog. We would love to receive bed and breakfast/hotel accommodations, restaurant certificates for two or more, airline miles to accompany our already-donated accommodations in Italy, or a week at a vacation home. We would also love to receive creatively filled baskets and offers for parties. Let your imagination go wild! If you would like to donate, please call or e-mail Patti Bertenthal (388-5863) [howardbertenthal@aol.com](mailto:howardbertenthal@aol.com) or Joyce Porter (308-0490) [jporter3@hotmail.com](mailto:jporter3@hotmail.com).

For more information, visit the Tam100 website at [www.Tam100.org](http://www.Tam100.org) or call the Tam High Foundation at 415 380-3565. ❖

## Attention All Parents of Seniors!

Graduation day for the Tamalpais High School Class of 2008 is just four months away! The Grad Night Committee is working diligently to create a fun, safe party for our students. We recently sent a solicitation letter requesting a donation for this wonderful event.

Please send your donation ASAP, as we need to book all the entertainment now. The party is free to every graduating Tam High senior and costs a little over \$100 per student. This is not an official school event and the school does not pay for this party. It is a fun-filled all-night party at the Mill Valley Community Center complete with music, food, lots of activities, and entertainment.

Please make a donation to ensure your senior and his or her friends in the Class of 2008 can have a great time on June 12. Questions contact Paula Weaver at [pweaverlaw@sbc-global.net](mailto:pweaverlaw@sbc-global.net) or call 388-9122. THANK YOU!

Your donation is tax-deductible! Our Fed. Tax ID # 94-6174616

Make checks payable and return to:

Tam High Grad Night 2007

700 Miller Ave.

Mill Valley, CA 94941

*Tam High Foundation would like to recognize the following business which was inadvertently left out of the business directory:*

	
<p><b>James N. Patrick, CFM</b>                  Vice President                  Senior Financial Advisor                  PIA Program Portfolio Manager                  415 289 8868</p>	<p>Global Private Client                  Two Belvedere Place, Suite 100                  Mill Valley, California 94941                  800 861 9328                  FAX 415 289 8888  <a href="mailto:james_patrick@ml.com">james_patrick@ml.com</a></p>

## Leadership News

by Peter Berkhout, Activities Director  
pberkhout@tamdistrict.org

A big congratulations to the junior class for presenting an awesome Winter Formal this past February 9 at the Golden Gate Club at the Presidio. Over 300 tickets were sold, making this by far the biggest Winter Formal at Tam in years! Applause for Molly Maloney, Avery Mosser, Leslie Bird, Taylor Roy, Allie Green, Wyatt Frei, and Hannah Tichenor for presenting a fantastic event in a beautiful venue.

Two Tam juniors (Wyatt Frei and Leslie Bird) will attend the Youth Action Summit of California conference in Ontario, California, March 15 - 17. This leadership conference features a satellite uplink with student leaders in Russia, as well as caucuses on statewide issues facing California students, small group sessions on communication skills, public speaking, and research skills. General sessions will feature presentations on collaboration, media relations, and students' rights. Leslie and Wyatt will also represent Tam in voting for the state student council for the 2008–2009 school year.

This month, Tam's Leadership class brings you our Spring Blood Drive, in collaboration with Blood Centers of the Pacific. We're trying to beat last semester's record of 86 units of blood donated. Students must be 16 or older, weigh at least 90 pounds, and be in good health to donate. Make sure you're getting enough iron, because if you're anemic you can't donate. Students under 18 must have parental permission to donate.

March 20 brings with it the annual Open House, and a silent auction put together by the senior class. Make sure to bring your checkbook with you to Open House, as the auction regularly features items such as Giants tickets, wine baskets, prom salon packages, and gift certificates to fantastic local restaurants.

March should also see the first award at Tam of the Jefferson Awards for Public Service. This national award was founded in 1973 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Sam Beard, and U.S. Senator Robert Taft Jr. to encourage volunteerism and public service. In 2006, Mr. Beard launched the Youth Service Initiative to bring the award to high schools across the county. Find out about the first winner of the Jefferson Award at Tam in the next issue of the Tam Family.

Dance tickets for the spring dance, with the theme "SportsCenter Tam," go on sale March 12. Be sure to buy your tickets early to get the lowest prices and avoid long lines! Ticket sales on March 21 will end at 1:30 pm. 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 (<http://staff.tamhigh.org/berkhout/pages/dance.htm>). This dance will be Tam-only, meaning no non-Tam students may attend.

We still have a few slots left for Bowl for Kids Sake, a fundraiser for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Marin and Napa Counties. Raise \$100 minimum to join a team and come bowl and have some pizza. The event is Saturday night, March 29. To join the team, please see Mr. Berkhout in room 154. ❖

## Marin County School to Career Partnership



Nancy Westreich, School to Career Liaison  
College and Career Center  
Redwood High School (415) 945-3604  
Tamalpais High School (415) 380-3558  
nwestreich@tamdistrict.org

By the time you read this, several Tamalpais students will be in the first few weeks of their internships. This semester students are interning at a newspaper, public relations firm, tutoring center, dance theater, environmental research lab, events planning firm and with the sheriff. Students who are interested in summer internships should see me after the spring break.

For students who are interested in healthcare, Marin General and Kaiser Hospitals are sponsoring Youth Health Forums on March 14 and 21. Applications were due on February 25, but there are a few spots still available. Applications are in the College and Career Office. There will be a Teen Community Emergency Response Training in April through the Fire Department.

### Other School to Career Services

As the School to Career Liaison for Tamalpais High School, I am available in the College and Career Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I assist students with internship placement and preparation and help students set up job shadow or informational interviewing opportunities. I also assist students with resume writing, interviewing skills, and offer career exploration field trips events and activities. ❖

## College and Career Center Services

*Susan Gertman, College and Career Specialist, Sgertman@tuhsd.marin.k12.ca.us, 380-3582*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NEW DATE! MARCH 5: PRACTICE ACT

Tam and Revolution Prep will sponsor a practice ACT on Wednesday, March 5, from 3-6:45 pm, in the College and Career Center. Colleges accept the ACT equally with the SAT for admissions. The test is curriculum-based and includes sections in English, reading, math and science reasoning. To sign up juniors should bring \$10 in cash or check payable to the Tam High PTSA to the Career Center by March 3. All fees support a PTSA scholarship.

#### MARCH 10, 17, 31: JUNIORS VISIT THE COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

Juniors will come with their English class to a computer lab to discuss post-high school planning. Ask your junior to share his or her thoughts with you as you plan for the future together.

#### MARCH 12: COLLEGE OF MARIN REGISTRATION AT TAM

A representative from College of Marin will meet with interested seniors on Wednesday, March 12, during tutorial, 9:45-10:45 am, in the Career Center. Students will receive registration materials and hear about educational opportunities and transfer options.

#### MARCH 19: SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Tam and Compass Education Group will sponsor practice SAT subject tests on Wednesday, March 19, from 3-5:30 pm, in the College and Career Center. Students may take one or two tests in any subject. The fee is \$5 per test and is payable in cash or check made out to the Tam PTSA. Students must know which tests they want to take when they register. Signup deadline: March 17. All fees from practice tests support the PTSA Academic Scholarship.

#### APRIL 2: POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING NIGHT

Tam will hold its annual Post-High School Planning Night for sophomores, juniors and their parents on Wednesday, April 2, at 6:30 pm, in the Student Center. Guest speakers will represent community colleges, the California State University, University of California and private colleges. Parents and students are urged to attend this extremely informative evening.

#### APRIL 22: COLLEGE OF MARIN PLACEMENT TESTS

Students planning to attend College of Marin will have an opportunity to take the required placement tests in English and math at Tam on Tuesday, April 22, from 9 am-noon. Seniors will not miss class to take these tests because of STAR testing. Sign up in the College and Career Center. Make-up tests will be given at COM in May.

#### APRIL 23: MARIN COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR

More than 150 colleges and universities from across the country will have representatives at the Marin County College Fair on Wednesday, April 23, from 6-8 pm, at the Conlon Recreation Center at Dominican University in San Rafael. There will also be workshops on financial aid and college admissions testing. Students and parents are invited to attend. The fair is sponsored by the Western Association of College Admissions Advisors.

### TESTING

Students are encouraged to register online for the SAT at <http://collegeboard.com> and ACT at <http://act.org>. Registration forms are also available in the College and Career Center. Register early for a convenient test site.

Juniors who plan to apply to four-year colleges are encouraged to take the SAT reasoning test this spring. Juniors may also want to take the ACT in addition to the SAT.

Juniors who plan to apply to the University of California and other highly selective colleges will also need to submit two SAT subject tests. Sophomores and juniors who are completing an academic subject this year are strongly advised to take a subject test in that area this spring. For example, students now taking AP Biology should take the biology subject test in May or June and not wait until senior year when they will have forgotten some of the material.

The College and Career Center has practice books and information on preparing for the tests. Visit [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) for free test preparation for the SAT or ACT.

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The scholarship page on PrepHQ is an excellent source of scholarship information and is updated weekly. To make the search for college scholarships a little less overwhelming, the College and Career Center also publishes a list of local scholarships, called the Green Sheet. These scholarships, which are also listed on PrepHQ, are available only to Tam students or to residents of Northern California, the Bay Area or Marin County. The Green Sheet is available in the Career Center.

All seniors should be registered on PrepHQ. To do this and to access the scholarship page, go to [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org), click "Academics," then "Counseling," then "PrepHQ." Once you are on PrepHQ, click on "Scholarships." More local scholarships will be announced in March and April.

### COLLEGE VISITS

The timing of Tam's spring vacation is perfect for visiting colleges because students will be able to see the schools in session. For seniors, these visits are often the deciding factor in choosing which offer of admission to accept. For younger students, visits help clarify preferences. Even students who do not think they want to remain in the Bay Area can start their college search by visiting nearby campuses to get a feel for schools that are large and small, urban, suburban, and rural, public and private.

Before visiting a college, it is a good idea to do some research online, develop a list of questions and, if possible, set up specific activities. Here are some suggestions: Call ahead or email to set up a tour, information session or interview; verify admission requirements; determine costs and ask about financial aid; tour the campus, making sure to see the dorms, dining hall and library; talk with students about the academic environment and inquire about student activities, campus life and social activities.

### WEBSITE OF THE MONTH: [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu)

[Californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu) is an excellent one-stop source of information for planning for college, financial aid and careers. It has information on UC, CSU, California community colleges and California independent colleges and universities. ❖

## Sex Pistols Meet Queen Victoria: CTE's Production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

By Gabe Spellberg/ Advanced CTE Student



Starting at bottom right and winding up the line: Holly Nichols, Cynthia Bathgate, Alanna Adler, Connor Gillespie, Kelsey Del Secco, Sarah Smithton, Gabe Grossman, Margot McGrath.

Shakespeare's plays offer a rich backdrop for stage directors to interpret his stories with a modern sensibility. Sometimes the production concept involves setting the play in different time periods that help underscore elements of the plays for current times, giving audiences a chance to see the plays in a new light. Rarely are two different time periods employed, but in Tam High's current production of William Shakespeare's "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*," two very diverse eras meet to form a distinct clash of old and new. The director, Julianna Rees, juxtaposes the court nobles and the mechanicals (a traveling actors' troupe) set in 1870s Victorian England with the fairy world of the enchanted woods, which she sets in 1970s England, at the rise of the punk era. The play performs March 11-16 with a cast of juniors and seniors in CTE sporting Mohawks, outlandish make-up and attitude against corsets, elegant attire and formality.

"It is about the change in time. How 100 years can take people from corsets to safety pins and plaid," said actor Holly Nichols (First Fairie).

Why such an unusual choice in time periods?

To understand the thought behind the idea, the plot is a starting point. The play begins with the story that follows two pairs of lovers: Hermia is in love with Lysander, who is in love with her. Unfortunately, Egeus, Hermia's father, demands (and thus requires by law) that Hermia marry Demetrius, who is madly in love with her. Helena, however, is in love with Demetrius. After Egeus' dictate that Hermia must marry Demetrius, all four go running into the enchanted woods.

"In every production (of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*) I've ever seen or been in, the directors don't use the premise seriously," said Ms. Rees, guest artist teaching Shakespeare in CTE. "Everybody treats it as an excuse [for the lovers] to run off into the woods. To me, that lowers the stakes. It makes the lovers seem frivolous and silly if they run into the woods for no reason. They aren't frivolous and silly to me.

"So I thought of what situation were women under the auspices of men. In Victorian times, women were treated like cattle! So it made sense to set the play in a time where women were squashed and restrained. Then they [the lovers] really do have to run away, and it makes it more powerful. The fairies don't play by the rules. Men and women have equal gender power. So I saw 1977, as opposed to 1877, as a time when women had more power."

As the story progresses, the Victorian lovers arrive in the woods presided over by the King and Queen of Fairies; Oberon and Titania. Conceptually, the production progresses into this "other" world of rocking music, plaid, and punk while the lovers are left to manipulated by the devious devices of the fairies.

"The fairies don't have the same social structure," explained Ms. Rees. "They don't play by the rules. Men and women had equal gender power during the 1970s. Plus, I wanted my fairies to be scary, not like cute, winged, ballet-slipped fairies. What could be scarier to Victorians than green-haired punks?"

Senior Rhiannon Brogan who plays Helena, one of the Victorian lovers, said, "The worlds of the lovers and fairies are clashing, so if you take the Victorian time where it's all about order and women being proper and prim and take that to punk, where women are rebellious and in your face, then the audience can understand the play better. When Helena goes to the world of the fairies, it's a completely different world. The lovers are given more freedom in the woods."

Even though the language of Shakespeare might be thought of as intimidating, the cast nonetheless has worked through the ideas to make it even more time relevant to modern times.

"We are at a transitional age," said junior Gus Stout (Theseus, the ruler of the Victorian realm). "So to speak, we're entering the Victorian, 'mature' age and leaving the punk, teen years and we're in between those two. The play elaborates on those themes."

"The use of the punk theme is significant in that the late 1970s for British youth was a transformative time, so using that theme brings ideas of youth undergoing transformational changes and today we have another possible transformational time because of the new presidential candidate possibilities," said Robbie Bruens, who plays Nick Bottom, an actor from the mechanicals group.

Although often considered "high art," director Rees makes an emphasis of making Shakespeare real and relatable.

"I don't treat [Shakespeare] like it's precious," said Rees. "To me it's a play. And there's nothing more realistic than teenagers in love, teenagers in love with the wrong person, teenagers disobeying their parents and their parents fighting. Those are things in every single family at Tam High."

Ms. Rees' favorite part of the play is the mechanicals: the hardy group of actors who tour the countryside, working to perform their art.

"The real reason I do the play is the mechanicals because they're who we are as actors. They're CTE. They're the one-acts," she says.

And so, like the mechanicals who return again and again to practice their art, the actors of "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" return to rehearsal over and over, spiking their hair and putting on their tight corsets, all in the pursuit of performing their art for the audience's entertainment.

Performances run March 11-15 at 7 pm and March 16 at a 2 pm matinee. The Daniel Caldwell Theatre is located at the back of Tam's campus, near the Stadium/Almonte parking lot entrance. Tickets prices are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors. The box office inside the Caldwell opens an hour before the show begins and doors open to the theater for first-come, first-served seating one half hour before the performance starts. There is no late seating. For further information visit the CTE website: [www.ctetam.org](http://www.ctetam.org) or call 380-3535.❖

## Tam's Science Fair Winners

Out of 30 entrants in the annual Marin County Science Fair, Tam had 17 winners. Nine move on to the Bay Area Science Fair in March.

**Grand Prize** (Engineering)  
*Adam Berman* (10th grade)

### 1st place

*Rebecca Wheeler* (12th grade) – Behavioral Science

*Jack Toczyski* (10th) – Behavioral Science

### 2nd place

*Rochelle Nisam* (10th) – Behavioral Science

*Jack Hogan* (10th) – Behavioral Science

*Claire Courtney* (10th) – Life Science

*Emil Barkovich* (10th) – Math and Computer Science

*Kevin Templeton* (10th) – Physical Science

### 3rd place

*Katya Baker-Levine* (10th) – Behavioral Science

*Josy Hamren* (10th) – Behavioral Science

*Benjamin Harris* (10th) – Behavioral Science

*Emilie Abel* (10th) – Behavioral Science

*Jack Cole* (10th) – Engineering

*Casey Khademi* (10th) – Environmental Science

*Zoe Kaufman* (10th) – Life Science

*Christian Jordan* (10th) – Physical Science

*Max Lester* (10th) – Physical Science

## COME SUPPORT THE SENIORS

at their Senior Auction at  
Open House

MARCH 20, 7 pm  
Outside the Library

### Bid on:

- gift certificates
- classes/lessons
- getaways
- professional services
- sports tickets
- and more!

Please help support the  
Class of 2008! EVERYONE  
WELCOME!

## Drama Department Looking for Yearbook Messages from Tam's Past

The Tam Drama Department is developing an original play based on past Tam yearbook signatures and messages. We've been gathering samples of PAI (the traditional name of the Tamal-PAI-as yearbook) signatures going way back in Tam history. Tam Drama alum Wendell Willat (1985) is the guest director leading the project. Fourteen student actors will act in the play that will run May 7-10 at the Daniel Caldwell Performing Arts Center. A crew of eight students will design the technical aspects of the production. We hope that the play will also contribute to the Tam Centennial activities happening in late May.

We are looking for material that is meaningful, funny, heartfelt, or that captures the unique experiences that have been shared at Tam over the years. So far we've found material going back to the 1930s and we hope to find the earliest PAI material possible. Original music will also be a part of the project. The text will be edited, juxtaposed, and pieced together for dramatic effect.

If you have signatures or messages from past Tam yearbooks that you think might be potential material, please photocopy them and put them in my mailbox at school, or send by regular mail. Let us know if you would prefer names to be included or not.

Thanks for your help as we generate this unique script,

Ben Cleaveland and Susan Brashear  
Tam Drama Teachers  
700 Miller Avenue  
Mill Valley, Ca. 94941  
bcleaveland@tamdistrict.org

[www.ctetam.org](http://www.ctetam.org) ❖

## On the Shelf From the Mill Valley Public Library

Here's what's happening in March for teens at the Mill Valley Public Library. Remember, events at the library are always free.

On Thursday, March 6, from 7-8:30 pm, we will present "The Art and Craft of Ukrainian Egg Painting." Tam art teacher Lynne Klein will teach the Eastern European tradition of "pysanky," creating decorated eggs by using beeswax and colored dyes. Materials will be supplied. Signup is required. On Thursday, March 13, from 7:30-8:30 pm, we will present "Infectious Diseases: A Primer for Teens," with Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. David Witt,

who will discuss how viruses and diseases affect world populations and our own here in the Bay Area. Then on Thursday, March 27, from 7-8:30 pm, representatives from Zero Breast Cancer and Drake High peer educators will discuss breast cancer facts and factors, environmental issues, preventative health practices, and other risk reduction practices for teens.

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). ❖





*Chef Chez Bornia of San Rafael Joe's prepares Dungeness crab for the feast.*

### Thank you Tam Families & Friends



We had a great opportunity to reunite at the Tamalpais High School Crab & Pasta Feed last month to benefit all Red-Tailed Hawk Sports Teams. There was fresh Dungeness crab and pasta specially prepared by Chef Chez Bornia of San Rafael's Joes, as well as a live auction. We had 15 coaches attend thanks to the generosity of many families who donated to sponsor a coach.

This fundraiser benefits all sports at Tam High and proceeds go towards tutoring, scholarships, uniforms, equipment, transportation, and the soon-to-be-built Tam Athletic Hall of Fame.

A Special Thank-You to the following: Chef Chez Bornia of San Rafael Joe's, Stornetta-Clover Farms, Courtney Benham Wine, Mill Valley Market, San Francisco Giants, Arch Rival, Buckeye Roadhouse, Demo Sports, Cycleworks, T & B Sports, Pacific Seafood, and Yoga Studio & Sarah Wickham. THANK YOU EVERYONE who attended and supported this great event, to everyone who helped decorate beforehand, and to everyone who stayed late to help clean up afterwards (you know who you are)! We truly could not have done it without you! ❖



*Junior CJ Fazekas and partner Larry Smith enjoy the win over sophomore Max Lester and dad Andrew in the men's semi-finals of the Tam Tennis Invitational Fundraiser.*



*Junior Danny Sacks with his dad Martin competing in the men's doubles division of the Tam Tennis Invitational Fundraiser.*



*Tam Girls Varsity Basketball Coach David Canepa instructing the players during the San Marin game.*



*Tam Girls Varsity Basketball team celebrates their win against San Marin at Gus Gym on February 2, 2008.*



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**PTSA  
 Tamalpais High School**

700 Miller Avenue  
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

**MARCH 2008**

Date	Time/Event	Location
3	8:45 AM – PTSA MEETING WITH STUDENT SPEAKERS RE TAM SPRING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	HAWKS' NEST
4	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
5	3-6:45 PM – PRACTICE ACT	STUDENT CENTER
5	7:30 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	LIBRARY
6	7 PM – ADVANCED BAND AND SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA AT DISTRICT BAND WORKSHOP	RUBY SCOTT GYM
7	JAZZ BAND AT CHABOT JAZZ FESTIVAL	CHABOT COLLEGE HAYWARD
10	8 AM - 3:30 PM – SPRING BLOOD DRIVE	STUDENT CENTER
11-12	CA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM FOR SOPHOMORES	
11-16	3/11-15 @ 7 PM; 3/16 @ 2 PM – CTE PRESENTS "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"	CALDWELL THEATRE
12	9:45-10:45 AM – COLLEGE OF MARIN REGISTRATION AT TAM	COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER
12-21	LUNCH BREAK – SPRING DANCE TICKETS ON SALE	FRONT OF SCHOOL
12	7 PM – GRAD NIGHT PLANNING MEETING	HAWK'S NEST
12	7 PM – PARENT TO PARENT MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
13	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	BAND BOX (MUSIC ROOM)
18	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
19	3-5:30 PM – PRACTICE SAT SUBJECT TESTS	STUDENT CENTER
20	OPEN HOUSE	GUS GYM
	6:30 PM – JAZZ BAND PERFORMANCE	
	7 PM - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	
	7:30-8:30 PM – CLASSROOM VISITS	
21	MINIMUM DAY – 12:35 DISMISSAL	
21	8-11 PM – SPRING DANCE	RUBY SCOTT GYM
24	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
28	12:30 PM – STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH	HAWK'S NEST
<b>APRIL 2008</b>		
1	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
2	6:30 PM – POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING NIGHT FOR SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS & PARENTS	STUDENT CENTER
3	7 PM – CONCERT CHOIR'S "BROADWAY REVUE"	142 THROCKMORTON THEATRE
7-11	SPRING BREAK – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	