



TAM'S ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

September 17, 2009

Gus Gym

5:45-6:15 pm

Musical Performance
Tam High Jazz Band

5:45-6:30 pm

Social Gathering

Meet the administrators and key representatives of Tam High. Vote for a Tam Site Council representative, and pick up your child's schedule if you need it.

6:30-8:40 pm

Classroom Visits

Ten minutes per period and ten minutes to pass. Maps will be available, and Link Crew leaders will be stationed around the campus to help you find classrooms. Meet your child's teachers, and see the new Keyser building and remodeled campus.

PTSA MEETING

Meet the Tam Administrative Team

Date: Wednesday, September 9

Time: 7 pm

Location: The Home of
Julie & Mitchell Kertzman
22 Sky Road
Mill Valley

Tam High Modernization Enters the Home Stretch

A great deal of construction activity is currently underway at Tamalpais High School, and one unfortunate result of this is a temporarily unattractive campus. The good news is that the campus should regain its natural charm as each project is completed over the course of the next few months. This construction activity is the culmination of many improvements to the campus, including major upgrades to utility infrastructure, new buildings, landscaping, and improved pedestrian routes. It is challenging to undertake such complicated projects within an operating high school campus, but every effort has been made to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff during construction; unfortunately, this can result in project delays.

The projects currently in construction represent the completion of work at Tam as defined in the 2006 Modernization Bond. Namely, the pool, elevator, tennis courts, Miller Avenue parking lot, and frontage landscaping are in construction and are all scheduled to be completed in the next several months. Project specifics are listed below.

Front Stairs

Although not readily apparent from the Miller Avenue entrance to campus, quite a bit of work was accomplished during the eight week summer break. Building masonry and concrete staircases, walkway paths, and retaining walls in such a short span is a challenge,

but a safe path of travel for students and visitors was completed just in time for the start of school. Efforts were focused on the east lawn stairs to provide access to a more central location on campus from Miller Avenue. With a safe access route to campus established, work will now focus on finishing the historic stairs and "softscape" landscaping at the front of campus. This scope of work is scheduled to be complete by Monday, September 21.

Field House

Designed to replace the old field house that is subject to flooding, the new field house has locker rooms for both boys and girls, coaches' offices, a team room between, and separate restroom facilities for public use at athletic events. The project also provides an accessible route from the new parking area to the athletic fields. A great deal of work occurred over the summer on this project so that students were able to start using the facility on Monday, August 24.



Top Photo: Students make use of the newly-constructed east lawn stairs connecting the Miller Avenue level of campus with the Keyser Building level.

Bottom Photo: The new field house – now open and ready for use. Photo by freshman Camille Tupper.

A Note from the Principal

by Tom Drescher

New Assistant Principal

Tam High School is fortunate to have Kim Stiffler join us as the new Assistant Principal this year. Kim joins us from Redwood High where she served as a science teacher for eight years and ASB director for five years. Ms. Stiffler will work with grades 10 and 12 this year. Modernization

Giant Sequoia Tree

The giant sequoia tree that dominated the Tam landscape for many decades was removed this summer following a three-year effort to bring it back to life. The sequoia's water source was the same stream that led to black mold growing underneath the old Keyser building. The situation was worsened by construction equipment during the first modernization effort. Jill Templeton and Rick Misuraca were key figures behind the effort to revitalize the tree over the past few years. When the tree was removed it became clear that the decay was much worse than expected, and that the sequoia began dying earlier than anticipated. The small amount of wood that was salvaged was provided to woodshop teacher Geo Monley for a few projects.

New Bell Schedule

Tam's bell schedule was modified for the 09-10 school year to increase opportunity for teacher collaboration throughout the school year. Reducing class periods on Monday by five minutes and reducing the passing periods on Mondays from 15 minutes to 10 minutes generated the additional collaboration time. The bell schedule was approved through the usual process whereby teachers, the district instructional council, and the TUHSD Board agreed and voted to approve the modification.

While modernization completion has not been as timely as we ALL wished, I am confident in saying that all projects relating to Tam will be completed by the end of this semester. We are excited to shift school wide attention beyond construction to the core mission of Tam High: *student learning*. Teachers and administrators have already begun using this additional collaboration time to review the current instructional programs. The additional embedded teacher collaboration time will be invaluable for providing teachers opportunity to plan, collaborate, exchange best teaching practices, reduce the achievement gap, and ensure high expectations for all students. Tam High and the Tam district are committed to providing the best education possible to all students and this time will be used effectively to move our instructional programs forward. 

Welcome to Tam



Top Photo: The 2009-2010 Tam Administration Team: (L-R) Principal Tom Drescher, Assistant Principal Kim Stiffler and Assistant Principal Corbett Elsen.

Bottom Photo: New teachers Jon Black (Integrated Science) and Rebecca Henn (Mathematics).

Supplemental Instruction and Assessment Calendars Available Online

Throughout the year the district offers workshops for juniors and seniors preparing for the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) or direct writing assessment, as well as for students taking computer proficiency challenge exams.

Workshops for the English and math CAHSEE tests will be held on September 21 from 9-11 am (English) and 12:30-2:30 pm (math) at the Carlisle Building adjacent to Redwood High School, Room A.

A computer proficiency workshop will be held on October 6 from 4:30-7:30 pm at Redwood High School, Room 279.

A complete list of district supplemental instruction dates can be found online at tamdistrict.org/calendar/supplinstr.pdf.

For a list of all assessment dates for the school year including the Direct Writing Assessment, CAHSEE, Core Literacy Portfolio, STAR testing, computer proficiency challenge exams and more, go to tamdistrict.org/calendar/assessment.pdf.



THE TAM FAMILY

PTSA President Leslie Wachtel
 leslieann@ix.netcom.com 388-7766

PTSA Executive Vice President Cheryl Bronstein
 cherylbron@comcast.net 435-5080

PTSA Vice President - Communication Jayne Greenberg
 jaynegreenberg@hotmail.com 383-9492

Principal Thomas Drescher
 tdrescher@tamdistrict.org 380-3510

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Mary Washburn **Proofreader:** Kathleen Goldberg
Layout: Peg Baumert **Distribution:** Joanne Yorio

Published 8 times a year

News from Nutrition Services

The Student Nutrition Services Department at Tamalpais Union High School District is launching an online prepayment system for depositing money into your child's school meal account. When students come to the café for breakfast, lunch or break, they can access their accounts by using their student identification number with our computerized cash register system. Beginning in August you will be able to access the link to the prepayment system at www.Tamdistrict.org/StudentNutritionServices and click on MyNutrKids.com. From there you'll create an account using your child's unique student identification number. This service is easy, convenient, and secure and gives parents the opportunity to deposit money at any time and view your child's account balance and food choices. You'll find complete instructions on the website, but if you have any questions or need assistance, please call Margan Holloway, Director of Student Nutrition Services, 415-945-3678.

On our web pages you'll also find our menus for breakfast and lunch, staff and school cafe information, and resources for parents and students with regards to nutrition and healthy eating.

We are excited to offer these new services for you and your family. Having money on account results in the lines moving faster at meal and break service and allows the students more time to eat and socialize.

We are looking forward to another great school year and serving your students at the **Hungry Hawk Café**. If you have any questions about our program or these new services, please let us know.

Margan Holloway

Director, Student Nutrition Services

415-945-3678

Parent Help Needed for Teacher/Staff Appreciation Events

by Helene Siegel-Fotos

Hello everyone and welcome back to school! For those of you who are new to Tam, we have a long-standing tradition of showing appreciation to our faculty and staff, because after all, they are the heart and soul of our school, and by far the most important contributors to our children's education. As part of this appreciation tradition, the PTSA provides five breakfasts and a luncheon for the faculty and staff during the course of the school year. All events take place on Fridays, and the dates are: September 4, October 30, December 18, February 12, March 26 (luncheon) and May 14.

Participation consists of either providing a dish (savory or sweet) or juice, etc. and/or possibly helping to decorate the space the afternoon before and/or help clean up in the early afternoon. Submissions are dropped off as close to 7:15 am as possible, and if you'd like, you are more than welcome to stay and greet our guests. You don't have to commit to participate every time, only when it works into your schedule. Most if not all communication is by email. It is a lot of fun to be involved and the faculty and staff really appreciate and look forward to these events. If you didn't indicate interest on your PTSA volunteer forms but would like to participate, don't hesitate to contact me directly either by email or phone. My contact information is as follows: bash5@sbcglobal.net, (h) 389-8598, (c) 717-7189. I look forward to hearing from you! 

2009-2010 Tam High PTSA

Executive Board Roster

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| President | Leslie Wachtel | leslieann@ix.netcom.com |
| Executive VP | Cheryl Bronstein | cherylbron@comcast.net |
| VP – Communications | Jayne Greenberg | jaynegreenberg@hotmail.com |
| VP – Hospitality | Helene Siegel-Fotos | bash5@sbcglobal.net |
| VP – Events | Patti Bertenthal | howardbertenthal@aol.com |
| VP – Special Projects | Kelly Guyton | kellyguyton@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | Teresa Larson | teresa@lwp.com |
| Secretary | Sylvie Silverstein | sylvies5@yahoo.com |
| Auditor | Annette Gamboa | gamfam@comcast.net |

Committee Chairs

Student Services

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Freshman Orientation BBQ | Deborah Dilley and Bonnie Freiberg |
| Spring Star Testing BBQ | Deborah Dilley and Bonnie Freiberg |
| 8th Grade Visit to Tam | Jayne Greenberg and Gayle Canton |
| Senior Awards Night | Julie Howard |
| Safe and Sober Grad Night | Patti Bertenthal and Jayne Greenberg |
| All About Tam Night | Leslie Wachtel |

Staff Services

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Staff Appreciation Breakfasts | Helene Siegel-Fotos |
| Staff Appreciation Luncheon | Helene Siegel Fotos |

Fundraising

| | |
|--|------------|
| Holiday Tree and Green Sale (Joint fundraiser with ASB) | Lisa Lundy |
|--|------------|

Communications

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Newsletter Editing | Jayne Greenberg & Mary Washburn |
| Newsletter Layout | Peg Baumert |
| Proofreading | Kathleen Goldberg |
| Tam Family Mailing | Ingrid Sato |
| Email Coordinator | Jayne Greenberg |

Campus Beautification

Jill Templeton

Parent Education

Linda Brauner

Join and Volunteer

Please join the PTSA and volunteer your time. In addition to joining the Tam High PTSA, we would appreciate your contributions for several PTSA projects (listed below) which require additional funding.

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|----------|--------------|-------|
| Annual PTSA Dues | \$25.00 per family | | | | _____ |
| Campus Beautification | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$100.00 | | _____ |
| <i>With your help, we can improve the Tam campus environment over the short and long term (cleanup, plantings and irrigation)</i> | | | | | |
| Parent Education | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$100.00 | _____Other | _____ |
| <i>Help us to fund our Parent Ed Conference on November 14th featuring Dr. Ken Ginsberg. This conference is in conjunction with MVMS and will be held at Mill Valley Middle School. We are also bringing back to Tam High Dr. Denise Pope. She will be returning to Tam in November to speak to our students and our faculty on stress and how it affects our students.</i> | | | | | |
| Academic and Community Service Scholarships | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$100.00 | | _____ |
| General Fund | \$25.00 | \$50.00 | \$100.00 | | _____ |
| <i>Tam Family Newsletter, event hospitality and much more. Any amount appreciated.</i> | | | | | |
| | | | | Total | _____ |

**Please make your check payable to Tam High PTSA and mail to
700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley CA 94941**



Tam High Modernization Enters the Home Stretch

Continued from page 1

Weight Room

Adjacent to Gustafson Gym, the new weight room is now more conveniently accessed from the boys' and girls' locker rooms. It replaces an older modular structure that was beyond economical refurbishment. As with the field house, this structure is now complete and in use.

Miller Avenue Parking Lot

Work on the parking lot at Miller Avenue was initially slated for only a "seal coat." Due to the poor condition of the existing asphalt, additional work is required for long-term durability. This increase in the scope of work required the development of a temporary parking lot in the area that will be the new tennis courts. Thankfully, all work performed on the temporary lot was within the original scope of work for that project. The Miller Avenue parking lot is expected to be complete within a month. Once the Miller parking lot is completed, the tennis courts will be surfaced and fenced.

Swimming Pool

A great deal of foundation and underground work has been accomplished to get the pool project to the current state of completion. With the pool shell now constructed, the pool deck can be placed. When the pool mechanical building is enclosed, pool equipment will be installed. The pool is scheduled to be filled with water on October 7. Commissioning and inspection by the County of Marin health department is expected to take no more than 2 weeks. All efforts are being made to accelerate this work to try to make up some of the delays caused by the additional foundation work that was required after construction began.

Elevator

The foundation and major retaining structures for the elevator are complete. Work is now focused on erecting the elevator tower structure. This work will begin the first week of September. When complete, the new site elevator will provide an accessible route from the Miller Avenue side of campus.



Locker room ready for use in the new field house. Photo by Camille Tupper.

Tam High PTSA Event Dates for 2009-2010 School Year

PTSA MEETINGS

All meetings held at 7 pm.

Wednesday, September 9

Meet the New Assistant Principal & Administrative Team

Location: Home of Julie & Mitchell Kertzman
22 Sky Road, Mill Valley

Wednesday, October 14

Location: Classroom 2020
Lower Keyser

Tuesday, November 10

Discussion with Dr. Denise Pope
Location: Student Center

Wednesday, December 9

Location TBD

Wednesday, January 13

Sex, Drugs and ...!
Peer Resource Class Panel Discussion
Location: Tam High Library

Wednesday, February 10

Location: TBD

Wednesday, March 10

Location: TBD

Thursday, April 8

Location: TBD

Wednesday, May 12

Location: TBD

Thursday, June 3

Location: TBD

PTSA STAFF APPRECIATION COFFEE/ BREAKFASTS

September 4: Welcome Back

October 30: Happy Halloween

December 18: Happy Holidays

February 12: Happy Valentine's Day

May 14: Thank You

PTSA STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON March 26

PTSA PARENT EDUCATION Tuesday, November 10

Dr. Denise Pope
Faculty and Students Only

Saturday, November 14

Parent Ed Conference
With Dr. Kenneth Ginsberg

PTSA FUNDRAISER

Early December
PTSA/Leadership Holiday Tree Lot

STAR TEST BBQ

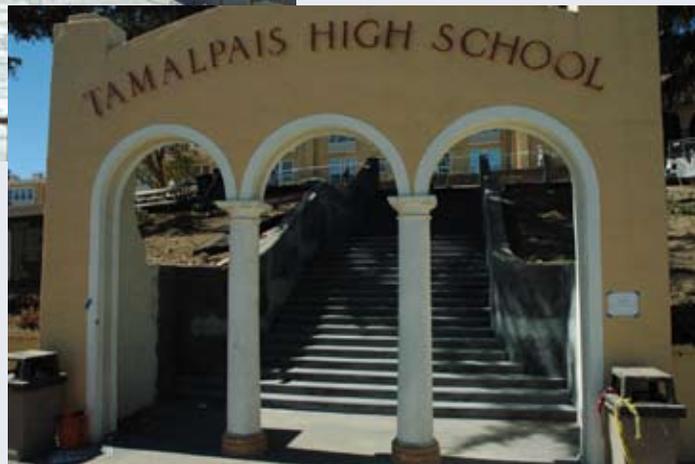
April 23 (tentative)

SENIOR AWARDS EVENING

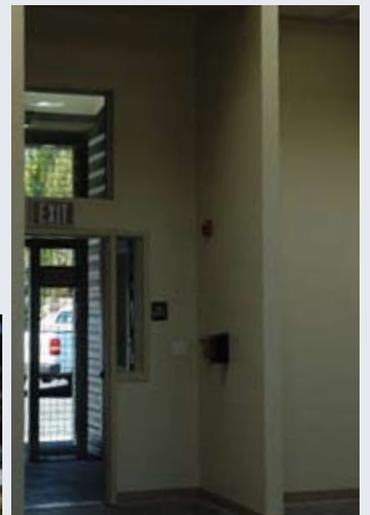
June date to be determined



Just add water. Work continues on the new pool and equipment building scheduled for a late October opening.



With the stairs and retaining walls near completion, Tam will soon have a safe path of travel leading up Wood Hall.



A look at the field house interior.
Photo by Camille Tupper.

Tam High Foundation Begins Student Center Project and Debuts New Website!

by Julie Kertzman



Welcome back! The new school year is an exciting time for students, parents and staff. As we enter the final phase of construction on our campus, the Tam High Foundation is also embarking on new construction. We are in the process of bringing up a brand new user-friendly website and we will begin an exciting new project to design and upgrade the interior of the Student Center. Our goal for the website is to make it easy to get timely information about the Foundation, easy for you to volunteer and participate in events, and easy to make donations and purchase tickets for functions online. We will roll out the site this month so check it out! You'll hear more about the Student Center project in the weeks to come.

Many new and returning families at Tam ask questions about the role of Tam High Foundation. Simply stated, the parent volunteer Tam High Foundation exists to provide additional funding for public education at Tam High School. Through generous donations from community members and local businesses, the Foundation funds academic and student life programs that enhance teaching and learning for all Tam students. Look around campus and you will see the results of the Foundation's work in every corner. The language lab, extended library hours and aide support, laptops, laptops, laptops, guest artists for drama, documentary film lab equipment for AIM, the alignment rack lift in auto shop, literacy tutors and readers for 9th and 10th grade and now 11th grade, the list goes on and on.

The Foundation has a very simple business model. Every year there is a Fall Campaign to raise money from the community followed by a Spring Campaign to raise money from local businesses. In the spring the Foundation solicits grant requests from teachers and administrators and the all-volunteer board of the Foundation reviews the projects and works with the administration to set priorities and allocate the money. Last year the Foundation invested over \$300,000 in teaching and learning at Tam!

This year the investments include:

- English – Continued support of Shakespeare and poets in the classroom, Marin Theatre Company collaboration, teacher workshops
- Academic Workshop – Continued support of this successful program for students who need additional help in English, social studies and new this year, math and science. The program is expanded for 9th, 10th and 11th grade.
- Technology and Tools – 20 new laptop computers for use in the library,
- Specialized Expertise – New this year, guest artists for the music department
- Ongoing Major Grants include: AIM program camera and peripheral equipment, CTE family theater and technical artist funding, library collection enhancement, Link Crew programs and library aide funding.

So it's that time of year again! You all received a donation envelope in your first-day packet and hopefully you sent in your donation. An investment of \$50 per month will impact your student every day. We are asking \$500 per student or whatever you can give to help us achieve our goal of 100% participation.

Here's how you can help the Tam High Foundation:

- Contribute to the Annual Fall Campaign
- Become a Business Partner – have your business buy an ad in the THF directory (call 380-3565)
- Participate in local shopping programs and re-register for e-Scrip
- Volunteer your time – committee work, campaign help, event support

To learn more about current and past projects or to GIVE ONLINE, please visit our website at: www.tamhighfoundation.org

Innovation is the fuel of progress at Tam High and the teachers and the administrative team are eager to put new ideas to work in the classroom and throughout campus life. The Tam High Foundation exists to enhance the high school experience at Tam and together we have the power to "Light Their Minds!" 

High Notes from the Music Department

Welcome new and returning music students and parents. We have an exciting year planned and hope you will join us for the Music Department's events, performances, competitions, and festivals throughout the year. A record number of students have enrolled in the music program which this year consists of orchestra, chorus, beginning/intermediate band, advanced band and jazz band. We will again feature the symphonic orchestra (a combination of the orchestra and advanced band).

THUMB, the Tam High United Music Boosters, is the parent support organization for our music program.



THUMB uses its funds for the benefit of all music students by paying for field trips and music festivals, guest performers and clinics, a piano accompanist for classes and concerts, instrument maintenance and replacements and administrative support for the music director. We invite all parents to join THUMB and to attend our first THUMB meeting to discuss the plans for the year and to hear about the variety of opportunities for participating in our support of the music program.

First THUMB Meeting: Thursday, September 24 from 7-8:30 pm at Greenwood Music Building.

We look forward to an exciting year!

Spiro Tsingaris, Music Director
Sacha Bunge, President, THUMB
Michael Jefferies, Vice President, THUMB

College and Career Center Services

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

The College and Career Center is available to help students research colleges, post-high school programs, financial aid, scholarships, college admissions tests, volunteer opportunities, summer programs and part-time jobs. For the most current information about college and career events, check the Tam High website at www.tamhigh.org and PrepHQ.

Keep Current with Email

The College and Career Center sends occasional grade-specific emails to remind students and parents of special events, college visits, scholarship opportunities and last-minute scheduling changes. We do not share email addresses with anyone outside of Tam. All families, particularly junior and senior parents, are strongly encouraged to sign up.

The Career Center uses PrepHQ to send emails. If your student has already registered with PrepHQ, make sure the email addresses are current. If your student has not registered, this is how to get started: Log on to www.tamhigh.org, click on Academics and the direct PrepHQ link. Once on the homepage, go to "click here to register" and follow the instructions. Students need their student number to register and each student in a family needs to register separately. Information about Career Center events will also appear in the Tam Family and Daily Bulletin, which may be accessed through tamhigh.org.

Senior College Seminar September 24

Tam will sponsor a seminar for college-bound seniors and their parents on Thursday, September 24, at 6:30 pm in Ruby Scott Gym. Tam counselors will provide such need-to-know information as how to obtain letters of recommendation, how to send transcripts and the fall schedule of events. Our guest speaker is B. Noble Jones, senior assistant director of admissions at Kenyon College. He will discuss how colleges read applications and view the admissions process. College-bound seniors and their families are encouraged to attend.

The College and Career Center will sponsor a number of special events for seniors during the fall semester, including workshops on the early decision/early action process, writing the personal statement and completing the University of California and California State University applications. Make sure you are on the PrepHQ email list, so that you will receive updates and reminders of these events.

PSAT

Juniors and Sophomores: The Preliminary SAT, or PSAT, will be given at Tam on Saturday morning, October 17. Taking the PSAT gives students an opportunity to become familiar with the SAT and may help to improve future scores. Juniors who took the test last year are strongly encouraged to take it again this fall.

Students may sign up September 8 through October 10 in the counseling office during breaks, lunch and after school. The \$30 fee is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to Tamalpais High School. Complete information will be mailed home this month.

News from Leadership

by Chelsea Springer

This year's leadership class is gearing up for a fantastic year. Clara Butler, Nalani Sancristobal, Caroline Fearon, Micaela Chavez, Kristin Cerda-Womack, Emma Ellison, and Lauren Milosky attended the annual CASC workshop at Stanford August 6-9. In addition, all class members attended a fall retreat so we will be ready to hit the ground running now that school has started.



We have a tremendous group of both experienced leaders and new members who are enthusiastic to make this year one to remember. These dedicated students will meet four days a week at 7 am!

We have also been busy putting together and selling spirit packs along with the rest of our merchandise including the amazing class of 2010 shirts designed by seniors Maddie Bachelder and Sarah Weitzman. Spirit packs and other merchandise are still available in Leslie Holt's office – 120 Wood Hall.

On the horizon we have our Back to School rally on September 4 and Homecoming on October 10. Our annual fall blood drive will be held on September 14. The blood drive will take place in the Student Center from 8 am to 2:15 pm. Remember that students must be 16 years old to participate and students who are 16-17 years old will need to have a permission slip signed by a parent in order to give blood.



We look forward to an amazing year of serving the Tam students and community.

Go Hawks!

Continued on page 8

SAT & ACT REGISTRATION DATES*Continued from page 7*

Please clip this schedule and keep it for future reference.

Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival**Saturday, September 19, 10 am - 6 pm**
Sunday, September 20, 10 am - 5 pm**Old Mill Park**

The 53rd annual festival features two full days of art treasures, musical entertainment, children's activities and more! Maria Muldaur headlines on Saturday at 4:30 pm and Tom Rigney & Flambeau on Sunday at 4 pm.

Tam CTE students will once again have a face painting booth fundraiser near the playground in the Children's Grove both days. The visual art students will have art-work on exhibit in their booth near the main entrance. Please come join your friends and neighbors at this year's festival.

Tickets are \$8, students and seniors \$5, children under 12 free. Don't miss this great event.

**SAT and Subject Testing Dates for 2009-2010**

| Test Date | Registration Deadline (Regular Fee) | Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee) |
|--------------|--|--|
| October 10 | September 9 | September 23 |
| • November 7 | October 1 | October 15 |
| December 5 | October 30 | November 12 |
| January 23 | December 15 | December 30 |
| •• March 13 | February 4 | February 18 |
| May 1 | March 25 | April 8 |
| June 5 | April 29 | May 13 |

- The Language Tests with Listening are offered only in November
- SAT Reasoning Test only

ACT Testing Dates for 2009-2010

| Test Date | Registration Deadline (Regular Fee) | Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee) |
|-------------|--|--|
| October 24 | September 18 | October 2 |
| December 12 | November 6 | November 20 |
| February 6 | January 5 | January 15 |
| April 10 | March 5 | March 19 |
| June 12 | May 7 | May 21 |

Students may sign up online for the ACT at www.actstudent.org, and for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com. Register early for a convenient test site. Tam is not a test site.

Seniors applying to the University of California must complete all testing by December. Certain impacted California State University campuses, including San Diego and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, require or prefer students to complete testing by November. For more information on the admissions requirements of the California State University and the University of California, go to: csumentor.edu and universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions.

Fee waivers are available for eligible juniors and seniors who cannot afford SAT or ACT fees. Students who receive SAT or ACT fee waivers may also be able to waive some college application fees. Talk with your counselor if you think you may be eligible.

Learning disabled students should contact their creative learning teacher for details on SAT and ACT procedures for students with learning disabilities.

College Representatives at Tam and in the Bay Area

Many college admissions representatives visit Tam in the fall to meet with students. Seniors and juniors are urged to take advantage of these opportunities. The visit list, available in the Career Center, on tamhigh.org and on PrepHQ, is updated regularly. Announcements of visits also appear in the Daily Bulletin. Students need a pass from the Career Center and permission from their teacher to attend a college meeting during class time.

Among the first schools to schedule visits to Tam this year are: American, Bowdoin, Bucknell, Colgate, Denison, George Washington, Haverford, Mills, Mt. Holyoke, Northeastern, Pacific, Pomona, Scripps, Seattle, Skidmore, U of British Columbia, U of Connecticut, U of Denver, U of Oregon and Washington U.

Work Permits

Work permits expire in September. Students under 18 need to get a new work permit from Jane Shapiro in the counseling office whether they are starting a new job or continuing a summer one. All jobs except babysitting and yard work require work permits.

Job Board

Do you have a job at home or at work suitable for a Tam student? Call the College and Career Center at 380-3582 and we'll post it on the job board. You will be helping Tam students earn work experience and extra money.



TAM Drama 2009-2010: Plays From Classics to Modern, Plus Three New Works

by Co-Program Directors and Drama Instructors
Susan Brashear and Ben Cleaveland

The stage is set for a brand new year at Conservatory Theatre Ensemble (CTE), Tam's student-run theater company. New students begin their first days in class while former students take the reins of the student-run parts of the company. There is a flurry of activity as students sign up for shows, crews, production teams and intern positions. Third-year students prepare to assimilate as student company leaders, while seniors decide what their priorities are for their last year of running CTE. The new season is announced to the community so that our prospective audiences can see what we will offer during the upcoming year.

The first plays kick off in early September and include modern short plays from The Theatre of the Absurd and the UK's National Theatre that jumpstart our varied season. Next we'll move to classic Native American tales (Crow and Weasel) and Dumas's "The Three Musketeers" before winter break. In the spring of 2010, audiences will be treated to Chekhov's intriguing play, "The Seagull." Original works include the March premiere of a new play by CTE graduate Ben Snyder (now a full-fledged playwright) that will explore the conflict in Gaza, examining Israeli and Palestinian viewpoints. In May we will develop two short new plays called "From Butoh to Buffo" which will feature contrasting and complementary theatrical movement styles.

New plays are a big part of CTE. We have pioneered many original adaptations and new works in our 30-plus year history. Premiering new works by current students, alumni and commissioned playwrights has been a cornerstone of our season every year. Many of our young playwrights submit their plays for festivals or competitions that encourage young writers. We will continue to provide guest artist instruction for our emerging playwrights and to produce their plays in staged readings or the student-written one acts in the spring.

Speaking of one acts, we will present two one act festivals in which first and second year drama students act and third and fourth year students enrolled in honors theater direct. The Winter One Act Festival in January features classic or contemporary plays by leading playwrights; the Spring One Act Festival in May presents student-written plays and contemporary short plays. Last year the festival produced about 33 short plays that were very well-received by our audiences. The support for young writers was an added boost to all involved.

Watch for the student design work at CTE productions too. Our students are given ample opportunities to design for set, sound, lights, costumes and props during the year. The Daniel Caldwell Theatre is a state of the art facility that is highly theatrical, offering a world of experiences for students behind the scenes. Philosophically, we want our CTE students to experience the spectrum of artistic opportunities that theater provides. Actors must appreciate the "ensemble" of support backstage that affords them their moments in the spotlight. Our guest artist who is the technical director/production manager, Heather Basarab, oversees this important aspect of our program. Thank you Tam High Foundation for covering nearly half of the costs for bringing Heather to CTE students.

Needless to say, fundraising is a huge aspect of supporting a student-run theater company. Did you know that most of our annual budget is raised by



Stage manager Ben Stanton keeps things moving with the cast during a break at the final dress rehearsal of spring 2009's "The House of Bernarda Alba." CTE students steer projects and produce major public events as part of their advanced drama coursework.

students with teacher support? Students will be participating in face painting at the Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival, raising money by dancing at the annual Dance-A-Thon, running membership drives and pursuing grants and community support. Of course, box office brings income and a great way to support us is by seeing the shows. The Tam High Foundation sponsors the family theater production and helps out CTE in many ways, including as the "umbrella" for the non-profit status we benefit from organizationally.

Thanks THF and to all the CTE parents who become members yearly. Your dollars make it possible for us to bring in professional

guest artists who enhance the quality of instruction for all CTE students! Here's hoping all our parents become members this year!

Another exciting opportunity is our planned trip to London with our students in April this year. This will be our fifth time taking students to the city that is the heartbeat of theater. We see amazing plays every night and soak up all the theater history we can hold. Can't wait to share this again with our current students! Sign ups are underway.

So, this premiere Tam Family article is a big welcome back to our returning CTE students and parents and an enthusiastic greeting to our newest arrivals in drama classes. Parents, be sure to visit us at Back To School Night in the beautiful Caldwell Theatre. The curtain is poised and the lights are ready and waiting for another great year at TAM drama.

To check on CTE announcements and updates to the season, visit our website: ctetam.org. Email: ctecompany@me.com 

Marin County School to Career Partnership

by 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



It has been a very busy summer for Tamalpais students doing internships with the School to Career

Partnership. Students spent six weeks at their internship site learning about a potential career field and experiencing the ins-and-outs of the work world. Congratulations to the following students:

Nicholas Brandis (US Army Corps of Engineers), Elise Liu (Clear Center of Health), Kailen Peck (People's Lobby), Essie Winer (Planned Parenthood), Tyler Adams (Bananas at Large), Gavin Zerbe, Edmond Cuvelier, Peter Englander, Justin Lee, David Funnell and Sean Lang-Brown (Intel Computers), Herb Wade (Fireman's Fund) and Freddy Meadoh (Kaiser Radiology).

Fall internships run from September 28 to November 20 and completed internship applications, including a teacher recommendation and resume, are due on September 11. Students work six hours a week after school for eight weeks. Please come in and see Nancy Westreich in the College and Career Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays or contact her at 415-380-3558 or nwestreich@tamdistrict.org for more information.

CTE 2009-2010 SEASON

Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival

9/19-20

Face painting booth for a CTE fundraiser

Three for Thought: An Evening of Short, Modern Plays

10/6-9, 10/11

(The Bald Soprano/Ionesco, Lunch in Venice/ Nick Dear, The American Dream/ Albee)

Directed by Joe Lucas, Ben Cleaveland and Susan Brashear*

Dance-A-Thon

10/17

A CTE fundraising event for all CTE students

Crow and Weasel

10//26-30

By Jim Leonard Jr., based on Native American tales

*Directed by Robert Ernst**

*Choreography by Kathryn Zdan**

The Three Musketeers

11/18-22

Adapted by Ken Ludwig from Alexander Dumas' novel

*Directed by Julianna Rees**

*Stage combat by Joe Lucas**

The Winter One Act Festival

1/6-9; 1/12-15; 1/19-22

Short plays directed by CTE advanced students featuring first and second year students.

Event produced by advanced drama students in CTE.

Gaza Play Project (working title)

3/2-6

A new play exploring the Israeli/ Palestinian conflict

Written by Playwright Ben Snyder*

*Directed by Julia Mueller**

The Seagull

3/24-28

By Anton Chekhov

*Directed by Joe Lucas**

Global Studies/ CTE London Trip

4/5-16

UK theater productions, tours, workshops, theater history

Butoh Meets Bouffe

4/27-5/1

Physical French Comedy Meets

Contemporary Japanese Theater Movement

Directed by Kathryn Zdan and Iu-Hui Chua**

The Spring One Act Festival

5/12-14, 5/18-21, 5/25-28

Contemporary short one act plays including new works developed in playwriting seminars with

*Robert Ernst**

Student Directed and Produced

*CTE Guest Artists: Professional theater artists who are guest teachers/directors funded through the efforts of CTE students and their teachers as well as grants from the Tam High Foundation.

WELCOME TO FALL 2009 SPORTS AT TAM

Over 600 students are gearing up to participate in seven sports at Tam this fall season. Boys and girls will compete in cross country and water polo. Girls will also field teams in golf, tennis, and volleyball this fall sports. Boys' football and soccer round out the fall competition.

All the coaches are excited about the season ahead. More than half of our head coaches are in their first or second season coaching at Tam, and a few even coached teams that competed against Tam in the recent past. All have a clear sense of the keys to their teams' success this fall, want the kids to build skills and have fun and are looking to build the kind of team camaraderie that makes for a great experience.

Tam's Athletic Boosters Club and all of our coaches invite you to come out and support Tam's teams. As one coach put it, "Fans are like having an extra player. They make a difference."



(L-R) Front row: James MacDonald, Jenna Lea, Sami Emory, Nicole Woodworth, Caroline Fearon, Martin Langeveld, Lilla McMillan, Nathan Edmonson. Back row: Duncan Brown, Dan Milechman, Charlie Eddy, Adam Scott, Head Coach Sylvia Goodman, Linden McGreevy, Monica Milstein, David Fuchs, Ben Taska, Chris Lowell.

CROSS COUNTRY

Last year was a strong one for both the boys' and girls' teams. Tam's boys' team won the NCS (North Coast Section) and went to the state finals. Of the seven-man team, five students graduated. So, Head Coach Sylvia Goodman sees this as a rebuilding year for the boys' team. The boys will be led by returning junior Dan Milechman, who placed third at state, and returning sophomore James MacDonald, who was the team's number two runner last year.

According to Coach Goodman, "we've been running all summer" and three additional runners are returning to the team: David Fuchs, Adam Scott, and Ben Taska. Sophomore Alex Olson is also looking very strong this summer. Nedd Byrnes is new to cross country, but is a seasoned distance runner for the Tam track team. In Coach Goodman's words, "All in all, the boys' team, under the leadership of team captain Dan Milechman, is shaping up nicely."

According to Coach Goodman "last year's girls' team was very, very strong but this year's has the potential to be one of the best I've coached" because of the returning and new talent with huge potential. Two girls went to state last year – one who graduated, and Monica Milstein, who is a senior this fall. Also returning is, in Coach Goodman's words, "an incredibly athletic groups of sophomores" including Caitlin Firmage, Jenna Lea, Sami Emory and Caroline Fearon. The team has also added several girls who ran track last spring, including Katie Lee, Lilla McMillan and Ciara D'Onofrio. And sophomores Quinlin Caicic and Meagan Monroe have shown lots of strength this summer during off-season training while incoming freshman Briggeite Winkler also looks to add strength to the pack.

Coach Goodman is "super excited about the girls' team this year." Tam's girls came in fourth in NCS last year, and just missed going to state. Could be a different story this year.

WATER POLO

Tam's girls' water polo team took second place in the league last year behind Marin Catholic. Several seniors on the team graduated, and Head Coach Brandon Williams is looking forward to two returning star players. Goalie Maddy Winkler scored a record number of blocks per game and for the season, and top scorer Erin Schlueter set the single-season scoring record last year. Coach Williams was happily surprised to meet several incoming freshmen with experience at the end of a recent summer tournament, and is looking for a few other players to round out the team.

"Last year we were number 12 in North Coast – this year, we aim to be a top ten team. Maybe top five," he said.

Continued on page 12

Welcome to Fall 2009 Sports at TAM *Continued from page 11*



Boys' water polo players in pre-season training in the Redwood High School pool where practice is taking place until the Tam pool is completed.

Tam's boys' water polo teams had successful seasons last year -- the varsity team was 15-10 and the JV's were 7-3. As varsity Head Coach Bob Kustel sees it, "Our biggest challenge this year will be to replace the six seniors who graduated." He added that a lot will depend on how quickly the young players develop.

This year's varsity boys' team may be one of the youngest in the league. Team leaders in and out of the water include Cody Nagy, Sasha Leidman, and Riley Shine. Junior Max Sieck, who set the Tam record last year for most goals scored by a sophomore, will be a starter, as will sophomores Brennan Latimer and Joe Weber. Coach Kustel's goal for the varsity team this year is to make the MCAL playoffs again (which would make a string of seven consecutive years), hit the 15-win mark again, and compete for the MCAL crown. An NCS berth is also on the coach's goal list, and he says, "the prediction here is that all are attainable."

As for the JV team, Head Coach Dave Beutel sees a very experienced group of players and a nice crop of incoming freshmen. Look for an MCAL JV title for these guys, who will be led by sophomores Dylan Glave, Trevor Williams, Riley Sykes, Reese Butler, and Tyler Parkerson.

GIRLS' GOLF

Last year's girls' golf program struggled to get enough girls to form a team. New this year to Tam, Head Coach John Haight aims to build a fun, competitive girls' golf program at Tam. The minimum number of players to field a team is five, and Coach Haight is thrilled that eight girls expressed interest before school even began. He hopes to have a total of 10-12 girls on the team this season.

GIRLS' TENNIS

According to Head Coach Bill Washauer, the girls' tennis team had a terrific lineup last season. Two starting seniors graduated, and the team's hardworking captains -- Adrienne Foley, Emily Prescott and Meagan Schuler -- got a head start organizing this year's team and fundraising.

Last year's singles lineup was the strongest in MCAL. This year, the coach plans to work on improving the doubles lineup while maintaining the team's strength in singles. To reach this goal, the coach and team will focus on the net game, in particular. Coach Washauer expects the team to be competitive in MCALs again, and looks forward to building a new, even stronger team this year.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

This is a rebuilding year for Tam girls' volleyball. All three head coaches are new to Tam and are focused on helping the girls to become tougher and more competitive.

"It's all about athleticism," according to Varsity Head Coach Jon Feller.

JV Head Coach Casey Mondragon outlined these priorities for the team this season: 100% commitment, understanding the game, beginning to master key volleyball skills and having fun. He loves seeing the girls take pride in the quality of their play and reports that "these girls are passionate about their sport!"

Thirteen girls showed up at the Dipsea steps for a summer run, which was a good start to building this year's varsity team. Coach Feller would like to see the boys' and girls' volleyball teams support one another. He plans to run the same drills and has the same expectations for Tam's girls as he had for the boys he coached for the past four years at Terra Linda. His goal for the varsity girls as well as the JV and freshman teams is to develop a program that improves over time.

Continued on page 13

Welcome to Fall 2009 Sports at TAM Continued from page 12



Top Photo: Freshman players listen to their coaches.

Bottom Photo: Pre-season football training
Photos by Gabe Baum.

FOOTBALL

A rookie and two second-year coaches lead Tam's football program. This year's freshman players are bigger physically than last year's, and Head Coach Jon Black suspects they may be better defensively, too. He is surprised at the great team dynamic, and the players' commitment to improving their skills through hard work. Players and their parents should look forward to team dinners after study hall on Wednesdays to continue building the camaraderie that already exists among the players. Coach Black's goals for his players this season: "have fun, work hard, and enjoy football for the next four years at Tam."

Head Coach Eddie Savino hopes this year's JV team will earn a reputation for moving the ball effectively and for stopping opponents by hitting them hard. Team leaders who are setting an example by their performance are Mack Huffman (wide receiver and linebacker) and Kevin Le (fullback and linebacker). Coach Savino is pleased that the players are so coachable and so willing to follow instructions and learn the Tam system.

"We want the guys to do a couple of things really well – run and stop the other team's offense," he said.

Varsity Head Coach Kevin Goyer, new to Tam this year, was at San Marin last year and observed Tam from across the field. He saw that Tam's defense against the pass was a weakness, and one he plans to improve this year. He's been pleased with the way the seniors stepped up their training over the summer: speed training in the morning, weight training at midday and team practices in the afternoon for a total of four to five hours a day. He was also pleased with the number of kids who worked out this summer and by how willing they are to work hard.

Fans should look for Tam's varsity team to be more effective running the ball. Coach Goyer feels that dominating the running game will open up the passing game for the team.

"We're going to make teams work hard to stop us," he said.

BOYS' SOCCER

For this year's boys' JV soccer team, Head Coach Chris Hutchison says, "fun is the name of the game." Last year's team came together mid-way through the season and really came on strong in the second half. This year, Coach Hutchison wants that camaraderie to happen sooner and plans team pasta feeds and other events to make sure it does. His goal: early wins to give the team confidence.

"We're building skills and laying the foundation for the future varsity team this year," said the coach.

Boys' varsity Head Coach Dustin Nygaard sees player continuity as a huge strength of this year's team.

"These guys have come up together from their freshman year," Nygaard said. "They're team-oriented, hard working and good at the fundamentals of soccer."

He's also excited about the crop of up and coming freshmen, and believes this year will be fun. For two years in a row, the varsity team has seen its playoff hopes dashed at the end of the season. Coach Nygaard hopes to change that and predicts, "This will be our year!"

ABOUT TAM BOOSTERS

Tam High's Athletic Boosters Club supports all Tam sports by raising funds for Tam athletic teams and for facilities needs where Tam District funds are not available. This assistance includes transportation, equipment, uniforms, academic tutoring, weight room supervision, the Tam Hall of Fame, senior athletes' scholarships and providing guidance for new club sports. We also play a leading role in implementing innovative programs like this year's concussion education program for coaches, athletes and parents.

Check us out at tamhighathletics.org/index.cfm?action=main.boosters.

Join us! We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Hawks Nest. To get involved, call us at 380-3586 or email us at tam.boosters@gmail.com.



Go Hawks!

Everyone Join In for the 8th Annual Back to Tam Day!

Saturday, September 12

9 am to noon

Barbecue following

While modernization continues around the new Keyser building and in the front of campus, the rest of campus always needs a little TLC. Help get our campus looking its best and have some fun too!

This work party and barbecue is for new Tam families, current Tam families, Tam alums, Tam staff and all Tam students. Note: Students can get community service hours – required for all freshmen.



It is a great opportunity to get together with your Tam friends and to make new ones while improving the campus.

After we get a little dirty and a lot accomplished, we'll all relax and enjoy some great food.

Some tasks that we'll be doing include sealing the benches in Mead Theatre and around campus, planting, weeding, mulching and painting. Bring your labeled equipment: power washers, work gloves, hats, weed-whackers, wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, old work clothes and sturdy shoes.

Can't make it but want to help? A donation of \$10 will buy a gallon of sealer for Mead Theatre, \$20 will buy a plant and \$100 will buy a tree. Send tax-deductible donations (write "Back to Tam Day" on your check) and mail to the Tamalpais High School Alumni Association, c/o Bill Sefton, CPA, P.O. Box 1008, San Ramon, CA 94583-1008. We'll give you

a tax deduction receipt for any donated items as well. Every little bit helps! A couple of hundred people giving \$10 each made this a huge success last year.

Call (800) 617-2455 to register so we have some idea of numbers for the organizers and so we can keep you updated. Leave a message if you have any questions and we'll call you back.

See you there!

Tam High Library Hours

The library is open from 7:30 am to 7 pm Monday through Thursday and from 7:30 am to 4 pm on Fridays.

Thanks to a generous Tam High Foundation grant, the library has 50 wireless laptops available for students to use.

Alumni, parents, students,
faculty and staff hard at work
at last year's Back to Tam Day.



Volunteers Needed

(Students: get your community service hours!)

Bloomathon Fall Planting

Saturday, October 17, 9 am at the Mill Valley Community Center

Bring gloves and trowel

For more information, phone: Mary Lou Ibershof 383-5107



NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT #59

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

Return Service requested

| SEPTEMBER 2009 | Time/Event | Location |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 2 | 7:30 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING | HAWK'S NEST (teacher lounge next to student center) |
| 4 | 7:30 AM – WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST FOR FACULTY AND STAFF | HAWK'S NEST |
| 4 | 9:45 AM – STUDENT WELCOME BACK RALLY | MEAD THEATRE |
| 7 | LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL | |
| 8 | 7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING | KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School |
| 9 | 7 PM – PTSA MEETING Meet the Administrative Team | 22 Sky Road Mill Valley |
| 10 | 6:30 PM – PARENT TO PARENT MEETING | KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School |
| 12 | 9 AM – NOON – ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BACK TO TAM DAY | meet at front circle |
| 14 | 8 AM - 2:15 PM – ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE | STUDENT CENTER |
| 17 | BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT | GUS GYM |
| | 5:45 PM – JAZZ BAND & SOCIAL GATHERING | |
| | 6:30 PM – CLASSROOM VISITS | |
| 18 | MINIMUM DAY – 12:35 PM DISMISSAL | |
| 19-20 | 10 AM – 6 PM (SAT); 10 AM – 5 PM (SUN) CTE Facepainting Fundraiser & Tam Student Art Show at Mill Valley Fall Arts Festival | OLD MILL PARK |
| 21 | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL | |
| 22 | 7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING | KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School |
| 24 | 6:30 PM – COLLEGE SEMINAR FOR SENIORS & PARENTS | RUBY SCOTT GYM |
| 24 | 7 PM – THUMB MEETING | GREENWOOD MUSIC BLDG |
| 25 | END OF REPORT PERIOD 1 | |
| OCTOBER 2009 | | |
| 2 | 9:45 AM – HOMECOMING RALLY | MEAD THEATRE |
| 7 | MINIMUM DAY – 12:35 PM DISMISSAL | |
| 10 | HOMECOMING | |

For details and updates, check the calendar on the Tam High website: tamhigh.org