

The Home Page

by Jayne Greenberg
PTSA Vice President—
Communications

May PTSA Meeting

The next PTSA meeting will be Monday, May 11, at 7 pm in the library. Our guest speaker will be Susan Gertman from the College Career Center who will share with us this year's college application and acceptance experiences at Tam.

AIM Annual Film Festival - Second Night Added!

Been shut out of the AIM Film Festival year after year? The Festival is now two nights, June 5 and June 6, and it's being held on campus at the Caldwell. See page 11

Congratulations to the Tam High Jazz Band Students - 3rd Prize in the "Next Generation Monterey Jazz Festival"

Three Tam High students, Chris Jefferies, Arthur Richardson, and Levi Gillis participated in "Next Generation" as members of the Berkeley Jazz School's Advanced Studio Band. Catch their performance on June 15 at Yoshi's in Oakland. See page 8 for their story.

Defining the Problem, Part II

Tam News, the student newspaper, has published a very interesting series about the low graduation rate of African-American students at Tam due to a range of problems. Part II of this series looks at what is being done to address these problems. A must read for everyone. Part II is reprinted on page 14.

Tam receives the California Distinguished School Award

In case you missed it, Tam renewed its designation as a California Distinguished School. This honor is limited to schools that meet stringent criteria and pass a validation visit. The committee focused on the ninth grade collaboration program for at-risk students, and the CTE drama program.

Spring Sports – Go Red-Tailed Hawks!

Get updates and photos of Tam's exciting spring sports girls' JV soccer and lacrosse, boys' tennis, freshman baseball, volleyball, golf, and boys' and girls' swimming - on page 18.

Tam's Link Crew Supports News Students with High School Transition



Nikki Pelletier's Freshman Advisory students and Link Crew leaders take a break from an activity that emphasizes planning ahead and long-term goal setting.

Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes both freshmen and new students. Studies have shown that if students have a positive experience the first year of high school, their chances for success are exponentially higher, and we work to help students find success, inside and outside of the classroom, during their time at Tam.

Built on the belief that students can help other students succeed, Link Crew trains members of the junior and senior classes to be Link Leaders and to support new students. In addition to facilitating Freshman Orientation, Link Leaders provide academic and social support during the new Freshman Advisory program, a weekly study hall period where Link Leaders facilitate conversations around strategies for success in high school. Through the Freshman Advisory program, freshmen have weekly access to an adult advisor and upperclassmen who can connect them with additional resources when needed.

"Link Crew provides a safe and welcoming environment to new incoming freshmen, through the orientation day," said freshman Coco Kennedy. "Not only are students given advice for success but are able to meet new friends and classmates through fun activities."

continued on page 5

Do You Yahoo?

If you have a Yahoo email address, emails from Tam High may not be getting to you. Please go into your junk email folder, look for emails from Tam High and make tamhigh@iscweb.com a "safe" address.

Are You on the Tam High Email List?

If not, you are missing out on important information from the school such as Booster updates, Hawk of the Week, announcements, online newsletters and reminders about meetings and events. Please send a request to tamhigh@iscweb.com with your email and your student's grade.

Principal's Message

by Tom Drescher

California Distinguished School

I am pleased to announce that Tam is a 2009 California Distinguished High School! A small group of Tam staff will meet with State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell in May in celebration of our achievement. Thank you to all students, teachers, parents, and community members for your commitment in making Tam a Distinguished School.

Modernization

Modernization crews worked diligently over spring break to complete projects around campus. Biking signage and striping were added in front of the school, and the Keyser stairwell covering was also installed. Significant progress has been made on the pool, new weight room, and field house. Tam administration hopes to receive an updated timeline for the pool and tennis courts in the next few weeks, and will update the community when we receive that information. The goal is to have all aspects of modernization completed for the beginning of the 09-10 school year.

09-10 Budget Update

The Tamalpais Union High School District has been working to make cuts to our 09-10 budget in the wake of the recession in California, and across the country. As a district, we have made spending cuts totaling nearly \$1 million to balance our budget for next year. At Tam, this translates into a 10% reduction for all programs, allowing us to make small adjustments throughout the school instead of eliminating existing programs. Tam High and the Tam District are committed to maintaining and improving the quality academic programs our community expects and students deserve.



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Published 8 times a year

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Week of JUNE 8-11, 2009

Monday, June 8

1st period	8-10 am Final Exam
Break	10-10:15 am
2nd period	10:25-11 am
3rd period	11:10-11:45 am*
4th period	11:55 am - 12:30 pm
Lunch	12:30-1:05 pm
5th period	1:15-1:50 pm
6th period	2-2:35 pm
7th period	2:45-3:20 pm

Tuesday, June 9

2nd period	8-10 am Final Exam
Break	10-10:15 am
3rd period	10:25 am - 12:25 pm* Final Exam

Wednesday, June 10

4th period	8-10 am Final Exam
Break	10-10:15 am
5th period	10:25 am - 12:25 pm* Final Exam

Thursday, June 11

6th period	8-10 am Final Exam
Break	10-10:15 am
7th period	10:25 am - 12:25 pm* Final Exam

Friday, June 12

Teacher Work Day
No school for students.

*Bulletin read.

TUHSD Budget Study Session Report

The TUHSD Board of Trustees held a special budget study session at its first March meeting in order to examine the newly re-calculated multi-year projections and to discuss ways to decrease expenditures in order to balance the budget. The unrestricted general fund budget projections as of the end of February 2009 were as follows:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Total Revenues	\$50,814,150	\$52,234,120	\$53,664,125
Total Expenditures	51,102,694	53,080,598	55,296,758
Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	(\$288,544)	(\$846,478)	(\$1,632,633)

We also developed a set of goals to guide our work through the budget process.

The goals were to:

- Create a balanced budget where revenues equal expenditures
- Attempt to maintain current permanent staff
- Trim expenses in a manner that has the least possible impact on classroom instruction

In order to create the most collaborative process possible in a short amount of time, we held a series of site staff meetings in order to share the projections, the goals and to solicit ideas and input. After the site staff meetings, Lori Parrish and Laurie Kimbrel met with administrators and building principals in order to develop a list of possible reductions in expenditures.

The final administrative recommendation for reductions in expenditures was developed by the cabinet administrative team. Cabinet began with a list of all possible reductions and the discussion and decisions were guided by the goals listed above. Once the administrative recommendation was complete, it was shared with principals and union leadership. Finally, the recommendation was presented to the board and discussed at the budget workshop. The total amount of reduction for 2009-2010 included in the recommendation is \$983,300.

March 24 Board Meeting – Board Approves Second Interim Budget Report

Every school district in the state of California is required to file a second interim budget report in March. This report must show a balanced budget for the current year and for the next school year. The board voted to approve the second interim budget which included the expenditure reductions recommended by the administration during the board budget study session. These reductions allowed us to show a balanced budget for 2009-2010. ❖

Honors/Advanced Placement for 2009-2010

Denial letters for most courses have been sent to students who did not meet the criteria for enrollment in honors or AP classes. Students may go to the teacher in charge to request an informal appeal. Students may also request a formal appeal by sending a letter and supporting documentation to the principal if the informal appeal is not granted.

After the appeals are reviewed, all students requesting advanced course enrollment will receive one letter in May listing the AP/honors classes they are eligible to take. The letter will instruct students to indicate their choices, and return the contract. To enroll in more than two AP/honors courses, students will need their counselor's signature in addition to a parent signature.

Questions regarding the AP/honors enrollment process may be directed to the principal's administrative assistant, Mary O'Leary at moleary@tamdistrict.org. ❖

Community Forums

The superintendent and board of trustees of the Tamalpais Union High School District invite you to participate in the strategic planning process at one of three community forums. Meetings are scheduled at the three comprehensive schools, but are not site-specific. We hope to see you there!

Monday, May 4

3-4:30 pm – Tamalpais High School Student Center
6:30-8 pm – Drake High School Student Center

Tuesday, May 5

8-9:30 am – Redwood High School, Kreps Conference Center

Access to the Graduation Ceremony in Mead Theatre

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 six 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 on the Homestead Avenue entrance.

Guests in wheelchairs: ONLY those in a wheelchair or their attendants may enter from the bottom of Mead. There is space at the edge of the stage for eight guests with 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 Theater that is reserved for those with limited mobility. These guests may be dropped off at the top of Mead Theater via the Homestead Avenue entrance just past Benefield Hall. 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. ❖

Senior Awards Night

Senior Awards Night will be held on Tuesday, June 2, at 6:30 pm in Ruby Scott Gym. Seniors receiving awards at this event will be sent an invitation. Not all awards are presented at the Senior Awards Night – some will be given out at the Senior Breakfast on June 11. All seniors should list their awards and scholarships on the senior survey. The award information listed in the survey will be used for the graduation program. If you have questions about the senior survey, please contact Susan Gertman in the College and Career Center at sgertman@tamdistrict.org.

Senior Checklist

- Order cap and gown for graduation (707-399-9091)
- Do senior survey (Career Center)
- Check attendance (clear absences, if excusable)
- Order official college transcript (Registrar's office, Wood Hall)
- Clear all bills, return books & uniforms
- Complete all graduation outcomes! (Ask counselor)
- Reserve handicapped seating for graduation ceremony, if needed (380-3512)
- Turn in Safe/Sober Grad Night form
- Notify the principal's assistant, Mary O'Leary, if you choose not to walk in the graduation ceremony

Senior Week Schedule

Monday, June 8

Senior Field Trip (optional) – Great America

Students must pay in advance to attend this event. Tickets are for sale through May 29 in Wood Hall, Room 120. Meet in the back lot at 9:30 am. The bus returns to Tam at approximately 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, June 9

Senior Check-Out Day

Seniors line up at 9 am in the administration parking lot, Wood Hall. ALL SENIORS must check out.

Graduation Practice

Seniors meet at 12:30 pm sharp in Mead Theater.

Wednesday, June 10

Games and BBQ at the Track

Games start at 9:30 am, and the BBQ at 11 am

Graduation Practice

Seniors meet at 12:30 pm sharp in Mead Theater.

Thursday, June 11

Senior Breakfast and Awards

Student Center at 9:30 am for breakfast and awards. Each senior will receive six graduation tickets at this event.

Graduation Practice

Seniors meet at 12:30 pm sharp in Mead Theater.

Graduation in Mead (6 pm)

Seniors line up outside Room 154 at 5 pm for gown inspection* and graduation.

*Initially, Academic Affairs will distribute graduation gowns on June 2 in Room 154, Wood Hall, from 3-5 pm. Seniors may decorate gowns according to the guidelines, or simply iron them so it is ready to wear on June 11. Seniors will not be allowed to march in graduation if they do not follow the gown decorating guidelines (distributed with the gowns).

Reminders:

- Attendance is mandatory at all events except the Great America trip (roll will be taken).
- Non-participation in required events will result in exclusion from the graduation ceremony.
- Handicapped seating must be arranged in advance by calling 380-3512.
- Safe & Sober Grad night permission forms must be returned to main office.
- Return books and clear bills prior to June 9 to prevent problems on check-out day.

Diggin' in the Dirt

by Jill Templeton

Please join us for the last all-volunteer "Garden Party" of the school year and "Plant it Forward."

Join us on Saturday, May 30, anytime between 9 am and 1 pm. We will meet initially at the flagpole and then spread out around the campus to plant, weed, mulch, trim and generally tidy up the gardens before graduation and other end-of-the-year festivities. Bring your gloves, tools, hats, sturdy shoes, enthusiasm and sense of humor. RSVP to Jill Templeton at 388-8501 or e-mail jillt007@gmail.com.

For a number of years now, volunteers have stepped up to help beautify the Tam Campus, going beyond what the district budget and maintenance staff have been able to do (literally putting the roots back into grassroots efforts). On April 25, volunteers celebrated National Arbor Day by planting and maintaining many of the native and heritage trees on campus. Volunteers also planted, weeded and mulched.

Meanwhile, we're all eagerly awaiting the irrigation and landscaping that will signal the completion of the modernization process. Much of the front of the school, which has been impacted, will be re-landscaped as a part of the project. Next year should be really exciting!

Tam's Link Crew

(continued from front page)

Freshman Jon Demegillo adds, "Link Crew has helped me a lot in the transition into the high school atmosphere because it gave me advice and a heads up on events around the school."

New this year is the Link Crew class, which meets after school and on weekends. Link Leaders who elect to take this course receive training in group facilitation, mentoring, and event planning and evaluation. Several students from the Link Crew class gave their input on the program's success:

"Being a Link Crew Leader has taught me to become a stronger leader as well as a stronger participant in our community of Tam High. We learn important leadership skills that help us support freshmen in making their transition in high school. I wish I had strong academic support like Link Crew when I was a freshman!" – Sarah Weitzman, Junior.

"Link Crew is one of those goofy things that help so much. It really taught me to be out there, to speak up. It is amazing; high school would not be the same without it." – Chris Lowell, Senior.

To learn more about the Link Crew Program and people involved, please visit the Link Crew website located on the Tam High website under the Activities section.

Please take a few minutes to give us your feedback about Tam's Link Crew program. Visit our two-minute survey on Tam High's homepage titled "Link Crew Parent Survey." Thank you in advance for your feedback! ❖

Free community forum: 'Parents, Teens and the Law' Tuesday, May 19, 7-9 pm

The Marin County Bar Association, in collaboration with the Marin County Office of Education, is hosting a free public forum on May 19 for parents and teens to learn about their rights and responsibilities on issues directly relating to teens and their families. This event will be held in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Marin County Civic Center at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 330, San Rafael, from 7-9 pm.

Topics will include: alcohol and drugs, sex and the law, teens and cyber safety, violence and teens, cyber-bullying and Marin County's social host ordinance. Discussions will be led by a panel of legal experts who will share valuable information and answer your questions. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Marin Bar Association by e-mail at jsalas@30nsp.org or call 415-499-1314.



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Ken & Dawn Wimberley
Andrea Windom
Kathy Winkler
David Witt & Leslie Reiber
Victor & Nikki Wood
Daniel & Debra Woods
Brian Woodworth & Kathleen Savastano
Sherman & Lisa Yee
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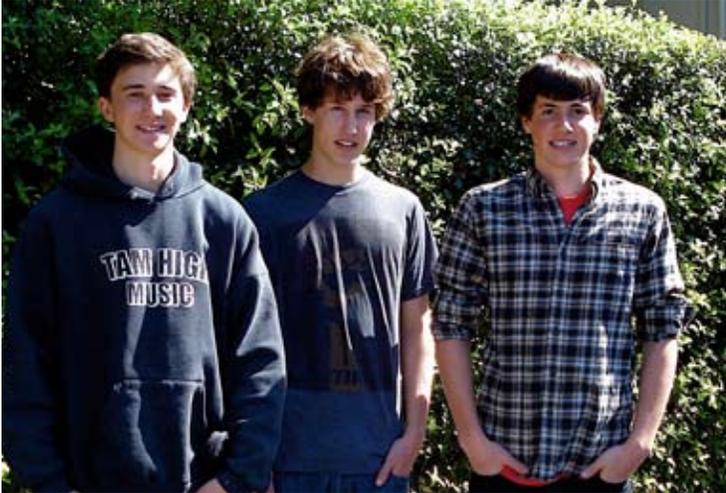
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Tam High Jazz Band Students Take Third Prize in the Nationwide Competition at the “Next Generation Monterey Jazz Festival”

by Maureen Parton



Next Generation article. From left to right the names are Levi Gillis, Chris Jefferies, and Arthur Richardson.

For the past five years, every April the world-renowned Monterey Jazz Festival has held a competition for advanced high school jazz bands and high school all star bands in an international event in Monterey called the “Next Generation Monterey Jazz Festival.” Instrumental bands and vocal ensembles from across the nation perform complicated charts inspired by works of famous jazz artists as well as original compositions. Nationally known jazz artists serve as judges and evaluate the performances on articulation, energy, balance, solos and creativity.

This year three Tam High students, Chris Jefferies (bass), Arthur Richardson (trombone), and Levi Gillis (tenor saxophone), participated in “Next Generation” as members of the Berkeley Jazz School’s Advanced Studio Band. For the past year, every Friday evening these three musicians have traveled across the Bay to rehearse with the band under the direction of Keith Johnson. Their dedication and hard work paid off at the festival where the Studio Band placed third among a very competitive slate of bands from across the nation. The players were ecstatic.

“When I heard the announcement I was shocked. We had no way of knowing how good we could sound on stage. It was great ... a very very fun moment. I was just proud of myself and of the rest of the band and especially of our band director,” Arthur Richardson remembers.

The advanced high school jazz band experience is an important step in the development of the players, many of whom are preparing for a music career at the college level and beyond.

“Playing with the Studio Band has definitely taken my playing to another level,” Chris Jefferies says, “It has improved my understanding of jazz as a bass player and as a musician and has deepened my knowledge of the history of jazz, and my understanding of different artists and styles.”

Reflecting on the impact of the Next Generation Festival, Levi Gillis puts it this way: “Interacting with so many amazing young musicians, and seeing how proficient they are was really inspiring and made me want to practice even more to get up to their level.”

Next month, on June 15, the Studio Band will be performing at Yoshi’s in Oakland, another great event at a venerated local venue. If you would like to attend, stay tuned to the Yoshi’s website for further details. ❖

Tam High Foundation – It’s Good for Business!

by Julie Kertzman

Spring is in full bloom and that means it’s time for the Tam High Foundation annual Business Partners Campaign. Each year we ask the business owners in our community to donate to the Tam High Foundation and in return they are offered a variety of advertising and promotional opportunities. Donors may choose a listing or various ad placements within the Tam High family directory, which reaches over 1,000 families in Southern Marin. Donors may also receive recognition on our website or on the Tam Marquee sign. Tam’s most generous donors receive a directory cover ad and recognition at a school event.

Every student, parent and family can help us with this campaign. If your family owns a business, please consider becoming a partner. If you frequent a local businesses, please talk to them about Tam High and encourage their participation.

The community business owners realize the importance of excellent education in our county. For over 100 years now, Tamalpais High School has given back to our community in countless ways; providing the highest quality education to our young adults, strengthening their families – the clients and customers of the local businesses and contributing to a healthy social fabric for Southern Marin. Thousands of Tam alumni return to our local communities as remarkable adults.

Finally, as the campaign proceeds and you see the 2009 Business Partner decal in a local business window, please say “thank you” and acknowledge the donation. Businesses face many challenges this year and their decision to support our campaign deserves extra recognition.

For more information about the campaign, contact the Myra Chow (chowallace@comcast.net) or Deborah Miller (dl.miller@comcast.net) or contact the Tam High Foundation office, 415-385-3565.

Thank you! ❖

Meet Your Musical Muse at the Spring Grand Finale of Tam Music Events

by Maureen Parton, THUMB parent

Symphonic Orchestra: Five Days in New York City Complete With a Performance at Alice Tully Hall!

From March 25-28, Tam High's symphonic orchestra and advanced band students took New York City by storm and performed beautifully for the judges at Alice Tully Music Hall in Lincoln Center for the Forte Music Festival. (Check out the full story in the April 2009 Tam News, article by Sarah Weitzman, reporter.)

Spring Scholarship Auditions: Monday, May 4, from 4-8 pm, Caldwell Theatre

Every spring, anticipation fills the air as Tam music students ponder the possibilities for pieces to play for the spring scholarship auditions. They tune their instruments and spend time practicing. Due to the generosity of THUMB (Tam High United Music Boosters), eight scholarships are available to music students to further their musical studies. The scholarships are awarded based on a variety of factors including financial need, proficiency in playing, promise and other demonstrated skills.

It is a wonderful way for our music students to learn the skills involved in auditioning and to acquire further experience in performing solo in a supportive environment, with the help and encouragement of a panel of expert musician judges.

Music students are invited to sign up with Music Director Spiro Tsingarlis for a spot in the scholarship auditions and to get further details about the auditions.

Cool Out at the Santa Cruz Jazz Festival, Friday, May 8

The Tam High jazz band heads south on Highway 1 to the seaside beach town of Santa Cruz to play at its renowned jazz festival. This is one day when the cacophony at the beach boardwalk rides and sizzling sand will be mellowed by the sounds of cool Tam jazz.

Tam High Music Competes at the "Battle of the Bands" at the Marin Home Show and Benefit Jazz Fest on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31

Battle of the Bands, Sunday, May 31, 11 am – 2:30 pm

Get your Hawk Spirit aloft and get ready to make some noise at the Marin Home Show at the Marin Center and Exhibit Hall in San Rafael. On Sunday from 11 am until 2:30 pm, the competition gets underway and WE NEED YOU to cheer us on! Root for the Tam team. Cash prizes are awarded to participating schools. Funds raised support Tam High Music and help ensure a thriving music program for all. Further details are available at: info@marinhomeshow.com.

UPCOMING CONCERTS:

Spirits Need A Lift? Music to the Rescue!

Instrumental Spring Concert – Wednesday, June 3, Ruby Scott Gym, 5:30 pm call for musicians; 7:00 pm show.

Symphonic orchestra, band, jazz bands and combos pull out all the stops at this grand finale for the 2008-09 school year. Come be amazed at the talent. See the beguiling new talent and the well-versed and versatile graduating seniors at one last big community celebration of instrumental music!

Choral Spring Concert – Thursday, June 4, Caldwell Theatre, 5:30 pm call for singers; 7:00 pm show.

One voice, two voices, how about a stage full? This concert is fun, inspiration and soaring vocal enchantment all in one show. It is the culmination of a fabulous year of singing, tackling a challenging repertoire of international and home-grown pieces, all for your entertainment.

Check with Tam Music Director, Spiro Tsingarlis or the Tam High Music page on the website for further details.

THUMB - Tam High United Music Boosters is a parent-run organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and assist instrumental and choral music activity at Tamalpais High School. All welcome! E-mail Sacha Bunge sbunge@sfsu.edu for more information and to find out about the May THUMB meeting.

News from Parent to Parent Connection

by Janet Miller
P2P Coordinator

Happy “almost the end of the school year” to you all!

What a busy and dynamic year it has been for Parent to Parent Connection. For those of you who are regular readers of this column, you know that we usually feature reviews of our monthly speaker’s presentation. This being the last column of the school year, we would like to share with you some of the highlights of the past year.

- The school year began with Tam district’s Transition Orientation for incoming freshmen who have learning disabilities.
- We had several new speakers this year: Andrew Baily who discussed high risk behavior and Dr. Devora Depper who shared insight into social emotional challenges and solutions for adolescents.
- This is the second year that we, in conjunction with the Marin Office of Education, have sent an outreach letter with information about Parent to Parent Connection to the parents of all the middle school “feeder” school eighth graders who have been identified as learning disabled.

All of the above could not be done without the unflagging support of the Tamalpais district and especially Karen Mates, director of special education.

We are currently looking for P2P Representatives at Redwood, Tam and Drake as many of the current school representatives have students who are graduating. The time commitment is less than two hours a month. You will be asked to distribute information about the group at various parent meetings at the beginning of the year. We also meet five times a year with Karen Mates to plan speakers and exchange ideas. This is guaranteed to be one of your most rewarding experiences.

Please join us for our final speaker Thursday, May 15, at 7 pm: “Help! My kid forgets everything and is disorganized.” Dr. Barbara Easterlin will discuss executive functioning issues. The event takes place at the Kreps Conference Center at Redwood High School.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you next fall! ❖

College and Career Center Services

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

TESTING

The last ACT of the school year will be given on June 13. The registration deadline is May 8; late sign-ups will be accepted with a late fee until May 22. June 6 is the last date for the SAT reasoning or subject tests. May 5 and May 15 are the regular and late registration deadlines. Students may register directly with the College Board at www.collegeboard.com or ACT at www.actstudent.org. Register early for a convenient testing site. Tam is not a testing site.

The University of California requires the SAT reasoning test or the ACT with writing and two SAT subject tests. All testing for the UC must be completed by December of senior year. The California State University requires the ACT or SAT.

COLLEGE OF MARIN PLACEMENT TESTS

Seniors who plan to attend COM in the fall and have not yet taken the required placement tests in English and math should call the COM Testing Office at 485-9469. Students who wish to take COM’s English as a second language test should call 485-9642. Questions? Please call COM’s Counseling Department at 485-9432.

CLASSES AT COLLEGE OF MARIN

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors who wish to take college credit classes at College of Marin this summer or in the fall must register in person. Registration begins May 26.

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES Tam seniors have been accepted by a varied and impressive list of schools including those listed below which have been reported to the College and Career Center as of April 20. A comprehensive list will be posted in late May.

California State University: Cal Poly Pomona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Chico, East Bay, Humboldt, Long Beach, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Sonoma and Stanislaus.

University of California: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Merced, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz

Western Colleges and Universities: Arizona State, Chapman, Colorado College, Colorado State, Dominican, Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandizing, Holy Names, Lewis & Clark, Linfield, Loyola Marymount, Mills, Notre Dame de Namur, U of Idaho, U of Northern Arizona, U of Oregon, U of the Pacific, U of Portland, U of Puget Sound, U of San Francisco, U of Southern California, U of Southern Oregon, U of Washington, Whitman, Whittier and Willamette.

Eastern Colleges and Universities: Babson, Bates, Berklee School of Music, Boston College, Boston Conservatory, Boston U, Brown, Clark, Colgate, Columbia, Connecticut College, Cornell, Fordham, Middlebury, Mt. Holyoke, New School for Jazz, NYU, Skidmore, Tufts, U of Pennsylvania.

Midwestern and Southeastern Colleges and Universities: Carleton, Denison, Emory, Georgetown, Goucher, James Madison, Kenyon, Macalester, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Tulane, U of Chicago, U of Michigan, U of Richmond, U Wisconsin and Xavier.

Canada: McGill

This list clearly shows that Tam students are admitted to excellent colleges and universities across the country. At Tam we encourage students to apply to colleges that fit their particular academic strengths, interests and preferences and not because of name recognition. These same criteria guide our advice to students in deciding which of their choices to attend or whether to consider a community college, the military, or work. We wish great success and happiness to all of our graduates.

THANK YOU

The work of the College and Career Center could not be done without the help and generosity of devoted volunteers. Heartfelt thanks to regular volunteers Joanne Berry, Lynette Denison, Susan Garratt, Deb Patrick and Karen Rosenbluth and to Kipp Delbyck, Daphne de Marneffe and Sarah Pruden who graciously undertook special projects.

Thanks, too, to the Tam High Foundation for generously supporting the work of the College and Career Center. The generosity of the Foundation allows me to attend seminars, stock an excellent reference library, purchase test prep and special interest books and learn more about colleges that are of interest to Tam students. ❖

Reel News: From the Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media (AIM)

AIM Film Festival June 5 and 6 at Caldwell Theatre

AIM's 6th annual film festival is right around the corner, and we're thrilled to announce some changes to the festival this year. For the first time in AIM history, the festival will be held on campus in the Caldwell Theatre. Also, for those of you who have tried to attend the festival in the past but have been turned away due to sell-outs, you'll be happy to know that the festival will be held for two nights this year, Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6.

This year's festival will feature a wide array of film topics and styles. Documentaries exploring issues of race as well as this semester's theme of the American character will anchor the festival, and films emulating reality shows, personal poetic pieces, and collaborative dramatic productions will round out the evening.

Come enjoy an evening of young cinematic excellence on either June 5 or 6. Doors open at 7 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. ❖

Leadership News

Oh May, what a month – so much to do and so little time. Leadership is hard at work preparing for the end of this year and setting up for next year.

The Multi-Cultural assembly is Friday May 1 and will feature student, teacher and student/teacher performances.

The "middle school invasion" where 8th graders from MVMS come to the Tam campus is scheduled for May 13 in Mead Theater. We look forward to giving next year's freshmen a preview of what is in store for them.

Prom is quickly approaching on May 17 and tickets are currently on sale now though May 8. "Bon Voyage...Let the Journey Begin" is this year's theme, and sticking with tradition we will be taking a yacht on the Bay for the evening.

Finally, the senior farewell rally will be held May 29 in Mead Theater. Leadership is currently cooking up some ideas to top the winter rally held earlier this year. I'm sure there will be lots of cheers and some tears as we prepare to say good-bye. See you at graduation!

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**



Students, come try an internship over the summer. Opportunities are available in business, law, medicine, film, early childhood education, non-profits and more.

Students are required to work a minimum of nine hours a week from June 22-July 31 and attend a weekly 2-1/2 hour Regional Opportunity Program career management class. Applications are available in the College and Career Office and are due by May 13.

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 Wednesdays and Thursdays. I assist students with internship placement and preparation, finding job shadows and informational interviewing opportunities. I also help students with resume writing and interviewing skills, and provide opportunities for students to participate in career-related field trips and activities throughout the year. ❖



Off to Cuernavaca: Students and teacher Senor Cruz ready to leave SFO for a trip to Mexico over the spring break.

SOPHOMORE STUDENT POETRY

Thinking out loud

By *Aorrella Burrell*

Sometimes when you least expect it the
moonlight warms your heart
The lies and secrets drain your mind and the
silence shouts
If only loneliness was history and ghost were
visible
Maybe if I were to get on the highway and
vanish
My heart wouldn't be broken
What if the stars hummed?
Love turned pale
Or the coast distanced
I am like a mute poet
I write like a stream but cannot speck my
words
I am like smog hovering the spring lilies
I am an echoing memory
I am the wind
The whispers in the night
I'm that place no one has ever been
The question existing
Listens as the water speaks
Think of me
I...Am...Free

Seeding Clouds

By *Jenna Tuttle*

The only thing missing was rain.
The land was parched,
the people were stagnant,
and the ideas were
being lost like dust.

The highway was silent, the skyline
without opportunity,

and the only thing missing was rain.
The globe was dry.
Minutes wasting away into that blank
haze,
inspiration evaporating
like moisture.

Our last breaths,
The only thing missing was rain.
But a storm shone on the horizon,
energy and anger,
the power of revolution.

The Pure

By *David Chong*

The Pure, the Innocent, the Light and the
Salt
Who's leaping and praising and jumping for
Joy.
Mother's Love and Father's Guidance couldn't
produce
Anything better.
Stirred up and seasoned by the hand of God,
HIS recipe was Youth.

The Gramps know it, we have it,
Auntie died with it, and mom and dad won-
der when they lost It.
But what happened to Us?

He is twisted, She is wicked, We are the Liq-
uid that moves in sluggish lethargy but
Then turns into the Proud and Solid Rock.

He is more abstinent than Gluttony.
She is more charity than Greed.
He is more diligent than Sloth.
She is more patient than Wrath.
He is more kind than Envy.
She is more chastity than Lust.
He is more humble than Pride.

They are Us, We are Them.
I am He, She is It.
It is Him, She is Her,
It is me.
You are all of Him, You are all of Her, You
are all of Me.
You are them, and I am You.
But what happened to us?

nighttime locomotion

by *Erin Foley*

riding silently
in the car at night
over the bridge
the steady rhythmic thump
of the car as it passes
over each rivet
that holds together
the suspended iron pass
which valiantly holds up the road
so that we can pass
over the churning black waters

the translucent shadow of my seat
seems to live
as it boldly approaches me
again and again
slowly shrinking as it reaches me
as its owner
its attached orange streetlight
one of many that line the roads
pulls it away each time
these orange guides
lighting the way
for the parallel streams
of red and white lights
opposites
together
flowing steadily apart
into the night

the stars vie for attention
with the city lights
that outshine them all
these lights
each belonging to a soul
an insomniac
a night owl
a wakened mother
a student cramming
all the people who have yet
to sleep
to surrender to the night

Spring Events at CTE/TAM Drama

by Susan Brashear and Ben Cleaveland, CTE Co-Program Directors

Main-stage productions of plays with advanced students concluded with the final production of "Nothing," this year's Mother Lode play featured in last month's article. The remaining events of the year will be the Spring One Act Festival and the drama banquet as the end of the year rapidly approaches.

SPRING 2009 ONE ACT FESTIVAL

May 13-15, 19-21, and 26-29 are the dates for the Spring One Acts Festival this year. The festival involves all students in drama courses over the four-year sequence. The one act plays feature students in first and second year courses who are directed by advanced honors theater directing students. The plays are contemporary in nature, many of them written by CTE students, including Lila Scott, Ryan Villanueva, Rebecca Nasanow-Johnson, Alanna Adler, and Matt Phillips. All performances begin at 7 pm with the roster of shows changing nightly over the course of the festival.



Alanna Adler and Connor Gillespie appearing in the new Tam production "Nothing."

In addition to student directors and actors, the festival production staff is also entirely made up of advanced students. Lighting, sound, stage managers and running crew keep the shifting line-up of plays moving every night. CTE students also perform front of house duties such as box office, concessions, ushering and house managing to keep the capacity audiences in line.

The one acts are wildly popular, often playing to sell out audiences of parents, friends and family. Although advance tickets are not available, the box office opens one hour before the performances at 6 pm. The house opens at 6:30 pm when seats can be claimed on a first-come, first-served basis. Holding seats is prohibited due to the limited seating capacity. Latecomers will not be seated until an intermission or scene break. Ticket prices are \$5/ students and senior citizens and \$12/adults. All performances are in the Daniel Caldwell Theatre located at the back of Tam's campus near Almonte and Stadium. For further information visit CTE's website: www.ctetam.org or call 415 380-3535.

DRAMA BANQUET

May 30 is the date of CTE's annual drama banquet to honor graduating seniors in the CTE program. The event includes dinner, sketch presentations and awards for all CTE seniors presented by the CTE junior class. All CTE students attend, often dressed in "theme" costumes. The sketches are written, rehearsed and performed by the juniors to reflect the personalities of our seniors and to fondly recall their contributions, large or small, to CTE. Further questions should be directed to CTE teachers Ben Cleaveland (380-3570) or Susan Brashear (380-3577).

CTE 2009-2010

Planning is underway for next year's season at CTE. Currently the shows planned include three contemporary one act plays (TBA) directed by program directors Ben Cleaveland and Susan

Brashear and a guest artist (TBA) to open the season in early October (6-10). Next a stage adaptation of "Crow and Weasel" (October 26-30), a children's classic, followed by Ken Ludwig's new comic adaptation of Alexander Dumas' "Three Musketeers" (November 18-22) to round out the fall productions. Second semester productions will be "The Seagull" (March 24-28) by Anton Chekhov and an original play developed and written by former CTE graduate Ben Snyder about the issues in Gaza/Israel (March 2-6). Work on this new play will begin work in May 2009. Rounding out the year will be two short physical theater/movement pieces developed by CTE graduate Kathryn Zdan and guest artist Iu-Hui Chua tentatively titled "Butoh meets Bouffe" that will be the Mother Lode Festival play (April 27-May 1). The Winter One Act Festival will be January 6-9, 12-15, 19-22 and the Spring One Act Festival will be May 13-14, 18-21, 25-28.

There will be a London Global Studies trip over the spring break April 5-16, 2010. Students will go to London with Susan and Ben to see plays, attend workshops and tour important sites there and possibly in Stratford-Upon-Avon. This will be our fifth trip to the center of theater history and literature; let us know if your student wants to go! Write to us at ctecompany@me.com or through the CTE website: www.ctetam.org for more information. ❖

Reprinted from the Tam News

Working Towards a Solution: Diversifying Tam Graduates

Written by Thanh Lu

La Donna Bonner just received her master's degree in education from Dominican University, despite growing up in a single-parent home with four siblings, feeling peer pressure at Tamalpais High School, dealing with stereotypes, and being a single mom. Bonner is seen as a role model in Marin City, where she is living proof that African-American students from Tam and across the nation can succeed regardless of the challenges they face at home, school, and in society.

While Bonner succeeded, statistics show that there is a prominent trend of African-Americans from Sausalito Marin City School District's Martin Luther King Jr. Academy (MLK) not graduating from Tam. From 2005 to 2008 only 42 percent of African-American students from MLK earned Tam diplomas. What happened to the other 58 percent of African-American MLK graduates is not entirely clear.

As reported in "Defining the Problem," in the February issue of The Tam News, the low graduation rate of African-American students at Tam is due to a range of problems including a challenging transition from MLK to Tam, racism, and peer pressure from within the Marin City community that reflects what Orlando Patterson, an African-American sociology professor at Harvard, described as a "cool-pose culture" that emphasizes disdain for authority and education. Part II of this series will look at what is being done to address these problems.

Easing the Transition to Tam:

Students, parents, teachers, and administrators have all made an effort to improve MLK alumni graduation rates at Tam by establishing various programs. Tam offers support programs and after-school tutoring in Marin City under the Title I Program. The Title I Program is the largest federally funded program that provides support to students living in low-income communities. In collaborative programs, history and English teachers work together, while math and science instructors partner up to make sure students are on track with their classes. There are three collaborative program sections for freshmen, two for sophomores, and one for juniors. Unlike study hall, academic workshops,

which are part of the collaborative program, count as elective classes and take place three times a week. Cathryn Bruno collaborates with Campus Assistant Jewel Barrow to teach an English and history academic workshop.

"[Bruno] helps me with my portfolio and edits my English paper three times a week," said Marquice Clay. "I wish there were [junior year academic workshops for] more subjects [like] science and math."

Statistics show tenth grade academic workshop students increased their average GPA from 2.04 in 2006-07 to 2.47 in the 2007-08 school year. Students recommended by their middle school teachers were placed in academic workshop.

"Academic workshop is helpful because I don't like homework and it helps me get homework done," said Tam junior Alijahnea Cooley. "It helped raise my grades, but it needs to be focused on more subjects."

There are others who do not find academic workshops helpful without having other subjects included in the class.

"It's just like having another tutorial," said Tam junior Ja'Van Hall. "They need to have all subjects. My grades would probably stay the same if I went to the library [instead of academic workshop]."

"Academic workshop didn't help," said senior Monika White, who dropped academic workshop freshman year.

Math teacher Susan Proksch runs a recently added math-science academic workshop class. She answers students' questions, talks to their teachers to keep track of their progress, checks students' homework for accuracy, and provides them with practice tests.

"Proksch helped me with science and I got an A-plus," said Tam freshman Milton Gallo.

In another attempt to guide students, math teacher David Wetzel created "The Big Brother and Big Sister" (BBBS) program four years ago with the hope of pairing older Tam students with MLK kids so students would know someone when first coming to Tam. The ultimate goal of the program is to link

a freshman with a junior and a sophomore with a senior so that the mentorship can continue through the following year. The BBBS students take their Little Brothers and Little Sisters to sports games and lunches and meet during tutorial and check in on each other. Eight of the BBBS pairs are freshmen from MLK.

"It's incredibly rewarding for Big Brothers and Sisters and Little Brothers and Sisters. I have phone calls from teachers talking about how well this is going," said Wetzel.

"The BBBS is a good way for me to connect with a senior," said Gallo. "My Big Brother checks up with me every day about problems with classes. They tell you how to make your freshman year better than theirs."

Unfortunately, there are very few Marin City residents and Tam students taking advantage of another resource, after school tutoring at Marin City Library, a part of the Title I Program. Tam math teacher Chris Erlin, former Tam Principal Frank Gold, librarian specialist Babs Morgan, and Barrow show up on Monday and Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.

"After grades come out, we often get more students, but most of the year, we're lucky if we have three students show up," said Erlin. "I think students could learn more just working together in smaller tutoring groups. That's a habit that will breed success."

"The tutoring program brought my grade up," said Tam sophomore Mercedes McMath. "I just heard about the tutoring this year."

According to Erlin, students who come consistently improve, but coming once or twice is not "the magic bullet."

To increase parents' involvement, Wetzel also proposed outreach programs such as barbeques or a crab feeds to get Marin City families involved with other families at Tam.

"If parents are more involved with kids' education, they're going to take more responsibilities to help kids succeed," said Erlin. Before attending high school, students are en

(continued on page 15)

Working Towards a Solution: Diversifying Tam Graduates *(continued from page 14)*

couraged to attend Tam Jam, a one-day event that allows middle school students to meet with other students in their grade who will attend Tam in the fall. The Summer Transition Program is designed to complement Tam Jam and help students feel comfortable in a high school environment.

“Summer school gave me the first glance of high school coming from MLK,” said Tam senior Jerrell Milton. “The time I was there helped me become a regular high school student.”

Link Crew has also expanded compared to previous years. The program now has freshmen advisory in which participants and teachers discuss what it takes to succeed, adults check-in to keep them on track, and link leaders, consisting of juniors and seniors, act as advisory peers. It is a full period class supporting freshmen socially and academically. Link Crew tracks students during the first six weeks of school in order to determine who is likely to need its help throughout the school year.

“We have three unique populations that feed into our school. We want them to make friends and feel comfortable,” said Tam Principal Tom Drescher. “There are improvements in GPA and numbers of credits. We’ve retained students that we would have lost to continuation schools.”

Some school officials, community activists, parents, and students believe that having more minorities on the district staff would help to improve graduation rates. Among the 85 instructors at Tam, there are two Asian-American and no African-American certificated teachers. Although the numbers are not high, there has been a 42 percent increase in the past eight years.

According to a district Internet advertisement, “The Tamalpais District is strongly interested in increasing the diversity of its staff. Ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse candidates will find a receptive atmosphere in our district.”

“Of the time I have been here at Tam, our diverse staff has decreased,” said Tam social studies teacher Augusto Andres. “That’s my

biggest concern at Tam is that the district has not put an effort in trying to find minority teachers.”

During the 12 years Andres has been at Tam, there have never been any African-American certificated teachers hired. Many school officials and students agree that it is important for all students to have someone they can connect with.

“Much of the problem is that colleges and universities need to step up their efforts to attract and enroll more teacher candidates with minority backgrounds,” said Tam District Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Kathy Bennett. “This has been a significant challenge for higher education.”

“I’m very interested in bringing diversity in our teaching staff,” said Drescher. Change at MLK:

After becoming the principal at MLK three years ago, Cherrisse Baatin changed the curriculum so that students are now taking seven classes. After the construction at MLK finishes, five classrooms, including a gym, a science laboratory and a cafeteria, will be built. There are also four new teachers, a new counselor who provides one-on-one or group counseling sessions and an after-school homework center.

“This is the first time we’re having a new school built in Marin City,” said MLK office secretary Trellis Condra.

On the academic front, the school is adding pre-algebra and algebra classes, more rigorous homework and coursework, and hiring additional qualified teachers. MLK previously had two classrooms and two teachers.

“Our science only came out of a book, but I know that we needed it to be hands-on. If you look at 2006, kids were flunking in science and P.E. I think this is the first time the science STAR test score went up,” said Condra.

“My expectations have to be high,” said MLK science teacher Natasha Griffin. “I expect them to be working in my class.”

Due to these changes in school curriculum, Baatin has noticed a change of attitude of middle school students compared to previous years. She also said that MLK is collaborating with Bayside Elementary School in Sausalito to better prepare students transitioning from elementary school to middle school. The Marin City Network also aids this transition and additionally tracks kids from middle to high school, providing academic support along the way.

“I’m interested to see MLK students who graduated in 2007 graduating from Tam in 2011,” said Baatin.

Starting the Dialogue:

Coming to Tam, MLK students often cite the Tam community’s lack of understanding of their obstacles and culture.

Currently, there are no African-American history courses in the Tam District. In order to address the issues of racism, all students need to be taught the “real American history,” according to Sharon Turner, president of the Marin City Network, a community-based organization in Marin City that helps middle school students. Such curriculum alterations help students become more aware of the past achievements made by other African American scholars, according to Turner.

“You can’t fault white students if they hadn’t been taught about what African-Americans contributed to history,” said Turner. “Until everyone knows the real U.S. history and what all the races have contributed to it, then this breeds a lack of respect for various races.”

Turner and Bonner agreed that they were able to learn African American history in greater depth in college.

“All they taught us [in high school] was slavery,” said Turner. “If a black student hasn’t been taught well, there’s a belief that you’re not worthy.”

“My daughter drew a portrait of herself as having blond hair and blue eyes. I told her that it’s not who you are,” said Bonner.

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Working Towards a Solution: Diversifying Tam Graduates *(continued from page 15)*

On February 10, a meeting among Tam staff and community faculty discussed the solutions to this national problem. Assistant Principal Elizabeth Laborde, social studies teacher Aaron Pribble, and Hannah Project Director Bettie Hodges brought up the question of having an African-American studies class at Tam. Some argued that this class should be taught by an African American staff member, while others believed that the class can be taught by any certificated teacher.

"I would be happy to work with a teacher interested in writing up the course of study," said Redwood social studies teacher Lisa Kemp.

In addition, talking more openly about race instead of ignoring racial differences would diminish racism, according to the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* published by Tufts University and Harvard Business School.

"If a racist situation comes up, it should be addressed," said Barrow. "Some people just don't want to deal with the topic of race because people are uncomfortable and they don't know how to talk about it. I think we should talk about it up front. We must confront the issues and listen to each other with less judgement."

Community Actions:

"There have been schools and community-based organizations taking a step at figuring out what to do [to solve this problem]," said Turner.

The Hannah Project started in Marin City three and a half years ago and takes place at Cornerstone Community Church of God in Christ to assist kids every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:15 p.m. The project is an incentive-based program to develop and empower youths. It partners with the Tam Beacon Center, The Marin City Community Development Corporation, Marin School Volunteers, Marin City Network, Tam High, the Tam District, and the College Access Foundation. Their activities include academic mentoring, Saturday school, monthly parent meetings and workshops, "rites of passage" discussions of relevant teen issues, summer

academic camp, college tours, and scholarships. Just recently, the project established the Dreamkeepers Scholarship Foundation where \$150,000 is given away over the next three years to encourage minority students to go to college. This year, there are 30 to 32 kids enrolled in the program.

"The idea came out of our church. Kids in church graduate, but [are] not going to college," said Hodges, "Parents asked me how their kids can go to college. Kids are doing well enough to go to college. There are not a huge number of kids from this community going to college."

A total of 42 Marin City students enrolled, 29 of whom were active participants in the program during the 2007-08 school year (12 seniors, 6 juniors, 6 sophomores, and 5 freshmen). As a result, participating students improved by 256 points on the SAT, four students switched from a junior college to attending four-year universities, while a total of 10 enrolled in 4-year colleges. Active Hannah participants achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.67, compared to a 1.78 GPA for Tam district African-Americans and 3.08 for all students district-wide. Last year 55 percent of these students did not receive Ds or Fs in their classes when 79 percent of African-Americans reported got at least one D or F grade in the 2006-07 school year.

"We set high expectations. We've certainly seen people's grades improved. Not only did kids graduate last year, but they got into four year colleges," said Hodges.

"The program is good because it improved my grades," said Marquice Clay, who tries to attend the program every Saturday.

"No matter how you feel about the program, the project tries to help you," said Milton.

As a result of the program, parents also gained more knowledge of the college application process and practiced tools to promote education at home. Over 20 parents and students attended FAFSA workshops and finished filling out necessary applications for financial aid.

The Guggenheim Project, founded in 1991, helps fund and mentor Marin City kids going to college. The program supports 19 students in high school and currently, 3 or 4 have finished college.

"My older relatives forced me to look at colleges. My mom was always forcing me to go to college," said Gibson. "There were a few few I know whose parents were not there for them."

Changing a Culture: Role Models and Alternative Paths

According to interviewed teachers and students, there were some students whose attitudes got in the way of them succeeding in school. Some former MLK students transfer to continuation schools like San Andreas as another alternative to Tam, in order to graduate on time with their class, while some with behavioral problems switch to county school. Statistics revealed a zero percent rate of suspension for current academic workshop students, versus a 14 percent rate for students deemed 'at risk' outside of academic workshop.

"We're trying to figure out what makes them think by coming here [MLK], you don't have to follow the rules," said Condra. "I would get all the young kids together. I would tell their parents – pack their bags and take them to Africa. They'll going to learn how to appreciate what we have here. It does not have to be that far. It could be in Richmond. They don't realize they have so much."

"You need to realize that education is the key to having a successful life," said Turner. "When you have the time to only go to school, then you need to do it."

"Teachers will help you if you have a good attitude," said African-American freshman and former St. Hillary's student Kayla Thompson.

There are no more excuses with Obama being president," said Bonner, a Marin City parent and 1989 Tam alumni. "There are no more excuses to say, 'I can't.'"

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Working Towards a Solution: Diversifying Tam Graduates

(continued from page 16)

A study conducted by professors from Vanderbilt University, Northwestern, and San Diego State University showed an improvement in academic performance among African-Americans after Obama was elected president, which reduced the white-black testing gap. These results were referred to as the “Obama Effect.”

“An African-American president helps people believe that you can do whatever you want,” said Monika White.

Despite all these programs, school officials and students agree that parental involvement is important and necessary to help kids become successful. Bonner is a substitute teacher for the Marin City Sausalito School District, a Resource Coordinator for San Clemente Public Housing District in Corte Madera, and a coordinator for the Marin City Readiness Program, which serves over 100 low-income families to prepare pre-school kids to ensure their success later on.

“A majority of my peers graduated at Tam,” said Bonner. “I’d rather my kids do homework than chores. I check their homework. If they don’t write [the assignments] down, they’re in trouble.”

“My mom didn’t go to college, but she is there for me and pushes me so I can do whatever I want in life,” said Monika White.

“Black parents should go volunteer and be seen on campus,” said Beverly Freeman, a Marin City parent.

A few Marin City parents believe that MLK students have a better chance of being successful at a high school outside of the community. Seven to eight former MLK students attend Redwood.

“I don’t agree with that [theory],” said LaSandra White, the only African American administrator in the Tam District and Assistant Principal at Redwood for seven years. “Students from MLK can come here and not do their work and not succeed.”

However, LaSandra White knows a couple Marin City parents who sent their kids to

Redwood to lessen peer pressure by surrounding the student with different groups of friends from outside the Marin City community. White grew up in Marin City and went to a private high school. Her parents wanted her to go to a school outside of the community to reduce her chances of experiencing peer pressure and cutting classes.

“My family did not want me to go to Tam with my peers. When parents make a decision on what high school to send kids to, it means that they care whether their kids succeed or not,” said White.

“My mom wanted me to be with a whole different group of kids. In my actual class, only 1 or 2 didn’t graduate,” said Gibson. “I personally think it has to do with the individual, but for me and a couple of others, we had to get out from our old groups of kids.”

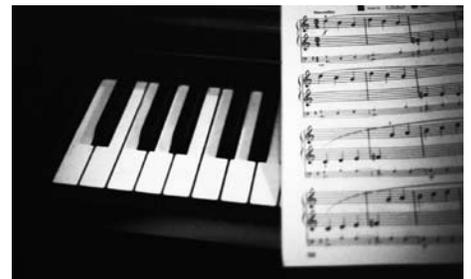
“My parents sent me to Redwood so I hang out less with my middle school friends,” said Redwood junior and MLK alumni Ramona Polk.

However, there are others who attend San Andreas due to family issues, substance abuse, and health issues, according to San Andreas Principal Gerald Austin. San Andreas’ goal is to open up as many opportunities for students as possible after high school, such as going to a two or four-year college, attending vocational school, or getting a job.

African-Americans face significant obstacles in making the most of their high school educations, including inadequate preparation for Tam, peer pressure from within their own communities, a lack of role models and racism.

Stories such as Bonner’s prove that any student can succeed at Tam, even in the face of these challenges. Many organizations, both on and off campus, strive to eliminate obstacles similar to the ones Bonner faced. Students should know that they have resources and support in their journey through high school. ❖

AP Photo Portfolio Selections



Selections from senior Hilary Marvin’s AP photo portfolio.

In other photo news, congratulations to Devin Patrick who was awarded third place in the “Rising Stars 18th Annual High School Show” for her photograph entitled “Morocco.”

Tam Spring Sports Update

Freshman Baseball

In league play Tam's freshman baseball team had four wins and two losses. Kit Larson was the winning pitcher in all four of the wins, and he came close to a perfect game against Redwood. A number of the players will go on to have good seasons with the junior varsity and varsity next year, among whom are Andy Barnett, Andrew Shields, Seth Gillis, Jason Yanowitz, Sam Raffa, Graeme Black, Will Haight, Connor Caproni and James Gilmore. Six other freshmen went up to JV before the season began; one can only imagine what the freshman record would have been if these six had remained on the team. Max Billig was the team captain and did a great job all season long.

Boys' Varsity Tennis

Returning from spring break, boys' varsity tennis pushed its league record to 11-2 with one final league match to play on April 23 against Branson. The team defeated Drake 9-0 in a rescheduled rainout and then fell to the 800 pound gorillas (aka Redwood) by a 2-7 score. The MCAL team tournament begins the week of April 27; Tam has secured the number two seed and the team is looking forward to another shot at Redwood.

Girls' Varsity Lacrosse

As of April 22, the girls' varsity lacrosse team is 8-4 overall and 2-1 in MCALS with plans to make the MCAL tournament and hopes to advance to the NCS tournament. The leading scorer is Tara Salisbury and Monica Mitlstein is leading the ground balls, with Baylin Vreeland, a freshman, stepping up as goalie. Harli Grant and Catie Debenidictis (before an injury), have been leading the defense and Amanda Weinberg is having a great first season playing Tam Lacrosse. Coach Christina Samala is excited to have a strong team of freshmen knowing these girls will be playing at Tam for three more years.

Boys' Volleyball

Tam boys' volleyball was able to pull out a win against the number one team, El Molino. A large credit goes to Mott Schweitzer, who conquered the MCAL league leader with seven service points, two assists, 25 kills, eight blocks and nine digs along with other star players Conor Mills-Currie, Alex Perelsen, and Ebrahim Azam. Coach David Wetzel said he is proud of his Tam squad.

"They had a cheer before and after every play to keep the team unified. They kept playing. It was an incredible match.

Tam Boys' Golf

Tam boys' golf is really gearing up for the MCAL playoffs. According to Coach Mark Campagna, "This team has talent. We really want to make the NCS tournament."

The talented players to watch are Jackson McDonald, Eddie Scarsella, Adam Ellis and Zack Lindberg. And of course the talented sophomore, Ari Rieger who, during a medalist round of 2-over-par 35, recorded the first hole-in-one of his life to lead the Red-Tailed Hawks to a 182-203 victory over Justin-Siena in an MCAL boys' golf match at Mill Valley Golf Course. Rieger, using a pitching wedge, aced the 121-yard, par-3 seventh hole. Way to go Ari!

"Ari's been playing great golf all year, he's really worked on his game," Campagna said. "That really set the tone for his finishing the round and for the rest of the guys on the team, too."

JV Girls' Soccer

Tryouts for any team can be intimidating. How about when the varsity team is the reigning triple crown winner (league, MCAL, NCS) and has 10 out of 11 starters returning? Knowing that making varsity would be a near impossibility, 18 girls persevered through try-outs, bonded under new coaches and have had a stellar run of their own this season (7-2-1).

The JV girls' soccer team has five sophomores and 13 freshmen. Almost all of the girls came up through the Mill Valley Soccer Club program and still play at the club level for Mill Valley or the Marin FC Club. The JV team is an athletic bunch, with five girls from the winning freshman basketball team and others having participated on the cross-country team.

This strong foundation allowed them to hit the ground running under the tutelage of Shane Kennedy and assistant Annacy Wilson. Shane, a landscape architect and soccer goalie coach, has long assisted with the boys' and girls' soccer teams at Tam. He is on a first-name basis with most of the MCAL coaches and referees and has advised Tam students in pursuing sports in college. Besides coaching, Annacy attends Sonoma State. Having graduated from Tam in '07, she was first team MCAL, captain and the

Tam Boosters senior scholarship recipient.

"The girls are very aware of the legacy they will be defending next year when all the seniors have graduated," says Jamie Firmage, father to JV defensive player Caitlin and former president of the MV Soccer Club and Tam alum.

Besides Jamie, there are three other Tam alumni who are parents of JV team members: Tim Amyx (daughter Nicole), John May (daughter Jenna) and Julie Lea (daughter Jenna).

"The JV team is really fun to watch," says senior varsity player Maddy Boston, "No one's going to discount them next year!"

Tam Swimming – Boys' & Girls'

The Tam High boys are currently undefeated, 7-0, with all relays qualified for NCS. Andrew Latimer, Nolan Mattox, Richard Fineman and Jake Weber are the current top swimmers and NCS qualifiers.

The Tam High girls are currently 6-1 and in a three-way tie for second place. Amelia Harvey, Melissa Fineman, Erin Schlueter and Mattie Winkler are on the NCS qualifying relay teams and are the teams top MCAL contenders.

Hawks of the Week

Week of April 20:

Junior Cody Nagy, Swimming
Freshman Melissa Fineman,
Swimming

Week of April 6:

Senior Alex Kaiser, Tennis
Freshman Lilla McMillan,
Track & Field

Week of March 30:

Senior Alyssa Miller, Soccer
Senior Alicia Blose, Soccer

Week of March 23:

Senior Cole Chapman, Track & Field
Senior Olivia Blackstone,
Track & Field

Baseball



Freshman Sam Raffa at the plate



Seth Gillis



Graeme Black

Tennis



Ben Taska smashing a backhand against Drake's #6 singles seed. Photographer: Craig Eldred



Rob Greenberg serving against Drake's #1 doubles team. Photographer: Craig Eldred

Volleyball



Conor Mills-Currie and Eli Pearlson Block while Ebrahim Azam, Mott, Cassim Azam and Alex Perelson cover.

Boys Swimming



Freshman Kirk Wong is one of many new freshman swimmers bringing depth to the Tam boys' team.



Senior Co-captain Cooper Parkerson provides solid leadership to the Tam boys' team.

Girl's Swimming



The 200 meter freestyle relay team of Erin Schlueter (above), Mattie Winkler, Amelia Harvey and Melissa Fineman just broke the Tam team

Soccer



Tam vs MC--SR Beth Leuin #17 steals ball from Marin Catholic opponent and heads for the goal.



Tam vs San Rafael--JR Catherine Pastuhov #7 goes for the break away as team mate FRSH Jessye Baker-Lavine #2 prepares to assist.



Tam vs MC --SOPH Phebe Miller #15 heads ball away from Tam's goal.



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**PTSA
 Tamalpais High School**

700 Miller Avenue
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

Date	Time/Event	Location
MAY 2009		
1	9:45 AM – MULTI-CULTURAL ASSEMBLY	GUS GYM
1	6:30-11:30 PM – CINCO DE MAYO FUNDRAISER	MILL VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
4	3-4:30 PM – TUHSD COMMUNITY FORUM	TAM STUDENT CENTER
4	6:30-8 PM – TUHSD COMMUNITY FORUM	DRAKE STUDENT CENTER
4	4-8 PM – MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS	CALDWELL THEATRE
5	8-9:30 AM – TUHSD COMMUNITY FORUM	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
6	7 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	HAWKS' NEST
11	7 PM – PTSA MEETING WITH SPEAKER COLLEGE & CAREER SPECIALIST SUSAN GERTMAN	LIBRARY
12	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
12-13	MAKE-UP TESTS FOR CA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM	
15	7 PM – P2P MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
17	8 PM – SENIOR PROM	
18	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	
25	MEMORIAL DAY – NO SCHOOL	
26	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
13-15 19-21 26-29	7 PM – CTE PRESENTS: SPRING ONE ACTS	CALDWELL THEATRE
29	9:45 AM – SENIOR FAREWELL RALLY	MEAD THEATER
30	9 AM-1 PM – CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION	FRONT CIRCLE
JUNE 2009		
2	6:30 PM – SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT	RUBY SCOTT GYM
3	7 PM – SPRING INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT GYM
4	7 PM – SPRING CHORAL CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT GYM
1-5	FINAL EXAMS FOR SENIORS	
5-6	7:30 PM – AIM 6 TH ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL	CALDWELL THEATRE
9-11	GRADES 9-11 FINAL EXAMS EARLY DISMISSAL 12:25 PM (SEE PAGE X FOR DETAILED SCHEDULE)	
11	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	
11	6 PM – GRADUATION	MEAD THEATER