

## Classroom 2020

### The Classroom of the Future

Walk around the Tam High campus and you'll see a lot of things that have been here for a good part of Tam's past 100 years: the Wood Hall clock tower, the fountain in Orange Court, Mead Amphitheatre. But step inside Classroom 2020 in Keyser Hall and you'll get a look at the future of classroom learning.

The room is modeled after classrooms at Wallenberg Hall, a building on the Stanford University campus that has been described as "a working laboratory where the learning tools and methods of the future are being explored." The environment encourages creativity and flexibility for whole-group, small group, and individual instruction. The room contains portable furniture, Mac Books for every student, multiple LCD projection systems and other technology tools such as document cameras and Flip video cameras.

Classroom 2020 opened in late September to students in the following classes: Michael Levinson's AP composition class, Chris Erlin's geometry class, and two sections of David



Mike Levinson and juniors in AP Language and Composition discuss an image on one of the plasma screens in Classroom 2020 as part of a project using photographs and art to define nature.

Photo by Sebastian Aguiar

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## Tam High Foundation Awards \$145,000 in Mini-Grants

by Julie Kertzman

**A**t the October 12 Tam High Foundation board meeting, a record number of teacher-initiated mini-grants (less than \$10,000 per grant) were approved for funding. Thanks to generous donations from the Tam High community and our local business partners, the Foundation will invest over \$145,000 this fall in exciting programs and projects that truly make a difference for every student at Tam. The Foundation's major grant (greater than \$10,000 per grant) evaluation and allocation process takes place in the spring.

Grant Committee Chairs Karen Betzner and Jayne Greenberg summed up the process with the following:

*"From our point of view, this was the best year for grants. Most every department was represented and it's clear that the funds donated from the parents will benefit all students. We really appreciate the Tam staff taking the time to research and submit proposals that are both innovative and practical. We realize the Tam staff is very busy at the beginning of the school year and we thank them."*

### Highlights of the proposals include:

**Technology:** Laptops, document cameras, digital cameras, projectors and more!

- Over \$65,000 invested in six departments
- Equipment and support for AIM, English, science, world languages, math and fine arts
- Classroom 2020 multimedia training, textbooks and cameras
- Auto engineering tire installation equipment

**Guest Artists:** Tam students learn from real world professionals

- "Street Law" – Defense lawyer guest lecturer
- Art & Ceramics – Professional artists share their craft
- Drama – Artists focus on career options
- English – Senior essay classes welcome professional writers and sophomore English classes learn from poets and curriculum supporting artists

**Across Campus:** Programs and projects that impact all students

- PE equipment – Updated and replacement equipment for all sections
- Camp Everytown – Community building training
- Guest Lecturer Denise Pope – Schoolwide assembly and staff training November 10, 2009
- Organic garden improvements
- Library – Digital video cameras for student use



PE Teacher Lorna Sturgeon and Tammy the Mannequin celebrate new sports equipment provided by a Tam High Foundation Mini-Grant.



Guest "Attorney in the Classroom" David Vogelstein delivers a search and seizure presentation for Aaron Pribble's Street Law elective class.

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## Principal's Message

by Tom Drescher

### H1N1 Flu Virus

This year, the H1N1 flu virus is expected to cause a more dangerous flu season with many more people getting sick and being hospitalized than during a regular flu season. H1N1 flu is highly contagious and spreads from person to person. Like seasonal flu, illness in people with H1N1 flu can vary from mild to severe. State health officials urge all persons with mild flu-like illness to stay home. Children and adolescents with a fever should not go to school.

I encourage you to err on the side of caution and keep your student home and contact your medical provider if they have a fever or other flu-like symptoms. Students often feel compelled to not miss school due to fear of missing class or not being able to make up missed work. Please rest assured that your student will be allowed adequate time to complete make-up work due to an illness. Simply call in the absence to our attendance clerk at 380-3592 or send in your student with a note outlining the nature of the absence. Tam teachers can also be communicated with during the absence through e-mail.

We are asking Tam staff to follow the same guidelines and stay home if they have a fever or other flu-like symptoms. Adults with fever should not go to work until their fever has gone away for 24 hours. For more information please visit [marinflu.org](http://marinflu.org) or contact your local healthcare provider. Tam High and the Tam district continue to monitor the rapidly evolving H1N1 situation. The health and safety of our students and staff is our primary concern. 

## Tam High Foundation Awards \$145,000 in Mini-Grants — *Continued from page 1*

The Tam High community is very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff that continues to innovate and create new learning programs and opportunities for all students. This round of grant proposals represents not only the greatest number of funding requests in the Foundation's history but also includes more departments and teachers and will impact more students than ever.

Countless hours of volunteer time are dedicated to the grant approval process. In September the Foundation solicits mini-grant proposals from teachers and the administration. Teachers prepare a written proposal for approval from the department chair and principal, and then follow up with a presentation to the grant committee made up of Foundation board members, three student representatives and parent volunteers. The committee evaluates the proposals with the guidance of District Technology Director Joel Hames, District IT Systems Specialist Charlie Uhl and Tam High Principal Tom Drescher. The entire Foundation board reviews the proposals and votes on each proposal. The process is repeated in the spring for the major grant proposals.

We thank Karen and Jayne for their leadership and tireless work to complete this process efficiently so the investments may begin immediately. Look for updates and news about these grants on our website.

October was the month for the Tam High Foundation annual fundraising campaign. Many of you received a friendly phone call reminder from a parent volunteer and if you haven't yet donated to the 2009/2010 campaign, please donate now. Your donation helps us determine the funds available for the major grant investment this spring.

It's easy to make an online donation on our new website: [tamhighfoundation.org](http://tamhighfoundation.org)

Or contact us at: Tam High Foundation

700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Phone: 380-3565, Email: [tamhighfoundation@marin.k12.ca.us](mailto:tamhighfoundation@marin.k12.ca.us)

*Thank you to all who have donated!*

## Donations Requested for Staff Party

The Tam staff will have its annual holiday party on December 11.

Donating a small gift is a great way to show your appreciation to teachers and staff. In the past, parents have donated things like gift cards or See's candy as a way to express thanks to teachers and staff members. The gifts are distributed at the celebration through a raffle. If you'd like to contribute, please drop off your item to Mary in the principal's office by December 9.

Thank you for your support.



## What a difference 5 minutes makes!

Want to avoid the slow-moving, long lines in the front-of-school drop-off area in the morning? Arrive before 7:45 am and beat the 7:45 and 8 am rush. You'll enjoy a much more peaceful experience in the Tam drop-off. Thank you!



### THE TAM FAMILY

#### PTSA President Leslie Wachtel

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#### PTSA Executive Vice President Cheryl Bronstein

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#### PTSA Vice President - Communication Jayne Greenberg

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#### Principal Thomas Drescher

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### EDITORIAL STAFF

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## Tamalpais High School Bell Schedule Week of November 9, 2009

### Monday, Nov. 9

#### Minimum Day

1 <sup>o</sup>	8:00 - 9:00
2 <sup>o</sup>	9:10 - 10:10
Break	10:10 - 10:20
3 <sup>o</sup>	10:30 - 11:30
4 <sup>o</sup>	11:40 - 12:40

### Tuesday, Nov. 10

#### Minimum Day

5 <sup>o</sup>	8:00 - 9:00
6 <sup>o</sup> and Assembly*	9:10 - 11:20
Break	11:20 - 11:30
7 <sup>o</sup>	11:40 - 12:40

\*There are 2 groups - Teachers will be notified of the time to take their class to the assembly.

### Wednesday, Nov. 11

#### Veterans Day

No School!

### Thursday, Nov. 12

1 <sup>o</sup>	8:00 - 9:30
Break	9:30 - 9:40
2 <sup>o</sup>	9:45 - 11:20
Lunch	11:20 - 12:05
3 <sup>o</sup>	12:10 - 1:40
Break	1:40 - 1:50
4 <sup>o</sup>	1:55 - 3:25

### Friday, Nov. 13

5 <sup>o</sup>	8:00 - 9:30
Break	9:30 - 9:40
Tutorial	9:45-10:45
Break	10:45-10:50
6 <sup>o</sup>	10:55 - 12:25
Lunch	12:25 - 1:10
7 <sup>o</sup>	1:15 - 2:45

## Meet the Tam Campus Security Team

Our kids all know them – but have you met the campus security team? These are the men who make sure our students study and socialize in a safe environment. They keep order in the parking lots, manage to see students safely across Miller Avenue to Safeway at lunchtime, supervise after-school campus activities like football and basketball games and dances, and monitor the campus to make sure students are where they need to be and no one is on campus who should not be.



(L-R) Will Owens, Sergio Chavez, and Ralph Wilson.

Here's a brief description of each team member, in his own words.

#### Ralph Wilson Jr.


I've been working at Tam for 19 years. I graduated from Tam in 1982, where I participated in basketball, track, and football. I also was Homecoming King 1982. I coached JV football for three years, JV basketball for one year, and was co-head coach for boys' varsity basketball for 14 years. I also worked for Marin County Fire for five years as a seasonal firefighter EMT and was a reserve police officer with SFPD for two years. My duties here at Tam are pretty much to enforce school rules and policies, and to make Tam students/campus as safe as possible.

#### Will Owens

I am responsible for supervising the student parking lot before and after school. I also share the responsibility of supervising campus, the Miller Avenue crosswalk and Safeway during lunchtime.

I've been employed at Tam for five years. This has been an experience full of challenges to engage these young people to become self-aware and responsible adults. Tam provides the opportunity to find acceptable patterns and identifications that are exemplary models of study and behavior. It has been our goal to assist the young people to accept these standards and move into worthy and gratifying opportunities in their lives. I hope this will always be true for each and every student.

#### Sergio Chavez

I have been a campus staff assistant at Tamalpais High since 2001. I started at San Andreas High School for six months before coming to Tam. My job is to enforce the district and school rules, working closely with students, teachers, and administrators. On a daily basis, I patrol the school campus observing and reporting any dangerous or suspicious activities. I supervise student behavior and help to maintain discipline. I love my job at Tam High because every student is different and interesting. 

## Help Support Tam High Chorus

The Tam High chorus has the opportunity to perform in New York City this spring. The goal is for every member to go, however the trip is costly and several students are in need of a subsidy. The choral students and their parents are holding fundraisers for this purpose, and the first of which is being held at Asqew Grill in the Strawberry Village shopping center. Look for the flyer that will be sent out by email or pick one up in the school office and support the chorus by dining at Asqew Grill on November 5 and 12!



## PTSA News

by Leslie Wachtel, PTSA President

As Thanksgiving approaches I want to thank all of the parents who have contributed their valuable time, energy and donations to the PTSA. We are blessed with a supportive administration, faculty, staff, and parents who make Tam High a great place for our children to learn, mature and thrive. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends.

Our next PTSA meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, at 7 pm in Classroom 2020 located on the first floor of Lower Keyser. We will have our PTSA meeting promptly at 7 o'clock, followed by a panel of students, teachers, administrators and parents discussing the November 10 presentation by Dr. Denise Pope. Please see below for more details regarding Dr. Pope's visit to Tam on November 10.

After last fall's parent education conference that featured a keynote address by Dr. Denise Pope, the PTSA was asked by many families to bring Dr. Pope back to Tam High to speak to the faculty and the students on the topic of stress. Thanks to donations from several very generous families and a mini grant from the Tam High Foundation, Dr. Pope will address our students in two assemblies on Tuesday, November 10. She will also meet with our administrators and the entire faculty for a two-hour presentation that afternoon. We had hoped to be able to fit in a time for parents to come and meet with Dr. Pope within the confines of the shortened student schedule, however Dr. Pope feels strongly that she wants to be able to answer questions and meet with students after each presentation and there will not be ample time on November 10 to have a forum for parents. We will work with Dr. Pope in the coming weeks to see if it is possible to bring her back to speak to our parents in near future.

Please look in this issue of the Tam Family for the article and order form for the "first time ever" PTSA Holiday Plant Sale. These flowering plants make beautiful hostess gifts, teacher gifts and decorations for every home this winter. Please consider supporting the PTSA and help us to continue to provide wonderful parent education programs, beautification of our campus, scholarships for our seniors, staff appreciation events throughout the year, the monthly publication of the Tam Family, email communication with all families, student and staff barbecues and many other events and program support through out the school year. To order plants please use the order form in this issue or download additional forms online. Order forms are due on Friday, November 20, and plant pick up will be on Friday, December 4, in the Student Center from noon to 6 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help that day please contact me at [mvleslieann@yahoo.com](mailto:mvleslieann@yahoo.com).

We hope to see many of you at the upcoming parent ed conference, "Building Resilience in Our Teens: Preparing Our Children for Life." This parent education opportunity is being co-sponsored by the Tam High PTSA and the Mill Valley Middle School PTSA. The conference is free to all and we encourage you to invite your friends from other schools to join us that day.

This year this event will be held at Mill Valley Middle School on Saturday, November 14, from 8 am to 1 pm. The keynote speaker is Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg, a leading authority in the field of child and adolescent resilience. A huge thank you to Linda Brauner, the Tam High PTSA parent ed chair, and Joyce Feeney the MVMS parent ed chair for their for hours of work organizing this incredible event. Many thanks to Rose Sullivan for coordinating hospitality for this event.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving 

## Thanks for the Help! We Could Use Some More

Thank you to all of you who participated in providing the faculty and staff with their Halloween breakfast. It was a rousing success and the teachers and staff, who always do an outstanding job in celebrating this holiday, were extremely appreciative.

On a slightly different note, the Tam and MVMS PTSAs are co-hosting a parent education event on Saturday, November 14, and are in need

of volunteers to supply refreshments.

If you are interested in participating in this endeavor, please contact me. Thanks

again to all of my fabulous volunteers!



Helene Siegel-Fotos  
home (415) 389-8598  
cell (415) 717-7189

## Don't Miss These Parent Ed Events in November

**Date:** Saturday, November 14

**Time:** 8 am – 1 pm

**Event:** Mill Valley Middle School/Tam High Joint Parent Ed Conference

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Kenneth R. Ginsberg, "Building Resilience in Our Teens: Preparing Our Children for Life"

**Location:** MVMS Gymnasium

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**Date:** Wednesday, November 18

**Time:** 7 pm

**Event:** PTSA Meeting

**Subject:** Discussion about the November 10th Presentation by Dr. Denise Pope regarding teen stress

**Location:** Classroom 2020



# TAM HIGH PTSA HOLIDAY PLANT SALE

## TOPIARIES

- Single Ivy Ball in 7" clay pot w/saucer
- Double Ivy Ball in 7" clay pot w/saucer
- Ivy Tree 30" in clay pot w/saucer



Price	Qty	Total
\$50.00	_____	_____
\$55.00	_____	_____
\$90.00	_____	_____

## ORCHIDS

- Phalaenopsis in 6" decorative pot



\$35.00	_____	_____
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## AMARYLLIS



- Bulb kit ready to bloom
- red or white -- 5" clear glass pot
- 6" colored glass pot

\$20.00	_____	_____
\$25.00	_____	_____

- Blooming plant in holiday wrap
- red or white -- 4" pot
- hybrid -- 6" pot

\$15.00	_____	_____
\$20.00	_____	_____

## NARCISSUS PAPERWHITE

- Bulb kit ready to bloom
- clear glass pot-- 4" with 3 bulbs
- window kit-- 3"Wx10"L 5 bulbs



\$15.00	_____	_____
\$20.00	_____	_____

- Blooming plant in holiday wrap
- 4" pot
- 6" pot

\$10.00	_____	_____
\$15.00	_____	_____

## CYCLAMEN



- white-- 6" pot
- red-- 6" pot

\$12.00	_____	_____
\$12.00	_____	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PURCHASE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: "Tam High PTSA"  
Drop off or mail to: 700 Miller Ave.  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Purchaser's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH**

(Please note that pictures serve as examples only)

**PICK-UP FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th 12-6pm, IN THE STUDENT CENTER**

Questions? Contact Helene Siegel-Fotos: [bash5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bash5@sbcglobal.net) or 389-8598

## Thanks to Parent Volunteer Jill Templeton, Tam's Gardens are Growing

by Dee Bell-Becker

**"We live only to discover beauty." – Kahlil Gibran**

The beautiful plantings that appeared almost magically overnight in the roundabout at the back of Tam High stopped me in my tracks one early morning during my brisk ascent of the road behind the school. It was at that moment that it occurred to me that someone was quite thoughtfully and conscientiously changing the "face" of the school, plant by plant. I am not referring to the cookie cutter plantings that have been deposited in the professional landscaping near the new construction. One can easily feel the difference.

Someone with tremendous foresight planted the drought resistant natives that caught my eye. This special someone was slowly beautifying all the ugly dirt patches around the school. As I explored further, santolinas were in evidence by the giant redwood near the roundabout, manzanitas lined up in a flowing curve, Japanese maples were establishing their presence in front of the ceramics building, a magnolia here, some ceanothus there, some ginkgos on the hill by the counseling office, princess bushes in the dirt above the long-ignored math building, all showing up in forgotten areas of the huge Tam campus now awakening with new consciousness.

Months later, I discovered that Tam High indeed has a "Beautification" chairperson. What a lovely title. As I learned more about Jill Templeton and helped out with a little summer watering, I discovered the level of the commitment that Jill, with the part-time help of her husband John, puts into the Tam campus. Once or twice a week over the long hot summer, Jill rigged up hoses and spontaneously hand-built irrigation systems by lugging long heavy hoses from site to site. She constructed deer-proof cages out of wire fencing, weeded Orange Court and added new lavers. In the few times that I accompanied her, she achieved the impossible time after time: fixing dormant irrigation systems, repairing hose connectors ruined by construction trucks.

She is ever on the prowl for how Tam can be more beautiful. Building on the work begun in 2004 by former Tam parent Gail Mason, "Jill of the Green Thumb" is almost single-handedly beautifying Tam High and providing a soothing atmosphere for our stress-filled teens. Thanks Jill for a job well done. 🦋



## Diggin in the Cactus - OUCH!

by Jill Templeton

The landscaping as a part of the modernization of the Tam campus is coming to fruition. Crews have been busy installing olive, cedar, redbud and dogwood trees, along with shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. The compost mountain has been incorporated into the front of the campus. Lawns and lights are scheduled to arrive shortly.

Meanwhile, a small but courageous crowd of volunteers turned out for the beautification day on October 10, just prior to

homecoming. We weeded the Pearl Smith Environmental Science Dry Garden, which was originally created in the late 1950s as a memorial to Pearl Smith, a beloved English teacher at Tam for over 30 years. Ms. Smith taught a class called Oral Rhetoric and was able

to bring out the best even in shy students. A plaque reminds us that this striking garden was once a regular stop on the Greyhound bus tours through Mill Valley to Muir Woods.

The garden was renovated in 2006 by the environmental science class. It displays aloes, agaves, cacti and many unusual plants suited to a dry climate. The garden was off-limits during much of the Keyser modernization, but now with new stairs and walkways the garden is once again being enjoyed by the Tam community.

Our next beautification day will be on Saturday, November 7, from 9 am to noon. Snacks are provided and community service hours are available to students. Please RSVP to Jill Templeton at 388-8501 or jillt007@gmail.com.

## Book Passage Luncheon

Please join us for a Book Talk Luncheon at Book Passage on Wednesday, December 2, from 11:45 am to 2 pm. This is an inspiring event for book lovers and avid readers. It is presented at an opportune time of the year to purchase holiday gifts. Elaine Petrocelli will lead a lively appraisal of recently published books in her popular bookstore. A lovely lunch is included in the \$40 fee. Proceeds will benefit the Tam High Foundation. For reservations, please contact Patti Bertenthal at 388-5863 or by email at howardbertenthal@aol.com.





## News from Parent to Parent Connection


by Sarah Kass and Janet Miller, P2P Coordinators

Are you wondering which high school best suits your child? Are you and your student looking for other options to enrich his/her high school experience?

On Thursday, November 12, join us for *You do have a Choice: Which High School Best Suits your Student's Needs*. This informative evening will begin with an overview of the five Tam District high schools. From there a panel of speakers, including students and P2P parent reps, will describe the "personality" of each school and answer questions about the various programs available at each campus including extra curricular activities, resource, and academic support.

As usual, we will open each meeting a half hour before the program to allow for informal discussion and networking with other parents. P2P meetings are held at the Kreps Conference Center on the Redwood High School campus, adjacent to the east (back) parking lot. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the talk starts at 7 pm.

A calendar of P2P meetings for the rest of the year is available online at [tamdistrict.org/p2p/](http://tamdistrict.org/p2p/).

We look forward to seeing you soon! 



## Back to Tam Day 2009!!



## Tam Music Program Set to Hit High Notes

### THUMB's Dynamic Three-Year Plan for Continued Excellence in Music Education and Performance

by Maureen Parton, THUMB parent volunteer

At its September meeting, THUMB parent volunteers gathered to help build and support great music at Tam High.

Capably led by THUMB Vice-President Doug Thompson (pinch hitting for President Sacha Bunge, who was settling her son, Levi Gillis, saxophone player and recent Tam graduate, at U. of Washington), parents of Tam music students met with Music Director Spiro Tsingarlis to further map out the next steps in THUMB's exciting three-year plan. Spanning the 2008-2011 school years, the THUMB strategic plan includes work in six key areas all aimed at supporting and cultivating excellence in music education for our Tam students.

Key areas of this exciting, multi-year plan include:

- **Communication and Publicity** to communicate Tam Music to the Tam and wider Southern Marin community
- **Communication and Liaison Outreach to Mill Valley Middle School** and other feeder schools to link up families and students to the opportunities for vocal and instrumental music at Tam
- **Links With Greater Mill Valley** and within the Tam High community to further publicize both campus musical events, available "gigs" and half-price and discount tickets to musical events of interest to music students and others
- **Scholarship Program** improvements to offer even more scholarships than the ten currently available to students who audition and demonstrate promise, emerging skills, mastery and commitment to musicianship
- **Fundraising**, a key purpose and goal of THUMB, requires finding new, creative ways to help fund and support Tam music and to improve "tried and true" fundraising events that are the foundation and tradition of the Music Department
- **Advanced Student Experience** to facilitate a whole panoply of student growth and opportunity for excellence in practice, performance, training, mentoring one another, rehearsal, learning proper audition technique and preparation, exposure to skilled guest artists and much more!

Each one of these six key areas needs you and your ideas to help make Tam's strong instrumental and choral program even better.

### THUMB Parent Volunteers Make the Difference

Our students, the music program at Tam and THUMB need you now if you:

- enjoy writing or reporting (*or did in a past life. Your high school paper counts!*)
- have experience in marketing, publicity and/or public relations (*spinning not needed; the excellence of the program "speaks" for itself*)
- possess communication skills in any media (*on-air time not necessary*)
- grasp technology, or have an earnest interest in it (*how many hours have you logged on Facebook?*)
- have contacts in the music field (*or wish you did?*)
- spend time designing and tinkering with websites (*take a look at the THUMB site, listen and get inspired!*)
- enjoy taking photographs (*you'll be able to put that expensive equipment to good use, plus get a photo credit in a widely-read monthly*)
- know the ins and outs of fundraising (*arm twisting not required, our events work; they just need tweaking*)
- like music of any kind (*come on now, our standards are pretty inviting*)
- have event planning skills (*yes, lavish birthday parties in years gone by for toddlers counts as good training*)



Scenes from last year's solo and ensemble concerts.

- dream of a reality TV-type challenge transforming a large gym into an intimate concert setting (*what would Martha Stewart say?*)
- know people in the restaurant field to help locate a collaborator on our February 2010 Valentine's dinner (*FYI, KFC is not romantic chow!*)
- value music – something that benefits our kids, our community, our overall sense of well-being and connection.

### High School Happens Only Once: Get Involved In Your Son or Daughter's Music Life

Come to the next THUMB meeting. We are a friendly, open group of parent volunteers. Plus, this is a well-run meeting. THUMB gets the work done, respects your time by ending on time, and adds tremendous value to the music education of the students in the program, the entire Tam school community and the wider Southern Marin community as well.

*Continued on page 9*



## WANTED: “Understudies” for a Transformative Event with Hearts Included! No Experience Necessary. Apply Within.

**Helpers needed for the THUMB Valentine’s Dinner & Concert, Friday, February 12**

*by Maureen Parton, THUMB parent volunteer*


If you watch reality TV and scoff at the hare-brained challenges foisted on the contestants on “America’s Next Top Designer,” thinking, “I could do that!,” then read on! If watching episodes of “Trading Spaces” causes you to critique the desperate attempts at “decorating” and wonder why the neighbors didn’t just solve the problem with some simple cost-effective solutions like inexpensive but cheerful flowers and colorful, reusable tablecloths, then this is your moment.

It is time to step up and let your inner Martha Stewart out ... even if she is more a “Real Simple” kind of gal. Or perhaps you are more inspired by the famed local retailer, Tyler Florence. Either way, fine parents of Tam High, consider this your personal and engraved invitation to become part of a fun party and the musical highlight of the year.

The co-chairs of this year’s dinner and concert, Dee Bell-Becker and Judith Staples, are looking for a nimble team of “understudies” to assist with this year’s event in the hope of handing over the baton for the following year’s celebration to the new dynamic duo, whoever you are.

The Valentine’s dinner and concert is a well-loved Tam music program tradition that brings music and fine dining together in the Ruby Scott gym. It is one of the most successful music fundraisers of the year and is a fun frolic for all – students, parents, community members and Tam High staff.

The evening is easy to arrange. THUMB parents and students volunteer in droves to take care of all of the necessary tasks. The co-chairs, with the help of their “mentees,” coordinate the work, using a book written by previous chairs that provides guidelines and step-by-step instructions. The chairs are also free to make whatever changes they see fit. Who knows what great collaborations could begin during a Valentine’s event?


Sound intriguing? Want to know more? Send a message – no obligation necessary – to this year’s Valentine’s Dinner Co-Chairs, Dee Bell-Becker at [dejamusic@earthlink.net](mailto:dejamusic@earthlink.net) and Judith Staples at [jstaples@p-r-g.com](mailto:jstaples@p-r-g.com). 

## Tam Music Program Set to Hit High Notes — *Continued from page 8*

Plus, spending time with enthusiastic and ever-smiling Mr. T. will put a smile on your face every time. Guaranteed.

### NEXT THUMB MEETING: ALL INVITED!

The November THUMB meeting is Thursday, November 19, at 7 pm in the **Robert Greenwood Music Room** (aka the Band Box).

**NEXT Musical Event:** Advanced Band and Jazz Band play at the November 7 and 14 varsity football games. Go out and root for your Tam team and stay for the music! Check the school Tam High website ([tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org)) or the Tam Boosters site ([tamhighathletics.org](http://tamhighathletics.org)) for game details. 

THUMB – Tam High United Music Boosters is a parent-run organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and assist in instrumental and choral music activity at Tamalpais High School. If you would like to join in our ongoing work, please e-mail Sacha Bunge at [sbunge@sfsu.edu](mailto:sbunge@sfsu.edu) for more information. All are welcome! Meetings are the third Thursday of every month in the Band Box at 7 pm. Also, check out the THUMB webpage at: <http://tamdistrict.schoolwires.net/17112052118530527/site/default.asp>

## Save the Date for the Second Annual Tam High Music Showcase

**Wednesday, November 25 At 7 PM at the Caldwell Theatre!**

This showcase brings the best that Tam has to offer in vocal and instrumental



entertainment with a lovely balance of jazz, classical, rock and vocal performances.

Participants must audition before a panel of student judges to earn a spot in the show.

This was a hot ticket event last year; even better than the feast the following day!

So put everything down right now (before you forget!) and enter this on your calendar: Wednesday evening, November 25 at 7 pm at the Caldwell Theatre. The pies and the turkey can wait until Thanksgiving morning. This fine evening of entertainment at the showcase is a no-calorie, sure to please treat that you won’t want to miss.

Look for additional information on the Tam High or THUMB webpage as the date gets closer!

### Upcoming Events in 2010

THUMB’s annual Valentine fundraiser dinner and concert is Friday, February 12, in Ruby Scott Auditorium. All are invited to attend this supper club evening with Tam High music students providing solo, duo, ensemble and large group musical entertainment in conjunction with a delicious dinner prepared by local restaurants. Please mark your calendars and attend this special evening. Details to follow.

## Tam's Award-Winning Students

by Tom Drescher

Each year the National Merit Scholarship Corporation conducts a competition to recognize students throughout the nation for their exceptional academic promise. From the more than 1.5 million students who took the 2009 PSAT/NMSQT, the top five percent are selected to receive letters of commendation.

The following students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their strong performance in this highly competitive program:

Ben Harris, Theresa Iker, Filip Kaniski, Zoe Kaufman, Abby Kertzman, Casey Khademi, Alex Morris, Whitney Myers, Arthur Richardson, Tomer Sabo, Tara Salisbury, Edward Scarsella, Elissa Stolman, John Toczyski.

As was previously announced, out of this group of 50,000 commended students in the Merit Program, 16,000 are chosen as semifinalists. Tam High School has four students who qualified this year (there were two last year): Congratulations to Emil Barkovich, Adam Berman, William McDonald, and Sarah Schwartz. These students may go on to become finalists in the competition, which will qualify them for scholarships.

I am also proud to announce that Jack Hogan has been named an "Outstanding Participant" in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Jack is in the top three percent of more than 160,000 black Americans who requested consideration in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test.

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Achievement Awards in Writing honor high school seniors with excellent writing talent. The recipients were chosen from 1,783 students nominated by their teachers from across the country and beyond. Tam is proud to announce that three students have been chosen as among the best student writers in the nation. The award-winners receive a certificate and a card to attach to college application forms. The recipients this year are Anna Aronowitz, Ben Harris, and Sarah Schwarz. Additionally, I would like to commend the Tam High English Department for their exceptional work with students. Special thanks goes to Department Chair Michael Levinson and teacher Austin Bah for their dedicated and inspiring work with students.

Congratulations to these outstanding students and their teachers! 🦅



*Commended Students: front row (L-R): Arthur Richardson, John Toczyski, Tara Salisbury; back row (L-R) Ben Harris, Edward Scarsella, Tomer Sabo, Jack Hogan (Outstanding Participant).*



*Commended Students: front row (L-R): Abby Kertzman, Casey Khademi, Zoe Kaufman, Whitney Myers; back row: (L-R): Alex Morris, Filip Kaniski, Elissa Stolman, Theresa Iker.*



*NCTE Award Winners: Anna Aronowitz (missing), Ben Harris, and Sarah Schwarz.*

## Join In: Tam Offers Many Clubs for Students

We are very excited about the fantastic turnout at Club Day held on Friday, October 16, during tutorial and lunch. Approximately 35 different clubs were represented and student and club advisors were available to discuss club projects, objectives and goals with the student population. All freshmen advisories participated in this event during tutorial, along with many sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students had the opportunity to sign up to participate in groups on campus with other students who have interests similar to their own. Clubs are supervised by teacher advisors and most meet weekly. Contact the staff member in charge, or the club president for more information! Get involved!

Club Name	Club Advisor	Club President
Animal Conservation	Georgeanne Brumbaugh	Tai-Lan Hirobayshi
Asian American Heritage Club	Spiro Tsingaris	Katie Wong
Avant-garde Photography	Mary Manulkin	Laura Nogueiro
Backpacking Club	Austin Bah	Sasha Leidman
Beat the Heat	Lyanne Abreu	Ali Coopersmith
Bike Team	Jon Hartquist	Brent Peters
Black Student Union	Cathryn Bruno	Kyle Jackson
Breast Cancer Awareness	Jon Hartquist	Josey Hamren
Chemistry Cooking Club	Leslie Hart	Shoshana Cantor
Chess Club	David Tarpinian	Tomer Sabo
Chess Club	Paul Baskin	Tai-Lan Hirabayshi
Christian Club	Spiro Tsingaris	Tae Park
Dance Team	John Ginsburg	Allison Fritz
Dirt Club	Lyanne Abreu	Sarah Schwartz
Expression Through Media	Aaron Pribble	Harli Grant
Food Club	Luc Chamberlin	Stephanie Howard
Homeless Connect Club	Jon Hartquist	Kalia Rothlind
Honor T/ CSF	Laura Garrett/ Corin Greenberg	Max Lester
Interact Club	Mary Wuerth	Casey Khademi
JSA	Augusto Andres	Adam Berman
Mock Trial	Aaron Pribble	Casey Khademi
Model UN	Jerry Childers	Ian Barry
Movie Club	Michael Rosloff	Brent Peters
Music Community Service Club	Spiro Tsingaris	Carrie Brandon
National/Art Honor Society	Lynne Klein	Theresa Iker
Philosophy Club	Jerry Childers	Carlos Dorenbaum
Project TSN	Spiro Tsingaris	Alizeh Iqbal
Quidditch Club	David Tarpinian	Theresa Iker
RAMS	Leslie Hart	Elena Piotter
Rock Climbing Club	Lyanne Abreu	Daniel Fong
Sailing Club	Claire Ernst	Kate Andersen
Students Act for Autism		Caroline Fearon
Tutoring Club	Georgeanne Brumbaugh	Emilie McNeil
Writers Club	Mike Lavezzo	Amy Hersh
Youth Give	Jennifer Brown	Claire Siegel


## Classroom 2020 — *Continued from page 1*

Tarpinian's English 3-4 classes. Though the room is still being fine-tuned (a process that we expect will be ongoing, to some degree), these four classes have jumped in and started using the unique learning environment right away.

Students regularly use the laptops and collaboration tools (like Huddleboards and large screen displays), and teachers are showing more visual content to accompany their instruction. In addition to the scheduled classes, we anticipate that teachers will be able to begin using the room for periods 5, 6, and 7 in the very near future. In the meantime, groups are already beginning to use the room for their activities, as is the staff, when possible.

Mike Levinson's AP language and composition students started in the room studying a thematic unit on the natural environment in addition to studying basic rhetorical strategies.

"It is highly effective to have multiple presentation devices that can display media and information at the same time. I was able to project two poems, a photograph, and a short film at the same time so that students could synthesize their understanding of the natural environment," Mr. Levinson explained when describing his first week in the room. "The students are very excited about being in the room. The technology, furniture, and room design help make learning more effective and exciting."

The district's goal in exploring and implementing the Classroom 2020 project is to create environments where new technology can be thoughtfully used in classroom teaching. Rather than following a strategy of technology creep, where small bits of programs, equipment, and resources gradually appear in a classroom, the district has looked at the overall teaching environment, and asked how the technology that exists today, as well as what might be available in 10 or 15 years, might truly improve student learning. The district hopes that this strategy will bring to our schools the classrooms of the future. 




## Change is in the Air... and AIM

By Tara Salisbury, AIM student writer

With last notes of *Mandy* still ringing in the air, AIM is already on to the next project: the documentaries. With the recent anniversaries of the lunar landing and Woodstock, this semester's documentary film focus is change: how has America changed, if at all? After students form their groups of four, they will begin the documentary process: researching a compelling and local topic, interviewing experts, filming b-roll, and editing, always editing. Regular classes will continue throughout October: Ms. Scharf's class delving into Machiavelli's *The Prince* and Mr. Tarpinian's continuing to focus on oral rhetoric. Now that seniors have refreshed their skills and juniors have their first project under their belts, Mr. Goldstein will focus on preparing students for their first documentary attempt by concentrating on the genre's particular language and grammar, storytelling techniques, and classic documentaries like *Nanook of the North*. Today's ever-changing society should provide an abundance of material for some fascinating documentaries as students go out into the Bay Area to explore local stories of social significance.

Two or three times a month, when we are not working hard in class or spending time outside of school getting some last-minute filming in, the teachers arrange for students to see current documentaries and have discussions with the filmmakers. These films can be about anything from how stressed-out high school students learn to "jump through hoops" in order to succeed (*Race to Nowhere*), to the band Rogue Wave's search for a kidney for its drummer (*D-Tour*), to an examination of the remote Himalayan kingdom of Mustang (*Mustang*). After the showing, we have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of the filmmakers. It is a valuable opportunity to learn first-hand about the production of full-length documentaries.

Working well and cohesively in groups is very important in AIM, but it's not possible if you don't know the people you're working with. So to help get the ball rolling, the AIM interns organized several junior-senior bonding activities over the past month. Two of the more effective ones were a grueling hike up Mt. Tam, a first for many Tam students, and an Italian-themed potluck dinner. Now that the students are more comfortable with each other and the equipment, AIM is ready to begin work on the documentaries for which the program is famous. 



AIM students work with editing equipment.

### Spring 2010 Immersion Study in Mexico

Universidad Internacional

Two-Week Intensive Course (17 days)

Invitation to all Tam students to join our academic Tam High School intensive Spanish language program in Mexico

Friday, April 2, to Sunday, April 18, 2010

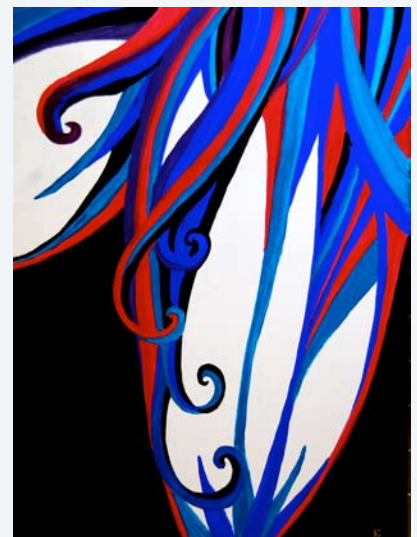
Learn Spanish while living with a Mexican family. Enjoy exciting field trips, excursions, and cultural events. Two weeks in Cuernavaca, One weekend in Acapulco. Educational excursions to: Mexico City, Teotihuacán, Museum of Anthropology, Tepoztlán, Taxco, Cacahuamilpa Caverns.

#### INFORMATION MEETING FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Please attend a one-hour information meeting at Tam High School.

Friday, November 6 at 7:30 pm  
Upper Keyser, Room 336

For more information, contact Spanish teacher Fernando Cruz, classroom phone: 380-3518, email [fernando.cruz@tamdistrict.org](mailto:fernando.cruz@tamdistrict.org).



**Correction:** The artist of this piece was incorrectly identified in our last issue. The artist is junior **Alex Goldstein**. The Tam Family regrets the error.

## Two Perspective Portrait

Intermediate photography student photos from the "two perspective portrait" assignment wherein students photographed the same subject in a studio and outdoors.



Photographers, clockwise from top: Maddy Holt, Pablo Cortez, Mimi Wyatt, Bryce Bower, Phina Pillado, Geena Tran.



## College and Career Center

by Susan Gertman



**College and Career Specialist**  
**sgertman@tuhdsd.marin.k12.ca.us**  
**380-3582**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **November 5: College Planning Evening for Juniors, Parents**

Juniors planning to attend a two- or four-year college and their parents are invited to preview what is ahead on Thursday,

November 5, at 6:30 pm in the Student Center. The counseling staff will provide a general overview of the college admissions process and review the timeline for admissions tests, college visits, filing applications and financial aid.

#### **December 5: Sophomores Take PLAN**

Sophomores may take the PLAN, a practice test for the ACT, at Tam on Saturday morning, December 5. The PLAN tests English, math, reading and science reasoning and includes a questionnaire on career interests. This test is good practice for the ACT, which is accepted equally with the SAT. The results are helpful in evaluating a student's interests and performance. The PLAN is given once a year. All sophomore families will receive a letter this month explaining the registration procedure.

#### **December 3: Financial Aid Night**

Tam will hold a Financial Aid Night on Thursday, December 3, at 6:30 pm in the Student Center. Our guest speaker, a financial aid advisor at Dominican, will give an overview of the financial aid process and review the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). All Tam families are welcome; seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend.

FAFSA worksheets and Cal Grant GPA Verification Forms will be available in the College and Career Center in December. Parents may get a head start on the FAFSA by applying now for a PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). The PIN will serve as your electronic signature when you apply online in January. The FAFSA website is: [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov).

The PROFILE, a financial aid form used by many private colleges, may be submitted now. Go to [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com), click on Student and then CSS/PROFILE under "Pay for College."

Tam's scholarship list is available on PrepHQ. To access PrepHQ, go to [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org), click on Academics and then PrepHQ. Sign in with your student's ID and password and click on Scholarships. The list is updated weekly.

### **College Applications**

November 30 is the application deadline for all University of California and California State University campuses. The CSU application is available at [csmmentor.edu](http://csmmentor.edu) and the UC application is at [universityofcalifornia.edu/](http://universityofcalifornia.edu/) apply. Make a copy of all completed applications for your files.

Each year the UC computer network is jammed during the last few days of the filing period. UC and CSU accept no excuses for late filing. Tam's counseling department advises students to file their CSU applications in October and their UC applications by November 20.

Help with applications is available throughout November in the College and Career Center.

### **SAT & ACT**

You can download the 2009-2010 SAT and ACT testing calendars and register online for either test. For the SAT, go to [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) and for the ACT go to [act.org](http://act.org). Register early for a convenient test site.

Students applying to UC and CSU must complete all testing by the December test date.

### **College Visits**

Representatives from Academy of Art, Dominican, Evergreen State, McGill and University of Oregon will visit Tam this month. All interested students are invited to attend. The list of college visits is updated weekly and is available on PrepHQ and in the daily bulletin.

### **Community Service**


Are you passionate about the environment, helping those less fortunate or promoting the arts? The College and Career Center has a list of community service opportunities to satisfy nearly every desire to get involved and help the community. In addition to the list, which is online, the Career Center receives frequent requests for volunteers to help staff special events.

### **ROP Construction Class**

Interested in the building trades? The county's Regional Occupational Program's for-credit construction class will begin in January at Redwood High School. The course covers foundation, flooring, framing, plumbing, electrical, sheet rock, windows, doors, cabinetry, roofing, blueprint reading and use of hand tools. Master craftsmen will give demonstrations and there will be construction projects and employment opportunities. The class is held from 5-9 pm. An added bonus: dinner is provided. This class fills up quickly. Call 499-5860 for more information and to register.

ROP also offers a for-credit auto class at San Rafael High School on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-6:30 pm. The class is open entry. All you have to do to register is go to the class. For more information, call 499-5860.

### **Helpful Website: [finaid.org](http://finaid.org)**

Finaid.org provides financial aid calculators that allow families to estimate their expected contribution for public and private colleges. There is also information about scholarships, grants, loans and military aid. 



## Leadership News



*Sophomores decorate their homecoming parade banner.*

On Sunday, October 4, students came to Tam to decorate their halls to pump up students for Spirit Week. The senior class decorated upper Wood Hall and came in first place, the junior class decorated lower Wood Hall and came in second (by only half of a point), the sophomore class decorated Woodruff Hall (the math building) and came in third and the freshman class decorated Palmer Hall (the science building) and came in fourth.

Over the course of the week lots of students dressed up in apparel that went along with their sub-themes to bring in more points for their classes. Finally, on the Saturday of Homecoming, Leadership put on a parade to celebrate and pump everyone up for the football game and win even more points for their classes. In the end, the overall standings left juniors in first place, sophomores in second place, seniors in third place and freshman in fourth place.

Congratulations to our 2009 Homecoming King and Queen, Jonah Hopton and Rachel Chavez! Jonah is a member of the varsity track & field team, the varsity soccer team, the Tam choir and enjoys surfing and camping. Rachel is in Link Crew and Tam's CTE (drama). She was recently in the advanced drama one acts and enjoys dancing, theater and The Beatles.

Looking forward, the Leadership class is busy planning the Fall food drive which will run from November 2 until November 23. There will also be a lunchtime Halloween event on Friday, October 30, and the always-popular Pie Day (where everyone gets a free piece of Thanksgiving pie) on Tuesday, November 24.



*The 2009 Homecoming Court (L-R): Olivia Wells and her dad Philip, Margot Cardamone and her dad Natale, Rachel Chavez and her dad Randy, Andrea Morrison and her dad Joe, and Alison Moore and her uncle Bob.*

October featured our most exciting week of the year, Homecoming! We kicked off the weeklong festivities with a great rally on Friday, October 2. At the rally, each class nominated five girls and five boys to serve on its court. Additionally, grades put on lip syncs that were judged by the P.E. teachers.

*An excerpt from the Tam News student newspaper*

## Testing Teachers

*by Jessica Floum*

Graham Williams is a senior at Tamalpais High School who has taken the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) test at Tam since his freshman year of high school. Because the STAR test does not affect his grades, Williams has never tried on the test.

"I'm usually, like, inebriated," Williams said. "I fill in random bubbles and then I sleep for the rest of the period."

Although he said he would try harder if his scores affected his teachers' salaries, Williams' current testing strategy might be a teacher's worst nightmare if a merit-based pay system were to be installed.

While this system is not currently in place, as of October the push to determine teachers' salaries based on student test scores has considerably increased and such a teacher's nightmare could be closer to a reality.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has lifted California's ban on using the results of student achievement tests to evaluate teachers, in an attempt to make California eligible for \$4 billion in federal funds, the Associated Press reported on October 11. The elimination of the ban opens the door to a system of merit-based pay, a system in which students' standardized test scores could go so far as to determine the salaries of their teachers.

"I have proposed legislation that will tie a teacher's pay to their performance, so that we can recognize the best teachers for their hard work and excellence, provide incentives for great teachers to serve where they are needed most and to have schools hire and promote teachers based on performance not seniority," Schwarzenegger said in a press release.

**To read the rest of this article, go to [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org) and click on Tam News Online (under Shortcuts).**

## CTE Tackles Swashbuckling Fun in The Three Musketeers in November

Sharpen your rapier and your wit: CTE is bringing Alexander Dumas' famous tale of *The Three Musketeers* to the Caldwell stage this month from November 18-22. A new adaptation by Ken Ludwig (*Lend Me A Tenor*, *Crazy For You*, *Moon Over Buffalo*), directed by guest artist Julianna Rees, fits the bill as a mixture of love, adventure and good fun for classic theater sponsored by the Tam High Foundation.

Ludwig's adaptation takes some liberties with the plot and characters from the classic novel to expand the roles for women in the story. This adaptation, which was commissioned by the Bristol Old Vic in England, is a tale of heroism, treachery, close escapes and above all, honor.

The story, set in 1625, begins with D'Artagnan, a young Frenchman from Gascony, who sets off for Paris in search of adventure. Along with D'Artagnan goes Sabine, his sister, a quintessential tomboy. Sent with D'Artagnan to attend a convent school in Paris, she poses as a young man (D'Artagnan's servant) and quickly becomes entangled in her brother's adventures.


Soon after reaching Paris, D'Artagnan encounters the greatest heroes of the day, Athos, Porthos and Aramis, the famous musketeers. After blundering into each of them in turn, and challenging them to duels on the same night, D'Artagnan joins forces with his heroes to defend the honor of the queen of France. In so doing, he finds himself in opposition with the most dangerous man in Europe, Cardinal Richelieu, as well as his henchman, Rochefort, captain of the Cardinal's Guard. Even more deadly is the infamous Countess de Winter, known as Milady, who will stop at nothing to revenge herself on D'Artagnan – and Sabine – for their meddlesome behavior. Little does Milady know that the young girl she scorns, Sabine, will ultimately save the day.

CTE's production is filled with juniors and seniors in Advanced Drama who have been preparing for months with "fight club," their sessions with guest artist Joe Lucas, who is choreographing the many sword fights for the play. The first row of seats will be removed in the Caldwell for safety and the actors are learning carefully staged fights with swords and daggers. There is enormous excitement for this aspect of the production.

Rehearsals have also intensified as the entire play moves toward opening night. Ms. Rees is once again working her staging magic as she did in past CTE productions with large casts such as *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The cast includes seniors Alex Bond-Bishop, Ben Stanton, Isabelle Ellingson, Kelly Bertenthal, Ben Harris, Tara Costello, Charlotte Thomas, Max Perry, Ansel Burk, Ellesar Beecroft, Dashiell Gowland and juniors Charlie Dolton, Sam Hayman, Gabe Sandrolini, Lauren Ashe and Ben Taska. Stage Managers are Brett Russell and Melissa Levin. Student Designers include costumes by Shoshana Cantor and Ellie Kirn, set by Sophie Becker, lights by Andrew Edgington, lights by Rachel Chavez and sound by Carrie Brandon.

All performances will be at the Caldwell Theatre and begin at 7 pm. The box office opens at 6 when tickets will be on sale: students/senior citizens are \$5; adults are \$12. There are no advanced ticket sales. Doors open at 6:30 pm when seats are claimed on a first-come, first-served basis. No latecomers please. Further information at [ctetam.org](http://ctetam.org).

The evening will be great fun, though it may be intense for younger children so it is recommended for sixth grade and up. Join us for a performance that is sure to be entertaining, filled with all the romance and intrigue of this classic story.

"All for one, one for all!" 

From October's production of *Crow and Weasel* (L-R): Peter Wallace, Katie Lee, and Martine Ehrlich.



Back row (L-R): Ben Harris, Alex Bond Bishop, Ben Stanton and Charlie Dolton are the Musketeers. Front: Charlotte Thomas plays Sabine.

## 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 busy time for the School to Career program. Students are about midway through their

fall internships. Tamalpais students are interning at Kwan Henmi Architecture, the Marin County Department of Health's Nutrition Wellness program, Intel Computer Clubhouse, Bright Horizons Preschool, Central Office of Design, Marin General Electrophysiology Department, Sacred Land Photography and the City of Mill Valley. In addition, several students toured Marin General and Kaiser Hospital with the Youth Health Forum where they met physicians, nurses, administrators and medical technicians to learn about careers in health care. Hospital visits will again be available in March. If your student is interested in exploring a spring internship, applications and more information will be available in my office starting in mid-November, with applications due January 20.

### 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, interviewing skills, and provide opportunities for students to participate in career-related field trips and activities throughout the year.

## TAM SPORTS UPDATE

by Tam Athletic Boosters

This month, we're mixing it up. For updates on how Tam's sports teams are doing, go to TamHigh-Athletics.org. The homepage listing of each competitive sport is actually a live link that will take you to the team's microsite where you can see its overall record to date, photos, and game or meet summaries, if they've been provided by the team. Every page other than the homepage has a pull-down menu with these same links.

Here, we're sharing with you updates on news about soccer and lacrosse and ways you can get in on the conversation.

### MAJOR CHANGES CONSIDERED FOR SOCCER

**The Issues:** Currently, our league – MCAL – is one of the only leagues in the state in which girls play soccer in the Spring. Most everywhere else in California, girls' soccer is a fall or winter sport, and girls play club soccer in the spring. As a result, Tam's girls' teams are extremely limited in the number of non-league games they can play, and our most competitive players risk overtraining by playing both club and high school soccer in the spring. Some families and faculty feel this reduces Tam's competitiveness and means our girls miss out playing for a "true" NCS pennant.

With any change, there are pros and cons. This is no exception. There are currently three girls' sports in winter, and five in spring. Some families and faculty feel that by moving girls' soccer to winter, more girls would have an opportunity to play competitive sports in both winter and spring. Moving to winter could also afford more field time for girls' soccer since there is less competition from other sports then. On the other hand, girls who have played soccer in spring and another sport in winter would have to choose between them, since they can only play one sport per season.

Moving girls' soccer to fall or winter has been discussed on and off for years by the league's athletic directors (ADs), and resurfaced last spring. The ADs chose to bring the issue to the Board of Managers, which is comprised of each MCAL high school principal, a commission and assistant commissioner for their input and comment. One school principal in our league voiced concerns about gender equity if only girls' soccer were moved to winter. This member of the Board of Managers has forced the issue, insisting that the ADs and the Board consider moving both boys' and girls' soccer to winter.

**The Process:** In light of the gender equity concerns raised, the MCAL Board of Managers insisted that the ADs get input from each school community on the proposal to move boys' and girls' soccer to winter. This is where the ADs are now in the process.

The issue is on the agenda for the November 20 AD and board meetings, and will be voted on by the Board of Managers at the January 28, 2010 meeting.

**What You Can Do:** The ADs from each MCAL high school are currently soliciting input from their communities and are sharing it with their principals. If you have an opinion about this issue, let Christina Amoroso hear from you – email her at amoroso@tamdistrict.org. She is meeting with Tom Drescher over the next few weeks to update him on where coaches, parents and students stand.

In addition, you can request time on the agenda to present your point of view on this issue at the MCAL meeting on October 29 and/or November 20 by emailing Susie Woodall, MCAL Commissioner, at mcal@marin.k12.ca.us. Meetings are held at the MCAL Office, 375 Doherty Drive, Room A, Larkspur. The Board of Managers meets at 2:30 pm.

If this issue is important to you, let Christina and Tom know it!

### JV LACROSSE IS MAKING A COMEBACK!

Baseball may be America's favorite pastime, but lacrosse is the fastest growing sport on the West Coast! Whereas lacrosse used to be only an East Coast sport, West Coast players are now picking up their first sticks and joining lacrosse teams as early as kindergarten. A recent article in the San Francisco Chronicle by Jake Leonard discussed the growing enthusiasm for the sport and the increase in college recruitment for lacrosse players.

Continued on page 18



Tam was enjoying an increasingly popular lacrosse program with boys' varsity and JV lacrosse teams, up until last year. Unfortunately, it was determined that Tam's and Redwood's JV teams had not gone through the proper authorization process, so our JV teams were not allowed to compete. Needless to say, we had a very large varsity team and many unhappy players and coaches last year.

A small committee of interested parents has been working with the district to come up with a proposal that will allow Tam to have authorized JV lacrosse teams for boys and girls. On Tuesday, October 11, the TUHSD School Board indicated that at their next meeting on October 27 they intend to approve interim JV teams for Tam, Redwood and Drake for this spring. The goal is to have official MCAL varsity and JV lacrosse teams in spring 2011 for both boys and girls. Tam is the only school of the three that is considering offering a girls' JV team in spring 2010, if we have enough interested players. The interim teams will have paid coaches, wear Tam uniforms and play other JV teams. If everything goes according to plan, in the 2010-11 school year, all of MCAL will have JV lacrosse teams.

Traditionally, new teams in the district are initially parent-funded to show community support and longevity, and that will be the case with the JV lacrosse teams. The girls' and boys' JV teams will be parent-funded for three years, and the hope is that the district will then assume financial responsibility much as they did with varsity lacrosse and freshman baseball. Tam Boosters has generously offered to support both JV teams, and we will expect to do some fundraising in addition. The Southern Marin Lacrosse Club will manage all funds raised outside of Boosters.

The San Francisco Lacrosse League is offering winter lacrosse featuring two divisions: 8th through 10th grade and 10th through 12th grade. Games will be played on Sundays, December 6 through January 31 from 11 am to 4 pm at Tam High. Coach Jon Porter highly recommends that all TAM Lax players participate in this league.

"The winter league has become the single best resource in helping Tam lacrosse players prepare for the upcoming season," he said.

Interested players can register online at [sflaxleague.com](http://sflaxleague.com).

It is very exciting to see the growth of the lacrosse program at Tam. With entry-level teams and a strong varsity program, Tam can really be competitive. There will be a meeting for all interested boys on Wednesday, November 18 at 3 pm in the Student Center to assess the needs of the teams and player interest. A girls meeting will be announced shortly. So be on the lookout for announcements, show up, and be counted!

#### ABOUT TAM BOOSTERS

There is ample evidence that Athletics programs benefit student athletes and the rest of the school community. Yet school budgets do not begin to cover program costs at the high school level. Tam High Athletic Boosters exists to help fill the gap, supporting interscholastic sports in the belief that a strong, successful athletic program fosters school spirit, pride and an atmosphere of excellence in the student body.

**We need you!** The money raised by Boosters funds team transportation, equipment and uniforms, academic tutoring for athletes, weight room supervision, the Tam Hall of Fame, and senior athletes scholarships. We support all sports at Tam. Check us out by clicking the "Boosters" tab on [TamHighAthletics.org](http://TamHighAthletics.org).

We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Hawks Nest (faculty lounge next to the Student Center).

**Crab Fest Fundraiser:** Mark your calendar for the Boosters Crab Feed, Sunday, January 31, 2010. Don't miss out on the special entertainment, a mini live auction and raffle with unique prizes, eating with the coaches and being waited on by Tam's stellar athletes. This is always a fun event. Don't be left out – buy your tickets early this year!

To get involved in the Crab Fest or anything else Boosters' does, call us at 380-3586 or email us at [tam.boosters@gmail.com](mailto:tam.boosters@gmail.com).

Go Hawks!

## Tam Student's Skate 4 A Cause, Raises Over \$18,000 for



Tam junior Sam Vogel raised over \$18,000 in cash and in-kind donations for the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation® at his Skate 4 A Cause skate-a-thon on Sunday, October 18. This is the fourth year that Sam and his friend Sam Klitsner have coordinated and planned all the details of this fundraiser. Participants in Skate 4 A Cause were asked to secure sponsors who donated \$.25 for each trick the skaters attempted, or give a flat amount. Sam's sponsors included BCCI Construction, Battens & Boards, Bay West Group/San Francisco Design Center, Big 4 Party Rents, Compass Solutions, Destination 1440, FTC, John Crane Films, Prooflab and Snowbomb.

"Skate 4 A Cause was another huge success," said Sam Vogel. "What I am so proud of is that in just four years I have been able to raise over \$40,000 in cash and in-kind donations to help fund wishes!"

A special guest at this year's event was eighteen-year-old A.J. Casella who has hosted his own fundraiser, Fish For A Wish, for the past five years. Both Sam Vogel and A.J. are members of the Greater Bay Area chapter's new advisory group, Young Professional Advisory Council, Jr., which consists of entrepreneurs between the ages of 12 and 18 who are involved in fundraising for the chapter.





**Clockwise from top right:** Sean Wilkinson keeps a sharp eye on this cross into the Drake striker.

*Tam girls' tennis team.*

*In white, from left: Devon Miller-Gowan, goalie Zach Garrison, #15 Joe Weber, #2 Cody Nagy.*

*Girls' JV water polo: sophomore Sarah Ellison.*

*James Gilmore gets flattened in a hard fought game against Drake, but manages to keep his eyes on the ball. Tam won 2-0.*

*Tam girls' varsity volleyball team in action.*

*Freshman Tucker Nichols tackles a Drake forward, thwarting their attack and helping to preserve his brother Max's shut out in a 2-0 win over Drake.*



NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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PERMIT #59

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

Return Service requested

NOVEMBER 2009		
Date	Time/Event	Location
4	7 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	HAWK'S NEST (Teacher lounge next to student center)
5	6:30 PM – COLLEGE PLANNING FOR JUNIORS & PARENTS	STUDENT CENTER
6	END OF REPORT PERIOD 2	
7	9 AM - NOON – CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION WORK DAY	MEET AT FRONT CIRCLE
9	12:40 DISMISSAL – PERIODS 1-4; MINIMUM DAY	
10	12:40 DISMISSAL – PERIODS 5-7; MINIMUM DAY	
10	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
11	NO SCHOOL – VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY	
12	6:30 PM – PARENT TO PARENT MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
14	8 AM-1 PM – PARENT EDUCATION CONFERENCE: BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR TEENS	MILL VALLEY Middle School
18	7 PM – PTSA MEETING AND PANEL DISCUSSION FOLLOWING DR. DENISE POPE'S PRESENTATION	CLASSROOM 2020 Lower Keyser
18-22	7 PM – CTE PRESENTS: THE THREE MUSKETEERS	CALDWELL THEATRE
19	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	GREENWOOD MUSIC ROOM
20	PTSA HOLIDAY PLANT SALE ORDER FORMS DUE	
24	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
25	7 PM – TAM HIGH MUSIC SHOWCASE	CALDWELL THEATRE
26-27	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY & RECESS	
DECEMBER 2009		
2	11:45 AM-2 PM – BOOK PASSAGE LUNCHEON BENEFITING TAM HIGH FOUNDATION	BOOK PASSAGE 51 Tamal Vista Blvd. Corte Madera
4	NOON-6 PM – PTSA HOLIDAY PLANT PICK-UP	STUDENT CENTER
9	7 PM – PTSA MEETING	
9	7 PM – INSTRUMENTAL HOLIDAY CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT AUDITORIUM
10	7 PM – HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT	CALDWELL THEATRE

For details and updates, check the calendar on the Tam High website: [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org)