

Please join us for a magical supper club evening  
at the THUMB

**Valentine's Dinner & Concert**

Friday  
**11 February 2011**

**6:30pm ~ 9:30pm**  
dinner 6:30-8:30 - dessert 8:30-9:30  
music throughout the evening

**Ruby Scott Gym @ Tam High**

Dinner by  
**FOCACCIA**

Dessert by Sweet Things  
Coffee by Peets and Starbucks

Adults \$20  
Teens \$15  
Musicians & kids \$10  
All Tickets at the Door

## Tam High Music Student Chris Jefferies Wins Stanford Jazz Residency Scholarship


As a result of his excellent performance at the College of San Mateo Jazz Festival on November 19, 2010, Tam High senior and bassist Chris Jefferies won a scholarship to the prestigious 2011 Stanford Jazz Residency. The scholarship was awarded by a distinguished panel of jazz artists. A skilled musician, Chris is a key rhythm section player whose chops set a strong and reliable foundation for the mightily swinging Tamalpais High School big band, directed by Music Director Spiro Tsingarlis.



Senior Chris Jefferies (L) displays his award alongside Music Director Spiro Tsingarlis.

"I was very surprised to win such an award since there were so many talented musicians also performing, many of whom I play with and who are good friends," said Chris. "It's a privilege and an honor to receive such an award. I've been to the workshop for the last three years and have learned a great amount, met lots of amazing musicians and had a ton of fun."

Chris also recently attended the 2011 Jazz Education Network Conference in New Orleans, performing with the SFJazz High School Allstars. Keep your eyes and ears tuned to this bass player!


Be sure to catch Mr. T, Chris Jefferies and all the fine Tam High musicians at one of Tam Music Department's upcoming shows. 



## Tam Violinist Makes the Top of the List

Tam High Music's Greg Rathje has been honored as a featured soloist for the Berkeley-based Young People's Symphony Orchestra (YPSO) at its Winter Concerto Concert this month. Greg is the principal violinist for the YPSO, which is the oldest youth orchestra in the state and the second oldest in the country.

On February 5 and 6, Greg will perform the Viola Concerto in C Minor by Johann Christian Bach at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

Greg was recently featured in an article published in the Marin Independent Journal. Link to the IJ article at [www.marinij.com/lifestyles/ci\\_17067865](http://www.marinij.com/lifestyles/ci_17067865). 

Senior Greg Rathje.

## Principal's Message

by Tom Drescher




### New This Year - Online Class Registration

Starting this year, all registration for classes will take place online. This will enable us to expedite the scheduling process, reduce paper waste and improve the accuracy of course selection. Directions for student scheduling will be distributed on Wednesday, March 2, during tutorial. Students will receive a handout in class outlining the online scheduling procedures. This handout will also be available on the Tam website as of March 2.

If students have problems with the online process, their school counselor will be available to help before or after school or during breaks. Students may request a pass to see their counselor in the computer lab during tutorial on March 4, 9 and 11. Parents are encouraged to help their students sign up online and to review the requests they are submitting. We hope that you will read the Course Guide, available online at [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org), and discuss this information together to make thoughtful choices when scheduling for next year. For further questions, please call the Counseling Office at 380-3537. **Note: online scheduling must be completed by March 11.**

### Matrix for Enrollment in AP/Honors Classes:

To enroll in advanced placement (AP) or honors courses for the 2011-2012 school year, students must follow the requirements outlined in the AP/honors matrix that was recently emailed to parents and students. Informational meetings and entrance exam dates, as well as prerequisites for advanced placement and honors classes are included in the matrix, which is posted on the [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org) website. Click on Academics, then AP & Honors, then AP & Honors Matrix. 

## Diploma Notice for Seniors

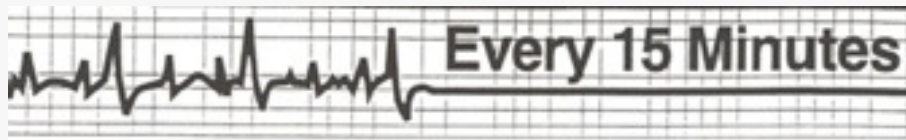
Seniors! Your diploma is an official document. Be sure that your name is spelled correctly by checking in with the principal's secretary. Please stop by or email [moleary@tamdistrict.org](mailto:moleary@tamdistrict.org), and specify exactly how you want your name to appear. The deadline is February 18, so do it now.

## Exit Exam Testing Dates: March 8 & 9

All sophomores will take the California High School Exit Exams in English Language Arts on March 8 and Math on March 9. The daily bell schedule will NOT be affected on these days.

## STAR Testing Coming April 19-22

Reminder: STAR testing for grades 9, 10 and 11 will take place April 19-22. Please make sure to avoid scheduling appointments during these dates as your student's participation is crucial.



Tamalpais High School will conduct the *Every 15 Minutes* program on March 22 and 23. This powerful program is designed to dramatically instill in teenagers an understanding of the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking alcohol or texting while driving. The program will challenge students to think about personal safety and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved. Students participating in the program will experience firsthand the sensations of being involved in a tragic, alcohol-related driving collision. All students will witness a mock crash scene and participate in a school-wide assembly. For more information regarding this program, go to [every15minutes.com](http://every15minutes.com).

The bell schedule will be slightly modified on March 22:

Class Period	Time
1	8-9:15 am
Break	9:15-9:30 am
2	9:30-10:45 am
E15M Crash Scene	10:45-11:55 am
Lunch	11:55 am – 12:40 pm
3	12:40-1:55 pm
Break	1:55-2:10
4	2:10-3:25 pm



### THE TAM FAMILY

**PTSA President** Leslie Wachtel  
[mvleslieann@yahoo.com](mailto:mvleslieann@yahoo.com) ..... 388-7766

**PTSA Executive Vice President** Gwen Hubbard  
[gwenhubbard@comcast.net](mailto:gwenhubbard@comcast.net) ..... 388-7421

**PTSA Vice President - Communication** Ruth Rosenfield  
[ruth@rosenfields.net](mailto:ruth@rosenfields.net) ..... 388-5738

**Principal** Thomas Drescher  
[tdrescher@tamdistrict.org](mailto:tdrescher@tamdistrict.org) ..... 380-3510

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor:** Mary Washburn      **Proofreader:** Kathleen Goldberg

**Layout:** Peg Baumert      **Distribution:** Ingrid Sato

Published 8 times a year

## Attention AP Students and Parents: It's Time to Register for AP Exams

From Assistant Principal Kim Stiffler

It is registration time for Advanced Placement (AP) exams, which will take place May 2 through 13. The AP exams provide students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of materials covered in AP classes and, depending upon results and individual university policy, possibly earn college credit or placement. It is the student's responsibility to consult the catalogs of the colleges of interest in order to determine each college's policy with regard to AP exams. If a student is enrolled in an Advanced Placement class at Tam High, the expectation is that the student WILL take the exam. Students may consult their AP teacher in order to determine more accurately their readiness for the exam.

Registration will begin Monday, February 28 and end on Friday, March 18. To register, complete the AP test registration form (to be mailed in early February or download at [TamHigh.org/Academics/AP & Honors/Testing & Registration](http://TamHigh.org/Academics/AP%20&Honors/Testing%20&Registration)) and return it to the Assistant Principals' office, along with a check payable to Tamalpais High School. The cost for each exam is \$87. Registration forms received after March 18 must include a late fee of \$50. Forms will not be accepted after April 1. Scholarships for students with acute financial need will be taken into consideration according to specific qualifying guidelines. Requests must be made in writing and be submitted with the AP registration form.

Students who have a current IEP, 504, or General Ed plan with testing accommodations must see Counselor Alex Hunt by March 2 to confirm they qualify for accommodations for the AP Exams. Only students who have been pre-approved by the College Board are eligible for extended time and other testing accommodations.

AP exam dates and locations are shown below and will be also posted on the Tam High website under the Academics section. Please review additional information on AP policies and procedures and a description of each of the AP exams at [collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap](http://collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap).

If you have any conflicts with test schedules, contact the Assistant Principals' office at 380-3512 before the end of the registration period. There are very limited circumstances under which the College Board or the site will approve a student for an alternative late testing date. If late testing is approved, an additional \$50 late testing fee may be required.

Lastly, all of the AP exams are proctored by volunteers and proctoring provides parent and guardians an opportunity to support the AP program at Tam. It's easy and your assistance is greatly needed. We have over 300 AP students this year and the program is dependent upon your support. To volunteer please include your name on the registration form.

**2011 AP Testing Schedule**

WEEK 1	MORNING 8:00 am	LOCATION	AFTERNOON 12:00 pm	LOCATION
Mon 5/2	Chemistry	Ruby Scott Gym		
Tues 5/3	Spanish Language	Language Lab/Ruby Scott		
Wed 5/4	Calculus AB / BC	Ruby Scott Gym		
Thurs 5/5	English Literature	Ruby Scott Gym		
Fri 5/6	U. S. History	TBD	European History	Ruby Scott Gym
	Studio Art Portfolios (Art Rooms)			
Week 2				
Mon 5/9	Biology	Ruby Scott Gym		
Tues 5/10			French Language	Language Lab
Wed 5/11	English Composition	Ruby Scott Gym	Statistics	2020
Thurs 5/12				
Fri 5/13				

## Tam High Foundation



**Coming Again this Spring:  
Tam Supper Club  
Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 5 pm  
Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club  
One West Blithedale Ave.  
Mill Valley**

This spring, the Tam High Foundation (THF) will hold

its second Tam Supper Club. The Tam Supper Club is a highly enjoyable Tam community event, worthwhile for the social and entertainment value alone. Even better, the Supper Club is an important component of THF's fundraising efforts for our Tam students! The Supper Club augments our annual and business campaign fundraising as the one event that raises money for THF each year.

Please **SAVE THE DATE** as you will not want to miss this stellar event. Highlights include:

- Extraordinary performances by our superlative Tam High drama and music students
- Delicious food and drink including
  - Oyster and Shrimp Bar
  - Wine and Beer tasting
- Friends from Tam High and the Mill Valley community
- Top-of-the-line silent auction and raffle.

Participate in the Tam Supper Club in the following ways:

### 1) Be a SPONSOR of the Tam Supper Club.

*Special Bonus: Buy your sponsorship by March 2, 2011, and your name will appear on the Tam Supper Club invitation, mailed to all parents in the Tam community.*

You may choose from the SPONSORSHIP opportunities below and on page 4:

### FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS \$225

Includes Event Attendance for One  
+ One Raffle Ticket + Mention in  
the Catalog and at the Event

*continued on page 4*

## Tam High Foundation *Continued from page 3*

### SILVER CIRCLE SPONSORS \$325

Includes Event Attendance for Two + One Raffle Ticket + Free Drinks + Mention in the Catalog and at the Event

### GOLD CIRCLE SPONSORS \$500

Includes a Teacher Sponsorship to the Event + Event Attendance for Two + Two Raffle Tickets + Free Drinks + Mention in the Catalog and at the Event

### 2) Donate to the Silent Auction or Raffle

All Tam families are asked to be creative and donate to the Silent Auction or Raffle. There are so many ways to give! Examples include:

- Vacation Home Getaways
- Sports Tickets
- Dinner Parties at your Home
- Restaurant Gift Certificates
- Cases or Bottles of Fine Wine

To donate to the auction or raffle, contact: Susan Shumway, [susanshumway@aol.com](mailto:susanshumway@aol.com), or Lisa Barger, [lbarger@mac.com](mailto:lbarger@mac.com).

To sign up for Sponsorships: Go online to [tamhighfoundation.org](http://tamhighfoundation.org), click on "Spring Fundraiser" and follow the prompts or mail your check to Tam High Foundation, 700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941. Please send a note with your check indicating which sponsorship(s) you are purchasing.

## From the PTSA President

by Leslie Wachtel

Hope everyone had a wonderful winter break! Hard as it is to believe we are already well into the second half of the school year and many great events and programs will happen at Tam High in the next few months.

Our February 2 PTSA meeting will feature a presentation by faculty members from the English and Social Studies departments that will focus on our CORE program for freshman and sophomores. This innovative approach to teaching these subjects is new this year at Tam and has already shown through improved first semester grades that it is beneficial to our students. Please come and hear how this program works and what it offers our freshmen and sophomores. Please invite your friends with current eighth graders who might be interested in finding out more about CORE before their students arrive in the fall. The teachers will also talk about class offerings for juniors and seniors in these two subjects and the many great programs available to upperclassmen in these departments.

This year our annual PTSA Parent Education Event, *Drugs, Alcohol and Your Teen*, will be a two-part series.

The first part will follow a brief PTSA meeting on March 2 from 7 – 9 pm with *Straight Talk: Tam High Teens, Drugs, Alcohol & Sex*. The event will feature a student panel from our Peer Resource and Journalism classes. Tam High peer resource and journalism students will offer their views on what is happening with Tam High students in regard to drugs, alcohol and sex.

Bring your questions and be prepared to sit back and listen while they offer their pointers on how to talk to your teens, how to listen so they will talk, and how to facilitate healthy decision-making/choices relative to drugs, alcohol, and sex. This is a matchless and valuable opportunity to talk directly to our very own teens at Tam High!!

The second part of the program will follow our PTSA meeting on April 6 at 7 pm in the Student Center, when we will feature another wonderful parent education event: *The Science of a Meaningful Life, Part Two: Dr. David Presti presents Mindful Parenting: Your Teen, Drugs and Alcohol*. Dr. Presti, a full professor at UC Berkeley, teaches the popular class, *Drugs, Brain, Mind, and Body*, and has been given the highly acclaimed Golden Apple Award, a distinction voted upon by UC Berkeley students. He is an expert on the effects of drugs on the brain, the mind, the body and addiction.

The PTSA is hoping that all parents will want to participate in these presentations that dovetail with *Every 15 Minutes*, which will happen at Tam on March 22 and 23. *Every 15 Minutes* is a two-day program that challenges high school students to think about drinking, driving, personal safety and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved. Please look for an important email with more details and an appeal to all parents to help us fund this crucial and impactful event.

Many thanks to Audrey Shapiro from Common Sense Media (and a Tam parent!) and to Sylvia Goodman, MFT (and Tam cross country coach) for an educational, informative and eye-opening presentation last month on Navigating the Digital Teenage Landscape. Thanks to our student panel of juniors and seniors for coming that evening and sharing their personal experiences with their digital world and to the over 70 parents who came out that night to participate in this parent education opportunity. 🦅

# THANK YOU!



Thanks to our generous Tam High School families, the Tam High Foundation's Annual Parent Campaign has reached its campaign goal!

Thank you to All for giving in support of the programs which benefit our Tam High students.

*Second in a Series of Interviews with Tam High Guest Artists*

## THUMB Connects Professional Musician Chris Detrick with Beginning Band: Now Step Back and Hear the Magic!

*by Alma O'Brien, THUMB parent volunteer*

With a nearly packed house at the first Beginning Band concert last December, Caldwell Theatre was abuzz with the kind of energy you would expect at a high-priced rock show. This wasn't your typical recital; it was full-on rock and heavy metal, complete with the "mosh pit." Who better, you ask, than the newest Tam Music guest artist Chris Detrick to be running the show? With many students new to performing, Chris has a knack for encouraging them to perform to their fullest potential.

Chris Detrick is no stranger to youth bands. In 2007, Chris launched MY AMP (Marin Youth Accelerated Music Program) to satisfy a growing demand for fast-paced youth music workshops. The ultimate goal is to get youth musicians performing at a public venue. Judging by the smiles, Tam music students are having a blast playing music!

A true multi-instrumentalist, Chris can be heard playing guitar, drums, bass and keyboards in many bands throughout the Bay Area. Having graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in music, focusing on harmony, composition, and performance, Chris is delighted to be teaching the songs that first inspired his quest for musical knowledge. He aims to help his students develop the skills they need to find their own musical voice.

*THUMB recently caught up with Chris Detrick for an interview.*

### **How did you choose your instrument as a child? Was there an instant connection?**

I have always enjoyed experimenting with new instruments. Out of tune pianos and guitars provided me with hours of entertainment as a child, long before I had any plans to become a musician. At 12 years old, I remember being drawn to the drum. When I got my hands on an electric guitar, it was all over. Guitar is still my passion, but I consider myself a "musician" more than a "guitar player." I'll play whatever instrument is in front of me. I believe that learning new ways to make music improves your musicianship as a whole.

### **What artist has influenced you the most?**

Like legions of dedicated guitar players, Jimi Hendrix started and continues to fuel my obsession for the guitar. The Band of Gypsies album blows my mind every time I listen to it. It is definitely in my desert island collection. Hendrix's playing always pushed the envelope so even today it still sounds futuristic and fresh. In his short life, Hendrix left an amazing wealth of music. I don't think I'll ever be done listening to it.

### **You have worked with a lot of students over the years, what is your most memorable moment?**

When I get a chance to play on stage with my student bands, the enthusiasm and energy is contagious. Those moments keep me connected to the excitement I experienced when I first fell in love with music. My students help me to become an even better musician.

To be a good teacher, you have to be a good listener. Every student has a different approach to learning. You have to be flexible in the way you present information if you want to get the best possible results. Studying music has taught me how to listen, which in turn has helped me become a better teacher. Part of the magic of music is that it teaches you how to do everything else better.

### **Any parting thoughts on music education and its enduring value?**

No matter what you want to do with your life, if you study music, you will acquire skills that can be applied to any other intellectual pursuit.

*How about that for an endorsement of Tam High Music, the leadership of Music Director Spiro Tsingarlis and our wonderful program!*

The **Tam High Music Guest Artist Program** is generously funded through an ongoing Major Grant by the **Tam High Foundation**. Please help us keep this incredible **Guest Artist program** going by giving as generously as possible to the **Tam High Foundation**.

*Your gift gives our Tam High musicians and vocalists the best possible start on a lifelong creative journey with music at its center.*

## News from THUMB

Curious to hear a marathon of Tam musical talent and entertainment packed into just two nights? Get thee hence to the Solo & Ensemble Concerts for 2011:

### **Wednesday, February 2**

#### **Solo & Ensemble Concert #1**

Caldwell Theater

Time: 7 pm

### **Wednesday, February 9**

#### **Solo & Ensemble Concert #2**

Caldwell Theater

Time: 7 pm

*Admission is free!*

Come see this winter concert that showcases the talent of each and every Tam Music student! Take the chill off the season and breathe in the warmth of superior sound and song!

### **Join THUMB**

It's 2011! Resolve to do one small act with large positive consequences for students in your community. Join the THUMB volunteer team and grow the love of music at Tam and in the community!

THUMB -

Tam High United Music Boosters Meeting

Thursday, February 17

7-8:30 pm

Greenwood Music Room (aka The Band Box)

It's easy, it's fun and it's populated by cool people – parents of musicians and vocalists! For further information, call Doug Thompson, THUMB President at 269-8757 or [doug@thompsonstudio.com](mailto:doug@thompsonstudio.com).

### **Stay Current with the Tam Music Scene**

Website: Go to [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org), click on "Teacher Websites" and then choose "Tsingarlis, Spiro – Music."

Facebook: To be a fan of Tam Music, join the Facebook group "Tam High Music" @ [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/tamhighmusic).

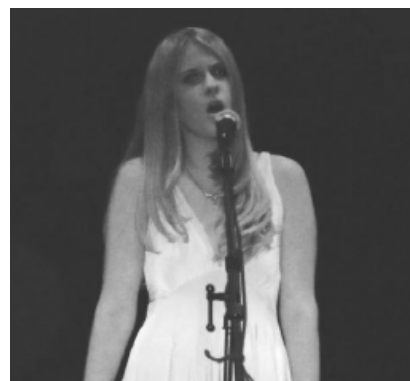
# Here are the musicians who played in the 2010 Third Annual Musicians' Showcase



*Music Director Spiro Tsingaris ("Mr. T")*



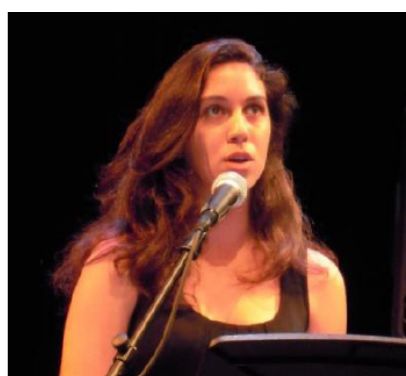
*Ian Johnston and Mike Ma*



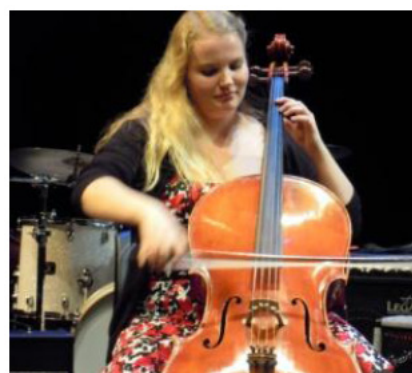
*Madeleine Elias*



*Casey Thompson*



*Serena Huguet-Holway*



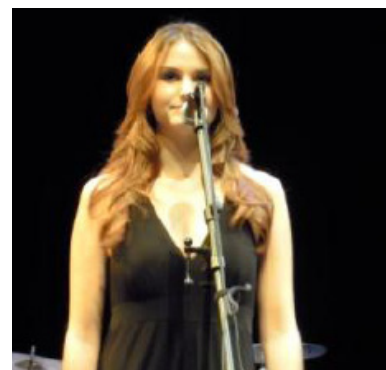
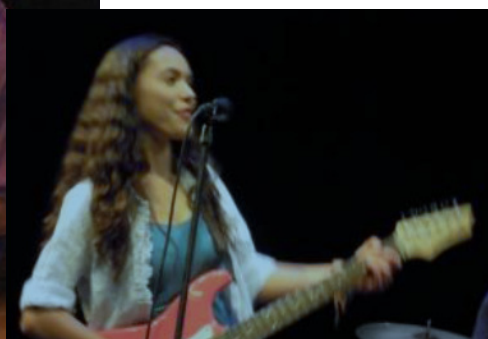
*Eleanor Coleman*



*Rest of the Family*



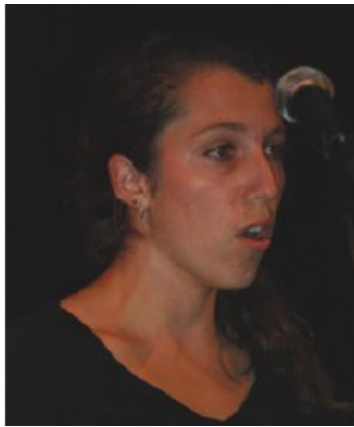
*Jack Brown Quartet*



*Kailey Lopez*



Elaine Johnston



Isabel Janetos



David Chong



David Fuchs and Friends



Andrea Goikolea



Anthony & Daniel Lavezzo



Reiko Tsuchida



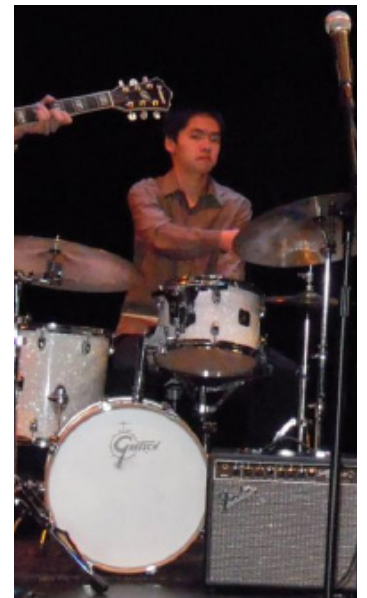
Jazz Combo



Nate Parton



Chris Jefferies



Alvin Wong

Congratulations on a great show!



Taking Studio Arts in new directions  
PATRONS OF THE ARTS AT TAM HIGH

## Here's What's Happening On The PATH:

Tam student photography will be on display at Noci Gelateria, an organic, artisanal gelato shop in downtown Mill Valley, during the month of February. This display

entitled "Conservationists and Keepers of the Earth" is all about the earth and honors people and organizations that protect, cultivate, keep, honor, preserve or otherwise work toward the greater good of our planet. Noci Gelateria will generously donate 10% of its sales on Tuesday, February 1, to PATH to coincide with the First Tuesday Art Walk. So take your family on a stroll through town on February 1 to view exciting exhibits from local artists and enjoy some delicious gelato at Noci Gelateria. Grazie!

We invite you to experience studio arts on March 12 and 26 when Tam's visual arts teachers, along with some talented students, will teach you techniques in photography, ceramics and screen print and enable you to create your own personal work of art. See the flyer accompanying this article for details. Please join us - all proceeds will benefit our Visual Arts programs. See you in the Studio!

PATH is pleased to announce its business partnership with Flax Art & Design in San Francisco "where creative people shop." Howard Flax, CEO and Tam parent, heads this family-owned business that has a long history of supporting the Bay Area arts community. Flax Art & Design has generously donated about 200 canvas art panels and has provided our visual arts teachers with art materials at a deep discount - a much needed resource for our budget-challenged arts programs. A big thanks to Howard Flax and Flax Art & Design. Be sure to visit this fun place to shop at 1699 Market Street and inspire your creativity!

*Photo by Kristin Cerda-Womack*



## News From Link Crew

Link Crew welcomes everyone back to a new semester and a new year! We ended the first semester with a successful Cookies and Cram, and we hope that our efforts helped students prep for winter finals. Cookies and Cram is an afterschool study session in which students may collaborate with other peers, upperclassman tutors, and teachers to get ready for their finals - all while eating yummy snacks!

Freshman Advisories began with a review of available resources for freshmen. Tam has many support networks for students including free tutoring, teachers, Link Crew Leaders, the library, the College and Career Center and the Counseling Office. Free peer tutoring takes place during tutorial on Wednesdays for math in room 910 and for science in room 60. The library is open from 7:30 am to 7 pm Mondays through Thursdays and on Fridays from 7:30 am to 4 pm to assist students all day long. Students are encouraged to study after school, use the computers and laptops as well as any of the books. The College and Career Center posts job listings as well as internship opportunities. Additionally, Peer Resource provides peer support on a variety of issues as well as training for our condom availability program. Lastly, counselors are extremely helpful and Link Crew encourages all freshmen to get to know their counselors. The Counseling Office is always open to students interested in talking about anything from academic schedules to family problems. They can be a great support through high school.

With some upcoming freshman events and another Study and Snacks (peer tutoring support) event planned for the coming months, we hope freshmen are prepared to finish up their first year of high school with success!

*Students prepare for finals at last semester's "Cookies and Cram" in Classroom 2020 (top) and science classroom (below).*



## Where Are They Now? CTE/TAM Drama Alumni News

by Susan Brashear, CTE Co-Program Director and Drama Instructor

Many of our recently graduated CTE alumni stopped by over the winter holidays to let us know how their first year of college or conservatory training was going, which sparked my reflection on how our theater program serves our students after high school. These grads spoke of their excitement to take their next steps, how much they are learning and also how well prepared they felt coming out of CTE to face their next challenges. As times are getting tougher for education for a number of reasons, hearing from them made me think a lot about the relevance of theater education, the varied skills that are transferable to other endeavors, and the sense of purpose that is fostered through a "theater family" where you can always find a home to come to whether at CTE or wherever there is theater.

Some grads attending schools for theater training such as Ben Stanton and Charlotte Thomas at Boston University, Isabelle Ellingson (North Carolina School for the Arts), Ellie Kirn (University of Michigan), are immersed in their intense theater programs and working hard. Others such as Kelsey Engstrom (University of Washington), Ben Harris and Rachel Chavez (both at Columbia) are not majoring in theater, but are finding ways to be a part of student theater groups, taking classes or doing tech work for which their background at CTE comes in handy.

"At Columbia I have been working in both the black box theater and the main-stage auditorium on student written plays and musicals," Ben Harris writes. "I designed lights for the show *Black Comedy* in Barnard's theater, and managed sound cues for the student-written musical *XMAS! 5: A Corporate Carole* at Columbia. I wouldn't have been able to do any of this technical work if I hadn't been trained by Heather (Basarab, production manager) at CTE. Tam Drama rocks!" Not a bad part-time college job! It beats working in the cafeteria.

Other recent grads who stopped by included Mariel Rossman (UCLA) who is doing a year abroad in London and loving it. And Alyssa White, at Kenyon College, spent the summer at the O'Neill National Theater Institute in an intensive program. Wyn Evans, also at Kenyon, writes us that he is majoring in drama, with a focus on a year-long playwrights' course with Wendy MacLeod while improvising on the side with a student group called Fools on the Hill. He hopes to be accepted into a program that will offer training with The Second City in Chicago.

Some grads are a bit further along. Gus Heagerty, who graduated from North Carolina School for the Arts with a BFA in directing received the William R. Kenan fellowship in directing at the Kennedy Center. After a busy summer as assistant director for a professional production in Pasadena and a production of *Hamlet* in Seattle, Gus has moved to Washington, DC where he's currently assistant director at the Arena Stage. For more about Gus, check out this article: <http://weplaydifferent.wordpress.com/2010/07/25/interview-with-gus-heagerty-the-assistant-director>.

### Here are some other CTE alumni out there on very diverse paths:

**Sean Lynch** (Cal Arts) is living in New York City and working as an actor. He appears in a small regular role on *One Life to Live* and was chosen for the Sundance Theatre Lab in *Origin Story*. Sean's sister Noelle Lynch is also in New York working in commercials, modeling and acting.

**Nicole Ripley** (Northwestern) is vibrant and well and working in the Chicago theater scene. She is education liaison at Writers'Theatre, a teaching artist at the Steppenwolf Theatre and the Northlight Writers'Theatre, and an actor.

**Dylan Saunders** (University of Michigan) has been very busy since graduation. After a year at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater as an apprentice actor appearing in several productions, Dylan spent the summer at the Shakespeare Santa Cruz production of *Lion in Winter*. Next he moved to Chicago where he is working as an actor and doing very well. While at Michigan, Dylan and several of his classmates formed a creative group called *Starkid Productions* that developed the highly successful musical parody called *A Very Potter Musical*, a huge success on YouTube attracting 20 million views. Their next production, called *Starship*, will premiere in Chicago in February and will be on YouTube in March. Follow his journey at <http://www.dylansanders.net>.

*continued on page 10*



## School to Career Spring Opportunities

### SPRING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:

**February 28 - April 29, 2011**

Internships are a great way to explore a career of interest, gain hands-on workplace experience and earn elective academic credit. Internships also look great on college and job applications. Students intern approximately six hours per week during each eight-week program period. New internship opportunities include healthcare, art, fashion, photography, music merchandising, real estate, non-profit, law, video filming, computer tech for girls only, social network marketing and more. Check it all out in the College and Career Center.

### INTERESTED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT?

**March 1 - May 3, 2011**

The Marin County Sheriff Youth Academy is designed to provide students with hands-on training to promote interest in law enforcement/public service as a future career. The program consists of courses designed to educate students in the areas of criminal law, communications, patrol, investigations, CSI, custody, defense tactics, special response team, search & rescue, marine patrol & dive team unit, mock trial and ride-along. This program is composed of 20 students in grades 10-12 from throughout the county. Students meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 pm for eight weeks at the Sheriff's Department in the Marin County Civic Center. Space is limited, so sign up now!

### KAISER YOUTH HEALTH FORUM:

**March 18, 2011**

#### Kaiser Permanente in Terra Linda

Students interested in exploring healthcare as a possible career attend presentations by doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. During this one-day event, students learn firsthand about possible career paths and opportunities in the healthcare industry.

Applications for all of these opportunities are available in the College and Career Center. If you have any questions, please contact School to Career Liaison Camille Madfes at [cmadfes@tamdistrict.org](mailto:cmadfes@tamdistrict.org) or 380-3558.

## Where Are They Now? CTE/ TAM Drama Alumni News Continued from page 9

**Julia Wentworth** (University of Colorado) is currently working in the non-profit sector for the Sheridan Arts Foundation, where she is the PR/marketing director, a position that has evolved from her first job there as business manager. The Sheridan Opera House is a vital center of arts activity in Telluride, Colorado.

**Ava Bogle** (UCLA) is working as an actor in Los Angeles. She and Nick Carmen (UCLA) have written and directed several films. Their latest, *Piano Fingers*, is circulating through a number of film festivals, winning a number of awards including the Grand Jury Prize at Hollyshorts, the Grand Jury Prize at YoungCuts Film Festival, the Special Jury Selection at Lady Filmmakers Festival, the Audience Award at Dances with Films, the Best Cinematography and Best of Fest Selection at Rhode Island International Film Festival, Semi-Finalist in Action/Cut Short Film Competition and Best Short Film honorable mention at Los Angeles Reel Film Festival. Ava also appeared in the film and received great reviews. Check out Ava's website for more information about the film and her upcoming performances: [www.avabogle.com](http://www.avabogle.com).

**Miles Feld** (NYU) with his sister Annie (Eugene Lang) are another filmmaking team. He is currently living in Los Angeles and working in film/television production. Together they have formed *Feldsott*, a production company (<http://feldsottentertainment.com>) and have made and distributed two short films. *UnderTow* is the latest one and is making the festival circuit and receiving a good buzz. Miles has worked as a guest artist in directing with CTE.

**Kelsey Birnbaum** (University of Washington) is also working in the non-profit sector as director of special Events for the Arthritis Foundation in Seattle. She is very active in promoting breast cancer awareness.


**Arian Saleh** (UC Berkeley) is living in Los Angeles and performing as a singer/songwriter. He has recently performed in New York City, Los Angeles and in San Francisco at Yoshi's at an evening featuring singer/songwriters. For more information about his schedule and music, view his website: <http://www.ariansaleh.com>.

**Lauren Saffa** (NYU) is an independent producer/filmmaker based in New York. She is working on a documentary film with Fisher Stevens that is focused on current affairs involving the United Nations. Her shift to film follows her outstanding work in political theater and women's theater projects. Her website is: <http://laurensaffa.com>.

Locally, you can follow several of TAM/CTE grads at a theater gem called Sleepwalkers Theatre in San Francisco: <http://www.sleepwalkerstheatre.com>. Led by artistic director **Tore Ingersoll-Thorpe**, Sleepwalkers is on the radar of theater-goers in the city, especially after scoring an SF Weekly "Best of San Francisco" for emerging theaters. **Tore, Damien Lanahan-Kalish, Ian Riley, Ari Owens** and **Adrian Hopkins** are several of the CTE grads who have been regularly seen on the Sleepwalkers stage or worked behind the scenes.

Does running a student theater company give you skills as an entrepreneur? It looks like it might have in the case of **Dylan Fiesel**, the founder of "Mrs. Munchies" based in the East Bay: <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/eastbay/munchies-after-midnight/Content?oid=1089685>

Or perhaps CTE front-of-house just got him in the mood after graduating from Indiana. At any rate, Dylan is well on his way and doing it his way.

These CTE alumni are but just a few of the many we heard from lately who say they gained a bunch of skills through theater training that continue to serve them whether they go into theater/film as a profession or dream big in other ways. I like to think of them as satellites out there in the world, spreading the spirit of "ensemble" or "many working as one" wherever they go and making the most of their lives. Wonder what they'll do next? I can't wait to see. 

## Leadership News

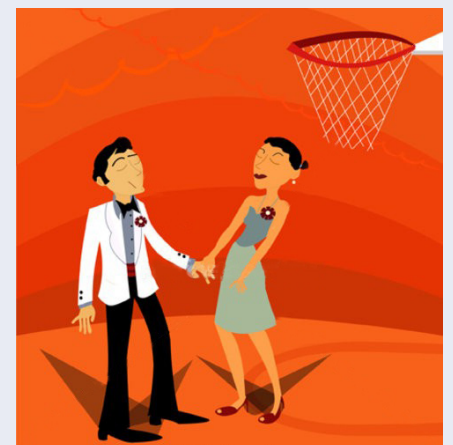
The winter sports rally kicked off the new semester on Friday, January 14. The rally was emceed by senior Sam Hayman and featured a performance of "Shed a Little Light" by the Concert Choir, a dunk contest and an inflatable obstacle course relay race that pitted the classes against each other. The seniors emerged victorious thanks to the hustle of Olivia Trombadore, Peter Malmquist, Brian Scott and Katie Lee to earn a pizza party for the class of 2011.

Juniors are preparing for the Pants Dance, an all-school dance that will be held on Tam's campus on Friday, February 4. Seniors are busy gearing up for the upcoming Junior/Senior Prom on May 7 to be held at The Regency Building in San Francisco and featuring a live performance by a musical guest. The annual Senior Auction will be held at Tam's Open House on Thursday, March 17. If you have any items or services to donate, please contact Lauren Milosky ([laurenmilosky@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmilosky@gmail.com)).

Leadership's outreach committee will host the first ever Blanket Bash on Friday, February 11. All students are encouraged to come during tutorial to make a blanket that will be donated to Project Night Night. Check the bulletin for more information.

## Save the Date

**Junior/Senior Prom May 7 in San Francisco.**



## News from the College and Career Center

by Susan Gertman, College and Career Specialist  
 sgertman@tamdistrict.org  
 380-3582

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### February 3: College Admissions Testing Night

Bruce Reed, regional director of Compass Education Group, will review PSAT and PLAN results and give in-depth explanations of the SAT, ACT and subject tests. Sophomores, juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend this highly informative, once-a-year event. Tam Student Center, 6:30 pm.

#### February 16: Financial Aid Application Workshop

Representatives from 10,000 Degrees, formerly the Marin Education Fund, will be in the computer lab in Hoetger Hall during tutorial, 9:45-10:45 am, on Wednesday, February 16, to answer questions and help seniors and parents fill out financial aid applications. 10,000 Degrees is an excellent source of financial aid and scholarship information. To learn more, go to [10000degrees.org](http://10000degrees.org) or call 459-4240.

### PRACTICE TESTS

Tam offers practice SAT, ACT and subject tests to help students familiarize themselves with college entrance exams. The fee, \$10 each for the SAT and ACT and \$5 for each subject test, is payable in cash or a check payable to the Tam High PTSA. No one is turned away for lack of funds. All fees support the PTSA Academic Scholarship, given each year to a graduating senior. Signups are in the College and Career Center.

#### February 2: Practice SAT Reasoning Test

There will be a full-length practice SAT on Wednesday, February 2, a minimum day, 1:15-5:15 pm, in the Student Center. Signup deadline: January 31. Co-sponsored with Revolution Prep.

#### February 12: Practice ACT

A full-length practice ACT will be held on Saturday, February 12, 8:30 am-12:30 pm, in the College and Career Center. Signup deadline: February 10. Co-sponsored with Princeton Review.

#### March 16: Practice SAT Subject Tests

Students may take one or two practice subject tests on Wednesday, March 16, 3-5:15 pm, in the College and Career Center. Students must know which tests they want to take when signing up. Signup deadline: March 11. Co-sponsored with Compass.

### SAT and ACT

Students may register online for the SAT at [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) and ACT at [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org). Register early for a convenient location. Tam is not a test site.

**Testing Tips:** The counseling department recommends that juniors applying to four-year colleges take the SAT reasoning test in March, May or June. Juniors may also want to take the ACT in April or June in addition to or instead of the SAT. The College and Career Center has practice books and information on preparing for college admissions tests.

Some highly competitive colleges require subject tests. Sophomores and juniors who are completing an academic subject this year are advised to

take a subject test in that area this spring. For example, students now taking AP Biology should take the biology subject test in May or June and not wait until senior year when they will have forgotten some of the material.

### CHSPE

The California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), which awards the legal equivalent of a high school diploma, will be given on Saturday, March 19 in San Rafael. Students must be 16 or in the tenth grade to take the exam. Pre-registration is required. The regular registration deadline is February 19; late registration requires an additional fee. For more information, go to [chspe.net](http://chspe.net) or call 866-342-4773.

### SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are a few suggestions for summer programs along with contact information:

**The Academic Talent Development Program at UC Berkeley** offers challenging summer classes for students in grades 7-11. June 20-July 29. There are different deadlines for new and returning students. [atdp.berkeley.edu](http://atdp.berkeley.edu).

**UC Davis Young Scholars Program** is an interdisciplinary program in biological and natural sciences for sophomores and juniors with mentored research in university laboratories. June 19-July 30. Applications due: March 31. [ysp.ucdavis.edu](http://ysp.ucdavis.edu).

**California State Summer School for the Arts** offers four weeks of classes in animation, visual arts, creative writing, music, dance, film/video and theater on the campus of Cal Arts near Los Angeles. July 9-August 5. Financial aid is available. Applications due: February 28. [innerspark.us](http://innerspark.us)

### FINANCIAL AID and SCHOLARSHIPS

Information on scholarships and financial aid is available at the College and Career Center and online on [tamhigh.org](http://tamhigh.org). Click on Support, then College and Career Center and Green Sheet.

Students planning to attend a California college, including community colleges and vocational schools, are eligible to apply for a Cal Grant. Forms are available in the College and Career Center or online at [calgrants.org](http://calgrants.org). All students who apply for a Cal Grant must also apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA website is: [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov).

### EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Each year a few seniors receive good news early from colleges. Students have reported acceptances at: Berkeley School of Music, Cal Lutheran, Chico State, Colorado School of Mines, Cornell, Drexel, Duke, Eckerd, Humboldt, Johnson & Wales, Middlebury, Montana State, Lawrence, Loyola New Orleans, Northern Arizona, Marquette, Master's College, Northwestern, Redlands, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, San Francisco State, Santa Clara, Sonoma State, Trinity, Tufts, Tulane, UC Berkeley, U of Montana, U of Oregon, U of St. Thomas and Willamette.

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

### AIM Begins Recruitment for 2011-2012

Hard to believe, but it's time for sophomores to begin thinking about their options for next year. The Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media (AIM) provides an avenue for students with genuine curiosity about the world, an interest in filmmaking, a love of the humanities, a preference for working in teams and an ability to handle freedom and responsibility. It's not for everyone, but for those who embrace it, AIM can be a life-changing experience.

### What is AIM?

AIM is a challenging, two-year, three-subject program for juniors and seniors. It blends required social studies and English courses with documentary studies and filmmaking, creating an academic program that not only includes film, but uses it as a powerful means to express student learning. AIM prepares students to excel in college and the world of work through rigorous, interdisciplinary projects that emphasize the academic, professional, collaborative and technological skills students need to succeed in high school, college and the workplace.

### AIM and College

AIM offers regular, AP English and honors history classes within a project-based program. AIM students have been accepted to a variety of schools and programs such as Stanford, Cooper Union, Duke, RISD, Pratt, Emory, NYU, Tufts, Brown, USC, Wesleyan and all the UCs.

### The Personal Connection

AIM fosters meaningful and sustained relationships among students and teachers over a two-year period. Students learn how to work with their peers for an extended period of time on complex projects.

### Relevance

Students ground their films in their social studies, English and documentary film curricula to produce videos that educate the community about

relevant issues. Students have made films dealing with themes of race, class, identity, power and the American Dream and presented them to audiences of over 400 community members at their annual film festival. Additionally, AIM films have won student Emmys, awards at the California Student Media Festival and have been selections in the Mill Valley Film Festival, the San Francisco International Film Festival, and BestFest, the nation's largest student film festival.

### Technological Skills

Students learn professional skills on industry-standard equipment. The AIM lab is equipped with entry-level professional video editing equipment so that students can get jobs or enter film programs immediately after graduation. Many AIM alumni in university film programs have commented that they were ahead of the curve.

### Student and Parent Comments

Don't take our word for it. Here's a sample of unsolicited comments we've received from AIM parents and students over the years:

"AIM has awakened an intellectual curiosity that was hidden somewhere behind his former 'only working for the grades' approach to learning. Congratulations on running an inspirational program." – *AIM parents*

"Thank you for getting our kids to think outside the box, beyond the written word, to work together in a new way." – *AIM parent*

"We have been blown away by the passion, creativity, depth and commitment she and her group members have shown to produce such interesting films." – *AIM parent*

"AIM aids in bridging that elusive gap between high school and real life." – *AIM alum '08*

"I can't imagine high school without AIM." – *AIM alum '05*

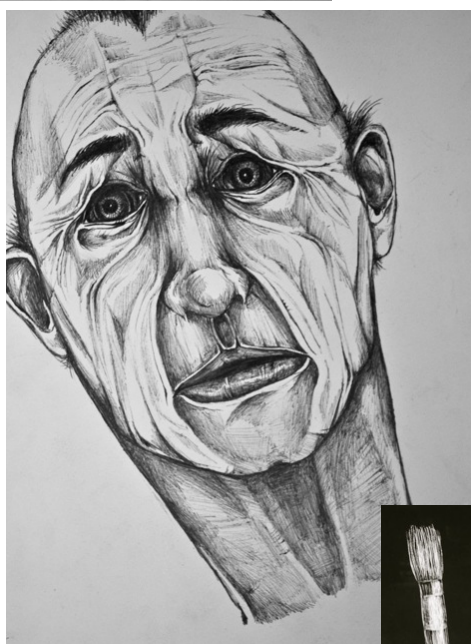
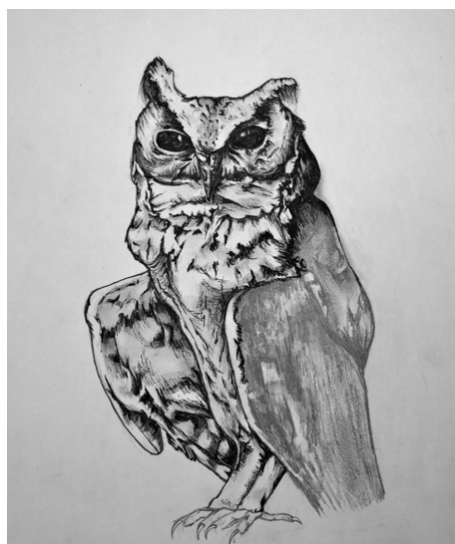
### AIM Application Schedule

Sophomores wishing to enroll in AIM must fill out an application and be interviewed. Their sophomore humanities teachers also fill out an evaluation form.

January 31-February 4	AIM students visit sophomore history classes to introduce the program and invite sophomores to orientation meetings
February 4 & February 9	AIM information meetings for sophomores during tutorial upstairs in the Student Center.
February 9	AIM parent information meeting at 7 pm upstairs in the Student Center
February 11	AIM applications due
February 14-March 4	AIM interviews
March 11	AIM acceptances notified

## Tam's Talented AP Draw/Paint Students Prepare their Portfolios to Submit to the College Board

Clockwise from top left:  
Hannah Berman, Heather Rose,  
Tess Rubinstein, Maggie Whalen  
and Riley Sykes.





*Find out what goes on in the darkroom  
Mold clay into a ceramic masterpiece  
Screen print your original art*

**Experience Studio Arts – Join us March 12 and March 26, 2011**  
Parents, Students, Community Members Welcome

Tam's Visual Arts Teachers, along with talented art students, will teach you a variety of art techniques (see below) to produce a personal work. Supplies and light snacks will be provided. Cost is \$50.00 per person (\$25 for additional family member). Proceeds will benefit PATH – making our Studio Arts program better than ever!

**Photography Darkroom Experience** – Learn to make photograms using various found objects such as flowers, leaves, keys, lace, etc. Expose and develop them in the darkroom. These can be framed or mounted on cards. Participants will take home their own hand-made cards.

**Ceramics** – This is a 2-day project where you make your own ceramic creation (vase, pitcher, box, mug, trivet, etc.) from a slab of clay on day one (March 12) and then add texture like pressed leaves or a carved design. Paint it the same day or glaze it on day two (March 26). You will have time to sign up for an additional project on day two!

**Screen Print** – Bring your own materials to screen print, such as T-shirts, napkins, tablecloth, tote, apron or any smooth fabric that is at least 60% cotton. Bring to class a line drawing or draw one in class. We will use this to create a thermal screen and then print it on your fabric. The screens can also be used to create hand-made cards that you can take home. Additional screens may be purchased for \$10 at the event.

**Please fill out the form below by March 7 and mail it with your check to:**  
**PATH c/o Tam High School, 700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941**  
*Questions? Call Diane Swartz 389-6031*

-----  
Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost per class: \$50 first family member; \$25 for each additional family member**

**Saturday, March 12: 10 am-12 pm**

_____ Photography	_____ # Family members attending	\$ _____
_____ Ceramics*	_____ # Family members attending	\$ _____
_____ Screen print	_____ # Family members attending	\$ _____

*\*Includes completion of project on March 26 if glazing.*

**Saturday, March 26: 10 am-12 pm**

_____ Photography	_____ # Family members attending	\$ _____
_____ Ceramics**	_____ # Family members attending	\$ _____
_____ Screen print	_____ # Family members attending	\$ _____

*\*\*New Ceramics project; painting on same day only.*

I can't make it but would like to support PATH with a tax-deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All parents are encouraged to join PATH - \$50 suggested donation

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for your supporting our Visual Arts students. See you in the Studio!***

## Boosters News

This month we have just a few highlights from our winter sports.

### Boys' Freshman Basketball

The Tam freshman boys' basketball team is an impassioned group – 18 strong – that plays with skill and heart under the leadership of Head Coach Stephen Burke and Assistant Coach Jerrell Milton. The team has a core of seasoned players who have played together on MVMS and CYO teams and who thrive on winning (2010 Marin County 8th Grade Championship winners and 2010 Mt. Carmel 8A Boys Division Champs), as well as an eager group of developing players. The team started freshman league play with two losses, but soon found its rhythm to start bringing in the wins.

Coach Burke, father of Tam grad Evan ('10) and senior Liam, brings 25 years of youth basketball coaching experience and a passion for the life lessons of the game to his first year as a high school head coach.

"I want to inspire kids to learn how to become successful adults," he said. "I chose basketball as the vehicle for that purpose. No one I have ever coached has become a 'pro', but many have grown up to be good citizens. That gives me great satisfaction."

### Tam High Mountain Bike Team Kicks-Off 2011 Season

The two-wheeled Red Tailed Hawks have begun their preparations for the 2011 NorCal High School Mountain Bike League racing season. Under new Head Coach Paul Kundrat, and team captain senior Travis Powell, the group is training for a 6-race schedule running from March to May that pits Tam High against 35 schools and over 600 athletes.

"We had an excellent 2010 season, with many race wins including champions in the Division II Frosh and JV competitions," said Powell, who adds, "But it was our teamwork that earned us an impressive 5th place overall in the State Championships. We are all very proud of that."

The team's pre-season objective for 2011 is to recruit more athletes, especially girls, whose race results are weighted more heavily than boys in the team competition. Training rides occur after school one day during the week and on Sunday mornings throughout the season. Parent volunteers handle race travel and logistics and Tam Bikes on Miller Avenue provides a discount for team members who need equipment.

"It is a fun group," said Coach Kundrat. "We have the full range of experience on the team. The skills and the fitness come quickly on a mountain bike, because the focus is on fun first. The rides and races are designed with fun, safety and athlete development in mind."



*Varsity basketball clockwise from top: Girls' varsity basketball team takes to the court; Senior Frankie Stormaiuolo blocks the shot; Seniors Peter Malmquist and Jordan Bolli-Thompson.*



Students and parents who want more information about the team should contact Tam faculty liaison Mr. Hartquist (Room 152, 415-388-3292 x 5320), Travis Powell (tspowell@me.com), Coach Kundrat (510-229-7415) or student liaison Spence Peterson (415-306-3203). See tamhighmtb.com.

### Home Varsity Basketball Games Remaining:

Thursday, February 3 v. San Marin.

Girls 6 pm; Boys 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 5 v. Novato.

Girls 6 pm; Boys 7:30 pm

Thursday, February 10 v. Branson.

Girls 6 pm; Boys 7:30 pm

Next Boosters meeting: Wednesday, February 9 at 7 pm in the Hawk's Nest.

We are always looking for writers and photographers! If you would like to see your team represented in this column, please contact us at tam.boosters@gmail.com. Deadlines are always mid-month for the next month's newsletter.



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

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FEBRUARY 2011		
Date	Time/Event	Location
2	12:35 DISMISSAL – MINIMUM DAY	
2	7 PM – PTSA MEETING – TOPIC: CORE PROGRAM	STUDENT CENTER
2	7 PM – SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONCERT #1	CALDWELL THEATRE
3	6:30 PM – COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING NIGHT FOR SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS AND PARENTS	STUDENT CENTER
4	8-11 PM – PANTS DANCE	RUBY SCOTT GYM
8	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
9	7 PM – BOOSTER'S MEETING	HAWK'S NEST (Adjacent to Student Center)
9	7 PM – AIM INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS	STUDENT CENTER
9	7 PM – SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONCERT #2	CALDWELL THEATRE
11	6:30-9:30 PM – THUMB VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER & CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT GYM
17	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	BAND BOX
18	END OF R4 GRADING PERIOD	
21-25	NO SCHOOL – PRESIDENTS' HOLIDAYS AND RECESS DAYS	
MARCH 2011		
2	7 PM – PTSA MEETING – STRAIGHT TALK: TAM HIGH TEENS, DRUGS, ALCOHOL & SEX	STUDENT CENTER
3-7	7 PM – CTE PRESENTS: A FLEA IN HER EAR	CALDWELL THEATRE
8-9	CAHSEE Testing for Sophomores	
17	OPEN HOUSE	
18	12:35 PM DISMISSAL – MINIMUM DAY	
For details and updates, check the calendar on the Tam High website: tamhigh.org		