



## Tam Student to Perform at Carnegie Hall



Tam High sophomore Madeleine Elias has been selected for the 2011 American High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall. She will be

a part of the Honors Choir as a Soprano 2. Participation in the Honors Choir is limited to the highest rated high school performers from across North America.

Madeleine auditioned this fall for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted after a review by the Selection Board committee. Acceptance to the elite group is a direct result of the talent, dedication, and achievements demonstrated in her application and audition recording. Madeleine will join other performers from the United States and Canada for a special performance at world-famous Carnegie Hall, a venue that marks the pinnacle of musical achievement.

Madeleine studies music with Rebecca Jones and is a member of The Tamalpais High School Chamber Choir, conducted by Spiro Tsingarlis. Madeleine also writes poetry and fiction and won "Best in Class" for her epic poem "A Call to Duty" in the Marin County Fair Creative Writing competition.

Finalists will come together for five days in February 2011 in New York City to have the opportunity to learn from conductor Dr. Eph Ehly, work with other finalists, and get a taste of New York City. The 2011

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## Science Teacher Lyanne Abreu Travels to Galapagos through Toyota International Teacher Program

Tam science teacher Lyanne Abreu was one of 24 U.S. educators who traveled to the Galapagos through the Toyota International Teacher Program, November 20 – December 4. Now in its 12th year, the program has sent more than 600 U.S. educators to Costa Rica, Galapagos and Japan, completing a two-week study tour to a country where finding innovative solutions to environmental challenges are the highest priority.



*Science teacher Lyanne Abreu (foreground) with students.*

The purpose of this trip was to allow educators to explore solutions to environmental challenges and gain valuable insight into the human impact on Galapagos' fragile ecosystem. While in the Galapagos, teachers visited model conservation initiatives and met with biologists and conservation experts, as they explored the natural wonders of the World Heritage Site. Through visits to local schools and shared service projects, U.S. educators also had the opportunity to exchange teaching practices with Galapagueño educators.




To kick off the program, teachers visited Everglades National Park in Miami for a brief orientation and exploration of the Everglades biosphere, which is similar to that of the Galapagos Islands.

While traveling in the Galapagos, teachers created their own virtual classrooms through the Toyota4Education.com wiki. Facilitating distance learning, the social media tool enables teachers to communicate their experiences in real time with their schools and communities. Educators blogged about

their Galapagos experiences, posted photos and lesson plans and corresponded with their students.

Representing 22 states and selected from more than 850 applications, the 24 participating teachers were chosen through a competitive, merit-based process administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE), the nation's most experienced nonprofit educational exchange organization. Selection criteria included professional qualifications, evidence of interest in international education, and feasibility of incorporating the environmental study experience into the curriculum.


Congratulations to Ms. Abreu. 

## Principal's Message

by Tom Drescher



A high school student's world today is fundamentally different from the one his or her parents experienced, due in large part to technology. The facts of modern life now include social media, cyberbullying, texting and constant electronic connections. Between the internet, gaming systems, mp3 players, and mobile phones, digital communication has become the lifeblood of today's teens. In many ways, they are a pioneering generation as there are no adults who can guide them based on first-hand experience. Consequently, it can be hard for parents to figure out how to help their kids make good decisions in the digital world.

I encourage you to learn more about understanding the digital teen landscape by attending the "Cyber Savvy" Parent Education session hosted by the PTSA on Thursday, January 6, at 7 pm in the Tam High Student Center. Along with two speakers, a panel of Tam High students will join the discussion to share how teenagers use electronic media and the important role it has in their lives. I believe you will find this evening to be a valuable investment of your time. 

## Spell Check for Seniors

Seniors: How do you want your name to appear on your diploma? Do you want a middle name or initial? Please send your request to Mary O'Leary at [moleary@tamdistrict.org](mailto:moleary@tamdistrict.org). First and last name only will be used if a request is not made by February 15.

## Lost and Found

We have many articles of clothing and miscellaneous items in the Lost and Found drawers in the main office. Students are encouraged to check for missing or lost items before the winter break. All unclaimed items will be donated to Goodwill after December 17. Thank you!



## Watch Your email for the Next Issue of the Tam Family

The January issue of the Tam Family will be sent via e-mail only; no hard copies will be printed. Please make sure that we have your email address. Please contact Ruth Rosenfield at [ruth@rosenfields.net](mailto:ruth@rosenfields.net) if you currently do not receive Tam High emails and would like to or if you no longer wish to receive hard copies of the printed newsletter in the mail.

## Tam Student to Perform at Carnegie Hall

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conductors are Dr. Eph Ehly, Dr. Charles Peltz and Jeffrey Grogan. The Saturday, February 19 performance is available to the public and specially-invited representatives from collegiate music programs.

The Honors Performance Series was created to showcase accomplished individual high school performers by allowing them to study under master conductors and perform in the celebrated venue, Carnegie Hall. Learn more by visiting [honorsperformance.org](http://honorsperformance.org).

## Looking to Show Your Appreciation to Tam Staff this Holiday Season?

The Tam staff will celebrate at its annual holiday party on December 10. Donating a gift is a great way to show your appreciation to teachers and staff. In the past, parents have donated everything from gift cards or candy to ornaments and vacation get-aways! All the gifts are distributed by raffle at the party and are gratefully accepted. 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! December 9. Thank you for your support.



### THE TAM FAMILY

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## Tamalpais High School Final Exam Schedule December 15-17, 2010

### Monday, December 13

1st period	8-8:40 am
2nd period	8:50-9:35 am
Break	9:35-9:40 am
3rd period	9:50-10:30 am
4th period	10:40-11:20 am
Lunch	11:20-11:55 am
5th period	12:05-12:45 pm
6th period	12:55-1:35 pm
7th period	1:45-2:25 pm

### Tuesday, December 14

7th period	8-10 am (final)
Break	10-10:15 am
1st period	10:25-11:00 am
2nd period	11:10-11:45 am
3rd period	11:55 am-12:30 pm
Lunch	12:30-1:05 pm
4th period	1:15-1:50 pm
5th period	2-2:35 pm
6th period	2:45-3:20 pm

### Wednesday, December 15

1st period	8-10 am (final)
Break	10-10:15 am
2nd period	10:25 am-12:25 pm (final)

### Thursday, December 16

3rd period	8-10 am (final)
Break	10-10:15 am
4th period	10:25 am-12:25 pm (final)

### Friday, December 17

5th period	8-10 am (final)
Break	10-10:15 am
6th period	10:25 am-12:25 pm (final)

## From the PTSA President

by Leslie Wachtel


We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. We are so thankful for everyone at Tam who helps out in so many ways to make our school function so effectively for our students, faculty and staff. Thanks to everyone who volunteers and donates his or her time, energy and resources to all the different groups and organizations at Tam High.

In November Tam High and Mill Valley Middle School co-sponsored a wonderful, informative and very well-attended parent education conference with Dachner Keltner PhD and Christine Carter PhD on *Creating a Family that Thrives*. The conference this year was hosted by Tam High and over 250 men and women arrived at 8:30 am to the Tam High Student Center and heard these incredible speakers both of whom come to us from the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley. I want to acknowledge Joyce Feeney (the Tam High PTSA parent ed coordinator) and Daphne de Marneff (the MVMS parent ed coordinator) who organized the conference. Many thanks to both of you for your tireless work and energy in bringing these outstanding speakers to our community. (For a recap of the event, see pages 4 and 6.)

Thanks also to the administrative teams from both Tam High and Mill Valley Middle School who enthusiastically supported the event. Copies of the speaker's books will be available soon in the Tam High library for parents or students who wish to check them out. Many thanks to Helene Siegel-Fotos and Michelle Zimmerman for coordinating hospitality for this event and to all the folks who brought delicious treats for everyone to enjoy throughout the morning. Thanks also to the handful of people who stayed around and helped us clean up at the end (including our amazing and always helpful custodial staff). A special thanks to Charlie Uhl who came in on Saturday to make sure our technical equipment was up and running!

Please come to our January PTSA meeting on Thursday, January 6, at 7 pm in the Student Center. After a brief PTSA meeting, our discussion topic will be *Cyber Savvy: Navigating the Teenage Digital Landscape*. Please read the article in this newsletter for more information. Many thanks to Tam parents Deborah Dal Fovo and Audrey Shapiro and Tam coach and marriage and family therapist Sylvia Goodman for organizing this must-attend event for our parents.

**Our next Tam Family will be sent via email only** so please make sure that we have your email address. In an effort to save trees and money, the PTSA is going to send a couple of our newsletters this spring via email. Please contact Ruth Rosenfield at [ruth@rosenfields.net](mailto:ruth@rosenfields.net) if you currently do not receive Tam High emails

We want to wish you of our students, faculty, staff and families a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, peace, family and friends. 



### We are deeply saddened by the recent death of a member of the Tam High School staff, Hector Alvarado.

Hector served as a custodian at Tam for the last three years and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife and two young children.

As a number of parents have asked how they might help Hector's family, we wanted to let the entire Tam community know that Tam is accepting contributions to a fund for the Alvarado family. If you are interested in contributing, please send a check made out to "Tamalpais High School" to 700 Miller Avenue, c/o Mary O'Leary, and include "H. Alvarado" in the note section.

Thank you for your interest in supporting Hector's family during this difficult time.

## Parent Education Conference Highlights

### Creating a Family That Thrives

by Daphne de Marneffe and Joyce Feeney



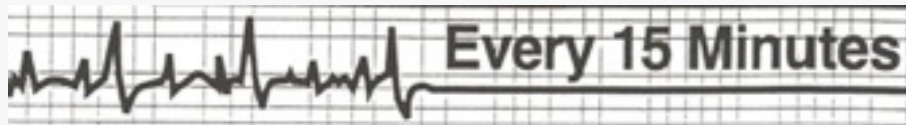
On Saturday, November 13, the third in a series of conferences designed to address the alarming rate of teen suicide

in our community was held at Tam High. The conference topics have evolved from Student Stress, to Developing Resilience, to this year's focus, Creating a Family that Thrives and the Science of Meaningful Life. Dacher Keltner and Christine Carter, experts in the field of positive psychology from U.C. Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center, worked together to outline how and why happiness is less elusive than one might think. Happiness can be fostered by a set of skills that can be learned and practiced in daily life.

Dr. Keltner, sharing facets of his many years of research on happiness, explained the biological science behind stress and well being, highlighting the physiology underlying chronic stress and the roles of the amygdala, the vagus nerve and the hormone oxytocin in calming stress and creating positive emotion. The functioning of this "prosocial nervous system" connects directly to physical health.

Keltner's work synthesizes ancient wisdom about human happiness with the study of the biological basis of our mental states. One of his most powerful messages was the central importance throughout human cultures of the benefits of bringing out the good in others. Borrowing from Confucianism, he calls this the "jen ratio," and says our personal happiness directly relates to how often we choose "high jen" vs. "low jen" activities and attitudes. "High jen" includes connection, trust, giving, play, appreciation, optimism, acceptance, narrative, contemplation and pursuit of the sacred. "Low jen" includes isolation, distrust, greed, aggression, blame, pessimism, rejection, suppression,

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Dear Tam Parent/Guardian,

In the early 1990s, every 15 minutes someone in the United States was killed by a drunk driver. Although the implementation of new laws and programs such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) have reduced the incidence of fatal alcohol-related accidents to once every 20 minutes, this figure continues to be unacceptable. On March 22 and March 23, 2011, the students at Tamalpais High School will have the opportunity to participate in a program that might help save a life. In cooperation with the Mill Valley Police and Fire Departments, the California Highway Patrol, the Marin County sheriff, medical examiner and coroner, as well as numerous local businesses and private citizens, Tam High will present "Every Fifteen Minutes". This is a two-day simulation that challenges students to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, the responsibility of making mature decisions and the impact their decisions have on family, friends and many others.

Every Fifteen Minutes was created and is sponsored by the California Highway Patrol in conjunction with a small grant that falls short of covering the program's true cost. Donations from the Tam High PTSA, the Tam High Foundation, local community organizations and private donations are necessary to help to defray the costs of this extraordinary event.

Many volunteers are needed to make this program happen and we will ask for volunteers after winter break. We ask all Tam families to help with the costs involved in providing this program to our students. Please send in your contribution today.

Thanks for your support!

**Please make check payable to Tam PTSA and mail to:**

**Every 15 Minutes/Tam High PTSA, 700 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941**

Yes, I would like to make a contribution:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank You Parent Volunteers

Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who contributed food for the parent ed conference. Approximately 250 people attended. The array of food was extremely impressive, and the overall consensus was more than favorable!





## MILL VALLEY



PTSA | MVMS | TAM HIGH

January 6, 2011

7:00pm - 9:00pm

**FREE ADMISSION****Tam High Student Center**

Tam High | 700 Miller Avenue

*(The Student Center is adjacent to the rear parking lot on Almonte Blvd)*[www.millvalleyparented.com](http://www.millvalleyparented.com)

Mill Valley (Tam High) PTSA Parent Education present our 2010 Parent Education Conference

## CYBER SAVVY: Navigating the Teenage Digital Landscape



- Did you know that the average teen sends and receives more than 3,000 texts per month and that after checking the time texting is the #2 use of cell phones among teenagers?
- Do you wonder what your teens are really doing online and who is seeing what they post on their Facebook pages?

### Speakers

**Audrey Shapiro** | Common Sense Media**Sylvia Goodman** | Marriage and Family Therapist**Tam High Peer Resource Panel** | Students and Cyber Sleuths

Audrey Shapiro, of [Common Sense Media](http://CommonSenseMedia.org), blogger on the subject and Tam High parent and Sylvia Goodman, noted Mill Valley Marriage and Family therapist and high school coach working with Bay Area teenagers, will present essential information on how to navigate the digital teen landscape and understand the positive and negative implications of growing up in a 24/7 digital world. Tam High Peer Resource panel of students will join the discussion to explain how teenagers use electronic media and the important role it has in their lives.

If you want to understand more about social networking, internet privacy, sexting and cyber-bullying, please join us for a special PTSA/Parent education night on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 7PM in the Tam High Student Center.

**Don't miss this important evening! It's sure to be eye-opening and educational.**

## Parent Education Conference Highlights

*Continued from page 6*


hyperactivity and anomie. This framework allows us to see happiness as a practice, a way of choosing certain behaviors and attitudes rather than others. In the spirit of “high jen,” Keltner’s powerpoint and many other resources are available on his website [greatergoodscience.org](http://greatergoodscience.org).

Christine Carter instructed parents in psychologist Carol Dweck’s distinction between a “fixed mindset” and a “growth mindset.” Carter encouraged parents to replace our fixed mindset with a growth mindset using research findings and vivid examples from her life as a parent.

Americans tend to believe that success is due to natural talent or inborn superior skills, a fixed mindset that leads us to see our own or our children’s abilities as a given. In contrast, a growth mindset centers on the process of learning, and highlights that practice and effort are the keys to success for any skill, whether academic, athletic or artistic.

Describing Carol Dweck’s experiments, Dr. Carter explained how students are more inspired, engaged and work harder when they are not given any special praise on their talents and supposed innate abilities. Students try harder when researchers simply praise them for working hard on the task. Specifically, research subjects who were praised for being “smart or very talented” when given tasks below grade level did not attempt harder tasks. The subjects in this group became concerned about keeping the special label of “smart or talented” and worried about being judged so they did not take learning risks and they did not enjoy the task. In contrast, subjects in the same experiment who were told “good job, you really tried hard” continued to attempt harder tasks. These students took problems home to practice and they enjoyed the whole process. The growth mindset generates the understanding that one can accomplish what they desire if they work hard. The fixed mindset fosters a sense that “I can’t try hard and fail because people will not think I am special anymore.” Our culture and our schools are generally immersed in a fixed mindset, discouraging risk taking and joyful effort. Carter encouraged us to focus on the process rather than the product in all we do.

Carter concluded with a presentation on the practice of gratitude. Keltner pointed out that the research indicates that people who practice gratitude are 25 percent happier. A gratitude practice is one of the most powerful tools to transform a negative mental state to a positive one. Both Keltner and Carter emphasized that gratitude is not about empty positive thinking or a Pollyanna view of life. The practice involves making a list of three to five things that one is grateful for at least one time a week or as often as every day. The feeling of gratitude shifts worry, intensity or anger to a more satisfied contentment in the face of life’s frequent challenges and setbacks.

Dr. Carter’s family has developed a gratitude tradition daily at dinnertime. Her children and the neighborhood children that stop by have become very attached to the practice. Mindful that the audience at the parent education conference have teenagers at home, Dr. Carter encouraged parents to be tolerant of eye rolling and to make room for “snarkyness.” Parents need to accept a teen’s natural desire to individuate and become his or her own person. Carter cautioned that a teenager’s job is to individuate and discover how they are different from their parents. If a teen reveals something intimate in gratitude you can expect them to snap at you later on. Accept that as part of their developmental process. Other tips for parents of teens included understanding that teens will make confrontational comments. Embrace “snarkyness” with a sense of humor. She suggested letting teens lead; encourage your teenager to create the gratitude practice for your family, and let them know that the research shows that a simple gratitude list can significantly increase enjoyment of life. Dr. Carter also offers a advice and parenting information online at [christinecarter.com](http://christinecarter.com). 



*‘QUESTION: What’s a Tam High tradition, a Tam student favorite and a pre-February break launch event all wrapped up in a supper club atmosphere?’*

## The Tam Music and THUMB Valentine’s Dinner and Concert – a Winning Match!

Dine and be entertained at a price that will win your heart! Yummy food by Focaccia Catering, dessert from Sweet Things and coffee by Peet’s and Starbucks!

**Friday, February 11**

**Ruby Scott Auditorium**

**All music groups: vocal, symphonic, jazz, rock and ensembles.**

**Dinner from 6:30-8 pm & dessert from 8-9 pm.**

**Tickets sold at the door that evening.**

Join us in Ruby Scott Auditorium for a magical event that benefits our incredible Music Department and provides you with dinner. A great cause, a good price and an incredible evening. You won’t want to miss it!

## Not Too Late to Contribute to Tam High Foundation Annual Campaign



The Tam High Foundation continues its work on the Annual Parent Campaign. Our goal is the participation of as many parent donors in the campaign as possible to expand this supportive parent network for our students.

Every donation is important, providing funding for the school programs described in last month's newsletter. The value and importance of every gift is demonstrated in the words of several Tam teachers (printed below). These words say "thank you" to the Foundation's parent and business donors for providing the support needed to fund each mini-grant.

As you consider your year-end giving, especially if you have not already donated, we ask that you remember the students of Tam and participate as a donor to the Tam High Foundation. Gifts of every size are greatly appreciated.

Donate by Mail: Tam High Foundation  
700 Miller Avenue  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
Donate Online:  
tamhighfoundation.org

### 2010 MINI-GRANT TEACHER THANK YOU NOTES

Sent to the Tam High Foundation following notification of Foundation Mini-grants Awards:

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Link Crew program! – *Abbey Levine*

Thank you so very much. I am thrilled and I know my students will be as well! – *April Tucker*

Thank you very much for funding my request! I believe strongly that David's presence affects Tam's students in a deep, meaningful way, and I'm very grateful to the Foundation for this support.  
– *Aaron Pribble*

I am thrilled to have been approved. It was so nice to meet all of and I look forward to working with you again. When I get the globes in, it would be great if you could come into my class and introduce yourselves to my students. Thank you so much for all you do. Our students are very lucky to have such a strong parent community! Yay! – *Bettina Mow, Social Studies Teacher*

Thank you for the wonderful news! Your decision to approve the grant will help guide teachers in new and powerful ways ... thanks again for letting this happen! Also, please thank the Tam High Foundation Committee on my behalf. – *Cathy Marsh*

Sounds good. Thanks for your support of student journalism! – *Jonah*

YIPPEE! WOOHOO! This is great news. I can hardly wait to share the news with my students tomorrow. I absolutely know these two plans are going to make a huge difference in the engagement levels...of all of my students. The BBQ incentives and the shop odds and ends are going to be very motivational and inspire much learning!! Thank You!! – *Lisa Miller, Auto Shop*

I, and the World Language Department, cannot thank you enough for your generosity and the incredible amount of time and effort that goes into the work you are doing for our students and the school that serves them. We are thrilled about upgrading the Language Learning Center and will keep you informed of the new ways we will be able to use that space. We are also very grateful for the Spanish mini-libraries, the Mandarin DVDs and the document cameras. Tam would not be the wonderful place that it is without your efforts. Thank you again. – *Catherine Welter and the World Language Department*

Thank you so much for funding our mini grant requests. Your financial support is fundamental in ensuring that the Visual Arts continue to offer students a program that is relevant, engaging and rich in content. From all of us again thank you. – *Lynne Finlay Klein, Fine Arts Teacher Leader*



## Tam High Music and THUMB

### Calling All Music Lovers - Concert Schedule

*Closing Out 2010 and Opening the New Year 2011!*

**Wednesday, December 8**

**Instrumental Holiday Concert – all instrumental groups**

Ruby Scott Auditorium

Time: 7 pm

**Thursday, December 9**

**Choral Holiday Concert**

Caldwell Theatre

Time: 7 pm

### PLANNING AHEAD for 2011!

*Tam Music will help light your way.*

Solo and Ensemble Concerts serve up creative collaborations to rev up the New Year and get you off to a great musical start!

**Wednesday, February 2**

**Solo & Ensemble Concert #1**

Caldwell Theatre

Time: 7 pm

**Wednesday, February 9**

**Solo & Ensemble Concert #2**

Caldwell Theatre

Time: 7 pm

### HOW TO GET WITH THE TAM MUSIC SCENE?

Easy, join THUMB – your community in action at Tam High. Come to the Next THUMB meeting and start the New Year 2011 Right. All are welcome to attend this fun, efficient business meeting!

**January 20, 2011**

**THUMB - Tam High United Music Boosters Meeting**

Greenwood Music Room (aka The Band Box)

7 – 8:30 pm

Help support our students as they define what it means to be a musician and play music.

For further information, call Doug Thompson, THUMB President at 269-8757 or doug@thompsonstudio.com.

### Get With Tam Music Scene Here!

Tam Music Website: More information about THUMB and the Tam High music program may be found at Spiro Tsingaris' teacher website. Go to tamhigh.org, click on "Teacher Websites" and then choose "Tsingaras, Spiro – Music."

**Facebook:** Become a fan of Tam Music. Join the Facebook group "Tam High Music" @ facebook.com.



## Spotlight on Tam High Music Department's Guest Artist Program: Music Students Get Coaching From Professional, Accomplished Musicians and Vocalists

First in a Series of Interviews with Tam High Guest Artists

An Interview with Pianist Extraordinaire, Rob Ellis

by Alma O'Brien, THUMB volunteer

"Bring in the pros" is Tam High Music Director Spiro Tsingaris's motto. With a large number of students served by Tam's thriving music department, Mr. Tsingaris knows that musicians learn from having as many teachers as possible. Pianist Rob Ellis has been tickling the ivory keys for the past ten years with Tam's young, talented musicians and vocalists.

If you have ever wondered who that quiet, debonair, white-haired gentleman is who plays the piano beautifully while accompanying Tam's budding vocalists, here is your chance to meet Rob Ellis.

Rob Ellis started playing the piano at the age of five. He taught himself to improvise by staring at the piano keys for an hour. Then, Rob began to play, and he's been improvising and composing ever since that day. At age seven, Rob began classical piano training. In college at the University of Washington, he studied classical and jazz performance, composition, and orchestration.

With one foot in the classical world and one in the jazz world, Rob spent years accompanying ballet and modern dance companies, choirs and vocal teachers. While playing clubs and concerts, Rob also wrote songs, ensemble pieces and an incredible nine symphonies. For many years, Rob Ellis traveled and performed on luxury liners as a trio leader, solo pianist, pianist/vocalist and entertainer. Highlights of Rob's career include appearances on the TV shows "Boston Today" and the "Seattle Morning Show." Rob has also played exclusive engagements at the Cine Bar and Grill at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

In the midst of Rob Ellis's busy schedule, THUMB caught up with him for an interview.

### Q: What attracted you to your instrument of choice as a child?

It was the feel of the instrument, the coolness of the environment where it was kept (in my parent's basement), the ability to create a complete

sound and the opportunity to play along with my dad, who played banjo, which led me to the piano.

### Q: Can you describe how you feel when you play the piano?

It would take several months to answer that question, but basically it's a sense of ecstasy at the beauty of refined sound.

### Q: To date, what is your most significant personal accomplishment in music?

It was writing nine symphonies in pencil in my own hand within the span of 20 years.

### Q: Do you feel the kids connect with your music?

It's not my music. It's just music that I attempt to interpret.

### Q: If there is one thing the Tam band kids could walk away with after their high school music experience, what would you want that to be?

It would be the joy of having students able to express themselves musically.

### Q: You have been a guest artist for several years at Tam. What is your most memorable moment so far?

I have had many memorable moments, but mainly the highlight is the deep pleasure of accompanying some incredibly talented soloists.



Pianist and Staff Accompanist Rob Ellis with Britt LaGatta, soprano soloist and voice teacher for choir. Photo by Claire Johnston.

The Tam High Music guest artist program is generously funded through an ongoing major grant from the Tam High Foundation. Please help us continue this incredible guest artist program by giving as generously as possible to the Tam High Foundation. Your gift gives our young Tam High musicians and vocalists the best possible start on a lifelong creative journey with music at its center.

Next up: Learn about more of Tam High's Guest Artists in upcoming editions of the Tam Family. 



## Sign Up For eScrip Today and Your Holiday Shopping Will Support the Tam High Foundation

### eScrip Update

We want to thank everyone who has signed up for eScrip this year. If you have not had a chance to sign up, it's not too late. eScrip is an easy way to support your student through the Tam High Foundation and it doesn't cost you a dime. Participating merchants contribute a percentage of your purchases to eScrip. Participating merchants include Safeway, Delanos, Mollie Stone's, and Eddie Bauer to name a few. Last year we received over \$12,000 as a result of Tam High families shopping at eScrip merchants.



Signing up for eScrip is fast and easy and will require you to have your Safeway Club Card and credit cards handy. Go to [eScrip.com](http://eScrip.com).


- 1) If you are new to eScrip, click on "Sign up. It's Free." You can either enter the Tam High Foundation Group number (137140389) or simply type in "Tam High Foundation." Follow the directions to register your Safeway Club Card and credit cards.
- 2) For existing members, click on the "Existing members sign in for personalized home page." From there you can renew your Safeway Club Card and update credit card information. If you only need to renew your Club Card, go to [eScrip.com](http://eScrip.com) and click on "Yes! Renew."

Please note a couple of key points about eScrip:

- 1) You must enter your Safeway Club Card when you sign up. eScrip is not able to process this with your phone number. If you no longer have your Club Card, the number is on your Safeway receipt or you can call 1-877-723-3929.
- 2) The Safeway Club Card has to be renewed every year. We receive about 70% of our eScrip funds from Safeway, so it is critical to renew your card each.
- 3) Once credit cards have been input, they don't need to be updated until their expiration date.
- 4) You can share eScrip across up to three groups (e.g. Tam High Foundation, Kiddo. etc). You can also remove groups that you are no longer involved with.

Please take the time to sign up or renew your eScrip today. It is fast, easy and helps fund many of the great programs we have at Tam High.

### Mill Valley Market's "Shop & Give" Program

Mill Valley Market's "Shop & Give" program makes it easy for Tam parents to support Tam High Foundation. When you shop at Mill Valley Market, mention Tam High Foundation before the order is complete and 2% of your receipt will be given back to our school. Shopping at Mill Valley market is a great opportunity to support both Tam High Foundation and a local merchant who has been a valuable partner for many years. 

Reel News: News from the Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media

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

by Harli Grant, AIM Student Writer

The year is moving quickly and AIM has just announced its final project for the semester. Instead of the traditional documentary, students in AIM are going to produce visual poems: they will write their own versions of George Ella Lyons' poem *Where I'm From* and make films to go with it. We're all excited to see the variety and creativity for which AIM is famous and learn even more about the students in AIM. By having this additional individual project, not only are the teachers switching up the order of projects that they have done in the past, but they are also providing everyone in AIM with more opportunities to improve their media skills. This project integrates the three subjects of AIM by having students improve their writing skills with the poem, hone their research abilities by collecting archival material, and reinforce their film-making skills of cinematography, sound recording and editing.

Over the past month we have been digging deeper into *The Gilded Age* by reading E.L. Doctorow's classic, *Ragtime*, and exploring its themes in American history. In DIMS, we have been learning about the cinema verite genre of documentary by watching the Barbara Kopple's *Harlan County, USA*, which reflected many of the same themes of power, exploitation and struggle discussed in English and history. In a twist from previous years, we will begin our first documentary when we return from winter break. Our theme is "American character," and we will explore what makes Americans famous and infamous, beloved and reviled, iconic and generic. We hope to show many of these documentaries at our annual film festival in June.

## News from the College and Career Center

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

The College and Career Center is sponsoring several events to help students and parents become familiar with college admissions tests and financial aid.

### Financial Aid Night

**Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 pm. Tam Student Center.**

Bryan Hacke, a financial aid officer at Dominican University of California, will give an overview of financial aid and explain how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the primary financial aid application for most colleges. This presentation is open to the entire Tam community. Families of seniors applying for financial aid are urged to attend this once-a-year event.

### Practice SAT at Tam

**Wednesday, February 2, 1:15-5:15 pm (a minimum day). Sign-ups begin January 10.**

This practice test is a great opportunity for students to increase their familiarity with the SAT. To sign up, bring \$10 in cash or check, payable to the Tam High PTSA, to the College and Career Center by January 31. The fee funds the PTSA academic scholarship. No students are turned away for lack of funds.

### Admissions Testing Night

**Thursday, February 3, 6:30 pm. Tam Student Center.**

Bruce Reed, regional director of Compass Education Group, will review PSAT results and give an in-depth explanation of college admissions tests: the SAT, ACT and subject tests. Students who took the PSAT should receive their results later this month. Reed will also discuss Score Choice, a reporting option offered by the College Board. Sophomores, juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend this very informative, once-a-year presentation.

### Beyond Tam – National Portfolio Day for Visual Artists

**Saturday, January 15, noon-4 pm. California College of the Arts.**

Prospective art and design students can receive feedback on their visual arts portfolio and learn more about the different majors from representatives of art colleges from across the country. For more information, go to [portfolioday.net](http://portfolioday.net).

### SAT and ACT

You can download the 2010-2011 SAT and ACT testing calendars and register for either test online. Go to [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com) for the SAT and [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org) for the ACT. Students are encouraged to register online. Sign up early for a convenient test site. Tam is not a test site.


### Attention: UC Applicants

The University of California expects all applicants to complete the courses listed for senior year with a grade of "C" or better. It is the student's responsibility to notify the university if he or she has received or expects to receive a grade lower than "C" for the first or second semester. Students must also notify the University if they drop a class listed on the application, add a new one or decide to audit a class previously taken for credit.

Students must also notify the University if they change their mailing or e-mail address.

### ROP Construction Class

The Regional Occupational Program will offer a for-credit construction class at Redwood High School beginning in January. The course will cover 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. 

## Link Crew News

Link Crew has been working for the past two months to continue to ensure that the Class of 2014 is enjoying and finding success at Tam. Since the start of school, we have hosted social events such as Friday Pie Day and the Halloween Costume Contest, and academically focused events such as Study and Snacks, one-on-one peer tutoring sessions after school, targeting students who need extra support.

We are thrilled to see the freshmen participation rate in our events increasing each year, and we look forward to continuing to improve the support we can provide. On Monday, November 15, 17 freshmen stayed after school working on specific subjects with upperclassmen during our second Study and Snacks event. Students left asking, "Can I meet with my Link Leader again soon to do this again?" After our first Study and Snacks event, a few of the upperclassmen-freshmen pairs have even continued tutoring together on a weekly basis. We're glad we are able to promote a peer-to-peer support network and hope to do more of these events in the future!

In Freshman Advisory during Friday tutorial time, Link Leaders lead activities to promote academic success in high school. Just recently our Link Leaders have led an activity about organization. We discovered that the backpacks of many freshmen were like jungles filled with strange surprises, while others had very organized and orderly backpacks. The organization tutorial has hopefully helped reinstate the importance of being organized in high school life. Other activities in the advisories have tried to bring other important points across, such as utilizing school resources, goal setting and time management. With the coming of finals week this month, we know it will be stressful for freshmen but we want to tell the freshmen not to worry. On December 3 during Freshman Advisory, Link Leaders will work with freshmen to help them prepare for this. If together we are organized, prepared and focused we can get through the end of the semester successfully.

## School to Career Update

by Camille Madfes, School to Career Liaison  
College and Career Center  
380-3558  
cmadfes@tamdistrict.org

The fall semester is winding down and students are wrapping up their internships. Tam internship placements included: Marin General and Kaiser hospitals, ICB Artists Association, Marin County Public Defender's Office, Courtyard by Marriott, and Ro\*Co Films.


Grammy Career Day is just around the corner! This is a unique opportunity for students interested in careers in the music industry. This educational program, produced by the Recording Academy in San Francisco, will be held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. Through interactive workshops, panel discussions and performance participation, students learn about the inner workings of the recording industry and the critical need to stay in school and receive a good education. Because bus seats are limited, applications will be accepted on a first-come first serve basis. Applications are available in the College and Career Center. The deadline to apply is December 3.

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 ranging from grades 10 – 12 from throughout the county. It meets twice a week for eight weeks at the Sheriff's Dept. in the Civic Center.

**Senioritis setting in?** Check out spring internship possibilities in the College and Career Center. Internships run from February 28 to April 29. Applications are available in College and Career Center and the deadline to apply is January 28.

### Events Next Semester:

Grammy Career Day - January 12, 2011  
Spring Internship Program - February 28 - April 29, 2011  
Marin County Sheriff Youth Academy - February 28 - April 29, 2011  
Kaiser Youth Health Forum - March 2011

As the School to Career liaison for Tamalpais High School, I am available in the College and Career Center on Wednesday and Thursday mornings or by appointment. Feel free to contact Camille Madfes with questions at cmadfes@tamdistrict.org or 380-3558. 

## Leadership News

With Veterans Day and Thanksgiving came odd schedule changes and odder weather; however, the Leadership class kept plowing forward with our first semester agenda. Pie Day was on Friday, November 19 in the Student Center, and we saw record turnout in terms of pies baked and pie slices eaten. Not any less delicious, the Holiday Food Drive ran all month, and students brought hundreds of cans which were donated to the Marin Community Food Bank. Also no less delicious (though slightly less healthy), Yolo, one of our local frozen yogurt providers, offered to team up with the four grades at Tam and create a fundraiser, where 70 to 100 percent of the day's profit went to the class. Seemingly our only initiative this month that didn't involve food was the design competition for the new merchandise logo. The designs that are submitted can be dropped off outside of 154 Wood Hall and will be considered by the Leadership Class.

## From Tam News Student Newspaper Advisor Jonah Steinhart

I can't find the Tam kids. There are simply too many teenagers packed into this large ballroom, all gyrating to the saccharine sounds of Katy Perry while formulaic colored lights and strobes flash. It is Friday night at the National Scholastic Press Association's annual conference, and I have slipped into the Kansas City Convention Center with social studies teacher Aaron Pribble to spy on our students at the convention dance.

I do this every convention. I always feel like a bit of a "creeper" in student parlance when I slip into the shadows against the wall off the dance floor for a few minutes at this event, which I have not been assigned to chaperone. But the payoff is immense. You haven't lived until you've seen over 1,000 of the best, brightest and, of course, geekiest journalism students from across the country getting their groove on when the social playing field has been leveled for perhaps the first time in their lives.

As the Katy Perry song mercifully winds down, a familiar, spooky keyboard and resounding bass line rip through the room. I notice many of the students stop dancing and look quizzically at one another. But down near the DJ table, off to the side where there is a little more space, away from the frenzy of girls waving glow sticks, I hear a collective whoop go up even before the voice of the late, great Vallejo rapper Mac Dre enters the track. Something resembling a hurricane Doppler reading starts to form. In the eye of the storm, I see an orange-billed San Francisco Giants hat and recognize Tam senior Ben Kahn.

Pribble and I slide our way down the wall, still in the deep shadows, picking our way around sweatshirts and water bottles until we are about 15 feet away from Kahn.

*Continued on page 14*

# One-Acts Are Coming! One-Acts Are Coming!

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

As we move into the winter semester it is that time of year again ... the CTE Winter One-Act Festival will take place in January 2011. Over the course of three weeks, the entire student company of Conservatory Theatre Ensemble is involved in putting on short one-act plays that are entirely student-directed and student-produced by the advanced drama students, while featuring performers from the first and second year drama classes. This year, about 36 one-act plays will be performed twice, from January 11-15, 18-21, and 25-28. Performances begin at 7 pm in the Caldwell Theatre.

The process for the festival begins when advanced students in Honors Theatre Directing choose one-act plays to direct. Then, in the first and second year classes, all students are cast in these plays. Currently, everyone is rehearsing during class periods in preparation for the festival. The works of playwrights such as Thornton Wilder, David Ives, Booth Tarkington, Percy Granger, and many other classic as well as contemporary classic writers will be among the selections.

Advanced students also produce the festival, covering all aspects of behind the scenes work, scheduling, and technical logistics, including lighting design. Costumes, sets and props are kept simple to facilitate quick turnovers during the evening. When the festival opens, the advanced students will also perform the front of house duties, put together the programs and act as the crew. Every student in CTE will be involved in some aspect of the festival.

The one-act festivals are enormously popular and are attended by many students, friends and family in sold out performances. These plays are the culmination of many hours of work and preparation for these students. Please pay close attention to these important guidelines, so these students will have a great performing experience that won't be undone by distractions in the audience.

## Come early

Seating is "in the round" in the Caldwell Theatre with no reserved seating. The box office opens one hour before each performance for purchasing tickets for that day. There are no phone sales or advance ticket sales.

## Seating

Doors open to the auditorium one half hour before performances begin for seats to be claimed on a first-come, first-served basis. Saving seats is

not permitted, so if your party has not arrived five minutes before the shows begin, any empty seats will be made available to patrons who are present.

## Late arrivals

Due to the intimate setting, it is difficult to seat latecomers. Access to seats after the play has begun is distracting for both audiences and young performers, so you may have to wait until the next intermission to be admitted and then only if there are empty seats available.

## Play guidelines

Plays in the festival are appropriate for high school age and above audiences, so use your best judgment when bringing younger kids. Please consider the distraction of bringing small ones who may find sitting through play performances too much to handle and talk or otherwise interfere with the live performances.

## Cameras/Video

Do not use cameras either for photo or video. Flash photography is very distracting to young performers struggling with their concentration and video cameras often interfere with the enjoyment of other audience members. In addition, copyright rules are very stringent and may prohibit recording of performances.


## Meet and Greet

Do not attempt to go backstage or go up on the stage to see the performers after they finish. You will be able to meet outside in the lobby when there's an intermission where your presence will not interfere with set changes and other actors preparing to come on in the next play. This consideration for others will help the program run smoothly and quickly between each play.

## Respect CTE workers

Please respect the CTE students who are trying to run the festival with professionalism and courtesy. Sometimes adults tend to forget that the students are in charge of running things and disregard their instructions.

In keeping all these things in mind, we should have a wonderful festival this year for parents, friends and students to enjoy. For final schedule times and more ticket information, please check the CTE website:

ctetam.org or call 380-3535. See you there! 





## Stepping Out with Studio Arts

This fall Tam's Visual Arts students stepped out of the studio to visit local museums and exhibits to inspire their creativity and open their eyes to new possibilities. Thank you to the Tam parents that either drove or joined us on these trips.



Lisa Ouse-Hicks' art exploration students took the ferry to visit the exhibit SF-MOMA: 75 Years of Looking Forward. Along the way they viewed and discussed public sculptures and then enjoyed a docent-led tour at the museum before completing their art assignment.

Lynne Klein's art exploration students had a tour and Chinese brush painting workshop at the Asian Art Museum. Thanks to PATH field trip coordinator Jane Rubinstein, students were transported to the museum by bus or adult drivers.

Draw/paint AP studio art students enjoyed a private tour of the de Young Museum's visiting Orsay impressionism exhibition.

First period mixed-level honors and draw/paint class visited the di Rosa Preserve in Napa thanks to a bus provided by PATH.



**Support PATH today. Our goal is 100% participation for all families that have students in the Visual Arts – and your donation is tax-deductible.**

You can help Tam students benefit from meaningful learning experiences in the arts. Please complete this form and send it to:

PATH c/o Tam High School, 700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**I will make a tax-deductible contribution. Enclosed is my check payable to PATH.**

☐ \$50 PATH Membership

☐ I would like to make an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**I am interested in helping with:**

☐ Fundraising

☐ Field Trip Coordination

☐ Exhibitions / Supplies

☐ Public Relations/Marketing

☐ Facilities Planning

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



*Students explore art outside the classroom, from top: Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, di Rosa gallery in Napa, de Young and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.*

## From Tam News Advisor Jonah Steinhart *Continued from page 11*

Around him are the 19 other Tam students we brought on the field trip. But students from other schools are drawn to the circle, which rapidly begins to tighten. I catch a few glimpses of Kahn as the screaming crowd closes in. His feet are a blur, lithely hitting the floor this way and that, wrapping around each other then unwinding. His hands and arms are poetically liquid. Like a thoroughbred coming down the stretch at the Derby, Kahn's head remains completely still above the syncopated blasts of muscle below.

The circle grows two or three students deep, and I see something even more wonderful happen. Senior Zach Wexman, to the sounds of screaming girls, joins Kahn in the circle, popping and locking like he just stepped out of Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo. He quickly is joined by seniors Jazmin Morales, Carina Albizures and junior Lily Rosenzweig, all of whom are pumping their arms and swinging their hips, looks of intensity mixed with sheer pleasure on their faces. The rest of the Tam students join in – every single kid on the trip is sweat-drenched and on the dance floor now – and the circle finally crashes into itself like some sort of dance party black hole, kids from Maryland, Kansas, Colorado and virtually every other state in the union copying the Tam students' hip-hop moves and spilling into the gaps between our kids. As Mac Dre spits the final rhyme of the song, the students break into a resounding chant of "T-High! You know!" I see at least a few kids from other schools joining in the chant.

I have been dumbfounded by these students, not just during the dance but throughout the trip. The first night, I handed out convention course catalogs and asked them to discuss what classes they wanted to attend on Friday and Saturday. They kind of blew me off and said they were busy eating and would do it later. While impressed by their ability to put down large quantities of Kansas City barbecue, I had my doubts about the students' commitment to the convention and The Tam News. The kids are a pretty young, inexperienced bunch and already had a rocky first couple of issues rife with errors and, in my mind, poor editorial judgment. But when we got back to the hotel, they commandeered a conference room on the third floor and discussed for over an hour the classes they wanted to attend, with the more experienced editors suggesting classes based on the editorial responsibilities and interests of each student. And tonight, before the dance, they were right back in that conference room for another hour, every student sharing what they learned from the four or five classes they had attended that day. Tomorrow, they will pick up their third Story of the Year National Finalist award in two years at the closing ceremony of the convention.

As I sat in the back of the room during their meeting, I said almost nothing. These kids were excited, were teaching each other and were plotting how to pass along what they learned to the other 40+ kids on staff back home. They were so self-sufficient, at one point I turned to Pribble and said sheepishly, "I kind of feel useless right now. This is turning into a vacation for me, not a field trip chaperoning gig."

Just then, the next student said, "I didn't realize how good we have it at Tam. At all the legal seminars I went to today, there were these horrible stories of principals, PTAs, superintendents and advisers requiring prior review and killing articles about sex, gay students, drugs, even standardized testing. I didn't believe Steinhart when he was telling us how much freedom we have on this publication. But we really do. We're really lucky."

I smiled. Sometimes the best teaching involves simply priming the conditions for the kids, then getting the heck out of the way and standing off in the shadows while they get their groove on.





## Boosters News

### Girls' Golf

The Tam High girls' golf team had its awards banquet and recognized Kate O'Brien and Brooke Wenig as co-MVPs for the 2010 team. Brooke represented the team at the MCAL and NCS qualifying tournaments and should compete as one of the top players in the league next year. The team captain, Kate O'Brien, won All-League honors and was recognized for her leadership with the Tam High Sportsman Award. Both girls won NCS scholarship awards along with teammates Perrin Albert and Siqi Liu. Trisha Chang was recognized as the most consistent scorer of the team for the 2010 season. Rookie of the Year honors went to sophomore Holly Oakander who will always be remembered for her tie-breaking score in the first match that gave Tam its first win ever over Marin Catholic. With everyone coming back for the 2011 season, Coaches John Haight and Chris Ford look forward to a fun and successful next year. The coaches feel lucky to have had the opportunity to coach such a wonderful group of athletes who showed such class and grace throughout this entire year.

### Varsity Boys' Soccer

Tam's varsity boys' soccer team wrapped up its most successful season since 2005 as MCAL champions and NCS quarterfinalists. The number three seed in the MCAL playoffs knocked off number six Redwood in the first round, followed by a 3-0 away drubbing of number two San Rafael in the

semifinals and then eking out a 1-0 nailbiter in the finals over the previously undefeated number one seed, Drake. Their final game was a loss to Cardinal Newman in the quarterfinals of the North Coast Section playoffs, where despite outplaying and creating more scoring chances than Cardinal Newman, they came out on the short end of a tightly fought 1-0 score. Prior to that one goal, the Tam defense, anchored by rookie goalkeeper Cameron Robach, had not conceded any goals in over 7-1/2 hours of play going back almost three weeks to their penultimate league game.

On the way to 13 wins, 4 losses and 8 draws in 2010, three players were selected as MCAL first team all stars: Julien Melendez, a sophomore striker who led the league with 15 goals, co-captain Spenser Labay,

who was the midfield tactical genius and co-captain Sean Wilkinson who was stalwart in central defense. Tesfaye Paine, a sophomore striker, was named to the second team MCAL all star, and freshman sensation Lucas Janetos was an honorable mention.



*Varsity boys' soccer celebrate with 2010 MCAL pennant.*

*Continued on page 16*

## Booster News *Continued from page 15*

### Girls' Tennis

Tam girls' tennis capped an outstanding 21-5 season by capturing the North Coast Section (NCS) D-II championship. The team started the week with a 5-0 rain-impacted win over Head Royce,

followed by a 4-3 win over San Marin. In the final, Tam defeated University by a score of 6-1, avenging a loss in last year's semifinal.

The semifinal against San Marin was the team's fourth match-up with San Marin of the season. Tam won the previous contests 5-4, 7-2, and 7-2, using the MCAL format of 6 singles and 3 doubles. In NCS, the format is 4/3, giving San Marin an opportunity to load up in the doubles in the hope of winning those 3 points and leave the deciding match in the hands of soon to be three-time MCAL player of the year and reigning NCS champion Laura Posylkin. But senior captains Zoe Arthur and Essie Winer came through with a decisive 6-3, 6-0 win, and that, together with wins by sophomore Hillary Fazekas at number two singles, junior captain Liza Brusman at number three singles, and freshman Lani Tice at number four singles, sealed the win.

Although there could be only one winner in the all-Tam High final in the North Coast Section (NCS) Division II girls singles championship, Tam coach Bill Washauer said the real winner was Tam and the its girls' tennis program.

Tam's top singles player Chelsea Hayashi defeated teammate and fellow sophomore Hillary Fazekas 6-4, 6-2 in the final. Washauer said, "It's tough to play your own teammate. We told them both, 'go out there and have fun and you're not going to get any coaching.'"

Since the NCS awards pennants to both the first- and second-place winners, Tam was already assured of raising two banners at the school in honor of Hayashi and Fazekas.

### Boys' Water Polo

The Tam boys' varsity water polo team concluded its season with an overall record of 17 wins and 7 losses -- the most wins for a Tam boys' squad since the 1990s. The boys finished third in MCAL for the regular season, and lost an 8-4 match (climbing back from a 0-5 deficit) to the eventual champion, Drake, in the semi-finals of the MCAL playoffs. The boys were selected as a number nine seed in NCS, and advanced to the second round with a convincing 11-8 win over the number eight seed, Pinole Valley. The Hawks' great season ended in the second round of the NCS Tournament with a 15-2 loss to the eventual NCS Champion, Las Lomas.

The boys were led by Senior Max Sieck, a two-time first team All-MCAL performer. Max ended his Tam career as the all-time leading scorer (222 career goals) and record holder for most goals as a junior (73), senior (120), and single season (scoring 120 goals this year).

Brennan Latimer was named to the first team all-conference squad. Brennan was the team's second leading scorer with 38 goals on the season. Sophomore goalie Elliot Ordway, in his first year as a Hawk, was named to the second team all-MCAL squad. Senior Devon Miller-Gowan, the team's leading defender and third leading scorer (37 goals) was an Honorable Mention all-MCAL per-



*Tam girls' tennis team.*

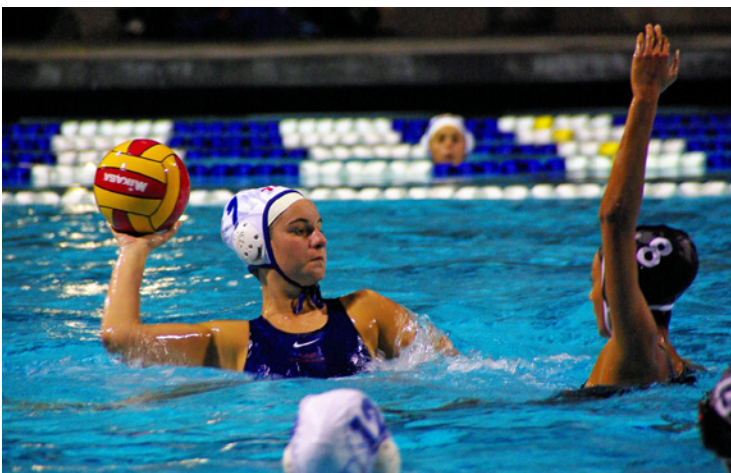
*Continued on page 17*



## Booster News *Continued from page 16*

former. Gio Graziose was honored by Coach Bob Kustel as the “Most Improved Player” of 2010, and Coach’s Award recipients were seniors Devon Miller-Gowan and Robert Scott. Junior Trevor Williams was honored with the NCS Sportsmanship Award.

The Tam boys’ JV water polo team finished an excellent campaign with an overall record of nine wins and five losses, good for third place in MCAL. The JVs were led by sophomore Austin Wimberley, who established a new scoring record for a JV player by scoring 73 goals, shattering the mark of 44 previously held by Dylan Glave (‘12). Wimberley was voted as the team’s MVP. Sophomore goalie Alex Barton was honored as the JV’s most improved player, and sophomore Leo Thomas was given the Coach’s Award. Freshman Sean Haechler was honored with the NCS Sportsmanship Award.



*Junior Emma Ellis passes the ball.*

### Girls’ Water Polo

The Tam varsity girls’ water polo team ended its 2010 season with a winning record of 19-7. The team finished 6-2 in league play, which put them in third place (behind Drake and Marin Catholic) going into the MCAL championships. At MCALs, the team resoundingly defeated San Marin 20-1 in the first round, and ultimately finished third, with a tough one-goal loss (8-7) to Drake in the MCAL semi-final game. The team’s success earned it an NCS berth, where Tam was seeded number eight in its division. Junior Sami Harvey scored 103 goals this season, and junior Ali Coopersmith scored 93 goals – the third and fourth highest number of single-season goals in Tam history.

Both Sami and Ali were selected for the MCAL All-League First Team.

Senior goalie Kristin Sato was a critical factor for Tam in the cage all season with 116 saves, and also scored 12 goals in field play. With a number of returning players, the team is poised for a run at the MCAL title next season.



*Tam's cross country team.*

### Cross Country

The Tam cross country teams capped a successful MCAL season, with senior Dan Milechman repeating as MCAL champion. In the boys’ race, Milechman controlled the pace and pulled away from his competitors about two-thirds of the way through the race. He was looking to repeat as both North Coast Section and state champion.

The Tam boys’ team finished second in MCAL and sent a strong team to North Coast Section. James MacDonald, David Fuchs, Andrew Henn, Sean Lang-Brown, Alex Olson, Nathan Edmondson and Bob Siegel represented Tam at NCS.

Tam freshman Olivia Heitz was the top Red-Tailed Hawk in the girls’ MCAL race, where the Tam girls finished fifth. In addition to Heitz, also

representing Tam at NCS were Nicole Woodworth, Katie Lee, Kalia Rothlind, Sami Emory, Brigitte Winkler, Jenna Lea and Glyn Peterson.

*Continued on page 18*

### Sailing

It has been a busy fall for the Tam High sailing team. With a year under its belt at the Sausalito Yacht Club, the team set the tone for the rest of the season with a fourth place finish at the PCISA Sea Otter Regatta in Monterey. Led by senior co-captains Ian Spillman and Jazzy Gerraty, the team was the first eligible team in silver fleet to move up and has been working hard all fall to get ready for

its potential debut in gold fleet in Newport Beach December 11 and 12. Impressive results in the Norcal series include a fifth place finish in gold out of a total 73 boats from Ian Spillman and sophomore Quinn Vangelos at Encinal, a second place finish in silver at Stockton from junior Mark Etem and sophomore Alexa Swartz, and another second place finish in silver at San Francisco Yacht Club from freshman Tyler Daniels and junior Jazzy Gerraty. With such a promising group of talented young sailors, the team has made a name for itself as a team to look out for in Norcal, and is only going to get better as the year continues.

### Football

Before the 2010 football season began, there were many people who believed that this would be a rebuilding year, with few victories. The program graduated 18 senior players from the very talented 2009/2010 roster. This year's team had only six senior players, the

lowest number of senior players on any of the MCAL football teams. Those senior players provided great leadership to a talented group of underclassmen, who will be the nucleus for a Tamalpais football team that will compete for an MCAL title over the next couple of years. In addition to having an unusually high number of underclassmen on the team, the team was challenged by injuries to key players throughout the season.

The varsity football team's record was five wins and five losses for the overall season, with a conference record of two wins and five losses. Victories included wins over Drake, Justin Sienna, Terra Linda, Sonoma and Lincoln. With the exception of one game (against a very talented Marin Catholic team), all of the losses were competitive, close games that were decided by no more than two touchdowns, including a tough loss in overtime to arch rival Redwood.

The future of football at Tamalpais High is bright. It should be noted that the program is always looking to add talented scholar athletes to its ranks. The program prides itself on having a number of the best student athletes at Tam on its roster. For any of you interested in learning if you have what it takes to be part of the future of Tamalpais football, contact Head Varsity Coach Kevin Goyer [kgoyer@tamdistrict.org](mailto:kgoyer@tamdistrict.org) or Head Freshman Coach and Science Teacher Jon Black [jblack@tamdistrict.org](mailto:jblack@tamdistrict.org) for information or to talk to a returning varsity football player. The time, effort and energy provides for an enjoyable and fulfilling experience.

Congratulations to all the fall teams this year and best of luck this winter to all basketball and wrestling teams.



*Senior Ian Spillman and sophomore Quinn Vangelos sail on the Bay.*



## Honoring Tam High's Students – The 'Tam Walk'

### Sponsored by Tam Boosters

by Kerry Huffman, Tam High Boosters Vice President

I am happy to announce the launch of the "Tam Walk"! This summer you will be able to walk the Tam campus and enjoy several six-foot tall Tam "T"s in multiple locations on campus. The "T"s will be permanent fixtures on the campus.

What is a Tam "T", you may ask? It is a very large varsity letter "T".

The Tam "T"s will be built with tiles with a student's name, sport or club, number, and graduation year on them.

This is a Tam Athletic Boosters initiative meant to accomplish the following goals:

- Drive spirit within the Tam community
- Honor current Tam students
- Honor Tam alumni
- Honor the school grounds with a piece of living history
- Provide funding for current Tam Athletic teams, structures and playing surfaces

Building spirit and community starts with the "T". The last few years have seen an increased spirit movement on campus and in the community.

We now want to "shout it out" and provide all Tam Hawks and Tam Indians a monument to your days at Tam.

#### Q & A

##### What does it cost to buy a tile?

\$300, \$500, \$1000 or \$5,000 (all based on size and placement) \*See attached graphic for the placement areas

##### What sports or clubs are represented?

All Tam sports and clubs, whether they are MCAL or club. Examples are: soccer, mock trial, band and drama.

##### What sport or club will not be represented?

If you are a student, and belong to a club or sport that is not held at Tam, for example recreation soccer, RoCo dance or CYO sports.

##### What can I put on the tile?

You get three lines to put what you want. Most will want something like, name, sport or club, jersey number, graduation date ... but it is up to you.

##### I was a Tam Indian. Can I put that on my tile?

Yes, please do, that would be great.


##### Is it Tax Deductible?

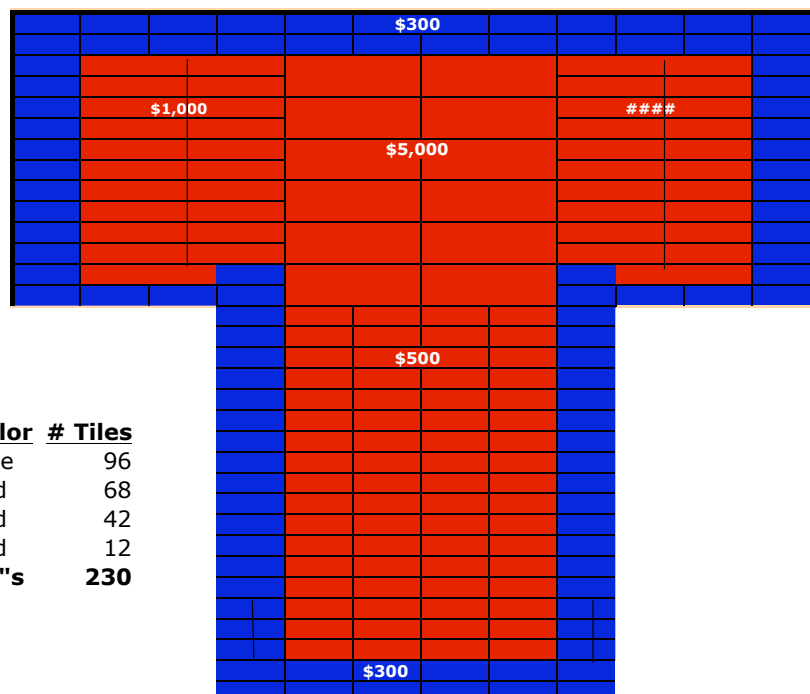
Yes

##### How do I buy it?

Type in your browser the following:

<http://www.tawala.com/p/7pdiuprp2j7oupm/e4f1gui.Registration>

Go Tam! 



Size	Cost	Color	# Tiles
3"x6"	\$300	Blue	96
3"x6"	\$500	Red	68
3"x9"	\$1,000	Red	42
6"x12"	\$5,000	Red	12
<b>Total number of "T"s</b>			<b>230</b>



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

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

DECEMBER 2010		
Date	Time/Event	Location
2	7 PM – BEGINNING BAND/GUITAR CONCERT	CALDWELL THEATRE
7	6:30 PM – COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID NIGHT	STUDENT CENTER
7	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
8	7 PM – INSTRUMENTAL HOLIDAY CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT AUDITORIUM
9	7 PM – CHORAL HOLIDAY CONCERT	CALDWELL THEATRE
15-17	12:25 DISMISSAL – FINAL EXAM WEEK See Page 3 for Complete Schedule	
17	7:30 AM – STAFF HOLIDAY BREAKFAST	
20-JAN 3	NO SCHOOL – WINTER RECESS	
JANUARY 2011		
4	NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – TEACHER WORK DAY	
5	SCHOOL RESUMES	
6	7 PM – PTSA MEETING AND DISCUSSION: CYBER SAVVY: NAVIGATING THE TEENAGE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE	STUDENT CENTER
11-15 18-21 25-28	7 PM – CTE PRESENTS: WINTER ONE-ACT PLAYS	CALDWELL THEATRE
11	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
17	NO SCHOOL – DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY	
18	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD SPECIAL STUDY SESSION	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
20	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	BAND BOX
25	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER Redwood High School
For details and updates, check the calendar on the Tam High website: <a href="http://tamhigh.org">tamhigh.org</a>		