



Back To Tam Day

Saturday, September 8
9am to noon

Make new friends, renew old friendships, and hear legendary stories as parents, alumni, students, teachers, administrators, and others refresh our Tam campus by planting, water sealing Mead Theater, power washing, and much, much more. Bring your favorite garden tools, paint brushes, drop cloths, power washing equipment, garden hoses, wheelbarrows, heavy duty extension cords, etc.

Can't do the physical work? Come anyway and cheer us on with your legendary stories, like these: Where was the rifle range? Did Tam swimmers really swim uphill?

Followed by a Free Picnic BBQ at noon for the workers.

Cost? Your time
Please RSVP at (925) 735-6529 to help our planners plan.

Can't make it?

A financial donation will be most helpful. \$20 will buy a gallon of water sealer for Mead, flat of flowers, etc.

Send check payable to:

Tam Alumni Assoc.
c/o Bill Sefton, '61, CPA
Box 992
San Ramon, CA 94583-5992

Please visit:

www.graduateconnections.com/tamalpais and www.tamgrads.org



Back To School Night

Thursday, September 13

Please join us on Thursday night, September 13, beginning at 6pm. The purpose of the evening is to acquaint you with Tam's instructional program and allow you to meet your child's teachers. This is a great opportunity to get contact information and learn about classroom expectations for the year. Due to the brevity of the classroom visits, this is not the time to discuss questions about individual students.

There will be an informal gathering in Gus Gym to start off the evening. Parents will then follow periods 1-7, for ten-minute introductions to each class. Ask your student for a copy of his/her class schedule, showing the order of classes, teachers' names, and room numbers. If you do not bring one, you may pick up a schedule in the gym. A campus map will be provided and student guides will help you find your way to classrooms.

Schedule for the Evening:

Bells will ring at the beginning and end of each class. There is a ten-minute passing period between classes.

Please note that for students, Thursday, September 13 is a regular bell schedule, periods 1-4, 8am-3:25pm.

Friday, September 14 will be a minimum day, 8am-12:35pm (periods 5-7).

Class Period	Scheduled Time
1st Period	6:40 – 6:50
2nd Period	7:00 - 7:10
3rd Period	7:20 – 7:30
4th Period	7:40 – 7:50
5th Period	8:00 – 8:10
6th Period	8:20 – 8:30
7th Period	8:40 – 8:50



Attention Parents:
Don't be left
in the dark...

Make sure you
receive the weekly

What's Up

updates and future newsletters.

If you aren't on the PTSA email list,
sign up at:

<http://bit.ly/JoinTamPTSAEmailList>

Principal's Message

by Tom Drescher

Welcome back from summer break! I hope you are as excited as I am to get started on the new school year, which is my sixth at Tam.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new staff members.

Brian Lynch from Drake High is the new Assistant Principal in charge of 10th and 12th grade students.

Our new teachers are:

- Jessica Variz, English
- Zach Gilmour, Fine Arts
- Anders Fairbanks, Math
- Erin Ashley and Mick O'Meara, Science
- Tim Morgan, Social Studies
- Ted Joseph, Spanish

Our new staff includes:

- Carol Craft, Budget Secretary
- Meredith Nagy (formerly an intern and sub), Psychologist
- Michael Fowler, Paraeducator
- Patty Segovia, Assistant Principal Secretary

Key September Dates:

- Back to School Night - September 13
- Minimum Day - September 14
- Staff Development Day - September 24
- Homecoming Game and Dance - September 29

Thank you in advance for your support this school year.

WELCOME



Tam High's New Assistant Principal: Welcome Brian Lynch

Brian Lynch is excited to be back at Tam High, taking on a new role as Assistant Principal for grades 10 and 12. Brian began his career in education here at Tam, first as an intern and then as a counselor. He entered the education field with the aim to improve the educational system and positively impact as many students as possible. Brian was a counselor and teacher leader at Drake High School, and was co-principal of the Tam District's summer school. Brian has a B.A. from University



Photo caption: Brian Lynch and Kim Stiffler, Assistant Principals; Tom Drescher, Principal

of Southern California in Communication with a minor in Psychology, as well as an M.A. in Counseling Psychology from the University of San Francisco. He and his wife are expecting their first child in January. They live in Marin with their puppy George.

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Tam's New Teachers



Photo by Kate Lorch - from left to right: Susan Smith, Spanish; Tim Morgan, Social Studies; Ted Joseph, Spanish; Zach Gilmour, Art; Jessica Variz, English; Erin Ashley, Science; Mick O'Meara, Chemistry; Anders Fairbanks, Math

Erin Ashley has seven years of science teaching experience at the high school and middle school levels. She taught in San Diego where she coordinated a marine biology program and facilitated support programs for English learners. Most recently she taught life science at Mill Valley Middle School. Ms. Ashley earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology from UC Santa Barbara and her Masters of Education from UC San Diego. She cares deeply about her students and will do her best to ensure that all of her students are challenged and supported. Ms. Ashley appreciates how much our community values education and she looks forward to continuing her work with parents and community members to provide our students with an engaging and relevant science curriculum.

Anders Fairbanks is enthused to be joining the math department at Tam High. A San Francisco native, Anders will be in his ninth year of teaching mathematics. After graduating from Colorado College he joined Teach for America and began his career in classrooms of the south Bronx. This experience was instrumental in developing his enthusiasm for teaching. Returning to San Francisco, Anders spent six years at Gateway High School teaching geometry and algebra courses and developing advisory programs. When he's not grading papers, Anders enjoys mountain biking, basketball, and planning his next adventure.

Zach Gilmour grew up in Mill Valley. After graduating from Tam High he went to the California Culinary Academy and worked as a baker for a short time. During this time he came to the conclusion that Art with a capital A was too important to be a hobby. He enrolled in the printmaking department of the San Francisco Art Institute and later transferred to the California College of Art where he graduated with a BFA in printmaking. Since then he has tried to find a way to make art the core of his life. This has included web design, picture framing, being a practicing artist and in December 2007, receiving his teaching credential in Art from Sonoma State University. He has taught art to all ages. He lives with his wife and son in West Marin.

Ted Joseph is excited to join the World Languages department as the new Spanish teacher. He brings a wealth of experience both in and out of the classroom. Having lived in Guatemala serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer, Mr. Joseph is fluent in both Spanish and the Mayan language Q'eqchi'. He has also worked, traveled, and studied in nine other Latin American countries. All of this experience has helped Joseph bring Spanish to life in his classroom, and he looks forward to continuing that tradition at Tam.

Tim Morgan joins the Tam staff in the Social Studies department this year after serving as a substitute teacher last year. He was able to get to know many of the students and hopes to continue building strong rapport with students, as well as guiding them to become critical thinkers and active members of the community. Tim earned a Bachelor's Degree in History at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and spent the following four years teaching and coaching high school basketball in Denver. When he is not teaching, Tim serves as an Assistant Mens' Basketball Coach at San Francisco State University. He hopes to coach at Tam on some level in the near future. Tim is also currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Kinesiology and expects to be finished next summer.

Mick O'Meara taught for many years at Sonoma Valley High School. He is both a Chemistry and Biology teacher and has also been an Athletic Director and Head Football Coach. Mick and his wife Luanne recently celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary with their son, two daughters and family. He is excited to get to know the Tam High community and speculates that he may have taught some of the parents of current students.

Jessica Variz was born and raised in the East Bay but for the past ten years she's been living and teaching in Southern California. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree and teaching credential at California State University, Long Beach and taught English and Drama at Bolsa Grande High School in Garden Grove. At Tam, Jessica will teach English Core 1-2 as well as American Literature.



From the PTSA President

by Gwen Hubbard

Welcome to a new school year. On behalf of the entire PTSA 2012/2013 Executive Board, we welcome and encourage all our students, parents and staff to join the PTSA, get involved, and help us make this another great year at Tam High.

First PTSA Meeting: Wednesday, September 5

Please join us for our first meeting Wednesday, September 5 at 7pm in the Student Center. The Tam administrative team, and Laurie Kimbrel, District Superintendent, will be there to give updates on staffing changes, and present the overall state of the school district including feedback from the Listening Campaign. Tam High Foundation representatives will also be there with an update on the Student Center improvements. Some great changes have been put in place over the summer and there are more exciting renovations planned. Our meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the administrative team, ask questions about Tam, connect with fellow parents, and learn about your student's high school. We will also have sign up sheets for the various areas that need volunteers throughout the year. Volunteering is an engaging and beneficial way to get involved in the Tam community.

It is hard to believe that school has just begun, but already many, many volunteers have been involved in getting the year off to a smooth start. A huge thanks to the fantastic volunteers who:

- helped assemble the first day packets in July;
- supported the freshman orientation on August 17, with a special thanks to Leslie Wachtel who signed up, planned and organized the volunteers for forms collection, photo ids, spirit wear and schedule pickup;
- organized and ran the freshman BBQ on August 17, with a special thanks to Deborah Dilley who chaired the event;
- helped with registration, photo id and schedule pick up on August 21 and 22; and
- baked treats and assisted with the First Day Coffee on August 22.



In this issue, you will find a schedule of our PTSA meetings for the coming nine months. We will have speakers and topics that are relevant for parents of high school students at each of our meetings. Please join the Tam High PTSA if you have not already done so, using the form included in this newsletter. We work hard to help make Tam an exceptional learning community, but we need YOU to help us make a difference!



Feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments at any time throughout the year at gwenhubbard@comcast.net.

Reminders for all Students and Parents

From the Principal's Office

Attendance is important. Every day counts. If you can't make it to school, please have a parent or guardian call the attendance line at 380-3592. For the full attendance policy, see the Student/Parent handbook.

Bulletin: The school bulletin is printed daily, and is posted on the tamhigh.org website. Please check the bulletin regularly for important information on upcoming events and activities at Tam High.

Cell phones must be turned off and be out of sight during class time. This rule

applies anywhere on campus, not just in the classroom. Teachers or staff may confiscate phones if they are out during class time.

Why?

- They are distracting to the learning environment.
- They can be used to cheat.
- They can be used to invade the privacy of others.
- They can be lost or stolen.

Dress appropriately for school. Tam High has a dress code and it will be enforced to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment. Please read the dress code in the Student/Parent handbook.

Thefts happen on campus, especially when personal property is left unattended. Be sure to lock up your backpacks, books, phones, or other valuables if you cannot keep them with you at all times. During Physical Education class, lock your items in a locker or don't bring valuables to school. Please report thefts immediately to your teacher and the Assistant Principals' office.



Save the Date: An Evening with Madeline Levine, Ph.D.

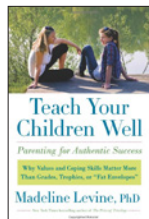
Best-selling author of *The Price of Privilege*; *Teach Your Children Well*

Thursday, October 4

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Redwood HS small gym

Tam High PTSA is a co-sponsor of this event



Help Your PTSA Make A Difference

Please join the Tam High PTSA and volunteer your time. In addition to joining the PTSA, we would greatly appreciate your contributions for several PTSA projects (listed below) which require additional funding. Your generous donations are our only means of funding the PTSA and all that it benefits. Thank You!

Annual PTSA Dues	\$25.00 per family				\$ _____
Parent Education <i>Help us to fund our Parent Ed Event in the fall. This conference is in conjunction with MVMS. We also sponsor speakers at many PTSA meetings throughout the year.</i>	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____
Academic, Community Service Scholarships And Principal's Scholarship Fund	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____
General Fund <i>E-mail communication services, Tam Family newsletter, event hospitality and much more.</i>	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____
Campus Beautification <i>With your help, we can improve the Tam campus environment over the short and long term (cleanup, planting, painting and irrigation)</i>	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____
				Total	\$ _____

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



Tam High PTSA Event Dates for 2012-2013 School Year

PTSA MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 5

7pm, Tam High Student Center
Introduction of Tam Administration, update from TUHSD Superintendent Laurie Kimbrel on state of school district

* Tuesday, October 9

7pm, Tam High Student Center
Susan Gertman & parent panel: get the parent perspective on the College application process

Wednesday, November 7

7pm, Tam High Student Center

Thursday, December 6

7pm, Mill Valley Golf Clubhouse
State of the School and Fireside Chat

Thursday, January 10

7pm, Tam High Student Center
Peer Resource student panel: alcohol & drug discussion

* note date change

* Monday, February 11

7pm, Caldwell Theatre
Combined meeting with Tam High Foundation

Wednesday March 6

7pm, Tam High Student Center

Wednesday April 3

7pm, Tam High Student Center

Wednesday, May 1

7pm, Tam High Student Center

Wednesday May 22

7pm, Tam High Student Center
Susan Gertman & student panel; college application update

PTSA STAFF APPRECIATION COFFEE/ BREAKFASTS

Wednesday, October 31: Happy Halloween

Monday, December 17: Happy Holidays

Thursday, February 14: Happy Valentine's Day

Monday, May 20: End of Year Thank You

PTSA PARENT EDUCATION

Saturday, October 27

Parent Ed Conference in conjunction with Mill Valley Middle School

PTSA FUNDRAISERS

Early December

PTSA Holiday Plant Sale

Early June

PTSA Senior Congratulatory
Balloon Bouquets

PTSA RECEPTION, FOLLOWED BY BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Thursday, September 13

STAR TEST BBQ

Friday, April 19

PTSA RECEPTION, FOLLOWED BY TAM OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, April 25

SENIOR AWARDS EVENING


Tuesday, May 28

Mill Valley School District Parcel Tax - Measure B

The Mill Valley School District, which operates our community's public elementary and middle schools, has placed a temporary parcel tax measure on the November ballot which is intended to help fill the budget gap created by millions in state government cuts, declining local revenues and growing enrollment. Over the past five years the state has cut \$4.2 million from Mill Valley schools. State and federal funding makes up only 6 percent of our Mill Valley School budget and it's not expected to increase any time soon.

Measure B proposes a \$196 per parcel tax that would raise approximately \$1.96 million dollars in additional revenues for the schools over the next eight years. This funding is guaranteed to go directly to Mill Valley schools and cannot be taken away by the state. All of the parcel tax funds would pay for teachers, core academic programs, PE, and library services. Homeowners over the age of 65 can apply for an exemption to the tax.

For less than 54 cents a day we can make sure our kids get the quality education they deserve.

For more information on this important measure, please visit www.protectmvschools.org, or email campaign co-chairs Mari Allen and Emily Uhlhorn at coordinator@protectmvschools.org. 

Thank you

Save the Date - PTSA Fall Parent Ed Conference Raising the Happy, Accountable and Empowered Teenager

A Program for Parents of Middle and High School Children

Featuring authors **Greg Hicks and Rick Foster**

Greg Hicks and Rick Foster have dedicated the last 17 years of their lives to studying people, families and organizations that thrive. Embarking on a unique journey to research happiness in 1995, they eventually traveled to all 50 states, 7 continents, and over 40 countries, finding and interviewing hundreds of extremely happy people. Their initial research uncovered a system of nine behaviors that have been studied by researchers at leading institutions such

as the Mayo Clinic. These behaviors lead to good health, stronger communities and families, better job performance, and effective stress-management.

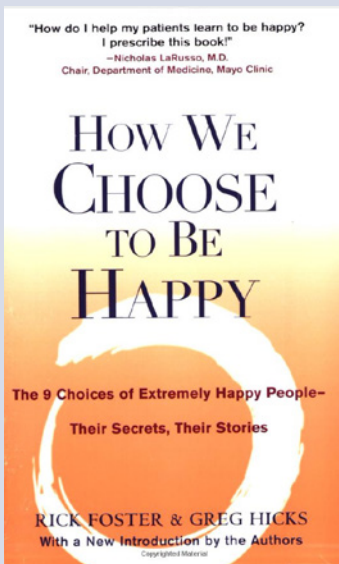
Their first book, [How We Choose to Be Happy – The 9 Choices of Extremely Happy People](#) (Putnam, 1999), became a national bestseller and has been on bestseller lists ever since.

Please save the date for the annual Parent Education Conference sponsored by the PTSA of Tam High and Mill Valley Middle School.

Saturday, October 27, 2012

9am – noon

Mill Valley Location TBA



Home Access at Tam High

by *Daphne de Marneffe*,
Site Council Member and parent

Home Access is Tam High's web-based student record system. It tracks student attendance, assignments, and performance. It provides a record of high school transcripts and standardized tests scores, and it enables students to register for classes online.

Home Access is the latest version of a student information system put in place at Tam High 13 years ago. One of the attractive improvements Home Access offered was its ability to function as an online grading system, which teachers could use to record and calculate grades, and students and their families could consult to follow student performance and progress. Although generally teachers, students, and parents view Home Access as a highly valuable resource, some also voice concerns. Last year, for example, Tam News writer Julia Kligman argued that Home Access is "over accessed," especially by parents, to the detriment of their children's independent sense of responsibility.

How well is Home Access working? And what is the proper role for Home Access in our students' lives?

Math teacher Chris Erlin, Tam's onsite technology coordinator and the go-to guy for all things Home Access ("Chris Erlin is fantastic," effuses Principal Tom Drescher), says the program itself is "glitchy," creating data entry hassles for faculty. For example, the program has no way to automatically calculate a semester grade from the three reporting periods that comprise it, forcing faculty to use a workaround. Discussions at the district level have begun to assess whether it is time to institute a new system to replace Home Access, but no decisions have been made. A new system could address weaknesses in the current system, but would require time and money to implement.

Students and parents alike wonder why some teachers do not use Home Access. Some express frustration at the inconsistency,

Continued on page 7

News from THUMB


By Ian Stoba, THUMB Vice President

THUMB, the Tam High United Music Boosters, continue to actively support the Tam Music program. Our music program, like all performance art programs, relies on parent participation in order to achieve the high level of success and polish that we enjoy at Tam High. Music Director Spiro Tsingaris does a fabulous job of coaching the talented Tam High school musicians and putting together an impressive array of concerts; however, behind the scenes THUMB works to bring in the funds that support this effort and lend a hand to help the events run smoothly.

Over the years THUMB has helped fund music department trips to festivals and competitions as far away as New York City, helped develop and maintain the guest artist program, provided funding and support to replace and maintain the instruments, purchase new music and maintain the library. THUMB also takes a lead role in producing the annual Valentine's Day concert and running the music department Phone-a-thon.

THUMB prepared the on-going strategic plan many years ago that is the guide to how THUMB helps enrich the music learning and performing experience at Tam High. The THUMB strategic includes: fundraising; a communication and PR effort; maintaining a relationship with the local middle schools and their student musicians; developing performance and learning opportunities with the local community; maintaining and funding a music scholarship program; and facilitating opportunities for advanced music students.

There are many ways for Tam parents to be involved. From a small role such as bringing concessions to the performances to actively participating as an officer, THUMB has a place for every one.

THUMB typically meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Band Box from 7:00 to 8:30pm. More information about THUMB and the Tam High music program can be found at Spiro Tsingaris' teacher web site, the THUMB web site (www.tamhigh.org under "Community") or at the Tam High Music Facebook group. 



Home Access at Tam High *Continued from page 6*

and feel it would be fairer to give students in all classes equally detailed feedback about their performance. According to Principal Drescher, Tam High is not in a position to compel any teacher to use Home Access. Teachers' decisions to use Home Access are a point of negotiation between the school and the teachers' union. In Drescher's view, the utility of having a unified system used by all teachers is an idea that is gaining momentum, both at the district level and at Tam High. Chris Erlin estimates that 60-70% of the teaching staff uses some form of online grading system, on Home Access or a separate website. For the 30-40% who do not use it, the reasons vary. For some, especially teachers in the arts, one challenge has been developing grading systems that accurately quantify students' performance on the lengthy, complex projects that are typical in those classes.

How should parents use Home Access?

"Think of Home Access as providing a context for honest discussion with your son or daughter," says Chris Erlin. "The parent may say 'It looks like you got a 40% on that test,' and use it as an opportunity to talk to the student about his or her experience. Was it hard? Were you

unprepared? Is there a way to study differently?" The advantage of Home Access is that it puts the same observable facts in front of students and their parents. But these facts should serve as a basis for discussion, not as a substitute for it.

Principal Drescher also emphasizes the importance of using these conversations as an opportunity to help our children become skilled self-advocates with their teachers. Anxious parents are sometimes tempted to email a teacher themselves about their student's performance, but leaving students out of the process doesn't help them with the longer-term development of self-advocacy skills. That said, parents should feel comfortable contacting teachers, and strive to create a level of communication that works for them and for their student. Whether teachers post grades on Home Access or not, they are happy to speak to or meet with parents about their concerns. Social studies teacher Luc Chamberlin says, "I encourage kids and parents to talk to each other and me any time about assignments, participation, attitude, behavior, or anything. We're in this together."

Login at <http://home.tamdistrict.org/>

Back to School at the Tam High Foundation

By Barbara Sobel, Tam High Foundation Communications Chair

Wondering what the Tam High Foundation (THF) does for Tam students? THF plays an integral part in every student's academic life at Tam. Founded in 1996, the THF has invested over two million dollars in students, teachers, and programs—truly enriching the high school experience.

Last year, the Foundation funded projects in the Social Studies, Science, English, Math, Special Education, and PE departments, as well as all of the Fine Arts classes: CTE, Music, AIM, Auto Technology, Architectural Design, and Tam News.

Your donations are important. State budget cuts have resulted in Tam District budget cuts, which reduced funding to Tam High. To retain and increase excellence and innovation, Tam teachers need our support now more than ever.

The fall is the Tam High Foundation's time to raise funds for the upcoming school year. The Foundation relies on generous donations from parents, community members, and local businesses.

Please donate to our Tam High Foundation Annual Parent Campaign

A total annual donation of \$600 per student, or just \$60 per month, will significantly help your student at Tam every day. We strive for 100% participation of all Tam families. And we make it easier for you by letting you choose to donate in one payment or in monthly installments. So please give \$600 per student if you can or at a level comfortable for you, but please give.

If you have a business, become a Tam High Business Partner. Your business will be listed in the Tam High Foundation Directory distributed to the families of our more than 1200 students.

You can also support the Foundation by participating in the local shopping programs by registering or renewing your registration or e-Scrip.



MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Please consider volunteering your time to help the Foundation

We need your help and can promise your participation will be meaningful. Contact the Tam High Foundation Office at info@TamHighFoundation.org and let us know you would like to volunteer. You will meet other Tam parents and learn more about our school. We need volunteers for many tasks, small and large!

Tam's students need and will greatly appreciate your support—thank you.

To donate online:

Visit our website at: www.tamhighfoundation.org

To mail your donation, send to:

Tam High Foundation
700 Miller Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941

To sign up for e-Scrip:

Visit our website at: www.tamhighfoundation.org

To volunteer or if you have questions, contact us:

By e-mail: info@TamHighFoundation.org

By phone: (415) 380-3565

Supporting Tam High When You Shop At Amazon

The Tam High Foundation will receive up to 10% of the amount you purchase when you use the following link to shop at Amazon.com. Bookmark the link AND share it with your friends and family.

Shop at Amazon.com

When you enter Amazon.com through the link above, you will notice no difference in your Amazon.com page. As long as you entered Amazon through this link, Tam High will get credit for your purchases during that purchasing session.

So bookmark this link and use it when you shop on Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/?_encoding=UTF8&tag=tamhighfounda-20

News from PATH

by Heather Young, PATH Marketing Chairperson



PATH Launches Annual Membership Drive

PATH (Patrons of the Arts at Tam High) is a parent-run organization that supports Tam's Studio Arts program. Our mission is to ensure that students benefit from a real world arts education that connects them to the community and provides meaningful learning experiences. To that end we purchase art and photo supplies, underwrite student field trips and art exhibitions, and support professional development for teaching staff.

We launched our annual membership drive at the start of the school year. If you have a visual arts student, or would like to support the visual arts at Tam, we'd love to get to know you. Please visit our webpage under "Community" on the Tam website (www.tamhigh.org) to become a PATH member, find out about upcoming meetings and events, and contribute.

PATH at the Mill Valley Arts Festival


PATH is partnering with BookKoo restaurant on a food booth at the Mill Valley Arts Festival, September 15-16. Stop by and sample the unique blend of Californian and Vietnamese cuisine that is BookKoo's specialty. Proceeds benefit PATH. If you can help set up and/or staff the food booth, contact Diane Swartz at dianeswartz@hotmail.com or 389-6031. It's a great way to meet other art lovers and be a part of PATH's first fundraiser of the year.

While you're at the festival, be sure to also visit the Tam High Studio Arts booth, where student art from the last school year will be displayed.

News from the Classroom

The art department welcomes Zachary Gilmour, who will be teaching Art Exploration, Photography 1, and Drawing/Painting. You can read his bio on page 3.

In other staff news, following the retirement of Kathy O'Brien, Lisa Ouse-Hicks will teach ceramics full time, ceding her Art Exploration and Photography duties to the able and talented Mr. Gilmour.

The art department has also given the ceramic studio a facelift. The floors have been ground down to a polished, low-maintenance surface, and the wheels and tables rearranged to better suit classroom needs. Closets were emptied, new cabinets built, and sliding whiteboard doors installed. There is also a new pugmill, which mixes and recycles clay so that there is no waste. The art department sends its heartfelt thanks to the Tam High Foundation (which provided the pugmill), the volunteers who pushed and shoved and lifted, and the District Maintenance and Operations Department. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by and see what all their hard work has wrought. 

News from Leadership

by Chelsea Springer, Leadership Advisor

School started early for the Leadership class commission-ers and Associated Student Body (ASB)



officers, who met on August 16 to plan and organize the upcoming year. The three-hour retreat included set up and organization for freshman orientation, followed by some friendly team building at the Country Club Bowl in San Rafael.



Freshman orientation and fall registration both went smoothly. Leadership members distributed Spirit Packs to

new and returning students as well as apparel, including our new vintage T-shirt's, our American Apparel zip-up hoodies, and all new senior wear including aviator sunglasses.

Mark your calendars

The Welcome Back Rally will take place on Friday, **September 7**.

Get ready to strut your Tam pride as we celebrate the start of another fantastic year. The

fall Blood Drive will take place in the Student Center on Monday, **September 17** and Club Day will be in Centennial Square (outside Lower Keyser) on Friday, **October 12** during tutorial.



School Sports: The Income Divide

by Elianna Cohen

Reprinted from the Tam News

"When I was little, I knew my parents couldn't afford to enroll me in any sports programs," said senior Jennifer Reyes.

Throughout tryouts during her sophomore year, she realized that she could not keep up with her other potential teammates. But Reyes wasn't alone. Lots of other students who didn't have the opportunity of joining a Marin Youth sports program, such as club or CYO, before trying out for a Tam sports team may be more likely to get cut, according to a recent Tam News survey.

An experienced soccer player who, like many in this article, wished to remain anonymous due to the personal nature of finances, explained, "My mom enrolled me in Pee Wee soccer when I was two, and I have been playing with the Mill Valley Soccer Club ever since." A season of Pee Wee Soccer costs parents \$500, and the Mill Valley Soccer Club costs \$2,000, a hefty price for sports experience that many kids from low-income families cannot afford. Though Tamalpais High School's Boosters Club pays for any necessary equipment students on Tam sports teams cannot afford, a recent Tam News survey of 100 athletes who tried out for the soccer, volleyball, basketball and baseball teams indicated that 42 percent of Tam students who tried out and came from households with annual incomes under \$80,000 were cut. Only 5 percent of students with annual household incomes greater than \$80,000 were cut from Tam teams.

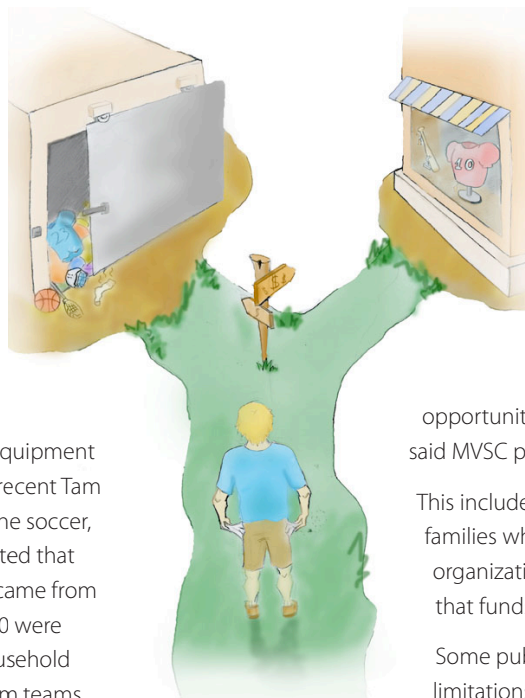
Some authorities in the Tam community, like Vice Principal Chad Stuart, worry that students from low-income families get cut from competitive high school sports teams because they cannot afford the cost of sports training before they arrive at high school.

"It is a collective responsibility of the community to support students no matter what their economic background is," said Stuart. "It's a community issue because as kids with money get individualized training, by the time they get to high school they are ready to go."

The Tam News survey showed that 91 percent of players on Tam sports teams enroll in a sports program with a club or organization prior to joining a sports team at Tam. Of those surveyed, 37 percent of student athletes received private coaching.

While 96 percent of students from higher income families received training in a Marin youth sports programs, only 55 percent of students from lower income families received it. When asked what they did when challenged with the cost of playing in a sports club, some students in the survey responded that they simply "didn't play."

To play upperhouse soccer for the Mill Valley Soccer Club costs between \$1,200 and \$2,200 a year. Mt. Carmel basketball of the Catholic Youth Organization charges \$260 a season for elementary and middle school-age players. Marin Juniors, a club volleyball team, costs \$1,000. Pre-season, the average cost for participation in the AAU Basketball Club ranges from \$500 to \$2,000 depending on which tournaments the team travels to, not including the \$75 tryout fee or the \$75 uniforms.



Bay Area Community Resources therapist Lizzie Stevenson, who formerly worked at Tam, said, "There's a split between the haves and the have-nots from early on. While the kids who can afford these services have early access to athletic advantages, the kids who do not are placed at a disadvantage when they show up to high school."

Some sports programs, such as the Mill Valley Soccer Club (MVSC), offer scholarships. "MVSC is dedicated to providing opportunities to every player to develop their full potential," said MVSC president Jerry Labay.

This includes providing scholarships and equipment for families who can't afford them. Although this is the goal, organizations can only provide scholarships to the extent that funds are available.

Some public sports programs face even more financial limitations than private ones. The Marin Juniors Volleyball Club, a volleyball club run by the city of San Rafael, California, is one such program.

"The city is not capable of underwriting an entire membership for the students," said Gary Burns from the Community Services Department in San Rafael. "We try and spread the financial aid out; we don't just give it to one person."

There are social, academic, cognitive and psychological benefits to playing a team sport. Players learn to communicate with their teammates, cope with the disappointment of losing, and learn to respect opponents when shaking hands with them after the game. Players gain self motivation and a sense of achievement when they see their skills improve after dedication. A select few will also benefit from participating on a sports team in regards to college admissions, as university sports team recruit high school students who excel in their sport.

So how can the community ensure that players of all economic backgrounds get the benefits of playing on a team?

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School Sports: The Income Divide *Continued from page 10*

One solution is for youth sports programs in Marin to offer more financial aid to players that cannot afford it.

"Sports leagues should strive to make their programs affordable for all players interested in participating," said Labay. "However, scholarship funding is limited, and there may be instances when a family receives less assistance than requested."

To raise more funds to provide scholarships, the Mill Valley Soccer Club annually holds the fundraiser Soccerfest, an event filled with soccer, food, and drink that requests a donation for admission.

Another possible solution is to make Tam sports teams inclusive to players of all skill levels, by employing a no-cut policy. In a no-cut policy, all candidates who try out for a sports team are admitted, so long as they turn in their Athletic Participation Form, receive a minimum 2.0 grade point average and have health insurance. In this scenario, inexperienced players gradually develop the skills that contribute to the team's success. Football and lacrosse coach Jon Black employs a no-cut policy.

"At the lower levels, you never know which undeveloped underclassmen will become developed as seniors," he said.

Tennis coach Bill Washaeur, who also keeps players of all skill levels on the team, has also experienced the benefits of a no-cut policy.

"Some people will improve who were marginal originally. A girl started as a beginner and became a senior captain," said Washaeur.

Senior Jackson Lungdren, part of Tam's swim team, which also has a no-cut policy, pointed out another benefit of the policy. He believes inclusivity is important, and said, "Excluding players does nothing to help the team, and often hurts and embarrasses students." Tam's swim team recently brought home its fourth consecutive MCAL title.

Senior varsity basketball player Britt Lindberg agrees. "A player may just give up the sport all together if they have somebody tell them they aren't good enough to play at a certain level," she said.

But some people fear that including players of all skill levels will sabotage the success of Tam's team sports. "The point of a competitive team is to win, and for that you need people with experience who are good," said senior Carin Gavin.

Tam coaches face the pressure of winning, too. "As a coach, you're judged by your results," said Washaeur. However, a coach can keep up a team's winning record by only allowing players who excel in their sport to play in games. Of course, that solution has a consequence too, as people feel the team's practices become less productive.

"If there is a huge discrepancy between the inexperienced players and the experienced players, it can tend to drop the overall level of practice play," said varsity volleyball coach Casey Mondragon.

Bill Washaeur dealt with the situation of a large number of inexperienced tennis players joining the team with extra practices for a group of the beginning players.

"Call me crazy," he said. "It keeps players involved with the game, and gives them a place to learn without spending lots of money."

By developing players rather than cutting them, he noted that one B squad player from 2010 became a starter in 2011, and a couple more could move up in 2012.


However, including players of all skill levels strains limited athletics resources, such as practice space, equipment and transportation. As the Tam student population is projected to increase to over 1,400 students by 2017, lack of resources may pose a problem in the future.

In addition to the solutions already proposed, Tam therapist Emily Peairs suggests another idea that might allow low-income students to reap the benefits of participating in team sports. She believes that non-competitive exercise activities by school clubs should also be offered.

"Things like hiking, badminton, inner tube water polo, ultimate frisbee, zumba, spin classes – physical activities that might attract a much broader population, including students less interested in competition, would be good," she said.

Another concrete solution may soon be approved. The Boosters programs at all Tamalpais Union High School District high schools are considering funding a developmental coach for all students cut from school sports teams. These coaches would be paid a half stipend because they wouldn't be required to go to games. This would create a free intramural sports program for high school students who get cut from Tam's teams.

"In theory, this sounds great," said Stuart. "It solves the problem of what happens to those kids [that get cut] because we want our kids to feel like they have something they can do when they come to school."

Although the fields and gym facilities are not spacious enough to offer practice space to intramural sports teams for high school students, Dominican University recently proposed to offer field space to the district. This would make the plan for a free intramural sports program for high school students that get cut from the JV and Varsity teams feasible. Although providing bus transportation or finding carpools for students needing rides to Dominican University is an expense that Boosters will need to pick up, Boosters supports a program to provide high school students of all economic backgrounds an opportunity to join a sports team. The athletic council anticipates the plan with Dominican University will go into effect in the spring of 2013. Hopefully, with the implementation of these and other changes, even students from lower-income households will be able to participate in and benefit from high school sports. 

CTE 2012-13 Season: Great Works and Contemporary Ideas

by Susan Brashear CTE Program Director

Expectations are running high for the new season beginning this fall at Conservatory Theatre Ensemble (CTE), the student-run theatre company at Tam. The plays will offer a generous selection of classic works as well as modern fare. Six main-stage productions with advanced students and two one-act festivals (January and May) will keep drama students busy throughout the school year with the demands of production and performance.

Along with their annual plays, students will produce fundraising events that help provide guest artist workshops and support opportunities for design and production for all the shows. Renewed spirits after summer with an infusion of newly advanced juniors has energized the busy company. The Caldwell Theatre is buzzing with energy and ideas.

The fall productions begin in October with the exotic *Arabian Nights*, directed by Julianna Rees (*Ash Girl, The Odyssey*), followed by the comedy of manners, *The School for Scandal*, directed by Susan Brashear (*Pride and Prejudice, Our Town*). In November, there is a contemporary play about modern times, *Middletown*, directed by Gus Heagerty. Gus is a CTE alumnus who returns from Washington, D.C. where he's been working with the Shakespeare Theatre Company and other professional theatres in that area.

In March, experience the classic American play, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning play. The story is an allegory exploring the life of mankind through the experiences of the Antrobus family. Robert Ernst (*Rhinoceros, Crow and Weasel*) will direct. Later in March will be

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News from the College and Career Center

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

College and Career Center Services

The College and Career Center has information on colleges, financial aid, scholarships, college admissions tests, internships, volunteer opportunities, and part-time jobs. For the most current information about events, check the daily bulletin at www.tamhigh.org.

Senior College Seminar October 2

Tam will sponsor a seminar for college-bound seniors and their parents on Tuesday, October 2, at 6:30pm at Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church, 410 Sycamore Avenue, across from Mill Valley Middle School. Tam counselors will provide important information such as how to obtain letters of recommendation and send transcripts. A college admissions officer will discuss how colleges read applications and view the admissions process. College-bound seniors and their families are encouraged to attend.

During the fall semester the College and Career Center sponsors a number of special events for seniors including workshops on the early decision/early action process, writing the personal statement, and completing the University of California and California State University applications.

PSAT

Juniors and Sophomores: The Preliminary SAT, or PSAT, will be given at Tam on Saturday morning, October 20. The PSAT is designed to help students become familiar with the SAT and may help to improve future scores. Juniors who took the PSAT last year are strongly encouraged to repeat the test this fall.

Students may sign up September 4 through September 21 in the counseling office during breaks, lunch, and after school. The \$35 fee is non-refundable. Checks should be made payable to Tamalpais High School. Complete information will be mailed home.

PLAN

Sophomores will have an opportunity to take the PLAN, a practice version of the ACT exclusively for sophomores, on Dec. 1. Colleges accept the ACT equally with the SAT. More information will follow.

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Rotary Exchange Students



For the first time ever, Tam High and Mill Valley are participating in an exciting International exchange. Last spring, Julia Daniel (class of 2012) applied to take a gap year as a Rotary International Youth Exchange student. The Mill Valley Rotary Club agreed to sponsor Julia, who is now living for a year with a family in Mölndal, Sweden, near the port of Gothenburg. (In a funny coincidence, the translation for Mölndal is "Mill Valley".)

Meanwhile, Mill Valley Rotary and Tam High are hosting a 17-year-old senior named Veronica. She arrived in early August from her home in San Vincenzo on the Tuscan coast in Italy and is excited to experience life in California. Originally from Venice, Veronica has a younger brother and sister at home. At her high school, Veronica helped found the Interact Club and she studies languages (Italian, English, Spanish, French, and Latin). She likes volleyball, tennis, movies, music, reading, cooking, hanging out with friends, going to the beach, and traveling. In 2011 Veronica did a one-month Rotary exchange in Michigan so this is not her first experience in an English-speaking environment. The Tam High Interact Club (Rotary's international service club for middle school and high school students) is looking forward to welcoming Veronica, and she looks forward to meeting her classmates and learning about life in Mill Valley.

News from the College and Career Center Continued from page 12

SAT & ACT REGISTRATION DATES

Please clip this schedule and keep it for future reference.

SAT and Subject Testing Dates for 2012-2013

Test Date	Registration Deadline (Regular Fee)	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee)
October 6	September 7	September 21
*November 3	October 4	October 19
December 1	November 1	November 16
January 26	December 28	January 11
**March 9	February 8	February 22
May 4	April 5	April 19
June 1	May 2	May 17

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

ACT Testing Dates for 2012-2013

Test Date	Registration Deadline (Regular Fee)	Late Registration Deadline (Late Fee)
October 27	September 21	October 5
December 8	November 2	November 16
February 9	January 11	January 18
April 13	March 8	March 22
June 8	May 3	May 17



Students may sign up online for the ACT at actstudent.org and SAT at collegeboard.org. Students cannot take the SAT and the Subject Tests on the same day. Register early for a convenient test site. Tam is not a test site.

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

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

Students with Learning Disabilities

Students with IEPs who wish to take the SAT or ACT should contact their academic workshop teacher or case manager to start the application process for an accommodation. Students with a 504 or regular education accommodations need to see their counselor. It takes six to eight weeks for the SAT or ACT to process an accommodation request. Parents of juniors and seniors needing accommodations are strongly urged to begin the process immediately.

College Representatives at Tam


Many college admissions representatives visit Tam to meet with students. Seniors and juniors are urged to take advantage of these opportunities.

These schools have already made appointments to visit Tam: Bowdoin, California College of the Arts, Chapman, Colgate, Colorado College, Dickinson, Emerson, Eugene Lang, George Washington, Hamilton, Hampshire, High Point, Loyola New Orleans, Middlebury, Mt. Holyoke, Northeastern, NYU, Oberlin, Oregon State, Pitzer, Pomona, Sarah Lawrence, Scripps, Skidmore, St. Lawrence, St. Mary's, Suffolk, Tufts, Tulane, Union, U of British Columbia, U of Denver, U of Montana, U of Oregon, U of San Diego, Ursinus, Washington U St. Louis, Western Oregon U and Willamette.

Work Permits

Work permits expire in August. Students under 18 need to obtain a new work permit whether starting a new job or continuing a summer one. All jobs except babysitting and yard work require work permits. Work permits can be obtained from the College and Career Center.

Job Board

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

CTE 2012-13 Season: Great Works and Contemporary Ideas Continued from page 12

Shakespeare's play of political treachery, *Julius Caesar*, directed by Cat Thompson, with an all-female cast. The final play, in April, will be the comic masterpiece, *Scapin* by Moliere, directed by CTE alumnus Kathryn Zdan (*Wind in the Willows, In the Dark*).

Early September also includes the *Fall Arts Festival Face Painting Booth* operated by CTE student volunteers as an early fundraiser for the company. Kids can have their faces painted near the playground at Old Mill Park over the two days of the festival September 15 and 16.

Be sure to check out the CTE calendar to see performance dates of our season and watch for the upcoming articles about the shows, CTE students, guest artists and alumni news in the months to come. Go to our website www.ctetam.org for more details, dates, times and come see our plays!

Conservatory Theatre Ensemble SEASON 2012-13

MV Fall Arts Festival Face Painting **September 15 & 16**

The Arabian Nights **October 5-9**

By Dominic Cooke

Directed by Julianna Rees

School for Scandal **October 25-29**

By Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Directed by Susan Brashear

DanceAthon **November 10**

Ruby Scott Gym

(CTE Fundraising Event)

Middletown **November 30-December 4**

By Will Eno

Directed by Gus Heagerty

Winter One-Act Festival **January 16-19, 22-25, 30 & 31**

Directed by CTE Students **February 1-2**

The Skin of Our Teeth **March 4-8**

By Thornton Wilder

Directed by Robert Ernst

Julius Caesar **March 20-23***

By William Shakespeare

*Matinee 2:00 PM Evening 7:00 PM

Directed by Cat Thompson

Scapin **April 19-23**

By Moliere

Directed by Kathryn Zdan

Spring One-Act Festival **May 9-11, 14-18, 20-23**

Directed by CTE students

All Performances at the Daniel Caldwell Theatre @ 7pm

Visit ctetam.org for updates

News from Tam's Athletic Director

by Christina Amoroso

Tam Athletics for the 2012-2013 year have officially started. Football began on August 6, while all other fall sports got under way on August 13.

The fall sports informational sports meeting for parents took place Thursday, August 23. The evening began with a celebration of the 2011-12 MCAL and NCS pennant wins. Tam won 20 banners across 11 sports, up from 15 banners in nine sports the year before. All returning athletes were honored with the reading of names and pictures were taken with their coaches. Following the reading of the banners was the "All About Athletics" information sports meeting. If you were unable to attend please visit the Tam High website (www.tamhigh.org), go to the 'Athletics' tab, and click on forms for an informational sheet.

As this new season begins, we would like to remind the Tam coaches, players, and fans what good sportsmanship looks like. As part of the North Coast Section, Tam High has adopted the phrase "Pursuing Victory with Honor". Below is a reminder of our goals regarding sportsmanship.

- Remember you represent your school and community.
- Treat opponents with respect.
- Respect the judgment of the officials.
- Accept decisions from officials and coaches, and abide by them.
- Captains should communicate with officials for rule clarification.
- Accept both victory and defeat.
- Sincerely congratulate opponents regardless of winning or losing.
- Welcome the opportunity to discuss the rules and strategies of the contest with fans to promote better understanding of the game.

GO TAM!



Great Start for Tam Football

Tam High varsity and JV football teams started the season against St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School from Vallejo on Saturday, August 25. Both Tam teams were victorious. The varsity team won 13 to 7, while the JV team posted a score of 18 to 8.

Go Hawks!



Picture credit: Tim Shore.





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

SEPTEMBER 2012	Time/Event	Location
Date		
3	NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY	
4-21	PSAT REGISTRATION	Counseling Office
5	7:00 PM - PTSA MEETING	Student Center
7	9:45 AM - STUDENT WELCOME BACK RALLY	Mead Theater
8	BACK TO TAM ALUMNI DAY 9:00 AM - Campus Beautification NOON - Free Picnic Barbeque for volunteers	Front of Campus
12	7:00 PM - TUHSD BOARD MEETING	Kreps Conference Center - Redwood HS
13	BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT 6:00 PM - PTSA-hosted reception 6:40-8:50 PM - Classroom visits	Gus Gym
14	12:35 PM DISMISSAL - MINIMUM DAY	
14	7:00 PM - BOOSTER MEETING	Tam Library
15-16	MILL VALLEY ARTS FESTIVAL <i>CTE Face Painting Fundraiser, Tam Student Art Show, and PATH Food Booth Fundraiser</i>	Old Mill Park
17	ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE	Student Center
20	5:30 PM - PATH MEETING	Phoenix Room 400
20	7:00 PM - THUMB MEETING	Band Box
24	NO SCHOOL - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	
28	END OF R1 GRADING PERIOD	
28	9:45 AM - HOMECOMING RALLY	Outside Lower Kaiser
29	HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME AND DANCE	
OCTOBER 2012		
2	6:30 PM - SENIOR COLLEGE SEMINAR	Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church
3	CAHSEE MAKE-UP EXAM (Juniors/Seniors)	
3	12:35 PM DISMISSAL - MINIMUM DAY	
3	7:00 PM - PTSA MEETING	Student Center
5-9	CTE PRESENTS: <i>THE ARABIAN NIGHTS</i>	Caldwell Theatre
10	7:00 PM - TUHSD BOARD MEETING	Kreps Conference Center - Redwood HS
12	CLUB DAY	

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