

Tam High Wins Unprecedented 19th Consecutive County Mock Trial Championship

by David Vogelstein, criminal defense attorney and head coach



It was standing room only at the Marin Civic Center courtrooms on the first Saturday of February. Tam High's Mock Trial team, with 13 new, inexperienced players was up against their arch rival, Terra Linda, a senior-laden team bent on revenge and retribution.

Terra Linda came out strong in the final round. They were seamless, perfect, and

tough, but the young lawyers and witnesses from Tam did not give in. Punch and counter-punch. Each team fighting hard—both unwilling to lose. But in the end, Tam prevailed as county champions for the 19th straight year.

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Left: Tam Mock Trial team at county finals

Photo credit: Eve Wirth

Right: L to R: S. Allen, P. Swanson, C. Cadamone, R. Wirth Photo credit: Russell Wirth

Tam High Cheerleaders at the Pro Bowl

ALOHA...Our very own Tam Cheerleaders traveled to Hawaii to perform in this year's Pro Bowl. The girls earned their invitation to perform in this year's half-time show after receiving the Superior Award at the United Spirit Association cheer camp at UC Santa Cruz this summer.

Front: L to R T. Bowden, H. Fretes, L. Richardson, S. Davern
Back: B. Moorberg, S. Garrett, N. Peterson, B. Teodoro, J. Wong, A. Hassett, B. Moorberg





Letter from Principal Julie Synyard

Happy Spring Semester! January has started with quite a bang. Our seniors are busy finishing their private school and scholarship applications, and all are waiting to discover what opportunities await them after graduation. It is a truly exciting time, but the days can be filled with stressful anticipation and worry. Try not to fret too much, enjoy the moment, and just realize that everything happens for a reason. We wish all our seniors the best with their future endeavors and hope all their dreams come to fruition.

The teachers are working tirelessly to ensure our students are receiving a rigorous and relevant education. The dialogue surrounding teaching and learning in collaboration meetings, and the teachers' commitment to continuous improvement is truly inspiring. As a result of these discussions, there is a high level of interest for implementing innovative teaching practices that have led a number of staff members to investigate project and problem based learning. The staff is currently discussing the creation of a pilot project-based/problem-based teaching model that employs 1 to 1 technology devices in the 2014-2015 school year. In addition to exploring this option, 28 teachers will be receiving professional development through

our ITTC (Instructional Technology Teaching Collaborative) to become proficient with the methodology. We look forward to sharing the possibility of this pilot with our Board of Trustees in the near future.

The administration and teachers have been engaged in reviewing a number of our policies and practices to determine if they best support student learning. The staff is focusing on the areas of discipline and truancy to guarantee we have a significant impact on student behavior and positive decision-making. It is truly inspiring to work with such a dedicated group of individuals who see the power of creating a supportive learning environment for our students.

We would like to thank all of the members of our Tam Family for their continued support and volunteerism, and give a special thanks to our Tam Alumni Association for repairing our clock tower. Fixing the clock tower was no small feat, and we appreciate all the hard work it took to bring the clock back to life. Congratulations for a job well done!

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for the gifts you bestowed on our teachers and staff this December, and for the bounty of treats donated for the PTSA breakfasts. The staff is very appreciative of your generosity; it makes for a fun and festive holiday season. We hope you all enjoyed a restful break, and wish you a healthy and prosperous new year.

Tam Administration



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Site Council Corner

The Tam Site Council (TSC) consists of the principal, certificated representatives, classified representatives, students, and parents. The TSC meets monthly to develop, approve and provide oversight of the school's three year plan and to review and approve program proposals. The TSC also provides general oversight of all categorical programs and budgets as well as direct oversight of Instructional Improvement funds. You can find additional information on TSC including meeting calendar, a list of members and the full minutes here. <http://www.tamdistrict.org/Page/2511>

The following is a summary of the minutes approved January 15th, 2014 from the December, 2013 meeting:

- Discussion of drug and alcohol abuse among students. The advisory committee formed to address the issues using a multi-level platform including grant dollars to bring in special programs and speakers for the student and parent communities.
- On-going truancy and attendance issues are being examined by the administration in an effort to put in place policies to reduce the number of tardies and unexcused absences.
- Report on success of fall homecoming dance and the possibility of a spring dance in addition to the prom.
- Report on a new program successfully implemented first semester to identify and support struggling math students.
- District-wide Internet problems plaguing Tam during the first semester have been resolved.
- Tam High Foundation is nearing its fundraising goals for the 2013-2014 school year.

PTSA Corner

by Deb Luster, PTSA president



Holiday Staff Breakfast a Hit--Next One: Valentine's Day
The PTSA Holiday breakfast for the staff was a tremendous success. Thank you to Lisa Donahue and all the wonderful volunteers who decorated the staff lounge and provided the treats. Our next breakfast is Valentine's Day, and if you would like to get involved, please contact Lisa at lisa49805@aol.com.

Joint Meeting – February 10 Tam High Foundation and PTSA
Our February meeting was a joint one with the Tam High Foundation, highlighting some of the projects funded by THF. We hope that you were able to join us as Tam teachers presented their projects, which are making a real difference in student learning.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments at dluster@luster.com.



PTSA Is Looking for Volunteers for Next Year

It's never too early to start. We are putting out our feelers for any parent interested in being involved in next year's PTSA.

There are plenty of options! You can serve on the board or help with a specific event. So no matter how much time you can spare, there's always a way to get involved.

Please email Deb Luster at dluster@luster.com to let her know of your interest or to just ask for more information.

Tam High Safe and Sober Grad Night 2014

June 12, 2014 | 10:45 pm - 4:00 am | Mill Valley Community Center

Every year, with the help of parents from all grade levels as well as the greater Tam High community, senior class parents raise the funds and host the annual alcohol and drug free graduation celebration: Safe and Sober Grad Night. This year Safe and Sober Grad Night will be on June 13, 2013 from 11:00 pm-4:00 am at the Mill Valley Community Center. This is the final gathering of the entire class before our graduates disperse to their travels, jobs, colleges and futures.

To encourage attendance, we do not charge admission. Only through your donations can we put on this party to keep our children safe and sober on graduation night. We appreciate our school communities' continued commitment to keeping our graduates safe and to providing them an evening they will always remember.

Please consider donating to support this event. We thank parents of all grade levels in advance for your support.

Name

Address

\$15

\$25

\$50

\$100

Other

Please make checks payable to:
Tam High Safe and Sober Grad Night 2013
700 Miller Avenue
Mill Valley, CA 94941

or donate online at <http://tamhighsafeandsober.com/donate/>

Tax ID# 68-0194361

Parent Education

Tam PTSA hosts many Parent Education events each year. On January 29, Jeffrey Leiken discussed how we, as parents, can raise positive, flexible, motivated and focused teens, in spite of the culture they live in and the challenges that lie ahead for all of us. This event was filmed and is now available on the Tam High website (go to <http://bit.ly/Leiken-TamHS>). Thank you to Mike Webb, Sarah McNeil and Leigh Ann Townsend for organizing the event and providing food for the guests.

Upcoming Event:
Wednesday, February 12, 7-8:30 pm at the Student Center.
Practical Help for Parents --Strategizing around Drugs, Alcohol and Parties,

Speaker Michael Simon will provide practical ideas for parents on how to create an ongoing dialogue with their teens about the issue of alcohol, parties and drugs.

Pre-registration is required.

TAM FOUNDATION HELPS JOURNALISM STUDENTS TO LAUNCH THE TAM BROADCAST NETWORK

Ever since Tam senior Randy Shapiro was five years old, he wanted to be a sportscaster. When he was 17, he became one.

This didn't surprise Randy, or anyone who knows him because Randy is a determined young man. What did surprise him was that, along the way, he created an entire broadcast network. The Tam Broadcast Network (TBN) launched this year under the auspices of the Tam News, offering – among other things – live broadcasts of Tam sporting events.

Randy's story is one of entrepreneurship and personal initiative, but also one of how an exceptional teacher and a supportive community made a profound difference in the lives of our students.

As a junior, Randy was a sports writer in the journalism program. He took a summer course on broadcasting through the Community Media Center of Marin, the public access channel that broadcasts the San Rafael Pacifics baseball games. He learned how to use video broadcasting equipment and the basics of sports coverage through this course and an internship at the radio station that covered the Pacifics' games.

He wanted to bring that skill set to the Tam News sports department, but, like almost every high school journalism program in the nation, it lacked the proper equipment to support live sports broadcasts. "The big obstacle was money," he says, "because all of this equipment is really expensive."

That's where journalism teacher Jonah Steinhart stepped in. His philosophy is "putting the opportunities in front of the kids, and letting them run with it. As soon as the kids show the interest and the drive to do something, I go and find the right resources to make that happen."

In just a few months, Steinhart, Randy, and several other students raised enough money to buy three SONY NX5-U HD video cameras and the other equipment needed to support live broadcasts. This fall, TBN

debuted its sports coverage, broadcasting the homecoming football game, a water polo match, and several boys' and girls' basketball games. With professional-grade cameras, three camera angles, graphics, and a play-by-play and color commentator, the productions offer everything you'll find on ESPN – except, Randy notes, instant replay. Which, of course, he hopes to add soon.

TBN is also evolving to include other forms of video journalism. A monthly news roundup show was launched and Tam News print reporters have filmed their interviews so they can also produce video features. The process is one of trial and error, which Steinhart encourages: "The great thing about the journalism program is that kids get to do what they want to do."

TBN also plans to broadcast events that are of interest to the larger Tam community, like graduation. "Imagine somebody's grandmother in Maine who's too sick to travel being able to watch her grandchild's graduation on her computer," Steinhart says. He also envisions broadcasting guest speakers who visit individual classes, CTE performances, and parent education speakers.

Although Randy will graduate this year, he's training his younger classmates so TBN can continue after he's gone. He's already found his successor: junior Riley Kuffner. The head of Tam's Young Entrepreneur Club, Riley is "very interested in startups, in founding something and creating something that benefits the community." He picked up the skills quickly enough to produce the recent broadcast of the Tam-Drake varsity boys' basketball game on his own.

The Tam Foundation is proud to have provided funds to help purchase TBN's HD cameras. The Foundation's mission is to support exactly the sort of innovative and cutting edge opportunities that TBN represents, and teachers like Jonah Steinhart, who guide their students in the pursuit of their passions with such unflagging energy.

Fundraising Campaign Ending Soon!

The Tam High Foundation is wrapping up its annual campaign, and while we're close to achieving our \$400,000 goal, we aren't quite there yet. If you haven't yet donated, you can help us get there by visiting our website at www.tamhighfoundation.org and click on the "donate now" button, or mail a check to The Tam High Foundation, c/o Tam High School, 700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

Don't Miss the Foundation's Spring Gala

Save the date now for the Foundation's annual spring fundraiser, which will be held at the Sweetwater on **April 27**, from 5 to 10 pm. Tickets will be available on the Foundation's website beginning in March. Come and enjoy a night of music, dancing, drinks, and great food from Gordon Drysdale while supporting the Foundation and Tam's teachers!

Shop for Tam on Amazon.com

The holidays may be over, but the Foundation's Amazon shopping program lasts all year! Amazon will donate up to 10% of every purchase you make to the Foundation -- BUT ONLY if you access the site through the Amazon link on the Foundation's website. Bookmark it, so you can support the Foundation with one mouse click at no cost to you! Go to <http://bit.ly.THFAmazon>.

Foundation to Solicit Major Grant Requests

Each spring, the Tam Foundation offers teachers and staff the opportunity to submit applications for major grants to enhance classroom teaching and additional areas of student support. Major grants are proposals for projects costing over \$10,000. (The mini-grant application process, for projects costing less than \$10,000, is conducted in the fall.) This year, teachers have until February 28 to submit their applications to the Major Grants Committee. The committee will make its recommendations to the Foundation Board in late March.

Major grants account for most of the Foundation's annual disbursements, and are budgeted for nearly \$250,000 this year. The Foundation funds projects that are conceived and requested by teachers and staff and that align with its mission to "foster academic excellence and innovation in education for every student at Tam High." Applicants are asked to demonstrate that their project enhances the learning environment and supports them and their students in ways that the district budget does not allow.

Last year, for example, teachers in the Social Studies and Science departments received funding for pilot programs that allowed them to try innovative teaching approaches in their classrooms. The AIM program received a grant to repair and replace its professional-grade HD cameras. The Drama, Art and Music departments were able to bring in guest artists to provide small group, hands on, specialized instruction for students.

Tam's teachers and administrators are a dynamic group of educators who constantly seek out fresh ideas and tools in order to improve their teaching. Through your donations, the Foundation supports them in these efforts so that they can continue to offer Tam students an extraordinary learning experience.



NEWS FROM



by Beverly Coughlin

Merry Music Making at Tam Holiday Concerts

Tam Music started off the new school year with the first concert of our "Live at the Student Center" series. It was an innovative use of the newly renovated Student Center and turnout was high. Then came the Musician's Showcase, our audition-based concert featuring the top-most talented musicians in the department. And finally a flurry of performances in December: the "Un-Holiday" Guitar/Percussion concert rocked out; the Instrumental Holiday Concert featuring our Symphonic Orchestra and Jazz Band grooved; and "A Holiday in Song" featuring our Concert Choir rang true for the season.



Kory Reid of the acclaimed vocal ensemble Chanticleer held a workshop for our Concert Choir, demonstrating a variety of techniques such as, for our male singers, how to sing in their head voice at the high end of the vocal range.

NEWS FROM



Please Support PATH

PATH (Patrons of the Arts at Tam High) is facing a significant shortfall in our fundraising this school year, and this is threatening our ability to provide Tam's art teachers with the resources they need to give students the excellent arts education for which Tam has become known.

PATH is a parent-run organization that supplements district funding for the Tam High Fine Arts program. Several years ago, the district barred art teachers from requesting donations from parents or students. Teachers had depended on such contributions to pay for sup-

plies, equipment, field trips, student exhibits, and other items that the district's budget did not encompass. PATH was created to fill this gap, and it has successfully done so since its inception.

But this year, parent donations are significantly below those of prior years. While PATH receives funds from other sources, including our successful MaskARade fundraiser last fall, the deficit in direct donations means we don't presently have enough funds to support all of the field trips, exhibitions, and critical supply purchases our teachers plan to make during the second semester. This will affect Art Exploration, Photography, Ceramics, and Draw/Paint classes at all levels, from introductory to AP.

If you have donated to PATH this year, we thank you for your support. If you have not, we ask that you consider making a donation in an amount that is comfortable for your family. All donations, small or large, are appreciated. Donations of \$50 or greater will make you a Member of PATH, and all donations are tax deductible. Please send checks to PATH, c/o Tam High School, 700 Miller Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

PATH thanks you for your support of Tam's Fine Arts Department!

New Graphic Design Class Coming in 2014-15

Next school year, the Fine Arts Department will offer a course in Graphic Design. The semester-long course will be offered to students who have previously taken the introductory art course, Art Exploration.

The new course will focus on the elements, art, and principles of design and how they integrate with text to convey meaning. Using a variety of media from traditional to fine-arts-based mixed media and printmaking, students will develop expressive, technical and cognitive skills in the use of image design as a means of communicating ideas or information. Assignments will relate to the workplace; presentations will be chosen and assignments structured to prepare students for a career in design. Anticipated projects include digital photography, computer generated drawings, books, posters, logo/identity projects, web sites, murals, and screen printing.

Tam's art teachers decided to add the course after noticing how much students have enjoyed using iPads and Wacom tablets in the Draw/Paint classes. "It became clear that many students enjoy mixing photography, technology and traditional art mediums, and would like a deeper understanding of graphic design," says Draw/Paint teacher Lynne Klein. The art faculty is also excited about the course because it will "work collaboratively with our students' other subjects, like Science, English, and Social Studies, helping them make connections between them," Klein adds.

Interested students will be able to sign up for Graphic Design during the spring course selection process.

Student Art on Exhibit Around Town

One of PATH's central missions is to ensure that Tam art students have a real world arts education that connects them to the community. One way we further this mission is to fund student art exhibits in local public spaces. In the coming months, look for Tam students' art on display in Mill Valley as follows:

- March 1 – April 30 Photography students will have photographs displayed at Noci Gelato, 17 East Blithedale.
- March 1 – 31 Ceramics and Draw/Paint students will exhibit their work at Mill Valley City Hall.
- May 1-31 Draw/Paint students will exhibit at the Mill Valley Library, with a public reception at the library on May 1.



Student art on display at Noci Gelato this fall

News from the College and Career Center

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 19: COLLEGE OF MARIN REGISTRATION AT TAM

A representative from College of Marin will meet with seniors interested in attending COM in the fall on Wednesday, March 19, during tutorial period, 9:45-10:45 am, in the computer lab. Students will receive registration materials, assistance with online registration and learn about educational and vocational opportunities and transfer options available at COM. Passes are available in the College and Career Center.

MARCH 20: POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING NIGHT

Tam will hold its Post-High School Planning Night on Thursday, March 20, at 6:30 pm, in Ruby Scott Gym. Guest speakers will represent California Community Colleges, the California State University, University of California and private colleges. Sophomores, juniors and their parents are invited to attend this informative, once-a-year event.

MARCH 24: COM PLACEMENT TESTS

Students planning to attend College of Marin in the fall may take the required placement tests in English and math at Tam on Monday, March 24, 2:30-5:30 pm, in the computer lab. Make-up tests will be given at COM. Only students who have registered to attend COM may take the placement tests.

MAY 7: MARIN COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR

More than 150 colleges and universities from across the country will have representatives at the Marin County College Fair on Wednesday, May 7, 6-8 pm, at the Conlon Recreation Center at Dominican University of California in San Rafael. There will also be talks on financial aid and college admissions tests. Students and parents are invited to attend. The fair is spon-

sored by the Western Association of College Admissions Advisors.

SAT and ACT

Students may register online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org and ACT at www.actstudent.org. Register early for a convenient location. Tam is not a test site.

Testing Tips: The counseling department recommends that juniors applying to four-year colleges take the SAT in March, May, or June. Juniors may want to take the ACT in April or June in addition to or instead of the SAT. The SAT and ACT are accepted equally at colleges and universities across the country. Students may borrow practice books from the College and Career Center to prepare for admissions tests.

Some highly competitive colleges require or recommend Subject Tests. Sophomores and juniors who are completing an academic subject this year should consider taking a Subject Test in that area this spring. For example, students taking AP Biology or AP United States history are advised to take the Biology or US History Subject Test in May or June and not wait until senior year when they will have forgotten some of the material.

CHSPE

The California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), which awards the legal equivalent of a high school diploma, will be given on Sat., March 22 in San Rafael. Students must be 16 or in the tenth grade to take the exam. Pre-registration is required. The regular registration deadline is Feb. 21; late registration requires an additional fee. For more information, go to www.chspe.net or call 866-342-4773.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Here are a few suggestions for summer programs:

The Academic Talent Development Program at UC Berkeley offers challenging summer classes in a range of areas for students entering grades 8-12. June 23 - Aug. 1. The application deadline for new students is February 26. <http://atdp.berkeley.edu/>

UC Davis Young Scholars Program is an interdisciplinary program in natural sciences for sophomores and juniors with mentored research in university laboratories. June 22 - Aug 2. Applications are due March 21. www.ysp.ucdavis.edu.

The California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS) is a four-week summer program for high-achieving math and science students. Students live on campus and attend classes taught by UC faculty and researchers. The program is open to students in grades 9 - 12. The program runs July 6 - Aug. 8. Applications are due Feb. 21. Financial assistance is available. <http://cosmos.ucdavis.edu>.

California State Summer School for the Arts offers four weeks of classes in animation, visual arts, creative writing, music, dance, film/video and theatre on the Cal Arts campus near Los Angeles. July 21 - August 8. Financial aid is available. Applications are due February 28. <http://www.cssa.org/>

FINANCIAL AID and SCHOLARSHIPS

Information on scholarships and financial aid is available online on at www.connection.naviance.com/tamalpais and in the College and Career Center. Each week the Career Center sends senior families the Green Sheet, a list of local and Bay Area scholarships. If you are a parent of a senior and you are not receiving the Green Sheet, please contact Susan Gertman at sgertman@tamdistrict.org.

10,000 Degrees in San Rafael is an excellent source of financial aid and scholarship information. To learn more, go to www.10000degrees.org or call 459-4240.

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CTE Presents: Dickens' Great Expectations

by Susan Brashear, CTE co-program director, and Tessa King, third-year drama student

Tam High School's Conservatory Theater Ensemble (CTE) presents Charles Dickens' Great Expectations, directed by Ben Cleaveland, Co-Director of the CTE program. CTE's version was specially adapted for the Royal Shakespeare Company by Nick Omerod and Declan Donnellan (Cheek By Jowl Theatre Company). The play faithfully follows Dickens's famous story and features an array of fascinating characters caught in a web of deceit, lies and self-delusion.

One of Dickens' most cherished novels, Great Expectations follows the life of Pip, a young orphan boy, as he tries to find his place in society. After an unexpected invitation to wealthy Miss Havisham's house, Pip meets Estella, her cruel but beautiful niece and the pair become childhood friends. As these two mature, each separates to follow their divergent paths in life. Estella is sent to study abroad and Pip apprentices for his uncle as a blacksmith. However, Pip continues to dream of both Estella and the wealthy lifestyle of a gentleman as a way to win her.

When an anonymous benefactor gives him a small fortune, he returns to London to become a gentleman and tries to win the fickle heart of Estella, unaware of the danger and decisions he faces.

The cast is comprised mostly of advanced drama students and includes M.J. Alves, Tizjohn Armstead, Ashley Baker, Duston Baranow-Watts, Sarah Berman, Halie Bradley, Britt Haegg Lund, Carson Harvey, Tessa King, Matthew Kline, Emily Malmquist, Emelia Michel, Sydney Smith, Mike Van Zandt, Ben Weinswig, and Alec Williams. Underclassmen Andrew LeBuhn, Sam Novick and Benjamin Spendov round out the cast.

The dedicated and original design team will create the world of the play. Cedar Banks, Abby Bordin, Maddy Hill, Avery Stray and Meg Weisselberg develop the visual look and sound of the production to help transport the audience into Dickens' time. The crew will be Lucy Black, Kevin Hunter, Kate Luebke and Caitlin O'Shea led by stage managers Trevor Guyton and Connor

Wynne-Perry.

Performances are March 7 -11. All performances start at 7:00 pm and are held at Caldwell Theater located at the back of Tam's campus. The box office opens one hour before performances begin. Advance tickets can be purchased up to 8 hours ahead of the performance online at www.ctetam.org/tickets. Ticket prices are \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$12 for adults. Seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Doors open one-half hour before performances start.

Upcoming CTE Performances - Mark Your Calendar

- March 25-29: Original Dance Theatre
- April 26-30: Beauty and the Beast
- May 6,7,9,10, 13-17, 20-22: Student Written One Act Festival

News from College and Career Center continued from page 7

EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES -- 2014

Each year a few seniors receive good news early from colleges. This year students have reported acceptances at: Arizona State, Cal Arts, Chapman, CSU Chico, Columbia College-Chicago, CSU Channel Islands, CSU Dominguez Hills, DePaul, Dominican, Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, Fordham, Gonzaga, Humboldt State, Indiana U, Lafayette,

Lewis and Clark, Louisiana State, Loyola-New Orleans, Montana State, Northern Arizona, Northwestern, NYU, Ohio U, Portland State, Princeton, Quest (Canada), Sacramento State, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco State, Savannah College of Art and Design, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, School of the Visual Arts, Scripps, Seattle U, Simmons, Tulane, U Arizona, UC Berkeley, U Chicago, U Colorado-

Boulder, U Denver, U Edinburgh (UK), U Hawaii, U Idaho, U Kansas, U Michigan, U Missouri, U Oregon, U Portland, U Tennessee-Knoxville, Vassar, Western Washington, Willamette, Williams and Yale.

Please share your news with the College and Career Center.

County Mock Trial Championships continued from page 1

"They pushed themselves to the sky. They were amazing in the face of an older, excellent Terra Linda team. They are so young, and so fearless. When they announced who won, I had to turn away so my kids would not see me crying. This is so special—they are all heroes. I hope they get the recognition that a feat like this deserves," said their long-time head coach, criminal defense attorney David Vogelstein.

Special recognition was awarded for outstanding work to juniors, Sam Allen (prosecution pre-trial attorney), Carla Cadamone (defendant), Russell Wirth (prosecution attorney) and senior Peter Swanson (Defense pre-trial attorney).

Tam will go on to compete in the state finals held March 21 – 23.

Triumphant Team:

Anastasia Anderson, Captain
Peter Swanson, Captain

Tiara Mead
Sam Allen
Henna Arvind
Dani Budish
Erin Butt
Carla Cardamone
Hannah Chorley
Reed Felder
Jeremy Gloates
Samantha Henkel
Annapurna Holtzapple
Whitney Howard
Ben Lampl
Sammy Lebuhn
Sheridan Miller
Gigi Pemverton
Michael Pile
Amara Radetsky
Kate Russell
Trent Waltz
Emma Weinswig
Russell Wirth
Peter Wynn

Things Are Happening at the Mill Valley Library!

by Katie MacBride, Young Adult Librarian, Mill Valley Library

CREATIVE WRITING

Weekly, Wednesday 7-8:30 pm

Discover what it means to let creativity run wild and write for pleasure at these weekly creative writing workshops. For more information, or to read student writing, please visit www.millvalleylibrary.net/youngadults.



FIRST THURSDAY: SCREEN PRINTING WORKSHOP

April 3, 2014, 7 pm

Learn how to make a concert poster come alive or a t-shirt stand out. Sam Kraus, owner of Chromaculture Screen Printing and Design, will teach the basics of how to start your own screen printing operation. Everyone who registers will leave the workshop with his or her own screen-printed shirt. Registration required, see www.millvalleylibrary.net/youngadults for details.



FIRST FRIDAY SLAM POETRY COMPETITION

March 7, 2014, 7 pm

After last year's fantastic Slam Poetry Competition, the audience begged us to host another one and we are more than happy to oblige. 12 high school students with a talent and passion for the spoken word will take the stage and perform their original work for the audience and three fierce judges. The brilliant Jazz Hudson will grace us with her emceeing skills. Registration recommended. Register at www.millvalleylibrary.org.



Sports Updates

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

The boys' varsity basketball team is a well-balanced deep team, with contributions from a wide range of players in every game. In fact, eight different players have received "player of the game" honors in the 20 contests so far this year.

The boys got off to a strong start this season, winning nine of their first 12 games, including many on the road. They have played excellent basketball every game this season, even during more difficult stretches. Their brand of up-tempo and pressure basketball is exciting, and was exemplified by their double-overtime win at San Rafael. They have shown repeatedly that they are able to compete with all top-level teams. Their chief challenge is remaining consistent in their high level performance for 32 minutes every night, the hallmark of excellence.

When writing this article, the team stood at 9-11, following several close games in the MCAL. Notwithstanding the tough odds they face, the team is still focused on qualifying for MCAL playoffs and NCS post-season. The enduring quality of this team is dogged determination.



GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL

The girls' varsity basketball team is in the midst of another successful season. They are currently one game out of 3rd place in the MCAL standings and poised to make MCAL playoffs for the fourth consecutive season. After a strong preseason (8-4) that includes a 5-0 record in Division 3, the Lady Hawks have already qualified for the North Coast Section Division 3 Playoffs for the fourth consecutive year and hope to make a run at qualifying for the Nor Cal Championships for the first time.

The team returns nine players from last year's team that includes seniors Yasmine Bakhtiari, Allison Woodworth, Amanda Barriscale, Elizabeth Archer, and Caitlin Byrne. Also returning from last year are juniors Veronica Bowen and Lauren Lampl and sophomores Amari Allison and Chiara Pompanin. New arrivals to the Lady Hawks include senior Tania Hernandez up from last year's JV team; sophomore Barbara Zachariassen, a transfer from Denmark; and freshmen Megan Lee, Taualee Lepolo, and Katie Sowerby.

Sophomore Amari Allison is currently leading the team in scoring and steals, while returning MCAL All-League forward Amanda Barriscale leads the team in rebounding and assists. The Lady Hawks biggest strength has been their

depth, which fuels their full court pressure defense and fast break offense.

Although the team is currently 4-4 in MCAL play, losing close games to Marin Catholic and Drake, coupled with losses to Redwood and undefeated Justin Siena, the Lady Hawks have the experience and depth to make up ground in the standings and position themselves for a serious run at a MCAL championship. This is not a team to be taken lightly.

BOYS' JV BASKETBALL

The JV Boys' Basketball team is comprised of 11 young men – two juniors and nine sophomores. Our season goals are to be a team that exhibits hustle, scrappiness, and intelligence. We want to be the best-conditioned, most aggressive, most intelligent and hardest working group of players in Northern California for our age division. We focus on making the experience fun and we do not gauge our success by wins and losses, but rather by our efforts.

The team has been led by several young promising players. James Finn leads the team in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots. Kimo Karp has been a staple at point guard leading the team in assists. RJ Cutkelvin has been one of the team's best defenders and leads the team

Left photo--Anthony Mazzini, of the boys' varsity basketball team, sealing and finishing.

Bottom photo--Girls' varsity basketball team: Left to Right Top: Amari Allison, Taualee Lepolo, Megan Lee, Allison Woodworth, Chiara Pompanin, Elizabeth Archer, Lauren Lampl, Barbara Zachariassen

Left to Right Bottom: Catie Byrne, Yasmine Bakhtiari, Roni Bowen, Katie Sowerby, Tania Hernandez

Bottom Front: Amanda Barriscale



in steals. Kirk Rider, Rayshawn Austin and Sam Whittemore have made strong contributions as starting players. Chip Moore, Quinn Civik, Zeke Somers, and Colin Lowe have made solid contributions coming off the bench. Walker Sapp, one of the best performers on the team, unfortunately suffered a season-ending knee injury in December.

Through week 10 of the season, the JV Basketball team was 7-3 in preseason games and 3-3 in MCAL – two games out of first place. The team had one of the most unusual scheduling situations ever seen for a high school basketball team – 12 straight away games over 35 days. The team did very well during this stretch, winning the majority of these more difficult games. Two of the three MCAL losses have been by one possession to first place teams in their home gyms. So, the season has been extremely fun, educational and competitive. The team battles hard every game and closes out the season with five MCAL games at Gus Gym.

GIRLS' JV BASKETBALL

The JV Girls' basketball team is currently 14-4, third in MCAL (6-2), with 5 games left to play. The Hawks look to avenge an early season two-point loss to undefeated Marin Catholic, and to solidify their dominance over the rest of the public schools with season sweeps of San Rafael, Novato, Drake, and district rival Redwood.

The offense-minded Hawks are averaging 44 points per game, while holding opponents to 28. Their pressure defense and fast-break offense entertain the fans and keep the players excited and motivated.

The Players

Junior point guard Bella Amyx makes the offense go, leading the fast break and feeding the ball to junior wings Tatum Robach and Lilah Yob. Sophomore point guard Adrienne Lee adds ball handling and scoring punch off the bench that is worthy of highlight film. Freshmen Jasmine Pena and Gigi Wyatt add depth to the backcourt.

In the front court, junior center Aja Foster is an intimidating defensive presence, averaging six blocks per game, with power forward Ali



Girls' junior varsity basketball, with Isabella Ally in key.

Merkel providing scoring in the low post. Junior Prentice Fairbrother and freshman Heather Cromb provide rebounding and scoring off the bench, with freshmen Ginger Lazarus and Daisy Giordia adding depth at the post position.

The team is coached by Matt Gillespie and assisted by David Heneghan.

BOYS' FRESHMEN BASKETBALL

The 2013-14 freshman boys' team is peaking at the right time as it enters the second round of league play. After dealing with significant injuries to many key contributors, the team continues to show great improvement and looks to be a force to be reckoned with down the stretch. Team highlights include a 45-point win over Elsie Allen and double-digit victories over San Rafael and Terra Linda. The team also took home the consolation trophy at the holiday tournament in Novato.

The team is anchored in the middle by Curtis Klopfer and Issac Yerrington. Curtis has been reliable and strong in the post, and the only player to start every game this season. Issac is coming off of his best game of the season, putting up nine points with some impressive post moves and finishes. At the power forward position, Jac Martin, Pablo Lochman and Milo Ryan provide the strength and toughness for the team. Jac is relentless in his effort, Pablo has a

sweet shooting touch from mid-range, and Milo is the team's best rebounder.

On the wings, Max Sherman and Harper Dorman pace the offense with their long-range shooting ability. Both have also shown the ability to take it to the basket and score inside as well. Incredibly, Max has hit a game tying three-pointer with under a minute left in three different games this year. Nathan Yeung is the team's lock-down defender and continues to grow his offensive skills every day.

At the guard position, Michael Traverso has been impressive with his on-ball defense and brings a high level of energy every time he is on the floor. Henry Collins and Jack Gassen provide the ball handling and offensive punch with their sweet mid-range games and knowledge of the offense. At the point, Jacob Moeller combines a solid defensive game with the ability to score and create for his teammates.

Together, this group looks to be a force in MCAL for years to come.

GIRLS' FRESHMEN BASKETBALL

We are having an amazing season so far. With a full team of 15 girls the future of Lady Hawk basketball is promising too. Our overall record is 15-1 and MCAL record is 6-0). The team took third place in the Elise Allen tournament held in Santa Rosa. Reach for the stars!



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Looking for the Calendar? Find It Online

It contains most events and special dates through the end of May. Download it at <http://bit.ly/Spring14-Calendar>



Email Communications:

Tam PTSA keeps you up-to-date with the weekly "What's Up" email, the monthly "A Look Ahead" email messages and special announcements. If you aren't receiving them, sign up at <http://bit.ly/JoinTamPTSAEmailList>

A Sustainable Education: What Special Education Students Are Learning and Teaching

by *Hannah Chorley*, published in the *January 2014* issue of the *Tam News*

The Tam Journalism students publish the Tam News online. We love to reprint feature articles when we can, but unfortunately we did not have space this issue. January's feature article "A Sustainable Education: What Special Education Students Are Learning and Teaching" by Hannah Chorley takes a behind-the-scenes look at Michael Lovejoy's special education class. You can read the full article online at <http://bit.ly/Lovejoy-Tam>.

And while online, please look around. There are lots of great articles and news items plus sports broadcasts by Tam Broadcast News. See page 4 for more information about TBN.