



David Brown, Principal



The Squawking Hawk

Tamalpais High Community News

**December 2015
Issue 3**

Happy Holidays! As I've shared with many of you already, THS is a high school, so perfection remains somewhere out there on the occasionally distant horizon. Nonetheless, I can sincerely say that I've thoroughly enjoyed my first month as part of the Tamalpais High School community. What I've discovered in these first four weeks is a strong and committed group of teachers, counselors and other support personnel, who are focused on making every effort to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of every student. I've also discovered that the students, again, not perfect, consistently demonstrate concern for each other, as well as for their place. I've been on hundreds of public and private high school campuses in California and Hawaii, and have yet to experience an environment that is so well maintained by students.

I've also been impressed by the powerful support of the parent community, particularly through the Tam Foundation and our school's PTSA. Although it's always been true that high school students for the most part prefer their parents be less involved as they develop their own paths toward independence, your students join with staff in our sincere appreciation of the incredible support you provide THS.

I would invite you to review the school's calendar for the many special events planned for next semester. And, even as we close this semester, several events are

scheduled for this week that would appreciate your support. One involves the instrumental music performance on Thursday night, Dec. 10. The second is the annual Art Faire, which takes place on the Freshman Court (we're praying for an El Niño delay) on Friday, Dec. 11.

During my brief tenure I've watched THS students perform in a variety of settings, from meaningful academic engagement to drama, music and athletic success. You should all be proud of THS students and their willingness to take risks, be courageous, and reach out to one another.

I'll be here long enough that the "interim" tag will hopefully seem inapplicable. Nonetheless, I do look forward to graduating with the class of 2016 and anticipate that our final semester together will be positive, productive, and enjoyable.

Thanks for all the support you as teachers and parents provide our students. Please continue to encourage your students to be on time and to be productive in their classes. Attendance is such a critical element in building a foundation for high school personal and academic success.

Here's to a restful and joyous Holiday Season.

Good News!

Tam Gives Back!

Congratulations to the Leadership Group and PTSA for their collaborative work on a very successful "Project Night Night" preparing more than 75 bags of blankets, books, and stuffed animals -- impressive sense of community as "Tam Gives Back".



Happy Holidays.

Thank you PTSA and the Tam families for the staff appreciation gifts...we wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season!

"Be the Influence" (BTI)

Together with the community coalition Mill Valley AWARE, the Tam High School administration, PTSA, and the Tam High Foundation seek to improve the health, safety and well-being of our community by reducing teen alcohol, marijuana, and other drug use. BTI is an opportunity for THS families to pledge to not have alcohol available when parties are held in their homes. To join, please visit the Community tab on the Tam High website.

TAM HIGH CERT



Congratulations to all the staff and students who participated in Tamalpais High School's two day Community Emergency Response Team safety training in November.

Thank you Tiburon Fire Department, Jessica Power, Hans Goto, and Assistant Principal Wendy Stratton for making this event possible!



Tam News has been selected as 2015 Crown

Finalists by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association out of Columbia University. Congrats to Tam News and adviser, Johah Steinhart!

Great Job Ashley Reid!
Recipient of the Emperor Science Award

This is a unique opportunity to build a mentor relationship and work one-on-one on an important cancer research project.

Upcoming Events

Check the tamhigh.org calendar for details



Open House

Save the Date

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Details Coming Soon!

December 10: Choral Holiday Concert – Caldwell Theater, 7pm

December 11: Holiday Art Faire @ Tam Freshman Court; Last day of the food drive

December 14: Adjusted Bell Schedule, 3:25 release; Last day to donate for the Toy Drive

December 15: Adjusted Bell Schedule, 2:45pm release

December 16-18: Final Exams; Early Release 12:25pm

December 18: PTSA sponsored Holiday Coffee/Break-fast for staff. Happy Holidays!

January 4: No School (Teacher Workday)

January 5: No School (Staff Development Day)

January 6: First Day of Semester 2, Monday Schedule

January 7: Parent Ed Event "The Sweet Spot" with Christine Carter

January 14: Tam Open House & PTSA Reception



Tam Tidbits

Important Notice to Seniors and Parents: We would like to inform all 12th grade students, parents and counselors that any senior who is suspended during the first semester may not apply to have the suspension expunged by the Superintendent until the second semester. Please continue to make good choices regarding your behavior.

School Safety: The safety of students and staff is our highest priority. Please note that the campus is closed except during lunch. Students are required to have a pass to leave or return to class in the middle of the day. Call the attendance hotline to report an absence and to request a pass for students to pick up when leaving campus during the school day. Attendance hotline number is 415-380-3592.

Use the Crosswalk! Miller Avenue is a very busy street. Parents, please remind students to always wait for the signal and use the crosswalk. Mill Valley police have reported that many students cross to the median and walk against traffic. It takes a village to change behaviors -- we need your help to emphasize how dangerous this can be, and to set an example.

Absences: Just a reminder that all absences should be reported to the attendance clerk at (415) 380-3592.

Message from Yearbook: *Good News....* The due date for Senior Ads has been extended to January 1, 2016! Here's how to request an ad:

1. Go to www.yearbookforever.com
2. Search and Select "Tamalpais High School"
3. Click "Buy a Personal Ad"
4. Select "Design My Own Ad"
5. Choose your color, size, and layout
6. Complete your purchase (prices vary depending on size)

To purchase a yearbook, please visit the Tam website.