# SQUAWKING HAWK

September 2017 Volume 1 Issue 1

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**J.C. Farr, Principal**

Dear Parents, Students, Guardians and Tam Supporters,

I would like to officially welcome you all to the 2017-18 school year. I am pleased to be returning in my second year as Tam High Principal and my 20th year in education overall. If I did not get a chance to meet you during Back to School Night, I sincerely hope that our paths will cross in the near future. There will be several opportunities to meet in September beginning with the Parent Coffee at the Hivery on September 15 at 8:00am. The PTSA has planned several Parent Socials, I ask that you view the "What's Up" weekly memo that the PTSA distributes via e-mail for the dates, times, and locations for these events. As many of you heard at Back to School Night, this year we started the school year differently. Students gathered in Meade theatre for an assembly led by our Associated Student Body President Robert Samec. We focused on the TAM HAWK acronym, with each letter

corresponding to a value that we uphold. We will share more about this later in this newsletter. The focus of the assembly and follow-up lessons support our efforts to build a safe, inclusive environment. "Tam-Unity" represents our efforts to create an environment where ALL students feel welcomed and can thrive. You may have also heard about our efforts developing a growth mindset, both with our students and throughout the organization. In her book Mindset: The New Psychology of Success, Carol Dweck describes that "in a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment." As we continue to develop our students and prepare them for college and career, we believe that developing a growth mindset is essential in sustaining students through rigorous challenges. We will work diligently to continue the growth of our students, making progress towards academic achievement and appropriate civic behavior. I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of being good neighbors. With Tam being an open campus for lunch, we want to be respectful of our surrounding businesses and our fellow drivers. I would like for us to be mindful of the trash on Miller Avenue as well as being respectful as we visit stores during lunch. Please note there has been a change in the speed limit in front of Tam High from 40 mph to 35 mph. The change impacts the stretch between the 700 block and the 800 block of Miller Avenue (The front of the school). Mill Valley Police has been stopping drivers and issuing warnings initially to start the school year. Drivers can expect full enforcement after the Labor Day holiday. This will not change the 25 mph school zone that goes into effect when students are coming and going from school (i.e. before school, lunch time, and immediately following the end of the school day). Please be mindful of these changes and have a conversation with your teen drivers. We want to ensure that students are arriving to school safely and compliant with traffic laws. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the successful start of our school year. I am grateful to be principal at this institution and I am excited about the things to come. The Hawks are on the rise.

In the spirit of Tam-Unity,

J.C. Farr

**LINK CREW, WELCOMING ALL STUDENTS TO TAM**

**TAM HAWK ASSEMBLY, FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2017**

# BICYCLE THEFT PREVENTION

Every year, hundreds of bicycles are stolen throughout Marin County. While we all work hard to make Tam High a safe and comfortable place, thefts do occur. Solid U-Locks are recommended over traditional cable locks but all locks are susceptible to theft. Please be sure to lock your bicycle and avoid bringing high-end bicycles to school, if possible.

## TAM HIGH BEHAVIOR AND EXPECTATIONS

At Tamalpais High School the faculty and staff are working hard not only to ensure that Tam Students are receiving a top academic education but that we are also sending out into the world young adults who are Safe, Responsible and Respectful. We want them to be ready to become positive, contributing members of our community after graduation. As thus, the Tam Administration, with the input of our Faculty and Staff, have created a Tamalpais High School: Hawk Behavioral Expectations guide to give students a very clear understanding of our behavior expectations in class, at school, and in our greater community.

We realize that some students may have difficulty always following these guidelines, and may need staff intervention, redirection, or help restoring relationships. The THS Behavior Intervention Guide outlines the administration's responses and interventions when students need support. Included as a behavior support is the option for administration to assign Social Suspension. A 30-day Social Suspension excludes students from participating in any extracurricular activities for that given amount of time. This includes sports, fine arts, clubs, leadership, dances or any school sponsored social gathering. Students are expected to come to school only to attend their classes or receive academic support. Students who are motivated to get off Social Suspension early can complete a series of restorative practices to end the suspension early. They will have the opportunity to complete a Tam High Restorative Practices- Social Suspension Contract. Please click any of the links above for more information.

## Tutorial

Tutorial is a one hour work and re-teaching time that happens twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:45-10:45. Students can use this time to get work done, study or get help from any of their teachers. To see one of their teacher's, students have to get a pass from the teacher they want to see, check in with their tutorial teacher and then go to the teacher who will be helping them. Students who use this time effectively are able to get homework done and catch up on assignments if they fall behind or miss class. **Students are to remain on campus during this time.**

# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Welcome New Staff

Tam High welcomes the following new staff members!!

**Administration**

Angela Gramlick-Assistant Principal

**Counseling**

Sandra Pula

Jane Zimmerman

**Para-educators**

Kevin Magee

Sara Solomon

**New Teachers**

Tristan Bodle-Spanish

Jeremy Bronson-Math

Quin Brow-Science

Gray Douglas-Ceramics

Laura Erickson-Science

Charlie Garfink-Social Studies

Arielle Lehmann-Social Studies

Matt LemMon-Social Studies

Anne Marie Montani-Special Ed

Dan Silin-Auto Tech

Chelsea Springer-English

# Upcoming Events:

**September 12: PTSA Back to School Lunch-Ruby Scott Gym**

**September 13: 9th & 10th Grade Class Assembly (Tutorial)**

**September 18: Tuesday/Thursday Schedule (Periods 1-4)**

**September 19: Wednesday/Friday Schedule (Periods 5,T,6,7)**

**September 19: Club Fair (Tutorial)**

**September 20: Tuesday/Thursday Schedule (Periods 1-4)**

**September 21: Staff Development Day**

**September 26: TUHSD Board Meeting, 6pm – Kreps Conference Room**

**September 29: End of R1 Grading Period**

**September 29: Senior Portrait (Student Center)**

**October 4: Minimum Day (12:35 dismissal); Breast Cancer Awareness-Wear Pink!**

**October 9: Staff Development Day (no school)**

**October 10-14: CTE Production of Oliver Twist**

**October 11: Freshman Advisory-Focus on organization strategies**

**October 15-21: Homecoming Week**

**October 18: Site Council Meeting**

**October 19: Powder Puff Game**

**October 20: Homecoming Rally-Live from the Student Center**

**October 21: Homecoming Game (2:00 pm) and Dance (8:00 pm)**

**October 30: Blood Drive (Student Center)**

**In order to support and take pride in my school community, Tam High commits to:**

Togetherness...the act of being close to another person or group of people.

Acceptance & Understanding...positively welcoming and understanding others to create a sense of belonging.

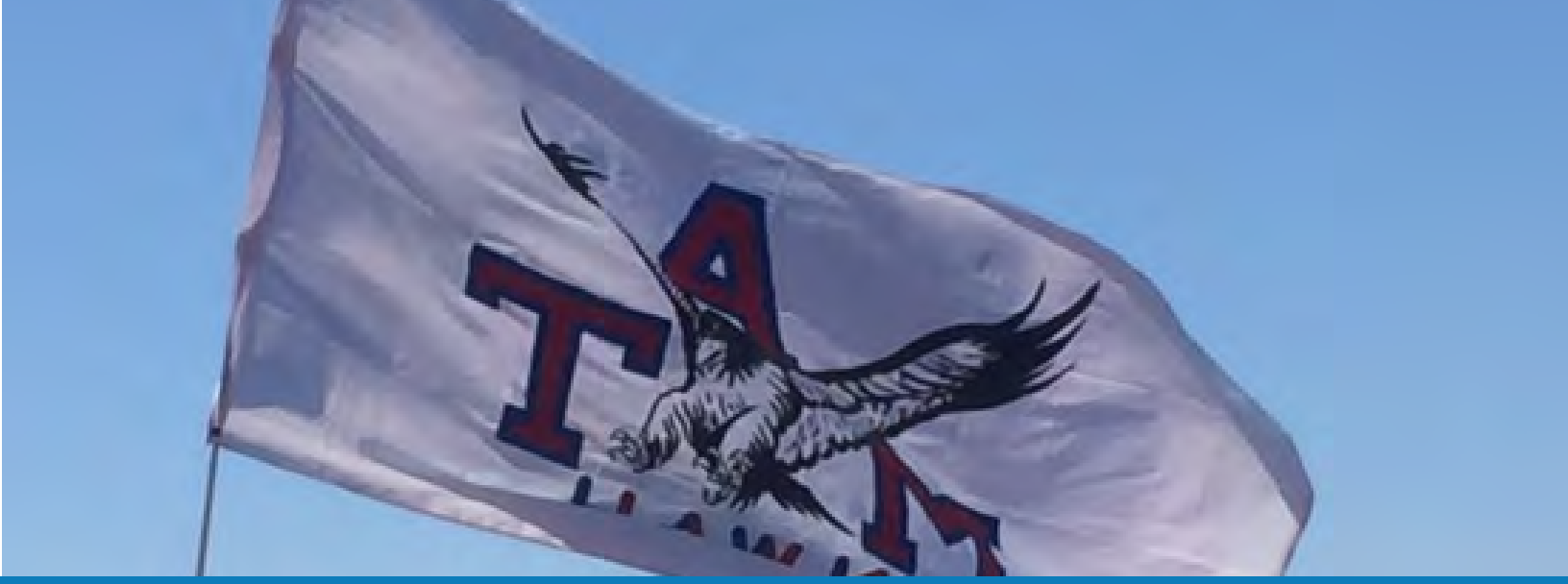
Mindset & Emotional Intelligence...growth mindset and the awareness of how my own emotions can affect my actions.

Honor & Trust...establishing trust by honoring the commitments I make to myself and to other people.

Authenticity & Courage...having the courage to step out of my comfort zones and be authentic to who I really am.

Work Ethic & Grit...strengthening my character and growth by working hard with unyielding courage.

Kindness & Empathy...being kind to each other and to ourselves.




# PARKING AT TAM

Parking is very limited at Tam High, and the problem will continue to grow as our student population grows. We encourage all students to walk, bike or take the bus instead of driving and parking at school. We have heard concerns from staff, students and parents, and received feedback from students and staff about the issue last year. We will continue to work on ways to address our parking and driving safety challenges this year by continuing to meet with students to help address student parking and driving. For this year, the following parking procedures will be in place:

· Seniors who wish to park on campus must apply for and obtain a 2017-18 Tam High parking permit. The permit application is available on the THS website under the *About Us/Transportation* tab.

· **A parking permit does not guarantee a parking space. All student parking is first-come, first-served**. There are far fewer parking spaces than there are permits. We issue permits for safety and to monitor who is parking on campus, not to guarantee a space.

· Reserved staff spots, and visitor spots are very clearly marked. Students are permitted to park only in the non-reserved, striped parking spots. Although those parking spaces are sometimes empty, they are reserved for visitors and staff who come later in the day, work part time, or have business off campus during the day.

· Students who park in red zones, spaces labeled as Staff, Visitor, or other illegal places will be ticketed by local police agencies and are subject to school disciplinary action including revocation of parking privileges, detention, school service, etc.

· You can help with traffic congestion AND the environment by biking, walking or carpooling as much as possible.

o Check out Safe Routes to School to learn about biking and walking programs.

o Click here for the Marin County Bicycle Coalition map of bike routes.

o Click here for SchoolPool information.

· Driving safely is critical to making sure our crowded parking lot is safe for all students, parents, staff and community members. Please drive safely and pay extra attention to pedestrians and bicyclists. Please drive slowly and carefully when entering, exiting and driving on our campus and surrounding