

The Home Page

by Jayne Greenberg
PTSA Vice President—
Communications

Tam PTSA – page 4 December PTSA Meeting – December 17

Principal Tom Drescher will give a “State of the School” address on Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm at the Mill Valley Golf Clubhouse located at 267 Buena Vista Avenue in Mill Valley. Mr. Drescher will share with us what is currently happening at Tam and what the future holds.

CTE – page 8 One Acts Are Coming! One Acts Are Coming!

The CTE Winter One Act Festival is happening January 7-10, 13-16, 20-23 2009 right after winter break. The one-act performances are entirely student-directed and student-produced and are very popular.

Tam High Foundation – page 5

Tam High Foundation Year-End Challenge:
Help us achieve 100% Participation!

Tam Sports – page 12

See our newly expanded sports section where you'll find information on the winter sports coaches, a list of the fall sports awards and a bio on our new varsity basketball coach – Alex Pribble.

Leadership – page 11

The Winter Formal is February 7 and tickets go on sale to Juniors and Seniors (and their underclassmen guests) on January 12. It will be held at Stone Tree Country Club in Novato.

What Would the Holidays Be Like Without the Sound of Tam High Music?

by Maureen Parton, THUMB parent



From left to right: Levi Gillis, Theo Evan, Julian Moore.

Music Showcase featured a selection of live performances of original compositions and beloved classics in jazz, rock, rap, blues, opera and alternative.

Conceived by Tam High senior music students Levi Gillis, Theo Evan and Julian Moore, the evening showcased a selection of some of the best student musicians and performers, chosen by audition. Led by renowned Tam Music Director Spiro Tsingaris, the program featured Tam's award-winning orchestral, band, jazz band and choir programs, meriting praise for outstanding performance, technique and spirit.

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Mill Valley Market Makes Giving to Tam High Foundation Easy

Mill Valley Market's “Shop and Give” program is a major donor to the Tam High Foundation. Foundation Chair Elizabeth Suzuki recently paid a visit to the market to thank Dave and Doug Canepa for their ongoing support and received a check for \$800 from them for the Foundation.

Each time you shop at Mill Valley Market, three percent of the total receipt will be donated to the nonprofit of your choice. Just tell the cashier that you want to support the Tam High Foundation before he or she finishes ringing up your order. Shopping at Mill Valley Market and participating in their “Shop and Give” program is an easy way for Tam families to support the Foundation throughout the year.

It is important for the Tam community to support the local businesses that continue to support us! Next time you are in Mill Valley Market please let them know you appreciate their donations to the Tam High Foundation. ❖

The Tam High Music Department has created a veritable feast of holiday musical offerings at Tam High this year – a three-course meal of the finest auditory entertainment to get the “cheer” in your holiday!

First Course: Tam High Music Showcase

On the eve of Thanksgiving, listeners took a break from the drudgery of Thanksgiving preparations and enjoyed a satisfaction-guaranteed, no-calorie feast of musical entertainment! The first-ever Tam High



Dave Canepa (L) and Doug Canepa present a check to Elizabeth Suzuki for the Tam High Foundation.

Principal's Message

By Tom Drescher

New Basketball Coach at Tam

Alex Pribble has been selected to serve as the Boy's Varsity Basketball coach at Tam. Alex served as interim coach the past two weeks, and was recently selected as the permanent coach. Alex played basketball at Cal for four years, and was a stand-out athlete at Drake High School. Alex's brother Aaron, Tam Social Studies instructor, will assist the program this year as well. Alex is replacing Mike Evans and Ralph Wilson. We thank Mike and Ralph for their outstanding contributions to the basketball program, including a Division IV State Championship in 2000.

Modernization

I am pleased to announce Keyser Hall classrooms will be ready for occupancy second semester. New student schedules reflecting second semester room assignments will be distributed to students in December. Teachers are in the process of being assigned classrooms, and their classroom contents will be moved to their new rooms over winter break. The "T-town" portables will be removed immediately after the move, allowing greater space to complete the Tam pool, weight room, and tennis courts.

Pedestrian Paths of Travel

Update: The breezeway between Ruby Scott and Gus Gym will no longer be available as a pathway around campus starting Monday, December 1. The area will be inaccessible to allow construction of the elevator near Keyser and drilling of the pool support piers. The stairs between Keyser and Hoetger reopened November 3 as a new pathway around campus, which should help minimize travel time. Students will likely need additional time to get around campus during December. Travel times will be reduced once the pathways around Keyser open in January.

09-10 Course Registration

The AP and honors course registration process will commence in January. Students are required to attend informational meetings in order to enroll in any AP or honors course. The purpose of the meetings is for your students to learn about course expectations, prerequisites, homework load, etc. Students must attend informational sessions for each AP or honors course they are interested in taking next year. In addition, many classes require a placement test or essay for class enrollment. An AP/honors matrix delineating dates, times and locations of the informational meetings and entrance tests will be made available on the school web site next month. The actual course selection process will take place in February.

Holiday Gifts Needed for Tam Staff

The Tam staff will have its annual holiday party on December 12. Donating a small gift is a great way to show your appreciation to teachers and staff. In the past, parents have donated such things as gift cards or See's candy to express their thanks to teachers and staff members. The gifts are distributed through a raffle. If you'd like to contribute, please drop off your item to Mary in the Principal's office by December 10. Thank you for your support.

Notes from the Assistant Principal

by Elizabeth Laborde

One famous organizational slogan is: Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. This is often referred to as the "Five Ps." Planning and organization are critical elements to excellence and success in your student's life. For a student to manage a group project, a long-term goal or even a short-term goal, prior planning is a key part of a great final product or performance.

To help your student be more successful in school, encourage him or her to use a school planner. This organizational tool will allow your student to lay out plans for the day, the week, the month, and even the year. In each class, your student can write down assignments, upcoming reading, and imminent deadlines. With this information, your student can plan out his or her time most effectively. He or she will know how much time to allot for homework and how much for friends or other responsibilities.

Take time to talk to your student about planning. Have your student break down big projects into manageable pieces. By turning a large assignment into a series of small steps, your student will feel less overwhelmed. These small steps can then be written into a daily planner making a 3-week project seem more like a series of small, daily assignments.

Parents want their kids to be successful. There are many opportunities to thrive and excel at Tam High. With a little planning, your student can maximize his or her experience at this great school. ❖



The Tam Family

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Published 8 times a year

Final Exam Schedule Week of December 15-19

Monday, December 15
Normal Monday schedule

Tuesday, December 16
 8-10 am 7th period final
 10-10:15 am Break
 10:25-11 am 1st period
 11:10-11:45 am 2nd period
 11:55 am - 12:30 pm 3rd period
 12:30-1:05 pm Lunch
 1:15-1:50 pm 4th period
 2-2:35 pm 5th period
 2:45-3:20 6th period

Wednesday, December 17
 8-10 am 1st period final
 10-10:15 am Break
 10:25 am – 12:25 pm 2nd period final

Thursday, December 18
 8-10 am 3rd period final
 10-10:15 am Break
 10:25 am – 12:25 pm 4th period final

Friday, December 19
 8-10 am 5th period final
 10-10:15 am Break
 10:25 am – 12:25 pm 6th period final

Halloween at Tam



Boosters Crab Feed

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Presented by the Tam Boosters
to benefit
All Red Tailed Hawk Sports Teams

Don't miss out on the special entertainment, a mini live auction and raffle with unique prizes, eating with the coaches and being waited on by Tam's stellar athletes!

Volunteers Needed

Donation Coordinator
 Ticket Manager
 Food Organizer – no cooking involved
 Set Up chairperson
 Clean Up chairperson
 Contact Booster rep: Julia Abramson
emajmabma@aol.com
 388-1616

Donations Needed

Live auction & raffle items
 Sports memorabilia
 Vacation rentals
 Game tickets
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 Gift baskets

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SUPPORT THE RED TAILED HAWKS!

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T-shirts, sweatshirts, key chains, hats, beanies and so much more.

Look for this button on the Tam High Athletic Website
and order away



Click Here to Shop For
Tam High Spirit Wear!



continued from front page

Tam High Music

Second Course: Instrumental Holiday Concert

Wednesday, December 10, at Ruby Scott Gym

5:30 musicians' call, 7 pm showtime

Tune your ear and your holiday heartstrings to the melodic sounds of festive music played by the orchestra and jazz bands. With a river of ruby red and snowy white poinsettias at their feet, Tam High students will usher in the season with the sounds of strings, brass, woodwinds and reeds. Get revved up by the jazz band's joyful noise. Come out and share a cup of spiced cider and nibble on fresh home baked goodies with the Tam family. Start your holidays on the right note!

Third Course: Choral Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 11 at Caldwell Theater
5:45 singers' call, 7 pm showtime

Listen to the original musical instrument ~ the voice ~ as Tam High singers join together and fill Caldwell Theater with sounds of inspiration and just plain fun!

This is one three course meal bound to thrill and satisfy, brought to you by the Tam High Music Department, your students and THUMB. Come join our ranks ~ no experience necessary ~ and RAISE TWO THUMBS UP for good music and song!

THUMB (Tam High United Music Boosters) is a parent-run organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and assist instrumental and choral music activity at Tamalpais High School. Next meeting is December 4 at 7 pm in the Band Box. All welcome! E-mail Sacha Bunge sbunge@sfsu.edu for more information. ❖

PTSA News

from Leslie Wachtel, PTSA President

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

In November we hosted and co-sponsored the Stressed Out Students parent education conference, which brought over 200 parents of middle- and high-school-age students to our campus. Dr. Denise Pope from Stanford University was our keynote speaker, and we held six workshops that addressed the stress many of our students are experiencing.

At the conference we showed a trailer of a soon-to-be-released film "Slipping Behind." Because many of the attendees at the conference requested it, we are hoping to show the documentary film in its entirety sometime in January. Please look forward to a follow-up email this month regarding the date, time and location we will be showing the film.

I want to acknowledge Linda Brauner and Joyce Feeney who organized the conference. Many thanks to both of you for your tireless work and energy to bring this fantastic array of speakers and workshops to our school. Thanks also to the administration teams from both Tam High and Mill Valley Middle School who enthusiastically supported the event and without whose support it would not have been possible. Our appreciation to Rose Sullivan, who organized the hospitality, set up and clean up.

Our PTSA meeting in November was a perfect follow-up to the parent ed conference! Our topic for the meeting was support services available to all students at Tam. It was a great opportunity for parents to find out what resources are available to our students when they do find they need help to handle to the stress of everyday student life. Thanks to Jen and Alan Nichols for hosting this meeting at their home.

Our principal, Tom Drescher, and the PTSA are inviting all parents to hear a "State of the School" address on Wednesday, December 17 at 7 pm at the Mill Valley Golf Clubhouse located at 267 Buena Vista Avenue in Mill Valley. Mr. Drescher will share with us what is currently happening at Tam and what we can look forward to in the winter and spring as Keyser Hall opens and our campus becomes connected once again.

Our administrative team will be there to answer questions and talk to parents about Tam High and your students' high school experience. Mr. Drescher welcomes and encourages all parents to come to find out more about Tam and where they might like to get involved. There will be a brief PTSA meeting that evening as well.

Our next issue of the Tam Family will be sent via email only so please make sure that we have your email address. In an effort to save trees and money, the PTSA is going to send a couple of spring newsletter issues via email only as well. Please contact Jayne Greenberg at Jaynegreenberg@hotmail.com if you currently do not receive Tam High emails and would like to or if you would like us to continue to send you a hard copy of the newsletter in the mail. We want your feedback on how this new method of communication works for you and your family. Please email Jayne at the address above and let us know what you think.

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

Tam High Foundation Year-End Challenge: Help us achieve 100% Participation!

by Julie Kertzman

The Annual Campaign for the Tam High Foundation continues and we are asking every family to step up and make a donation this year. In October, teachers and staff presented 25 mini-grant proposals to the Foundation grant committee. The Tam teaching and administrative community continues to innovate and strive for excellence and we can only fund these ideas if the Tam parent community supports the Foundation. The proposed projects include:

- Chemistry lab equipment
- Physics of waves lab upgrade
- Digital photography equipment
- Two digitizers for student portfolio production
- Laptops for English/Social Studies/World Languages/Fine Arts teachers
- Organic garden upgrade
- And many more ...

So far this year we are far below our campaign participation goal. Our ability to say “Yes” to these and other major funding proposals will be impacted if we do not meet our fundraising goals. Every donation counts no matter what the amount. We know this economy is challenging for everyone but we ask that you make education at Tam a top priority. The Tam High Foundation makes a great public education an exceptional public education. A gift to the Foundation is a gift that really keeps on giving as the programs funded by the Foundation help prepare your student for success after high school.

It’s easy to give online: tamhighfoundation.org

Click on “donate online” in the lower right hand corner for credit card transactions or Pay Pal or call the Tam High Foundation office 415-380-3565.

Thank you to all who have donated!



by Max Schieble



by Kelly Varian



by Kelly Varian



The Tam High Foundation thanks our generous donors

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tamhighfoundation.org



One Acts Are Coming! One Acts Are Coming!

As we move into the winter semester it is that time of year again ... the CTE Winter One Act Festival is happening right after we return from winter break: January 7-10, 13-16 and 20-23, 2009. The marathon-like festival involves all CTE students who perform, direct and produce the festival in the Daniel Caldwell Performing Arts Theatre.

The one act plays are entirely student-directed and student-produced. The process begins when advanced students in Honors Theater Directing choose one act plays to direct. Then students from all of the first and second year classes are cast in these plays. Currently, all are rehearsing during class periods in preparation for the festival. The winter one acts are chosen from established playwrights and are either contemporary or classic plays. Chekhov, David Ives, Ionesco, Tennessee Williams, and many other well-known playwrights are featured.

Advanced students also produce the festival covering all aspects of behind-the-scenes work, including scheduling and technical logistics. When the festival opens, these advanced students will also perform the front of house duties, put out the programs and provide scene changes. Students will also videotape all the performances for DVD duplication. Every student in CTE will be involved in some aspect of the festival in order to put on an event of this scope.

The one act performances are enormously popular and often sell out. Seating is limited so here are a few other things to watch for that may help you enjoy the shows even more:

1. Permission and Conflict Sheets: By the time this article comes out, the permission slips and scheduling sheets should already be completed. Keep in mind that once the dates are set, we cannot shift them. The logistics of planning play performances for nearly 300 students require that everyone involved make their play a priority for the weekend it is scheduled and avoid any last-minute changes that would interfere with their performance.

2. Ticket Policy: Advance tickets are not available by phone orders or on the same day as performances. The box office will be open at 6 o'clock on the performance nights for ticket sales: these are non-reserved seats, first-come first-served and they are non-refundable. We do not permit "saving" seats so you must occupy your chosen seat before the first play begins or your ticket is void. We have had to implement this policy because it insures that audience members will

not save seats for late arrivals when patrons are already present to fill the theater. There is often a large turnover at intermissions, so if your student's performance happens later in the evening you may be able to move your seat after intermission so that your party is seated together. The Box Office number is 380-3535 and information is available on the website: www.ctetam.org.

3. Come early: Audiences should still try to arrive early since there will be no reserved seats. The doors open to the house at 6:30 pm when patrons can claim seats on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is not permitted after the play has begun. In the intimate Caldwell Theatre, late arrivals are distracting for both audiences and young performers. Please avoid bringing young children who may find sitting through play performances too much to handle and talk or otherwise interfere with the live performances.

4. No Video or Cameras: Please do not use cameras either for photo or video. Flash photography is very distracting to young performers struggling with their concentration, and video cameras often interfere with the enjoyment of other audience members. All shows will be videotaped and DVDs can be ordered and purchased from CTE by sending an email to ctevideo@comcast.net.

5. During and after the show: Avoid distracting performers by calling out their names or motioning to them. Don't text message during the show; turn off cell phones. Avoid socializing during the play and be attentive to the performers. Do not attempt to go backstage or go up on the stage to see the performers after they finish. You will be able to meet outside where your presence will not interfere with set changes and other actors preparing to come on in the next play. This consideration for others will help the festival run smoothly and quickly between each play.

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

By keeping all these things in mind, we should have a wonderful festival this year! For final schedule times and ticket information, please check the CTE website: www.ctetam.org.

See you at the Winter One Acts! ❖



Frank Alarcon and Isabelle Ellingson in CTE's November production of "You Can't Take It With You."

College and Career Center Services

By Susan Gertman

College and Career Specialist
Sgertman@tuhsd.marin.k12.ca.us
380-3582

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

Email

If you would like to receive grade-specific email from the College and Career Center, make sure your student has registered with PrepHQ, our organizational and communications tool. To do this, start at www.tamhigh.org and click on Academics, then Counseling, then follow the link to PrepHQ. Once at PrepHQ, go to "Click here to register."

Financial Aid Night

Thursday, December 4, 6:30 pm, Tam Student Center.

The assistant director of financial aid at UC Berkeley will give an overview of financial aid and explain how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the primary financial aid application for most colleges. This presentation is open to the entire Tam community. Families of seniors applying for financial aid are urged to attend.

Admissions Testing Night

Thursday, February 5, 6:30 pm, Tam Student Center.

Bruce Reed, regional director of Compass Education Group, will review PSAT results and give an in-depth explanation of college admissions tests: the SAT, ACT and Subject Tests. Students who took the PSAT should receive their results later this month. He will also discuss Score Choice, the College Board's new score reporting option. This is a very informative evening and sophomores, juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Practice SAT at Tam

Wednesday, February 4, 1:15 - 5:45 pm (a minimum day). Sign-ups begin January 12.

This practice test is a great opportunity for students to become familiar with the SAT. To sign up, bring \$10 in cash or check, payable to the Tam High PTSA, to the College and Career Center by February 2. The fee supports the

PTSA Academic Scholarship. No students are turned away for lack of funds.

Beyond Tam

National Portfolio Day for Visual Artists

Saturday, January 17, noon - 4 pm. Academy of Art University, 79 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco. Students can receive feedback on their visual arts portfolio from representatives of art colleges from across the country. For more information, go to npda.org.

SAT and ACT

You can download the 2008-2009 SAT and ACT testing calendars and register for either test by going online. For the SAT, go to www.collegeboard.com and for the ACT go to www.act.org. Students are encouraged to register online for both tests. Register early for a convenient test site. Tam is not a test site.

Attention: UC Applicants

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

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

Interested in the Building Trades?

The County's Regional Occupational Program's for-credit construction class will begin Wednesday, January 14, at Redwood High School. The course covers foundation, flooring, framing, plumbing, electrical, sheet rock, windows, doors, cabinetry, roofing, reading blueprints and use of hand tools. Master craftsmen will give demonstrations and there will be construction projects and employment opportunities. The class is held from 5-9 pm. An added bonus: dinner is provided. This class fills up quickly. Call 499-5860 for more information and to register.

ROP also offers a for-credit auto class at San Rafael High School on Monday and Tuesday evenings, 6-8:30. The class is open entry. All you have to do to register is go to the class. For more information, call 499-5860. ❖

School to Career Partnership

by Nancy Westreich, School to Career Liaison

College and Career Center

Redwood High School (415) 945-3604
Tamalpais High School (415) 380-3558
nwestreich@tamdistrict.org



For students interested in music or the music industry. School to Career is sponsoring a field trip called Grammy Career Day. The people who do the Grammy

Music Awards put this event together. It is on Wednesday, January 14, at San Francisco State University. This all-day event is very fun and informative. There will be musical entertainment, career panels and workshops on topics such as songwriting, hip-hop, performance critiques, and the art of turntablism, studio training, college audition and more. This is a great event for aspiring singers, songwriters, DJs, sound engineers and music producers. Applications are due on December 12 and are available in the College and Career Center.

Applications for spring internships will be available after the Christmas break. Internships run from February 23-April 24 and students work six hours a week after school.

Other School to Career Services

I am available in the College and Career Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays. I assist students with internship placement and preparation, finding job shadows and informational interviewing opportunities. I also help students with resume writing, interviewing skills, and provide opportunities for students to participate in career-related field trips and activities throughout the year. ❖

AIM Begins Documentary Projects on Race; Students “Transmogrify” in Ten Hour Film Challenge

by Emily Bernstein, AIM student writer

Fall is a busy time of year in AIM as students complete traditional classroom instruction and segue into independent research for their documentaries. Additionally, AIM students get another chance to hone their technical, collaborative and storytelling skills in the annual Ten Hour Film Challenge Contest.

Because the documentary projects take the place of final exams, we wrap up the course curriculum in November. Each of the three AIM classes each came to a close in its own way. After weeks of breaking down different documentary styles, DIMS (Documentary and Integrated Media Studies) finished with a close examination of storytelling structure as we brainstormed topic ideas for our films. We learned techniques for approaching big topics such as race “side-ways” instead of head-on and the importance of having a narrative spine and train.

In US History, our final exam included writing an in-depth, analytical essay on the legacy of slavery. The essay required us to synthesize 400 years of history as documented in over 30 different sources including first-hand testimonials, film, text, college lectures, and live performances. The timing was incredible because it coincided with the election and gave us a perspective for Obama’s historic win.

Instead of finishing this semester of English with a test, Mr. Tarpinian concluded our study of Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn by focusing on methods of literary humor. We used Twain’s famous techniques of satire, irony, farce, and parody to write and act out our own original skits. The activity produced some amusing performances, but more importantly it taught us how to effectively use humor in writing.

In the midst of this flurry of learning, we also had our annual Ten Hour Film Challenge. Working in large teams of 12, each group had only ten hours to write, act, film, edit and produce a three-minute film that incorporated three “ingredients.” This year’s ingredients were a large reptile, transmogrification and a bad smell. Ten hours later, each team presented its masterpiece and the teachers voted “Weresnake” the winner. Selected Ten Hour films as well as Mandy project films were shown November 23 in the Caldwell Theatre to an enthusiastic audience. ❖

Student Poem

The beginning of an epic poem in the style of The Odyssey. By a student in Ms. Springer’s class who wishes to remain anonymous.

Sing in me Calliope and through me tell the story of the courageous Tad.

Tad the courageous arrived just as the god of the wind’s storm was fiercest:

The wind shaking trees like elastic bands,
and the ground under his feet overturned by Hades.

Strong and courageous,

Tad took refuge in his old, beat-up Chevy.

Waiting out the storms, he prayed to Zeus for protection.

This was the most ferocious task yet,

Tad knew why he had been placed of this earth.

His duty was that of great importance,
yet he would receive no recognition. ❖

On the Shelf from the Mill Valley Public Library

Here’s what’s happening in December for teens at the Mill Valley Public Library. Remember, events at the library are always free.

On Thursday, December 11, from 7-8:30 pm, teens can get ready for the holidays by creating beautiful fabric gift boxes. At this workshop, “All Wrapped Up,” Molly de Vries from “The Fabric Society” will guide participants through the artistic process. Materials will be supplied. This is a teen only (age 13-19) event; signup is required. Also this month, our Teen Council will meet on Monday, December 8, from 6:15-7 pm. New members are always welcome.

For more information about programs and services for teens at the library, contact Donna Brown at 389-4292 x125 or email dbrown@cityofmillvalley.org.

Leadership Activities Update

by Olivia Wells, ASB Secretary

Are you ready for PIE? Over the past month leadership worked hard on the annual pie day held right before Thanksgiving break. This event, as always, went very well. It is always challenging to find the right amount of pies, but once the slices hit the table they are all gone! This year's Thanksgiving pie day was moved indoors to Gus Gym because of rain sprinkles in the morning of November 20. Thanks to all staff and families who donated pies to the cause!

Outreach has been working hard on the canned food drive. This year's goal is to break 2,000 cans. Every year Tam participates in this event in donating canned food to the Marin Community Food Bank, which delivers the food to families who are unable to have food for the holidays. The outreach committee set up a competition for the school – the tutorial class that brings in the most cans wins a pizza party! The canned food drive runs through December 5.

For our up-and-coming events our sophomores are getting started on their holiday candy grams, which will be sold December 1 through 4.

The winter sports rally has been moved to January 23.

As this is the last issue of the Tam Family for the year, looking ahead to January, Winter Formal tickets go on sale to Juniors and Seniors (and their underclassmen guests) on January 12. This year's Winter Formal will be held Saturday, February 7, at Stone Tree Golf Club in Novato.

If you have questions about the activities program or upcoming events, please contact Olivia Wells at owells320@yahoo.com or Activities Director Peter Berkhout at pberkhout@tamdistrict.org. ❖

Pie Day Comes to Tam



The view of 28 tables worth of pie from above in Gus Gym



Leadership students Erin Schlueter and Avery Mosser pause while cutting and plating some of the 850+ pieces of pie served.

Art Exploration Class Field Trips



The Art Exploration classes visited the Asian Art Museum, The Draw/Paint students took a Chinese Brushpainting class at the Asian Art Museum and the AP Studio Art students went to the SFMOMA. Thanks to all the parents who drove carpools and acted as chaperones on these Visual Arts trips to San Francisco museums.

Sports Recap

Tam Girls' Water Polo

The Tam varsity girls finished with an 18-8 overall record, and a 7-1 second place finish in MCAL. This is the first time Tam has defeated Drake in the last decade! Their rigorous tournament and travel schedule put them up against many East Bay teams, and helped them earn a first round bye and 12th place in the NCS championship tournament. This is the highest NCS seed of any Tam girls' water polo team. The girls met their match against East Bay powerhouse and number five seed, Carondelet. They held on on 5-6 at the half, but after three of their starting line-up fouled out at the beginning of the third quarter, Carondelet went on an 8-0 run to secure the win.

The Tam varsity girls went further than any Tam team has, and the future looks bright. At the awards banquet, junior goalie Mattie Winkler was named "Most Improved." Mattie broke the team record for the number of saves in a single season and also the number of saves in a game, 19 against Drake! Junior Erin Schlueter was named team MVP. Erin broke the team record for the number of goals and steals in a season. Senior captain Avery Mosser was named team "Most Inspirational." The team said good-bye to its other graduating seniors, captain Jillian Gamboa, captain Amelia Harvey, Alexis Kleinman and Sophie Sieck.

The JV girls had limited MCAL play due to few JV teams competing, but managed to play enough non-league games and tournaments to get some solid experience under their belts. Sophomore Kristen Sato was named team MVP, sophomore Emma Ellison was named Most Improved, freshman Charlotte Passot received the Coach's Award, and freshman Jenna Wallace was voted Most Inspirational.

Tam Cross-Country at MCAL Championship

Under sunny skies, with the temperature in the comfortable 60s, the Tam Hawks cross country squads performed well at the county championships run on the IVC Novato course on November 11. The boys' team, led by sophomore Dan Milechman's third place finish in a time of 15:41, finished in 3rd place, just behind Redwood and San Rafael. Other scorers were senior Cory Rand (8th) 16:38, senior Chris Lowell (14th) 17:03, freshman James McDonald (26th) 17:47 and senior Kalen Rago (30th) 17:59. Rounding out the varsity were senior Michael Fearon (32nd) 18:00 and senior Connor Gillespie (38th) 18:16. Dan and Cory made first team MCALs and Chris made the second team MCALs. There were a total of 122 runners competing.

The girls' team, led by senior Devin Patrick's fifth place finish in a time of 19:56, came in fourth place behind winner Redwood, second place Drake and finishing within five points of third place Terra Linda. Other scorers were junior Monica Milstein (21st) 22:00, freshman Caitlin Firmage (24th) 22:25, senior Linden McGreevy (27th) 22:28 and freshman Sami Emory (28th) 22:30. Other varsity runners were senior Olivia Blackstone (38th) 23:06 and freshman Jenna Lea (42nd) 23:23. Devin made the first team all-MCAL squad. There were 88 runners in the girls' race.

Late-Breaking Update: Tam Boys Cross Country are NCS Champions!

The Tam Boys took the title, winning by one point over St Mary's. Dan Milechman placed first, beating the second place finisher by 40 seconds. They will now move on to team state qualifiers.

Tam Girls placed fourth, missing going as a team to state by one place. They were the highest placing team from the MCAL division. Devin Patrick and Monica Milstein will compete at the state meet as individuals. Congratulations!

Freshman Football

The freshman football team just completed its season at five wins and four losses. But the big story is this: the first game of the season was played against De Le Salle (considered the number one high school football program in the US). Even though the team didn't win, they had a tremendous game and earned the respect of De Le Salle.

Next came perennial powers Piedmont and Napa. And after the first five games, our boys were at 1-4. But never say die, after this sluggish start they won their last four games, which included wins away at Marin Catholic, Benicia and Justin Sienna.

Their final record was 3-1 in MCAL and a tie for first place in the conference.

Coaches Jon Black, Larry Heiges and Rip Ridley are to be commended on such an amazing start to these young men's athletic careers at Tam.

Varsity Girls' Tennis

Varsity Girls' Tennis closed out its 2008 season with a run to the finals of the first-ever North Coast Section Division II championship.

Tam defeated Dougherty Valley 6-1 in the quarterfinals and University (San Francisco) in the semis. The team's luck ran out in the final rematch with Marin Catholic, falling 5-2, with the deciding matches in number two singles and number one doubles ending in close third set wins for MC. The team finished the season with a 17-7-1 record, adding an MCAL championship and NCS second place banners to the rafters of Gus Gym.

Varsity Football

In the MCAL season finale, the Red Tailed Hawks (5-5, 2-4) played Justin-Sienna High on Saturday, November 15. Tam started the game with quarterback Sean Betzner nailing a pass to Colton Danz for an 80-yard score. Unfortunately, this momentum didn't stick throughout the game, as Justin-Sienna was able to win the game with six consecutive trips to the end zone.

"It was the opposite of lately. The last couple of games we've come out slow and today we came out strong," said varsity football coach Tony Keefer. "We played good football for the first nine minutes. Then they started to wear us down. Despite the final score, Coach Keefer added that he was pleased with his team's effort.

"Their effort lasted throughout the whole game," he said. "That's always something you look at as a positive."

The players can say the same about Coach Keefer and his coaching staff. Because of Coach Keefer's efforts throughout the whole season, Tam Varsity football joined a bevy of Marin teams in NCS. The Red Tailed Hawks were seeded 13th and headed to the East Bay to take on fourth-seeded Bishop O'Dowd in November. Tam hasn't played a post-season football game since 2000. This is a positive for Tam football. ❖

Cross Country



Chris Lowell, Senior



Dan Milechman TAM CC MCAL Final



Devin Patrick



Olivia Blackstone, Senior

Hawk of the Week Winners

Week of November 3

Sophomore **Dan Milechman**, Cross Country

Senior **Devin Patrick**, Cross Country

Week of November 10

Sophomore **Brain Scott**, Football

Senior **Danny Decarlo**, Football

Week of November 17

Junior **Megan Shuller**, Tennis

Senior **Katie Brigham**, Tennis

Week of November 24

Junior **Gabe Bram**, Football

Congratulations!

MCAL All League Members for 2008 Fall Season Sports

Cross Country

Chris Lowell
Dan Milechman
Devin Patrick
Cory Rand

Girls Golf

Camilla Hanson

Boys Soccer

Emil Barkovich
Jonah Hopton
Rafi Nur

Girls Tennis

Haley Bronstein
Ariel Sultan
Emily Prescott

Girls Volleyball

Andrea Mazzini

Boys Water Polo

Taylor Gamboa
Andrew Latimer
David Phillips

Girls Water Polo

Amelia Harvey
Sami Harvey
Avery Mosser
Erin Schlueter

Football

TBA

TAM BOOSTER NEWS MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Boosters Annual Crab and Pasta Feed – Sunday, February 8, 2009

Next Boosters Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, in the Hawks' Nest

We meet the first Wednesday of every month in the Hawks' Nest. The Hawks' Nest is the small cafeteria in the Student Center building just to the right of the kitchen and snack bar windows. There is easy parking in the lot behind the Student Center.

Winter Sports

Winter Sports are up and running. Come out and support the Tam teams. Team schedules are on the Tam Athletic website, tamhighathletics.org.

Here are this season's coaches:

Girls' Basketball

Varsity - Robert Viramontes

JV - Matt Gillespie

Freshmen - Elio Abrami

Boys' Basketball

Varsity - Alex Pribble

JV - Ola Dean

Freshmen - Melissa Palmer

Coed Wrestling

Andre Salinas

Chris Fredrich

Jose Rico

Varsity Cheer

Jamie Lynn Schenone

Tara-Caprice Broadwater



Photos from top: Tam varsity football vs. Justin Sienna; Quarterback Sean Betzner with the ball; Mattie Winkler with the save.

New Coach for Tam Varsity Basketball

Alex Pribble, the new boys' varsity basketball coach, brings to Tam his experience as the graduate assistant coach for the Cal men's basketball team in 2007. As a four-year player at Cal, he was a team captain, academic All American and earned a scholarship for his junior and senior years. Prior to attending UC Berkeley, Pribble was a star basketball player at Drake High School and MCAL Player of the Year.

"I hope to build a basketball program that reaches deep into the surrounding community, inspiring young athletes to develop the character traits and physical abilities that are necessary to play basketball at Tam High School," said Pribble.

"My goal for this team is simply to improve everyday. We will focus on our effort and pay strong attention to detail, in hopes of building and maintaining a reputable and well-respected Tam basketball program," he concluded.

Alex received a master's degree in education from Cal through a program called "Athletes and Academic Achievement." He is also a physical education teacher here at Tam.

"I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of the Tam community, as both a teacher and a coach," Pribble said. "The rich academic and athletic tradition at this school is something that I take a lot of pride in."

Mike Evans, Tam's long-time basketball head coach, and co-coach Ralph Wilson retired at the end of last season. Evans coached the Red Tailed Hawks to the state title in 2000. He retired to focus more on his non-profit organization. Tam is thankful for Mike and Ralph for what they did for Tam.

Varsity Football Coach Tony Keefer will be honored as "Coach of the Week" at the 49ers vs. Jets game on December 7 at Candlestick Park.

Sports Awards

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Award Name</i>	<i>Recipient</i>
Soccer Boys JV	Offensive MVP	Seth Gillis
	Defensive MVP	Riley Knox
	Most Inspirational	Pablo Cortez
	NCS Sportsmanship Certificate	Israel Dellinger
	NCS Sportsmanship Certificate	Breno Defaria
Volleyball Girls Varsity	NCS Sportsmanship Certificate	Andrew Shields
	MVP	Andrea Mazzini
	Most Improved	Cameron Cressman
	Coach's Award	Paige Ogden
	NCS Sportsmanship Certificate	Siena Hood
Volleyball Girls JV	NCS Sportsmanship Certificate	Cynthia Bathgate
	MVP	Fernanda Gascon
	Most Improved	Mayana Bonapart
	Most Inspirational	Jenna May
Volleyball Girls Freshmen	Most Improved	Brianna Berger
Water Polo Girls Varsity	Most Improved	Mattie Winkler
	Most Valuable	Erin Schlueter
	Coaches' Award	Erin Schlueter
Water Polo Girls JV	Most Improved	Emma Ellison
	Most Valuable	Kristin Sato
Water Polo Boys Varsity	MVP	David Phillips
	Most Improved	Cody Nagy
	Coach's Award	Taylor Gamboa
Water Polo Boys JV	MVP	Brennan Latimer
	Coach's Award	Trevor Williams



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**PTSA
 Tamalpais High School**

700 Miller Avenue
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

DECEMBER 2008		
Date	Time/Event	Location
3	7 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	HAWKS' NEST
4	6:30 PM – FINANCIAL AID NIGHT	STUDENT CENTER
4	7 PM – THUMB MEETING	GREENWOOD MUSIC BLDG
1-5	ASB CANNED FOOD DRIVE	BRING CANNED GOODS TO TUTORIAL CLASS
9	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER
	ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING	REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
10	7 PM – HOLIDAY INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT	RUBY SCOTT AUDITORIUM
11	7 PM – HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT	CALDWELL THEATRE
16-19	FINAL EXAMS	
17	7 PM – PTSA MEETING AND "STATE OF THE SCHOOL" ADDRESS BY PRINCIPAL TOM DRESCHER	MILL VALLEY GOLF CLUBHOUSE 267 BUENA VISTA AVENUE
19	7:30 AM – HOLIDAY BREAKFAST FOR FACULTY AND STAFF	TBD
22-JAN.2	WINTER RECESS – NO SCHOOL	
JANUARY 2009		
5	TEACHER WORK DAY – NO SCHOOL	
6	SCHOOL RESUMES FOR STUDENTS & KEYSER HALL OPENS!	
6	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
7	7 PM – BOOSTERS MEETING	HAWKS' NEST
7-10 13-16 20-23	7 PM – CTE WINTER ONE ACTS	CALDWELL THEATRE
12	WINTER FORMAL DANCE TICKETS ON SALE	ROOM 120
14	6-8 PM – "ALL ABOUT TAM" NIGHT FOR 8TH GRADERS GUS GYM AND FAMILIES	
19	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL	
20	7 PM – TUHSD BOARD MEETING	KREPS CONFERENCE CENTER REDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
21	7-9 PM – PTSA MEETING WITH STUDENT PANEL: "SEX, DRUGS AND ROCK & ROLL"	TBA
26	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – NO SCHOOL	