



# TUHSD ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

March 2016



San Andreas High School | 599 William Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939 | (415) 945-3770  
Tamiscal High School | 305 Doherty Drive, Larkspur, CA 94939 | (415) 945-3750

## From the Administration

Dear Tamiscal and San Andreas Community,

As we begin to head into the spring, I'm at a point in the school year where I have been able to see our students grow as young women and men compared to back in August. While each and every student has encountered and overcome challenges in their own unique and personal way, often unknown to others, I take great satisfaction when I'm actually able to tangibly see or measure the growth of our young scholars. This student growth can be measured in many anecdotal ways, from hearing a teacher describe how a certain senior has finally taken the initiative and self-motivation required for success in school and life, to our para-educator pointing out the mathematical improvement and persistence of a junior in geometry, to the recently found self-confidence of a new student who has found a sense of belonging as evidenced by his handshake, eye contact, and smile.

While our society can often boil down student growth into oversimplistic quantitative measurements that cannot capture the essence of an individual, I feel fortunate to be a part of two school communities where students' names are known

and where measurement of student growth comes in many different forms.

On another note, the November fundraising letter drive netted \$4,000 for the *Tamiscal Fund*! These funds will all be used to supplement the educational program at Tamiscal. On behalf of the Tamiscal Parent Advisory Council, thank you to everyone who contributed!

Lastly, College of Marin (COM) and TUHSD have had a long history of partnership throughout the years. This coming spring, Tamiscal and San Andreas are engaging with COM and exploring more specific and focused partnerships to expand opportunities for our students, including bringing COM classes onto our high school campuses, a Summer Bridge program to orient and transition students to the college classroom, and more. COM representatives will be available at both sites during Open Houses in March to share some of these ideas and to answer parent questions. More information to come...

Here are a couple of upcoming reminders:  
Tamiscal Open House is Thursday, March 3rd from 6-7pm. Friday is a Minimum Day ending at noon.

San Andreas Open House is Thursday, March 24th from 6-7pm. Friday is a Minimum Day ending at 12:15pm.

Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> is a TUHSD Professional Development Day – no students

Sincerely,  
Corbett Elsen  
Alternative Schools Principal  
Adult Education, San Andreas,  
Tamiscal

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Administration
- 2 Tamiscal Highlights
- 3 Calendar
- 4 San Andreas Highlights
- 6 Team Program
- 7 Pathways Program
- 8 Counselor's Corner
- 9 College & Career
- 10 Parent Workshops



## Tamiscal Highlights

### All School Assembly Starts the New Semester

On Friday, January 8th, Tamiscal, Team, and Pathways students participated in the Tamiscal All School Assembly. The day started with a brief lecture on the Civil Rights Movement given by our very own Raymond Howard, who was actively involved in the movement. Afterwards, students broke into small groups to discuss what they had learned. Following that, students were treated to a pizza and salad lunch. We then walked over to the Lark Theater and watched the soon-to-be-released documentary film, *Black Panthers: Vanguard of a Revolution*. Students then heard from Ericka Huggins, who was a member of the Black Panthers. She shared some of her memories and answered students questions.





## Tamiscal Highlights continued

### Joshua Lovejoy Joins TUHSD Board Members In Sacramento

Joshua Lovejoy, TUHSD student trustee for Tamiscal had the opportunity to participate in a Legislative Day with other students and our Board Trustees at the Capitol in Sacramento, and he got to meet Governor Jerry Brown! Superintendent David Yoshihara also attended and it's on his tweet on the district website.



## San Andreas and Tamiscal Calendar

### March

|     |     |     |     |     |  |                   |   |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-------------------|---|
|     | 1   | 2   | 3*  | 4*  |  | 3/3<br>3/4        | Tamiscal Open House 6:00 pm<br>Tamiscal Minimum Day       |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |  |                   |   |
| 14* | 15* | 16* | 17  | 18  |  | 3/14<br>3/15-3/16 | Staff Development Day-No Students<br>CAHSEE Testing       |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24* | 25* |  | 3/24<br>3/25      | San Andreas Open House 6:00 pm<br>San Andreas Minimum Day |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31* | 4/1 |  | 3/31              | Tamiscal Parent Meeting 12:00                             |

### April

|     |     |     |     |     |  |           |                           |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----------|---------------------------|
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8*  |  | 4/8       | End of R-5 Grading Period |
| 11* | 12* | 13* | 14* | 15* |  | 4/11-4/15 | Spring Break              |
| 18* | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  |  | 4/18      | R-6 Grading Period Begins |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  |  |           |                           |



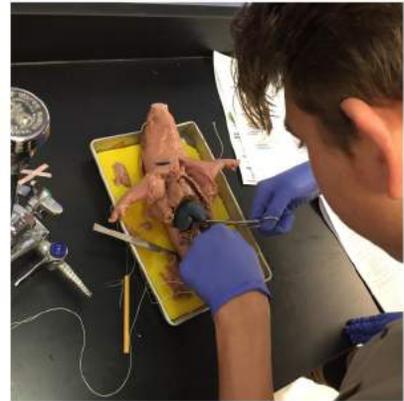
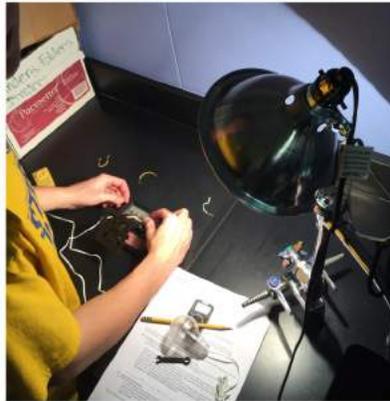
## San Andreas Highlights

### Science Highlights

Science students have been focusing on hands-on learning and project-based learning this month. We recently dissected a fetal pig in Physiology and the students are now setting up interviews with health care professionals. In addition, we are studying the digestive system and will be creating presentations to support our learning.

Integrated Science classes are working on Astronomy and an interactive alternative energy lab that focuses on building models and testing variables. The students have been seen around campus with their solar cell models and their wind turbines! Next up for Integrated Sciences is a unit on Evolutionary Biology.

Physio will be studying the Nervous System and will be dissecting a sheep brain.



**Science students are engaged in their learning**

### Psychology Highlights

The focus in psychology right now is on the questions surrounding Nature versus Nurture. We are also discussing which qualities make us human. This is a great segue into the structure and function of the brain as it introduces students to the idea that biology and chemistry play a huge role in who we are and who we become. The unit will continue with an introduction to neurotransmission and some of the major neurotransmitters involved in our brain chemistry. One of the more provocative articles we will read and discuss as a group is "How Poverty Might Change the Brain" by Elizabeth Landau. It focuses on the connection between socioeconomic status and the brain and explores the factors that influence brain development. We will then spend some time researching the Teenage Brain, a phenomena in itself!!



## San Andreas Highlights continued

### Social Studies and Art Departments Collaborate!

Over the course of the year, Alyssa Callahan and Gray Douglas, the teachers for Social Studies and Art, have taken advantage of new collaboration time to develop an interdisciplinary unit on Politics of Race and Social Justice, as well as Visual Art that began on February 22nd and will continue to the end of the school year. This grading period, students enrolled in U.S. History are grappling with issues of race, discrimination, and social justice, and will be considering the unit's driving questions:

1. To what extent has race been a barrier to reaching one's full potential as an American?
2. To what extent did the Civil Rights Movements of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s expand equality for all?

Students will study Japanese Internment, the Latino Movement, AIM and the Native American Movement, as well as the African American Civil Rights Movement, all while making modern-day connections. Ultimately, students will create a piece of spoken word poetry. At the end of this grading period, students will transition into Gray Douglas' Visual Communications class where students will examine historical propaganda and question the role of visual propaganda and its role in affecting change. Students will be guided by the following driving questions:

1. What impact does the combination of words and images have on prompting specific ideas?
2. What makes an image impactful?
3. How has visual communication been used in promoting equality and social justice?

Ultimately, students will create a piece of visual art that portrays the ideas discussed throughout both grading periods.

So far, students have been engaged in the process of discussing the core themes of Social Justice and the Politics of Race. Gray and Alyssa look forward to seeing the progression unfold!

### San Andreas Students & Staff Celebrate at End of R-4

To celebrate the end of the R-4 grading period, San Andreas students were surprised with a pizza lunch as well as bingo during ACE period. Lucky bingo winners received gift cards and other prizes, courtesy of the San Andreas staff.





## Team Program Highlights

In January, the Team Program took a ferry to Angel Island and worked for two days for the park service, cleaning drainage culverts and stacking firewood. They climbed to the top of Mt Livermore, braved a strong winter storm, camped at the service camp and got a private tour of the Immigration Station.





Tamalpais Union  
High School District  
Pathways Program

**Juniors-Are you interested in spending your senior year doing something different?**

Would you like to focus your education on what interests you, take college classes and learn through hands-on experiences?

The Pathways Program is designed to engage students through an **individualized educational curriculum** with a focus on "making real" the **post-graduation opportunities** that are available to students through a combination of internships and successful completion of college courses and/or vocational training through the Regional Occupation Program (ROP) while completing requirements for high school graduation.

All juniors in good standing in the Tamalpais District are eligible to apply for admittance for the fall 2016 semester. **An application, an interview and attendance at an informational meeting are required.** All meetings below will be held at San Andreas High in the Multipurpose Room.

- + **Parent/Student Informational Meetings:** you **must attend one** in order to apply
- + **Monday, March 7 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Wednesday, March 9 @ 4:00 pm**
- + **Fall 2016 Application Deadline:** Monday, March 15 @ 4:00 pm
- + **Students notified of acceptance:** Wednesday, March 23
- + **Individual planning meetings:** March 28-April 8 by appointment
- + **COM counseling meeting:** May 4 @ 3:00 pm

**For more information please contact:**

Candace Curtis at San Andreas High  
(415) 945-3774, (707) 696-8704  
[ccurtis@tamdistrict.org](mailto:ccurtis@tamdistrict.org)

Alyssa Callahan at San Andreas High  
(415) 945-7008, (415) 246-3980  
[acallahan@tamdistrict.org](mailto:acallahan@tamdistrict.org)

## Counselor's Corner

**Tamiscal**

**By Wendy Wishart**

**Seniors** have, for the most part, finished the college application process and many have already heard from various CSU campuses to which they have been accepted. We will be hearing from the rest of the schools at the end of March through to the beginning of April. This is a very stressful time for our seniors because they feel that their lives are on the line as far as getting into some of their first choice schools. Even if they get into every school but one, that may have been “the” one that they had their hearts set on. This last semester of the senior year requires some extra patience on the part of parents. Sometimes just listening is all you can or need to do for your student.

Also, please be sure that you have read Julie's financial aid e-mail carefully as it is time to fill out the FAFSA forms – the sooner the better, as the money is doled out as the forms are processed by the colleges.

**Junior** conferences are our current order of business. Many of you have already responded to our e-mail that went out to junior parents and have made appointments. We encourage the rest of the junior parents to call for appointments which are available on Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, in either the morning or afternoon. We will be doing small group conferences with **TEAM** students followed by individual follow ups for those who want them. At these conferences we do an assessment of the student's transcript to date and make suggestions for courses that still need to be taken in order to best qualify for the type of post-high-school program that the student is interested in. For students who really don't know what they want to do next, we can help with finding a direction. Juniors who want 4 year colleges will need to sign up for SAT/ACT tests this spring. Each family who attends a junior conference will receive a copy of the district's comprehensive *College Application Guide*.

**Sophomores** will be doing career surveys later this spring. Julie will be tracking them down to be sure that they complete this important step.

If you are planning any family trips over spring break, you may want to include visiting some college campuses and taking tours while you are in the area. Most colleges have tour sign ups on their websites. Summer is another good time to visit some colleges.

If you have questions, contact Wendy (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday are counseling days) [wwishart@tamdistrict.org](mailto:wwishart@tamdistrict.org) (preferred) or 945-3757; or Julie (Monday-Thursday) [jgannon@tamdistrict.org](mailto:jgannon@tamdistrict.org) or 945-3779.

## College and Career Center

Representatives from College of Marin will be on the San Andreas campus twice this spring: Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, a counselor will talk about community college in general, how students enroll and schedule classes, and how to move forward through community college. The second visit, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, will be for students planning to attend College of Marin. On this visit, students will take the required Math and English Placement tests. These tests are for placement only and we will provide more information to students in the next few weeks. If a student is planning to attend a community college other than College of Marin, they should see Julie, Wendy or Cory for specific information on how to apply and complete the requirements. More information on the placement test will be provided to all students closer the date

Students graduating in June, who would like to attend college or other types of training programs next academic year, should complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) financial aid form, now. San Andreas held several workshops last month (February 9<sup>th</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup>) to work with students (only) but this form also needs parental information. For students who did not attend a workshop and plan to apply for financial aid, please use the site [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Students who have citizenship concerns and feel they may not be eligible to complete the FAFSA are encouraged to complete the CA Dream Act application at <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>.

Parents may complete the FAFSA form even if they have not filed their 2015 income tax return. The FAFSA is required in order to receive federal financial aid. **Most California schools have a March 2nd deadline for filing.** Even if students plan on taking the first semester off (starting school in January 2017), the FAFSA should still be filed by the March 2, 2016 California deadline. If a student misses this deadline, please file the FAFSA as soon as possible afterwards.

If students are planning on attending a school in California, they may be eligible for a Cal Grant. Some Cal Grants have GPA requirements and awards vary by type of school. <http://www.calgrants.org/> TUHSD has filed electronic GPA Verification forms for most students. If this form was not filed electronically, the home school should have already contacted the student. Just about every student who was enrolled last May as a junior has had their form filed electronically. **The FAFSA/Dream Act Application must also be completed, by March 2, to be eligible for a Cal Grant.**

Private scholarship information is available through Naviance and local scholarship information is often posted at San Andreas and Tamiscal.

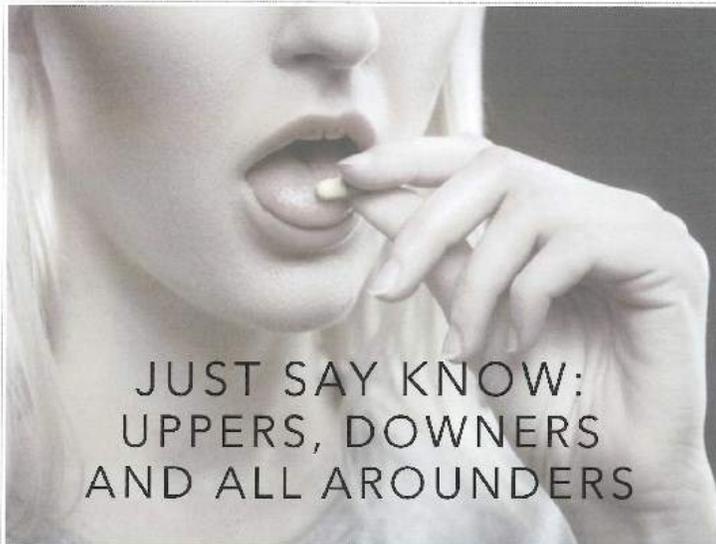
10,000 Degrees helps with completing the financial aid process, conducts workshops for the FAFSA and CA Dream Act and offers mentoring support to students. Students may also want to check out 10,000 Degrees to see if they are eligible for their scholarship programs. 10,000 Degrees awards funds on a need basis. Students must complete the scholarship application available online at <http://10000degrees.org/> US Citizenship is not required to receive an award from 10,000 Degrees.

To help motivated students prepare for the college and financial aid application process, 10,000 Degrees offers a program called the 10,000 Degrees Institute (formerly the Summer Institute). To be eligible, a student needs to be a sophomore who will be a junior in Fall 2016. Students accepted to the week-long program receive, free of charge, 6 days and 5 nights in college dormitories at Sonoma State or St. Mary's College and will visit two other college campuses. The Institute will also include:

- How to choose a college
- How to pay for college
- How to write a winning college & scholarship essay

The application for the Institute is available online and due March 2<sup>nd</sup>. <http://www.10000degrees.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/10KDAApplication2016-final.pdf>

**Informative Workshops Available For Parents**



**What's the difference between an upper and a downer?  
Is eating marijuana safer than smoking it?**  
Jenn Epstein, Health Educator at The Urban School in San Francisco, will give parents an overview of commonly used drugs and how they are classified based on their effect on the central nervous system. She will present commonly used drugs as well as explore the levels of drug use kids might be participating in so you can have reliable information that will enable you to have informed conversations with your kids about drugs.

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
Kreps Conference Center, Larkspur

RSVP: <http://goo.gl/d6ottk>

Presented by Twin Cities Coalition for Healthy Youth, The Wellness Center, and Redwood High School PTSA.

**San Andreas Parents  
Monday, March 14, 5:30-6:30  
Superintendent's Parent Forum  
in the Multi-Purpose Room**

All San Andreas parents are invited to a forum to meet TUHSD Superintendent David Yoshihara. This is an opportunity to ask questions, reflect on policies and programs, and share any concerns you may have. The forum is an open discussion without any pre-set agenda.

**Tamiscal Parents  
Wednesday, March 16, 5:30-6:30  
Superintendent's Parent Forum  
in the Hub Classroom**

All Tamiscal parents are invited to a forum to meet TUHSD Superintendent David Yoshihara. This is an opportunity to ask questions, reflect on policies and programs, and share any concerns you may have. The forum is an open discussion without any pre-set agenda.

**San Andreas**  
March 2nd—postponed  
May 18th 2:30 pm

**PARENT MEETINGS**  
PLEASE JOIN US  
AT OUR UPCOMING  
PARENT ADVISORY  
MEETINGS

**Tamiscal**  
March 31st 12:00 pm  
May 5th 12:00 pm

*For the latest news and information about the Tam District,  
go to our website: <http://www.tamdistrict.org/Page/1> and be sure to check out  
Superintendent David Yoshihara's twitter feed—the link is at the bottom of the main page*