

Tamiscal *times*

Winter 2003
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Message from the Principal

IMPACT OF THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

The governor has presented his proposals to address the severe fiscal crisis in the state. Some of his recommendations specifically target the funding of "basic aid" districts such as ours that currently rely on property tax revenue for funding. Additionally, the district is facing the same across-the-state cuts in categorical program funds as are all California school districts. If the governor's budget recommendations are implemented as proposed, the Tam District could face a cut during this school year of \$700,000. In 2003-2004, the cuts could amount to \$7,230,000 out of a \$34,000,000 budget. District Superintendent Bill Levinson recently sent all staff an update in which he stated, "The governor's proposals are just that—proposals. They must be approved by the legislature to become law. However, until the proposals are modified, rescinded or defeated we must plan to address their impact. We have every right and will do whatever is needed to impact the legislative decision-making process. These proposals are not inevitable. The district is facing an enormous challenge this spring. We will do everything possible to ensure the continued excellence of our program for students and continued support for staff. We must and will work together to address the crisis." Check out the district's web site at www.tamdistrict.org for periodic updates on this crucial issue. Also, please be sure to send us your email address, even if you think we already have it. This is the most effective way for parent leaders to reach you when we need your assistance regarding the budget crisis and its effect on the Tam district.

NEW CAMPUS

At last we have truly settled in at our new campus. The facility is spacious and conducive to learning, and it is great to finally have Independent Study, TEAM, and Adult Education on the same campus. By sharing the facility, we are making the most of our professional and physical resources. The library/computer center and the Hub are in use for a variety of purposes throughout the day and evening. Thanks to all the parents and students who helped make our December 10th Dedication Ceremony such a success. Special recognition goes to Kathy Lowe, Elliott Lowe, Margaret Ryan, and Hannah and Victoria Williams for shopping and setting up for the Dedication. The contractors are doing the final items on their list, and

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KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, April 2nd, 7:00-8:00 pm

YEARBOOK PGS.-Due: April 4th; \$30

TEAM POTLUCK DINNER & SLIDE SHOW

Wednesday, April 30th, 6:00 pm

PROM (all students): May 17th at Mill Valley Golf Course Clubhouse; \$30

GRADUATION

Monday, June 9th, 7:00 pm at Marin Art and Garden Center

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we thank our Vanir construction manager, Lincoln Lo; architect, Jon Stong; Modernization Director, V-Anne Chernock; and Maintenance and Operations Director, Joe Knighten, for going beyond the call of duty to see the project through to its completion.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM AND ASSESSMENTS

And the instructional program marches on... While some of us were preoccupied with construction issues, the Tamiscal staff continued providing a quality program, and students focused their attention on their assignments, projects, and finals in the midst of the move. Their efforts have been paying off! All Tamiscal seniors have met the district's Reading, Math, and Direct Writing outcomes. Only a handful need to finish their portfolios, and those who need to complete the Computer proficiency requirement are making progress.

Tamiscal exceeded its state Academic Growth Index (API) by improving 10 points based on the Spring 2002 STAR test results. The willingness of students to participate in the testing program helped us achieve a 96% participation rate. The API is posted on the Internet, and Tamiscal's performance lends credibility and value to our program. I hope that we will again rally together this spring during STAR testing, the week of April 28th. Mark your calendar also for the California High School Exit Exam, which will be given to all 10th graders on March 4th-6th. All students in order to receive a diploma in the state of California. Congratulations to Tamiscal's 11th graders! 100% of the juniors have passed the English/Language Arts section, and 96% have passed the Mathematics section. Those who still need to pass the Math section may retake the exam in March.

Marcie Miller
Principal

Release of Directory Information to Military Recruiters

*From Bill Levinson, Superintendent of Schools
Tamalpais Union High School District*

A provision included in the new Federal legislation known as "No Child Left Behind" requires school districts to provide military recruiters, upon request, the name, address and telephone number of any high school student unless the parent/guardian/student specifically requests, in writing, that the information not be provided. On January 14, the Tam District Board of Trustees approved a change in district policy (5125.1 - Release of Directory Information) establishing procedures for parents/guardians and students to request the district to withhold such information (as permitted under the new law). Students may obtain the form in school from their master teachers. Copies are also available on the District's web site. If a parent/guardian or student does not return the form by January 31, 2003, the district will provide the student's name, address, and telephone number to a military recruiter if so requested. In the future, this notification will be included in the summer mailing.

**TAMISCAL DEDICATION
December 10, 2002**

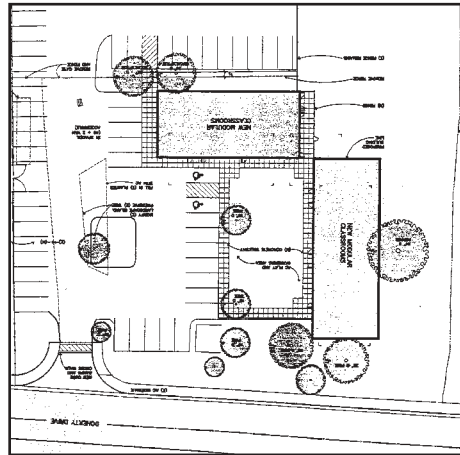
After days of downpour, the clouds parted and the rain stopped just in time for the 4:30 pm dedication ceremony in the Hub at Tamiscal. The crowd of approximately 100 people included parents, students, former students, district trustees, administrators, teachers, a former principal and some prospective parents and students as well.

Marcie Miller acted as mistress of ceremonies, and introduced former principal and one of Tamiscal's founders, Deborah Stewart, who gave a lovely history of Tamiscal. What began as a school on wheels, taking lessons to students in a substance abuse treatment program in West Marin, has grown into its present, diverse student body: some in the TEAM program; others pursuing their education through independent study in order to participate in ballet or music programs, martial arts, etc.; others going on to college; and still others pursuing their high school diploma in adult education classes. Tamiscal has evolved into a school that serves a unique student population.

Marcie asked Superintendent Bill Levinson and his assistant, Laurie Famera to do the honors of cutting the ceremonial ribbon with huge scissors. Counselor/teacher Susan Berkhout introduced and thanked Tamiscal parent and quilter extraordinaire, Margaret Ryan, who assembled the quilt squares—made by staff and students at the annual retreat—for display in the main office.

The audience trekked outside for the unveiling of the dedication plaque next to the front entrance. Afterwords, current students offered tours providing ample opportunities for visitors to "ooh" and "ahhh" over the new facilities.

Tamiscal parents provided hors d'oeuvres and desserts for the occasion under the direction of Cathy Lowe and Victoria Williams.



Site plan of new school site

FREE BUS TICKETS

Starting February 24, Tamiscal students can get free bus tickets to use to and from school on Golden Gate Transit. Under this pilot program, student tickets will be valid for local travel within Marin County on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Information and bus tickets will be available in the Tamiscal office. If you have any questions, call us at 945-3750.

LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION NEEDS

We can do it! Before laying down asphalt in the parking lot and basketball/picnic area, the contractors inserted conduit for our irrigation needs. We have four planting areas ready for irrigation and planting. Additionally, we need benches and planter boxes to make the asphalt more people-friendly. We would love to have a low maintenance native plant garden in the area south of the Office where we currently have mud and dirt. In order to make this happen, we need your help with planning, funding, and volunteering for a work party.

STUFF NEEDED FROM YOUR GARAGE

Now that we've moved in, we've discovered a need for some crucial items that you may be able to donate.

Do you have any of these things?

- ___ Kitchen utensils, pots, pans, baking sheets, Corning Ware, pitchers, etc.
- ___ PC Computer Monitors, size 17" or larger (we need four)
- ___ Sofa in good condition for Hub, student area
- ___ Loveseat in good condition for Staff Lounge
- ___ Nice dish towels
- ___ Tablecloths
- ___ Oak barrels for planter boxes

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Charlane Brown (Mary Beth's mother) for serving on Tamiscal's Advisory Committee for the past 2 years. Her active participation has been of great benefit to Tamiscal's programs and fundraising. She has also shopped weekly for the student snacks purchased through parent donations. Here are some great opportunities for you to get involved!

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2ND SEMESTER

- ___ Fundraising Coordinator and members of the Fundraising Committee
- ___ Landscape Designer/ Coordinator of Landscaping Planning Committee
- ___ Members of Landscaping Planning Committee
- ___ Landscape volunteers
- ___ Shopper (we provide the funds) to purchase student snacks (Cup of Noodles, fruit, carrots, popcorn, etc.)
- ___ Parent Emergency Phone Tree Coordinator

To volunteer for any of these jobs, please call or email Margaret Ryan: 945-3750, or sew_fun@hotmail.com

COLLEGE CHOICES BRING SPRING NEWS

By Judy Bloch

The fall is the time for seniors to choose their colleges and it seems that more and more are choosing to apply to multiple campuses. Usually, the University of California and California State Universities account for most of our applications but not this year. While we have students applying to many public colleges in California including: UC Santa Cruz, Humboldt State, Cal Poly, Sonoma State, San Marcos, Chico, and San Francisco State, many more are applying to private California schools such as: Santa Clara, Pomona, Claremont McKenna, Pitzer, Stanford (5 applications), University of S.F., USC, St. Mary's, Chapman, Pepperdine and Scripps.

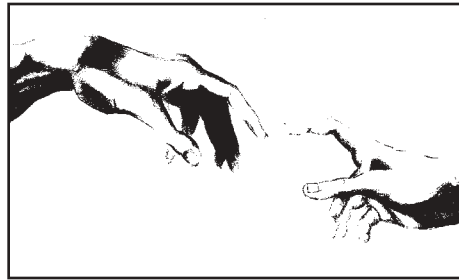
Then there are those looking at out-of-state colleges. Many are applying to western colleges such as: University of Colorado, Univ. of Northern Colorado, Whitman, University of Oregon, Oregon State, Southern Oregon Univ., Willamette, University of Hawaii, Lewis & Clark, DeVry, Heald, Naropa and Evergreen State (3 applications). Even further from home are these choices: Cornell, Rochester Institute of Technology, Northwestern, Cooper Union, Carnegie Mellon (3 applications), NYU, Boston University, Georgetown, Yale, Wheaton, Green Mountain, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, Eugene Lang, and Hampshire.

All of these wonderful choices — and I may have omitted some — have kept our staff busy writing recommendations. Students will begin to receive their acceptances in March and April and must notify the colleges of their first choice by May 1. So, winter is the LONG WAIT.

ODDS AND ENDS

By Judy Bloch

1. Are you an artist? The Sixth Congressional District Art Competition, entitled "An Artistic Discovery," asks for your participation in this national competition. Each high school can submit up to three art works. More information regarding guidelines and the submission deadline for artwork will be announced in January.



Art by Jenna Breitbart

2. Three scholarships are available through the Ronald McDonald House. Go to www.rmhc.com (click on search then type "scholarships") to find applications for Asian-Pacific students, African American students, Hispanics, and more. All are due on Feb. 1.

4. The American Academy of Dramatic Arts invites you to audition for their summer program or their two-year degree program. To schedule an audition in San Francisco, call 800-222-2867.

5. The US Government forms for financial aid (FAFSA) and the California forms (Cal Grants) have arrived. A workshop is planned for students in Room 2 at San Andreas on February 12 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Students and parents from both Tamiscal and San Andreas are welcome unless they wish to contact The Marin Education Fund directly for assistance. MEF is assisting with the workshops at San Andreas.

6. The good news is that some CSU's will accept applications late. Check with Judy. Go to www.csumentor.edu or pick up a paper application in the College/Career Center.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

by Susan Berkhout

The school year is passing by swiftly, and we are in the thick of sending college applications to the private schools. The UC and CSU applications were due November 30. Parents, if your seniors are still considering adding some additional schools, please be sure they call me immediately to ensure that we can accommodate their requests. Showing up with requests for recommendation letters or transcripts, and with forms to be filled out a few days before the due date just doesn't work. There are still colleges that have February filing dates, and those are the ones we can still work with.

Junior conferences have gone well and only a few students have not taken advantage of this pre-planning opportunity for senior year and beyond. College-career specialist, Judy Bloch, and I welcome those who have not yet done so to come in and meet with us—just call to set up an appointment.

Any seniors who have concerns about meeting graduation requirements should speak with their core teacher and then schedule a transcript/outcomes check appointment with me. The sooner we identify any potential problems, the better.

Just as a reminder, any SENIOR who has not yet passed the computer proficiency test, now **MUST BE** in the class with Mary Ruane. Once the tests have been passed, you may drop out of the class, but until that time you need to be in the class preparing for the tests.

NEW FULL CIRCLE COUNSELOR

Join us in welcoming Traci Williams, Tamiscal's new personal and crisis counselor. Tamiscal's Advisory voted to use some of this year's Safety Funds to provide on-site counseling at our new campus. Traci will be at Tamiscal about 16 hours per week. She plans to meet with individuals and groups. Any Tamiscal student and parent may take advantage of this important resource.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1. Discover Card Tribute Award is for JUNIORS. This opportunity is offered to juniors with at least a 2.75 GPA who are multi-talented, take the lead, may have overcome obstacles and are giving back to their communities. Download the application at (www.discovercard.com/tribute.htm) Due January 10, 2003.
2. The California Federation of Teachers provides scholarships ranging from \$1000 - \$3000 to seniors whose parents are members of CFT. Applications can be downloaded from www.cft.org and must be postmarked no later than Jan. 31.
3. The Beverage Industry awards grants to kids whose parent/s are employed full time with an organization holding a valid Cal. Beverage Alcohol License (hotels, airlines, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.). Application is online at www.christermon.com. Due date of February 1.
4. Marin County School Administrators Association offers a \$500 grant to students planning on pursuing a career in education. Due February 1.
5. Galileo Memorial Scholarship announces awards of \$1000 to \$2500 to those who intend to pursue a career in engineering, math, or physical or natural sciences. High GPA, good SAT scores, essay and recommendation plus involvement in extracurricular activities. Due February 28.
6. The Italian Catholic Federation offers \$400 to Catholic grads who have at least a 3.2 GPA. Need not be of Italian ancestry to qualify but parent or grandparent needs to be a member of the Federation.
7. Is your heritage Italian? Sons of Italy offers a college scholarship, a leadership grant and a study grant in Italy. All are due the end of February. Access their web site at www.sonsofitalyca.org.
8. The Holocaust Remembrance Project sponsors a national essay contest for high school students. Winners can win a trip to D.C. and up to \$5000 scholarship. After studying the holocaust, students write an essay of no

more than 1200 words. Due 4/30.

9. NFIB Free Enterprise Scholars Awards offers \$1000 awards to 100 students (not based on financial need) planning on entering college or vocational school. Must be successful students (with SAT or ACT scores) who have demonstrated entrepreneurial achievement – designed something for sale. For additional information go to www.nfibeducationfoundation.org.

10. Good at speaking? Try the National High School Oratorical Contest organized by the American Legion. The subject must be on some phase of the Constitution of the U.S., giving emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. Can be a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior. For dates and locations go to www.legion.org.



Art detail by Nina Basker

OUR WEB TELLS ALL

For detailed information about what's up at Tamiscal, check out our web site at: www.tamiscal.marin.k12.ca.us/. You'll find our calendar and much more, including information on non-student days, vacations, student activities, assessment dates, workshops to prepare for High School Exit Exam and other graduation outcomes, Advisory Council meetings and School Board meetings.

IMPORTANT TESTING DATES

January:

Saturday, 1/25 SAT I and SAT II

February:

2/10-2/13 Direct Writing Assessment—all 9th graders and 10th-12th graders, if needed

March:

3/4/03 and 3/5/03 High School Exit Exam, English/Language Arts—all 10th graders and 11th graders, if needed
3/6/03 High School Exit Exam, Mathematics—all 10th graders and 11th graders, if needed

April:

4/28/03-5/2/03 STAR—all 9th, 10th, and 11th graders; schedule will be mailed home
4/28-5/2 Senior Assessments for any senior still needing to meet graduation outcomes

May:

Throughout the month - Golden State Exams and Advanced Placement Exams
5/5-5/7 STAR make-up exams
5/6/03 Core Literacy Portfolios due—all 10th graders and any 11th or 12th graders who have not met outcome

June

6/7 SAT I and SAT II

July

High School Exit Exam—all 10th and 11th graders who have not yet passed both parts

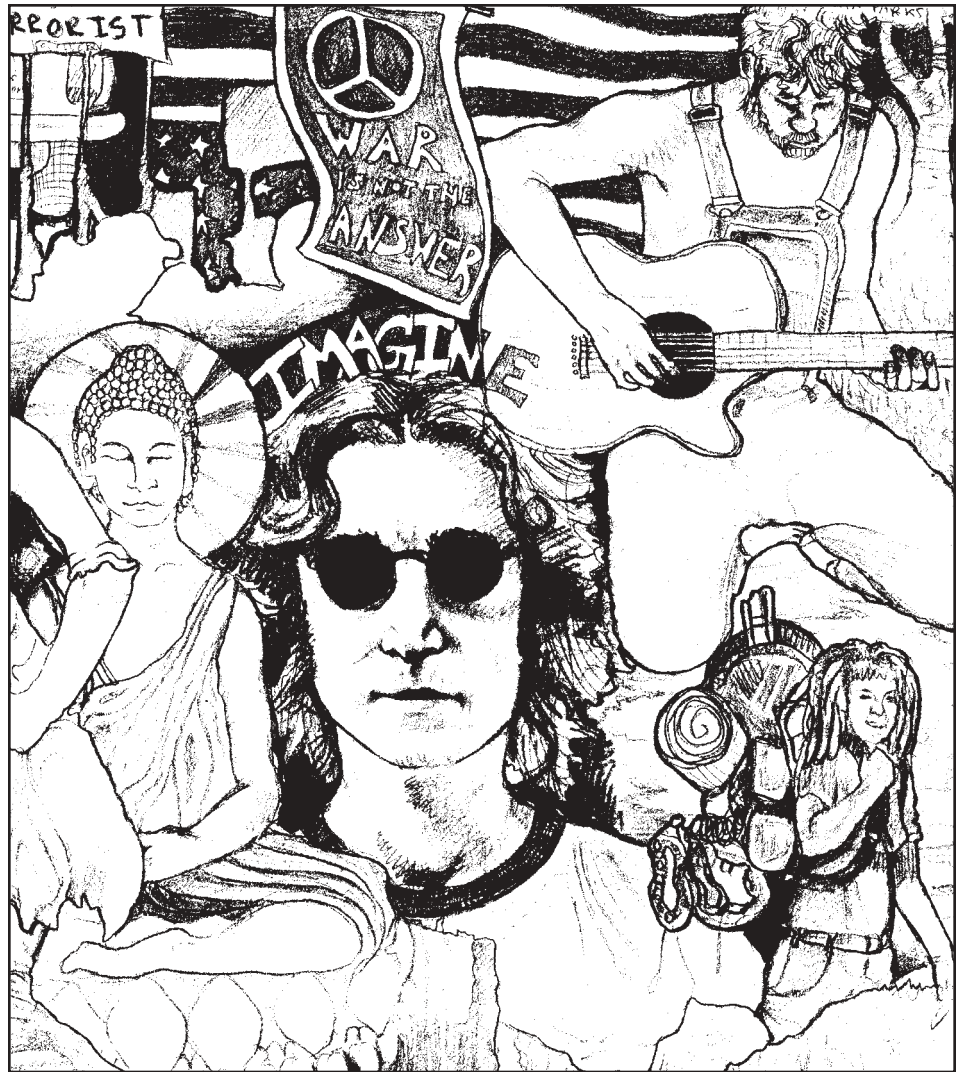
WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS

R.O.P. classes are available to all students in Marin. The Regional Occupational Program is one of the excellent programs provided by the Marin County Office of Education and offers many high school and adult classes throughout the county. R.O.P. provides courses in the following career pathways: Arts & Communications, Business & Marketing, Health & Biosciences, Service Occupations, and Technology & Engineering. Learning work place skills makes it possible to obtain jobs and explore fields of interest.

Classes offered at Redwood High School are Teaching Occupations, Construction/ Remodeling Technology, Computer Graphics & Multimedia Technology, and Engineering Projects. ROP not only gives students the chance to gain experience in an area of interest, it also makes them aware of new options in beginning the process of considering a future career. In addition, students can earn credits, if needed, to graduate from high school or use course experiences and internships for college applications. There is no fee. Ask Judy Bloch for a list of classes. Students should plan to sign up now for spring 2003 R.O.P. elective courses. These courses provide hands-on training in all aspects of the work environment. To enroll in a class or to get more information, students should meet with Judy Bloch, the College/Career Specialist. For additional R.O.P. information, go to

<http://mcoeweb.marin.k12.ca.us/rop/>

In additional, the School-to-Career Program offers student internships. The county of Marin provides the Tamalpais Union High School District with several liaisons to assist students with placements. See Judy Bloch for an application.



Art detail by Nina Basker

MATH SUPPORT

Beginning with the Class of 2004 (this year's Juniors), the state of California will require all students receiving a high school diploma to pass the Exit Exam and to complete at least one year of Algebra. At Tamiscal, in addition to weekly math appointments or classes, students receive additional support:

◆ Weekly group instruction seminars taught by Donna, Jon, and Richard in Algebra, Geometry, and Advanced Algebra for both our independent study students and our TEAM students.

◆ Support in SIS (Supervised Independent Study) from Maureen Johansson, our new instructional assistant.

Students have asked if the weekly group instruction seminars are optional. We have committed substantial resources to provide these support programs and expect students to participate unless the math teacher indicates otherwise.

PEER ADVICE

By Gussie Jonckheer

After meeting a plethora of different people, traveling all over the world, transferring schools, and hanging out with my older siblings and their friends most of my life, I have come to the conclusion that there are six different steps that teenagers should focus on to help them improve relationships with friends, get along with parents, have higher self esteem, be happy, find balance in life, and accept everything that comes in and out of their lives. After doing a lot of thinking, writing, reading (especially Stephen Covey's, *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*), watching Oprah, and going to many therapy sessions, I've taken Covey's steps and applied them to common situations that teenagers face.

The first is to love your self. It makes life so much easier when you can accept yourself for who you are and what you represent. Loving yourself will also make it a lot easier for other people to love you. If you are the kind of person who goes around putting yourself down, people will look at you in a whole different light. Most people don't want to be around that kind of energy and will not want to hang out with you. Also, you can never love someone else if you don't love yourself. You can try and try, but eventually you will come to the conclusion that before you can focus on the other person, you need to focus on yourself.

The second step is to be proactive. It is important to take responsibility for your life and actions. This involves not letting people walk all over you, and setting boundaries. It is important to be in control of your side of the situation and never let anyone talk you down if you really believe strongly in something. Think before you act and try not to let other people offend you. It goes back to the first step of loving yourself. That accomplished, it will be much easier to not get offended by others.

The third step is to put first things first. Prioritize and do the most important things first. I have learned the hard

way that procrastinating doesn't get you anywhere, because the chances that you are eventually going to have to produce are good. It feels so much better to get your homework done, or do your errands, or even clean your room, as soon as the issue comes up. If you leave it to later, you will probably be thinking about it (maybe subconsciously) and may not even enjoy the time that you are having, while knowing you have to do it. Putting first things first can also help you to overcome peer pressure. If you know what you want and don't want, you will find that you are much more focused. You won't let others talk you into doing something you don't really want to do.



Art by Jordan Zadfar

The fourth step is to think win-win. This step goes back to the first one of loving yourself. If you have a positive attitude and know there's nothing you can't handle or accomplish, your attitude will rub off on other people. I have found that people are attracted to others who have high self-esteem and hold their heads high. When you think negative thoughts it can bring you down and bad things can happen to you.

The fifth step is to seek first to understand, then be understood. Communication is a huge tool that is part of every relationship. Understanding people is all about listening to them. People love to know that they have the security of being able to tell you something and know that you are truly listening. It also helps to get

issues off their backs. Being able to genuinely listen to someone and comprehend the things they are saying is such an important skill. It is another trait that will attract people to you. If you can listen to someone, it will help you in your communication skills. It can help you understand what the other person is saying and you will be able to reply naturally. You will have a better relationship with your parents and the people around you. If you have good communication and listening skills, you will go far in life.

The last step is to renew yourself every once and a while. I have found that when I spend a lot of time doing schoolwork, going to work, and focusing on my friends' issues, I often lose myself. It is important to take time out for you. Caring for your body can be a major part in this cycle. Knowing how you feel and expressing that is much more important than how you look. Around here, the majority of teens focus on how they look, before how they feel, and that is a big no-no! This last step is a combination of all the other steps: being a good communicator, putting first things first, and loving yourself. If you truly love your self, you will care more about how you feel than how others make you feel. Never keep your feelings in. If you tell someone how you feel and they put it down or don't listen, then you probably don't want them as a friend, anyway. If they can't accept you for you, including your feelings, lose them!

I am still adding to my list everyday and learning more and more about people. It is such a rush for me to watch others and how they treat each other. I am a strong believer that these steps will help anyone lead a more successful and happy life. I try to share my knowledge with others as much as I can. Some love it and others have no idea what I'm even talking about. I have met some fabulous friends this way, and am so happy at this time in my life. To me, every day is a learning experience, and I am thankful for what I know and stand for.

E-Scrip - Easy Money!

Have you joined SCRIP?? It's easy. Simply do one of the following: Register on line (www.escrip.com) or register by phone (800-592-0942) or stop by the office and pick up a form. Every time you use your credit cards at any of almost 100 stores, Tamiscal will automatically receive between 2% and 10% of what you spend. Please take two minutes to fill out one simple form. The scrip money will help provide your student with many benefits!

Support from our local bookstore!

Do you remember that Tamiscal is a School Link Partner with Book Passage? Our customer # is 31. Read on to discover some of the benefits of our partnership. Tamiscal receives a monthly rebate check for 5% on every purchase made in the previous month with our school identified as the beneficiary. This is an inclusive program which credits purchases on new books, maps, calendars, greeting cards, stationery, travel accessories, gift items, cassettes and CD's, and all café purchases.

REMEMBER - Our customer # is 31!



Art by Jordan Zadfar

Tamiscal Times

Tamiscal High School

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