

# Tamiscal *times*

Fall 2003  
Volume 15/Issue 1

## **Message from the Principal**

The 2003-04 school year has gotten off to a great start during the first quarter. First of all, 59% of our students are new to Tamiscal, and they have enriched the campus climate with their enthusiasm and unique qualities. We welcome all of the new students and their families to the Tamiscal/TEAM community, and we thank all of you for your active participation, attendance at Orientation and Back-to-School Night and Team's fall potluck and slide show. This year Patchen's group entertained us with a videotape of the wilderness trip; it was almost like being there—without the blisters!

## **STAFF UPDATE**

We are very fortunate to have the same talented staff returning this year. It's great to have Erica Wild on board as our Clerk IV after her long-term substitute position last year. Thanks to the letter and e-mail writing efforts last year, the state budget cuts did not take a devastating hit on the Tam district and other basic aid districts in California. This reprieve meant that we could keep our library clerk, Cythea Harrison Homitz; our instructional assistant in SIS, Maureen Johannson; and our College/Career Specialist, Judy Bloch.

It seems like everything is running smoothly on campus. With Traci Williams returning for sixteen hours per week, we have a strong counseling team made up of Susan Berkhout, academic counselor, Judy Bloch, College/Career Specialist, and Traci Williams as Full Circle counselor. They have been very busy conferring with students and parents. Please feel free to contact any of them for information or assistance.

## **NEW SITE**

How great to have our new facility at 305 Doherty completed and fully in use. The other schools in the district are still in the middle of their modernization projects which will ultimately serve their students and staff very well. We welcome your participation in planning for landscaping and other needed improvements to the new school. Thanks to Cythea, the Tamiscal library continues to grow and provide needed resources for students doing research projects and other assignments. State library funds were drastically reduced, and we welcome your donations.

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***NEW DISTRICT DATABASE SOFTWARE  
PROGRAM — POWER SCHOOL***

Again, thanks for your patience during this period of transition, as the district switches to a common database. We will have much better access to student records when students transfer from one school to another. Tamiscal is also piloting a new attendance and student-progress software program, which should help parents monitor weekly assignment sheets to be sure students are caught up on their independent study assignments.

***NEW MATH AND SCIENCE GROUPS***

This year, we have added math to our pilot of the group instructional model that we established last year for Integrated Science. We hope that the additional teacher contact time will help students be more successful. However, Tamiscal still operates as independent study, and students are expected to complete hours of math work outside the group time. We encourage students to take advantage of SIS with Maureen and tutoring on Monday and Friday mornings from 8:30 to 9:30 with volunteer math tutor, Don Krieder. Peer tutors are also available for math support. See Donna for names.

***LEADERSHIP***

We have an enthusiastic and hard-working Leadership group this year to plan activities which bring the student body and staff together. Tamiscal is unique among independent study schools in addressing the importance of establishing a sense of school unity. We believe that independent study offers students a strategy for meeting their own individual learning needs. At the same time, students benefit from opportunities to socialize and learn with one another to avoid a sense of isolation. With this in mind, we have designed our new school with a large meeting space, The Hub, for classes, activities, and socializing. Team is built around shared activities. Independent Study held its fall overnight retreat and is planning a visit later this year to the Museum of Tolerance and Getty Museum in Los Angeles. We encourage students to plan visits to museums, environmental projects, and other community-based resources to supplement the work undertaken at school.

Please feel free to contact me by phone, e-mail, in person, or with a note if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns. We believe that a large part of Tamiscal's success is based on the team effort among staff, parents, and students.

Marcie Miller  
*Principal*

## **YOUR COLLEGE/CAREER CENTER**

by Judy Bloch

Do you know what services are available to your student? Your full service center offers the following college and career assistance. Judy Bloch, who is a certified UC Berkeley College Admissions Advisor, offers conferences which explore: developing the college list, admissions testing, financial aid information, and writing the college essay. She maintains a college/career reference library of books, videos and CD's, all of which can be checked out. Applications, college catalogs, scholarships and financial aid forms are available here as well.

Working with the Marin County School-to-Career program, students are offered internship placements, job shadow experiences, and career orientated field trips. In addition, The Marin County Regional Occupational Program provides students with the opportunity of taking additional high school classes on other campuses. These free classes include: arts and communications, business and marketing, health and bioscience, service occupations and technology and engineering. Students sign-up and complete the application forms through the College/Career Center.

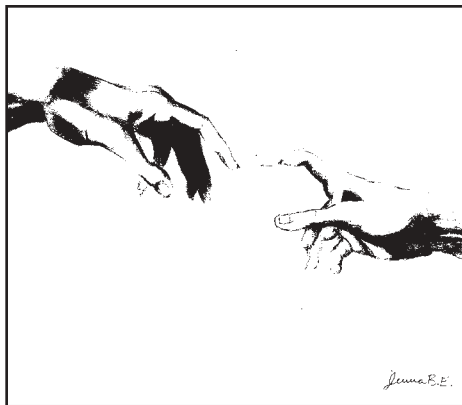
Judy also offers career searches, resume writing assistance, job listings, and issues yearly work permits. Students who are working can participate in the WEEP (Work Experience Education Program), earning high school credit for every 18 hours of work. Judy coordinates this program and administers the curriculum. Five students participated in this program last year.

Call Judy at 945-3779 to make an appointment or to gather more information about any of the above listed opportunities.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE November 2003**

For further information about all of these scholarship opportunities, contact Judy Bloch at 945-3779.

1. Coca Cola Scholars Program for 250 outstanding seniors. This is to be used as a four year (due Oct. 31) or two year college (due May 31). Application is online at <http://www.cocacolascholars.org/>
2. Intel Science Search holds a talent search for their awards. The deadline for entry is Nov. 19.
3. The local Soroptimist Club wishes



Art by Jenna Breitbart

to recognize young women who have given their time volunteering. This scholarship, which requires an essay, is due Dec. 1.

4. Toyota Motor Sales offers a scholarship to seniors who have a grade point average above a 3.0 and who are actively involved in community service. This student must be nominated by their high school and be planning on attending a four year university. This application is due on Dec. 5.

5. AXA Achievement Scholarship is offered by US New & World Report to seniors who have "made a difference" and have demonstrated achievement outside the classroom (at a job, sport or extracurricular activity). Go to <http://www.axaachievement.com> for the application which is due by Dec. 15.

6. Burger King wishes to honor seniors

who have a 2.5 or higher GPA, works an average of 15 hours a week, and is involved in some other activity (related to community service or school).

7. The Don H. Splawn grant program is offered to financially disadvantaged seniors who plan to attend a community college or vocational institution (art school, fashion school, etc.). Application available in the College/Career Center and is due by December 19. A 2-3 page essay is required.

8. Discover Card Tribute Award is for JUNIORS. The qualifications are: a GPA of over a 2.75 for the 9th & 10th grades for students who are multi-talented, have experienced significant challenges and who are giving back to their communities. Applications are available in the College/Career Center and are due on January 9.

9. The California Association of Educational Office Professionals offers financial assistance to students who wish to study business administration or education. Students should have maintained a 2.0 GPA, be involved in outside school activities, and have applied to a four year school. Applications include an essay and are due on or before January 15.

10. Scholarships are available for students who wish to spend time in 35 foreign countries after graduation. The Youth for Understanding USA offers grants to seniors after graduation, for an academic semester, or summer. Go to <http://www.yfuusa.org/> for more information.

11. If you have a GPA of over 3.3, see Judy about the All-American Scholar Program.

## **FINANCIAL AID FOR SENIORS**

by Judy Bloch

**THE PROFILE:** Many private colleges use the Financial Aid Profile to award non-federal student aid funds. Students will need to begin the process by deciding which private colleges they will be applying to for admission and financial aid. The student then determines whether the school he/she applies to requires the Profile by checking the list in the Profile Registration form available in the College/Career Center.

This one page registration form is available now. The student will provide some basic information through the Internet or by telephone and the College Board will generate a customized financial aid application. On the Profile Registration form, the student lists all of the schools he/she is applying to that want him/her to use the Profile Service. There will be a registration fee of \$7 (\$5 if registration is online) and an additional \$18 for each school or program to which a student wants information sent. The Tamiscal school code is 051396.

For more information call 1-800-778-6888 or visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/> to register via the Internet.

### ***These forms should be filled out NOW.***

**FAFSA:** Families must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to initiate the financial aid application process. This is the form that every financial aid applicant must eventually fill out to establish eligibility for federal aid and, for private schools not using The Profile, and for institutional and state aid as well. Your family may need to complete both forms.

This free form will be available soon in The College/Career Center but cannot be mailed until January 1. For maximum efficiency return the form in the early winter months. The FAFSA is a four page form that asks questions about the family's income and assets, and about the student's college plans. The completed application is sent to a federal processor. About

2-4 weeks later, the family will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) containing its calculated Family Contribution. On this form, parents are given the opportunity to make corrections on their tax figures and add and delete colleges then resubmit the information. There is no charge for this service. The FAFSA can also be completed via the Internet using <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>www.fafsa.ed.gov. However, it may not be available this early.

**FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE:** Once the colleges receive the information that has been given on the PROFILE and/or the FAFSA (which calculated the expected family contribution), they will notify the family of its financial aid package. This usually consists of; grant money, work/study (a job on campus) and loans.

**GPA VERIFICATION FORM:** In order to receive Cal Grant A,B, or C from the state of California, students must complete the free Grade Point Average Verification Form. This form will be available in the CCCenter and must be filed by March 2. For students with a 3.0 GPA and financial need, the Cal Grant program (used in conjunction with the FAFSA) promises to pay for public school tuition and \$9708 (last year) toward the private school tuition. Students with a 2.0 GPA may also apply. The GPA is calculated using a students' sophomore and junior grades only (summer school included). This form cannot be completed online.

**MARIN EDUCATION FUND:** We are very fortunate to have this organization in our county. As a Marin resident you can use the services provided at 1010 "D" St., San Rafael, free of charge. Informational workshops and clinics are offered as a community service. You do need to pre-register at 459-4240 x239 for their workshops on financial aid basics, scholarships and/or college choices. Go to their website at <http://www.marineducationfund.org/> for a full description.

## **PSAT NEWS**

Tamiscal, TEAM, and San Andreas High School students (34 in all) met in the Hub on Saturday, October 18 to take the PSAT (The Preliminary SAT). Prior to the test, they were all given a student bulletin which gave them directions about what they were to bring on test day; pencils, calculator and their social security numbers. In addition, College Board provided them with a full length practice test giving them an opportunity to take both the verbal and math portions including answering the grids properly.

The scores will be sent to Tamiscal in 4 to 6 weeks. Judy will give the results to the students. They will also receive their answers and their test booklet. This is a very important tool because they can see what they got wrong and what they need to study more thoroughly.

## **TAMISCAL WEBSITE UPDATE**

An excellent source of information about our school is located on our website <http://www.tamiscal.org/>. It has everything you need, from our school calendar to college and career information. The website has been recently updated, as of October 28, 2003, so everything is hot off the press! Go take a look, you will be impressed! In addition, you can access our district news by going to <http://www.tamdistrict.org/>, another rich source of information.

## **A SPECIAL THANKS TO PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

*School Site Council:* Nicki Evatz, Cynthia Wright, and Amy Castagna  
*Website:* Dena Van der Veer  
*Tamiscal Directory:* Dena Van der Veer  
*Snack Shopper:* Nancy Culhane  
*Retreat Food Shopper:* Sondra Engle  
*Back to School Night Set-up:* Victoria Williams  
*Tamiscal Times:* Nancy Legge Silverman, Deborah Breitbach and Timothy Feder

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

by Susan Berkhout

### **Parents: Some Important Instructions**

First about report cards which came out recently. Independent study awards credit as we go, so it is very important that you look at your child's report card and look beyond just the grades. Students should have completed 2.5 credits in each of their courses by the end of the first quarter. Check to see if 2.5 is listed in the credit column, and if you see 2.0 or 1.5 or something else, this means that your student is behind in this course. In most cases the teachers will have flagged this for you in the comments by saying "credit reduced – missing assignments" or some similar comment.

**Mail:** Please open your mail when it has the Tamiscal return address. Many times we are sending you information that your child has been assigned to Supervised Independent Study or a form that we need filled out and returned. Most recently we sent out information about junior conference times and the parent support group meetings which began Monday, October 27, 2003.

**Senior Chats:** Judy Bloch (college/career) and I have met with all seniors who signed up for their chats. There are a few students who have just transferred to Tamiscal who are seniors, and they should sign up for a chat on the white board outside my office ASAP. There are also one or two returning Tamiscal seniors who never signed up for a chat—you know who you are!

**Junior Conferences:** Every junior should have received a letter outlining when junior conferences are available. During this conference we look at transcripts, discuss post-high-school plans, SAT testing, make recommendations for courses to take in the future, and help students begin to get comfortable with thinking beyond their high school graduation. We need to complete these conferences by Friday, November 22, 2003 because we will be moving on to complete our early action/early decision college applications. If your child has

just transferred to Tamiscal at the quarter and is a junior, s/he should come in to set up a conference.

**Seniors Applying to UC/CSU:** The websites are open and Judy prepared a bright orange flyer with instructions. Please go on line and complete your applications ASAP. It is wise to ask for a transcript at the main office so that you can be sure that you are reporting the correct grades. The applications are due November 30, but we highly recommend that you submit your application before Thanksgiving

**College Recommendations/School Reports:** We need at least 3 weeks notice to complete recommendations and school reports. Our deadline for January 1st applications is November



Art by Jordan Zadfar

19th which is only 3 weeks before the end of the semester when you take out Thanksgiving recess. We do not write recommendations or do school work over our Christmas break!

If you have questions relating to transcripts, courses, graduation progress etc. call Susan 945-3757

If you have questions about financial aid, specific colleges, entrance requirements, testing call Judy 945-3779

If you or your child needs support or help with stress or any other personal problem call Traci 945-3762.

## **MATH HELP IS HERE!**

On Monday and Friday mornings from 8:30 – 9:30, independent study students can get extra help with their math assignments. Math tutor, Don Kreider, will work with students in the Hub on Mondays and Room 2 on Fridays. Questions? Contact Donna Alexander, 945-3758. Peer tutoring in math is also available. Students interested in peer tutoring should also contact Donna Alexander.

## **SIS CAN ASSIST**

Supervised Independent Study (SIS) tutor, Maureen Johansson is available to work with students on assignments every week at the following times: Tuesday: 1-3; Wednesday: 10-2 and Thursday: 1-3.

## **FULL CIRCLE COUNSELOR**

by Traci Williams

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Traci Williams and I am the Full Circle Counselor at Tamiscal High School. I am currently working toward a license in Marriage and Family Therapy. I am here as a support to the students of Tamiscal and family members.

As a family member you are welcome to meet with me individually or as a family. Please feel free to call me anytime to set up an appointment or just to talk with me on the phone.

Additionally, we will have a monthly parent support group. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Tamiscal.

Again, don't hesitate to call if you would like to talk. My direct line is (415) 945-3762. I am at Tamiscal Monday through Thursday. Thank you.

## SIERRA TRIP JOURNAL

by Elizabeth Arzouni, TEAM student

If I were to sum up the Sierra trip into one phrase it would be, “always expect the unexpected.” I had many expectations before we began our journey, but once we did begin, many of them fell away. One expectation I had that was fulfilled was bonding with my Teamie’s. Over the course of eleven days we did more than just bond, we became a big family from the loving to the bickering. In spite of our differences, we all came back loving each other. I expected that backpacking would be physically difficult for me, but I was wrong. We were all able to pace ourselves, and no matter where you were in line it was always a joy to talk to whomever was in front or behind. I never doubted that the trip wouldn’t have been fun.

There are personal moments and group moments that both compete as the most important. We were more significant as a group than individually. There were many wonderful moments spent together around campfires, and especially the one-day we all successfully climbed to the top of Tower Peak. I recall the last night around the campfire. We played a game where one person asked a question then everyone went around and answered it. At that moment, we all got a bit more insight into each other when random questions were asked. Questions such as, Why is the sky blue? or What is beauty? Define it—could be answered differently depending on someone’s perspective. Some of us were silly and some of us were incredibly insightful. Then there was Craig — with his Nalgene bottle drum creating an awesome beatnik, laid back vibe.

Humans are like the butterfly that I observed by the creek on the last day at lunch. I needed some time to write in my journal so I wandered down to the creek by myself. I saw a beautiful butterfly flutter down beside me. Watching it, I noticed that the butterfly was very much like us on our trip. The out-sides of its wings were a speckled grey, and when they were closed, the butterfly was hardly noticeable beyond the .rocks. Yet when the wings were open they were a brilliant array of oranges, with black around the inside edges and a hint of grey here and there. Like humans, we are



Lisa Bezey caught in action during TEAM’s trip in the Sierras.

more remarkable when we open up and share our thoughts, emotions, and anything else unique. Then again, when we are closed like the butterfly’s wings, we blend into the homogenization of the world.

Stella opened up and we bonded wondrously. When we began spending time together, outside of just cooking we had a great time. We established a friendship that will continue for years and years. We met on the same level during many discussions and I think that she is an awesome person with a rare spirit. Stella gave me inspiration and helped me deal with many issues on the trip. I knew that if I was feeling frustrated, I could go to Stella and she would either say something brilliant and insightful, or make me

laugh. We had a great time together. She understands many different views with an open-mind. When I was having issues with Iain and Jamai, Stella supported my opinion whether she agreed with it or not. She spoke up for me when I wouldn’t and helped me resolve a situation I couldn’t have figured out without her. I deeply admire Stella for being who she truly is.

I felt as though I had great bonding moments with everyone, except maybe Iain. I wish that I’d had a better chance to get to know him without our difference of mind standing in the way. We are both very strongly opinionated people and in this way, we clash.

Before we left from the car camping, Sivi told us all something that I will never forget. She modestly said, “Don’t let anything pass you by that later you’ll say, damn I wish would’ve done that.” I absorbed what she’d said and thought about it often. I couldn’t go home regretting even blissful simplicity like jumping into a freezing cold lake because the feeling afterward was exuberant I am pleased to say, I wouldn’t have done one thing differently. The trip unfolded in many interesting ways, and in everyway I learned something and took it away with me forever.

Living in the mountains cannot be compared to anything but heaven. Mother Nature herself is heaven on earth. I miss the complicated simplicity of the wilderness. I miss the unexpected path that we would encounter everyday. I miss waking up in the morning to the cold, and the warm smiles on everyone’s faces. I gained the experience of a lifetime that I will share the rest of my life with thirteen other companions.

## **OUR DREAM IS \$\$\$\$\$ FOR TAMISCAL**

*by Nola Hague*

As we discussed at Back to School Night, we really do need to ask all the families who make up the larger Tamiscal family to make a financial contribution. Across California and across our district purses have been tightened, but the Tamiscal staff has risen to the challenge and maintained the basic services for our students. The problem is there are areas for which no funding is available.

### ***What's an appropriate giving level?***

We need each family to donate \$500 this year to help us reach our Tamiscal Fund goal of \$50,000. We know that we all recognize the tremendous value students and parents are getting from the Tamiscal experience. \$500 annually is less than \$50 a month.

### ***Where would we spend the money?***

One of the most urgent needs is one that could not be met by modernization dollars: landscaping and a back fence for the campus. Estimates for those expenses are about \$40,000. We can all imagine what a different experience our students and staff will have with landscaping that complements our wonderful new buildings. Those physical plant needs are just one possible way the Tamiscal Fund money can be used.

One of the other very important needs is the Tamiscal Library. Students doing independent study and creative programs really need good resources to work with. They need subscriptions to specialized online research tools as well as good books. All the creativity and individuality that our staff and students have, needs to be supported by strong research tools.

Another possible use of the Tamiscal Fund is for special offsite trips for students. The main off-site project each year is the Fall Retreat which gives the students and staff a chance to spend time together and to get to know each other better. It would

be really terrific if we had the funds to host one additional event during the year. We would also like to see more field trips to complement our students' classroom work -- gallery visits, science activities, concerts, plays and other special events. These off-site activities give students important educational and social opportunities. Also, Tamiscal has a population of students with very specialized skills. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the teachers and students could go to events to see their classmates in performance -- theater, ballet, music?

### ***How do students themselves contribute?***

Currently, the group raising money for student projects is the Leadership Class. Their main focus is to raise money for the LA trip to visit the Museum of Tolerance and the Getty Museum. They are working hard to raise those funds. Please support the car washes and other events they organize.

### ***What's the Next Step?***

Write that check today! Make it out to the Tamiscal Fund and mail it to:

Tamiscal High School  
305 Doherty Drive  
Larkspur, CA 94939

Thanks for your support! Together we can reach our goal and make all of these improvements!

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SITE COUNCIL MEETING**

*by Nicki Evatz*

- Our Student Council is making plans for the Tamiscal sweatshirt. It will be hooded with a choice of colors: royal blue with white lettering or white with royal blue lettering. There will be a quotation on the back and the Tamiscal logo with Mt. Tam on the front.
- Susan Berkhout and Judy Bloch attended the Cal State Conference and the University of California Conference. Both institutions have had to make monetary cutbacks. Now, if a student's GPA falls below

2.0, the student is asked to leave and does not get a period of academic probation. Also, at this time, California Community College students are not sure of getting transferred into the UC system even if they have the approved grade point average. Colleges are starting to request dual enrollment; that is, in order to transfer to a four-year California university after they have received their AA degree, students must apply at the same time to both the community college and a UC or CSU college.

- We still need a volunteer to reconcile the Tamiscal Fund bank account on Quicken each month. If you are interested, please contact Susan Berkhout at 945-3757.
- The next School Site Council meeting will be held on November 14 at 12:00 noon.

## **HELP! PARENT VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED**

Tamiscal depends on the active participation of parents in order to offer the full service program with our limited staff. We still have some vacant positions that need volunteers:

- *Tamiscal Fund Bookkeeper (monthly bank statement reconciliation on Quicken)*
- *Hostess Coordinator (Call parents for set-up, clean-up, and refreshments for events)*
- *Emergency Phone Tree set-up (based on Tamiscal directory)*
- *Emergency Phone Tree callers*
- *Landscape Committee Chair (Develop plan for irrigation, landscape design, purchase of plants, rocks, etc., and organize work committee to do planting)*
- *Landscape Committee members (See above—do you have a green thumb, eye for design, and/ or love for gardening?)*
- *Fundraising Committee Chair*
- *Fundraising Committee members*

If you are interested or need information about any of these tasks, leave a message for Cynthia Wright, parent rep on School Site Council, or principal Marcie Miller at 945-3750.

## **THE TAMISCAL RETREAT**

by Monique King – Leadership

Wow! What an awesome experience. The Tamiscal Retreat gave me a whole new outlook on my peers as individuals. In the two days that we spent at the Alpine Lodge I learned so many interesting things. I also got a chance to meet new people and learn more about those I already knew.

There were several different activities designed to help students get to know more about themselves and their peers. I liked the stamp art because I discovered a creativity in myself that I never knew existed until then. It allowed students to creatively express themselves in a fun and entertaining way. The writing workshop was also a good activity to help students learn about themselves. This workshop was a fun way to show students things about themselves and others in a symbolic fashion. Another activity was the colors workshop where students were given the opportunity to learn about their own unique and individual learning styles and personality traits. Last, but not least, was the hike through Muir Woods. The hike was a laid back and fun way to get to know others and gave students the chance to chat freely with whomever they wanted. The hike was not only a fun experience but, from what I heard, quite a workout as well!

In the evening there was also a variety of things for students to do. These activities ranged from baking cookies, building a campfire, looking through a telescope, listening to music played by other students, and getting the time to make new friends at Tamiscal.

Overall the purpose of the retreat was fulfilled. Students got a chance to get to know each other better, learn, be creative, work together, and have a great time doing it!



*Students gather on the deck for a group portrait during the Tamiscal retreat on Mt. Tam.*

## **THE TAMISCAL RETREAT**

by Alexandra Blakey – Leadership

My favorite event that Tamiscal organizes is the annual Tamiscal Retreat. I have been going to Tamiscal for about two years, and have been to three retreats. I have loved every one of them. On the overnight retreat, the students stay at the Alpine Lodge on Mount Tam. I only go to Tamiscal twice a week, so I usually only see the other students who also have classes on those days. These retreats are a way for me to get to meet people who I might not usually see during the week. Also, there are always fun activities for Tamiscal students to engage in. For example this year there were all sorts of different things for students to do like meditative writing, stamp art projects, baking, and a hike.

When we first arrived, everyone went into the multi-purpose room for two hours of ice-breakers facilitated by Leadership. I really enjoyed this part because everyone has fun playing the different games Leadership had come up with, especially the game “Cross the Line”. In the beginning, the students seemed a bit nervous, but by the end of the games everyone had started to relax. Then, it was time for lunch, and to sign up for the planned activities. I had a great time making cards and photo frames during Susan and Rosemary’s art group. I also

participated in Nancy’s meditative writing. This was fun because I like interpreting my writing and listening to what my classmates wrote as well.

Since I am in Leadership, after dinner I facilitated the Baking Group. I had such a good time with this! It was really great getting to know all of the people who had signed up. We used cookie cutters to cut Halloween shaped cookies out of the sugar dough that another Leadership student, Karen and I made. Then we decorated them with sprinkles, M&M’s, and marshmallows! After cleaning up, I sat in the living room, where the teachers were telling funny stories about their strangest students. Afterwards, the students in the living room got to talk about their strangest teachers.

My favorite part of the retreat was definitely the after hours activities. Everyone got in their sleeping bags and watched Jordan perform magic tricks. Some people went to the multi-purpose room to watch “Sweet Charity”, while others just stayed in the living room and talked. I had fun meeting the new students, but I also had fun getting to know other students better. Making all these new friends was definitely the greatest reward that I got from the retreat. I really enjoyed this year’s overnight retreat.

## **WELCOME TO TAMISCAL**

by Mariel Vandersteel

Two years ago I never imagined that I would be leaving the school that I had attended for half of my life, especially in my junior year of high school. But after a very stressful year of juggling academics, early mornings, and late night gigs for my music, I decided it would be for the best to go to Tamiscal.

During my last few precious weeks of summer, I began to think about what I really had gotten myself into. Was I really prepared to leave the friends I had made over the years at San Domenico? Did I really want to leave behind the close-knit community I had belonged to for so long and dive into a new situation that I knew hardly anything of? To top all that, I was going to miss the first week of school to have an amazing seven days at a fiddle camp. My mom reassured me that everything was going to be okay, and in the end, my transition would turn out fine. I didn't believe her and those fairy tale endings.

Fiddle camp came and went and it was time for my first Tamiscal experience: my meeting with Mary. Again, all the worries and questions began to creep back into my head. What is she going to be like? Will I get so much work I'll be up all night? Will I like her? Will she like me? "You'll be fine," my mom assured me. As soon as I met Mary, I liked her immediately. She welcomed me with open arms and made me feel as comfortable as I could in a new situation like this. Then I knew, maybe this whole experience wouldn't be too bad.

It took me a couple weeks to adjust to Tamiscal. It was strange having my classes only once a week when I had them everyday at my previous school. I have to admit though, my time management for my work wasn't very successful those first couple of weeks. But I'm getting the hang of it now.

And you know what? My mom was right, everything did work out. I've made new friends and found another community that supports and nourishes the people who are a part of it. My classes are fun, I've made some awesome friends, and I try not to stay up too late with my work. So now all my fears, worries, doubts no longer exist, and I bet I'll be feeling the same way I did at the beginning of this year, two years from now, when I have to leave the Tamiscal community for college.

## **TAMISCOPE: A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

**Students** – Want your work published? Artists, poets and authors, if you would like your work to be in this year's edition of *Tamiscope*, Tamiscal's literary magazine, please email all edited and formatted work to <mailto:Tamiscope@yahoo.com>.

Please include your name and an email address or phone number where you can be reached.

All art and poetry accepted. Please no short stories or short editorials longer than three pages.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

The Marin Education Fund, an organization in San Rafael, will help you develop your college list, will assist you with financial aid and will help you explore scholarships. All of these services are available through their free workshops, usually held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Call them at 459-4240 to pre-register.

University of California has posted a free test prep page for practicing the SAT and/or the Act. Just go to California Virtual High School and you will see the link.

Our district website ([www.tamdistrict.org](http://www.tamdistrict.org)) has excellent info. regarding college including scholarship searches. Click on Parents/Students then on Student Services. On the side bar, under counseling, click on UPDATED! Links to online counseling resources. Scroll down to lots of good stuff.

## **LEADERSHIP NEWS**

by Nancy Tuhtan

Leadership class is off to a very positive start. We are 15 students representing grades 9-12. Our student Anna Hamilton is serving as the district student trustee and along with Sarah Jerbic and Katie Belway, is also on the advisory committee. Thanks Ladies!

So far this year we are working to raise funds for our March 30th trip to LA to The Museum of Tolerance and the Getty Art Museum. We had our first fundraiser last month – a carwash - and we made \$300.00! Thanks again to the parents and staff who stopped by to have their cars washed. Leadership students facilitated the welcoming activities of our annual retreat on Mt. Tam. The retreat was again successful in bringing students together who may not ordinarily meet each other at the school site. As usual everyone came back sleep deprived, but happy.

We are now forming committees for prom and yearbook activities. In addition, each student is working on communication and problem solving skills. Being a "group" at Tamiscal has a whole different dynamic. On the whole, everyone has been cooperative and collaborative in the process of coming together. We will start planning our activities next week and will be needing parent volunteers for such things as catering the prom (the last two years our prom was catered by parent Sandy Westin), help with decorating, help with yearbook and help with Barbecue Week in the Spring. So if you have some free time and would like to help, let me or your student know. We will keep you all posted!

## ***E-Scrip — Easy Money for Tamiscal!***

***There is no easier way to contribute \$\$\$ to Tamiscal than to join the eScrip program. Every time you use your credit cards at almost 100 stores, Tamiscal will automatically receive between 2% and 10% of what you spend!***

***All you have to do is register, There are three simple ways to do it:***

- 1) On-line at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)***
- 2) By phone at 800/592-0942***
- 3) Stop by the Tamiscal office and pick up a one page form***

***If you register on-line or by phone, the Tamiscal group I.D. number is 138042488.***

***Every purchase you make will make a difference. Register today!***



*Art by Jordan Zadfar*

***Tamiscal Times  
Tamiscal High School***

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