



## New DISD Grading Policy

DISD has announced a new grading policy. You can learn more at DISD's website: [www.dallasisd.org/academics/gradepolicy.htm](http://www.dallasisd.org/academics/gradepolicy.htm). Meetings and training sessions have been scheduled for employees to further discuss the appropriate methods required to apply the new policy. SEM will work diligently to apply the new policy while simultaneously maintaining the academic standards and expectations of the Advanced Placement Program. Alan Gilkes, chairman of the SEM Site Based Decision Making Team and Senior Engineer at Texas Instruments, has met with district personnel and is welcoming your questions and concerns via email at [agilkes@alum.mit.edu](mailto:agilkes@alum.mit.edu). Once the information regarding this policy is finalized for distribution, SEM parents will be notified. The PTSA thanks Mr. Gilkes for supporting SEM on this important issue.

## Courses, Credits and College Planning Night

The next SEM PTSA meeting program will focus on credits, courses and college planning. Ms. Kashyap, SEM Counselor, will provide an overview and answer student and parent questions. All SEM students and parents are invited. When? Tuesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Townview auditorium.

## Clubs and Activities at SEM

Check in regularly at the SEM website for news on clubs and other activities at SEM. So far, the following have been posted: Academic Decathlon, Debate, Drama, Student Newspaper and Robotics. Please contact the teachers listed for additional information.

## NSBE Jr.

The National Society of Black Engineers has a Pre-College Initiative to high school students interested in engineering. New SEM teacher Larry Veal Jr. is the faculty advisor for NSBE Jr at SEM and is encouraging SEM students to join. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mr. Veal. [pci.nsbe.org](http://pci.nsbe.org)

## Fundraising Opportunity

SEM PTSA has been given the opportunity to raise money by selling food snacks and drinks to all parents and students attending Parent-Teacher Conferences on Monday, October 13. We will need a few volunteers to help. Sign up at the September 16 PTSA meeting or contact Marguerite Buccino at [semptsa\\_mb@yahoo.com](mailto:semptsa_mb@yahoo.com) or (214) 351-4072.

## SEM Graduation

SEM graduation will be held at McFarlin Auditorium on June 10. All DISD schools have moved their dates back in response to a mandate that graduation ceremonies be after the end of the school year. SEM has explored some alternative graduation sites, but found most of them to be more expensive than the current venue. Churches are not seen as a good choice as this can be divisive among different denominations. This year's senior class numbers 112. If you are aware of a very low-cost venue for this year or the future please contact Mrs. Wells.

## SEM Unveils New Website

At the SEM PTSA meeting last week, Mrs. Wells and Ms. Cadenhead unveiled the impressive, new SEM website: [www.semagnetschool.org](http://www.semagnetschool.org). The site not only allows the school to present a wealth of information, but also includes tools for teachers to post assignments, for students and parents to communicate with teachers via email, Moodle, an e-learning software platform, and much more. Most parts of the site are still in development, but now that the site is up, the school and the teachers will be building it out in the weeks ahead.

## Thanks!

Thanks to parents Dianna Krueger, Thelma McCoy and Toni Lewis for organizing the faculty appreciation dinner on September 26. Dianna and Thelma put on a wonderful meal for the teachers and Toni arranged for a harpist and a massage therapist for the teachers and staff.

Up and coming harpist Barbara Rizpah, a graduate of UNT, has performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as part of the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead program. [www.rizpah.net](http://www.rizpah.net)

Massage therapist Lisa Week owns Love Thyself Day Spa in Richardson. [www.lovetheyourselfdayspa.com](http://www.lovetheyourselfdayspa.com)

## Are We Running Out of Helium?

According to Lee Sobotka, professor of chemistry and physics at Washington University in St. Louis, helium is being depleted so rapidly in the world's largest reserve, outside of Amarillo, Texas., that supplies are expected to be gone there within the next eight years.

Source: <http://news-info.wustl.edu/tips/page/normal/10754.html>

## Is Your AP Score Report Complete?

For students who have now taken two or three sets of APs, the report you received in July should contain all the tests taken over the years. However, if you did not include your social security number they are not able to link the information. Please contact the AP to correct this. AP scholar certificates will come out in September although it is still possible to correct the information later.

## Paying for College Student Resource Guide

U.S. Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Congressional District 34 California, has published a student resource guide with an extensive list of available scholarships, internships, fellowships, website and books available. [www.house.gov/roybal-allard/2008\\_Scholarship\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.house.gov/roybal-allard/2008_Scholarship_Guide.pdf)

## Two Faculty Opportunities

The American Society of Microbiology is offering two programs for teachers [www.facultyprograms.org](http://www.facultyprograms.org):

- ♦ **Bioinformatics in the Undergraduate Curriculum.** The ASM and US Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute (US-DOE-JGI) will provide two faculty development programs on bioinformatics in undergraduate education in 2009. Application deadline for March 2009 institute: November 15, 2008. Application deadline for June 2009 institute: February 15, 2009.
- ♦ **Learning Interventions Institute - Why do some science students succeed and others do not?** Application deadline: October 1, 2008.

## AARP Foundation Women's Scholarship Program

The program provides scholarship funds to women 40+ seeking new job skills, training, and educational opportunities to support themselves and their families. The AARP Foundation Women's Scholarship Program is available to eligible individuals with moderate to lower incomes and limited financial resources. [www.aarpfoundationwlc.org](http://www.aarpfoundationwlc.org)

## Ancient Solutions to Modern Day Stresses

Stressing over homework and exams? Yoga and meditation are centuries-old health practices that help many people to relieve stress and anxiety. Learn more here: [http://www.everydayhealth.com/alternative-health/mind-body-connection/yoga-and-meditation-for-stress.aspx?xid=nl\\_EverydayHealthEmotionalHealth\\_20080809](http://www.everydayhealth.com/alternative-health/mind-body-connection/yoga-and-meditation-for-stress.aspx?xid=nl_EverydayHealthEmotionalHealth_20080809)

## Dallas Uptown Youth Orchestra Fall Auditions

Now accepting string students all levels and ages 8 – 18. Auditions will be held September 6 & 13. Classes start September 13. Contact Gayle Punch at 214-823-4269 or [gaylepunch@yahoo.com](mailto:gaylepunch@yahoo.com). [www.punchfamilyfoundation.org/](http://www.punchfamilyfoundation.org/)

## South Dallas Cultural Center

Part of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, the South Dallas Cultural Center (3400 S. Fitzhugh, across from Fair Park) dishes up a tasty assortment of art events. Go to the events page of [www.dallasculture.org](http://www.dallasculture.org) for a full list of events. Upcoming events include:

- ♦ **aka Chuck Siler: The Dallas Debut**, September 13-November 1: Works by renowned New Orleans artist, Chuck Siler. This exhibition is comprised of several series and a collection of Chuck's political

## Senior Peter Jung Earns Eagle Scout Award

Shortly after the end of the 2007-2008 school year, Peter completed his Boy Scout Eagle requirements. The Eagle is considered the highest award in scouting. For his required Eagle Project Peter designed and built four large book deposit boxes, with all sides shaped like an A for "Altrusa International", a women's service organization which has a primary focus on literacy. The unusual shape of the boxes made the project quite a challenge, but fit well with this SEM student's engineering interests and education. Two of the boxes were for the Downtown Dallas club and the remaining two were auctioned off at a regional meeting benefiting the international reading program and were bought by the Austin and Waco clubs. Peter started off his scouting experience with Tiger Cubs, earned his Arrow of Light as a Cub Scout and then joined troop 570 in North Dallas. He is their 99th Eagle Scout! Peter celebrated his Eagle (and turning 18) by staffing his troop's summer camp as an adult.

## ONLINE VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION - QUICK, EASY, AND NECESSARY!

All adults who volunteer at SEM in any capacity need to register online with the district. Volunteers who have registered online before will need to update their registration for the current school year. Volunteers who have never registered online before need to do so before they can help out at SEM.

Go to [www.dallasisd.org/partners](http://www.dallasisd.org/partners) and click PARTNERS/VOLUNTEERS in the left-hand frame. Follow the directions and complete the update or new registration information. Print two copies of the approval form that you receive at the end of the process. Keep one for your files and send the other to the SEM office, Attn: Partnership Coordinator.

Be sure that you check SEM as a school where you would like to volunteer, so that you will be added to the SEM list. Thank you so much for volunteering at Travis this year. You will make a difference!

# The Periodic Tabloid

cartoons that can be seen regularly in various publications.

- ♦ **Donna Angelle & The Zydeco Posse**, Saturday, September 13: A spicy zydeco band from St. Martinsville, LA featuring the dynamic Donna Angelle. This event is for all you folks who love to dance and shake-a-tailfeather! 8 p.m. \$5.
- ♦ **Jammin' at the Center**, Friday September 19: The best straight-ahead jazz jam session in North Texas. Always smoke-free, always FREE! Musicians are invited to sit in with the Jammin' house band led by Shelley Carrol. Midnight to 3 a.m. Free.

## Mathemagic

OK. So you're smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, but are you good enough to watch your math skills with a mathematician? Be dazzled by mathematician Art Benjamin.

[www.ted.com/index.php/talks/arthur\\_benjamin\\_does\\_mathemagic.html](http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/arthur_benjamin_does_mathemagic.html)

## What Do You Know?

Help us make The Periodic Tabloid a great publication.

- ♦ Do you have the scoop on an SEM student, teacher or team winning an award?
- ♦ Did you learn about an upcoming event that other SEM parents, students or teachers might want to know about?
- ♦ Did you attend a great program this summer?

Please share what you know with the Tabloid. Email your news to editor Jim Kipp at [jimkipp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimkipp@sbcglobal.net). The deadline for each week's issue is Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Thanks to Toni Lewis and Gretchen Megowen for contributions this week!

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time
M September 1	Labor Day – No School	
T September 9	PTSA Board Meeting @ Half Price Books, NW Hwy	7:00p
Tu September 16	PTSA General Meeting: Courses, Credits and College Planning	6:30p
F September 26	Staff Development Day – Student Holiday	
Th October 2	Townview College Night	6:00 – 8:00p
F October 3	First Six Weeks Ends	
F October 10	Fair Day – Student Holiday	
M October 13	Parent-Teacher Conferences	4:15 – 8:15p
M October 13	Food Sales Fundraiser During Conferences	4:00 – 8:00p
F October 17	Townview Exemplary School Celebration	10:00a – 2:00p
F October 17	Early Release	2:00p