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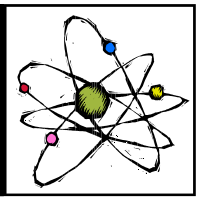
Carbon Issue

The Periodic Tabloid

A weekly publication of the SEM PTSA



Spirit Wear Sales

Next Wednesday, October 1, we will be having our Fall SEM Spirit shirt plus sweatshirt sale! ***ONE day only.*** We will be in front of the SEM office from 10:30a to 1:15p. Just like last spring, we will have some t-shirts and polos to sell AND this fall we will also have crewneck sweatshirts. Don't worry if we sell out of your size-we will be taking pre-paid orders again and will have your order ready by around October 17.

T-shirts are still $10, polos are still $15 and the crewneck sweatshirts are only $15! All the clothing is first quality, colorfast and washable. Please remember that it is CASH ONLY and PLEASE try to have correct change. See you Wednesday, October 1st!!! This is a fundraiser for the PTSA. Please help us out and get some cool SEM gear in the process. ~ *Marguerite Buccino*

SEM "Educator of the Month" Awards

The SEM PTSA has started a new initiative this year: awarding the teacher or staff person that has been the most visible the PTSA "Educator of the Month." In August, Ms. Cadenhead received this award for her work preparing the new SEM web site for its debut at the August PTSA general meeting. In September, Ms. Kashyap and Mr. Flores share this award for answering the questions submitted by parents regarding "Credits, Courses, and College" and making an informative presentation at the September PTSA general meeting. If you have a nomination for "Educator of the Month" for October, please contact PTSA Vice President, Sylvia Carlson at ddwcmd@aol.com.

Destination ImagiNation

Destination ImagiNation®, or DI as it is more commonly known, is an organization dedicated to promoting three critical life skills among learners: creativity, teamwork, and problem solving. Last year five students from Townview (four from SEM) qualified to attend the first annual Construction Challenge, advancing from the local rally to the national rally which was held in Las Vegas during Con Expo, one of the largest trade shows in the world. The team competed locally at their own (minimal) expense, but the trip to nationals was underwritten by their then assigned sponsor, Caterpillar. This year teams advancing from the Greenville rally will be going to Knoxville for finals in late May with all their expenses covered once they get themselves to Tennessee. There are also several other different types of challenges to choose from including vehicle, building, theater etc. An SEM parent and seasoned DI team manager with state experience would be glad to provide pointers and get any interested teams connected with the information they need. If you are interested in learning more, contact Gretchen Megowen at gmegowenmd@yahoo.com. You can also visit www.idodi.org.

Richardson UIL Meet - October 18th

We will be attending our first UIL meet of the year at Richardson High School on Saturday, October 18th. We will leave Townview at 6 AM and plan to return at 6 PM. There will be competitions in a variety of math, science, social studies, journalism and speech events. If students are interested in participating at the Richardson HS meet, they can sign up through their coach for each event they wish to participate in. Questions? Please contact Mr. Newton.

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to provide breakfast for SEM morning staff meetings: 11/6, 11/20, 12/4 and 12/18. Please contact Dianna Krueger at (972) 233-4189 or rainbows_01@msn.com.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve food at the fundraiser during Parent-Teacher Conferences on Monday, October 13, 4-8 p.m.. Contact Marguerite Buccino at (214) 351-4072 or semptsa_mb@yahoo.com.

Thanks!

October PTSA Meeting

The next PTSA meeting is **Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Townview auditorium. The program for the evening will be National Honor Society induction followed by more College Planning information and Q&A.

Free Night of Theater

The City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and Theatre Communications Group present the inaugural Free Night of Theater. Twenty-six theaters and more than 3,000 free tickets are available. You can reserve tickets at www.freenightoftheater.net beginning at noon on Wednesday, October 1. [Hat tip: Toni Lewis].

Are You Registered to Vote?

The 2008 General Election is Tuesday, November 4. Dallas County residents who are U.S. citizens and who will be 18 by election day are generally eligible to register to vote. The deadline to register for this year's general election is Monday, October 5 -- so don't procrastinate! Students who are 17 may register so long as they will be 18 by election day. Got to www.dalcoelections.org for information about registering to vote, checking your voter registration status, early voting, voting by mail, voting locations and more.

Parent Chaperones for UIL Meets

Throughout the year, we plan to attend approximately one academic UIL meet per month. For some of the meets, we may need parent chaperones. If you would be willing to be placed on a list of possible chaperones, please send your contact information to Mr. Newton.

Parent Perspectives

[*The following was submitted by an SEM parent, who asked to remain anonymous to avoid embarrassment to the student. If you have a perspective you would be willing to share with other SEM students and parents, please contact Jim Kipp, Newsletter Editor, at jimkipp@sbcglobal.net.*]

Did your student maybe not do as well as they expected or as well as they hoped on last spring's AP exams?

Perhaps they should be considering taking some of them again. This is particularly true if they failed to score high enough for the financial incentives or high enough to get credit at the colleges they are interested in attending (while UTD may take 3s in some subjects, places like Harvard and MIT expect 5s). The incentive money is only available once per test per student. However the reduced fee is still available for taking the second time or more.

Now is the time to start thinking about this end of years APs, since the planned AP Strategies review sessions have been set and start in November.

It is unlikely that any students are retaking the actual classes, but given the curriculum at SEM, which builds on prior learning to enable students to study more complex subjects, it may well be that their understanding of various calculus concepts has really strengthened with all the practical use they are putting this to in their current science classes. So they could well end the year with a more solid understanding of Calculus than they had at the end of last year.

Last year, my student took advantage of the Computer Science modules during the Saturday review sessions to improve his score with minimal other studying.

Some parents may not have been aware of the offered review sessions in years past and so were not able to influence their students to attend. In addition to helping with the AP exams, students have often been able to earn extra credit in relevant classes by attending.

Students should ask themselves if they might be better prepared this year, or if it is important to them, whether they want to put in some study time to try to improve their scores. Time will tell, but my student has talked about taking several of the exams again and there is at least one I will be pushing.

Since APs are the way most SEM students are able to spend fewer years in college [or at least separate themselves from other college applicants], it may be worth talking about at your house.

Fullerenes

Fullerenes are a family of carbon allotropes, molecules composed entirely of **carbon**, in the form of a hollow sphere, ellipsoid, tube, or plane. Spherical fullerenes are also called buckyballs, and cylindrical ones are called carbon nanotubes or buckytubes. Graphene is an example of a planar fullerene sheet. Fullerenes are similar in structure to graphite, which is composed of stacked sheets of linked hexagonal rings, but may also contain pentagonal (or sometimes heptagonal) rings that would prevent a sheet from being planar.

Fullerenes were discovered in 1985 by Robert Curl, Harold Kroto and Richard Smalley at the University of Sussex and Rice University, and are named after Richard Buckminster Fuller.

A soccer ball is a model of a Buckminster fullerene.

Source: Wikipedia.

TED Ideas worth spreading

TED pick of the Week: The deep oceans: a ribbon of life. Pioneering oceanographer David Gallo takes us to some of Earth's darkest, most violent, toxic and beautiful habitats, the valleys and volcanic ridges of the oceans' depths, where life is bizarre, resilient and shockingly abundant. http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/david_gallo_on_life_in_the_deep_oceans.html

TED stands for **Technology, Entertainment, Design**, an annual conference bringing together "the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives (in 18 minutes)." They do not disappoint, and happily for us their talks are available online at www.ted.com.

Upcoming Events

Date		Event	Time
F	September 26	Staff Development Day – Student Holiday	
F	October 3	First Six Weeks Ends	
M	October 6	Last Day to Register to Vote in Dallas County	
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
W	October 15	PSAT for 9th, 10th and 11th Graders	During School
F	October 17	Townview Exemplary School Celebration	10:00a – 2:00p
F	October 17	Early Release	2:00p
Sa	October 18	UIL Meet in Richardson	
Tu	October 21	PTSA General Meeting & National Honor Society Induction	6:30p
Sa	**November 1**	**Deadline for TCU Youth Entrepreneur Award Application**	
New and changed events are in bold.			
Events are subject to change. Check the SEM calendar for updates. www.semagnetschool.org			

State Fair of Texas 2008 Promotions

Participating North Texas KROGER stores
Advance purchase General Admission tickets are $12.50. A Season Pass is $29.95. They may be purchased at the check-out counter or at the service desk.

Opening Day-Sept. 26--Bring a full 20 oz. Coca-Cola product for donation to the North Texas Food Bank containers at Fair admission gates and enter the State Fair for $4 per donation per person.

Dr Pepper $3 Tuesdays--Every Tuesday, bring an empty Dr Pepper can and enter for $3. Most rides (excluding the Thrillway and the Texas Star) are 5 coupons.

Kroger "Three for $1" each Wednesday--Admission is $1 for each visitor bringing 3 cans of food for area food banks.

Coke $4 Thursday--Bring an empty 20 oz. bottle of a Coca-Cola product and enter the Fair for $4 admission.

Mature Texan Magazine sponsor of Seniors FREE Thursdays--Senior Citizens 60 years and older get in to the State Fair FREE each Thursday.

FREE Thursday admission with a Cinemark Theater ticket stub.

Any Day--McDonald's offers $3 off General Admission with one of their State Fair coupons any day of the Fair. Each $3-off-General Admission ticket allows you to bring in one child for free. Offer may not be combined with any other offer.

The fair opens Friday, September 26. Find all of the details at www.bigtex.com.

Free Museum Day

For those of you with Bank of America cards, enjoy a. On the first weekend of every month, you can get free admission to three DFW-area museums: the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science and the Ft. Worth Museum of Science & History. Details here.

TCU Youth Entrepreneur Award

This is scholarship program that recognizes young high school age entrepreneurs for their success in business. The award is open to any Texas high school student who has started and managed a business. Scholarships totaling up to $20,000 may be awarded. The top winner will receive a $5,000 scholarship and five other winners will receive a $1,000 scholarship to apply to any school they choose. If the student attends TCU, the scholarships will double. Application deadline: November 1, 2008. www.tcuyeya.org

College Calendar

Date		Time	School	Location
Su	September 28	4:00-5:00p	Washington University – St. Louis	Marriott Dallas/Addison Quorum
M	**September 29**	**3:30p**	**Duke University**	**Townview Library**
W	October 1	3:30p	Texas A&M Century Program	TBA
Su	October 5	4:30-6:00p	Naval Academy Admission Forum	Townview Theater
M	October 13	8:30-9:00a	Yale University	Media Center
M	**October 13**	**7:00p**	**Yale University**	**Plano Center, 2000 E Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, Northbrook Room**
Tu	**October 14**	**7:00p**	**Yale University**	**W.T. White High School, 4505 Ridgeside Dr., in the Auditorium**
Th	**October 16**	**3:30p**	**Columbia University**	**Townview Library**
Su	October 19	2:00p	MIT	Plano Convention Centre, Windhaven Room 2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway Plano, TX 75074
M	**October 20**	**3:30p**	**MIT**	**Townview Library**
W	**October 29**	**3:30p**	**Harvey Mudd**	**Townview Library**
M	November 3	TBA	University of Pittsburg	TBA

New and changed events are in bold. Information subject to change. Please check school websites for updates.
*An unverified event may well be accurate; we simply could not find a listing for the event on the school's website.

Help us out! If you learn of an upcoming college information session in the Dallas area, contact the Tabloid so we can add it to the list.

SAT and ACT Test Registration Deadlines

SAT

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Saturday, November 01, 2008	Friday, September 26, 2008
Saturday, December 06, 2008	Wednesday, November 05, 2008
Thursday, January 24, 2008	Friday, December 26, 2008
Saturday, March 14, 2009	Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Saturday, May 02, 2009	Tuesday, March 31, 2009
Saturday, June 06, 2009	Tuesday, May 05, 2009

ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Saturday, December 13, 2008	Friday, November 07, 2008
Saturday, February 07, 2009	Tuesday, January 06, 2009
Saturday, April 04, 2009	Friday, February 27, 2009
Saturday, June 13, 2009	Friday, May 08, 2009

Money Makes the World Go 'Round

Top U.S. universities, which have amassed literally billions of dollars in their endowments, have recently announce significant increases financial aid to students from lower- and middle-income families. For example, see:
www.princeton.edu/admission/financialaid/
http://financialaid.brown.edu/

U.S. News & World Report is a good source of financial aid information and tools. www.usnews.com/sections/business/paying-for-college/index.html

QuestBridge is a non-profit program that links bright, motivated low-income students with educational and scholarship opportunities at some of the nation's best colleges, include Cal Tech, MIT, Harvard, and Stanford. Applications for this year's program are due September 30. www.questbridge.org

Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded or federally guaranteed financial assistance for education beyond high school. Visit their online gateway at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

FinAid! Offers a listing of financial aid information including loan estimators and scholarship scam information. www.finaid.com