



### Science TAKS Benchmark Test – November 18, 2008

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, the Science Department will be administering a released Science TAKS Benchmark Test to all of our 10th and 11th grade students from 4:05 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. **Check rosters near front office for room assignments.** We have already given a short bus survey to the students to determine whether or not they need to ride the activity bus on that day. It is important that your child be present that afternoon so we can assess his/her strengths and weaknesses pertaining to science. If your child does not ride the activity bus that afternoon, pick-up arrangements will need to be made. Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter.

~ Dr. Charles Tuttle, Science Department Chair

### UIL Public Speaking

Students interested in UIL Public Speaking can meet with Mr. Hyman on Monday and Wednesday after school. Interested students should bring an article or articles concerning some current events topic.

### Eagles' Nest

The date of the next Eagles' Nest meeting is December 11.

### American Mathematics Competition

Students who are interested in participating in the AMC 10 or AMC 12 on February 10, 2009 should sign up in room 216. The AMC 10 is designed for 9th and 10th grade students, and the AMC 12 is designed for 11th and 12th grade students. For more information, please visit the following website:

[www.unl.edu/amc/b-registration/bl-archive/2008-2009/2009-H-Brochure.pdf](http://www.unl.edu/amc/b-registration/bl-archive/2008-2009/2009-H-Brochure.pdf)

~ Glenn Samford

### Host a Foreign Exchange Student

[Academic Year in America](#) is one of the largest and most respected high school foreign exchange student programs in the United States. More than 1,000 high school students live with host families across the United States every year. The program is sponsored by the [American Institute For Foreign Study \(AIFS\) Foundation](#), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1967 with the assistance of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Its mission is to promote worldwide understanding through cultural exchange.

Host families provide space to sleep, study and 2 meals per day (3 on non-school days). Students have arrived with their own money for personal expenses and materials and medical insurance. In addition, the Cultural Activity Fund offsets expenses for things like museums, festivals, concerts, homecoming/prom, camping trips, and similar excursions and activities your students will want to be a part of.

### Little Things ... Can Make a Big Difference

What with RIFs and DISD budget cuts, being a DISD teacher has never been more of a challenge. Even classroom essentials like dry erase markers and pencil sharpeners are in limited supply. Show our fabulous SEM teachers how much you appreciate them: Visit the [Classroom Wish List](#) on the SEM website and choose a wish or two to fulfill. Simply drop them off in the designated box in the SEM office. **Thank you!**

### UT Southwestern Hosts: Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program

The [Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program](#) is an outreach program designed to provide high school students with the opportunity to interact with medical students, faculty, and health professionals. Beginning in January, every Saturday for six weeks, students attend specially designed sessions to include but not limited to the following topics:

- Preparing for College: College 101
- College Admissions and Financial Aid
- Writing Skills Workshop
- Occupations in Medicine
- Teen Sexuality and Teen
- Violence presentation
- Disease Prevalence: Social Class and Race Disparities
- Sexually Transmitted Infections Presentation
- Tours of UT Southwestern Medical School
- Using the Medical School Library
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Blood Typing
- Prosthetics and Orthotics

# The Periodic Tabloid

## Freshman Class Officers

SEM freshman elected class officers last week. The new officers are:

President	Rogelio De La Garza
Vice President	Abdul Wahab
Secretary/Treasurer	Catalina Torres
Reporter/Historian	Lucy Alvarez

## Science Times: Beyond the Gene

On Tuesday, the Science Times section of The New York Times (registration required, but free) featured a series of articles on recent findings that are leading scientists "to rethink the very nature of genes."

- [Now: The Rest of the Genome](#)
- [The Promise and Power of RNA](#)
- [A Bestiary of RNA](#)
- [Mapping the Epigenome](#)

## Mysterious Glowing Aurora over Saturn Confounds Scientists

A [stunning light display over Saturn](#) has stumped scientists who say it behaves unlike any other planetary aurora known in our solar system. The blueish-green glow was found over the ringed planet's north polar region just like Earth's northern lights. It was discovered by the infrared instruments on NASA's Cassini spacecraft.

## Dark Flow: Unknown "Structures" Tugging at Universe, Study Says

From National Geographic News:

The presence of the extra-universal matter suggests that our universe is part of something bigger—a multiverse—and that whatever is out there is very different from the universe we know, according to study leader Alexander Kashlinsky, an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. The theory could rewrite the laws of physics. Current models say the known, or visible, universe—which extends as far as light could have traveled since the [big bang](#)—is essentially the same as the rest of space-time (the three dimensions of space plus time).

Read the whole story [here](#).

## ASM Conference for Undergraduate Educators

May 28-31, 2009, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO  
ASMCUE is an interactive four-day conference on scientific updates and effective teaching strategies. Each year, the conference attracts approximately 325 microbiology and biology educators.  
[learn more](#) HT: Toni Lewis

## Research Fellowship at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory

[10th, 11th & 12th graders!](#) The Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory (MDIBL) High School Research Fellowship program is a hands-on and mentored laboratory experience for H. S. students interested in biology, medicine, or research. Up to 12 six to eight week (summer) research fellowships are available. The Laboratory is located in Salsbury Cove, Maine. More information is available at:

[www.mdibl.org/edu/highschool.shtml](http://www.mdibl.org/edu/highschool.shtml)

Students must have completed chemistry, biology, and mathematics. **Faculty nomination deadline is January 2, 2009.**

(form available online) *Nominated students will receive by email an application packet.*

**Application deadline: February 2, 2009**

*Vitia nostra regionum mutatione non fugimus.*

We do not flee our faults by a change of location. (anon.)

*Ab alio expectes, alteri quod feceris.*

You may expect from another, what you will have done to another. (Publilius Syrus)

*Hat Tip: Mr. Hyman*

## Can You KenKen?

Interested in a new challenge? KenKen is what you crave – just as addictive as Sudoku only much more complex. Get started at the official KenKen [website](#), where it says [Click Here to Play](#). Find more KenKen puzzles [here](#) and [here](#).

2	1-		1
3+		7+	
7+	1-		3
	4	3+	

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# The Periodic Tabloid

## Upcoming Events

Date		Event	Time
Tu	November 18	Science TAKS Benchmark Test - November 18, 2008	4:05 – 5:05p
	November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break – No School	
<b>M</b>	<b>December 1</b>	<b>Report Cards Issued</b>	
Tu	December 2	SEM Town Hall Meeting for Prospective Parents	6:30 – 8:00p
<b>Th</b>	<b>December 11</b>	<b>SEM Staff Appreciation Luncheon</b>	<b>11:00a – 1:00p</b>
<b>Sa</b>	<b>December 13</b>	<b>AP Math Prep Session</b>	<b>9:00a – 2:30p</b>
<b>Sa</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>AP Science Prep Session</b>	<b>9:00a – 2:30p</b>
<b>Sa</b>	<b>January 10</b>	<b>Dallas ISD Magnet School Fair @ Skyline</b>	<b>8:30a – 1:30p</b>
<b>Th</b>	<b>January 22</b>	<b>SEM Open House</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00p</b>

**New and changed events are in bold.**

Events are subject to change. Check the SEM [calendar](#) for updates. [www.semagnetschool.org](http://www.semagnetschool.org)

### Shopping at Target?

Help SEM at the same time by using your Target REDcard! First, link your REDcard and this SEM ID number: 118447 Townview School of Science and Engineering, by calling the number on the back of the card or going to Customer Service at your Target. Then Target will contribute 1% of your purchase to SEM every time you use your REDcard. We appreciate every dollar of contribution.

### NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

CALLING ALL TECH-SAVVY GIRLS, CODERS, GAMERS, & WEB DIVAS!

Applications are now open for the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing. **Apply by December 1, 2008** to be recognized for your contributions to the digital world. Award-winners receive \$500, a new laptop computer, and a trip to the Bank of America Technology Showcase and Awards in Charlotte, NC. Complete application materials and details are available at [www.ncwit.org/award](http://www.ncwit.org/award). Online applications and all supporting documents must be received by December 1, 2008. The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is open to all high school girls and is sponsored by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) and Bank of America.

## College Elements

### **AXA Achievement Scholarship (New)**

Have you heard about the [AXA Achievement Scholarship](#)? If not, you need to be checking the Scholarship Information in the [Counselors' Corner](#) more often! The AXA Achievement Scholarship in association with *U.S. News & World Report* provides \$670,000 in annual scholarships to young people throughout the nation. **Application deadline is December 15, 2008.**

### **SMART Scholarship**

The Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship for Service Program has been established by the Department of Defense (DoD) to support undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The program aims to increase the number of civilian scientists and engineers working at DoD laboratories. The **deadline for application is December 15, 2008.**

[www.asee.org/smart](http://www.asee.org/smart)

#### **SMART Scholars Receive:**

- Cash award paid at a rate of \$25,000 - \$41,000 per year depending on prior educational experience
- Full tuition and related education expenses
- Health Insurance
- Book allowance
- Summer Internships (multi-year participants)
- Post-Graduation Career Opportunities

### **Financial Aid & Scholarship Resources**

Be sure to check the [Counselors' Corner](#) on the SEM website at least **every week** for valuable information on:

- Scholarship Information
- SAT/ACT Test Dates
- Upcoming Visits by College Reps
- College Campus Weekend Visits
- CEFA, CBE, Correspondence/Distance Ed., Dual Credit
- PSAT / SAT & ACT Study Links

Ms. Kashyap and Mr. Flores are continuously updating these pages with new information.

Also, do not forget the [Scholarship ebook](#), a wealth of valuable information and sound advice gathered by SEM parent Randy Hazlett.

### **Are you Cruising?**

Portfolios have been uploaded for all students. Please follow these steps to access your portfolio.

1. Log on to [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com);  
Username: townview  
Password: eagles
2. Click on the Portfolio tab at the top of the page. Use your ID number as your password and your birth date as your password. The password must be 8 numbers with no hyphens or spaces e.g. 07091992)
3. Save the assessment results, career information or college information to your portfolio. You may also begin creating your resume.