



AP Environmental Science Field Trip

The APES class is planning a field trip for January 23, 2009 and **will need two parent volunteers** to chaperone the students. Students will go to the Museum of Nature and Science to watch an IMAX presentation on caves and visit some paleontological and ecological exhibitions.

Academic Decathlon

The Regional Academic Decathlon meet is January 30-31 in Rockwall. Chaperones undoubtedly welcome. Contact Ms. Rita Hines for more details rifreeman@dallasisd.org.

SAT Changes Policy

According to the [New York Times](#):

This March, high school juniors taking the SAT will have the option of choosing which scores to send to colleges. While hiding those they do not want admissions officials to see. The new policy is called Score Choice, and the College Board hopes it will reduce student stress around the SAT and college admissions.

How Not To Get Into College

The *Wall Street Journal* has advice on [avoiding common college application mistakes](#).

New High School Elective: Put Off College

According to the [Wall Street Journal](#):

More high-schoolers are opting for a gap year -- taking a year off before going to college -- for an opportunity to gain life experience and focus on personal goals.

Harvard Announces Sweeping Middle-Income Initiative

In December, Harvard University announced a sweeping overhaul of financial aid policies designed to make Harvard College more affordable for families across the income spectrum. The new initiative focuses on ensuring greater affordability for middle- and upper-middle-income families through major enhancements to grant aid, the elimination of student loans, and the removal of home equity from financial aid calculations. Harvard's new financial aid policy dramatically reduces the amount families with incomes below \$180,000 will be expected to pay. This initiative builds on Harvard's recent pathbreaking policies to ensure that families with incomes below \$60,000 are not asked to contribute to the cost of sending their children to Harvard.

www.hno.harvard.edu/gazette/2007/12.13/99-finaid.html Hat Tip: Toni Lewis

Volunteers Needed!

If you can help, please contact Mr. Koh at bkoh@dallasisd.org. Thanks! Sounds like a fun trip.

SEM Teachers: Do You Know T³?

Teachers Teaching with Technology™ (T³) and Texas Instruments invite you to join us for two exciting, activity-packed days focused on mathematics and science. Come learn how to successfully incorporate TI technology into your lessons and further enhance student assessment and achievement. [T³ professional development](#) is based on proven research and professional wisdom. This conference is a great opportunity to experience hands-on training and product demonstrations. You'll also take away a range of content-specific educator support resources. [Register for the Edinburg, TX Regional Conference >](#)
HT: Toni Lewis



TED Pick of the Week: [Bill Stone: Journey to the center of the Earth ... and beyond!](#) Bill Stone, a maverick cave explorer who has plumbed Earth's deepest abysses, discusses his efforts to mine lunar ice for space fuel and to build an autonomous robot for studying Jupiter's moon Europa.

The Periodic Tabloid

Room 211 Has Been Transformed – Thanks to Everyone Who Helped Make This Happen

The SEM PTSA thanks all of you who gave generously of your time and efforts towards the transformation of room 211. It has become a great place for teachers to relax between classes and grade papers. You have made this project a great success. Many people from the community and from our school, students and staff rolled up their sleeves to make the Teachers Lounge quite a success story. A Special thank you to the consistent efforts of our very own NSBE, Lighthouse Chapter (National Society of Black Engineers), located right here at Townview Magnet Center. We'd also like to thank NSBE, Collegiate Chapter from UTA, Arlington. These college students came to move boxes, filing cabinets furniture, old printers and pack moving trucks with furniture donated to SEM. Special thanks to:

Ms. Granger and Ms. Brown for their tireless and successful efforts to prepare and move shreddable paper to the DISD office in a timely manner.

Mr. Terry Walker (Cabinet Maker), who built the teachers a new mailbox in the SEM office and allowed the use of his truck to discard items.

Mr. Jacob Lewis (Electrical Engineer) from TXU, who assisted us with the initial connection with TXU Community Outreach Center, the contacts for the donation of all the furniture donated throughout SEM.

Alan Giles (Manager of the Community Outreach of TXU/Oncor), who assisted with many items donated to the SEM teachers classrooms.

Hunter and Associates Office Furniture for delivering such wonderful boardroom furniture to our teachers lounge as well as the steel shelving and other furniture items distributed throughout SEM

Photographer **Mr. Craig Griggs** for donating the teacher portraits

All the parents and **PTSA Board Members, Hospitality Committee, Food Coordinator, and Decorators** who brought food and fun to the holiday celebration.

We have become quite a family in the SEM Magnet School. Stay Tuned for the next major project up to bat.....
THE TEACHER WISH LIST FOR 2009

~ Toni Lewis

And Kudos to our energetic and resourceful Toni Lewis for spearheading this important volunteer effort for SEM. [Editor]

St. Philips School and Community Center Seeks Nominees for Destiny Award

St. Philip's is an independent elementary school in South Dallas serving African-American and Hispanic students in grades K-6. Through its community center, St. Philip's serves 1,200 South Dallas residents. Each year, St. Philip's bestows its Destiny Award on an individual, corporation, organization and "unsung hero" who has demonstrated exceptional work towards bridging relationships between racial communities." If you would like to nominate someone for the award, contact **Anyika McMillian-Herod** at St. Philip's at aherod@stphilips.com or (214) 421-5221 ext. 238. The Destiny Award Luncheon will be Thursday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. at the Belo Mansion.

Quam bene vivas refert, non quam diu.

The important thing isn't how long you live, but how well you live.
([Seneca Philosophus, Epistulae](#))

Hat Tip: Mr. Hyman

Top 10 Sci-Fi Books of 2008

You can find one list [here](#) and another [here](#).



The Periodic Tabloid

UT Dallas: Multicultural Merit Scholarship **New!**

The UT Dallas Office of Community Engagement is offering a Multicultural Merit Scholarship to students with academic talent who demonstrate financial need. The maximum award is \$2,000. **Application deadline: March 9, 2009.** Details [here](#). HT: Toni Lewis

Dallas Achieves! Community Meetings

Parents and community members are invited to attend one of 22 Dallas ISD community meetings to learn about changes we have made to improve schools and increase student academic achievement across the district.

While all meetings are open to the entire community, parents are encouraged to attend the meeting scheduled in their school feeder pattern to get information about their neighborhood schools. Families and students who attend magnet schools should go to the meetings scheduled for their neighborhood schools. To learn what high school feeder pattern your school is in, visit www.dallasisd.org/demo/indexfeeder.

The weekday meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Saturday meeting will begin at 10 a.m. For information about the meetings, call (972) 925-5554.

Date	School	Address
Mon. 1/12/09	Bryan Adams HS	2101 Millmar Lane
Mon. 1/12/09	Thomas Jefferson HS	4001 Walnut Hill Lane
Tues 1/13/09	L.G. Pinkston HS	2200 Dennison St.
Tues 1/13/09	A. Maceo Smith HS	3030 Stag Road
Thurs 1/15/09	Arturo Salazar ES	1120 S. Ravinia Dr.
Thurs 1/15/09	Highland Meadows ES	8939 Whitewing Lane
Mon 1/26/09	South Oak Cliff HS	3601 S. Marsalis Ave.
Mon 1/26/09	John J. Pershing ES	5715 Meaders Lane
Tues 1/27/09	David W. Carter HS	1819 W. Wheatland Rd.
Tues 1/27/09	A.W. Blanton, ES	8915 Greenmound Ave.
Tues. 2/3/09	H. Grady Spruce HS	9733 Old Seagoville Rd.
Mon 2/9/09	James Madison HS	3000 M. L. King Jr. Blvd.
Mon 2/9/09	Woodrow Wilson HS	100 S. Glasgow Dr.
Tues 2/10/09	Lincoln HS	2826 Hatcher St.
Tues 2/10/09	J.F. Kimball HS	3606 S. Westmoreland Rd.
Thurs 2/12/09	Sunset HS	2120 W. Jefferson Blvd.
Thurs 2/12/09	H.W. Lang MS	1678 Chenault St.
Sat 2/21/09	Seagoville MS	950 Woody Rd.
Mon 2/23/09	F.D. Roosevelt HS	525 Bonnie View Rd.
Mon 2/23/09	W.H. Adamson HS	201 E. Ninth St.
Tue 2/24/09	North Dallas HS	3120 N. Haskell Ave.
Tue 2/24/09	W.T. White HS	4505 Ridgeside Dr.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Preparing for college takes planning and organization.

Paying for college takes financial aid.

FAFSA4caster will help you get an early start on the financial aid process by providing you with an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid.

In addition, FAFSA4caster will increase your knowledge of the financial aid process and provide information about other sources of aid.

FAFSA4caster is offered by Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, that ensures that all eligible individuals can benefit from federally funded or federally guaranteed financial assistance for education beyond high school.

Five Reasons to File Your FAFSA

FastWeb! has **Five Reasons to File Your FAFSA**. (Free registration required.)

FAFSA Workshop

As FAFSA Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2009 in the Commons.

The Periodic Tabloid

Summer Programs

Juniors! Apply for the STARS Summer Research Program **New!**

The STARS Program at UT Southwestern Medical Center offers opportunities for students to work one-on-one with faculty researchers on an investigative project in a laboratory setting. The program is open to juniors in the Dallas ISD. Participants will be selected based upon their essay, class rank, standardized test scores, teacher recommendation and community service. June 8 through July 31, 2009. **Students will be paid a stipend of \$2500 for their participation in the program. Application deadline: February 6, 2009.**

<http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/cda/dept19109/files/98299.html>

Morehouse College 2009 Pre-College Leadership Program **New!**

This program is designed to introduce participants to the traits, skills and behaviors necessary for effective 21st century leadership. The curriculum focuses on personal and interpersonal leadership skills with an emphasis on the development of character, civility and community. The program is open to male students who are sophomores or juniors and to seniors who have applied to Morehouse College. **Application deadline: February 20, 2009.**

<http://www.morehouse.edu/centers/leadershipcenter/pdf/Pre-CollegeApplication09.pdf>

Aspen Science Center **New!**

Aspen Science Center's High School · High Scholar (HS)2 program is an academic residential summer program in mathematics and science for African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American students. For 3 consecutive summers, beginning after 9th grade, you will spend 5 weeks in the Colorado Rocky Mountains with other students excited about science & math. You will spend time in hands-on science labs, math and English courses, and college prep courses. You will also explore the Roaring Fork Valley -- by kayak, from the mountain-top, in the lakes, and more. You will live in a beautiful college preparatory boarding school 30 miles from Aspen. You will receive free tuition, room, and board; and, if there is financial need, travel and incidental expenses are also covered. Program dates: June 20 through July 25. **Application deadline: January 16, 2009.** <http://aspensciencecenter.org/asc/hs2>

Sea Camp

Texas A&M University at Galveston is offering Sea Camp summer internships for TAG students. Students with interest in biology, marine life, or environmental science are encouraged to apply. Sea Camp also offers a Pre-Med course. Details are available online www.tagug.edu/seacamp/ *Hat Tip: Mr. Koh*

ExxonMobil Green Team Paid Summer Internship

ExxonMobil Green Team is a summer youth program that provides paid internships and a study program for high school students. In Dallas, up to 60 high school juniors and seniors will be selected to participate in the eight-week program. Students applying should have strong environmental interests. Selected students will be placed in small groups at local nonprofit organizations and will develop and implement a service project as a group. Students also take the following courses at SMU on Wednesdays during the eight week program: Career Exploration, Environmental Engineering, Energy Industry 101 and Leadership Development. *What an awesome opportunity!* Details and application at www.vcnt.org. **Applications deadline is January 15, 2009.** For additional information, please contact Ashley Hyder at Volunteer Center of North Texas 866-797-8268 ext 299. HT: Toni Lewis

The Welch Summer Scholar Program (Chemistry Research)

The Welch Summer Scholar Program (WSSP), one of the premier chemistry research programs for H.S. students in the nation, is currently accepting applications for the Summer of 2009 (**June 8 - July 12, 2009**). Sponsored by the Robert A. Welch Foundation (www.welchf.org) the WSSP will mark its 26th year of providing an authentic chemistry research experience for high school students (current juniors and seniors). **Deadline: February 28, 2009** WSSP Site Locations: UT-Austin, UT-Arlington, UT-Dallas, Univ. of Houston & Texas Tech Website: www.utexas.edu/research/chemed/lagowski/WSSP/

MORE SUMMER PROGRAMS ON NEXT PAGE

The Periodic Tabloid

Summer Programs

2009 National Youth Science Camp

The National Youth Science Camp is a residential science education program that honors and challenges two outstanding graduating high school science students from each state. Scientists from across the nation present lectures and hands-on science seminars and linger to interact informally with student delegates. Delegates are challenged to explore new areas in the biological and physical sciences, art, and music with resident staff members. Opportunities are provided for delegates to present seminars covering their own areas of interest and research. A visit to Washington D.C. permits delegates to visit some of the nation's premier scientific, governmental, and cultural facilities. All expenses are paid for the two delegates chosen. **Applications are due January 19, 2009.** For more information about this opportunity: <http://nysc.org/2009/index.html>.

Juniors! Apply for the MIT Summer Program

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology offers a free summer program for current high school juniors who are strong in math and science. MITES (Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science) is a rigorous six-week residential, academic enrichment summer program for promising high school juniors who are interested in studying and exploring careers in science and engineering. Funding from industry, foundations, grants, individuals, and MIT covers all living and educational expenses for each admitted student. Students only pay for their transportation to and from MIT. Admission to the program is very competitive -- **applications are due February 2, 2009** and require standardized test scores, essays, and recommendations -- so don't wait until the last minute to submit. See <http://web.mit.edu/mites/www/> for more information and on-line application. *HT: Toni Lewis*

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	
Tu	January 6	Classes Resume	
Sa	January 10	AP Science Prep Session	9:00a – 2:30p
Sa	January 10	Dallas ISD Magnet School Fair @ Skyline	8:30a – 1:30p
Tu-F	January 13-16	First Semester Final Exams	
M	January 19	Martin Luther King Holiday – <i>No Classes</i>	
Tu	January 20	Teacher Preparation Day – <i>No Classes</i>	
M - Th	January 19 – 22	SEM Class Officers Attend 2009 U.S. Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.	
W	January 21	FAFSA Workshop in the Commons	TBA
Th	January 22	SEM Open House	6:00 – 8:00p
F-Sa	January 30-31	Regional Academic Decathlon in Rockwall	
Sa	January 31	AP English Prep Session	9:00a – 2:30p

New and changed events are in bold.

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