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SEM Robotics Team to Compete at RoPro

On February 7, the SEM Robotics Team is going to UTA for the RoPro Robotics competition. There are 22 students from 9th to 12th grades, in 5 teams that are scheduled to go. We leave from the school about 7:00 AM and return about 6:00 PM.

Good luck to the Robotics Team!

Korean Students Arrive at Townview

The 20 students from the Bugil Academy in South Korea will be visiting Townview as part of a student exchange program. The students arrive Saturday, January 31, 2009 and depart February 14. Two teachers from the Bugil Academy will accompany them. An official welcome will be held on February 2, 2009, at 8:15am in the Townview Media Center, on the 3rd floor. The students will then receive their class schedules and be introduced. They will be taking classes at Townview and participating in student activities. The website for the Bugil Academy is www.bugilacademy.org. If you click on "News and Events", you will see that Townview (Mrs. Alice Black) signed an MOU last year. Please click on that subject line and you will see a photograph from that trip and Mrs. Black and Mrs. Crabtree are in the front row. *Hat Tip: Marguerite Buccino*

SEM Goes to D.C.

We are in the final stages of preparing for the DC trip to the Presidential Inauguration. SEM class officers that will be going are:

Brooke Packheiser, Sr. Class Pres.
 Lam Phan, VP, Sr.
 Ashley Ake, Sec., Sr.
 Perla Trejo, Parliamentarian of Sr. class
 Leaann Love, Jr. Pres.
 Bianca Tamez-Buccino, VP, Jr.
 Xuan Hang Nguyen, Pres. Soph class
 Yesenia Reyes, VP, Soph.

Deanna Dove (AP Human Geography; AP US History) is the sponsor for the trip, and other adult chaperones are: Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Black, and Mrs. Buccino. We fly out Mon, Jan 19 and return Wed., Jan. 21. This is a very exciting occasion.

Chaperone Needed

The Robotics Team needs a female chaperone to accompany the team to the RoPro Robotics competition at UT Arlington on Saturday, February 7. The bus will leave Townview at 7:00 a.m. and leave UTA at 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. If you can volunteer for this event, please contact Mr. Carter at kcart026@dallasisd.org.

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*

SEM Open House

SEM will be having an open house on Thursday, January 22 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you know of any 8th grade students who you think would be good candidates from SEM, please encourage them to attend. In their latest rankings of the best public high schools in the U.S., Newsweek ranked SEM at #4 and U.S. News and World Report ranked SEM at #18.

Dubitando ad veritatem venimus.

We arrive at the truth by being sceptical.
 (Pierre Abélard, Sic et non?)

Hat Tip: Mr. Hyman

The Periodic Tabloid

EXTENDED FOR ONLINE PURCHASES ONLY

12 dollars 12 hours 12 January

In case you missed our 12-hour promotion – you have one more chance. Tickets are available ONLINE only from Friday, Jan. 16 through Monday, Jan. 19 ...

DALLAS THEATER CENTER

Good for the first week of any remaining production in the 2008-09 season, excluding Sunday evenings at 7:30 designated as Pay What You Can performances.

Use **PROMO CODE: TWELVE**

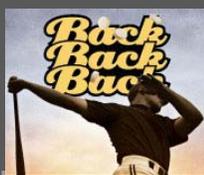
DTC is also offering a 2- or 3-play subscription for the dates below at the same price (\$24 for 2, \$36 for 3) – just use the same promo code, but call the box office at 214-522-8499 to process your order.



In the Beginning

January 21 – 7:30 PM
January 22 – 7:30 PM
January 23 - SOLD OUT
January 24 – 8 PM
January 25 – 2 PM
January 28- 7:30 PM
January 29 – 7:30 PM
February 1 – 7:30 PM

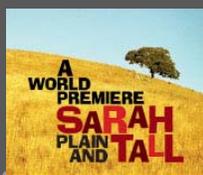
[Learn more!](#)



Back, Back, Back

March 11 – 7:30 PM
March 12 – 7:30 PM
March 13 – 8 PM
March 14 – 8 PM
March 15 – 2 PM
March 18 – 7:30 PM
March 19 – 7:30 PM

[Learn more!](#)



Sarah, Plain and Tall

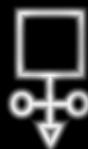
April 22 – 7:30 PM
April 23 – 7:30 PM
April 24 – SOLD OUT
April 25 – SOLD OUT
April 26 – SOLD OUT
April 29 – 7:30 PM
April 30 – 7:30 PM

[Learn more!](#)

TED Ideas worth spreading

TED Pick of the Week: [Kary Mullins: What scientists do](#) Biochemist Kary Mullis talks about the basis of modern science: the experiment. Sharing tales from the 17th century and from his own backyard-rocketry days, Mullis celebrates the curiosity, inspiration and rigor of good science in all its forms. Kary Mullis won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing a way to copy a strand of DNA.

[A bit long at 30 minutes, but IMO well worth the time. Fascinating. Note: The talk was originally delivered in 2002.]



potassium

Potassium was discovered in 1807 by Davy, who obtained it from caustic potash. The metal is the seventh most abundant and makes up about 2.4% by weight of the earth's crust. Most potassium minerals are insoluble and the metal is obtained from them only with great difficulty. Potassium is never found free in nature, but is obtained by electrolysis of the hydroxide, much in the same manner as prepared by Davy's first process. The greatest demand for potash has been in its use for fertilizers. Potassium is an essential constituent for plant growth and is found in most soils. It is one of the most reactive and electropositive of metals. It catches fire spontaneously on water. Except for lithium, it is the lightest known metal. It is soft, easily cut with a knife, and is silvery in appearance immediately after a fresh surface is exposed.

Source: [Los Alamos National Labs, Chemistry Division](#)

Fermi Off-the-Wall Math League

The [Fermi Off-the-Wall Math League](#) is an Internet-based math competition appropriate for enrichment, small group work and individuals wanting creative, technology-rich experiences. Beginning its tenth year, the Fermi Math League is open to school districts and individual students world-wide. Winter session lasts six weeks, and begins Tuesday, January 27. The registration fee is \$40 per student per team, with group rates available for classes. HT: Toni Lewis

Families in Crisis Conference

The Heartlight Ministries Foundation is hosting a series Families in Crisis Conferences. The next event is January 22-24. The conferences are held at the Heartlight campus in Longview, Texas. To learn more, visit their website.

<http://thegatheringatheartlight.wordpress.com/> HT: Toni Lewis

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Focus on Scholarships

The Bad News: Recession Hits Home at SEM

The downturn in the economy is affecting high school seniors across the country. KERA 90.1 brought the story home with a piece it aired on Wednesday. KERA's Bill Zeeble interviewed SEM counselors Naveen Kashyap and Tom Flores and senior Simon Myers. You can [listen](#) to the story [here](#).

The Good News: SEM Students Are In Demand

Students, do not sell yourselves short. SEM students are exactly the students scholarship funds are looking for. First of all, you are pretty smart – or you would not be at SEM. Second, by choosing SEM and filling your plate with AP classes, you have already demonstrated the determination and ability to succeed academically. Those two qualities together mean that you will stand out as a great candidate for many scholarships.

But You Have to Do Your Part

1. If you have not already do so, you need to **file your FAFSA** right away. SEM is having a FAFSA workshop on Wednesday, January 21 at 3:15 p.m. in the Townview theater.
2. **Research available scholarships.** Visit the [Scholarship Information](#) page of the Counselors' Corner and download the fabulous [So You Want a Scholarship](#) ebook written by SEM parent Randy Hazlett.
3. Get with your SEM counselor and **work out a game plan.** Which scholarships are the best fit for you? What will you need to do to put together a great application? You may need to write essays or gather letters of recommendation. Those will take some time. Do not wait until the last minute.
4. **Take full advantage of the resources available at SEM.** SEM teachers can help you with letters of recommendation and with your essays.

FAFSA Workshop

As FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Workshop is scheduled for 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 in the Townview theater.

FAFSA4caster

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.

UT Dallas: Multicultural Merit Scholarship

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

Scholarship eBook: Download it Free!

SEM parent Randy Hazlett has written an in-depth ebook about college scholarships. Randy has been gracious to share his ebook with SEM students and parents. Download the Scholarship eBook free [here](#). Randy writes:

Most students (and parents) believe that if they get good grades in high school, they will be rewarded with a scholarship. Thus, they put all their emphasis on academic performance and are disappointed when they have difficulty getting into their school of choice, much less getting there on a scholarship. Don't be lulled into this passive position with something as valuable as a college education at stake. The reality is that scholarship money does not flow to the student; students and parents must vigorously pursue it. As a parent who has been through the wringer in the scholarship search process, I put together a resource which should help those following down the same path. The ebook I authored has lessons learned, links to resources, and checklists according to grade. While the ebook is about three years old, the material remains quite valid for today's scholarship hopefuls.

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Summer Programs

Summer programs are a win-win-win deal for students. They are fun, they look great on college applications and they give you great experiences to write about on application essays. Some programs are expensive, but scholarships may be available.

Young Engineering and Science Scholars

New!

Program dates: June 21 - July 11, 2009. **Free!**
The Young Engineering and Science Scholars (YESS) program at **Caltech** is a three-week summer residential program for exceptional underrepresented high school students and others who feel they would benefit from the program. YESS is designed to expose students to the excitement and rigor of science research. By giving students the opportunity to interact with other talented students from across the country, the program also aims to create a community of scholars. Caltech is known for its state-of-the-art laboratories and astronomical research facilities. As a YESS student, you will get an inside look into several of these facilities, including the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). For sophomores and juniors who are traditionally underrepresented in science and engineering fields (Native Americans, Latinos, and African-Americans); others who would benefit from this program are also encouraged to apply. We accept and review applications from all applicants that are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. <http://yess.caltech.edu/YESSabout.html> *Hat Tip: Cindy Santillan*

Summer@Brown **New!**

Brown University offers pre-college courses. Students in grades 9-12 explore subjects, experience college life, and advance their studies without the pressure of grades. Pre-College courses show you what it means to be completely absorbed in the learning process at an Ivy League University. As part of your learning, you will do things you may only have dreamed of - shadow a physician, hone your writing skills, map the stars, seek answers to human behavior, examine international affairs, or analyze your own DNA. www.brown.edu/scs/pre-college/ *HT: Marguerite Buccino*

Michigan Tech **New!**

Michigan Tech offers several summer youth programs, including:

- [Summer Youth Explorations](#)
- [Women In Engineering](#)
- [Explorations In Engineering](#)
- [Women In Computer Science](#)

The programs are one-week programs. Prices are reasonable, but travel costs will be a factor. *HT: Gretchen Megowen*

Oxbridge Academic Programs **New!**

Oxbridge Academic Programs has been welcoming intellectually adventurous high school and junior high school students to Europe for nearly 25 years. The programs give young people the opportunity to live and study in the historic and scholarly centers of learning that are Oxford and Cambridge in England, Barcelona in Spain, and Paris and Montpellier in France. These cities become our classrooms – the best classrooms in the world.

www.oxbridgeprograms.com/index.php SEM senior Peter Jung greatly enjoyed this program. Contact Peter if you would like to learn more. *HT: Gretchen Megowen*

Texas Tech Distance Education **New!**

Students can take high school classes through Texas Tech. It does cost money, some are online and others require mailing assignments back and forth. It may be that books can be obtained from other students who have taken the class previously. Most have proctored final exams that need to be arranged through the councilors early as school resumes. www.depts.ttu.edu/ode/ *HT: Gretchen Megowen*

Duke TIP **New!**

Duke University's Talent Identification Program offers a number of summer academic programs at colleges across the U.S. and abroad.

http://www.tip.duke.edu/summer_programs/ *HT: Gretchen Megowen*

More Summer Program Resources **New!**

From SEM counselors Naveen Kashyap and Tom Flores

[SUMMER PROGRAMS #1 2009](#)

[Summer University Programs](#)

[ANDEO International Homestays](#)

Summer study programs

Immersion programs

Semester/academic year programs

Gap programs

[Cornel Summer College](#)

[Rice Summer Programs](#)

[Mathematics Summer Programs](#)

[Women in Engineering Program at UT Austin](#)

[Talented & Gifted Program - SMU](#)

SUMMER PROGRAMS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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Summer Programs

2009 National Youth Science Camp

Applications are due January 19, 2009.

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. For more information about this opportunity: <http://nysc.org/2009/index.html>.

Juniors! STARS Summer Research Program

Program dates: June 8 through July 31, 2009.

Application deadline: February 6, 2009.

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. **Students will be paid a stipend of \$2500 for their participation in the program.**

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

Morehouse College 2009 Pre-College Leadership Program

Application deadline: February 20, 2009.

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.

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

Juniors! MIT Summer Program

Application deadline: February 2, 2009.

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 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*

Aspen Science Center

Application deadline: January 16, 2009.

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.

<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*

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Summer Programs

ExxonMobil Green Team Paid Summer Internship

Application deadline: January 15, 2009.

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. 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)

Application deadline: February 28, 2009

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.welch1.org) the WSSP will mark its 26th year of providing an authentic chemistry research experience for high school students (current juniors and seniors). WSSP Site Locations: UT-Austin, UT-Arlington, UT-Dallas, Univ. of Houston & Texas Tech

www.utexas.edu/research/chemed/lagowski/WSSP/

Thanks to everyone who sent in information on summer academic programs. If you know of programs not yet on the list, send them to ljimkipp@sbcglobal.net and we will put them in the next edition.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	
M	January 19	Martin Luther King Holiday – No Classes	
Tu	January 20	Teacher Preparation Day – No Classes	
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 Townview Theater	3:15p
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
Sa	February 7	Robotics Team Competes at RoPro at UTA	8:00a – 5:00p
Th	February 12	PTSA Board Meeting	6:30p
Tu	February 17	PTSA General Meeting	6:30p
F	February 20	AP English Prep Session	Evening
Sa	February 21	AP English Prep Session	9:00 – 2:30p

New and changed events are in bold.

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