From: Jim Kipp
To: "SEMlist@googlegroups.com";
Subject: SEM Newsletter: The Rubidium Issue
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2009 9:38:00 AM
Attachments: image002.emz
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This newsletter is from the Science and Engineering Magnet High School PTSA. If we have added your email address to our list in error, we apologize. Please let us know by replying to this email. We will promptly remove your address from our list.

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Rubidium Issue

The Periodic Tabloid

A Weekly Publication of the SEM Parent Teacher Student Association
August 24, 2009

Welcome to the Periodic Tabloid: Volume II

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at SEM and to the first issue of the Tabloid's second year. As you can see, we have moved to a new format. Rather than sending you the Tabloid as a pdf file, we are embedding it directly in the email. Thanks to Kathy Priester for the suggestion. We hope you like it.

The Tabloid is one of the best ways we have for keeping the SEM community up to speed on all things SEM. We invite everyone – parents, teachers and students – to contribute to the Tabloid. If you learn of something that might be appropriate for the Tabloid – such as student news, student opportunities, tips on applying for college, or scholarship opportunities – please send it to Jim Kipp, Tabloid editor, at jimkipp@sbcglobal.net. Help us make the Tabloid great.

Meet the Teacher Night

Please join us on Tuesday, September 15 for the first PTSA meeting of the year. The program for the evening is Meet the Teacher Night. SEM teachers will be available to meet parents from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the hallway by the library on the 3rd (top) floor. Afterward, please join us in the Townview auditorium for the first PTSA meeting of the year.

Volunteer at SEM

The PTSA organizes a variety of events to enhance the SEM experience for SEM students and staff. But we need the support of many parents to make these events successful. Volunteering can be big or small, ongoing or one time only. But it always matters! If you can help in any way, please let us know. Contact PTSA volunteer coordinator Laura Schlenker at schlenker@sbcglobal.net.

Spirit Wear

SEM has a great new line-up of Spirit Wear. The attached pdf has the new gear and an order form. Samples are on display in the SEM office, but the office will accept no orders. We will have parents in front of the SEM office to take orders over the next two weeks, including Monday morning (August 24) – future dates and times to be announced soon. Delivery of Spirit Wear will also be in front of the school office, on September 22.

SEM in Exemplary

It's official. On July 31, the Texas Education Agency announced its 2009 Accountability Ratings. For the 13th consecutive year, SEM is rated Exemplary. Congratulations to the entire SEM community!

Bus Schedules

DISD bus schedules are available online. If you have questions or concerns about the bus schedules, please do not contact the SEM office. Instead, contact the Dallas County Service Center for your school or Doug Becker, Director of Student Transportation, at (972) 925-4953.

What's It Like to Walk on the Moon?

Mark Your Calendars!

SEM Welcome Back to School Picnic

Saturday, September 19
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
SEM Cafeteria and Gym

Students and their families, teachers and staff are invited to join us for a lunch of grilled hot dogs with fixin's, side dishes and ice cream sundaes!

Student organizations will have information booths so you can ask questions and see what fun groups are available for students to join.

Great opportunity for students, parents and staff to meet & mingle with each other.

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) will provide the hot dogs and ice cream sundaes --- we are asking our SEM families to bring side dishes or chips.

Lunch starts at 11:30
Program begins about noon

Please RSVP to Lovelle Nord (214-358-2567 or Lovelle@swbell.net) and let her know how many folks will be coming to the picnic from your family and what kind of side dish or chip selection you can bring to this SEM family-building event!

We could use a few more volunteers to help with this event – if you would like to "jump in", please let Lovelle know – thanks!

Join the PTSA!

One of the best ways to support SEM is to join the SEM Parent Teacher Student Association. The PTSA is the primary support organization for the school. We organize events, publish this newsletter and do whatever we can to support SEM and its students. All SEM parents, students and teachers are invited to join. Dues are $8 per person; $6 for students and staff. Everyone who joins will receive a handy, printed directory of school and student addresses and phone numbers. In a few weeks, we will send home with your child a directory and your PTSA membership card.

Thinking of being an astronaut? Or just think it would be cool to feel what it's like to walk on the moon? Then check out the Astronaut Training Center in North Richland Hills where you can go through training exercises that simulate the tasks and experiments of the Apollo 11 crew 40 years ago (even down to the space suit!).
Hat Tip: Sue Cathcart

Winston Science

The 2009 Winston Science Series of Events is now online:

Winston Science Calendar (including Workshop schedule)

2009 Winston Science Competitions

New this year is the Science-Art Competition, a New Problem-Solving Competition, and the Spaghetti Bridge Competition.

Assorted Links

- UTD: MIT of the South
- Adding Personality to the College Admissions Mix
- Celebrate what's right with the world [highly recommended]
- For Today's Graduate, Just One Word: Statistics

  Key quote: "I keep saying that the sexy job in the next 10 years will be statisticians," said Hal Varian, chief economist at Google. "And I'm not kidding."
- Distinctly Rare and Unique Lobsters
- Galileo, four centuries on - As Important as Darwin

To join, place your dues in a sealed envelope with your name and phone number and drop the envelope off at the SEM office. Pre-printed membership envelopes are available in the office.

Register as a Volunteer

All adults who volunteer in any capacity on DISD campuses or with DISD students must register with the district each school year. If you would be willing to volunteer at SEM this year, please take a few moments to register now. Even if you have registered in the past, you will need to re-register for this school year.

Go to www.dallasisd.org/partners. In the left-hand frame, click "Partners/Volunteers" and then "Application". Follow the directions to complete the registration process. Be sure that you check SEM as a school where you would like to volunteer. 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.

Event Calendar

Date		Event	Time
M	August 24	First Day of School	
M	September 7	Labor Day – No School	
Tu	September 15	First PTSA General Meeting: Meet the Teacher Night	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Sa	September 19	SEM Welcome Back to School Picnic	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
M	September 28	Student Holiday – No School	
F	October 2	First Six-Week Period Ends	
F	October 9	Fair Day – No School	
M	October 12	Report Cards Issued Parent-Teacher Conferences	4:15 – 8:15 p.m.
W	October 14	PSAT for Grades 9, 10 and 11	

New and changed events are in bold.

Events are subject to change. Check the SEM calendar for updates. www.semagnetschool.org

You received this email because you are on the SEM PTSA email list. If at any time you would like to be removed from the list, simply
reply to this email and ask to be removed. But why would you want to? The PTSA email list is a great way to stay on top of tuned in to
things happening at SEM.