82
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Lead Issue

The Periodic Tabloid

A weekly publication of the SEM PTSA

October 25, 2010

Parent Portal Registration Launch

The Parent Portal is easily one of the best things DISD has done for parents in several years. If you want to stay on top of how your student is doing in class, you'll want to sign up for the portal. The portal provides parents and guardians access to a protected website where they can view confidential information on their student's progress, grades, standardized test scores, attendance, assignments and more. SEM is in the next round of schools being added to the portal.

To learn about and sign up for the Parent Portal , please attend the PTSA meeting on Tuesday, November 9. Rachel Moon, of DISD's Parent and Family Services group, will be on-hand to walk us through the Parent Portal and answer questions.

(See https://parentportal.riteksolutions.net) Note: The only way to obtain a personal identification number is by attending this meeting or coming up to the school. When signing up, please have your student's school ID number. You will be able to sign up for the Parent Portal at the PTSA meeting.

See attached flyers in English and Spanish.

How to Send Your Kid to College Without Breaking the Bank!

Think you can only afford to go to a state school? Think again! Private colleges have huge scholarship funds (that's right scholarship funds, not just loans) available. The scholarships can make it possible to attend a private college for less than the cost of attending a state school. And make no mistake, SEM students are in demand.

The SEM PTSA is pleased to bring back Doug Bryan of College Planning DFW. Mr. Bryan is a specialist in helping students attend the college of their choice without breaking the bank. He will be one of our guest speakers at our general meeting on Tuesday, November 9. To learn more about College Planning DFW, visit www.collegeplanningdfw.com.

All SEM students and their parents are invited, but this talk will be especially timely for SEM juniors. Come to learn what you need to know now so you can attend the college of your choice. The program is FREE.

Seeking Costume Party Prizes

Parents: We have lined up a number of cool prizes for the Costume Party, but we need a few more. If you have access to items that would make great prizes, please let us know. Contact Susan Rosenbloom at skr1909@aol.com. We would need to have them by Friday. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars for Two Great PTSA Programs

Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Townview Theater

6:00 p.m.
Parent Portal Registration Launch

6:30 p.m.
How to Send Your Kid to College Without Breaking the Bank!

SEM Announces 2010 AP® SCHOLAR Award Recipients

SEM announced that 153 SEM students have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams in 2010.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

6 SEM students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Benjamin Bell qualified for a State AP Scholar Award. The designation of State AP Scholar is granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams (at least three exams), and then the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.

30 students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

17 SEM students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

99 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher.

Please view the attached PDF file for a list of scholars.

Congratulations to all of our AP Scholars!

Jovan C. Wells
Principal
Science and Engineering Magnet

Thank You!

The SEM picnic was wonderful. We had fabulous weather., spontaneous football games, door prizes, great food and lots of fun. Thank you to everyone who attended. Thank you to Karen Suhre for organizing the event. And thank you to the many volunteers who brought food and helped with the event.

Science TAKS Benchmark Test - October 27, 2010

Parents of sophomores and juniors: On Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 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. It is **extremely 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. Please complete the attached form and have your student return it to his or her counselor ASAP.**

~ Jovan C. Wells

College Elements

What Will They Learn?

What Will They Learn? provides unique information on whether colleges make sure their students learn the things they need to know. You can find what they expect their graduates to study outside their majors, how much they are charging, how many of their students graduate, and what the colleges say about the education they offer. There are more than 700 institutions currently covered, and we'll be updating continuously.. What Will They Learn is a project of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). www.whatwilltheylearn.com

Intel Science Talent Search

The Intel Science Talent Search (STS) is America's most prestigious science research competition for high school seniors. Over $1 million is awarded annually to Intel STS participants and their schools. Awards range from $5,000 scholarship grants and laptop computers for all finalists to the grand prize of a $100,000 college scholarship. **Application deadline: November 18.**

AXA Achievement Scholarship

The AXA Achievement℠ Scholarship brings advice and access to higher education into every community in which AXA has a presence. Fifty state winners receive one-time scholarship awards of $10,000 each. From the pool of state winners, ten are selected as national winners and earn an additional one-time scholarship of $15,000. This brings the top AXA Achievers total scholarship awards to $25,000 each. **Application deadline: December 15.**

Communities Foundation of Texas

Communities Foundation of Texas administers more than 50 scholarship funds.

FREE

Saturday, Nov. 6 • 9am – 1pm

The Cotton Bowl at Fair Park

For information, see:
www.mayorspassporttohealth.com or call 211

- Games
- Live Bands
- Face Painting
- Healthy Snacks
- 1-mile Fun Run/Walk
- Free Health Screenings
- Children's Obstacle Course
- Zumba & Hip Hop
- Art Activities

For a ticket to the event, you must sign the attached Waiver and Release of Liability.

How to get there:
DART Rail: Green Line to Fair Park Car: Parking at Fair Park is $10

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER BY OCT. 27 FOR A FREE BUS RIDE TO THE EVENT — SEATING IS LIMITED!

- Register in person or by calling your Youth and Family Center
- Be at the Center on Saturday, November 6, at 8 am to board the bus.
- At 1:15 pm, when the Passport to Health is over, board the same bus you rode that morning. You will be returned to the Center.

All groups of children must be under the supervision of an adult to board the bus. Don't forget your ticket with the student waiver signed on the ticket.

High School Aerospace Scholars

HAS is an outstanding opportunity for SEM students. Each year more than dozen SEM juniors participate in this program. HAS is an interactive online learning experience for high school juniors in Texas. Selected students are nominated by their State Legislator (see attached letter from State Representative Barbara Mallory Caraway), have an interest in math, science, engineering or computer science and are encouraged to pursue high tech careers. Participation is highlighted by a six-day experience at the Johnson Space Center where students have the opportunity to interact with NASA engineers and scientists. Full details and the application are available online. **Application deadline: November 15.**

UT Southwestern Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program

The HPREP program is an enrichment program that targets, but is not limited to, African-American, Hispanic, and other underrepresented high school students who are interested in the life sciences. Aimed at recruiting students who are interested in a career path in medicine, allied health, or science, the program exposes the students to the educational institution - University of Texas Southwestern Medical School - and its clinical affiliates. The program uses medical, graduate, and allied health students, faculty and staff to motivate and advise HPREP students. Also, the students participate in discussions on various issues that are at the forefront of medicine today. Students are given opportunities to interact with medical students who share their experiences of the academic challenges and personal commitment needed to achieve their career goals. **Application deadline: November 19, 2010.**

Mark Your Calendar for Explore UT

What: "Explore UT: The Biggest Open House in Texas!"
When: Saturday, March 5, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Where: The University of Texas at Austin
Who's invited: Students K-12, teachers, and families. Everyone is welcome
Cost: Free, no sign-up for activities.

Choose from more than 400 learning activities.
Here's a sampling from last year: Watch Aldebaran humanoid robots in action. Take part in a trial of "Gold E. Locks" with a real judge presiding. Watch concrete cylinders crumble under 500,000 pounds of pressure. Deliver the TV news in a real TV studio. Learn the Russian alphabet. March with the Longhorn Band. See modern American paintings and sculpture in the Blanton Art Museum.

Engineering 2010 EXPO
Coppell School of Engineering

November 7, 2010
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Coppell High School
185 West Parkway, Coppell, Texas 75019

The Coppell (High School) School of Engineering's annual Engineering Expo is a terrific opportunity to meet representatives from engineering universities and companies. Forty-five engineering universities – including Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech, Rose-Hulman, MIT and UT Arlington – and 35 companies – including AT&T, NASA, and Raytheon – participated in the last Coppell Expo. Full details here.

Hat Tip: Sue Cathcart

Llaves del Éxito

Keys to Success College Fair

Las Llaves del Éxito (The Keys to Success) is a special program offered by the Dallas County Community College District to give students and their parents the key to their success: information about how to navigate the system so they can attend a college or university. Free and open to the public.

When: Saturday, October 30, 2010, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: University of Texas at Dallas

Who Should Attend? Students in grades six through 12 and their parents

The Periodic Tabloid

College Calendar

Date		Event	Time
Sa	October 30	Llaves del Éxito / Keys to Success College Fair @ UT Dallas	8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

New and changed events are in bold. All college visits to SEM will be in Room 211 unless otherwise noted.
All SEM students are welcome to attend. However, seniors will have priority at all times for speaking with the college reps visiting campus.

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

Upcoming Events

Date		Event	Time
Tu	October 26	PTSA Board Meeting in Room 211	6:30 p.m.
F	October 29	Anime & Costume Party in the Commons	5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Sa	November 7	Coppell Engineering Expo	2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Tu	November 9	PTSA General Meeting	6:30 p.m.
	November 22-26	Thanksgiving Break	
Tu	November 30	SEM Admissions Preview for Prospective Students	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Th	**December 9**	**Open House for All Townview Schools**	**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

New and changed events are in bold.

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

Haunted Hallway

Presented by "La Z" Radio
Oct 30th 2010, Saturday

Throw on your best Halloween costume and get ready to do the Monster Mash as Traders Village presents the annual Haunted Hallway, the biggest free spooktacular for kids in the Metroplex. Bring the kids for a day full of ghostly fun. Come celebrate Halloween with a Haunted House and lots of candy.

Also, pictures in our 'PUMPKIN PATCH' will be available for a $5.00 donation, benefiting the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce. It's fun for the whole family!

Traders Village is located at 2602 Mayfield Road, Grand Prairie, one mile north of I-20, taking the Hwy. 360 exit. There is no admission charge to Traders Village, which is open every Saturday and Sunday, 8 AM to Dusk. Parking is only $3.00 per vehicle. For more information call 972-647-2331.

Hat Tip: Toni Lewis

Feast of Sharing

Tuesday, November 9, 2010
2:00 – 7:00 PM
Automobile Building at Fair Park
1001 First Ave., Dallas, Texas

Gather your family and friends for a free holiday feast served with all the trimmings. Second helpings are encouraged!

The Feast of Sharing Holiday Dinners are one of the highlights of Central Market and H-E-B's year-round effort to combat hunger.

A Festive Helping of Entertainment and Friendship

Kid's Zone • Live Entertainment • Health and Family Services including: W.I.C. Office of Dallas, City of Dallas Housing, North Texas Food Bank, Saint Vincent DePaul Catholic Charities, Central Dallas Ministries, MetroCare, Parkland Community Health and more.