

# Southwest Dekalb Magnet Newsletter

## January 2008

### Important Upcoming Dates at a Glance Spring Semester

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Semester Report Cards Issued</b>	– January 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MLK Holiday (Schools Closed)</b>	– January 21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Magnet Informational Meeting</b>	– January 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm in Cafeteria
<b>Magnet Advisory Board Meeting</b>	– Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup> 6pm in Administrative Conference Room
<b>President's Day (Schools Closed)</b>	– February 15 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>
<b>6-week Progress Reports Issued</b>	– February 27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>	– February 28 <sup>th</sup> 4-6pm in Teacher's Rooms
<b>Prom Fashion Show</b>	– February 29 <sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30pm in the Gym
<b>Magnet Advisory Board Meeting</b>	– Apr. 15 <sup>th</sup> 6pm in Administrative Conference Room
<b>International Dinner &amp; Performances</b>	– April 17 <sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 pm in Cafeteria
<b>Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>	– April 17 <sup>th</sup> 4-6pm in Teacher's Rooms
<b>Magnet Parent Meeting to Vote for 2008-2009 Advisory Board</b>	– April 24 <sup>th</sup> 6-7pm in Media Center
<b>Magnet Senior Banquet</b>	– May 1 <sup>st</sup> 6-8pm in Cafeteria
<b>Prom</b>	– Saturday, May 10 <sup>th</sup> 7:30-11:30pm Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel Downtown
<b>Baccalaureate at Ray of Hope</b>	– May 18 <sup>th</sup> Time TBA
<b>Graduation at Georgia Dome</b>	– May 25 <sup>th</sup> 10am

## Attend Top Universities like Harvard & Princeton for Free

From Magnet Parent Stanley Williams

If you know of a family earning less than \$40,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. The prestigious university recently announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free...no tuition and no student loans!

Harvard University announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. In making the announcement, Harvard's president Lawrence H. Summers said, 'When only 10 percent of the students in Elite higher education come from families in lower half of the income distribution, we are not doing enough. We are not doing enough in bringing elite higher education to the lower half of the income distribution.'

To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than \$40,000 a year visit Harvard's financial aid website at: <http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/> or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.

Many other top universities such as Princeton University, Davidson College, Williams College, Amherst College, Pomona College, Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania have also eliminated loans from the financial aid packages for undergraduate students. Read more about it at

<http://www.finaid.org/questions/noloansforlowincome.phtml>

## **Tom Joyner Full Tuition Scholarship – Apply by January 18<sup>th</sup>!**

**From Magnet Parent Calamity Price**

The Tom Joyner Foundation is offering a full tuition scholarship for High School Seniors planning to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY:  
January 18, 2008**

To get the application for the scholarship visit,  
<http://www.blackamericaweb.com/foundation/pdf/FullRideApplication.pdf>

The application can be mailed to:

The Tom Joyner Foundation  
Attention: Full Ride Scholarship Committee  
PO Box 630495  
Irving , TX 75063

## **2008 Summer Economic Program for Rising Seniors – Apply by 1/21/08**

**From Magnet Parent Donna Lloyd**

**SEI (Summer Economics Institutes A Business Internship)**

Summer Economics Institute is a unique partnership between Atlanta's public schools, independent schools, and businesses. SEI offers students a chance to learn about the American free-enterprise system by doing. SEI combines one day of classroom instruction with four days of on-site business internship that helps the most talented and motivated rising seniors in Atlanta learn economics through experience.

The twenty-third Summer Economics Institute invites rising seniors to be a part of the exciting program. This summer program encourages students with positive interpersonal skills, proven leadership, and academic excellence to apply. It is held June 6th to July 11th, 2008. The deadline date is January 21, 2008. For more information please call 404-367-5093 or email [scottsnyder@westminster.net](mailto:scottsnyder@westminster.net) or see your school counselor for the application.

For more information visit <http://www2.westminster.net/sei/> or view the brochure at <http://www2.westminster.net/sei/studentbrochure2008.pdf>

Important Dates for SEI 2008 Program:

Application Deadline: January 21st 2008

- Please submit this on time along with a teacher recommendation

Interviews: Saturday, February 23rd 2008

- Held in Atlanta on a Saturday morning

Admissions Decisions: March 2008

- Letters mailed to all candidates with Yes, No or Waiting List decisions

Intern & Parent Orientation Dinner: April 2008

- Parents & Interns invited to join us for an informational dinner

SEI PROGRAM: June 6th - July 11th 2008

- The SEI Program for 2008 begins!

## **2008 Summer Internships at Merrill Lynch**

Deadlines for this may have already passed since the site indicates they prefer applicants apply from September through November of the year before graduation, but it can't hurt to apply. For more information visit, [http://careers.ml.com/index.asp?id=76716\\_79332\\_76756](http://careers.ml.com/index.asp?id=76716_79332_76756)

## **Magnet Information Meeting 1/24/08**

The next Magnet parent meeting will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. Don't miss this opportunity to meet with other Magnet parents and find out information vital to your students in the Magnet program. Grade level representatives will be on hand to talk to parents about any issues affecting the Magnet program.

## **International Dinner & Performance Night**

**From Ms. Obregon, Magnet Spanish Professor**

On April 17th from 6:30 -8:30 the International department will host the International Dinner and Performance Night. All Languages are participating and especially the Magnet students enrolled in the Languages Department. In past years, the food has been exotic and scrumptious and the dances and poetry enthralling. It's an event not to be missed!

## **Back Issues of SWD Magnet Newsletter Available Online**

**By Richard Jackson**

If you've missed an issue of the newsletter in the past, never fear. This newsletter is now available online on the Southwest Dekalb High

School website. See all past issues for 2007 at <http://schools.dekalb.k12.ga.us/swdekalbhs/ghsgt.html>  
You can also get to this page by selecting 'SWDHS Magnet Program' and then 'Newsletters' from the main page of the school website.

## Tips from a Senior Parent

From Michelle Sykes-Jackson

I'd like to share with you some "wisdom" that I've obtained (sometimes from the school of hard knocks) in the 4 years that my son has been at Southwest Dekalb. I hope this will help you to prepare your child and perhaps not repeat the pitfalls that the uninformed sometimes fall into. If for nothing else, you won't be able to say someone didn't try to "tell you so".

- Have your child take the PSAT in every year possible, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>. It's free until grade 11 (and only a nominal fee of less than \$15 usually in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade) so you have nothing to lose by doing this, and everything to gain by being more prepared for the real SAT test. Check with the counseling center for when this is offered (usually in October) and make sure you get your child registered with the counseling center for this.
- Don't wait until senior year to start getting recommendations. If your child does well and has a good rapport with his teacher, ask for a recommendation. This is true for anything positive or extra ordinary that your child does in association with an organization (volunteer, church) or significant individuals. Start building their portfolio as early as possible. Ask the people they associate with to put something in writing that talks about their accomplishments, contributions and future potential. Make sure the people who will be writing these recommendations have ample opportunities to get to know your child both academically and for their extracurricular activities as well so they can feel comfortable writing a good recommendation. Seniors should try to have all recommendations by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
- It's never too early to start attending college fairs. I would recommend you attend at least one in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grades to get an idea of future career choices, schools that offer them and MOST IMPORTANTLY, the requirements of these schools. If they require AP courses, SAT II tests or a certain curriculum, meet with your guidance counselor to ensure you are on track.
- Make sure your child is involved in extracurricular activities. This is **critical** for college applications as well as scholarship and summer enhancement opportunities. They want to know that your child did more than just attend school. SWD has many options to offer, from band to chorus to ROTC to leadership clubs like BOLD/LOD/FBLA to academic clubs like 4H.
  - o Make sure they are involved in something **every** summer of their high school career.
  - o Check for summer enhancement opportunities starting as early as September of the year before their summer break. Many good (free) programs have deadlines that may come as early as November of the year before their summer break and may require teacher/counselor recommendations. Other

options are summer jobs (like camp counselor, baby sitter), internships and academically enriching programs, or volunteer organizations. My son volunteered with Dekalb Habitat for Humanity in a project to build a home for a woman and 4 children who were displaced. He also attended the MITE (Minority Introduction to Engineering) program at Tennessee State University and [Morehouse College's Project Identity/Project Space NASA](#). Check the web, speak to friends or counselors to find out what is available that might interest your child.

- GPA is a very important factor in coordination with standardized test scores and other activities. Balance your child's schedule to make sure they can be as successful as possible in all classes they attempt. If your child wants to take 2 or more AP classes in the same semester, find out the load of work for all classes and make sure your child is up to the challenge. Meet with their teachers often to be sure of their grades, and it never hurts to ask if there is any extra work they can complete to improve them. The Parent Portal is also a great tool for keeping up with your student's grades.
- SAT and ACT test scores are **critical** for everything from getting into the college of your choice to getting scholarships and being able to take advantage of internships or summer enhancement opportunities. Many underestimate the importance of this until it's too late. Here are some tips:
  - Take the SAT more than once, if possible. Studies show SAT grades generally increase on subsequent attempts and most colleges will take the highest of the scores you receive. Remember the trick is not to try to answer every question (because you will lose points for the ones you get wrong), but to answer as many as you can correctly. To register or find out when it's offered visit <http://www.collegeboard.com>
  - Make use of SAT Preparation Resources. If you can afford professional SAT preparation like those offered by Princeton Review or Kaplan, go for it. My son did the Princeton Review prep course and felt it was really worthwhile. However, many practice books and videos are available for free from the Dekalb County Public Library. Take any practice tests available and TIME YOURSELF until you can complete each section within the time allotted. Also, you might be able to find free SAT Preparation classes offered by university groups, student organizations, state or county agencies or church family life centers, but you need to check for these early in the year as possible and get registered. Now is the time to start looking. Last year free prep classes were offered by Georgia Tech's African American Student Union, Dekalb County and Morehouse College's Project Identity (to its members). Free Prep resources are also available on <http://www.collegeboard.com> . Make sure to sign up for their SAT Question of the Day.
  - Start Building your Vocabulary. READ! READ! READ! And not just books. Newspapers,

especially ones like the Times and Wall Street Journal can not only build vocabulary but also your knowledge of the world, finances and current events which can help with essays for the SAT or scholarships. A great audio cd that I would highly recommend for vocabulary building in a hurry is 'Kaplan SAT Words to Go' which you can get from Amazon for under \$20. However, there are many other great audio cds available that your student can listen to on the go, in your car or their MP3 player. You can even get some for free from the Dekalb County Public Library.

- o Maximize your Essay Potential.  
To maximize your score on the essays, review past essay prompts (check <http://www.collegeboard.com> for these) and do as many practice essays as you can. Remember, essay structure is as important as content. Make sure you have a good catchy introduction that includes the points you will be covering. In the body, list at least 2 points that support your statement and then include a conclusion/summation/summary of your points. Having this structure alone will gain you points.
- o If you intend to attend an Ivy League college you most likely will need to take the SAT II Subject tests. If you plan to do this, taking an AP class for the subject will help you be the best prepared. If not, try to obtain study books for the SAT II test from the local library, bookstore or take practice tests.

## **College Application FAQs from College Board**

It's normal for your senior and you to have many questions about the college application process. You wonder 'How many times should I take the SAT?', 'Is there any advantage to applying early to colleges?' or 'How important are my senior year grades?'.

These questions, plus others you may not even have thought of are answered at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/apply/the-application/8487.html?CampaignID=31364>

## **Graduation & Baccalaureate Dates**

This year's graduation ceremony will be held at the Georgia Dome on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 10am. The date is now available for Baccalaureate Services. They will be held at Ray of Hope Church on May 18<sup>th</sup> but the time is still TBA (To Be Announced).

## **Walmart Hiring All Positions for New Supercenter 1/7-2/1/2008**

**From Magnet Parent Calamity Price**

Seniors looking for part-time employment can come to the hiring center noted below. You might need to be 18 years of age (check with your local Walmart for hiring requirements).

A new Wal-Mart Supercenter is coming soon and is hiring in all positions from Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> - February 1, 2008 at the hiring center located at:

**ST PHILIP AME CHURCH – FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
1607 Richard Allen Drive  
Decatur, GA 30032**

**Note:** Richard Allen Drive is the street directly behind St. Philip AME Church which is located at the corner of Candler Road and Memorial Drive

**NO CALLS TO THE CHURCH PLEASE!**

Hiring Site Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9am to 4pm

Tuesday and Thursday, from 9am to 8pm

Saturday, from 10am to 1pm

And here's the Walmart pitch:

- With excellent opportunities for advancement, it is no wonder over 75% of our current Managers started off as hourly Associates. We know your time is valuable, that is why Wal-Mart offers flexible schedules. Wal-Mart is the smart choice for living and working. As an Associate with Wal-Mart, you will receive competitive wages and may be eligible for a variety of traditional and non-traditional benefits that enhance your career, compensation, home and life. Below is just a sample of positions for which we are currently accepting applications. Additional positions not listed also available. For more information on how you can become a part of the great Wal-Mart team, please visit our hiring site opening on Monday, January 7.

GROCERY

Bakery Deli, Meat, Produce

FRONT END

Cashiers, Customer Service Desk,

Cart Pushers, People Greeters

SALES FLOOR

Supervisors for all departments

RECEIVING

Unloading and Stocking

## **Searching for Scholarships**

From Magnet Parent Art Houser

The Director of the NAACP Youth & College Division distributed the following information regarding the search for financial assistance for deserving college students. Please share this with aspiring college students or their parents.

It's time to start looking for scholarship money for next year. There is so much information on Scholarships until you need time to just click, click, click....

Most of the leading magazines have done research on scholarship money...

Start with these:

[www.ebony.com](http://www.ebony.com) -fill out the search box with the word - scholarships

[www.blackenterprise.com](http://www.blackenterprise.com) - has scholarships listed for athletes

[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) - will give you a specific search

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

[www.fanniema.com](http://www.fanniema.com)

[www.blackpagesusa.com](http://www.blackpagesusa.com)

[www.wachovia.com/collegeready](http://www.wachovia.com/collegeready)

Search:

All leading banks

All organizations/ social,civic, professional, etc. [NAACP](#),

UNCF,sororities, fraternities, doctors, lawyers etc.

All universities

All school career offices, guidance office (colleges or high schools)

Also, make sure to register with major sources like [fastweb](#) and [collegeboard](#).

## **Magnet Newsletter Editor Candidates Needed for 2008-2009 Semester**

If you or your student are interested in being the SWD Magnet Newsletter editor for the 2008-2009 semester, your students can find me, Richard Jackson, or e-mail [michelle\\_sykes-jackson@ibi.com](mailto:michelle_sykes-jackson@ibi.com) for more information. This is a great opportunity for students interested in journalism or any writing-related careers to gain school activity recognition.

## **Magnet Advisory Board Members for 2007-2008**

Below are the members of the 2007-2008 Magnet Advisory Board.

If you or your student has an issue related to the Magnet program, you can contact your grade level representative below.

Principal

John Prince

[john\\_prince@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:john_prince@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us)

Magnet Coordinator

Tricia Weeks

[patricia\\_d\\_weeks@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:patricia_d_weeks@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us)

12<sup>th</sup> Grade representatives

Ron Epps (daughter: Ashleigh Sheron Epps)

[Ron.Epps@bellsouth.com](mailto:Ron.Epps@bellsouth.com)

[repps1@imcingular.com](mailto:repps1@imcingular.com)

Tracie Hill (daughter: Natasha Hill)  
[traciehill@comcast.net](mailto:traciehill@comcast.net)

Alternate: Shirley Randolph  
(daughters: Sabrina and Sonya Randolph)  
[sltchmath@yahoo.com](mailto:sltchmath@yahoo.com)

11<sup>th</sup> Grade representatives Edwineth Murphy (son: Gabriel Murphy)  
[EMU7143983@aol.com](mailto:EMU7143983@aol.com)

Darrin Graham (son: Darrin II)  
[ldgraham@comcast.net](mailto:ldgraham@comcast.net)

Alternate: Elizabeth Stanley (daughter: Alandria)  
[liz\\_stanley2003@yahoo.com](mailto:liz_stanley2003@yahoo.com)

Cydney Williams (daughter: Sonia)  
[vcydney@us.ibm.com](mailto:vcydney@us.ibm.com)

10<sup>th</sup> Grade representatives Alice Swift Brown (daughter: Davynn Brown)  
[alice.d.swift@usps.gov](mailto:alice.d.swift@usps.gov)

Stacey Jones  
[stacey.jones@emory.edu](mailto:stacey.jones@emory.edu)

Alternate: Regenia Roberts (son: Michael Roberts)  
[regeniaroberts@bellsouth.net](mailto:regeniaroberts@bellsouth.net)

9<sup>th</sup> Grade representatives Nancy Scott (daughter: Kenya L. Scott)  
[njscott2003@yahoo.com](mailto:njscott2003@yahoo.com)

Sarah Jenkins-Pattillo (sons: DeMarcus K. Jenkins and Marcus W. Jenkins)  
[emoryscholar@yahoo.com](mailto:emoryscholar@yahoo.com)

#### **Newsletter**

Michelle Sykes-Jackson  
(son: Richard Jackson)  
[michelle\\_sykes-jackson@ibi.com](mailto:michelle_sykes-jackson@ibi.com)

#### **Special Projects**

Shelia Hollimon (son: Austin Hollimon)  
[ulyssesh@mindspring.com](mailto:ulyssesh@mindspring.com)

Lucy Wright (son: Bryant Wright)  
([lucyleo@bellsouth.net](mailto:lucyleo@bellsouth.net))  
([LCW9890@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:LCW9890@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us))

Erik Jackson (daughter: Kia Jackson)  
[erikjack1@comcast.net](mailto:erikjack1@comcast.net)

Ernest Brown (son: Ernie Brown)

[Ernest\\_Brown@ibi.com](mailto:Ernest_Brown@ibi.com)

## **Ask the Advisory Board & Newsletter Contributions**

If you or your student have a question about the magnet program you would like answered in the newsletter, or you have information you would like to share in the newsletter with other magnet parents and students, please e-mail them to [Michelle\\_Sykes-Jackson@ibi.com](mailto:Michelle_Sykes-Jackson@ibi.com)

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SWD Newsletter Editors: Richard Jackson (Senior SWD Magnet), Michelle Sykes-Jackson (co-editor)