

THE Councilor

President's Message

Kids Matter— Write Now

As we have all seen by the letter sent home with students from Dr. Kaplan, the budget crunch is here. The proposed cuts are dramatic, but the academic excellence of our school district can still be maintained—*for now*. Unless the Kansas Legislature makes a commitment to adequately fund public education, the cuts that will be necessary in the 2003-2004 school budget will affect every classroom and student in our district. As parents and taxpayers who support public education, we need to let our elected officials know that we will only support candidates who have demonstrated their support of public schools.

What can we hope for in this legislative session? At best, probably some band-aid measures. The Kansas Board of Education recommended a \$368 increase in the base aid per pupil. The governors'

proposed budget shows a \$158 decrease in the base aid per pupil. A bill has been submitted proposing a \$20 increase in the base aid per pupil. It is very difficult to determine what the actual outcome will be. In my opinion, we cannot let our legislators come home after approving an increase of only \$20 per pupil and think they were successful. We must make them understand that this is *not good enough*.

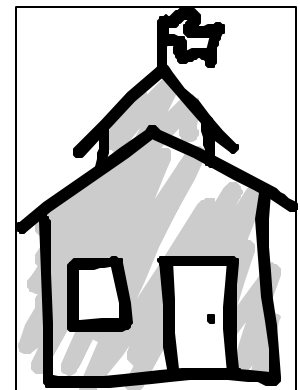
For the long term, we must concentrate on sending people to Topeka who tell us they will support a tax increase for schools. We need a school finance formula that works for every Kansas school district and we need a commitment from our lawmakers to adequately fund the formula. As we move into the spring and summer months, please encourage parents at your school, friends, neighbors and relatives to be sure they are registered to vote and to be sure to vote in the August primary

elections. SMAC will provide more information on registering and voting as the time nears.

We are out of time. Please take a few moments, on a regular basis, to let your legislators know the health of Shawnee Mission Schools is a top priority for you when casting your vote.

Thank you for all you do for all children.

Kim Pflaum,
SMAC President



Shawnee Mission
Area Council

PTA[®]

every child. one voice.

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Vice President of Public Relations

The Vice President of Public Relations for Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA is responsible for all aspects of public relations. Through the efforts of these chairmen the local units are kept informed about Shawnee Mission PTA and all its activities. To promote positive relationships with the public, SMAC publishes *The Councilor*, maintains the SMAC Web site and publicizes SMAC events.

Councilor Editor – Janet Martz/384-5306/E-mail: jbmartz@juno.com

The Councilor is the monthly publication of the Shawnee Mission Area Council. The newsletter contains information about important events, contests, awards, and various PTA tips. Janet is responsible for gathering articles, typing and editing the newsletter. It is to be shared with the officers and chairpersons of your unit.

Councilor Distributor – Pam Blake/ 268-3236

Pam handles the monthly distribution of *The Councilor* to over two hundred subscribers. She maintains the mailing list and prints the necessary labels and sorts by zip code. She then delivers them to the SMAC Bulk Mail Chairperson for mailing.

Legislation – Cathy Boyer-Shesol/722-0087/E-mail: kccabs@aol.com

Cathy has organized and conducted two legislative workshops to educate us on the activities of the state legislature. Information was provided to let us know who are legislators are and how we should contact them. Due to the financial needs of our district, committees are being formed to keep the units advised of the actions of our legislators and to recommend how we can make our concerns be heard.

Summer Films – Sonya Puskas/631-4490/E-mail: sapuskas@juno.com

Sonya is working with the Cinemark Theatre in Merriam to organize this popular program for area families. She will provide flyers to all units encouraging their participation. This is the only fundraising activity that SMAC conducts.

Web Master – Sherry Nowell/631-4361/E-mail: snowell@kc.rr.com

Sherry's responsibility is to maintain the SMAC Home Page. The site is updated monthly with relevant information including the current *Councilor*. The SMAC Home Page can be found at www.ptasonline.org/smac.

Elaine Hodgson,
Vice-President Public Relations,
722-5475, mhodgson@kc.rr.com



Fundraising Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 26
7 p.m.

McEachen Administrative Center, Rooms 7 & 9
7235 Antioch

Questions? Contact Jeanne Slaughter, 432-8211.

US Department of Education

Satellite Town Meeting

US Department of Education Satellite Town Meetings provide information about improvements in teaching and learning. The meetings show how schools are preparing all students for future challenges and they focus on what works. On each show, the Secretary of Education invites national experts as well as local educators and community leaders to share their ideas.

Rebroadcasts of these Satellite Town Meetings air on Time Warner Channel 18 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. On Feb. 27, the Town Meeting will address "Testing for Results: Using Assessments to Measure Effectiveness and Drive Instruction." Resources for this broadcast and others can be found at <http://www.gov/inits/stm>. Select "schedule" from the toolbar and click on the January description.

The Councilor is published monthly. The article deadline for the upcoming March issue is Wednesday, March 6. Send articles to Editor Janet Martz by e-mail at jbmartz@juno.com or by mail to 5301 W. 65th Place, Prairie Village, KS 66202.

Contact Janet at 384-5306 or at the above e-mail address with any comments or questions.



PTA Presidents 2002-2003

Please submit the following for the 2002-2003 PTA President as soon as possible.

School _____

President's Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Please send this information to Laurie Franklin
 5345 Mission Woods Road
 Mission Woods, KS 66205
 913-262-6127
 E-Mail : J11516@aol.com

This information will be used to compile the new Presidents List and for the President's Information Course scheduled for April 17. Also, please submit this same information to the Kansas PTA office at 715 S.W. 10th, Topeka, KS 66612. Thank you!

Elementary Presidents and Principals Exchange

During the informal portion of the Elementary Presidents and Principals Exchange, PTA presidents are asked to share ideas that work in their buildings. This is a list of the most effective, useful, and most well received programs in these individual schools.

Safety

- Merriam:** This school offered a program in cooperation with Skateworld where students could win a \$20 gift certificate to Toys R Us if they wear helmets.
- Briarwood:** A student Safety Patrol was created to assist during the busy arrival and departure times at Briarwood.

NOTE: Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA invites you to attend a talk given by Leawood police officer, Randy Wiler. Officer Wiler is a well-known authority on the subject of bullying. Please join us at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the McEachen Administrative Center, 7235 Antioch. Room 7.

Donations/Fundraising

- Briarwood:** The PTA collected coupons and cash register receipts from Price Chopper that provided a steady stream of income (approx. \$200/month) for the PTA. Other vendors who offer this sort of program: K-Mart, Hen House and Target. This school also offered a used Book Fair. They collected used books, movies, CDs and computer games. The PTA earned around \$1,000. Briarwood PTA also sponsored a new Book Fair.
- Somerset:** They sponsored a Holiday Shop in which the students sold homemade craft/gift items that cost from \$.25 to about \$10. The PTA also hosted a dinner at the same time. Both events earned around \$2,700.
- Highlands:** They hosted a very successful Silent Auction.

NOTE: Broken Arrow suggests that the PTA may want to designate one parent to handle requests for donations for a single store, as in a "HyVee" representative.

- Rosehill:** This school sponsored a Silent Auction, but they included grade-level baskets in which the students each brought an item for their grade's theme, such as a sports or summer fun basket.
- Sunflower:** This school's variation on the grade-level basket idea was to have movie title theme baskets, like "Snow Day."
- Somerset:** A unique fundraiser at Somerset was their project to recycle paper and used ink cartridges. This PTA then dedicated the funds for specific projects.
- Diemer:** A highly successful moneymaker at Diemer was their "live auction." Everyone got into the spirit of the event with the live auctioneer.
- Trailwood:** This school offered a silent auction and a live auction with a DJ. They handled getting donations by asking parents from each classroom to request those donations.

NOTE: ~~Some schools offer their patrons the opportunity to make a "one time only" cash donation to the school in lieu of multiple fundraisers. The success of this approach varies depending on the school.~~

Elementary Presidents and Principals Exchange (Continued)

Business Partners

- Highlands:** This school received support from several local businesses.
- Diemer:** Junior Achievement and Capitol Federal are community business partners with Diemer.
- Rosehill:** This school has developed a relationship with HyVee and with Gordmans, where on special days, Rosehill receives a percentage of sales.
- Crestview:** An outstanding partnership exists between Crestview and Superior Chevrolet. The car dealership mentors students, offers grants, and technical support and donates book bags to the "Superior Student of the Month." The program was highlighted in the national General Motors magazine.

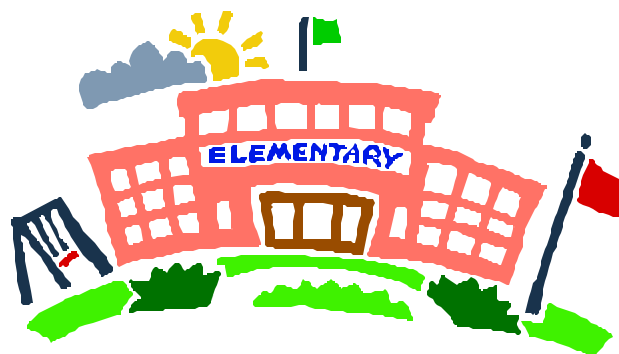
Dads in School

- Shawano:** This school offered a wonderful program called Real Men Read, in which dads visited and read to students in each classroom. It was very well received.
- Diemer:** Diemer Dads says it all. This group has hosted everything from picnics with dads to bowling night and fishing derbys.
- Somerset:** The dads at Somerset like projects. They not only installed the brand-new school marquee and hosted a Bike Rodeo, but also sponsored a barbeque featuring Back Yard Burgers.
- Moody:** Doughnuts with Dads was this school's way to get their dads involved. This year the dads will also take charge of the annual Family Picnic. Way to go!
- Prairie:** This school invited dads into the building on Career Day, where they talked about work and their jobs and shared time with the kids during the school day.

NOTE: Briarwood PTA suggests sending a flyer/notice to all parents around July 1 to remind everyone to vote in the August primary.

NOTE: Rising Star instituted "express" PTA meetings in an effort to boost attendance. This has been a very successful idea.

It is always fun and informative to exchange ideas about projects that work in your school. We want to thank all of the PTA presidents for sharing and for caring about our kids.



Founders Day—February 17

The 105th anniversary of PTA Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

National PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea-to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTA's kept it alive.

Today, National PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for our children and youth.

Shirley Igo, National PTA President



Summer Film Series

Cinemark Theater at 5500 Antioch Road has once again agreed to be our location for our Summer Film Series sponsored by SMAC. Movies in the ten-week series will begin the week of June 3rd, and will be shown every Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

The season tickets will sell for \$6.50 which is the same price as last year. The tickets will be sold through elementary school PTA units. From the sale of each \$6.50 ticket, the PTA unit receives \$1.75 and SMAC receives \$1. This is the **ONLY** fundraising activity that SMAC conducts during the year. Please support your Council and local unit and participate in this great deal.

There are a few Presidents of elementary PTA units that have not yet turned in the name of the person who will be handling the sale at your school. This information is vital to help the sale run smoothly. Also, I need distributors for each area. Please call 631-4490, or e-mail sapuskas@juno.com, with the name and phone number of your unit chair or if you are interested in being a distributor. The sale will start in April.

Sonya Puskas,
Summer Film Series Chair

*Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA invites you to
attend the*

February General Meeting
with
Special Speaker on Bullying

Feb. 20

9 a.m.

McEachen Administrative Center
Board Room
7235 Antioch

Officer Randy Wiler will present a program on the topic of bullying. He is a member of the Leawood Police Department and leader of the Kansas Bullying Prevention Program. This program has been nationally recognized. Bullying is a problem which affects all of our children, whether they are the victim, the bully or a bystander.

Local PTA



Unit Newsletters

Still Needed

Please forward copies of your elementary, middle or high school's PTA newsletter to the SMAC *Councilor* Editor. Send them to Janet Martz via interschool mail at Highlands Elementary School or 5301 W. 65th Place, Prairie Village 66202. Thank you to those schools who already send in their newsletters.

We are on the Web at www.ptasonline.org/smac/

Clothing Center Midyear Report and Schedule

Things seem to be running smoothly at the Clothing Center in our new home at Indian Creek Technology Center. We now have a permanent security gate that the School District put up for us. We had been having problems with "curiosity visitors" when we weren't officially open and did have some things come up missing. Now all is well and we are on the road to helping our families.

Last year, the Clothing Center served 167 families. So far this year, we have 57 families that have been able to find us. Most of the families, once they figure out where we are located, actually like the new location. We will soon be changing over from fall/winter clothing to the spring/summer clothes. The five high schools will be helping us with that "changeover day" on Feb. 19. We are planning to have a second TEEN Night in March. Our hope is that we will get some nice "prom-type" dresses/clothing in before then. We will let the middle and high schools know that date soon so that they can advertise in their schools.

We have purchased new underwear and socks as well as some supplies for the Center. We appreciate the area PTAs donations to help us with those purchases. We also are very grateful for the wonderful volunteers that have come out to help us sort all the donations that we have received. We could not do it without them!

The Clothing Center Information line is: 993-8924. This is updated on a monthly basis and is very specific regarding the dates and times we are open for shopping. If you have any further questions, please call Mary Ca Ralstin, Vice President Community Services, 268-5970.

	8:30-11 a.m.	8:30-11 a.m.	8:30-11 a.m.	4:30-7 p.m.
Feb. 18	Closed			
Feb. 19	HS Changeover	5 High Schools		
Feb. 25	R. Benninghoven, Rising Star	E. Hodgson	C. Boyer-Shesol	
Mar. 4	Roeland Park, Roesland	J. Etherington	S. Nowell	
Mar. 11				L. Bolter, S. Puskas
Mar. 18	Closed	Spring Break		
Mar. 25	Closed	Spring Break		
Apr. 1	Closed			
Apr. 8				V. Needham, P. Blake
Apr. 15	Somerset, South Park	M. Noll	E. Hodgson	
Apr. 22	Sunflower, Tomahawk	S. Beyer	D. Lawson	
Apr. 29	Trailwood, West Antioch	M. Breitmayer	J. Carper	
May. 6	Westwood View	M. Ralstin	J. Etherington	
May. 13				R. Kobylinski, C. Lafferty



The new location is at the Indian Creek Technology Center, 4401 W. 103rd Street. Take the western most driveway and go all the way around to the back of the building by the day care playground. Enter through the back door and the Clothing Center is located just down the ramp. Each school is to send three (3) workers to assist in the sorting room at the Clothing Center on its scheduled Monday date. Sorting hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Area Council officers and chairs must trade or find substitutes if they are unable to work on their assigned date. If you miss, you will be rescheduled.

How to find the SMAC PTA Clothing Center



Dates To Remember

FEBRUARY

20 Wed. Gen'l Meeting-Bullying Prevention 9 a.m. McEachen

MARCH

6 Wed. Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. McEachen

APRIL

3 Wed. Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. McEachen

17 Wed. President's Information Course 9 a.m. McEachen

MAY

1 Wed. Executive Committee Meeting 9:30 a.m. McEachen

8 Wed. School of Instruction 6 p.m. S.M. West

15 Wed. Executive Training (2002-2003 Board) 9:30 a.m. McEachen



The Councilor
SMCA- PTA
7235 Antioch
Shawnee Mission,
KS

INSIDE

Kids Matter-Write Now
Let your legislators know that the health of
Shawnee Mission Schools is a top priority.