

THE Councilor



Shawnee Mission
Area Council

PTA[®]

every child. one voice.

Inside this issue:

2002-2003 Officers	2
Reflections Winners	4, 5
KS PTA Convention	6
Fundraising for PTAs	7
School of Instruction	10
School of Instruction	11

President's Message

This is the time of year that many of your units will be electing officers and recruiting committee chairs for next year. It is a time when you have the opportunity to create an innovative board that represents your school's diverse community. Reach out to new members and those who have not been involved in past years. It is sometimes easier to fill positions with your circle of PTA friends, but in the end, this practice shortchanges the students. You must think about the future and work to bring new volunteers up through the ranks to leadership positions.

Spring is the time for new beginnings. In this issue of the *Councilor* you will find information on training opportunities being offered by Kansas PTA and SMAC. It is not

too late to register for the Kansas PTA Convention, April 12-14 in Salina. A spring convention provides an excellent opportunity for newly elected officers and chairs to get new ideas and motivation for the next year. If you have not yet elected new officers, you may send in the registration(s) now and then send the names of those attending at a later date. If you have nominees, you may send in their names and if someone else is elected to that office the name can be changed. New officers and chairs should also plan to attend SMAC's annual School of Instruction on May 8, at Shawnee Mission West. Please share the information in this issue with your officers and chairs. All PTA Presidents for the 2002-2003 school year are invited to the President's Information

Course on Wednesday, April 17, at Indian Creek Technology Center. Each of these events will provide different information. I hope you or a representative will be able to attend all of them.

On a different note, our legislative efforts have not gone unnoticed. Cathy Boyer-Shesol, our legislative chairman, is doing an excellent job of keeping every school posted on the happenings in Topeka. She has been hosting regular meetings for legislative chairs, PTA Presidents, and other interested parties throughout this legislative session. Our legislators are hearing from us and know we are unhappy. As I said in the last issue of the *Councilor* there is little hope for relief this year. Our

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message-Continued

(Continued from page 1)

fight now is to put people in Topeka who are willing to propose tax increases for public education. We must make our friends and neighbors without children in school aware of the situation.

We must also make sure they are registered to vote and that they vote both in the August Primary and in the November election. Your PTA cannot endorse a candidate, but when you talk to your friends and

neighbors, you may express your personal views. We are all frustrated, but we cannot give up now. We must continue to fight for the future of the Shawnee Mission Schools.

Thank you for all you do, and as PTAs continue to speak for *every child* with *one voice*.

Cordially,

Kim Pflaum
SMAC President



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2002-2003 SMAC OFFICERS!

The election of officers took place at the SMAC General Meeting held at the McEachen Administrative Center on Feb. 20. The following leaders were elected:

President	Kim Pflaum
Vice President - Administrative Assistant	Elaine Hodgson
Vice President - Community Service	Amy Wheeler
Vice President - Cultural Service	Mary Jorgenson
Vice President - Educational Services	Terry Wintering
Vice President - Public Relations	Rae Ann Kobylinski
Recording Secretary	Vicky Needham
Corresponding Secretary	Laura Bolter
Treasurer	Joni Etherington
Members-At-Large:	Janie Carper
	Debbie Kremers
	Carmen Sachs

We extend our appreciation and thanks to our new officers for their service and commitment to the children in our district.

A Follow-up: An Evening with Barbara Coloroso

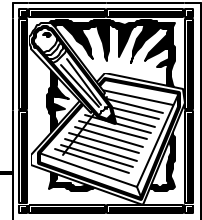
An Evening with Barbara Coloroso was a tremendous success. Several hundred people came to learn and laugh with the internationally-known speaker and author.

Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations for helping to make the event successful:

Terry Busch and Ginger Bliss, Shawnee Mission Medical Center
 Nancy Keel, Kansas City Area Parents As Teachers Consortium
 Joyce Buchanan and Phyllis Young, SMSD Parent Resource Center
 Overland Park Marriott Hotel

The Councilor is published monthly. The article deadline for the upcoming April issue is Wednesday, April 3. 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



PTA Presidents 2002-2003

Please submit the following for the 2002-2003 PTA President at your school 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

Kansas PTA
 714 SW Tenth
 Topeka, KS 66612
ks_office@pta.org

and

This information will be used to compile the new Presidents List and for the President's Information Course scheduled for April 17. Thank you!

Reflections Winners Announcement!

The judging is finally completed for the Council/Region level of this year's Reflections Program. It was a big job, but extremely rewarding. I want to tell you all that we have an outstanding group of talented young artists.

Despite the initial skepticism generated by the theme this year, 39 Shawnee Mission Schools participated in the program producing 1,507 entries. This represents 3 more schools and 240 more entries than last year. Each school forwarded the first place winners in each category and age level to me for a total of 212 entries.

The presentation of the First Place Winners took place during the Board of Education Meeting on Feb. 25 at Shawnee Mission East High School. These winners were forwarded to the State Level. Ribbons and certificates for the Awards of Merit were given to the respective Unit Chairmen to give to the recipients.

I want to thank all the Unit Chairmen for an outstanding job. Also, I want to thank Nancy Huckaba, Linda Krupp, Elaine Lally, Susan Newman and Debbie Walker for helping me overcome some of the obstacles I found along the way. Thanks so much for all your hard work and dedication. Following is the list of Award Winners.

Carmen Sachs, Reflections Program Chair

LITERATURE

Primary Division

1st Place	Camille Christie	Brookwood Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Lauren Komer	Mill Creek Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Taylor Runion	Corinth Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Meghan Dickinson	Westwood View Elementary

Intermediate Division

1st Place	Jay Lehoczky	Briarwood Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Cormac O'connor	Belinder Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Rebekah Scott	East Antioch Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Mallory Zila	John Diemer Elementary

Middle/Junior Division

1st Place	Jamie Gehring	Westridge Middle School
2nd Award of Merit	Mark Lally Jr.	Apache Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Whitney Davis	Sunflower Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Sonya English	Westridge Middle School

Senior Division

1st Place	Anna F. Wang	Shawnee Mission East
2nd Award of Merit	Kevin Bever	Shawnee Mission East
3rd Award of Merit	Jacob Walker	Shawnee Mission Northwest
4th Award of Merit	Kristin Pitts	Shawnee Mission Northwest

VISUAL ARTS

Primary Division

1st Place	Claire Newman	Brookwood Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Eva Saily	Merriam Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Sierra Laing	Highlands Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Danielle Gruenebaum	Briarwood Elementary

Intermediate Division

1st Place	Sam Stephens	Katherine Carpenter
2nd Award of Merit	Andrew Dickinson	Westwood View
3rd Award of Merit	William Oakman	Highlands Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Laura Hasty	Overland Park Elementary

Reflections (Continued)

VISUAL ARTS (Continued from page 4)

Middle/Junior Division

1st Place	Shelby Burford	Indian Hills Middle School
2nd Award of Merit	Brogan Runion	Corinth Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Taylor Newman	Brookwood Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Danielle Hohly	Antioch Middle School
4th Award of Merit	Julie McCormic	Shawano Elementary

Senior Division

1st Place	Ankur Desai	Shawnee Mission NW
2nd Award of Merit	Victor Griffin	Shawnee Mission NW
3rd Award of Merit	Sarah Hanrah	Shawnee Mission NW
4th Award of Merit	Sorica Douglas	Shawnee Mission NW

PHOTOGRAPHY

Primary Division

1st Place	Natalie Stephens-Youngwirth	Rising Star Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Taylor Runion	Corinth Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Audrey Crippin	John Diemer Elementary
4th Award of Merit	D. Patrick Harris	Somerset Elementary

Intermediate Division

1st Place	Emily Bittiker	Highlands Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Nicole Denney	Shawano Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Rob Lanman	East Antioch Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Emily Vance	Rising Star Elementary

Middle/Junior Division

1st Place	Sean Favreau	Brookwood Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Alex Wilks	Trailridge Middle School
3rd Award of Merit	Adam Lundine	Westridge Middle School
4th Award of Merit	Dan Hilleary	Antioch Middle School

Senior Division

1st Place	Lauren Pittenger	Shawnee Mission South
2nd Award of Merit	Macklen Mayse	Shawnee Mission West

MUSIC COMPOSITION

Primary Division

1st Place	Oliver L'Esperance	John Diemer Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Elena Wickstrom	Briarwood Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Jennifer Lowe	Brookridge Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Stefan Sink	Westwood View Elementary

Intermediate Division

1st Place	Melissa McKittrick	Belinder Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Victoria Loza	Merriam Elementary
3rd Award of Merit	Ian Burrow	Brookridge Elementary
4th Award of Merit	Annie Lips	Brookwood Elementary

Middle/Junior Division

1st Place	Sean Giddings	Highlands Elementary
2nd Award of Merit	Matt Wilson	Indian Woods Middle School
3rd Award of Merit	Andy Stewart	Westridge Middle School
4th Award of Merit	David Martinez	John Diemer Elementary

Senior Division

1st Place	Jeremy Schwinger	Shawnee Mission South
------------------	------------------	-----------------------

Celebrate Success! 2002 to Feature Wally Amos

The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation's second annual Celebrate Success! event is scheduled for May 7 at 5:30 p.m. The evening consists of a reception at Prairie Elementary followed by the program at Village Church in Prairie Village. Celebrate Success! recognizes award-winning students and teachers from the Shawnee Mission School District.

This year's featured speaker is Wally Amos, founder and spokesperson for Famous Amos cookies and Uncle Wally's cookie company. Mr. Amos is a renowned motivational speaker and entertainer.

Tickets for the event are \$10 for students and \$25 for adults. To learn more about the event or volunteer opportunities, contact the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation office at (913) 993-9360.

It's Not Too Late!

Register for the

Kansas PTA Convention

April 12-14

Salina, Kansas

Convention information has been mailed to all PTA Presidents. Registration information is also available on the Kansas PTA web site www.ptasonline.org/kspta or by contacting the Kansas PTA Office by telephone at 785-234-KPTA

Units may register delegates without identifying them by name and then may send in the names at a later date (if new officers have not been elected yet). Units doing this should notify the State Office as soon as the names are verified.

*Don't miss this opportunity for training, networking
and energizing!*

Keeping Your Kids Drug-Free:

A How To Guide for Parents and Caregivers

Keeping Your Kids Drug-Free: A How To Guide for Parents and Caregivers is a 45-page pocket size brochure that offers parents real-life solutions to the challenge of keeping kids healthy and drug-free. Written in collaboration with parents and parenting experts from across the country, the brochure includes a message to parents from National PTA and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Keeping Your Kids Drug-Free includes opening lines for having conversations about drugs and how parents can use everyday opportunities as teachable moments. Research shows that kids who learn about drugs from their parents are much less likely to use drugs, and if they abstain from drugs until 21, they are unlikely to ever use drugs.

The brochure is available free of charge by calling the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-788-2800 or it can be downloaded by visiting the National Youth and Anti Drug Media Campaign's website at www.theantidrug.com/advice/index.html.

Fundraising for PTAs--*Understanding the PTA Focus*

The trend in school funding causes a major challenge for PTAs. Because schools find it necessary to be creative in order to fill budget gaps or, in many cases, cut programs, PTAs have by default become fund-raising agents for schools. When PTA national headquarters commissioned the Gallup organization in 1996 to poll the American public about their views of PTAs, the majority said they were a fund-raising organization for schools. While many PTAs work hard every year developing activities and programs in classrooms and throughout their communities that help children and families, their role as fund-raisers threatens to overshadow all other good works. While fund raising is a legitimate activity for PTAs, it should **never** be a primary focus.

The next century of PTA's work will be as arduous and important as its first. PTA leaders will be called upon to assert their role as advocates to raise awareness that the education of children is a community's number one priority. Parents are drawn to the PTA for its demonstrated leadership. A PTA could just as easily work on a project advocating for school funding as running a school fund-raiser. ***The challenge for PTA members is to work with fellow members, school administrators, parents, and teachers to find ways to improve school funding. Those efforts will yield results far more profound and lasting than any piecemeal fund-raising efforts.***



Source: National PTA Website at www.pta.org

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

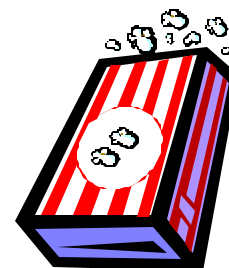
Clothing Center Schedule

	8:30-11 a.m.	8:30-11 a.m.	8:30-11 a.m.	4:30-7 p.m.
Mar. 25	Closed	Spring Break		
Apr. 1	Officers' Work Day			
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 Clothing Center is located 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.

SUMMER FILM SERIES



Provide a great benefit to families by offering affordable summer entertainment and at the same time raise money for your PTA unit and Area Council. You can do it! We even make it easy!

Cinemark Theater at 5500 Antioch Road has agreed to be the location again for our Summer Film Series sponsored by SMAC. Movies in the ten week series will begin the week of June 3, and will be shown every Monday through Thursday at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Season tickets will sell for \$6.50, and will include ten ticket stubs that can be used for any of the movies. 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 \$1.00. This is the **ONLY** fundraising activity that SMAC conducts during the year, and it's a great deal for everyone involved! Please support your Council!

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 their school. This information is vital to help the sale run smoothly. I also need area distributors for all the areas. Call me at 631-4490, or e-mail sapuskas@juno.com, with the name and phone number of your unit chair, or to indicate that you are interested in being a distributor. The sale will start in April.

Thanks for your support!

Sonya Puskas, Summer Film Series Chair

How to Foster Academic Honesty

In response to recent local news reports about cheating in school, we are excerpting a portion of an article entitled, "Academic Honesty: Teaching Kids Not To Take the Easy Way Out" which was written by Patricia J. Hamed and Kathryn M. Sutliff and was published in the Jan/Feb. 2002 issue of the National PTA publication "Our Kids" which can be found at www.pta.org/

Parents need to look for ways to nurture within youth a desire to do the right thing: to value honesty, to feel pride in a job well done, and to foster love of learning and knowledge for its own sake. As they grow, our children will need to be trusted. So how do we make them trustworthy?

The answer is to be a model parent to your child—not in the sense that you give Ozzie and Harriet a run for their money—but in talking about and trying to live out the kinds of character traits that you want to instill in your kids. The goal is to raise children who rule out cheating as an option. It's about raising youth with character. Here are some practical strategies:

Seize the day. When a TV show airs a scene that highlights honesty, comment on it. When your kids read a book with a positive message, point out that you agree. Seize what teachers call the "teachable moment." Don't take that time, and

you're teaching that character doesn't matter, that you only care about outcomes.

Discuss virtues. Talk about virtues like honesty and integrity as much as possible. Let your kids hear you refer to those ideals everyday. Make character traits household words.

Provide heroes. We can talk about the kind of people we want our children to become, but kids need to see real-life examples. Kids need heroes, and they need to know about their parents' heroes, too. Your job is twofold: (1) Talk about people you admire, and why. (2) Be a hero to your child. Yes, you! Heroes don't have to be perfect—just people who want and try to do the right thing.

Let 'em see you sweat. Your children will value hard work because they see you working hard. If you don't cut corners, your kids will learn not to.

Be real. If you haven't messed up, you've messed up. The trick is to let your children see you have ideals and that sometimes you fall short of them. Let them see how you cope with failure, so they know how to handle it, too.

Fear of failure leads many kids to cheat.

Congratulate honest failure. You may be disappointed, but it is important to help your kids know that they are more successful when they fail honestly than when they get A's dishonestly. If they've worked hard in good faith, tell them you're proud of their integrity and effort. If you do, they'll keep trying. If you don't, they'll be tempted to cheat to make you proud.

Catch 'em being good. Reinforcement is everything. Point out the behaviors you see that are desirable.

Set limits. Character is learned through habit, and habits are gained through discipline. Set limits for your kids. Limit use of the Internet and television.

Limit the amount of time your kids get to spend doing other activities when their homework isn't done. Set expectations that your kids will do their homework themselves, and that they will do it honestly. Establish rules and consequences, and be willing to put them into effect.

Connect with your child's

school. Your child's teachers have strategies to combat cheating. The school should also have a character education program in place, with character traits that are being discussed frequently. Find out about the program and discuss those values at home. Talk with your kid's teachers often. Get involved!

Your children will face times when they are unprepared, unsure, or just unclear about schoolwork. They'll be tempted to do the wrong thing—to cut corners and cheat, rather than to slug it out, work hard, and ask for help.

Study after study reveals that schools with honor codes and teachers who talk about cheating have lower incidences of academic dishonesty. Now imagine if that message came through—loud and clear—from you as well.

You have more influence on your children than any celebrity on television, you have more sway than any politician, and you have a more profound impact than even the greatest teacher. That's a lot of power, an amazing responsibility, and a wonderful opportunity. Don't take the easy way out!

Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA presents its annual

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

May 8 from 6:15-9 p.m.

**Shawnee Mission West High School
8800 West 85th Street**

Registration begins at 6:15 p.m.

Visit the *Sharing Display and enjoy refreshments from 6:15-6:45 p.m.**

General Meeting and Installation of SMAC Officers at 6:45 p.m.

Workshops offered from 7:15-9 p.m.

(Some workshops may not require the full 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours.)

Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Shawnee Mission Area Council provides training to new officers and chairs, as well as presenting fresh information to PTA veterans, at the School of Instruction. Incoming SMAC officers are also installed at the School of Instruction, according to our bylaws, thus making this a very important evening!

The School of Instruction is held in May so that the newly elected officers from all of the local PTA units may attend workshops that are presented to acquaint you with PTA procedures, to offer program suggestions, and to be a general training ground for all PTA leaders. **Workshops being offered are: President, Treasurer/Fundraising, Alcohol and Drug Awareness, Secretary, Cultural Arts, Newsletter, Membership, Legislation, Bylaws/Parliamentarian, Block Parent, Citizenship & Reflections, Book Publishing, Carnival, Teacher Appreciation, and Chat 'N Chew.**

Registration forms and checks made payable to SMAC-PTA should be sent to:

**Candy Lafferty
10505 Bluejacket
Overland Park, KS 66214**

Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 1.

*The *Sharing Display* gives PTA units the opportunity to "share" programs, awards, spirit wear, newsletters, and any other special events at their schools. Tables are available at 6 p.m. on The Bridge at Shawnee Mission West. Plan to come early in order to have time to set up your display. This is a great way to sing your own praises AND to see what other schools are doing! You can call Candy Lafferty (541-8747 or email clafferty@aol.com) with any questions.

Dates To Remember

APRIL

3	Wed.	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
12-14	Fri.-Sun.	Kansas PTA Convention		Salina, KS
17	Wed.	President's Information Course	9 a.m.	Indian Creek

MAY

1	Wed.	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
1	Wed.	Registration deadline for School of Instruction		
7	Tues.	SMEF's Celebrate Success!	5:30 p.m.	Prairie Elementary
8	Wed.	School of Instruction	6 p.m.	S.M. West
15	Wed.	Executive Training (2002-2003 Board)	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
22	Mon.	Earth Day		



The Councilor
SMCA- PTA
7235 Antioch
Shawnee Mission,
KS

INSIDE

Reflections Program Winners!