

THE Councilor

President's Message

SMAC's Campaign to Curb Underage Drinking

In the 2000-2001 school year SMAC began an effort to curb the significant problem of underage drinking in the Shawnee Mission Area. We found a passionate ally at Shawnee Mission West High School. Dr. Karl Krawitz, principal at West has spoken on this subject at several SMAC gatherings. He battled this problem during his years in Olathe and is resuming his fight in Shawnee Mission. Dr. Krawitz wrote a powerful article which appeared in the West Newsletter and he has given permission for us to reprint it here.

Underage Drinking – Not an Acceptable Social Norm

by Karl R. Krawitz, Ed.D.,
Principal SM West

For the better part of 20 years we have been hearing repeatedly, program after program about how to combat underage drinking in Johnson County and throughout our country. All of these programs should be commended for their efforts, and in some cases, their continued effort to battle this very crippling disease. Why then are we still dealing with its presence? There is really no other answer—underage drinking has become a social norm. If this is true, who should be blamed? Well, the answer is really very painfully simple – adults!

It is important to point out that the word “adults” for this

commentary doesn't mean pointing the rigid digit at parents, though we should be tossed into the group called adults. If you think about it for only a second you can see why. Where do children, regardless of age, get their role models, their direction in life, their heroes? None other than ourselves. It is the adults in this world who have established the laws, promoted the advertisements, created the movies, and produced the television programs that glorify its consumption. It is us who have established the standards by which our children respond today.

I hope you do not feel as if I have crossed over the line of what role I play in our community by speaking out on this issue of

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Shawnee Mission
Area Council

PTA

every child. one voice.

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 underage drinking. More importantly, you need to know I do not have any motive of invading your home, your family, your values, your morals, your standards, or how you raise your children. But, I do feel I have an obligation to say something because of the gross negative effect this disease is having on our children in our

that people use to believe they are helping the problem. You will recognize these as well – for example, the notion that having a party (in which alcohol is served) at a person's house while the parents are present is both disturbing and legally wrong. Though a person might be able to rationalize the reason to protect their child in

present when any party (without alcohol) is being held. A noble effort, but it failed when some of those who signed practiced something completely different. The acceptable norm at the time of "it will look good if I do this," replaced the intent of the signing.

program and why we need to make it mandatory for all parents at West to see. Maybe this isn't a bad idea. I know we are going to have another presentation this school year. Unfortunately, I do not know when. We are looking to do this probably in the spring.

Several weeks ago, we held a mandatory meeting (during Black/Gold Night) in our building for all parents who have students participating in athletics on this topic. The program titled "A Wrong of Passage – STOP Underage Drinking" was presented to over 1300+ participants. Presented by Overland Park Municipal Judge Karen Arnold-Burger, this program features a video where students and parents tell their very real stories to the audience. It is a very moving and emotional production that aims directly at the message of underage drinking and the fallout from its acceptance in our community. Following the program and throughout the next few days I heard from a number of parents about the quality of the

Finally, I would like to solicit your support for our efforts. Your support doesn't come in the form of a signed document or attendance at one of our presentations. More importantly, it comes in the form of a united out-spoken unity of not accepting underage drinking in our community. It means constantly sending a message to your child about its non-acceptance and how it defies the law. It means not accepting others in your community hosting student parties on your block where minors are allowed to drink. If they choose to do so, you will be just as willing to call the police. It means bringing this issue to your home associations and speaking out on its practice.



school and throughout our community. Some would probably ask what right do I have to even get involved. Like you, I'm concerned. Speaking out and trying to do something about this problem is no different than the message that is constantly out there that accepts underage drinking as a socially acceptable norm. I know we have heard all kinds of scenarios

their own home, it certainly doesn't give them the right to rationalize the same logic for the child of another parent.

Another example may be more recognizable. A number of schools (including the one I came from) have tried having parents sign a contract that they will not allow alcohol-related parties in their home and will be

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All these actions and much more are perfectly okay to do. Believe it or not, I have drawn some anonymous criticism on this issue. I guess my final comment will be, "I don't have to defend the topic of safety with our children in any form." I hope you agree.

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Shawnee Mission Area Council officers are committed to addressing this problem. We believe that the school district is doing what it can with the students; it is PTA's role to address the parents and other adults. We are in the process of contacting the municipalities within the school district to let them know that we want the teen parties broken up and the adults who are allowing underage drinking in their homes, and/or purchasing the

alcohol for our children held accountable.

We need to assemble a group of adults who believe this should not continue and apply pressure to those adults who believe drinking is part of growing up. Part of the PTA Mission is to provide healthy and safe environments for *all children* both in schools and in homes. We hope your individual PTAs will join us in our efforts.

On a lighter note, we also wish a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Cordially,

Kim Pflaum,
SMAC President



Kansas PTA Citizenship Contest

The following are winners at the SMAC level in the Kansas PTA Citizenship Contest. Only three could be selected in each category, but there were many more great entries!

5th Grade Poetry

Erin Marshall	Mill Creek
Kelsey Poisson	Broken Arrow
Saria Beauchamp	Apache

5th Grade Essay

Melissa McKittrick	Belinder
Esha Garg	Mill Creek
Daniel Munro	Broken Arrow

6th Grade Poetry

Tyler Gaddis	Broken Arrow
Karsen Dolliver	Briarwood
Caitlin Dillon	Mill Creek

6th Grade Essay

Brad Crist	Highlands
Julie Bird	Shawano
Erin Aitken	Briarwood

7th Grade Poetry

Meagan Huebner	Mission Valley
Kristen Richards	Hocker Grove
Aubry Jones	Trailridge

7th Grade Essay

Emily Quigley	Trailridge
Jing Jian	Indian Woods
Christy Beeder	Mission Valley

8th Grade Poetry

Shannon V. Disch	Indian Hills
Kaci Forsythe	Trailridge
Erica Williams	Mission Valley

8th Grade Essay

Justin Cohenour	Trailridge
Christopher Schwinger	Indian Woods
Megah Karson	Mission Valley

9th Grade Poetry

Afton Beebee	Shawnee Mission East
Ashley Troutman	Shawnee Mission West

9th Grade Essay

Kelsey Hayes	Shawnee Mission West
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Oak Park Elementary Students Help Terrorist Victims, Afghan Children, and Elderly Neighbors

Oak Park Elementary School students collected \$977 for the United Way that will go to the American Red Cross to help victims of the terrorist attacks.

How did they do it? Pennies, quarters, dimes, and nickels do add up. Students were asked to bring in their change. Several days had special themes. If they brought money on "Chip-In" Day, they got a chocolate chip cookie. If they donated on "Be A Lifesaver Day," they received a mini pack of lifesavers.

Next up was a drive to help Afghan children. Dr. Lynn Hanrahan, Principal, was surprised to hear that so many students watched President Bush's

speech. Sixth grader Sammi Sader and fourth grader Connor Cook came up to her the next day telling her they had watched the speech. Both were eager to answer the president's plea for help.

"I was taken off guard," Hanrahan said. "I don't think I ever would have asked my principal when I was in elementary school if she had watched the president's speech". She said this shows how much students are interested in our country and our world. These students will answer President Bush's request by sending all money collected to the White House.

Oak Park Students' concern doesn't end there. They will be found raking up fall leaves for their older neighbors in the Oak Park Community. This will be their fourth annual "Rake Up The Fall" service project.

Armed with rakes, gloves, bag openers, and leaf blowers, students and parents will fan out across the neighborhood raking up yards of people in need. The PTA organizes this event. Families are selected through a variety of sources. This project allows students to see what it feels like to help other people. The results and the pride generated from it are immediate.



Thank you to Karen Elafros and Ann Schuller for submitting this "Good News" for Oak Park Elementary PTA.

If your PTA or PTSA encourages student volunteerism, SMAC wants to hear your story. Please send to Jill Connell, SMAC Student Volunteerism Chairperson @ connellcc@everestkc.net, or through interschool mail via Christa McAuliffe.



Share Your Great Ideas!

Presidents, does your unit have a specific program or event that you are particularly proud of or feel is extremely beneficial to the children and/or parents? Now is your opportunity to share your hard work, ingenuity and ideas with all of the other people working for the children of our area.

Each year, the December issue of *The Councilor* highlights the special activities of each unit in the council. Presidents, send articles detailing one of your programs to Janet Martz, 5301 W. 65th Place, Prairie Village, KS 66202; email jbmartz@juno.com, or via interschool mail to Janet Martz/PTA, Highlands Elementary School. Articles must be received by Dec. 5. Take this opportunity to showcase your unit!

Report of the Vice President of Community Service

World AIDS Day, Dec. 1

This day is internationally recognized to call attention to this awful world wide epidemic. There are many activities for all age levels available on the National PTA Website and the World Health Organization's Website. In the Kansas City Metro area there are also activities scheduled. Check with local Health Departments and your own family physicians and hospitals to see what is available for all ages to participate. There are many statistics that can be used for announcements and visuals that can be used.

Clothing Center

The Clothing Center has a new home! Our SMAC Clothing Center is finally opening its doors in our new home at Indian Creek Technology Center. We are in the back of the Indian Creek building by the Child Care playground. We are still getting it together, however, the Center was open on Nov. 12 for evening hours. We are taking inventory and will let all the units know what our needs are by the first of the year. See page 6 for the work schedule. Those who were scheduled before Nov. 12 are "off-the-hook" for now. If we really get busy, we may call for extra help, but you will have adequate notice, so that your Clothing Center Chairs can arrange for helpers. We appreciated the Middle School parents who came to help us set up in our new location. Donations will be received in the front office at Indian Creek. Our operating hours remain the same: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the first, third and fourth Mondays of the month with evening hours the second Monday of the month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Clothing Center volunteers should be prepared to report for duty a half hour before these scheduled times. We will also be printing labels for the laminated posters that were given to each unit with the new address, etc. We appreciated your patience while we tried to find the best home for our Center.

ADEPT News

A committee of School District Administrators, SMAC Council members and parents met this past month to start the process of restructuring the A.D.E.P.T. program. Our goal is to have a packet of information ready for School of Instruction in May. If you have any suggestions, we readily welcome them. This group would like to rename the ADEPT Committee, also. If you have any suggestions along those lines, that would be greatly appreciated, as well.

Student Volunteer Programs

Jill Connell is sending out packets of information to every school concerning volunteer programs for students of all ages. Please be watching for that information to arrive at your school via inter-school mail.

Block Parent

Remember that we do have a Block Parent Chair and units should not send information to me. I have received information at Northwest High School via inner school mail and I do not go up there everyday. You may send information regarding the Block Parent Program to Cate Hintz via inter-school mail at Briarwood. It will be dealt with in a timely fashion after she receives it.

Environmental

We hope you are all participating in a recycling program. It is so great to see all the full bins of paper around the school district. Remember it is better to mulch and compost than burn all those leaves! What a great science project!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Respectfully submitted: Mary Ca Ralstin, VP Community Services

2001-2002 Clothing Center Schedule

DATE	SCHOOL	OFFICERS	SMAC CHAIR	OFFICERS/CHAIRS
	8:30-11 a.m.	8:30-11 a.m.	8:30-11 a.m.	4:30-7 p.m.
Nov. 26	Highlands, John Diemer	M. Breitmayer	M. Jorgenson	
Dec. 3	K. Carpenter, Merriam	S. Beyer	M. Ladd	
Dec. 10				J. Carper, K. Kennedy
Dec. 17	Closed			
Dec. 24	Closed			
Dec. 31	Closed			
Jan. 7	Mill Creek, Rushton	R. Kobylinski	L. Franklin	
Jan. 14	Closed			
Jan. 21	Nieman, Oak Park	M. Ralstin	T. Crawford	
Jan. 28	Overland Park, Pawnee	N. Huckaba	L. Kaiser	
Feb. 4	Prairie, Ray Marsh	C. Lafferty	J. Martz	
Feb. 11				T. Wintering, D. Vestal
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	Santa Fe Trail, Shawanoe	K. Conyers	J. Connell	
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



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.

Celebrate Success! 2002 to Feature Wally Amos

The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation's second annual Celebrate Success! event is scheduled for May 7, 2002 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.

***Important Reminder:* SMAC Dues & Clothing Center Donations**

Thanks to all units that have paid their SMAC dues this fall. I 'm still missing payment from a few schools. Please check with your treasurer to make sure they have sent in the \$35 dues.

Joni Etherington, SMAC Treasurer

DUES

Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA dues are \$35 per unit. Checks should be made payable to SMAC PTA and be sent as soon as possible with the short form below to: Joni Etherington, 3308 W. 87th St., Leawood, KS 66206. Call Joni with questions at 642-4064.

CLOTHING CENTER CASH DONATIONS

The SMAC Clothing Center is staffed by officers and chairs from the Area Council and with volunteers from each of the local PTA units. The Center relies on donations from the local PTA units to provide brand new socks and underwear to children in need. Donations of clothing are also appreciated. Clothing at the Center is available to any person living within the boundaries of the Shawnee Mission School District. The Clothing Center provides a valuable service to many families living in our area.

SMAC Dues and Clothing Center Donations Mail-in Form

Unit Name _____

SMAC PTA Dues (\$35 for each Shawnee Mission School) \$ _____

Clothing Center Donation (Used to purchase new socks/underwear) \$ _____

**Write two separate checks to SMAC PTA.
Make notation on each check: Dues or Clothing Center**

Thank you for your continuing support!

ELECTING THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Serving on a nominating committee is an honor and a privilege. This committee is your PTA's most responsible, sensitive and deliberative body. The decisions of the nominating committee will impact the future of your PTA.

All PTA units **elect** a nominating committee. The procedure is outlined in your unit's bylaws. The committee should have an odd number of members so that a tie will not occur. The president does not appoint members to the nominating committee or exert any influence on the selection of nominees. The nominating committee will meet and elect their chairman.

It is essential that nominating committee members:

- Be chosen carefully to include both experienced on-going leadership, as well as, newer members.
- Be elected on merit – not popularity.
- Be aware of the importance of their assignment.
- Have knowledge of the PTA unit goals, purposes, programs and the duties of each office.
- Have knowledge of potential candidates' qualifications and abilities.
- Be able to give objective consideration to find the best-qualified leaders for your PTA.
- Have courage to express ideas and to defend one's convictions.
- Use sound judgment and skill in evaluating possible nominees.
- Be tactful, have integrity and discretion, and be able to **keep all deliberations confidential**. Every nominee should feel that he/she was chosen first. Anyone who is asked to serve and declines the offer must be instructed to keep it confidential for the good of their PTA.

Serving on the nominating committee does not preclude the member from being nominated for a position on the board. The member proposed for nomination should withdraw from the meeting while his/her qualifications are discussed and to allow for additional names to be submitted for consideration. The member may return to vote.

The nominating committee's responsibility is to **nominate the best-qualified candidate for each office** and fully support the slate of nominees presented. The nominating committee chair will present the slate of nominees at a meeting determined by your unit's bylaws, which concludes the work of the committee. In the event of a nominee's resignation before the election, the committee would resume their work. The election of officers, as well as, nominations from the floor will take place in accordance with your unit's bylaws.

Maddie Breitmayer, SMAC Parliamentarian and Bylaws Chair

Legislative Conference Scheduled for Feb. 11, 2002

"Kids Matter - Write Now"

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2002 Kansas PTA Annual Legislative Conference on Monday, Feb. 11, at the Ramada Inn Downtown, 420 East 6th Street in Topeka.

The tentative program includes speakers Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education; Val De Fever, Legislative Liaison, Kansas State Board of Education; Mark DeSetti, Governmental Relations Specialist - KNEA; Mark Tallman, President, Kansas Association of School Boards; and, Kansas Senator John Vratil.

The registration fee is \$25.00 and includes all conference materials, continental breakfast and lunch. The fee for the legislator's lunch is \$15.00.

Unit Presidents and Legislative Chairs are encouraged to lead a unit delegation to the conference. Look for information on the upcoming conference in your mail.

For further information, contact the Kansas PTA state office at 785-234-5782 or ks.office@pta.org.

SHAWNEE MISSION AREA COUNCIL OF PTA TALENT BANK SURVEY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Names & Grades of Children: _____

School(s): _____

PTA offices/chairmanships held: _____

Special interests in PTA: _____

Would be interested in serving on Shawnee Mission Area Council of PTA

Yes _____ No _____ Possibly _____

If so, in what committee are you interested?

Dates To Remember

DECEMBER

5	Wed.	Executive Session	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
5	Wed.	Deadline for articles for <i>The Councilor</i>		

JANUARY

9	Wed.	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
9	Wed.	Deadline for articles for <i>The Councilor</i>		
23	Wed.	Elementary Exchange	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Indian Creek

FEBRUARY

6	Wed.	Executive Session	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
6	Wed.	Deadline for articles for <i>The Councilor</i>		
11	Mon.	KS PTA Legislative Conference		Topeka
13	Wed.	Special Speaker - Barbara Coloroso		
20	Wed.	General Meeting - Bullying Prevention Speaker	9:30 a.m.	McEachen

INSIDE

**SMAC's Campaign to
Curb Underage Drinking**