

THE Councilor



Shawnee Mission
Area Council

PTA[®]

every child. one voice.

President's Message

The start of school and the rush of PTA activities can be a very stressful time for PTA presidents. Be sure to make time to relax and find satisfaction in a job well done. Each of our schools got off to a smooth start this year and your PTA team played a critical role in making that happen. Congratulations!

This newsletter contains information to assist you in your work as a PTA leader. It is important that you share this information with the appropriate leaders in your individual PTA unit. Please encourage your officers and committee chairs to attend the workshops offered by SMAC. These workshops will keep you informed of current PTA policies, offer new ideas and different methods of achieving the same goal, as well as, provide opportunities

to share successes and failures with other PTA members. There is no reason for any unit to reinvent the wheel or make the same mistakes other units have made. If we all communicate with one another all our jobs will be easier.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our presidents' coffees and exchanges. These informal meetings provide excellent opportunities for idea sharing and networking.

Your Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA officers are willing and able to attend one of your PTA meetings or to meet with any of you individually at any time. Please take advantage of their experience and willingness to serve.

With membership drives going on in all

of our units, I would like to suggest that you remember your past PTA leaders. They are a part of your unit's history and tradition. Consider asking them to join your PTA, sending them newsletters and a calendar of events, and invite them to your Founder's Day Celebration. Let's keep them involved in the school community!

Last, but not least, we are making progress in finding a place for the Clothing Center. This is a valuable service offered by Area Council as evidenced by the number of phone calls we have received concerning its reopening. As soon as a location has been chosen, you will be notified of the date we expect to open. Thank you for your patience.

Kim Pflaum,
SMAC President

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Membership Chairmen . . . Mark Your Calendars!

The first membership deadline is Oct. 1!

If you plan to qualify for the **Early Membership Award**, make sure that you submit the Treasurer's Remittance Form and a check for the state and national portion of membership money to Kansas State PTA. **Any number of memberships** postmarked by Oct. 1 will qualify for the award.

Membership cards have been distributed to each school. If you have not received yours, contact Cynthia Jarrold, SMAC Membership Chair, at (913) 381-1543 or jarroldrc@msn.com.



News Stories Needed on

Student Volunteerism

Are you tired of those negative headlines and news lead-ins? SMAC is interested in publicizing the "Good Things" our students do through volunteerism. Let's share our "good news" stories. If your PTA has completed a volunteer program that has actively involved students, we're interested in the "story". What did the students do? How did they feel about doing it? What was the reaction of the benefactors?

Together we can change those Headlines! Please call me at 894-9554 or email me at connelcc@everestkc.net with your story.

Jill Connell,
SMAC Student Volunteer Program Chairperson

Meet the Administrators at the SMAC General Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 17
7 p.m.
Indian Creek Technology Center
4401 W. 103rd Street

Join the members of SMAC for the second general meeting of the year. You will have the opportunity to speak with five of the district administrators in a small group setting. This meeting will be held at Indian Creek Technology Center where there is more room to break into groups. The program will begin at 7 p.m. Share this information with your units. Hope to see you there!



Reflections Program

Imagine how a child feels when allowed to express his or her creative self without academic boundaries... This is the door that the National PTA Reflections Program opens for our area's

youth. Participants ranging from Preschool to 12th grade are encouraged to submit entries in one or more than one of the four categories: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography and

Visual Arts. This is a competition of a child's imagination and creative ability, not one of academic performance. Thus, Reflections welcomes every child willing to create and self-express.

This year's theme is, "I hold in my hand..." Get your Principal, the teachers and your members involved in backing up and promoting this wonderful program. Following are the deadlines:



Individual Units	-	Friday, Jan. 11, 2002
Council/Region	-	Friday, Jan. 25, 2002
State	-	Friday, Feb. 22, 2002

ALL entries must be received by the above dates. However, you can run your local Reflections Program anytime before these

deadlines. If you have not done so, let us know if your school is planning to participate this year and the name of your local chair. We

hope you choose to share this opportunity with your school. If you have any questions, contact me at 341-6996 or via

electronic mail at carmenbaby@aol.com. Thank you!

Carmen Sachs,
SMAC Reflections Chair

Kansas PTA Citizenship Contest

Theme for 2001-02...

"I can improve my state of Kansas by..."

- WHO:** Students in Grades 5 – 9
- WHAT:** Essay and Poetry Contest to Promote Citizenship
- WHERE:** At Your Shawnee Mission School
- WHEN:** Entries Due at School Level Oct. 5
Entries Due at SMAC Level Oct. 19
- WHY:** Enhance our students' critical thinking and writing skills with an opportunity to be recognized at a state level

For More Information: Contact Lisa Schroeder at 859-9277
or email cubs9999@aol.com

SMAC Dues and Clothing Center Cash Donations

DUES

Shawnee Mission Area Council of PTA dues of \$35 per unit are due by Oct. 15.
Checks should be made payable to SMAC PTA and sent 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!

Chat and Chew Workshop

A workshop will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. at the McEachen Administrative Center, 7235 Antioch Road for Chat and Chew committee chairs.

Plan to attend and learn ways to increase parent and child participation in this important reading program. We will share ways to motivate children, activities to make the time fun, as well as, easy ways to increase your PTA's library without hurting the budget!



If possible, read *Bunnacula* by Deborah Howe for a brief sample discussion and Chat and Chew activity.

If you have any questions or cannot make the workshop, contact me at 913-268-6414 or by email at mjorgies@aol.com.

Hope to see you there.

Mary Jorgenson, SMAC Reading Chairperson

ADMINISTRATOR'S DINNER

**Thursday, Nov. 15
6:15 p.m.
Shawnee Mission West**

Join us this year as Shawnee Mission West hosts the annual Administrator's Dinner sponsored by Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA. It promises to be a "SMACTACULAR" evening as we honor our Shawnee Mission District Administrators!

All PTA Presidents and their spouses, Area Council Chairman and officers and their spouses should plan to attend. PTA Presidents, please invite your school principal and his/her spouse to attend as guests of your unit.

Mark your calendar now for this important event! You will receive your invitation and reservation card in early October.

Debbie Lawson,
Administrator's Dinner Chairperson

ART SMART WORKSHOP



**Thursday, Oct. 4
6:30 p.m.**

**Large Meeting Room
Johnson County Central
Resource Library
9875 W. 87th Street
Overland Park, KS**

Come if you already have an Art Smart Program, or if you are interested in starting one at your school.

Sarah Cousineau,
SMAC Art Smart Chair,
scousineau5@aol.com

What's happening at the

Parent Resource Center –



We have MOOved – kind of like the cow thing in Kansas City. We are at, coincidentally, Dorothy Moody Elementary, 10101 England. Yes, we are tucked away into a neighborhood, so please call for directions. For those of you who have not heard of the Parent Resource Center and our services, we have many things to offer you. We assist parents through:

- ? A Lending library – that covers a broad range of topics
- ? Individual assistance – we work with parents one on one
- ? Information & referral – to services/resources in the district and community
- ? Classes – we have classes for everyone!

Our Parent Resource Center booklet on our classes and services should already be in your hands. If not, ask your school secretary or call us at 993-9315. You can also email us with any questions, concerns, and inquiries at parentresource@smsd.org.

In your next newsletter be looking for information regarding new materials that have been added to our library. We have information covering topics from parenting to homework to learning issues and lots, lots more.

So moove on down and visit us at Moody, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you can't make it to the center, we are only a phone call away!

Middle School Newsletter Information:

Encourage Families To Work Fun Math Problems Together.

Figure This! Mathematics Challenges for Families provide interesting math challenges that middle-school students can do at home with their families.

Eighty Figure This! mathematical challenges will be released throughout the campaign, with three-to-four challenges posted on the website each month. You will find information on receiving free hard copies and downloading the problems

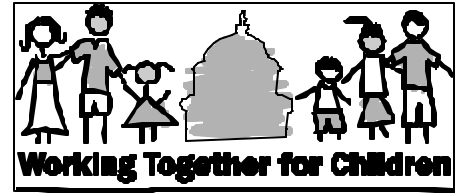
Figure This! is designed to provide an exciting and family-friendly way to become more involved in learning math. Visit their award winning site at: www.figurethis.org.

Liability Insurance

Your unit's annual insurance premium is due now. Send your payment to Kansas PTA and send a copy of proof of insurance to Rusty Newman, Director of Student Services and Athletics, McEachen Administrative Center, 7235 Antioch, Shawnee Mission, KS 66204.

Thanks for you attention to this important matter.

Legislative Update



A Legislative Workshop will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 19 for PTA Legislative Chairs and Presidents. If you are unable to attend and would like to receive information on the workshop's content, call Cathy Boyer-Shesol at 722-0087 or email kccabs@aol.com.

Unit Legislative Chairs are encouraged to design a communication system (telephone tree, e-mail tree, etc.) for interested parents that will enable our collective membership to make fast, timely calls/e-mails/faxes to our legislators as issues arise.

Web sites of legislative interest include the following:

- www.ink.org (Home Page - State of Kansas)
- www.jocoelection.org (Johnson County Election Office Home Page)
- www.ptasonline.org/SMAC
- www.ptasonline.org (Kansas PTA)
- www.pta.org (National PTA)
- www.ed.gov (Department of Education. Federal Government legislative activity)

Additional resources include:

National PTA Legislative Program - Directives approved by the National PTA Board of Directors provided to assist advocates in promoting legislative positions and presenting information to membership and policy makers.

This Week in Washington - An electronic newsletter. To subscribe, go to the National PTA website at www.pta.org.

Our Children - The National PTA Magazine; Published six times per year. Subscriptions are \$15 per year for PTA members. Contains letters, articles and various features regarding children, PTA and parenting. Includes information on "What's Happening In Washington."

The Councilor - SMAC Monthly newsletter containing information from Shawnee Mission Area Council. Some issues include legislative information and lists of resources.

SMAC Weekly Update Location Changes. . . Again!

If you would like to get the very latest news and information regarding the Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA, log on and sign up now for a weekly update. Because of some difficulties at the MSN site, the SMAC Weekly Update location has been moved to Topica. To sign up (even if you signed up at the MSN site or the previous site) go to <http://www.topica.com/lists/SMACUpdate> and sign up there.

Contact Laura Bolter, SMAC Member-At-Large, with any questions at lbolter@swbell.net or 894-5668.



School Bus Safety

Be Cool. Follow the rules for school bus safety. National PTA is drawing a roadmap for school bus safety. Beginning Oct. 21, National PTA will kick off National School Bus Safety Week with the "Be Cool. Follow the Rules." campaign, a collaborative effort with the International Truck and Engine Corporation. The observance will end Oct. 27.

The program is built around these 10 school bus safety rules:

1. Be on time. Make an effort to ensure that your child makes it to school on time.
2. Never run to or from the bus. Drivers may not be able to see children.
3. Stand back from the curb.
4. Don't push or shove.
5. Stay in your seat.
6. Don't yell or shout.
7. Always obey the driver.
8. Wait for the driver's signal before crossing.
9. Always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
10. Never crawl under a school bus.

According to a 10-year study (1989-99) by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of bus-related fatalities and crashes has decreased in part thanks to comprehensive school bus safety programs instituted by schools and bus transportation agencies. Here are some tips on promoting school bus safety:

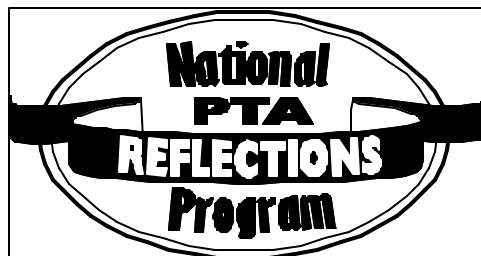
- * Order "Be Cool. Follow the Rules." bus safety rules cards for every child in your school.
- * Hold a school bus safety assembly at the beginning of each school year in the fall and spring.
- * Contact your bus contractor or school district transportation department to explain the "Be Cool. Follow the Rules." program and ask them to participate in a bus safety assembly. Give them a copy of the School Bus Safety Driver's Safety Guide.
- * Plan activities centered on school bus safety rules, such as a bus safety poster contest.
- * Create a bus safety award for children who practice good school bus safety.
- * Organize a special parent-child event to teach school bus safety
- * Place posters on your bulletin boards and in the buses to remind drivers of the safety rules
- * Ask local newspapers to run print public service announcements (PSAs).
- * Visit www.pta.org for school bus safety information and ways to get your PTA involved.

Order the "Be Cool. Follow the Rules." bus safety information by the International Truck and Engine Corporation and receive free items such as videos, tip sheets, posters and more by logging on to www.pta.org (you pay only for shipping and handling).

Jo McCormick,
Health and Safety, SMAC

Reflections Video

A video highlighting the winning entries from last year's Reflection Program is available. If you would like to show it to parents, students, or teachers, call Kim Pflaum, 642-3192, to reserve the copy for your use.



National PTA Logo

The National PTA asks that all PTA units use their new logo in an effort to strengthen "brand image" as a national organization. You can find all of the guidelines to create a logo for your own unit at the National PTA website at <http://www.pta.org/cfplus/publis/clipart2000/index.asp>.

In response to the National PTA request, the Shawnee Mission Area Council has adopted the following new logo:



Treasurer's Form 990 Workshop

Bring your questions and sense of humor to the:

**Tuesday, Oct. 9
7 p.m.**

**McEachen Administrative Center, Room 7
7235 Antioch Road**

We'll tackle the fun taxes together! Hope to see you there,

Joni Etherington, SMAC Treasurer,
642-4064



Local PTA Unit Newsletters Needed

Please forward a copy of your elementary, middle or high school's PTA newsletter to the SMAC *Councilor* Editor. Send them to Janet Martz at 5301 W. 65th Place, Prairie Village, KS 66202 or by interschool mail to Highlands Elementary School, c/o Janet Martz.

Dates To Remember

SEPTEMBER

19	Wed.	Legislative Workshop	7 p.m.	McEachen
20	Thurs.	Chat and Chew Workshop	7 p.m.	McEachen
26	Wed.	High School Exchange	9 a.m.	McEachen

OCTOBER

1	Mon.	First Membership Deadline		
3	Wed.	Executive Session	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
4	Thurs.	Art Smart Workshop	6:30 p.m.	Jo. Co. Central Resource Library
5	Fri.	KS PTA Citizenship Contest entries due at school level		
9	Tues.	Treasurer's Form 990 Workshop	7 p.m.	McEachen
17	Wed.	General Mtg. -Meet the Administrators	7 p.m.	Indian Creek
19	Fri.	KS PTA Citizenship Contest entries due at SMAC level		
21-27	Sun.-Sat.	National School Bus Safety Week		
24	Wed.	Middle School Exchange	9 a.m.	McEachen

NOVEMBER

7	Wed.	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
15	Thurs.	Administrator's Dinner	6:15 p.m.	SM West High School



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**Reflections Program and
 Kansas PTA Citizenship Contest**