

# THE Councilor



Shawnee Mission  
Area Council

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

every child. one voice.

## President's Message

It was terrific to see so many of you at the State Legislative Conference in Topeka! The budget crunch continues and now is the time for the Kansas Legislature to make a commitment to adequately fund public education. We must continue to write and call our lawmakers and let them know that our children are our first priority.

Although the loss of programs due to budget cuts has been difficult, and the list of possible future cuts is longer than we would like, the Shawnee Mission School District remains strong. We must not speak only of gloom and doom. Remember to think of all the wonderful things being accomplished by our students. Remember that Shawnee Mission is the best school district in this state.

On a lighter note, let

parents in your buildings know about the Summer Recreation Fair being sponsored by SMAC and the Parent Resource Center. Representatives from various agencies which offer summer programs and activities for kids of all ages will be at Shawnee Mission West on Feb. 24. You are invited to come to investigate all the summer activity options available for your children and in some cases, register for these activities on-the-spot! The concession stand will be open for your convenience. Bring the family and discover what your children can do over the summer. Look for more details inside.

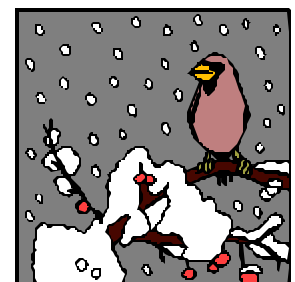
Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Kansas PTA Convention, April 25-27 at the Olathe Holiday Inn. The

local hosts of the convention have asked Shawnee Mission to help out with door prizes. SMAC is asking each PTA unit to donate one or more door prizes to be given away at convention. Look for more details in the March issue of *The Councilor*.

Thanks for all you do for our community,

Sincerely,

Kim Pflaum,  
SMAC President



### Inside this issue:

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## Vice President of Public Relations

The chairmen and vice president of Public Relations strive to keep the local units informed about the workings of the Shawnee Mission Area Council. They also work to foster a positive image of PTA with the general public. SMAC publishes *The Councilor*, maintains the SMAC website and publicizes events through the local newspapers. This year's chairs are:

**Councilor Editor – Janet Martz (384-5306)**

Janet is responsible for gathering articles and editing the monthly publication of *The Councilor*. *The Councilor* contains timely information about important PTA events, contests, awards and topics of interest. It is mailed to each unit president to be shared with unit officers and chairs. This is Janet's second year in this position.

**Councilor Distributor – Pam Blake (268-3236)**

Pam prepares *The Councilor* for distribution after it is printed. She maintains the mailing list and labels for over 200 subscribers. The issues are delivered to the SMAC Bulk Mailing Chairperson for mailing. Pam is completing her second year in this position. She also serves as co-president at SM Northwest.

**Legislation – Julie Rainen (642-9424)**

Julie works to keep council members and local units informed on national, state and local issues affecting children and youth. Julie conducted a fall workshop which was very well attended. She will also present a workshop at the May School of Instruction.

**Summer Films – Roxanne Quarnstrom (248-0134)**

Roxanne is busy organizing the SMAC summer film series. This year SMAC is offering three programs to be held at the Merriam Cinemark, Top Two Theater, and the WestGlen 18 Theatres. For more information, see the article on page 7. Details will be sent to the local units soon. This is SMAC's only fundraising activity for the year. Unit support is greatly appreciated!

**Marketing & Publicity – Michelle Finnerty (722-5425)**

Michelle helps to make the general public aware of SMAC. She has submitted several photos and articles to the *Kansas City Star*.

**Web Master – Sherry Nowell (631-4361)**

Sherry maintains the SMAC home page. It can be found at [www.ptasonline.org/smac](http://www.ptasonline.org/smac). It contains relevant information and the current edition of *The Councilor*. Sherry is completing her second year in this position.

Please feel free to contact these chairs if they can be of assistance!

Rae Ann Kobylinski  
Vice President for Public Relations  
341-9124

*The Councilor* is published monthly. The article deadline for the upcoming March issue is Wednesday, March 5. Send articles to Editor Janet Martz by e-mail at [jbmartz@juno.com](mailto:jbmartz@juno.com) or by mail to 5301 W. 65th Place, Prairie Village, KS 66202.

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



*Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA  
in conjunction with the Parent Resource Center present a*

# Summer Recreation Fair

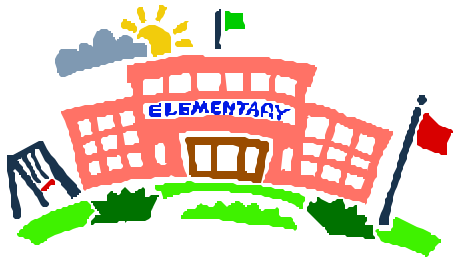
*Get Information on  
Summer Activities and Programs for  
Children ages Preschool to Teens*

Over 70 Agencies Present!

Sports - Theatre - Camps - Parks & Rec -  
Museums - Library - Schools -  
and many more!

Talk one-on-one with agency representatives!  
Early Enrollment Possibilities!

Monday, Feb. 24  
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Shawnee Mission West High School  
85th & Antioch



## Elementary Presidents and Principals Exchange

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, the Elementary Presidents and Principals gathered at Indian Creek Technology Center to share ideas and highlight their programs. Here is what they had to say on the following topics:

**Reaching the Community – Diemer** publishes a community newsletter twice a year sponsored by a local realtor who provides the address labels for their whole attendance area and funds the mailing cost. **Trailwood** also publishes a community newsletter with a budget of \$600 that pays for the mailing list from a private company and for postage.

**Business Partners** – Each classroom at **Overland Park Elementary** invited a business from their community to come in and share information about their business. **McAuliffe** benefits from a \$1,000 donation from Everest that supports their “Student Respect Committee,” a bullying prevention program.

**Family Activities – Carpenter** offers a well-attended free pancake breakfast to the community. **South Park** runs a Health and Safety Fair for kids ages 3 to 12. **Rising Star** showcases their family decorated paper mache cats during an evening Art Fair.

**Dad’s Involvement – Roesland** sponsors a Chili CookOff for Dads only. No moms allowed! They also have a Science Night where the dads play mad scientists. **Diemer** Dads have run a Fishing Derby where they provide bait and hotdogs. They also have Dad’s lunches with kids throughout one week each half of the school year. This year, they are also fundraising to build a new walking track.

**Improve Meeting Attendance – Trailridge** has started the “1-hour” meeting concept that has proven to be successful. They also started an electronic contact list that allows them to send meeting reminders one week and also the day before the meeting. **Broken Arrow** boosted their numbers by having both daytime and evening meetings.

**Red Ribbon Week** – At **Rosehill** the DARE officer, the nurse and the Tiger Clubs performed a skit about drug prevention. **Pawnee** was able to have KC Wolf, the Comets and a moonwalk thanks to the generosity of Everest.

**Student Recognition – Roseland’s** “Pay It Forward Blue Ribbon” recognizes students caught showing community involvement. The child receives a blue ribbon with his name and good deed written on it. His name is placed on a bulletin board. The recipient is then responsible to find the next person worthy of this award. **Tomahawk** has a similar program that recognizes student citizenship. **Pawnee’s** “Proud Panthers” issues coupons to students caught being extra helpful. Once a week a name is drawn for an extra treat in the cafeteria. The Principal draws a name once a month and treats the child and a friend to McDonalds. The “Character Crew” program at **Highlands** recognizes children nominated by their teachers with a certificate and a ribbon once a month. The Office Depot by **Rosehill** posts the names of the outstanding student and teacher of the month on a bulletin board.

## Elementary Presidents and Principals Exchange (Continued)

**New Families – Trailwood** named a chairperson in charge of making goodie bags for new families. At **Trailridge** every incoming ESL child gets a Pal assigned to help him get acquainted with the school. **Briarwood** also offers buddies to ESL students. High school students help translate notices to be sent home into Spanish. **Westwood View** matches each new family with a seasoned family that checks on the new family periodically. **Bluejacket-Flint** has a coffee named “Tissues & Tears” for the new kindergarten families, so that they can get to know each other. **Benninghoven** offers folders to new families full of information about their PTA, the area businesses and even a voter registration form.

**Community Service – Westwood View** students rake leaves for the elderly in the community, and the City provides a curb leaf vacuum. **Broken Arrow’s** 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders bake apple pies for needy families. Students also sponsor an Angel Tree Network to buy holiday gifts for the least fortunate, and they volunteer afternoons at Animal Haven. The price of admission for **Dorothy Moody’s** family dance is a baby shower gift item that benefits the Clothing Center. **Rosehill** in conjunction with HyVee prepares grocery bags with food items that their parents and patrons can buy for the City Union Mission.

**Fundraising – Trailridge** supports its middle school magazine sale at the same time that they help their library by offering parents the opportunity to sponsor a magazine subscription for the Trailridge library.

**Anniversary Celebrations – Trailwood’s** 40th Anniversary celebration included their retired teachers and the members of the community. **Belinder** celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a sock-hop and birthday party. They also hosted a past presidents’ tea attended by 34 guests.

**Transition to Middle School – Sunflower, McAuliffe and Rising Star** sponsor a skating party together for their 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The kids get to meet new friends in a fun atmosphere.

**Attendance Retention** – The Executive Board at **McAuliffe**, concerned at the number of families leaving the school for the Olathe/DeSoto/Blue Valley areas, decided that if more parents knew about their top-notch middle and high schools they would think longer about staying in Shawnee Mission. In September, they decided to host Westside Pride Night. Featured were performances by the West Jazz Band, varsity cheerleaders and dance team. Parents from McAuliffe who also had students at these schools, spoke about the PTA, Band-Aids support group, Booster Club, and other programs. They had information tables set up with sports schedules, hand-outs on awards won, test scores, etc. They sold spirit wear from all the schools involved, and they even shared their profits! The best part was that there were over 100 parents who came seeking this information!

We hope you enjoyed the exchange. Feel free to contact the presidents at the above-mentioned schools for more information on these events.

## *PTA Presidents*

After you have selected your PTA President for the 2003-2004 school year, please submit the following information as soon as possible.

School \_\_\_\_\_

President's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

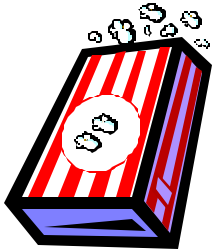
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this information to: **Deb Zila**  
**6921 W 100<sup>th</sup> Terrace**  
**Overland Park, KS 66212**  
**913-642-5774**  
**E-Mail: [zilagang@everestkc.net](mailto:zilagang@everestkc.net)**

This information will be used to compile the new Presidents List for the President's Information Course scheduled for April 16, 2003. Please submit this same information to the Kansas PTA office at 715 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St., Topeka, KS 66612. Thank you!

*We are on the Web at [www.ptasonline.org/smac/](http://www.ptasonline.org/smac/)*



## Let's Go To The Movies!

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

This year, SMAC will be presenting three separate film series programs, each at different theaters, (Cinemark, Top Two Theater, and WestGlen 18), with different movies and show times. The ticket sales for the first program (20 movies) will begin in February and the ticket sales for the other two film series programs (10 movies) will begin in April. The first film series is featured in this article and the other film series programs will be discussed in the next issue of *The Councilor*. We hope to encourage greater participation by offering a variety of programs.

New this year, a 20-week children's spring/summer film series will be presented by SMAC at the Top Two Theatre at 5909 Johnson Drive in Mission, Kansas, (previously the Fine Arts Theatre). The first 10 weeks will offer movies on Saturdays and Sundays, with show times at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., beginning March 29 and 30. The second 10 weeks, the movies will be presented on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with show times at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., beginning June 3.

Season tickets for all 20 shows at the Top Two Theatre will sell for only \$10! Tickets are good for children and adult admissions. Each season ticket includes 20 punches that can be used in any combination for the film series movies. For example: 20 admissions to 1 show, 10 admissions to 2 shows, 1 admission to 20 shows, etc.

This spring/summer film series will be offered through Shawnee Mission elementary schools. We hope to have 100% participation this year. From the sale of each \$10, the local PTA unit receives \$2.25 and SMAC receives \$2. This is the only fundraising activity that Area Council conducts during the year. It's a great deal for everyone involved.

Presidents of all elementary units: If you have not already done so, call Roxann Quarntrom at 248-0134 or e-mail at [quarnde@aol.com](mailto:quarnde@aol.com) to turn in the name of the person who will be handling the sale at your school.

## La Zona Escolar de Shawnee Mission

The Kansas PTA convention is rapidly approaching in April. On Saturday, April 26, I will be presenting a workshop and discussion titled "Can You Hear Me Now? Communicating Across Cultures" about the opportunities and issues that our PTA's face to attract and help parents and children whose native language is other than English. To better meet your needs, I want to hear from you before convention about any ideas or programs going on in your schools to help integrate these students and parents to your schools and PTA. You can reach me, Carmen Sachs, at 341-6996 (evenings) or via email at [carmenbaby@aol.com](mailto:carmenbaby@aol.com).

I hope to hear from you and see you at Convention. Thank you!

## The Clothing Center Schedule 2003

Date	School	Officers	SMAC Chair	Officers/Chairs
	<b>8:30-11 a.m.</b>	<b>8:30-11 a.m.</b>	<b>8:30-11 a.m.</b>	<b>Evening 4:30-7:00 p.m.</b>
24-Feb	Roeland Park, Roesland	Wheeler		
3-Mar	Rosehill, Rushton		O'Grady	
10-Mar				Wintering, Lawson
7-Apr	Santa Fe Trail, Shawanoe	Kobylinski		
14-Apr				Zila, Lafferty
21-Apr	Somerset, South Park	Kremers	Miller	
28-Apr	Sunflower, Tomahawk	Lafferty		
5-May	Trailwood, West Antioch	Etherington	Talbott	
12-May				Blake, Lafferty
19-May	Westwood View	Sachs	Nowell	

The SMAC PTA Clothing Center is located in the lower level of the Indian Creek Technology Center, 4401 W. 103rd Street in Overland Park. . . . Just follow the signs. Shopping hours are: 9-11 a.m. on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Mondays of the month and 5-7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month. Each school is to send 3 workers to help sort clothing on its scheduled Monday date. Sorting hours are from 8:30-11 a.m. Area Council officers and chairs must trade or find substitutes if they are unable to work on their assigned date. If you have questions, call or email Candy Lafferty at 541-8747 or cllafferty@aol.com.

Below is a message to our Spanish speaking patrons:



### El Centro de Ropa

**El Centro de Ropa está abierto de 9 de la mañana hasta 11 de la mañana en el primer, tercer y cuarto lunes de cada mes. Estamos también abiertos de 5 de la tarde hasta 7 de la tarde el segundo lunes de cada mes.**

**Si usted tiene niños matriculados en una escuela de Shawnee Mission, ellos pueden recibir cinco pares de calcetines nuevos y 5 pares de calzones o calzoncillos nuevos durante el año de escuela. Usted necesita traer una nota de la escuela del niño para obtener la ropa interior y los calcetines nuevos.**

## 2002-2003 Clothing Center Mid-Year Report

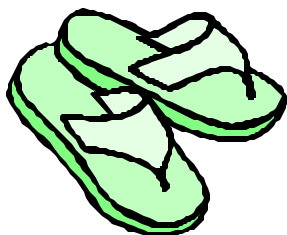
The Clothing Center's mission is to assist with the clothing needs of people living within the boundaries of the Shawnee Mission School District. Local PTA units donate money to Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA that is used to purchase new socks and underwear for students in our District. Students may receive the new socks and underwear once during the school year. Anyone can donate clothing to the Clothing Center. There is no charge for any of the clothing that is available at the Clothing Center.

This is the second year that the Clothing Center has been housed in the boy's locker room at Indian Creek Technology Center. Mary Ca Ralstin did a wonderful job last year in moving in and setting up the new location. Building upon her success, we have spent this year fine-tuning the operation. At our request, the District removed the last remaining row of lockers from the locker room in an attempt to make more room for clothing. Their removal created space for two additional tables. We have had to adapt the way in which we operate, since the restroom in the locker room is still used by various boys' sports teams. This is the only "security" issue for the Clothing Center.

As of Jan. 31, 137 families (compared to 64 families last year), involving over 550 individuals, have utilized the Clothing Center. Many of these customers return week after week to "shop" for the various members of their families. TEEN NIGHT was the most demanding evening shopping event of the year. We were operating at full capacity. In addition to our families, school nurses and social workers visit the center for any necessary clothing items for their students.

The number of Spanish-speaking clients has also increased dramatically. This is due, in part, to an effort made by Area Council to work in conjunction with Dr. Ellen Bartsch, Director of the English as a Second Language office, which is also located at Indian Creek. As result of this cooperation, all of the signs in the Clothing Center have been translated into Spanish to help those whose native language is not English. This program seems to be very successful. The ESL office created and then updated cards for new families to bring to the center to show that their children are enrolled in Shawnee Mission schools.

We still have storage concerns, as more and more donations arrive in the Clothing Center. Thanks to the outstanding work of all of the elementary, middle, and high school volunteers who work there each week, the sorting continues and inroads are being made in the rows of clothing bags yet to be processed. We certainly could not operate without the help of these volunteers. Thank you! We also want to thank all of the schools for the creative ways in which they support the Clothing Center...from baby showers to coat drives, from hat and mitten drives to toothbrush and toothpaste donations. It is all greatly appreciated by the patrons of the Clothing Center. We encourage every school to publicize the Clothing Center to those in your building who may be in need of this service.



Candy Lafferty—SMAC PTA—Clothing Center Chair



## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARENESS**

Use of alcohol and other drugs among young people is a growing concern. Fortunately, parents can take an active role in lowering their children's risk and helping them grow up alcohol- and drug-free. To help parents learn what they can do, the National PTA has created: Common Sense: Strategies for Raising Alcohol- and Drug-Free Children.

Common Sense focuses on four specific parenting strategies: learning the facts about alcohol and other drugs, setting clear limits for children, providing positive role models and building strong bonds within the family and school.

Whether you're a parent, a caregiver, a PTA or community leader, Common Sense gives you effective and easy-to-use ideas and materials. We encourage you to explore and make use of the many resources offered on the Web site at [www.pta.org/commonsense/](http://www.pta.org/commonsense/). **Everything you do can make a real difference in the lives of children.**

Strong relationships with family, friends and school can help children build self-esteem and reduce their risk of becoming involved with alcohol and other drugs. *Try these tips from A to Z*, which are on the PTA "Common Sense" Web site, to become more involved with your children and to build strong relationships within your family and with others:

**A**ttend parent-teacher conferences, and call occasionally to check on your child's progress with his or her teacher.

**B**e sure your children know you're always available to listen to their ideas, problems and concerns.

**C**ongratulate your children when they bring home a great essay or terrific project. Hang it up for everyone to see.

**D**emonstrate your interest in things that are important to your child, including hobbies, music, fashion and sports.

**E**very adult who cares for your children can be a positive influence. Take time to carefully choose the baby-sitters and other caregivers who look after your children.

**F**ind ways to make every one of your children feel special, every day.

**G**et to know your children's friends and stay informed about the activities they and your children are involved with.

**H**elp supervise your children's homework. Show your interest in what they're learning -- you may be surprised at how much you learn!

**I**f your child is having a problem in school, don't assume it will go away. Work with his or her teacher to find a solution.

**J**uggle busy schedules so everyone in your family can sit down to share meals together as often as possible.

**K**eep in touch with your children's teacher regularly. If he or she has an e-mail address, the Common Sense Virtual Postcards are a great way to communicate!

## Drug and Alcohol Awareness (Continued)

Let your children know their friends are welcome at your house, and include friends in your family's plans occasionally.

Mark the calendar with dates for school events and other occasions that are important to your children. You may want to check out the Family Fun Calendar in the Common Sense Family Room.

Network with parents of your children's friends to develop common guidelines about curfews, parties and other social activities.

Open doors to communication with your children about sensitive subjects like drugs, alcohol, AIDS and sex. They need information and your guidance.

Paying careful attention when your children speak to you is just one way to communicate your love and respect for them.

Quality family time hard to find? Help create it by joining with other parents to organize family activities in your neighborhood and community.

Remember, children don't acquire self-esteem all at once. It's built over years by treating them respectfully, asking their opinions and giving them realistic feedback.

Support your children! Attend their games, concerts, plays and performances -- and show your enthusiasm.

Take time to attend parent's nights, PTA meetings and other special activities your child's school.

Understand what your child's school is doing to teach drug and alcohol prevention. Volunteer to help out, or if no program exists yet, offer to help get one started.

Volunteering at your child's school is rewarding and demonstrates to your child that his or her education is important to you.

Words to share with your children every day: "I love you!"

X-tra time and energy can be put to good use by signing up to help the PTA at your child's school!

Your children can teach you sometimes -- parents don't always have to be the teachers.

Zoom in on children's good behavior and praise their achievements. Focusing on the positive, rather than the negative, makes all the difference!



## Dates To Remember

### FEBRUARY

24 Mon.	Summer Recreation Fair	5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.	S.M. West H.S.
24 Mon.	S.M. Board of Education Meeting & Discussion of School Closings	7 p.m.	S.M. North H.S.

### MARCH

5 Wed.	Executive Session	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
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### APRIL

2 Wed.	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 a.m.	McEachen
16 Wed.	President's Information Course	9 a.m.	McEachen
25-27 Fri.-Sun.	Kansas PTA Spring Convention		Holiday Inn, Olathe



The Councilor  
**SMCA-PTA**  
7235 Antioch  
Shawnee Mission,  
KS

## INSIDE

**Summer Recreation Fair**  
**Monday, Feb. 24, S.M. West**