

# THE Councilor



Shawnee Mission  
Area Council

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>

every child. one voice.

## President's Message

As November is the traditional month of thanksgiving, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to each of you for all that you do for the children in our district. You play a vital part in our Shawnee Mission community. Remember to thank all of your volunteers, as each one is an important link to the success of your PTA.

American Education Week will be celebrated this year during the week of Nov. 17 through Nov. 22. I know that the PTAs have many activities planned to honor our teachers. With our district's current financial crunch, our custodians and other support personnel are taking on additional responsibilities. Their special day is ESP (Educational Support Personnel) Day, on Nov. 20. Make sure

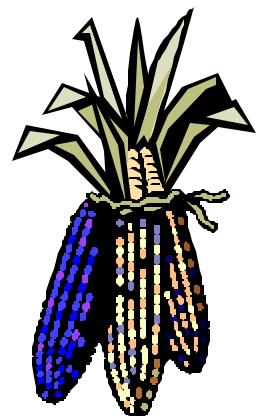
you honor them this day or some other day during the year. Our annual *SMAC Administrators' Dinner* on Nov. 21 is our way of honoring our district administrators and building principals.

It seems like only yesterday that the school year began, but SMAC is already looking ahead to next year. The Nominating Committee has been elected according to the bylaws and the committee will present their report at the Jan. 8 Executive Committee meeting. New officers will be elected at the Feb. 9 General Meeting. Electing a qualified nominating committee is important for the future of each PTA unit. Please read the information in this month's issue concerning the nominating process and share the guidelines with your members.

Shawnee Mission Area Council is always looking for dedicated volunteers to join our team. Peruse our roster for possible areas of interest. From hospitality to computers, we have something for everyone! Please take the time to fill out the enclosed Talent Bank form and send it to me.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kim Pflaum,  
SMAC President



### Inside this issue:

Community Services	2
KS Legislative Conf.	3
Reflections Program	4
Unit Highlights Needed	4
La Zona Escolar	5
Talent Bank Survey	7



## Vice President of of Community Services

The Vice President of Community Services for Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA provides support for the committee chairs that coordinate the Clothing Center, Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program (DAPP), Block Parents, and Health and Safety.

**Candy Lafferty** (541-8747) coordinates the **Clothing Center**, a center run by volunteers of the Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA to help supply the clothing needs of people who live within the boundaries of the Shawnee Mission School District. As you know by now, the Clothing Center is located in the back of the Indian Creek Technology Center (4401 W. 103<sup>rd</sup> St.). Candy has worked very hard to organize the space, volunteers, and donations at the Clothing Center in order to better serve our clientele. All signs and cards are now translated into Spanish for our Spanish-speaking clients.

**Mary Ca Ralstin** (268-5970) and **Rhonda Talbott** (962-1029) are in charge of the **Drug Abuse Prevention Program (DAPP)**. This is a redesigned program taking the place of ADEPT. The goal is to prevent and reduce the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs among children and youth by working with parents, teachers, students and the community. They have a plethora of information at their disposal, so please call them to get information and ideas for your school.

**Doreen Campain** (268-3835) is the **Block Parent** Chair. Doreen graciously succumbed to my request to take over the Block Parent program after school had already started and has been running with it ever since. Please send your Block Parent applications, renewals and KBI forms to Doreen via interschool mail to Ray Marsh. She will deal with all of your requests in a timely manner.

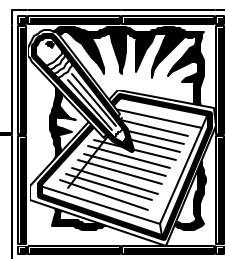
**Debbie Lawson** (541-0806) is this year's **Health and Safety** Chair. Health and Safety is focusing on Underage Drinking this year. Debbie is working hard putting together a program that will be informative to parents and students to help curb the rising use of alcohol among our student population.

Thank you to all of our volunteers throughout the district who work so hard to make our schools safe. Please feel free to call me, or the above committee chairs, for more information about these SMAC programs.

Amy Wheeler  
Vice President Community Services  
649-1679, [awheeler2@kc.rr.com](mailto:awheeler2@kc.rr.com)

*The Councilor* is published monthly. The article deadline for the upcoming November issue is Wednesday, Dec. 4. 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.



# What Your Child and Teen Can Do

*The rules to help them stay safe*



## **The rules for younger children:**

- I know my name, address, telephone number and my parents' names.
- I always check first with my parents or the person in charge. I tell them before I go anywhere or get into a car, even with someone I know.
- I always check first with my parents or a trusted adult before I accept anything from anyone, even from someone I know.
- I always take a friend with me when I go places or play outside.
- I say no if someone tries to touch me or treat me in a way that makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
- It's OK to say no, and I know that there will always be someone who can help me.
- I know that I can tell my parents or a trusted adult if I feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
- I am strong, smart, and have the right to be safe.

## **The rules for older children:**

- Don't go out alone. There is safety in numbers. This rule isn't just for little kids, it applies to teens, too.
- Always tell an adult where you're going. Letting someone know where you'll be at all times is smart. If you're faced with a risky situation or get into trouble, your family and friends will know where to find you.
- Say no if you feel threatened. If someone—anyone—touches you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, you have the right to say no. Whether it is pressure about sex, drugs, or doing something that you know is wrong, be strong and stand your ground.

*List found at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com).*

*A Call to Action for all child advocates!*

## **Kansas State PTA's 2003 Legislative Conference**

Monday, Feb. 10  
Topeka, Kansas

For a better understanding of the legislative issues affecting our children and youth, please make plans to join us! This conference is open to all PTA presidents, legislative chairs and members. Share this information with your units! Presidents will soon be receiving information packets in the mail.



## Reflections Program

By the time you read this, we hope your Reflections Program is underway or soon to be kicked off. We want to take this opportunity to provide you with some important dates and other information. Please see the dates below:

- ✓ **Unit Deadline** – Friday, Jan. 10 (This is your school)
- ✓ **Region Deadline** – Friday, Jan. 24 (SMAC)
- ✓ **Region Judging** – Friday, Jan. 31 at the Shawnee Mission West Bridge (5 – 9 p.m.)
- ✓ **Region Open House** – Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Shawnee Mission West Bridge (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.)
- ✓ **State Deadline** – Friday, Feb. 21
- ✓ **Region Award Ceremony** – Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m. SM School Board Meeting at SM North West
- ✓ **Pickup date** – Friday, Feb. 28 at John Diemer Elementary for all entries that don't go to the State level

As Region Co-Chairs, we will collect entries on Friday, Jan. 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at John Diemer Elementary. The address is 9600 Lamar, Overland Park, KS 66207. **No entries will be accepted after Jan. 24.** If you can't make these times, you can call Shirley at 381-2135 or Carmen at 341-6996 to arrange a time to bring your entries earlier that week.

By the time you read this, you should have received a packet at your school with this information, copies of the forms needed to forward your entries to us, and some other vital information. If you haven't received it, please contact us. Remember we have a copy of the Reflections video to lend out. Call us if you want to show the video at your school.

We have enjoyed talking to many of you and answering your questions. Let us know if we can be of further assistance. Also, let us know if you are planning to participate if you haven't done so already. You may call us at the numbers provided above or e-mail Shirley at [sreeves036@aol.com](mailto:sreeves036@aol.com) or Carmen at [carmenbaby@aol.com](mailto:carmenbaby@aol.com). Thank you for volunteering to run such a wonderful program and good luck!



## Unit Highlights

### 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 at [jbmartz@juno.com](mailto:jbmartz@juno.com), 5301 W. 65<sup>th</sup> Place, Prairie Village, KS 66202, or via interschool mail to Highlands Elementary School. Articles must be received prior to Dec. 4. Take this opportunity to showcase your unit!

## La Zona Escolar de Shawnee Mission

Last month we published an article written completely in Spanish to invite Hispanic families in our District to become members in their schools' PTA's. Many people approached me to ask what the article was about, and how they wished they knew Spanish so that they could read it. This is the way that Hispanic families and other ethnic groups that barely speak English as a second language feel when their children bring printed materials home from school. If you have Spanish-speaking parents in your community, and you didn't use the article because you were not certain what it was about, please consider publishing it in your school's newsletter. Feel free to call me if you want me to personalize it for your school.

Also, I have on loan a copy of the video published by the National PTA, ASPIRA, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund titled, "El Nido de la Familia" (The Family Nest). This is a twenty-one minute long video produced to promote the importance of parents' involvement with their children, with teachers and their school community. It shows how two Hispanic families get involved and support their children's education. If you would like to borrow this video, or would like me to come present the video at your school, call me at 341-6996 or e-mail at carmenbaby@aol.com. ¡Gracias, y hasta la próxima

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

## World AIDS Day is Dec. 1

### Worldwide AIDS Statistics

95% of all AIDS cases occur in the world's poorest countries. In several southern African countries, at least one in five adults is HIV positive. It's the reality that millions of people in developing countries are living with HIV and AIDS as you read this: communities devastated, teachers and doctors dying every day, people's futures shattered, because they can't afford the drug treatments that are helping people living with HIV and AIDS in richer countries like ours.

- People newly infected with HIV in 2001: **5 million**
- AIDS deaths in 2001: **3 million...that's over 8,000 deaths per day**
- Estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2001: **40 million**
- Total of AIDS deaths at the end of 2000: **21.8 million**
- Total number of AIDS orphans: **13.2 million**

Check the National PTA Website and the World Health Organization's Website for activities suitable for all age levels. Check with local Health Departments and hospitals to see what is available in the Kansas City area.

Statistics from [worldaidsday.org](http://worldaidsday.org)

## Nominations and Elections

The election of officers is one of the most important duties of the association. Officers should be chosen for their abilities and their willingness to serve the association. The bylaws should define the method of nomination and election that best suits the needs of the association. Members who are elected to serve should be knowledgeable about the PTA and the qualifications for each office.

Nomination by a nominating committee is the method most widely used. The bylaws should state when the committee is elected and by whom. The committee members are elected, not selected, and should have PTA knowledge and know members within the PTA. The president does not appoint the nominating committee and may not be an ex officio member; nor is it appropriate for the president to exert any influence on its selection of nominees. The chair of the committee is selected according to the provisions of the bylaws.

It is the responsibility of the nominating committee to recognize and seek qualified nominees for the elected leadership of the PTA. The members of the committee, therefore, have a tremendous influence on the future of the PTA and should themselves be carefully elected.

The nominating committee's major role and responsibility is to nominate the best qualified, available nominee(s) for each elected office. State PTAs provide the bylaws that outline how the nominating committee is elected and its exact responsibilities.

The committee should have a copy of the bylaws and a membership list at the meeting. Committee members themselves may be nominated for office. They should be excused from the room while their nomination is being considered and may return to vote. Discussion of nominees is confidential and voting should be by ballot. The committee chair usually contacts nominees and informs them of the duties the office involves. The consent of the nominee to serve if elected should be obtained. The report of the committee is signed by all members who concur.

The committee selects one nominee for each office to be filled, depending on provisions of the local bylaws. The committee report is presented to the association at the time stated in the bylaws.

After the nominating committee reports, additional nominations from the floor may be made. These do not require a second and can only be made by a voting member. Unless the bylaws prohibit, eligible members may run for more than one office but if elected to more than one, must choose one on which they will serve. If a member elected to two positions is absent, the association decides by majority vote which office the nominee will fill and then votes again to fill the other office. The nominating committee is automatically discharged when its report is presented to the membership. However, if a nominee withdraws prior to the election, the committee must seek another candidate.

Source: The National PTA Handbook



# Talent Bank Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PTA Positon(s) Held: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests in PTA: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

In what committee might you be interested? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please help SMAC by filling out this form and sending via inter-school mail to Kim Pflaum, SMAC President at McEachen. We appreciate your help.

*The due date is now past, make sure your unit has submitted their*

## SMAC Dues and Clothing Center Donations

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 and mail to:

**Joni Etherington  
3308 W. 87th Street  
Leawood, KS 66206**

*Thank you for your continuing support!*

## Underage Drinking in Shawnee Mission



Underage drinking has become a serious issue in our Shawnee Mission schools as well as on the national level. Alcohol consumption and abuse is common among our students with 80.3% of high school seniors having used alcohol and 50% of high school sophomores having used alcohol in the last month. Students surveyed by state prevention centers report they took their first sips of alcohol at age 11-12 (in 6th and 7th grade) and began to drink regularly at age 14. Alcohol is the leading cause of death among those aged 16 to 24. Alcohol kills 6.5 times more young people than all other illegal drugs combined. Parent sanctioned drinking parties are also a problem.

What can we as parents do to help fight this huge problem? Shawnee Mission West Principal, Dr. Karl Krawitz, with cooperation of the Johnson County District Attorneys office and the Lenexa and Overland Park Police Departments, has started a program similar to the Neighborhood Watch Program. The purpose of the program will be to establish a code of conduct that underage drinking parties will not be tolerated. In a neighborhood where a Neighborhood Watch program exists, parents would be encouraged to contact police if they notice a party getting out of control. The purpose is to stop underage drinking and especially driving while under the influence. Let's help keep our students safe from the dangers of alcohol.

## The Clothing Center Schedule 2002-2003

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>
25-Nov	McAuliffe, Merriam		Anderson	
2-Dec	Mill Creek, Moody		Needham	
9-Dec				Franklin, Lafferty
6-Jan	Nieman, Oak Park	Kobylnski	Robinson	
13-Jan				Carper, Huckaba
27-Jan	Overland Park, Pawnee	Sachs	Riedel	
3-Feb	Prairie, Rising Star	Hodgson	Waters	
10-Feb				Jorgenson
18-Feb	5 High Schools	Changeover	Lafferty	
24-Feb	Roeland Park, Roesland	Wheeler		
3-Mar	Rosehill, Rushton		O'Grady	
10-Mar				Wintering, Lawson
7-Apr	Santa Fe Trail, Shawanoe	Kobylnski		
14-Apr				Zila, Lafferty
21-Apr	Somerset, South Park	Kremers	Miller	
28-Apr	Sunflower, Tomahawk	Bolter		
5-May	Trailwood, West Antioch	Etherington	Talbott	
12-May				Blake
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](mailto:cllafferty@aol.com).

Thanks to all of the hard work of our school volunteers, the Clothing Center is caught up and ready to begin receiving items from school clothing drives. We are always in need of jeans from toddler to adult sizes. Since winter has arrived, it would be great if your school could sponsor a glove/mitten/hat drive. Baby and toddler clothing is also in short supply.

The number of Spanish-speaking patrons at the Clothing Center has increased greatly this year. So, it would be very helpful if your school has a volunteer who speaks Spanish who would be willing to assist us at the Clothing Center during our regular sorting hours. We continue to try to serve the needs of the people in our community. Thank you for your support.



## Dates To Remember

### DECEMBER

4 Wed. Executive Session 9:30 a.m. McEachen

### JANUARY

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

22 Wed. Presidents & Principals Exchange 9-11 a.m. Indian Creek

24 Fri. Unit Reflections entries due at Region (SMAC) level John Diemer Elem.

31 Fri. Reflections Region Judging 5-9 p.m. SM West Bridge



The Councilor  
SMCA-PTA  
7235 Antioch  
Shawnee Mission,  
KS

**I N S I D E**

**Talent Bank Survey**