

The Councilor

Volume 81, Issue 6

January 2004



Shawnee Mission
Area Council

PTA[®]

every child. one voice.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VP Educational Services	2
President/Principal Exchange SMAC General Meeting	3
Legislative Conference	4
Nominating Committee Report Clothing Center	5
Health and Safety	6
Legislative Conference Registration Form	7

SMAC Officers 2003-04

President

Rae Ann Kobylinski

VP/Administrative Asst.

Terry Wintering

VP/Community Services

Elaine Hodgson

VP/Cultural Services

Carmen Sachs

VP/Educational Services

Amy Wheeler

VP/Public Relations

Joni Etherington

Treasurer

Candy Lafferty

Recording Secretary

Mary Jorgenson

Corresponding Secretary

Debbie Kremers

President's Message

A new year also brings the start of a new legislative session. One of the hottest topics in Topeka will be school funding. Shawnee Mission is not the only district in Kansas to be facing a crisis, but many of our concerns are unique to our area. As parents and voters we must make our voices heard by our legislators. It is not our mission to find the solution to this problem, but we need to show that finding an answer to maintaining the quality of education is a number one priority. Judge Bullock has issued a decision which calls for a suitable education for all Kansas children and a revised funding formula. The theory sounds wonderful, but his proposal holds a threat to the use of the local option budget (LOB) for districts. The loss of those monies would have a huge negative impact on our district funding. Our district has felt many belt-tightening measures over the last few years and cannot afford to lose more funds.

What can parents and patrons do?

1. **Be informed.** Read your newspaper and listen to the news. Visit the Shawnee Mission District website (www.smsd.org) for updates from the district lobbyist, Stuart Little. Keep your units informed about what is going on.
2. **Attend the Kansas PTA Legislative Conference.** It will be held on February 9 in Topeka. More information and registration forms are on the Kansas PTA website (www.ptasonline.org/kspta). This is always an informative day and a chance to talk to your legislators. Any concerned parent could benefit from this event, not just unit presidents and legislative chairs.
3. **Write to your legislators and Governor Sebilius.** A letter is the best way to share your concerns with Topeka. If you don't tell them how you feel, how will they know?
4. **Look for opportunities in our area to learn.** One example is a forum on "No Child Left Behind" Act which will be held on January 16 at 7:00 P.M. at the Mission Center Mall. Featured panelists will include Congressman Dennis Moore, State Senator John Vratil, and State Representative Sue Storm. This act will impact probably every public school in the nation during the next few years.
5. **Be a registered voter.** 2004 is an election year. It is up to everyone to be an informed voter.

Our district provides a wonderful learning environment for our students. It is our job to be sure it continues!



Rae Ann Kobylinski
SMAC President

SMAC Officers 2003-04
cont'd.

Members-at-Large

*Nancy Huckaba
Sammie Kudera
Mary Ca Ralstin*

Representatives

SMSD Administration

Dr. Marjorie Kaplan

Board of Education

Susan Metsker

NEA

Lisa Elliott

Elementary Principals

Jennifer Spencer

Middle School Principals

Jim Wink

High School Principals

Dr. Angelo Cocolis

Bylaws/Parliamentarian

Kim Pflaum

Elementary Coordinator

Denise Riedel

Secondary Coordinator

Laurie Franklin

Immediate Past President

Kim Pflaum

Region 8 Vice President

Rae Ann Kobylinski

Vice President of Educational Services

The Vice President for Educational Services oversees five committees that deal with training and instruction for PTA leaders at every level throughout the district. The committees include: Book Publishing, Historian and Life Membership, Preschool Liaison, President's Information Course, and School of Instruction.

Book Publishing: **Lisa Schroeder**, 859.9277, held a workshop in the fall for parents willing to work on their school's book publishing project. She invited a representative from Studenttreasures, a company that provides kits for the writing and illustrating of students creative writings, as well as the final printing and publishing of their manuscripts. Anyone with questions regarding this worthwhile project, please contact Lisa.

Historian and Life Memberships: The chair of this committee, **Mary Jorgenson**, 268.6414, handles inquiries about honorary life memberships and maintains a current list of recipients of this honor. Each PTA unit is asked to send a complete list of honorees to Mary as soon as possible so that she can keep the list up-to-date.

Preschool Liaison: As chair of this committee, **Deb Zila**, 642.5774, works with schools to involve preschool-age children in school-related activities. These activities run the gamut from story-hour to gym class. It is a good way to get young children, and their parents, comfortable with the building, teachers, and administrators.

President's Information Course: **Jona Vance**, 894.8427, as chair of this committee, will send invitations to all incoming PTA unit presidents to attend this very important meeting. The Area Council President will provide folders filled with vital information to the new presidents that will make their transition into the new school year much easier. All PTA units are asked to send the names of newly-elected presidents to Jona as soon as possible.

School of Instruction: **Jennifer Gill**, 383.0043, is chair for this fun and informative opportunity. Area Council provides extensive training for all PTA leaders and chairs throughout the school district. A wide variety of workshops and speakers are available during one evening in May. According to the SMAC bylaws, this event is also the time at which incoming SMAC officers are to be installed.

It has been a pleasure working with these capable women this year. I want to thank each of them for handling their committee in a professional manner. If you have any further questions regarding these committees, please do not hesitate to contact any one of these chairs. They will be more than willing to help.

Amy Wheeler
V/P Educational Services



***The Councilor** is published monthly during the school year and once during the summer. Articles are due the first Wednesday of the month. Articles should be sent to Cynthia Jarrold, Councilor Editor, by email at cjarrold@sbcglobal.net or by mail to 9107 Reeds Drive, OPKS 66207.*

Questions may be answered by calling 913.381.1543.

Preferred format for emailed articles: MS Word attachment.

Hop on Top of the News From the Libraries SMAC General Meeting

Join us on February 18 to hear all the news about Shawnee Mission Libraries. Learn about our programs, our impact, and our dreams. Cyndee Anderson and Terry Wintering will share the vision and answer questions you might have. (Program will follow the business part of the meeting.)


Read a good book to someone you love!

*Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA
Cordially Invites You to the*

Elementary Presidents' and Principals' Exchange

Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.
Indian Creek Technology Center
4401 West 103 Street

This annual event is held to give all of the elementary school Principals and PTA Presidents in our District the opportunity to come together to discuss ideas, programs, and projects that have worked (or not worked) in their schools. It allows everyone to network and share ideas that will help to insure the continuation of your successful school year. Please mark your calendar now so that you can attend this important exchange!



The **SMAC Newsletter Editor**, Cynthia Jarrold, has a new email address. Please update your address books to avoid loss of any important Councilor news: cjarrold@sbcglobal.net.



2004 Kansas PTA Legislative Conference

Monday, February 9, 2004

at the Ramada Inn, Topeka

Updates on Federal and State legislative issues, tips & tools to sharpen your advocacy skills and the ever-popular "Lunch with your Legislator"

Registration packets were mailed to local PTA Presidents in early December.

Cost for PTA Members is \$25.00 (includes conference and lunch).

Cost for Legislators is \$15.00 (lunch).

For more information, contact Vicky Needham 913.441.0110.

(A registration form is included on page 7 of this newsletter.)



Presents . . .

Keeping Kids Safe Online!

Date and Time: January 22, 7:00—8:00 P.M.

Location: Sunflower House

15440 West 65 Street, Shawnee, KS 66217

Cost: Free

RSVP: Dawn Downes, 913.631.5800 or

dawnd@sunflowerhouse.org

Agenda Includes:

- **Panel of Experts including Overland Park Police Department High Tech Crimes Unit and the FBI**
- **The Internet Today: What Every Parent Should Know**
 - **Safety Tips and Tools for All Parents**
 - **Cyber Crime Reporting Process**

SMAC Nominating Committee Report Slate of Officers for 2004-2005

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Mary Jorgensen, Carmen Sachs, Sonya Puskas, Debbie Lawson, and Cynthia Jarrold, placed in nomination the following slate of candidates at the SMAC Executive Board Meeting on January 7. The candidates have given their consent to serve if elected.

Mary Jorgensen, Chairperson
SMAC Nominating Committee



President—Rae Ann Kobylinski
VP/Admin. Assistant—Laurie Franklin
VP Community Services—Debbie Lawson
VP Cultural Services—Mary Ellen Naylor
VP Educational Services—Teri Waters
VP Public Relations—Joni Etherington
Treasurer—Linda Kana

Recording Secretary—Doreen Campaign
Corresponding Secretary—Sammie Kudera
Members at large—
 Kimberly Schultz
 Roxanne Quarnstrom
 Denise Riedel



SMAC Clothing Center Volunteer Schedule

The PTA Clothing Center is located in the lower level of Arrowhead Administrative Center at 6601 Santa Fe Drive in Overland Park. Each school is asked to send 3 volunteers to the Clothing Center from 8:30—11:00 A.M. on the assigned day. It is the responsibility of either the school, the officer, or the SMAC chair to make the necessary arrangements for substitutes.

Date	School	Officers	SMAC Chair	Officers/Chair
	8:30—11:00 A.M.	8:30—11:00 A.M.	8:30—11:00 A.M.	Evening 4:30—7:00 P.M.
1/5	Moody/Mil Creek	Franklin	Lafferty	
1/12				Zila/Jorgenson
1/26	Merriam/McAuliffe	Etherington	Quarnstrom	
2/2	Marsh	Vineyard	Vance	
2/9				Lafferty/Wheeler
2/23	Highlands/East Antioch	Hodgson	Schroeder	
3/1	Diemer/Crestview	Ralstin	Kudera	
3/8				Finnerty/Huckaba
3/9 (Tues)	5 High Schools	Changeover	9:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M.	
3/29	Corinth/Comanche/Carpenter	Kremers/Vineyard	Robinson/Jarrold	

Health and Safety



Prevention Basics for Families

Raising healthy, drug-free children is a great concern for today's families. As parents and caregivers, you teach your children important health and safety lessons as they grow; but as they approach their teen years, you may want to learn more about how to communicate effectively about the dangers of underage drinking, drugs, and other harmful substances. Prevention Basics for Families provides tools for guiding and informing your communication. It is available for a limited time through February 2004. Go online: <http://www.health.org/promos/theme/default.aspx>; or call 1.800.729.6686 and ask for the Prevention Basics for Families Kit, inventory number PBKIT.

In this Special Feature Kit from SAMHSA's NCADI, you'll find practical ideas and tips about:

- How to let your kids know what's important to you
- Turning everyday time together into "teachable moments"
- How to communicate more effectively
- The dangers and effects of specific drugs
- And much more.



The Special Feature Kit Includes These Publications:

- Keeping Your Kids Drug-Free: A How-to Guide for Parents and Caregivers—bilingual English and Spanish (PHD1036)
- Tips for Teens About Club Drugs, Cocaine, & Tobacco (PHD852)
- Tips for Teens: The Truth About Alcohol (PH323)
- Marijuana: Facts for Teens (PHD713)
- Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know (PHD712)
- What Parents Should Know About Ecstasy—bilingual English and Spanish (PHD957)
- Tips for Raising Drug-Free Teens (PHD949)
- Fact or Fiction postcard (AVD167)
- Words poster (AVD170)



January 2004 is March of Dimes Birth Defects Prevention Month

Since 1958, the March of Dimes has been funding cutting-edge research and innovative programs to save babies from birth defects, premature birth, and low birth weight. To increase awareness of these important public health issues, January has been designated as Birth Defects Prevention Month.

Need Information on Child Abuse and Neglect?

National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information Website

For crisis counseling contact: Childhelp USA (800)422-4453

For general information go to <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/>

Healthy Weight Week - January 18-24, 2004

Efforts to get Americans to maintain a healthy weight begin with our Nation's children. Parents have an important role to play, because they are typically the primary source of information. More importantly, they are the primary role models when it comes to molding children's eating habits. Adults who wish to change their behaviors, attitudes, and lifestyle patterns in order to reach a healthy weight should begin by getting reliable information on nutrition. Local communities can provide support and help to promote understanding of the importance of healthy weight to a good quality of life.

Dates to Remember

January

13 Tuesday	Reflections Contest Unit Deadline		
18 Sunday	Beginning of Healthy Weight Week		
21 Wednesday	Elem. Presidents/Principals Exchange	9:00 A.M.	Indian Creek
26 Monday	Citizenship Winners Recognized at SMSD Board of Education Meeting	7:00 P.M.	SM West
27 Tuesday	Reflections Contest Region Deadline	6:00 P.M.	Carpenter

February

4 Wednesday	February Councilor Deadline		
4 Wednesday	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 A.M.	McEachen
5 Thursday	Reflections Contest Region Judging	7:00 P.M.	SMW Bridge
6 Friday	Reflections Contest Region Open House	6:00 P.M.	SMW Bridge
9 Monday	KSPTA Legislative Conference	9:00 A.M.	Ramada Inn (Topeka)
18 Wednesday	SMAC General Meeting	9:30 A.M.	McEachen
24 Tuesday	Reflections Contest State Deadline		

March

3 Wednesday	March Councilor Deadline		
3 Wednesday	Executive Session Meeting	9:30 A.M.	McEachen



The Councilor
SMAC-PTA
7235 Antioch
Shawnee Mission, KS

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Shawnee Mission, KS
PERMIT NO. 131