

The Councilor

Volume 81, Issue 3

October 2003



Shawnee Mission
Area Council

PTA[®]

every child. one voice.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Administrative Assistant Report	2
Administrators' Dinner	3
Borders Benefit Days	
SMAC Talent Bank	4
American Education Week	5
Health and Safety	
Unit Highlights	6
SMAC Dues	
Workshops	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

October brings with it changing leaves, crisp air, and exciting things happening in our schools! The post-summer review is over, and real learning has begun. It is exciting to see our little ones struggle with their first readers and watch our older children draft plans for their computer drafting classes. Our PTAs have been busy with many activities and support for our teachers and staff. Parent involvement is vital in the success of our schools!

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and her Education Policy Team visited the Johnson County area last month. The Governor shared her vision for the future of education in Kansas. The five key components of that vision are:

- high academic performance for all students
- all children entering kindergarten prepared to succeed
- all high school graduates prepared for a postsecondary education and career
- qualified and caring teachers teaching every student
- strong family, business, and community commitment to education excellence

Each and every Kansan can help Governor Sebelius succeed in making this vision a reality. We need to become informed about what is going on in our state legislature and who is defending public education. Then when next fall's elections are here, we will be informed voters. We must also encourage others to vote. Our vote is our voice!

Our district is in the process of formulating a new five year plan. Much of that plan will be based on the recommendations that come out of the Boundaries and Facilities Committee. Dr. Kaplan will decide which recommendations to forward to the SM Board of Education for their final decision. These decisions are made with the main focus on how to offer the best education to the students of Shawnee Mission with inadequate funding from our state. To achieve this goal, there will be change. Most people do not like the idea of change but it is often needed. The strength of our children's education is based on the quality of what goes on in the classroom, not the corner the building sits on.

Last year Borders Books held a very successful fundraiser for our library programs. Fifty-three schools benefited from this project. This year Borders Benefit Days will be held from October 31 through November 2. Please encourage your units to participate and earn new

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

books and media for your school's library.

Many of the SMAC fall workshops have already taken place. Please check upcoming events and make sure the proper chairs and officers know what is in store. All presidents and PTA members are invited and encouraged to attend SMAC's October general meeting, "Meet the Administrators." You will have an opportunity to hear four of our district's top administrators and an opportunity to ask questions. Be sure to put October 15, 7:00 P.M. at Indian Creek on your calendar!

Rae Ann Kobylinski
SMAC President

Administrative Assistant's Report

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for coordinating the activities of the following committees: Administrators' Dinner, Bulk Mail, Fundraising and Carnival, Membership, and Presidents' Reception. This year's chairs are doing a terrific job!

- Gayle O'Grady (384.5927) is planning this year's **Administrators' Dinner** to be held during National Education Week on Thursday, November 20, 2003, at Shawnee Mission East. All unit presidents, principals, and SMAC chairs and their spouses are invited to attend.
- Sheri Womack (341.2580) keeps the units informed about the rates and procedures for **Bulk Mail**. Please contact Sheri about using the SMAC bulk mail permit.
- **Fundraising and Carnival** Chair, Mary Sutton (648.8226), has extensive experience with fundraising. She is putting together a *Ways & Means Reference Book* for the schools. A survey was sent to the PTA presidents in September. The reference book should be ready for distribution by late October. Input from this project will provide information for participants at the School of Instruction in the spring.
- Sonya Puskas (631.4490), **Membership** Chair, acts as a liaison between the local unit and the state office for membership questions. She has distributed the membership cards to all units this fall. Sonya will also present special membership awards and conduct a workshop at the School of Instruction in May.
- The **President's Reception**, held on August 22, was a great start to the school year. Teri Waters (262.6656) did a fantastic job planning this event.

Please feel free to contact these chairmen or me with any questions. The SMAC chairs and officers are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you.

Terry Wintering
Administrative Assistant
541.8566

Reminder

Meet the Administrators—SMAC General Meeting

October 15, 7:00 P.M.

Indian Creek Technology Center, Room 251

Come and ask questions of our district administrators.

Everyone is welcome.

Administrators' Dinner

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Reception at 6:15 P.M. followed by Dinner at 6:45 P.M.

Please join us at **Shawnee Mission East High School** for the Annual
"SMAC[®]-tacular" **Administrators' Dinner**

All PTA Presidents, PTA Area Council Delegates and their spouses are invited to attend this annual evening event honoring the Shawnee Mission School District Administrators.

Please invite your principal and his/her spouse as guests of your unit.

Invitations and reservation response cards will be mailed soon.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Questions? Contact Gayle O'Grady, Administrators' Dinner Chair, 384.5927.

BORDERS[®]

BOOKS • MUSIC • MOVIES • CAFE

Shop Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 2003

**15% of your total purchase will be donated
to the Shawnee Mission School District Library of your choice**

Just bring this certificate with you to Borders between Oct. 31-Nov. 2
and present to the Borders cashier upon making your purchase.

Valid for scheduled days only. Applies only to merchandise in stock and cannot
be applied to special orders, classroom discount purchases, or corporate discounts.

Borders Locations:

Overland Park, 91st & Metcalf, 913.642.3642
Overland Park, 119th & Metcalf, 913.663.2356
Olathe, 119th & Strang Line Road, 913.764.0336

Cashier Use Only:

Total Amount of Purchase: _____ Date: _____
Transaction # _____ Employee # _____

BORDERS BENEFIT DAYS SUPPORTING SMSD LIBRARIES

By participating in this event, your donation will assist in continuing the tradition of offering the best of children's and young adult literature and non-fiction materials matched to the curriculum of students at your school. This event supports our goal of developing lifelong readers, learners, and information users.

Date_____

Shawnee Mission Area Council of PTA
Talent Bank

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ E-Mail_____

Fax_____ Work Number_____

Names and Grades of Children_____

School(s)_____

PTA Offices/Chair positions held_____

Special interests in PTA_____

Would you be interested in serving on the Shawnee Mission Area Council of PTA?
Yes_____ No_____ Possibly_____

If so, what committee/position are you interested in?_____

Please return through interschool mail to:

SMAC PTA
McEachen Administrative Building

Great Public Schools for Every Child—America's Promise

American Education Week—November 16-22, 2003

In recognition of the educators and school staff who keep our children safe and healthy as well as help them achieve.

Special events during the week include:

- Wednesday, November 19—a special day to honor the school bus drivers, cafeteria workers, teachers' aides, and other education support professionals who positively impact our school communities;
- Friday, November 21—a special day to honor the work of substitute educators.



Health and Safety

Parents, The Anti-Drug

Kids who are close to their parents are less likely to engage in risky behaviors. The more involved you are in your children's lives, the more valued they will feel, and the more likely they will be to respond to you. Try to schedule regular get-togethers with your children. For more information, check out: www.theantidrug.com.

Child Lures Community Plan

You will find the most effective personal safety resources available for parents, educators, professionals, and most importantly, children.

Based on author Kenneth Wooden's original groundbreaking research, the comprehensive Child Lures Community Plan consists of:

- Seminars for In-Service Training and Community Awareness
- School Program for K-12
- Parent Guide

Check out www.childlures.org for more information.

National Bus Safety Week

October 20-26

National School Bus Safety Week provides an opportunity to drive home safety messages about riding a school bus. When getting ready for this event, consider ordering "Be Cool. Follow the Rules." school bus safety materials, such as:

- Bus rules safety cards
- School bus driver's guides to safer driving
- School bus safety posters
- Parent's safety tips cards (with ideas for im-

- plementing a school bus safety campaign)
- Reproducible print public-service ads
- Reproducible coloring sheets for children
- National School Bus Safety Week posters

The "Be Cool. Follow the Rules." bus safety program was developed by National PTA in partnership with the International Truck and Engine Corporation. The materials are free (you pay only the cost of shipping) and are available in English, Spanish, and French. For more information, check out: http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/healthsafety/hs_bus_safety.asp.

Ten Tips for Fueling Your Child's Brain Power

Developed by National PTA and Quaker Oatmeal

1. Show your child love and affection
2. Feed your child breakfast every day
3. Ensure your child receives nine to ten hours of sleep each night
4. Schedule regular health check-ups for your child
5. Take an active role in your child's education
6. Dedicate 10 to 60 minutes a day (depending upon age) to your child's homework
7. Set high, but realistic expectations for your child
8. Engage your child in cultural arts activities
9. Ensure your child participates in one hour of physical activity daily
10. Give your child time for creative play

For more information, check out <http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/brain.asp>.

Unit Highlights Coming in December Presidents, Share Your Great Ideas!

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 Cynthia Jarrold at jarroldrc@msn.com, 9107 Reeds Drive, OPKS 66207, or via inter-school mail to SM East High School. Articles must be received no later than Wednesday, December 3.

SMAC Dues and Clothing Center Donations Mail-in Form

Unit Name _____

SMAC PTA Dues (\$35.00 for Shawnee Mission Schools) \$ _____ Ck # _____

Clothing Center Donation \$ _____ Ck # _____

Please write two separate checks made payable to SMAC PTA.

Mail to: *Candy Lafferty, SMAC Treasurer
10505 Bluejacket
Overland Park, Kansas 66214*

Thank you for your continuing support!



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 jarroldrc@msn.com 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.

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Upcoming Workshops Upcoming Workshops

Book Publishing Workshop

Thursday, October 9—7:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Room 9, McEachen—For more information, contact Lisa Schroeder, Book Publishing Chair, at 859.9277 or lisaandrocky@everestkc.com

990 Workshop

PTA Treasurers, please plan to attend a 990 workshop that is to be held at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 9, in the Board Room at McEachen Administrative Center, 7235 Antioch. We will discuss how to prepare the 990 IRS form; you will be provided with handouts; and we will answer questions that you might have.

Explanation of KS School Finance Workshop

Saturday, October 11, 2003—1:30 to 4:30 P.M.

Johnson County Central Resource Library

9875 West 87 Street, Overland Park

Presented by Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, this workshop will be open not only to all PTA presidents and legislative chairs,

but also to any PTA member who wishes to understand public education issues. Come and get the most comprehensive explanation of the total Kansas public school finance situation available in one presentation. Encourage the uninformed to come and become educated.

The Shawnee Mission Alternative School Finance Plan Workshop

Thursday, November 13, 2003—7:00 P.M.

**McEachen Administrative Building, Boardroom
7235 Antioch, Overland Park**

Shawnee Mission manager of budget and finance, Tim Rooney, has authored a new, alternative plan to the current Kansas school finance system, and he will give a PowerPoint presentation to explain it.

For more information about these workshops or legislative issues, contact Nancy Niles Lusk, SMAC Legislation Chair, 648.2616, or nnlusk@kc.rr.com.

SMAC Clothing Center Volunteer Schedule

The PTA Clothing Center is located in the lower level of Arrowhead Elementary School 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.
10/6	Somerset/Shawano	Huckaba	Sutton	
10/13				Wintering/O'Grady
10/14 (Tues.)	7 Middle Schools	Changeover	9:00 A.M.—11:00 A.M.	
10/27	Santa Fe Trail/Rushton	Hodgson	Puskas	
11/3	Rosehill/Roesland	Riedel	Talbott	
11/10	TEEN Night			Sachs/Waters
11/17	Rising Star/Prairie	Wheeler	Campain	
11/24	Pawnee	Kremers	Reynolds	

Dates to Remember

October

9	Thursday	990 Workshop for Treasurers	7:00 P.M.	McEachen
9	Thursday	Book Publishing Workshop	7:00 P.M.	McEachen
11	Saturday	Kansas School Finance Workshop	1:30 P.M.	JC Central Library
15	Wednesday	SMAC Dues Deadline		
15	Wednesday	General Meeting—Meet the Administrators	7:00 P.M.	Indian Creek
16	Thursday	Reflections Workshop	6:30 P.M.	Katherine Carpenter
20-26		Bus Safety Week		
22	Wednesday	Middle School Exchange	8:45 A.M.	McEachen
31	Friday	Borders Benefit Day		

November

1	Saturday	Borders Benefit Day		
2	Sunday	Borders Benefit Day		
5	Wednesday	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 A.M.	McEachen
6	Wednesday	November Councilor Deadline		
13	Thursday	SM School Finance Plan Workshop	7:00 P.M.	McEachen
16-20		American Education Week		
20	Thursday	Administrators' Dinner	6:15 P.M.	SM East

December

3	Wednesday	December Councilor Deadline		
3	Wednesday	Executive Committee Meeting	9:30 A.M.	McEachen

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Shawnee Mission, KS