

Shawnee Mission Northwest News



August 2012

www.smnwptsa.org

A SMNW PTSA Publication

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From the President

Back to school again! If you are new to the SMNW family ... welcome! If you are already an established member of our Cougar community, it's wonderful to have you back!

PTSA exists to serve the Northwest students, parents, and school as a whole. There are plenty of opportunities for you to be a part of it all ... helping with a one-time event, serving behind the scenes, leading a committee, or simply supporting PTSA through your membership. I encourage you to join even if you never intend to actively participate (of course you can always change your mind and jump in). Please look for the membership form and volunteer form, both included in this newsletter; I encourage you to find a PTSA program or activity that interests you and give an hour of your time to help make it happen!

PTSA is focused on maintaining open, complete communication throughout the SMNW community. This monthly newsletter is a PTSA publication, and periodic email blasts are also sent to help keep you informed. Newsletter articles may be emailed to smnwptsa@gmail.com. Visit www.smnwptsa.org, which features upcoming activities and events, as well as contact information. You are always welcome to contact me or any member of the PTSA board with any questions or concerns. We will either have an answer, or will assist you in finding one!

Please plan to attend our first PTSA meeting of the year on Tuesday, August 14, at 6:30 pm in the Northwest library. Dr. Harrington will join us to discuss the upcoming school year.

I look forward to a successful 2012-2013. Enjoy!

Marianne D'Amato

SMNW PTSA President

marianne@magnaplus.com

913.268.1278

**The first day of school
for Freshmen is
Monday, August 13.**

**Sophomores, Juniors
and Seniors start on
Tuesday, August 14.**

Back to School Night is Thursday, August 23, and begins at 6:30pm.

SMNW Calendar

August

- 8 Last day to make schedule change appointments
- 10 Sports packets and concussion forms due in athletic office for fall sports
- 13 **First day of school – freshmen only**
- 13 First day of fall sports practice/tryouts
- 14 **First day of school – grades 10-12**
- 17 Freshmen Mixer, 7:00PM
- 20 Fall Sports Parent Meeting, 7:00PM
- 23 **Back to School Night, 6:30PM**
- 28 Yearbook Photo Make-up Day
- 30 Freshman StuCo representative elections, seminar
- 30 Bonfire

SMNW Staff Updates 2012-2013

Corrections and additions to the list in the June 2012 newsletter:

Nancy Leo will be teaching Science not Math.
New staff – Susie Evans – Bookkeeper, Leigh Rysko – World Languages

2012-2013 PTSA Meeting Dates

Tuesday, August 14 @ 6:30 pm	Library
Wednesday, October 10 @ 6:30 pm	Cafe 1
Tuesday, December 4 @ 11:30 am	Library
Wednesday, February 13 @ 6:30 pm	Library
Wednesday, May 1 @ 3:00 pm	Library

Change in Office Hours

Starting July 23, Northwest office

hours will be 7:00 am – 3:30 pm.

No special deliveries to school

Due to limited space and personnel, the school office is not able to handle special deliveries of flowers, balloons, and other such items to students. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

School traffic reminders

- Drive slowly and cautiously on and near school property.
- Watch for pedestrians entering school crosswalks. Proceed cautiously when your view is obstructed by parked vehicles.
- Do not pass vehicles that are loading/unloading students from any spot other than the right hand curb.
- Please drop off students on the east side of the building.
- Parents must pull over to the side to drop their children off (do NOT stop in the middle of the circle drive). We had some near accidents that could have resulted in injury this last year and a couple fender benders.
- For the safety of the students, we will have two teachers out in front to encourage parents to pull over to the curb to let students out. Students should exit the car on the curb side and not the other side (driver's side) to avoid oncoming traffic.

NW Records Office

Looking for a Parent@School password, a misplaced report card, or need a car insurance "good student" discount form signed? Have you had an address, phone number, or email address change? Need to have transcripts sent to a college? Forgotten your schedule or your locker combination? Did you have a schedule change and need to return the form? If so, please contact Mrs. Stockton (993-7209) or Mrs. Ramsey (993-7208) in the NW RECORDS OFFICE. The office is open from 7:00am - 3:30pm daily.

Sports Schedules and Game Information

Visit www.sunflowerleague.org for all sports schedules and game information. Time or date changes and/or cancellations are up-to-the-minute.

You can also sign up to be alerted if there is a cancellation or time or date change for your individual sport.

Schedule for 2012 - 2013 Late Starts

Dates: October 4, November 1, December 6, January 17,
February 21, April 25

Period 2 9:40 – 11:10

Period 4 11:15 – 1:10

L -1 11:45 – 12:10 Class 11:15 – 11:40/12:15 – 1:10

L-2 12:15 – 12:40 Class 11:15 – 12:10/12:45 – 1:10

L-3 12:45 - 1:10 Class 11:15 – 12:40

Period 6 1:15 – 2:40

The 2012 - 2013
Shawnee Mission
Schools District
Calendar can be found
under the heading
“Parents” on the
district website at
www.smsd.org.



Program Advertising 2012-2013

The Thesplan Booster Club at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School would like to offer you the opportunity to support the outstanding theatrical productions performed by students in your community while at the same time promoting your business. **All of our productions run for three nights in our 1,200-seat auditorium where many local residents will see your ad.** As budgets have been cut, community support is more essential than ever! Proceeds from advertising help defray the costs of the high-quality productions SMNW High School is known for. Thank you!

2012-2013 Show Schedule:

- Urinetown, the Musical – November 1, 2, 3
- The Miracle Worker – January 31, February 1, 2
- (Spring play TBA)
- (Rep musical TBA)

Advertising Rates:	Season	Single Show
Full Page	\$200	\$80
Half Page	\$100	\$40
Quarter Page	\$50	\$20
Business Card	\$30	\$15

● ● ●

Marquee advertising
is also available.

To place an ad or for
more information, go to
www.smnwbooster.org/marquee

● ● ●

Page Dimensions: 8½" x 11" (musicals) or 5½" x 8½" (plays)

Artwork Deadline: October 5, 2012 (file format: B&W jpg, gif, or png)

To place an ad or for more information, contact Denise Robison at advertise@smnwbooster.org, or at 913.322.3231. Checks should be made payable to SMNW TBC and mailed to SMNW TBC Sales Manager, c/o 12323 W 71st St, Shawnee, KS 66216.

2012 – 2013 PTSA Executive Board

President	Marianne D'Amato	marianne@magnaplus.com
Vice President	Cheryl Entzminger	cheryl.a.entzminger@sprint.com
Treasurer	Pam Hale	psizedhale@everestkc.net
Corresponding Secretary	Denise Smith	lhsgrad4@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	Barb Vonada	kujhawkers@everestkc.net

Shawnee Mission Education Foundation's Fall Breakfast

The Annual Fall Breakfast honors the accomplishments of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation (SMEF). Dr. Gene Johnson, Superintendent, will deliver the State of the District address. The breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 13. Reservations may be made online at www.smef.org by clicking on "Donate Now." Proceeds from the event, sponsored by Mainstreet Credit Union, Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Capitol Federal, Holmes Murphy, and First National Bank, make possible the grants and scholarships distributed by the Foundation for the benefit of students. Call SMEF at 913-993-9360 for more information.

School Absence Hot Line Number is 993-7245

Using this 24-hour Code-A-Phone number directs your call to the Attendance Office and eliminates the need for our school receptionist to be involved in the multitude of daily attendance calls. Please give the following information when reporting a student absence:

1. Caller's name as a parent or guardian
2. Identify absent student and grade level
3. Spell student's last name
4. Time and date of call
5. Date of absence, reason, and length if known

For planned, excused absences of three days or more, the student must complete and return an approval form five days in advance of the absence. These forms are available in the attendance office.

PTSA Newsletter Deadline

Northwest News is a publication of the staff and PTSA of Shawnee Mission Northwest High School. The current issue is available at www.smsd.org/schools/smnorthwest. Past issues of the newsletter, as well as other information about SMNW PTSA, are available at www.smnwptsa.org. Articles for the August newsletter are due by Friday, August 24, for publication on August 31. Submissions should be emailed to smnwptsa@gmail.com.

Having Locker Problems??

Please see Mrs. Lauer in the Main Office and for a LOCKER PROBLEM CARD. Please complete the slip and return. A custodian/staff member will look into your problem and correct the issue as soon as possible. When the problem is resolved, Mrs. Lauer will call you to



the Office over the PA system. If you have forgotten your combination, please see Mrs. Stockton or Mrs. Ramsey in the Records Office during lunch or before or after school.

Sign Up for SMNW and Shawnee Mission Alerts

If you would like to receive e-mails and/or text messages notifying you of important information such as game cancellations/postponements and emergencies from Northwest, please go to the Shawnee Mission Northwest website, www.smsd.org/schools/smnorthwest, click on "NW Alert" on the left side, read and fill out the information, and select the categories from which you would like to receive messages. This service is sponsored by Valley View Bank. If you would like to get important Shawnee Mission District alerts and messages, you will need to sign up for that at www.smsd.org. Also, check out www.highschoolsports.net for sports schedules, rain-out information and more.

Parent booklets available on-line

The **Hazardous Weather Procedures** booklet and the **Philosophy of Homework** booklet are available on the Parent Resources page of the SMSD website at: www.smsd.org/parents/parentresources.htm.

Sports meeting for students and parents on August 20

There will be a meeting on Monday, August 20, at 7:00 pm, for students going out for any sport this year. The meeting will be held in the Northwest auditorium. Parents should attend with their students.

Home event activity passes are \$65 per person.

Get ready for another great season of Marching Cougar Pride!

You're invited to a preview of this year's show on Friday, August 3, at 6:00 pm, on the marching band practice field, (inside the track located on the west side of SMNW).

Following the show, please join us for dinner in the cafeteria. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken dinners will be available for purchase through Two Men and a Grill. Band spirit wear will also be available for purchase.



Get Out the Vote

By Nancy Niles Lusk and Mary F. Sinclair, PhD, Kansas PTA State Legislative Co-Chairs

The Challenge. The best advocates for children are often under-represented in the August primary vote. Parents hustle year round to keep up with the busy demands of raising their families, and late summer is no exception with the extra chores of shopping for school supplies and clothes to get the kids ready to go back to school. Teachers return ahead of the kids to make preparations for the upcoming school year. And busy or not, many just forget to vote the first Tuesday of August.



The Risk. Low voter turnout can be problematic for pro-public education candidates in Kansas. The primary elections in particular draw only a small fraction of eligible voters. In many districts across the state, however, the August primary election, not the general election, tends to determine who will become the state senator or representative.

The Solution. Increase voter turnout in the primaries among public school parents, teachers and other PTA members. We can make a difference. And for the first time, the PTA will have get-out-the-vote yard signs available for the elections. The PTA yard sign will serve as a visual reminder to parents and grandparents to make the time to vote. We recommend putting the signs out in early July before the primary election August 7 and then again in early October for the November general election.

Vote for candidates who will support Public Education. Consider these policy positions to determine who is a pro-education candidate:

- ✓ Supports restoration of cuts to public education
- ✓ Supports balanced tax policy to maintain reliable revenue
- ✓ Opposes the use of voucher, scholarships or tax credits toward tuition of non-public schools
- ✓ Opposes constitutional amendments to eliminate our state's non-partisan infrastructure for public education
- ✓ Supports policies that promote the recruitment and retention of quality teachers

A resource you can trust. The Legislative tab of the Kansas PTA website (<http://www.kansas-pta-legislative.org>) is a non-partisan source of reliable information on education policy and the votes made by our legislators this session (Vote Counts).

2012-13 SMNW PTSA Membership Form

PTSA MAKES MEMORIES!

PTSA is THE organization representing Parent, Teachers and Students at SMNW, and we want you to be a part of the SMNW team. Please join us in creating great memories like After-Prom and Fun Nights, as well as supporting important service programs like Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Staff Appreciation, SMNW Newsletters, Legislative Awareness, and Grant Fund. Membership dues are our primary source of funds, so we need you! Please join today!

Yes, we want to join PTSA!

_____ Adult Membership(s) @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____

_____ Student Membership(s) @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____ **

**** Students who join before August 24th will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card!**

Check here if you are a: _____ Teacher/Staff Member _____ PTSA Board Member

PTSA Class Funds

PTSA membership dues and student ticket prices do not cover all that is needed to sponsor student events during the year. It is important to provide safe, drug-free and alcohol-free celebrations for your students ... so we need your help! The class funds are used together with STUCO funds to provide refreshments, decorations, and prizes for events throughout the year, including: **Mixers, Homecoming Dance, Queen of Courts, WPA, After Prom Party, Senior Breakfast, and After Grad Party.** These funds make a BIG difference in making these events memorable!

_____ Freshman @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____ _____ Junior @ \$15.00 each = \$ _____

_____ Sophomore @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____ _____ Senior @ \$20.00 each = \$ _____

Total PTSA Memberships & Class Fund Contributions Enclosed = \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to SMNW PTSA)

Parent Name(s) _____

Student Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail* _____

Has this information changed from last year? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Not sure

*If you include your email, we will put you on our PTSA notification list. You will receive volunteer opportunities, PTSA & NW activity updates and reminders.

Please place this form and your payment in an envelope marked "PTSA Membership" and put it in the PTSA mailbox in the NW mailroom. You may also turn in your envelope at **Registration/Fee Payment** or **Back-to-School Night** or mail to: **Ann Zimmerman, 4845 Alden St., Shawnee, KS 66216**

2012 – 2013 PTSA Volunteer Form

Our PTSA needs your time and talent to make school events successful. Becoming involved is the best way to get to know other parents and our school. Please check the areas in which you would like to help and return this form to the PTSA mailbox in the mailroom within the school office or contact:

♦ Marianne D'Amato ♦ marianne@magnaplus.com ♦ 913.268.1278 ♦

_____ **Academic Achievement:** Help fill out honor roll certificates for 3.0 - 4.0 students at end of year.

_____ **After Grad:** Organize a drug-free, alcohol-free party for seniors only, immediately after graduation.

_____ **After Prom:** Help with NW PTSA's largest event of the year. Numerous committees include fund-raising, decorations, food, prize room, games, volunteer coordinator and more.

_____ **Beautification:** Work to improve SMNW grounds; requires an interest in gardening.

_____ **Citizenship Contest:** Coordinate contest for 9th grade students in the fall.

_____ **Concessions:** Work concession stand at NW sporting event, date TBA.

_____ **DAPP (Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program):** Coordinate and distribute information for the drug prevention program. Main event is Red Ribbon Week in October.

_____ **Food Donations:** Many volunteers are needed to provide food items and drinks throughout the year for various events benefiting students and staff. An email request will be sent as items are needed.

_____ **Hospitality:** Help prepare refreshments for PTSA activities.

_____ **Legislation:** Distribute legislative updates relevant to school issues to interested people.

_____ **Membership:** Help with the PTSA membership drive in the fall; work at registration or Back to School night.

_____ **Senior Breakfast:** Assist with breakfast prior to graduation practice in May.

_____ **SMAC Clothing Center:** Coordinate four volunteers to work one day in the spring at the Clothing Center during their "change-over" day. May coordinate a clothing drive based on the clothing center's needs.

_____ Volunteer to work at clothing center

_____ **Staff Appreciation:** Assist with activities for Back to School night, conferences and staff appreciation week.

_____ **StuCo Parties:** Assist with planning, food, decorations, or coat check at student council parties including freshman mixer, Homecoming dance, and WPA.

_____ **Student Fun Nights:** Organize outside activities for students; may include skating, sand volleyball, bowling.

_____ **Volunteer:** Agree to be contacted for specific activities and/or projects as needs arise.

_____ **Voter Registration:** Inform students turning 18 of voter registration procedures.

Volunteer's Name (please print) _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

E-mail Address _____

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Jackson Gulick, KC SuperStar “Top Ten” Finalist

One of our very own seniors, Jackson Gulick, will represent SM Northwest for a chance to become the next KC SuperStar. The winner receives a \$7,500 scholarship and the opportunity to perform at venues across KC; the winner’s high school Fine Arts Department receives a \$1,000 donation. Second place a \$2,500 scholarship, third place a \$1,000 scholarship, all other finalists receive \$250. Back in April, approximately 200 students from KC area high schools auditioned for KC SuperStar; an “American Idol” style competition for high school singers in the KC metro area. Jackson was chosen as one of 25 singers for the semi-finals.

The semi-finals were held at the Jewish Community Center in June. Each contestant sang a song of their choice. Jackson chose to play his guitar and sing the song he wrote called “Neon Dreams”. The judges voted the top ten based on vocal quality and stage presence.

The finals will be a high-energy show held August 26, from 7 to 9 pm at Yardley Hall on the campus of JCCC. Jackson will be singing a song he wrote called “Mirror, Mirror”. Each finalist will receive coaching from the event’s musical director and choreographer. Three celebrity judges will pick the top three, and the audience will then vote to select this year’s KC SuperStar.

Tickets are sold out for the finals in Yardley Hall; however you can still support Jackson by being a part of the “Fan Room”. Live streaming video will be shown on a big screen in the Polsky Theatre, adjacent to Yardley Hall. Fan Room attendees will get to vote for the winner of KC SuperStar. To purchase your Fan Room tickets for \$10, call the Jewish Community Center at (913) 327-8000.

Surveillance cameras provide security

High schools and middle schools are equipped with surveillance cameras that are located in specified interior and exterior areas of the building.

These cameras are monitored for the purpose of providing a safe and secure school environment for students, staff, and patrons. The local police municipalities have access to the cameras in emergency situations.