

Shawnee Mission Northwest News



November/December 2012

www.smnwptsa.org

A SMNW PTSA Publication

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From the President

With a full quarter of this school year behind us, I've seen some amazing things happening at SMNW! Academically, artistically, athletically, socially ... our students, staff, and parents are busy! Thank you for supporting PTSA and the many programs and activities PTSA provides for our community. Remember that it's never too late to join and support our efforts with your membership fees and class fund contributions. Visit www.smnwptsa.org for membership and other important information.

November 6th is the general election...don't forget to exercise your right to vote! PTSA helped a handful of students register to vote prior to the October 16th deadline. Here's to all our first-time voters! Every vote counts, so head to the polls ... no excuses! Go to www.jocoelection.org for voting information and to view your sample ballot.

I appreciate your questions and comments! As always, feel free to contact me or any PTSA Board member with your thoughts. Our next PTSA meeting is Tuesday, December 4, at 11:30 am, in the library. Please join us for a festive lunch complete with student entertainment. Hope to see you there!

Enjoy the crisp fall air, and have a splendid Thanksgiving holiday!

Marianne D'Amato, SMNW PTSA President
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No more waiting in line!

The Theatre Department opens its 2012 - 2013 season with *Thoroughly Modern Millie* on November 1, 2, and 3.

New this year, for the convenience of patrons, is an on-line ticketing system available at www.smnwtheatre.com. The new system allows you to pick your seats and pay for them online by credit card. You may then print your tickets at home and avoid all lines, or if you'd prefer, you may pick up your tickets at Will Call the night of the show. (Student activity passes and gold cards may not be used online.)

Tickets may also be purchased at the door (cash only).

***Thoroughly Modern Millie* November 1 - 3 @ 7:00 pm**

www.smnwtheatre.com

SMNW Calendar

November

- 1 **Late Start, 9:40 AM**
- 1-3 Fall Musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Aud., 7 PM
- 6 Blood Drive, Gym, 7:45 AM – 2:45 PM
- 7 *A Night of Chamber Music*, Aud., 7 PM
- 8 NW Area Choir Festival, Aud., 7 PM
- 10 Mother Son/Father Daughter Dance, NW Café, 8 – 10 PM
- 12-16 StuCo Canned Food Drive
- 13 **Early Release, Teacher workday, 1:10 PM**
- 14 Financial Aid Night, Aud., 7 PM
- 15 Progress reports given to students in seminar
- 19 Winter Sports Parent meeting, Auditorium, 7 PM
- 21-23 **Thanksgiving Break**
- 28 Not-So-Late-Night Assembly, Gym, 7 PM

December

- 4 PTSA Holiday Luncheon, Library, 11:30 AM
- 6 **9:40 AM Late Start**
- 6 Orchestra Concert, Aud., 7:00 PM
- 7 Adopt-a-Tot, 4th hour
- 8 ACT Exam, NW, 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- 10 Choir Concert, First Baptist Church, 11400 Johnson Dr., 7 PM
- 13 Band Concert, Aud., 7 PM
- 18-21 Semester Final Exams
- 19,20,21 7:40 – 10:50 AM
- 24 **Winter Break begins**

January

- 3 Second Semester begins
- 8 1st semester grade cards given to students during 4th hour
- 10 8th Grade Orientation, NW, 6:30 PM
- 15 Enrollment Orientation @ Trailridge
- 16,17 Enrollment Orientation, 10th and 11th grades
- 17 **9:40 Late Start**
- 17 NW Area Band Festival, Gym, 7 PM
- 18 Enrollment Orientation, 9th grade
- 20 **No School, Martin Luther King Day**

Financial Aid Evening

Time is nearing for the annual Financial Aid Evening to assist parents who have juniors and seniors and will be planning on their child potentially needing financial support to help with their post-secondary decisions.

This worthwhile evening, on Wednesday, November 14, in the Auditorium at Shawnee Mission Northwest, will be moderated by Jeanne Mott, Chief Financial Aid Officer at Baker University. Ms. Mott will give an overview on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is the form that the federal government uses to determine your eligibility for student aid. This aid includes grants, scholarships, work study and loans to help pay for college. The form collects financial and demographic information. In some cases the form is required to fill out prior to receiving any other monetary funding.

Mark your calendar today because this is an event you don't want to miss. Please feel free to contact Angelo Giacalone, counselor at Shawnee Mission Northwest, with any questions.

National Achievement Scholarship

Makela Hayford has been named as an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. These students scored in the top 3% of more than 160,000 Black Americans who requested consideration in the 2013 National Achievement Program when they took the 2011 PSAT Test.

The National Achievement Program, conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation, was initiated in 1964 to honor academically promising Black American high school students throughout the nation and provide scholarships to a substantial number of the most outstanding participants in each annual program

Congratulations to Makela Hayford on her outstanding achievement.

First Semester Exam Schedule

Tuesday, December 18

Period 1	7:40 – 9:10	Hour 1 Exam
2	9:15 – 10:00	
3	10:05 – 10:45	
4	10:50 – 11:30	
5	11:35 - 1:00	
	Lunch 1	11:35 – 12:00
	Lunch 2	12:05 – 12:30
	Lunch 3	12:35 - 1:00
6	1:05 - 1:50	
7	1:55 - 2:40	

Wednesday, December 19

7:40 - 9:10	Hour 2 Exam
9:10 - 9:20	passing
9:20 - 10:50	Hour 3 Exam
10:50 – 11:10	Optional Lunch Cafeteria only
11:15 -	Busses Leave
-3:20	Teachers on duty to assist students, for make-up exams and grading exams

Thursday, December 20

7:40 - 9:10	Hour 4 Exam
9:10 - 9:20	passing
9:20 - 10:50	Hour 5 Exam
10:50 – 11:10	Optional Lunch Cafeteria only
11:15 -	Busses Leave
-3:20	Teachers on duty to assist students, for make-up exams and grading exams

Friday, December 21

7:40 - 9:10	Hour 6 Exam
9:10 - 9:20	passing
9:20 - 10:50	Hour 7 Exam
10:50 – 11:10	Optional Lunch Cafeteria only
11:15 -	Busses Leave
-3:20	Teachers on duty to assist students, for make-up exams and grading exams

Severe Weather Protocol

Severe weather may cause the early dismissal or closing of school. Local television and radio stations will be notified to report school closings during their newscasts.

If school is dismissed early, all practices and events scheduled for that evening are canceled or postponed. If school is canceled all day, the decision to proceed with scheduled activities will be made that day. If school is closed, all radio and TV stations will be notified prior to 6:00 AM on the day of the closing. You may call the SM School District 24-Hour Information Line, 913-993-7380, for information or visit our web site at www.smsd.org.

First Semester Grade Cards

First semester grade cards will be handed out in seminar on January 8. Check your “Parent@School” account starting January 8 and the semester grades should be posted.

GPA's and class rank will be updated by January 10. Students can print off a “Graduation Requirement Worksheet” from a school computer to view their updated GPA or see your “Parent@School” account.



PTSA Reflections Contest

It's time again to get your creativity flowing and submit your entry for the 2012-2013 Reflections Contest. This year's theme is "The Magic of a Moment". Entries may be submitted in these categories: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, Film/Video. Deadline for entries is Jan. 4, 2013, and can be turned into Mrs. Heaton in the art department. Let's get creative, Cougars!

Winter Sports Meeting

There will be a meeting for students going out for winter sports on Monday, November 19, at 7:00pm in the SMNW auditorium. Parents should attend with their students. Physicals are due to Mrs. Horseman by November 9.

SLAB

The number of students attending the weekly Student Library Advisory Board meetings is increasing every meeting. This enthusiastic group of students who love libraries, books and all things reading will be collecting used books to donate. If you have books to donate, please contact Mrs. LaFever at nwlafeve@smsd.org. We continue to read and review galley books from Johnson County Public Library.

Teacher of the Month

The Future Teachers Club would like to announce the October **Teacher of the Month** Award goes to Deb Brewer. Congrats for all her student nominations. Remind your students to come to Rm 231 and submit their nominations for our November Teacher of the Month!



The Shawnee Mission Northwest Orchestras present "**A Night of Chamber Music**" on Wednesday, November 7, at 7:00 pm on the Parker Auditorium stage at Shawnee Mission Northwest. Chamber ensembles from the Camerata and Chamber Orchestras will perform. Admission is free.



2012 - 2013 PTSA Meeting Dates

Tuesday, December 4 @ 11:30 am (Library)

Wednesday, February 13 @ 6:30 pm (Library)

Wednesday, May 1 @ 3:00 pm (Library)

From the Library

Many ninth graders read *Carter Finally Gets It* as their summer reading selection. English students will get to see author, Brent Crawford, in the library on November 8. He'll read from his books and talk about life as a high school student at Shawnee Mission North. It makes for great reading in *Carter Finally Gets It*, *Carter's Big Break* and *Carter's Unfocused One Track Mind*. Shawnee Toys and Books will give a 15% discount to students with school ID who purchase any of these books.

KU librarians spoke to students in the library about college readiness, focusing on study and research. They emphasized how much outside reading will be expected and discussed the use of databases as an expectation for research done in college classes. SMNW Library offers database access at home or school at:

<http://www4.smsd.org/SMNWLibrary/html21689.htm>.

SMNW Photojournalism

Forget your camera? We didn't! Find fabulous photos of your SMNW student participating in school sports and events at www.smnwphotos.com. You can order prints of your student shot with professional quality cameras by the talented photojournalism staff of the *Passage* newspaper, *Lair* yearbook, and smnw.com. Photos are available in 4X6, 5X7 and 8X10 - in glossy, matte or metallic finish priced as low as \$3.00. We've also got magnets, mugs and more goodies. Profits benefit the SMNW Journalism program. Recently posted events include all fall sports (lots of action shots available), Marching Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Bonfire, Muckfest, The Walk, Freshman StuCo, Drill Team, and Homecoming. Check back often as the site is updated frequently. Contact susanmassy@smsd.org with questions.

Cougar Express Dance Clinic

The Cougar Express Drill Team is hosting its annual Dance Clinic for girls in grades 2 - 8 on Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 am-3:00 pm in the NW gyms. Early registration (\$30) is due to the office by November 2. Girls can also register at the door (please come a little early) for \$35. Participants will be divided into groups by age level and perform at halftime of the Girls Varsity Basketball game on December 6. Every participant will receive a shirt for the performance. To register, please go to <http://www4.smsd.org/stefanieforbes/docs.htm>. Tell your friends and neighbors and we hope to see you there!!!

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, and other information about SMNW PTSA, are available at www.smnwptsa.org.

There is no December newsletter. Articles for the January newsletter are due no later than Friday, December 14, for publication on January 3. Submissions should be emailed to smnwptsa@gmail.com.

From JCPL

Central Resource Library (9875 W 87th Street) offers Homework Help Coaches after school to help children complete their homework. This program is absolutely free and is currently offered three afternoons when school is in session: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. They are able to offer this program through a generous grant from the Sprint Foundation. More information is available at www.jcolibrary.org/educators.

Key Club

Members are busy with a variety of service projects working toward at least 50 service projects, including raking the yards for seniors, collecting over 150 new crayon boxes for Children's Mercy Hospital, collection gloves, hats, scarves and winter clothing for area elementary school, and collecting clean winter coats for Johnson Country Christmas Bureau and We also collect old magazines, used candles, Campbell's labels, Box Tops for Education, and 12 egg-egg cartons. At this time we have 36 dues paying members!

Fundraising Solicitation

Please be aware that outside groups are approaching businesses in our district soliciting funds for schools and athletic programs in the name of the Shawnee Mission School District. The unauthorized solicitation is typically done by phone and the caller may reference the name of a coach at the school in their pitch to sell advertising. We have no affiliation with these organizations, and the school district would never require credit card information over the phone. The most recent company to have contacted businesses in our area is operating under the name Halftime Sports. This company appears to be based out of Texas. Other unauthorized companies who have misrepresented themselves as fundraisers for the school district include: Advertizee, Victory Sports, and A2Z Sports.

Fundraising for school clubs and activities is typically done by going in person to request the business or individual's support. We value the businesses and organizations in our community that support our students, schools, and district, so please don't hesitate to call the school and ask to speak to an administrator as a precaution any time you are approached as part of a fundraising effort in the name of the Shawnee Mission School District.



StuCo Update

Hello from Student Council! We have been very busy and yet, we're gearing up for our busiest time of the semester!

- SMNW lost to SMN in the Krispy Kreme High School Rivalry competition. Krispy Kreme has given StuCo 35 dozen doughnuts to sell throughout the school year; proceeds will be donated to PTSA's After Graduation at PowerPlay.
- The September 29 Homecoming Dance was very successful with over 800 students in attendance.
- The green camo Orange Army shirt order is complete; next year's designs are already being considered.
- The tie dye PINK Orange Army shirts are being sold during all three lunches and before/after school in room 132! Profits benefit the American Cancer Society. We look forward to continue with this Breast Cancer Awareness Month tradition in the future years!
- Our Halloween Carnival for Head Start and local elementary schools was October 20. SMNW Clubs participated by decorating a "Haunted Hallway" and passing out candy to the trick-or-treaters while StuCo members ran carnival games. Over 200 kids and their families attended from the six feeder elementary schools, Head Start of Shawnee Mission, and local private schools!
- PTSA and StuCo teamed up to provide dinner for teachers on Conferences night! It's always appreciated by staff members as many are not able to go home between school and conferences.
- Student Council executive board members attended the second ISC meeting on October 30.
- StuCo is hosting the Fall Blood Drive to benefit the Community Blood Center (www.savealifenow.org/) on Tuesday, November 6, from 7:45 am - 2:45 pm in the SMNW Gym. Parents and community members are welcome to walk in at any time (and skip ahead of the students!)
- StuCo is hosting the 4th annual card/letter drive from November 5 - 9. Organized through the VFW, these cards go to U.S. active duty military serving overseas and hospitalized soldiers. Last year we raised over 468 and have set a goal of 800 cards this year. We already have 300 from our September 11 drive. Members of the military enjoy reading about everyday events here as it keeps them in touch with home. These cards are very important to our deployed troops!! If your family members would like to create a letter at home, please follow these specifications: thank them for their service to our country, let them know we're thinking of them, tell them about yourself, and tell them about daily life here in the U.S./current events. No foul language or sexual references, nothing offensive to soldiers, don't reference killing or being killed, death or dying, and use just your FIRST name when signing the cards. Letters and cards should be placed in unsealed and unstamped envelope if possible and turned into Mrs. Dent.
- Student Council is hosting the Mother Son / Father Daughter Dance on Saturday, November 10. All proceeds go to the Johnson County Christmas Bureau (www.jccb.org). See page 7 of this newsletter for all the details!
- Student Council is hosting the annual Canned Food Drive from November 12 - 16 to benefit the Johnson County Christmas Bureau (JCCB). There is a greater need than ever because the JCCB was asked to help support an additional 500 families this year. Check out the JCCB website at www.jccb.org for the top ten most needed items! Please be as generous as possible in your cash/can donations so when asked if we can help, we say, "YES WE CAN!"
- Adopt-A-Tot will be Friday, December 7. Hour 4 classes are asked to participate in this event by planning a holiday party for a Head Start child. There will be lots of presents, candy, and fun. Don't forget Santa!
- StuCo will host the 2nd Quarter President's Council on Thursday, December 13, during Seminar. Presidents and Captains of all clubs and varsity sports at SMNW are invited to talk about leadership issues facing our school and share about what's going on in their respective activities.
- The 3rd Annual Talent Show is in February. Tryouts will be in January, the first week back from Winter Break, so everyone should get their acts ready to go! Stay tuned for more information! Profits from this event fund a club scholarship that StuCo awards to SMNW clubs to help with funding issues.

Thank you so much for all your support! If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions for Student Council, please feel free to contact a representative or the sponsor, Sarah Dent at nwdents@smsd.org.

-NW Student Council

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
MSFD DANCE**

(MOTHER SON/FATHER DAUGHTER)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10

8PM TO 10 PM

SMNW CAFETERIA

DRESS FOR A DECADE

(50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s)

\$5 ADMISSION

CANNED GOODS AND PERSONAL CARE

ITEMS ARE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR

FOR A JUNIOR VS SENIOR COMPETITION

ALL PROCEEDS AND ADDITIONAL

DONATIONS BENEFIT THE JOHNSON

COUNTY CHRISTMAS BUREAU

ONLY JUNIORS, SENIORS,

AND PARENTS