

## Julie Parnell

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**To:** jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org  
**Subject:** Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
*Weekly Wednesday Update*

*Our Mission:  
To improve oral health  
in Kansas through  
advocacy,  
public awareness  
and education.*

Volume 4, Issue 6

February 13, 2013

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## February is Children's Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. This message is essential to the health and well being of all children, starting at birth and continuing on through high school. When children's oral health suffers, so does their ability to learn.

Very young children need to develop daily dental hygiene and "teeth healthy" eating habits. This is the responsibility of families, child care providers, early childhood educators, school nurses, and special education professionals. Children's physicians and nurses also have a role to play by making sure children at risk for dental decay are receiving fluoride varnish treatments and by screening the child for signs of tooth decay.

Children need to see a dental professional by age one to make sure that the child's first teeth are coming in correctly and to educate families about how to keep their children cavity-free for life.

Students need to learn about the science behind oral disease and how to have a healthy mouth for a lifetime. They benefit from learning about the science underlying tooth development as well as the harm to their mouths that comes from smoking, chewing tobacco, mouth piercings, illegal drug use and playing sports without a mouth guard. Oral disease is unsightly, costly, and at times life-threatening. Too many Kansas children end up in surgery as a result of dental decay, at a cost that can top \$20,000.00. If tooth decay and gum disease are

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And be sure to share with your friends.

## Weekly Wednesday Update Survey

Oral Health Kansas has been sharing regular updates through our Weekly Wednesday Updates. We hope you have found these to be valuable.

We would like to have your input as we plan our update topics for 2013.

Please take just a few moments to respond to a brief survey at [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)

If you encounter any trouble with the survey,

addressed in the early stages, treatment is relatively quick, painless and inexpensive.

To learn more and to find exciting activities for Children's Dental Health Month visit the following links from Oral Health Kansas [HERE](#) or [HERE](#) or from [Delta Dental](#).

## Tooth Brushing Contest Winners

From September to December of last year, Oral Health Kansas held a "Tooth Brushing is Fun Contest" where classrooms could submit pictures of their students brushing their teeth, a short story (real or made up) about the importance of tooth brushing, going to the dentist, taking good care of their teeth, dealing with a tooth problem or anything else that shows how to make tooth brushing FUN!

Over the next few weeks we will show you the entries from the winning classrooms!

This week we feature the grand prize winning classroom, Mrs. Ellis' students from Farley Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas. Mrs. Ellis' classroom submitted a story about tooth brushing as well as each student wrote a story and drew a picture about the tooth fairy.

To view a slideshow of their drawings [CLICK HERE](#).



Thanks to the generous donation from the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation, Oral Health Kansas was able to award 10 classrooms as the winners with one being the grand prize winner.

please let us know.

## Traveling Drink Display

Currently the OHK traveling library drink displays are on display at the [West Wyandotte Library](#) and the [Corinth Branch Library](#) in Johnson County.

If you are interested in having the drink display on display in your area, send an email to [Julie](#).



## Did You Know???

Studies have shown that children who drink fluoridated water from birth have up to 65% fewer cavities.

[Delta Dental](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in November to celebrate Oral Health Kansas' 10th anniversary at the:

### 2013 Oral Health Kansas Conference

Johnson County Community College  
November 7-8, 2013



Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation

## Medicaid Expansion Estimate Released

On February 8, Governor Brownback's administration released their actuarial study of the potential cost of Medicaid Expansion in Kansas. The June 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision made the Medicaid eligibility expansion optional for states. Medicaid expansion would allow all people whose income is lower than 138% of the Federal Poverty Level to receive Medicaid coverage. According to the Congressional Budget Office, covering the lowest income Americans on Medicaid will be more cost effective than covering them with subsidies through the Affordable Care Act's Insurance Exchange.

The state's estimate is that \$1.1 billion in state funds would be spent on expansion. According to news coverage of the Governor's estimate by the [Kansas Health Institute](#), "Currently, Kansas has among the nation's most restrictive eligibility standards, limiting Medicaid coverage to poor children, pregnant women, the disabled and elderly. Childless adults are excluded regardless how little income they have." More details on how the state's projections were made will be released this week.

Several studies have been released in recent weeks estimating the cost of expansion for Kansans. The Kansas Health Institute published an [issue brief](#) on Medicaid Expansion in December that details many of the variables.

Oral Health Kansas is supportive of expanding the Kansas Medicaid program in 2014 as envisioned in the Affordable Care Act. Through Medicaid Expansion, over 120,000 very low-income Kansas adults would be able to receive Medicaid services, including the new preventive dental benefit, with a greatly enhanced federal matching rate. The opportunities to cost effectively meet the dental and medical needs of adults in poverty are available through Medicaid Expansion.

## Dental Champions Corner

### Class 6 Application Deadline Extended!

Oral Health Kansas has extended the deadline to apply for the 6th Dental Champions Leadership Program class to February 28.

Applicants will be notified by March 15 of their acceptance in the class. The session schedule remains the same.

To learn more about Dental Champions Class 6 and apply, please visit the Oral Health Kansas [website](#).

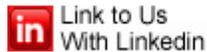
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We are pleased to announce that the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation has joined the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund as a funder for Class 6.

Without the support of these two funding partners, the Dental Champions Leadership Program would not be possible. Thank you to our generous sponsors!



If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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