

Julie Parnell

From: Oral Health Kansas <jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org>
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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

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

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OHK's New Fluoride Educational Website

Last week Oral Health Kansas launched a new website to provide educational information about water fluoridation. Tooth decay is the most prevalent childhood disease in our country, and it is completely preventable. Fluoridated community water is a key factor in reducing tooth decay for children and adults. The site provides information about how fluoridated water is harmless, inexpensive and effective. It also features several frequently asked questions about water fluoridation.

Visit www.fluoride4ks.org to learn more.

FREE "Vote YES for Fluoride" Yard Signs and Voter Guides

On November 6th Wichitans will have the opportunity to vote for community water fluoridation.

A number of reputable health organizations have partnered to create a one page "fluoride voter guide" that gives voters the facts they need to know about community

**Continuing
Education
Credits
AVAILABLE**

If you attended the 2012 Oral Health Kansas Conference and are needing CE certificates for the sessions you attended, send an email to [Julie](#) stating the CE's you are needing.

Continuing Education Credits were granted for the following sessions:

Prevention: It's in the Water

Making Progress on Oral Health Through Advocacy

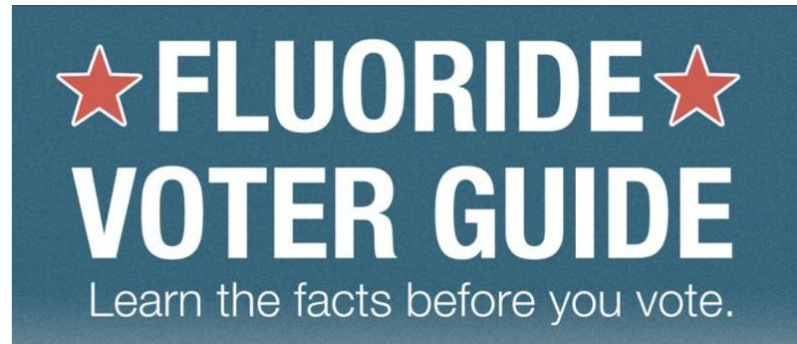
Prevention Opportunities in the Affordable Care Act

Prevention Through Medicaid Reform: Implementing KanCare

Keeping Kids Cavity Free

water fluoridation.

If you can help spread the word about the benefits of fluoridation by distributing the voter guide or by placing a sign in your yard [CLICK HERE](#) to order the **free** voter guide and yard sign.



2012 Excellence in Oral Health Awards

Miles of Smiles (MOS) children's oral health outreach program was honored as the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Organization Award at the Excellence in Oral Health Awards Luncheon during the annual Oral Health Kansas Conference in Wichita on Friday, Sept. 14th .

The Outstanding Organization Award is presented to an organization that is distinguished from others in excellence in promoting oral health awareness in Kansas.

Miles of Smiles is a collaborative outreach program between UMKC School of Dentistry and Olathe District Schools, since 2008. The UMKC dental hygiene students are supervised by Extended Care Permit faculty and travel to various Title I Olathe elementary schools where they set up a portable dental clinic and provide a full range of dental hygiene services to hundreds of uninsured and underinsured children who lack access to oral health care. In 2011, the clinic provided care and dental referrals to nearly 300 children who had significant dental needs. 62% of the children had decay, 4% had urgent needs, and 90% had gingivitis (inflammation of the gum tissue).

**Help Oral Health Kansas in congratulating
Melanie Simmer-Beck and the Miles of Smiles**

Dental Champions Corner

Gail Kennedy of Class 5 was the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Dental Champion Award.

Gail is persistent in ensuring that children across Southeast Kansas received oral health services. She approached the Galena school district to see if they would be willing to allow CHCSEK to screen the students. Soon after, she asked if services to the students could be expanded and now complete dental services are being provided to the the Galena students.

Within several years after starting our program, the program expanded in school districts across Southeast Kansas. Today, thousands of students are receiving dental

Team as the recipient of the *2012 Outstanding Organization Award*



(L-R) Tanya Dorf Brunner, executive director of Oral Health Kansas, Inc.; Karen Finstad, executive director of The Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation; and Melanie Simmer-Beck, UMKC associate professor of dental hygiene and MOS project director.

**Oral Health Kansas will be featuring
another outstanding award winner next
week!**

OHK is Teaming Up With Exploration Place

October marks Dental Hygiene Awareness Month, and in celebration of the month, Oral Health Kansas is partnering with Exploration Place, the children's science museum in Wichita, to promote oral health awareness.

A series of Oral Health Kansas' "Tips and Tricks" will accompany the Big Mouth exhibit in order to provide a take-home message for kids. We also will partner with Exploration Place throughout the month on oral health messages posted on the [Exploration Place](#) and [Oral Health Kansas](#) Facebook pages. Be sure to "like" both of our pages to follow the updates throughout the month.

services because of Gail's commitment to oral health.



Did You Know?

Ancient cultures chewed on twigs or roots to clean their teeth.

[Metro Denver Dental Society](#)

To see all of the "Tips and Tricks in our series, please visit our [website](#).

Fall for Smiles

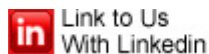
Fall is a good time to take time to learn more about oral health. Oral Health America has launched a campaign to encourage more conversations and awareness of oral health.

Oral Health Kansas' national network, the American Network of Oral Health Coalitions, is a co-sponsor of the campaign. The campaign includes many resources to encourage families to include oral health in their back-to-school routines and learn to have healthy mouths and healthy bodies.

The resources available through Fall for Smiles include an activity booklet, tip sheets, coloring pages, and even a quiz to distribute in dental offices or schools. Join the [Fall for Smiles](#) campaign by taking advantage of the resources from Oral Health America.



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



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Oral Health Kansas | 800 SW Jackson | Ste. 1120 | Topeka | KS | 66612