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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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Water Fluoridation Hearing in Wichita

Today the Wichita County Commission held a hearing on water fluoridation, following a decision they made last week to remove a fluoride education page from the Sedgwick County Health Department's website. Former CDC Division of Oral Health director and Assistant Surgeon General, Dr. Bill Maas was in Wichita and provided comments about the safety and effectiveness of water fluoridation. Dr. Maas also led a policy discussion among water fluoridations supporters on Tuesday evening. Read more about the meeting in the [Wichita Eagle's coverage](#).

A limited number of pro-fluoride yard signs are available in Wichita. The signs can be ordered on the Wichitans for Healthy Teeth [website](#).

For more information about the November 6th vote on water fluoridation, visit www.fluoridevoterguide.com. Additional fluoride information is available at www.fluoride4ks.org.

2012 Excellence in Oral Health

**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

Awards

Tammi Engel, RDH, ECP II was honored as the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Dental Hygiene Clinician 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 a dental hygienist that is distinguished from others in excellence, who goes beyond the call and is committed to improving the oral health of Kansans.

Tammi goes the extra mile to provide preventative care to the most vulnerable patients traveling to over 12 counties. She takes on any task given to her with dedication and a passion that is truly inspiring. Rawlins County Dental Clinic would not be serving nearly as many low income children, developmentally disabled or nursing home residents if it wasn't for the many hours she donates above the average work week.

It is her dedication to the mission of the Rawlins County Dental Clinic that is truly shown in the time, energy, quality, and care she provides.

Tammi not only provides services, she also educates staff at schools, nursing homes, and disability centers on the importance of good oral hygiene

Help Oral Health Kansas in congratulating



**Tammi Engel as the recipient of the
2012 Outstanding Dental Hygiene**

Dental Champions Corner

Schaunta James-Boyd of Class 5 was the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Dental Champion Award.

Executive Director of the E.C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic,

Schaunta James-Boyd has led this clinic's expansion into dental services which now accounts for half of all encounters each month. In 2008, the clinic expanded to add two dental operatories and by 2011, the clinic had served 2,894 dental patients.

In 2012, the clinic boldly transitioned to electronic medical records, which is a significant undertaking for any clinic, but especially for a non-profit, small clinic focused on the uninsured and underinsured

Clinician Award

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

OHK is Teaming Up With The Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

Oral Health Kansas is partnering with the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library to promote oral health awareness. Last week our drink display was set up for Dental Hygiene Awareness Month, which is October. This display will be up for one month.

In addition to the display there are copies of our [Tips and Tricks](#) and a list of kid-friendly books on oral health, going to the dentist, brushing, etc. for visitors of the library to have.



Halloween, Candy and Cavities

Many parents worry about their kids being on a sugar high when they come home with a ton of candy from trick or treating. But they need to also think about what all that



Did You Know?

The first nylon bristled toothbrush with a plastic handle was invented in 1938, and the first electric toothbrush appeared in 1939

[Metro Denver Dental Society](#)

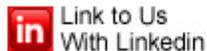
candy can do to their kid's teeth. There are several types of candies that kids get while trick or treating that taste great, but they can damage teeth.

Here is something you should know about candy:

- **Sour candy** can be acidic and wear down the enamel that protects teeth.
- **Sticky candy** such Skittles, Starburst and caramels is the worst for teeth, as they are likely to stay on teeth longer and could cause decay.
- **Hard candy** that you hold and suck on in your mouth are especially bad since they stay in your mouth for longer and give the enamel additional exposure to acids and sugars. In addition, chewing on or breaking hard candies can cause damage to tooth enamel.

Parents can let their children have all these yummy candies, but they need to keep in mind that it is best to allow your children to eat it in moderation and when they do eat them, they need to either brush or rinse their mouths with water afterwards. Drinking milk or eating a piece of cheese after eating the candy will help as well.

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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