



From your MAPT 2010-2011 President, Larry R. Beckett, MS, CSC, RVE, RPT-S, LPC

My life has been blessed in many ways while serving children and families through the professional practice of Child-Centered Play Therapy. However, one of my greatest honors has been representing you, the membership and patrons, of the Missouri Association of Play Therapy organization.



What an amazing year this has been! I truly wish I could find the words to fully describe the amount of time, effort and hard work that goes into sponsoring each and every MAPT workshop and conference. I have witnessed Play Therapists give and give and give of themselves, their resources, their skills, and their hearts in

order to provide the absolute best in training opportunities. Morrie Schwartz said it better than I ever could when he said "Love is the only rational emotion." You see, that is what Play Therapists give. They give love, unconditionally, and directly from their hearts. I was recently reading an article on the importance of relationships and how that one factor is paramount in building strong and effective teams. The article suggested there is no one factor that has a greater impact on the success of the outcome than that of "relationships." I have seen this in action while serving as your president this past year. Your MAPT Board is strong, innovative, creative, hardworking, caring, compassionate, and selfless. There simply is no end to their willingness to give of themselves in the service of others. They continue to inspire me and their willingness to nurture a productive and healthy relationship among colleagues is beyond measure.

Your Board members, Kristi, Joyce, Carrie, Rebecca, and Corie have devoted countless hours of their own unpaid time in planning sessions, developing cost effective strategies with attorneys on contracts, negotiating with insurance companies seeking the best coverage while being responsible stewards of MAPT funds, volunteering to serve at workshops, presenting at workshops, reviewing membership lists, studying stacks of excel sheets while ensuring the best membership services possible were being provided, working responsibly with neighboring APT members, and working hand-in-hand with the tremendously dedicated and wonderful staff members at APT. All this, and more, is being done by your MAPT Board Members, while holding down full-time professional counseling careers in the services of children and families. Truthfully, I am humbled to be in their presence.

I am forever grateful to each board member for the honor of serving alongside of them. I am grateful to the MAPT membership and patrons for the trust they placed in me during my term of MAPT President. I am also extremely thankful for those who have previously served as MAPT Officers, members, and patrons of our Child-Focused organization. For those folks are the ones who have helped in paving the way to the success in the services of children through the professional practice of Play Therapy that we enjoy and celebrate today. I would be terribly remiss if I were not to mention the up and coming folks in our ranks.

Knowing the quality of leadership capacity of the individuals we have coming up in our MAPT leadership roles, I can step down from my office with confidence the successful operation and continued growth of MAPT will be in excellent hands. My heart feels truly grateful to and for each and every person whom I have served with during my time as your MAPT President.

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Larry R. Beckett, MS, CSC, RVE, RPT-S, LPC

There can be no doubt that change is being forced through the current trend in our economy. Businesses and organizations are facing new challenges as each month passes. MAPT sees these times as opportunities. Your MAPT organization is dedicated to their individual and collective commitments to provide the best Play Therapy services possible. The Board receives communication from members and patrons around the state asking for specific workshop training, and your MAPT Board has responded.

The workshops and annual conference are being scheduled as a result of what the membership says they are wanting. Professional best-practice MAPT sponsored Play Therapy workshops have been delivered with a wide variety of requested topics and locations across the state. Your MAPT website has been updated, and offers current information. We invite you to visit your MAPT website frequently to keep updated on current and upcoming MAPT news and activities. There have been NO MAPT workshop or conference cancellations in the 2010-2011 year.

Your MAPT workshops are being provided at the lowest possible costs. Members and affiliates that have chosen to receive MAPT e-mail communications have enjoyed above average coverage via this medium in an effort to get the MAPT information out as timely as possible. According to APT best practice standards, your MAPT Board has not only met their communication expectations with its membership, but they have exceeded the best practice standard.

Your MAPT continues to work hard in its service to the membership. MAPT needs your continued support. MAPT is encouraging you to let us know your training needs. MAPT is asking you support your organization by attending their scheduled workshops and conference. And, MAPT wants to thank each of you for your support in this 2010-2011 year. Let's don't permit the state of the economy to determine our coming year. Let's remain focused on the Play Therapy needs of the children we serve. Children are why we do what we do. If you are not a member of MAPT we invite you to join us. If you are a past member we invite you to re-join us. Together we do and can make a positive difference for children. Let's work together and give our kids the best we can!

Joyce Wilkerson MS, CSC, SPE, LPC, RPT-S, President-Elect,



Has worked countless hours, including late nights, early mornings, weekends and holidays, promoting the continued growth and success of our MAPT organization. She has volunteered to serve on numerous committee functions, she has presented at MAPT workshops, Joyce has attended neighboring APT state functions in an effort to lend support and encouragement to our sister organizations. She has literally travel hundreds of miles in order to ensure the quality of the services offered through MAPT. MAPT is not only fortunate that Joyce will become our new MAPT President in June of 2011, but we are indeed blessed, to have her in that leadership role. There is no doubt that Joyce will lead us to even higher ground in terms of the services we provide. With Joyce it is never all about numbers or competition. It is about meeting the needs of those we serve. I am reminded of a phrase that Garry Landreth used once. I really do not think Garry would mind if I borrow it, because of the accuracy in which it fits. "I am very glad children have Joyce in their world," As the person serving as President Elect during my reign in office, I could not be more honored than to serve alongside Joyce. Her support has been steadfast and unwavering. Believe me, I suspect that has not always been easy in working with me. Joyce has been patient, and willing to do anything to help get things done in a timely and efficient manner. The MAPT organization will be in excellent hands and a very caring heart during Joyce's watch. Just as aside, Joyce carries a lot of photos around with her. Last count I heard was near the 5,000 mark, and these are primarily of her grandchildren. Very precious indeed, and a must see!

Dr. Kristi Perryman Ph,d., LPC, RPT-S, MAPT Past President

Has been extremely instrumental in getting the MAPT organization strong and healthy, and as Past President she has worked hard to help keep it that way. Kristi is well known in the area of Professional Play Therapy and is responsible for helping many of our area Registered Play Therapists and RPT-S folks reach that level of certification



in their professional counseling careers. Kristi remains very active in teaching and promoting Play Therapy in her work as a Professor at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. She also maintains a successful private practice in Springfield where she provides professional Play Therapy services to children and families.

During the time that Kristi has served MAPT and other Child-Centered organizations, her excellent work has been recognized through numerous awards, and other forms of valued recognition. I have fully valued and appreciated the degree of commitment Kristi has once again shown the MAPT organization and her colleagues this year as our Past President. Kristi will be stepping down from her office this year, and plans to take just a little time off, but you can be sure we do not plan to let her get very far away. Regardless of the position in the organization Kristi holds, she is a valued and respected resource and a wonderful Child-Centered Play Therapist. Kristi, I am forever in your debt, and please know you will be missed on the Board, but we all wish you well and lots of rest as you spend time playing with your Wyatt.

Rebecca Smotherman MS, PLPC, PSC, Board Secretary,



Has been working extremely hard since she joined our Board. She has met the obligations and responsibilities of her office exceedingly well. Rebecca has the gift of organization. A gift I have read a lot about, and seen others perform.

Although I have shown some degree of improvement in that area, Rebecca is the one to call. She voluntarily, yes, I said voluntarily, took on the challenge of sorting through a rather large number of boxes that contained years of past MAPT documents. The obvious goal being to produce a well defined and organized system of past MAPT records. Believe me, Rebecca's willingness to share her organizational skills with us is indeed another blessing that simply cannot be over looked or under rated. Rebecca has presented to help promote MAPT and the professional use of Play Therapy. She also promotes MAPT and Play Therapy through her profession as a Professional School Counselor, where she utilizes her Play Therapy skill set in her counseling work with children. Rebecca is truly a valued and respected member of our MAPT team. I cannot thank Rebecca enough for the continued support she has shown me as MAPT President this past year. I am excited to have such talented and skillful individuals such as Rebecca serving on our MAPT Board. Rebecca, THANKS is not enough, but please know, it comes from my heart!



Corie Schoeneberg EdS, LPC, RPT, NCC, Treasurer,



Has been a sincere asset to our leadership team since joining us. Corie is one of those folks that can somehow make a very difficult job look rather easy. She does her MAPT related work with grace and professionalism.

Corie's many skills include making sure our books balance and our budget records are accurate. As MAPT President, I simply cannot express enough gratitude to Corie for the outstanding job she has done as our organization's Treasure. I have called upon Corie for MAPT related information countless times. Each and every time, she was there and ready to help. Corie has not only served MAPT as an excellent Treasure, but she has also helped our organization grow by presenting at MAPT workshops. Talk about dedication. Corie's example's of her willingness to give has been exemplary, not to mention inspiring! I have never served as any board's treasure, nor would I suggest that as a valid option, but I can share with you, having Corie in such a key role is a very good thing to happen for the MAPT organization. From my perspective, and as your MAPT President, I want to THANK Corie for her loyalty and service to our MAPT team during my term. I have spoken some about Corie's role as our Treasure. Let me take just a few lines of my report to share with you Corie was formerly a Professional School Counselor. Recently, Corie decided to further her career and service to children and became a Private Practice Play Therapist. Congratulations Corie. We are all very proud of you, and wish you every possible success.

Carrie Boone, MS, Professional School Counselor



Has been the single most important person in maintaining our membership over the last year. Carrie sends emails and makes numerous phone calls monthly to members and former members to offer encouragement and sing the praises and benefits of being

a member of our incredible organization. She also works diligently with area reps, offering ideas and support in growing membership through networking meetings, creating area maps and membership lists, etc. Carrie is always well prepared and ready to greet folks with her friendly smile. Carrie does all of this while maintaining a full-time career as a Professional School Counselor, and she has a wonderful family on top of that! Carrie does all she can, and more, to help make Play Therapy available to as many children in need as possible, through her work with MAPT as Member At Large, and through her daily counseling work with children in schools. Carrie is another member of our MAPT Board that gives and gives and gives. She has worked countless hours to prepare and deliver presentations at our MAPT workshops and for the Missouri School Counselor's Association. Carrie is truly a professional in all aspects of the word. What a true blessing Carrie has been to me and the others that have served children with Carrie.

I also want to express a special thank you to our Area Representatives who have worked to provide area meetings, attend board meetings, and build membership. Many have also been instrumental in assisting with registration and promoting sales at workshops.

Our MAPT Area Representatives include:

- Northeast Representatives: Courtney Schaefer, Wendy Post and Tracy Turner-Bumberry
- Northwest Representatives: Beth Dusin
- Central Representative: Ann Elliott
- Southwest Representatives: Erin Golden
- Southeast Representative: Megan Pitts
- MAPT thanks to Kerri Kohler-Butt for her work as a former MAPT Area Representative



MAPT 2010 Annual Conference

Our MAPT 2010 Annual Conference was held in Springfield, Missouri. Dr. Terry Kottman was our featured two day speaker. Terry provided two days of wonderful sand play therapy training. The play therapy training focused on Adlerian applications of Sandtray therapy. Dr. Kottman provided the participants with numerous play therapy techniques and the participants enjoyed a significant amount of "hands on" applications during the conference. Our continued thanks and best wishes to our featured presenter, Dr. Kottman. We truly appreciate Terry helping MAPT to make the 2010 Annual Conference a great success for our membership and other patrons.



Kate Weir



Blair Jordan

MAPT presented two scholarship awards at the Annual Conference. Kate Weir was named the 2010 recipient of the Dr. Shirley Hendricks scholarship award. Blair Jordan was named the 2010 recipient

of the Dr. Kristi Perryman scholarship award. Kate and Blair are using their scholarships to advance their knowledge of and use in Play Therapy as they continue working toward earning their Registered Play Therapist certificate. All eligible persons are encouraged to apply for these annual MAPT scholarships. The application process and forms are located on the MAPT website. Congratulations Kate and Blair!

MAPT was honored to present Play Therapist and MAPT President Elect Joyce Wilkerson with the prestigious Helen Matthews award. This award is presented annually to a professional Play Therapist that has been recognized for their excellent work as a Play Therapist in a school setting. Among her colleagues, Joyce is recognized as one of the best in the business. Congratulations Joyce!

Your MAPT Board has continued to respond to your requests for workshop trainings across the state and provide the CEU's you seek to maintain your certifications and licenses. Below you will find a review of the specific Play Therapy conferences and workshops we have provided and plan to provide this year.

MAPT ANNUAL CONFERENCE – JULY 2010

PRESENTER: Terry Kottman, Ph.D, NCC, RPT-S, LMHC
LOCATION: Kentwood Hall 700 East Saint Louis Street
Springfield, MO

CONFERENCE TITLE DAY ONE: Adlerian Applications of Sandtray Therapy

DATE: July 9, 2010 TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE TITLE DAY TWO: Partners in the Sand:

Adlerian Applications of Sand Tray Play Therapy

DATE: July 10, 2010 TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WORKSHOP TITLE: Advocating and Navigating Play Therapy in Schools: Teachers, Parents, & Challenging Students

PRESENTERS: Carrie Boone, MS, PSC & Corie Schoenberg, Ed.S, LPC, PSC

DATE: Saturday, September 25, 2010

LOCATION: UCM Summit Center 850 NW Chipman Road, Door 54, Lee's Summit, MO 64063

WORKSHOP TITLE: Utilizing Play Therapy to Support Children and Behavioral Change

PRESENTERS: Beth Dusin, Ed.S, and Joyce Wilkerson, LPC, RPT

DATE: Saturday, November 13, 2010

LOCATION: Kentwood Hall 700 East Saint Louis Street, Springfield, MO

WORKSHOP TITLE: Utilizing Movement Based Techniques in Play Therapy with Elementary Age School Children

PRESENTER: Erin Golden, Psy.D

DATE: Saturday, November 20, 2010

LOCATION: Panera Bread Co. 2535 N. Kansas Expressway Springfield, MO 65803

WORKSHOP TITLE: Advocating and Navigating Play Therapy in Schools: Teachers, Parents, & Challenging Students

PRESENTERS: Carrie Boone, MS, PSC & Corie Schoenberg, Ed.S, LPC, PSC

DATE: Saturday, April 2, 2011

LOCATION: Ulysses S. Grant Elementary School, Room 200 10 East Broadway, Columbia MO

2011MAPT Two Day Annual Conference: Metaphors and Storytelling in Play Therapy

Dates: Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4, 2011.

Location: Summit Center in Lee Summit, Missouri.
June 3 & 4, 2011

We invite you to go to <http://www.moplaytherapy.org/> and pre-register for the 2011 MAPT Annual Conference.

Missouri Association for Play Therapy AWARDS and Scholarships

MAPT encourages its members to recognize one another by presenting the opportunity for awards for outstanding leadership in play therapy. One of those awards is the Helen Matthews Outstanding Play Therapist Award given to a play therapist for work in the school setting. The other award is the Kathryn Boone Outstanding Play Therapist Award for work in a private or agency setting. Both of these awards require the recipient to be currently employed in a mental health or school setting, have completed three years in the field of play therapy, be an MAPT member, and hold a Master's degree or beyond. The criteria for recognition are to possess the personal qualities desirable in a play therapist, be responsible for innovations in play therapy, and demonstrate leadership in the further development of play therapy. The candidate's activities and accomplishments must have taken place within five years prior to the date of presentation.

A \$500.00 scholarship is also available to MAPT members. The purpose of the Dr. Shirley Hendricks Scholarship is to assist a mental health professional working toward becoming a Registered Play Therapist. The 2008 recipient of this scholarship is Debbie Hubble. The criteria for both of this scholarship requires the applicant to hold a Master's Degree or be working toward that degree and to possess the desirable personal qualities of a play therapist.

We need to recognize those in our field who are doing outstanding work. We need to help support those who want to obtain further training toward a Play Therapy registration.

If you would like more information or the application forms, please visit our MAPT website <http://www.moplaytherapy.org/> or contact Joyce Wilkerson MS, CSC, SPE, LPC, RPT-S wilkersonj@carthage.k12.mo.us

A new MAPT scholarship called the DR. KRISTI PERRYMAN SCHOLARSHIP is now available.

The purpose of the Scholarship is to assist a Master's level student preparing to become a mental health professional who is working toward becoming a Registered Play Therapist.

Eligibility for Consideration:

- The applicant must be a current MAPT member in good standing with the MAPT organization.
- The applicant must hold a Master's Degree or be working toward a Master's Degree in the Counseling field. The degree categories are Elementary, Secondary or Community Agency.
- The applicant should possess the personal qualities thought to be desirable in a Play Therapist.

Procedures for Application:

- Two letters of recommendation must be submitted by administrators, mental health professionals, parents, teachers or community leaders.
- The enclosed application must be completed.
- Attach a copy of current graduate transcripts.
- Attach a copy of any CEU's earned related to Play Therapy.

Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis. The recipient will be awarded the scholarship at the MAPT Annual Conference. The scholarship recipient must be present at the MAPT Annual Conference in order to receive the award.

Scholarship recipients may receive up to \$200.00 paid directly to MAPT for workshops/conferences sponsored by MAPT. The scholarship award does not apply toward lodging, mileage or meals.

Scholarship recipients must maintain current MAPT membership in order to redeem the award.

An applicant may be a recipient of the Dr. Kristi Perryman Scholarship once in a lifetime.

Submit application/award information, no later than Friday, April 29, 2011, to:

Fax: 417-359-8979
MAPT Scholarships Applications,
C/O Larry R. Beckett, MAPT President
Joyce Wilkerson and Carrie Boone
2011 MAPT Scholarship Committee

DR. Kristi Perryman SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Work Phone: (____) _____

MAPT Member: ____ Yes ____ No

Please attach the following typewritten information
(3 page maximum):

- Please give a brief description of your current job setting and responsibilities:
- Briefly describe your goals or interest in becoming a Registered Play Therapist.
- Include how you would like to use your scholarship money.

Between July 2010 and February 2011, MAPT, an APT Approved Provider, has provided 435 Continuing Education Credits to conference and workshop participants.

In closing, please allow me again to express what an honor this has been for me to serve you this past year. In our business as Professional Play Therapists, we talk a lot about the difficulty of terminating with our Play Therapy clients. I can tell you, after working closely with this group of dedicated professionals while serving on the MAPT Board, I am experiencing some of the same affects in not wanting to let go, and yet knowing it is the right time and the right thing to do. I am reminded of words recorded from the pen of Morrie Schwartz, "Try to develop an inner emotional or spiritual peace to balance the distresses of your body. You might begin by learning to accept "what is" for you at any particular time." I find wisdom, value and peace in Morrie's words. I am seeking to accept, and move forward.

Best regards,

Larry R. Beckett MS, CSC, RVE, LPC, RPT-S
MAPT President 2010-2011



MAPT is Strong because of YOU! Building and Strengthening Relationships through the Power of Play...

By Carrie Boone, MS, Professional School Counselor

Gold Branch is an honor to earn; and for the first time in five years Missouri earned this award because of you! Our hard working president Larry Beckett proudly accepted this award at the International APT Conference in Louisville, Kentucky last October. It is once again looking very promising for our president-elect Joyce Wilkerson to accept this distinguished award this fall. Our membership continues to stay strong. As a member of MAPT we know you are working endless hours dedicating your life to children. Dedication and commitment is what MAPT is all about! We know that each and every detail we participate in ultimately contributes to children.



The area representatives play an important role in reaching out to our members and keeping MAPT strong. I would like to sincerely thank each of our reps and share how they have contributed to MAPT this year.

Northwest:

Kerri Kohler-Butt has dedicated her time by offering area meetings in the Kansas City area. She has been an area rep for three years and has decided to step down from this role. She will be greatly missed. Her commitment and hard work is sincerely appreciated.

Beth Dusin recently joined as rep and brings a lot of experience to share with our members. She is full of energy and ideas. We appreciate her willingness to step up and take on the role as NW rep.

Central:

Ann Elliott is a very hard working representative. She is continuously working to spread the word and power of play therapy. From community events to trauma conferences, Ann finds a way to incorporate and share play therapy. Her dedication and knowledge is greatly appreciated.

St. Louis:

We now have a collaborative wonderful team of three reps. Wendy Post, Courtney Schaefer, and Tracy Turner-Bumberry teamed up in Louisville at the APT conference and have been working hard ever since. Their leadership in the St. Louis area is so valuable. The trio has already planned area meetings and collaborates regularly to

strengthen MAPT and provide our St. Louis members what they are looking for to help kids.

Southwest:

Erin Golden is a fabulous rep full of energy and ideas. She has shared her expertise during area meetings and continues to plan more exciting events. Erin keeps our southwest area lively and we appreciate her hard work.

Southeast:

Megan Pitts is our southeast rep. She is willing to learn new things and help whenever she can. She is dedicated to sharing the word of play therapy and strengthening that area of the state.

I am so honored to work with such a great group of caring individuals. I am always inspired when I am among my fellow play therapist. Inspiration and enthusiasm is what keeps our MAPT momentum! I love being a part of MAPT and I am certainly delighted you are too! It's our members who make us who we are! Thank you for having a heart for children!

Treasurer's Report

By Corie Shoeneberg EdS, LPC, RPT, NCC

MAPT continues to maintain high standards not only in our workshops and state conferences but also in our financial practices and standing. MAPT has remained in the green throughout this year, and as a result, our financial freedom allows us to continue to offer greater options and services to our members.

MAPT strives to continue to keep workshop and conference prices at a low and reasonable rate through ongoing problem-solving and future planning. The board selects venues for our events based on low cost as well as the quality and location of the facility. We also have made registering for events more convenient for members by offering an online payment option.

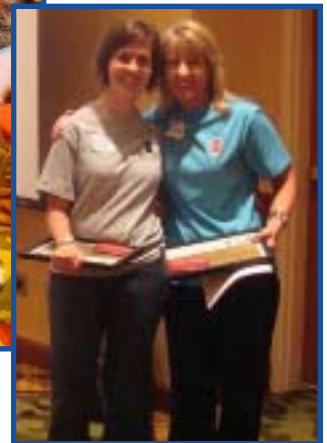
The future of MAPT both financially and as a professional organization is very bright. This is due to the commitment of our members, area representatives, and board members. The vision of MAPT is continue to help mental health professionals in their service to children, and we carefully use our funds to exclusively follow this mission.

The scoop on MAPT's Treasurer:



Corie Schoeneberg EdS, LPC, RPT, NCC holds a Master's and Education Specialist degree in professional counseling from the University of Central Missouri, and the focus of her specialist program was play therapy. Corie is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a

Registered Play Therapist, and Nationally Certified Counselor. She has worked as an elementary school counselor for two years and is now in private practice in Sedalia, exclusively helping children and their families through play therapy. Corie has been published two different works, and she will have presented at three of MAPT's workshops by this year's state conference.



Book Review: Letters to A Bullied Girl: Messages of Healing and Hope.

By Olivia Gardner with Emily and Sarah Buder

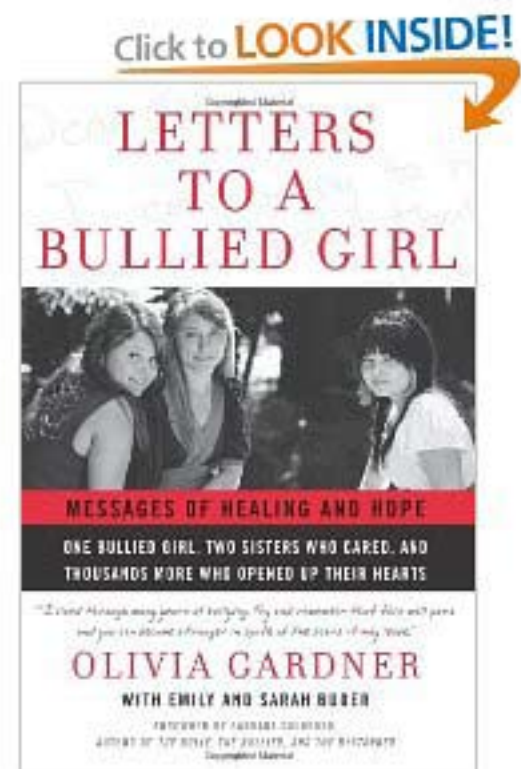
Recently I taught an anti-bullying classroom guidance lesson to my fifth-grade students using the book "Letters to a Bullied Girl." This book is the product of an outreach project created and carried out by two teenage sisters, Emily and Sarah Buder.

Through an article published in their local newspaper, Emily and Sarah learned of a student named Olivia who was being brutally bullied. Olivia, who suffered from epilepsy, was teased, tormented, cyberbullied and had her property damaged by fellow students in her middle school. The bullying reached its peak when a website called "Olivia haters" was formed and when her fellow classmates began wearing "I hate Olivia" bracelets. As a result of the unceasing bullying, Olivia fell into a deep depression.

When Sarah and Emily learned about this story, while they had never met Olivia, they were inspired to action, motivated by their shock and dismay that a fellow human being was being treated so badly. Emily and Sarah started a letter campaign with the hope that they could help to lift Olivia's spirits. They encouraged their classmates to write letters of hope to Olivia. The sisters hoped to receive 50 letters that they could send to Olivia. Word spread and the sisters received more than 500 letters in the first month of their campaign.

This book is a compilation of the most sincere, heart-felt and compassionate letters and e-mails that Olivia received from strangers around the world. The messages come from people who were bullied by others and from people who are former bullies themselves. One of the greatest benefits of this book is sharing the thoughts from former bullies with my students. Universally, the former bullies deeply regret their behavior. This is a powerful way to teach children that bullying not only hurts those who are bullied but also those who do the bullying.

The letters and messages contain excellent, real-life strategies for dealing with bullying in a way that is non-violent



and productive. Additionally, the messages in the book contain beautiful words of general encouragement for believing in oneself and persevering through difficult times. My favorite sentence in the book is an excerpt of a letter from a man named Al. Al says: ". . . You are important, loved, and wanted on this earth." My students loved hearing those beautiful words.

Another advantage of using this book with students is that it provides great teaching points for tolerance and diversity. The letters describe experiences of those who were bullied for any number of differences, including people who were

bullied for religious reasons; for appearance; for socioeconomic status; for size and for clothing choice. My classes enjoyed meaningful conversations about acceptance because of the letters that we read from the book.

Finally, my favorite thing about this book is that it was written by and the campaign was created and executed by two teenagers. What amazing role-models for instilling a sense of efficacy in students that they CAN have a voice and use their voice to make a significant difference in this world. My students were enthusiastic about developing campaigns of their own to help others.

***A note on using this book in the classroom setting:**

I think this book is appropriate for students in grades 5-12. Because I used this book with elementary students, I used great care in selecting which excerpts to use. I avoided passages that spoke of students bullied to the point of suicide and/or self-harm because I did not feel that my young students were ready for this topic. However, older students would greatly benefit from this information. I selected portions of the introduction to read to my students and then chose about 10 passages to share. They were all begging for more!

Extension Activities:

- Lead a discussion about the concept of “kind-a-tude.” Kind-a-tude is mentioned on p. 42 in a letter from “Janet.” It is defined as: “the state in which kindness and gratitude embrace each other to empower you to enrich your life and the lives of others, causing a ripple effect to make this world an extraordinary place. When you have kind-a-tude you become the droplet that creates the ripple effect of kindness.” Brainstorm ways to spread kind-a-tude in your school.
- The book includes tips for doing your own letter-writing-campaign. As a class, organize a campaign.
- Have students journal about groups of people or individuals who would appreciate a letter campaign. Ask students to write a letter of hope and encouragement to a real or imagined person.

- Show selected videos on YouTube about Olivia, Emily and Sarah. There are many interviews with these girls that you can choose from. Your students will enjoy seeing the courageous girls behind this book in person!

By Kate Weir

Kate is a professional school counselor at Grant Elementary in Columbia, Missouri as well as an area rep for Missouri Association for Play Therapy. Kate is working towards becoming an LPC and an RPT.

Secretary’s Report

By Rebecca Smotherman MS, PLPC, PSC

Rebecca Smotherman, Secretary, is a new member to the Board for the 2011 year. Rebecca is a professional school counselor in Cabool, Missouri, working towards becoming a LPC and RPT. In 2010 she provided workshops for schools and community agencies on the importance of play, developmental play, using expressive arts in the school setting, keeping teens safe, and Child-Parent Relationship Therapy while working as a school counselor. As a new member of the Board, Rebecca has been working to help maintain workshop materials and files to meet Gold-Branch standards, organizing board files and materials, and working with current Board members to plan upcoming events. MAPT is constantly working to offer professional workshops on a variety of topics at affordable prices and growing our membership.



THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

By: *Joyce Wilkerson, MS, CSC, SPE, RPT-S, LPC*
MAPT President Elect 2010-2011



LIFE = RELATIONSHIPS!!

Can you think of anything that exists.... anything... that doesn't have some type of relationship to something else? I love relationships! And like yours, my life is comprised of many types. Some of my favorite relationships are with people who share a common purpose. Therefore, some of my favorite relationships are with you, the members of the Missouri Association for Play Therapy. One definition of relationship is: A connection, association, or involvement. What an honor to be connected and associated with all of you who are so passionate about serving children. So why all this talk about relationships in an MAPT newsletter? Because we are an association for Play Therapy – and for children – and for YOU! We are here for each other. We are here for you.

It's exciting to observe the power of relationships as people enter the room of a Missouri Association for Play Therapy workshop. There is an immediate connection. Enthusiastic greetings, conversations, and laughter fill the room. Whether you are attending for the first time, or have attended frequently, you will have opportunity to connect in meaningful ways. We learn together, work together, and have great fun together. Connections, support, and relationships continue long after each workshop concludes.

It's inspiring to observe the power of relationships as we collaborate and connect with members and professionals in neighboring states. We learn from each other, share ideas, and grow together. It 's reassuring to observe the power of relationships as we turn to each other for support, encouragement, and guidance in uncharted territory or challenging situations.

And in a day when budget cuts, increasing responsibilities, and various pressures vie for our attention, it is critical to experience the power of relationships with those who strive to maintain priority and focus on children. It's rewarding to observe the power of relationships within the MAPT Board and MAPT Area Representatives across the state. The positive effect is evidenced by the dedication of each person, the enthusiasm to work together, and the creativity demonstrated in moving the organization forward in a variety of beneficial ways. As questions and decision making opportunities arise, we approach them with mutual respect, appreciation, and trust.

MAPT representatives have listened and responded to the expressed requests of members. In the past year, MAPT has sponsored numerous workshops strategically located throughout the state so training is made accessible and convenient for all. Topics are varied in nature and have included implementation of Play Therapy in the school setting, utilization of movement based techniques in Play Therapy, supporting children and behavioral change through Play Therapy, and demonstration of effective Play Therapy techniques for a variety of situations and environments.

In addition, we have been most fortunate to grow in our knowledge of children and Play Therapy through the wisdom and experience of one of the best, Dr. Terry Kottman. Anticipation is increasing as we near the date of her return June 3-4, 2011 when she will present: Metaphors and Story Telling in Play Therapy and Using Active Games and Challenge Activities in Play Therapy.

It's invaluable to experience the power of relationship specific to the mentoring I've received from our current MAPT President, Larry Beckett.

In a word, he is "OUTSTANDING". His dedication to children, service to all who work with children and expertise in organizational progress bear his imprint of excellence. He is ever careful to represent ALL members and to acknowledge and honor each person and contribution. Larry maintains the highest ethical standards and demonstrates utmost professionalism in all endeavors. He generously gives countless hours to the research, consideration, and implementation of actions that serve to strengthen MAPT and its members. Larry is vigilant in keeping a protective watch over all aspects of the organization. He proactively seeks information regarding effective practices, wise financial decision making, and innovative ideas for growth. He continually utilizes his gift of relationship building and intentionally invests in strong professional relationships with friends in our national organization, the Association for Play Therapy and with members of branch organizations throughout the United States. And in all of this, he weaves his amazing sense of humor and a laser focus on children. As I prepare to move into the position of MAPT President, I am deeply grateful to be mentored and influenced by Larry, our outstanding leader.

I am also most grateful for Dr. Kristi Perryman Ph.d., LPC, RPT-S, MAPT Past President -2010-2011. I'm incredibly fortunate that my first exposure to the power of relationship in Play Therapy was through Kristi's heart and her example. I am equally fortunate to serve with her on the MAPT Board and to see first-hand the dynamic impact Kristi made in strengthening this organization because of her passion to serve children.

Corie Schoeneberg dS, LPC, RPT, NCC: Treasurer, Carrie Boone: Member at Large, Rebecca Smotherman MS, PLPC, PSC: Secretary, and Erin Golden, Beth Dusin, Ann Elliott, Meghan Pitts, Courtney Schaefer, Wendy Post, and Tracy Turner-Bumberry, Area Representatives, are among the most dedicated, generous, and child-centered professionals I know. I am sincerely thankful for their hard work, expertise, and commitment.

It's encouraging to know that the power of relationships will provide stability in times of transition and propel forward movement of a strong association of people whose hearts are ever connected to children and to each other. I look forward to deepening relationships and continuing service together for the benefit of all children.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Please put this PLAY THERAPY training date in your planners. October 1, 2011. (Exact location TBA).

Larry R. Beckett MS, CSC, RVE, LPC, RPT-S, MAPT Past President will offer a one day, 6 CEU, MAPT sponsored workshop on Child Abuse: Benefits of Play Therapy. Please watch for the MAPT posting on the MAPT website.