

# Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 26, Issue 4

December 2010

Merry  Christmas



## Presidents

### Corner...

Its official, the first semester is almost behind us. Can you believe it? Time is really flying by.

I would again like to invite you to attend our monthly PTA Council meetings. You will find the dates in your Yearbook and online at our website, [www.stjoeppta.org](http://www.stjoeppta.org). We will continue our attendance award this next semester. The PTA with the most people attending will receive a \$50.00 prize. Don't miss out!

It is really important that each Unit is represented each month at our Council meetings. We make announcements, do workshops and go over important issues we are facing. If you are not present you are missing valuable information.

Just a friendly reminder that all of your forms must be turned in by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to remain a Unit in Good Standing. What is a Unit in Good Standing? A Unit in Good Standing can participate in the Reflections contest; they are eligible for awards and Council grant. A Unit in Good Standing will be covered by the umbrella of State and National PTA if an issue should arise.

Reflections entries are due on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> to Darrin Verbick's office at TMC before 4:00. Please loosely wrap your entries in butcher/artist paper so that we can keep school's entries together. Remember to complete all four forms; Form A, Form B, consent form and the student's form. The students form must have both parent and student signatures. If they are not signed we can't send them to State. At the bottom of the student form there is a box that needs to be filled out by your unit. It includes your eight digit PTA ID#, chair information, and PTA information. Remember that we are in the Pony Express Region. This section must be filled in by your unit. A new form is the Parent/Guardian Consent form. This form must be signed and returned with the student form.

Form A will need your presidents mailing information; schools mailing information, Reflections chair information, number of students enrolled in your school and the number of entries per category.

Form B must also be filled out; one per school. It will list all of your student's names and phone numbers by category.

If the forms are not complete all entries will be disqualified. Please take the time to make sure they are completed.

Continued next page

## St. Joseph PTA Council Request/confirmation Form For Button Machine

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # Home \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Project or function \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Time Requested \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Components Needed \_\_\_\_\_ Send request to:  
(Plastic Cover, Shell, Pin Back=1 Component) Jena Kirschner

10489 SE State Rt. A  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
816-244-1687

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

[jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us)

Or at TMC 816-671-4390

Send Bill To:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to:**  
**ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL**

For Council Use Only

Button Machine reserved for \_\_\_\_\_ Check out date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Check in date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Components Issued \_\_\_\_\_

Number Returned \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number Used \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is confirmed for \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Clarence J Carpenter Memorial Fund Board Treasurer Report

Audited Balance as of 6/30/10 \$5,609.45

RECEIPTS/INCOME:

July Interest	\$1.15	
August Interest	\$1.23	
PTA Council - Skates	\$3,772.00	
PTA Donations	\$380.00	
Donation - Hofheimer Trust	\$1,000.00	
PTA Donations	\$75.00	
PTA Donations	\$50.00	
September Interest	\$1.47	
PTA Donations	\$150.00	
PTA Donations	\$150.00	
October Interest	\$2.18	
Total Receipts	\$5,583.03	\$11,192.48

DISBURSEMENTS:

No outstanding checks

Total Disbursements	\$0.00	
Ending Balance as of 11/15/10		\$11,192.48
Checking Account Balance as of 11/15/10		\$11,192.48
Bank Midwest CD #4155		
Beginning Balance 5/19/10		\$10,284.95
Interest Paid		
CD Balance as of 11/15/10		\$10,284.95
* CD matures on 11/17/10		
TOTAL CASH ON HAND as of November 15, 2010		\$21,477.43



**Council Clippings Article Assignments for January 2011**  
**Articles are due December 5, 2010**

<i>Presidents Report</i>	<i>Character &amp; Spiritual</i>
<i>Regional Director article</i>	<i>Reflections</i>
<i>Founders Day</i>	<i>Awards</i>

**All articles must be emailed to Lori Prussman at [aokmom@hotmail.com](mailto:aokmom@hotmail.com), subject: CLIPPING ARTICLE .**  
**Thank you for getting your articles to me in a timely manner.**

Continued...

We are looking for volunteers to come and help on our Reflections work day. We will be going over forms, making sure everything is filled in and ready for State. We will be bundling the entries for shipping to the State PTA office. We will be working on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at TMC, 4:00 in the conference room. Let me know if you would like to come and help out.

In this issue of Clippings you will find PTA Council grant application and applications for all Founders Day awards. They are all due on January 15<sup>th</sup>. See the applications for mailing information.

Be on the look-out for your Founders Day invitations. Please mail one registration form per school. We look forward to seeing you there.

As always I would like to invite you to attend the monthly PACT meetings. It is really important for you to attend and gather important information but also to give your opinion. Your feedback is vital for the process.

Just a friendly reminder that your donations are greatly needed for the Clarence J Carpenter Board Memorial Fund Board. You can help those children who would not otherwise be able to afford eye care. Carpenter Board helps with eye exams and glasses for these students. All help is greatly appreciated. Please mail donations to Lisa Little, 3020 Kathleen Ave, 64506.

May God Bless you and your families in this blessed season.

Lori Prussman



## Parent Involvement

One of the best ways to get involved in your child's school is to sign up to be a volunteer or mentor. The St. Joseph School District's volunteer program (VEST - Volunteers, Educators, Students Together) supports the staff on a daily basis to better educate students. Every school has unique needs, and the list of duties that a volunteer can help with is endless.

To become a volunteer or mentor, you must complete an application and communicate with the school's volunteer coordinator about what areas you are willing to help with. Schools will welcome a call from parents, grandparents, neighbors, guardians and community members wanting to get more information on how to help with daily activities that help students and staff.

The SJSJ mission is to "Educate Each Child for Success." That should also be the mission of the community whether or not you have children attending school. The value of a volunteer for the schools and children is priceless. Everyone's time is precious, but please consider investing any amount of time that you have to the children and teachers of this district.

You can call the district's Volunteer Services office at 671-4390 or find out more information about the program on the district's website under Community Resources.

Submitted by Charisse Giseburt, Parent Involvement Chair



It was a high counsel that I once heard given to a young person, "Always do what you are afraid to do."

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Submitted by Jameison Welch



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**Mark Your Calendar  
St. Joseph PTA Council  
Legislative Forums**

**Friday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>  
&  
Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Held at Hillyards  
4:30-5:30 pm  
Room 103**

**Come and ask your elected official's questions.**

**Contact Sherri Manville  
816-294-6212  
sherrim@mopta.org**

# Understanding Bullying

By Tara L. Kuther

Each day hundreds of thousands of children dread going to school and facing the taunts, jeers, and humiliation wrought by bullies. When we think of bullying, the easily identifiable physical and verbal harassment comes to mind, including teasing, taunting, threatening, and hitting. Relational bullying is more difficult for adults to observe and identify. Children who bully through relational means socially isolate their victims by intentionally excluding them or spreading rumors about them. Bullying, then, refers to physical or psychological intimidation that occurs repeatedly, is intended to inflict injury or discomfort on the victim, and creates an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse.

The bullying relationship is characterized by an imbalance of power, such that the victim of bullying finds it hard to defend him- or herself and begins to feel powerless against the bully. The child who bullies typically is bigger, older, stronger, or more popular than the victim of bullying, and his or her intent is to exert power over the victim. For example, girls who bully through exclusion and other forms of relational aggression tend to have more social power than their victims. The bully is aware that his or her behavior causes distress, the bully enjoys the victim's reaction, and the bullying continues and escalates. Bullies hurt others in order to feel strong and powerful at a given moment.

It's very difficult for most parents to determine whether their children engage in bullying behaviors because most bullying occurs out of parents' sight. Some adults and children rationalize bullying because victims are overly sensitive, cry easily, or act in ways that set them apart from other children. Even if the victim does show these characteristics, adults and children must know bullying is not a healthy coping response—it signals that a child needs to learn how to manage his or her emotions, release anger and frustration in more healthy ways, and learn more constructive strategies for getting along with others. Your role, as parent or teacher, is to help children establish more mature and healthy ways of relating with others, thereby ensuring that they will grow into caring and adaptive adults.

Who is likely to be victimized?

There are at least two types of victims: passive victims and reactive victims. The stereotypical image of the bullied child is the passive victim: He or she avoids confrontation, is physically slight, quiet, does not tease others, and does not defend him- or herself from the bully. The passive victim turns inward when bullied—crying and withdrawing rather than fighting back.

Reactive victims are much less common than passive victims. The reactive victim provokes attacks by being aggressive, disruptive, argumentative, and antagonizing towards bullies and other children, and retaliates when he or she is bullied. Sometimes reactive victims are referred to as bully/victims because they straddle the fence of being a bully and/or victim. They are difficult to identify because they seem to be targets for bullies, but they often taunt bullies and other children. Not only do reactive victims fight back when bullied, but they sometimes channel their rage and anger into bullying others, especially those younger and weaker than themselves. In this way, some victims of bullies transform into bullies themselves, perpetuating the abuse and singling out new victims.

Continued...

What are the effects of bullying?

Bullying is not a normal part of growing up. Victims of bullying suffer psychological and sometimes physical scars that last a lifetime. Victims report greater fear and anxiety, feel less accepted, suffer from more health problems, and score lower on measures of academic achievement and self-esteem than students who are not bullied. Victims often turn their anger inward, which may lead to depression, anxiety, and even suicide. The experience of bullying is also linked with violence, as the fatal school shootings in Littleton, Colorado, and Jonesborough, Arkansas, have illustrated.

However, it's not just victims who are hurt by bullying. Bullies fail to learn how to cope, manage their emotions, and communicate effectively—skills vital to success in the adult world. Without intervention, bullies suffer stunted emotional growth and fail to develop empathy. Since bullies are accustomed to achieving their immediate goals by pushing others around, they don't learn how to have genuine relationships with other people. Instead, they externalize and blame others for their problems, never taking responsibility, nor learning how to care for another's needs. Bullies who don't learn other ways of getting what they want develop into adult bullies who are more likely to experience criminal troubles, be abusive toward their spouses, and have more aggressive children, perhaps continuing the cycle of bullying into the next generation.

Ending bullying: What works

The most effective way of addressing bullying is through comprehensive schoolwide programs. Schoolwide programs, developed collaboratively between school administration and personnel, students, parents, and community members, seek to change the school's culture to emphasize respect and eliminate bullying. So what has been shown to work in preventing and ending bullying?

- Increased awareness, understanding, and knowledge about bullying on the part of school staff, parents, and students
- Involvement of the wider community, including parents and service providers
- Integration of bullying-related content into the curriculum in ways that are appropriate to each grade
- Increased supervision and monitoring of students to observe and intervene in bullying situations
- Involvement of students
- Encouragement of students to seek help when victimized or witnessing victimization
- A plan to deal with instances of bullying
- Class and school rules and policies regarding bullying and appropriate social behavior
- Promotion of personal and social competencies (e.g., assertiveness, anger management, self-confidence, and emotional management skills)
- A schoolwide community of respect in which every student is valued
- Collaboration between parents, educators, service providers, and students to reinforce messages and skills across settings (e.g., home, school, community)
- Serious commitment to implementing the program on the part of administrators and school staff.

Tara L. Kuther, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at Western Connecticut State University, is the author of *Gimme Your Lunch Money: A Guide to Bullies and Bullying* (Parent's Guide Press, 2003). Learn more about her work and how to contact her at <http://tarakuther.com> or for more details [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

Dear St. Joseph School District Principals and PTA Unit Presidents,

We would like to invite you to apply for our mini grant for the 2010-2011 school year. Enclosed you will find the Mission Statement and the Purposes of the PTA. Please remember when choosing a project to submit that you keep these ideals in mind. We want to help your school in continuing to bring worthwhile, education based programs to your students.

As we discussed at our Council meeting please remember to check with downtown office to make sure that they approve of said project (making sure any maintenance problems do not arise) example: any new equipment for the playground, any equipment with special electrical needs, or any project that would require district maintenance, etc.

We also discussed that due to IRS needs we need to have a paper trail of where we spend our not for profit monies. Please help us by turning in receipts for the projects when you have them. This just assures us that we will be able to continue this grant and not get audited by the IRS. I have heard some horror stories about other not for profit organizations losing their status because they did not have the proper paperwork. **Please mail receipts to St. Joseph PTA Council, PO Box 1116, St. Joseph, 64502.** We greatly appreciate your help with this.

**Please submit your application on or before Jan. 15, 2011 to Lori Prussman, 2504 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506.**

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Joseph PTA Council.

Lori Prussman  
St. Joseph PTA Council President  
816-232-2125/816-262-2664  
aokmom@hotmail.com

## The **PURPOSES** of The Parent Teacher Association

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

## **MISSION STATEMENT** PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The mission of the PTA is three-fold:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

# **Grant Request**

## **Through the St. Joseph PTA Council**

### **For the 2010-2011 School Year**

**The executive committee of each PTA/PTSA may apply for one grant up to the amount of \$500.00.**

**All proposals will require the following information to be eligible for consideration:**

1. General description of the project's purpose and population served.
2. Brief description of the project's implementation plans.
3. Current Bylaws on file, Council Dues paid and at least one membership turned into the state PTA office.
4. Detailed description of project for which funds are requested including:

#### **Purpose and goals of project**

- A. Participants to be served
- B. Breakdown of funds requested by specific categories.

**Completed proposals should be returned to St. Joseph PTA Council on or before Jan. 15, 2011. Please send to Lori Prussman, 2504 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506.**

School name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of PTA/PTSA President \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal \_\_\_\_\_

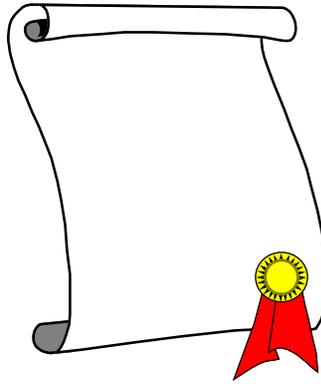


III. Describe your project:

A. Purpose and goals for the project (projects must have preapproval from the District office):

B. Describe participants to be served, including how they will be selected.

C. Provide a detailed breakdown of expenses, including categories and anticipated expenditures in each category. Be sure amounts are correct, including any shipping and handling fees. To ensure that funds are being used for projects that have been approved we ask that you submit receipts for said project. Once approval has been made on a project we ask that you use grant money for said project only.



## **THE ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AWARD**

**Our school principals provide a great deal of leadership for the children, their families, staff, teachers, other principals of the St. Joseph School District, and our community. They deserve recognition for their dedicated efforts.**

The St. Joseph PTA Council (since 1994-95 school year) will honor one outstanding St. Joseph School District principal at the annual Founder's Day Banquet.

The principal must be nominated by a member of his or her PTA/PTSA unit and should be an exemplary individual for his/her peers.

The principal should actively encourage PTA/PTSA leaders in his or her school; use creativity in working with the school's unit; encourage PTA/PTSA membership; attend PTA/PTSA functions; encourage teachers and staff members from his or her school to be members of PTA/PTSA as well as encourage them to attend PTA/PTSA functions; and work for the overall betterment of PTA/PTSA.

Nomination forms for this award, **MUST** be received by the St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chairman **NO LATER THAN January 15, 2011!!** Please only one nomination per principal.

Nominations are to be sent to: **Mary Cargill, 1609 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506**

Only the Award Winner will be announced at the PTA Founder's Day Banquet. He or she will receive a prestigious, engraved PTA Award and a financial stipend for his or her outstanding leadership in PTA/PTSA. The individual's name will also be put on display in the School Board Room of the St. Joseph School District.

**\*Please feel free to use additional page for answer.**

**St. Joseph PTA Council**  
**Outstanding Principal Of The Year Nomination Form**

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Position in the PTA/PTSA: \_\_\_\_\_



How my principal encourages individuals to become PTA/PTSA members and how my principal encourages individuals to attend PTA/PTSA activities:

Please list and explain **THREE** great ideas or things your principal has done at your school during this school year:

*The St. Joseph PTA Council*  
*Lifetime PTA Leadership Award*

**The Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award**

**Background:**

In order to keep the National PTA organization financially strong for generations to come, the National PTA started a Foundation.

At the 2005 National PTA Convention, the first National PTA Foundation Breakfast was held. This activity helped to initiate the idea of making gifts to the National PTA Foundation to keep PTA a strong organization for the future. Please see [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for additional information about the foundation.

The Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award is named after Dr. Colgan because of his strong support and positive relationship with the St. Joseph PTA Council, its units, and members as well as the Missouri PTA. Dr. Dan Colgan has been a model for superintendents across Missouri as a caring and passionate supporter of all children and PTA.

Dr. Colgan has served as the Superintendent of School District of St. Joseph for 13 years. During that time, he has successfully passed much needed levies and a bond issue, befriended thousands of St. Joseph residents, and given of his heart and soul to the children for whom he has been devoted.

**Award Information:**

The Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award, which is sponsored by the St. Joseph PTA Council, will donate \$250 each year to the National PTA Foundation in the name of a PTA leader who has given a lifetime of enthusiastic dedication to PTA.

Any PTA member may make a nomination for the Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award. **Nominations are due January 15, 2011 to Mary Cargill, 1609 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph MO 64506.** The St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chair with the St. Joseph PTA Council Executive Officers Board making the decision as to the award winner. The presentation will be made at the Founders' Day Banquet. The winner will be presented an award as a keepsake. The first presentation was made at the 2006 Founders' Day Banquet.



# Davis-Langemach PTA Council Award of Excellence

## Background

The “Davis-Langemach PTA Council Award of Excellence” is named after Mrs. True Davis, Sr., and Mrs. Vernon Langemach, both highly admired St. Joseph ladies, who are past State PTA Presidents.

## Determination of Winner

The administrator, teacher, staff member, or volunteer who has been nominated, must have made a major difference in the life of a student of the St. Joseph School District. It should be something that will be of major impact in the child’s life and must have taken place between the first day of school and the last day of school.

A nomination may be made by a parent/family member, administrator, teacher, staff person, or other adult community member. (No self nominations please.)

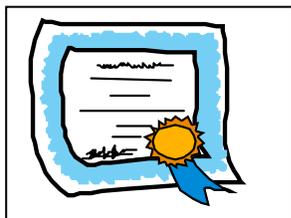
This honoree will be presented an award at the annual Founder’s Day Celebration.

## Deadline

All nominations must be sent to St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chair no later than January 15, 2011.

Please mail nominations to:

Mary Cargill  
PTA Council Awards Chair  
1609 Ashland Ave.  
St. Joseph, MO 64506



Thank you for your participation.

**DAVIS-LANGEMACH PTA COUNCIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

NAME OF NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF NOMINATOR \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MY NOMINEE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE BY.....

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please use back of page if necessary.)

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_

# St. Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Volunteer Award

## Background

This award is to recognize the outstanding volunteers who give of their time to help make a difference at their school. Please help us to show our appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication. These outstanding volunteers are to be honored annually at the Founder's Day Celebration to be held each February.

## Determination of Winner

A nomination from each of the school principals is requested.

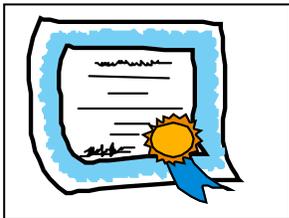
These outstanding volunteers will be presented an award at the Founder's Day Celebration, February, 2011.

## Deadline

All nominations must be sent to St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chair no later than January 15, 2011.

Please mail nominations to:

Mary Cargill  
PTA Council Awards Chair  
1609 Ashland Ave.  
St. Joseph, MO 64506



Thank you for your participation.

# St. Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Volunteer Award

NAME OF NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF NOMINATOR \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MY NOMINEE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE BY.....

\_\_\_\_\_

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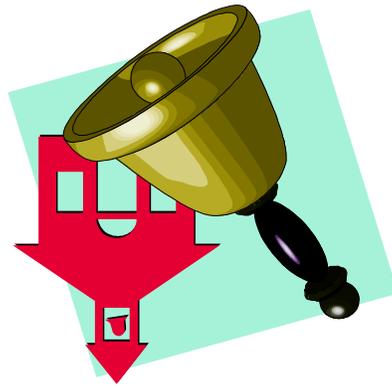
(Please use back of page if necessary.)

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

# COMMUNITY FUNDING



# ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL FUNDING

St. Joseph PTA Council  
PO Box 1116  
St. Joseph, MO 64502

