

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 28, Issue 4

December 2012



Presidents

Corner...

Happy Holidays!! This is such an exciting and busy time of year.

PTA hosted Christmas Stores are always a great time to see many smiling children. The Reflections programs will be wrapping up across the area with many great stories, artists, dancers, music, film and photography. Holiday parties and programs will be in full swing. We will all be very busy, doing great things for the children of SJSD take time to enjoy yourself.

For your December meeting:

- Decide if you are going to have a Winter Membership Drive and work out the details.
- Begin recruiting members who are willing to be a part of your nominating committee. Room parents and helpers can be great connections.
- Go through your Awards Packet from MOPTA, and get a head start on making your unit a winning unit. Make decisions on awards and who will fill them out.

Your planning will make the transition back into school after the New Year less hectic and rushed.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Brigitte Lindstrom
PTA Council President



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

Signature _____

Title _____

Send Bill To: _____

10489 SE State Rt. A
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-244-1687
jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us
Or at TMC 816-671-4390

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 _____

BUCHANAN COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Saturday, February 9, 2013, may seem far in the distance, but it will be here before we know it. For the schools enrolled with Scripps National Spelling Bee by the October 15, 2012, deadline, access is available online to all the information needed to insure that their spelling champions are eligible to move up to the county level. I have contacted each school with information about the bee and the official enrollment forms for their spellers. Entries are already coming in!

Again this year we will have the simultaneous spell-offs for the elementary level in the boys' gym and the middle level in the girls' gym. To determine the top two finalists to the regional bee, a spell-off with the five finalists from both the elementary and middle school divisions will take place. These ten finalists will compete for the 1st and 2nd place trophies and the opportunity to represent Buchanan County at the regional bee.

Registration for the bee is at 12:30 P.M. on Saturday, February 9, 2013, with the bee following immediately at 1:00 P.M. As always, the bee is held at Truman Middle School, 3227 Olive, St. Joseph, Missouri. I would like to thank the Truman staff and Principal, Sandy Steggall in advance for allowing us to once again use their facility.

As always, if you have questions or comments in regards to the bee, please contact me at karenheyde@yahoo.com or 816-279-9290.

Respectfully,
Karen Heyde-Lipanovich
Coordinator, Buchanan County Spelling Bee



Council Clippings Article Assignments for January 2013 *Articles are due December 5, 2012*

❖ <i>Presidents Report</i>	❖ <i>Character & 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, subject: CLIPPING ARTICLE .
Thank you for getting your articles to me in a timely manner.*

January is Salute to Schools in which we recognize our staff for the outstanding job they do to support our children. If you are planning anything for your school, please let me know so we can recognize you in a future issue of Clippings.

Submitted by Lisa Holmes

"All I ever wanted was to reach out and touch another human being not just with my hands but with my heart." -Tahereh Mafi

Submitted by Jacy Atkins

Balancing the Checkbook

Many Bonding Insurance Companies require someone who isn't listed on the checking account balance the account each month and sign that this was done. I have a form if you need but most bank statements have this on the back page.

Here are the steps to reconciling the checkbook.

- *Take the ending balance shown on the bank statement.
 - *Add any outstanding Deposits or Credits not listed on statement.
 - *Subtract any outstanding Checks or Debits not listed on statement.
- This should match the balance in your checking account.

Make sure that you are completing a Treasurer's Report each month even if you don't meet you can still send them out. All of this helps to make sure everything balances. If you have made any errors it is so much easier to fix at the end of the month than trying to go back 2 months or more.

Submitted by Shelly Baker, Council Treasurer



Family and Community Engagement

Submitted by: Charisse Giseburt

Discover the Power of Partnerships: A Guide to PTA's Building Successful Partnerships Process

From Awareness...

When families, schools, and communities work together,

- ❖ Student achievement improves.
- ❖ Teacher morale rises.
- ❖ Communication among parents, teachers, and administrators increases.
- ❖ Family, school, and community connections multiply.

It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from. Family involvement at home and in schools promotes student success. And there's more than 30 years of research to back that up.

To Action...

Involvement doesn't just happen; it must be encouraged, cultivated. Policies and programs that focus on what families, schools, and communities can do together to support student success are crucial.

To Celebration...

Family involvement promotes student success. You can never say it enough. And when you see it happening at your school, celebrate! Let your community know that it's not just studies about other schools that show the link between involvement and achievement – it's the experience at your school as well. Advertise your accomplishments in the community.

Regional Director Report...

We are getting down to the final days to get all of your forms into the State PTA office for you to remain in good standing. December 1st is our deadline. We are still waiting on a few more items and then all of our units will be in good standings!!! It is a great relief when all the information has been turned in and all units are good!! Then I can breathe easy (at least for a minute). Thank you all for working so hard at making this happen.

It is really important for more than one reason to be a unit in good standing. Not only must your unit be in good standing to participate in Reflections, but for St. Joe units you must be in good standing to apply for the PTA Council grant. That's \$500!!!

Speaking of Reflections make sure your unit is participating. This is a wonderful artistic outlet for our kids! This year they have added a special needs division. I'm always excited to see the entries. There are truly gifted kids and we love having the opportunity to showcase their work!

I want to challenge each unit to come up with a creative way to have another membership push. Membership sales don't end, we should be working non-stop to try and bring more members in. Creating that base of active parents is vital for every PTA. I always say that we don't want to just sell cards; we want to be involving more and more parents, grandparents, aunt and uncles. Anyone who wants to be a positive role model!

Have you ever thought of putting together a packet for new families coming into your school? It doesn't need to be much. Something that shows you are an active PTA and let them know that they are important and you want them to be a part of your PTA! These packets can be given out with the new student registration packets. You may want to include a copy of our membership benefits! Everyone likes having perks!! Ask your school secretary if they would be willing to hand out to the new families when they come in.

Keep building strong connection to your school staff and your families! This will make your PTA very successful!

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving! Enjoy your families and try and get some much deserved time off!!!

Lori Prussman

Pony Express Regional Director

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

We would like to invite you to apply for our grant for the 2012-2013 school year. Please note to be eligible for the grant your unit must have sold a minimum of 50 Major Saver Cards in our last campaign. 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 8716, St. Joseph, 64508.** We greatly appreciate your help with this.

Please submit your application on or before Jan. 15, 2013 to St. Joseph PTA Council, PO Box 8716, St. Joseph, MO 64508.

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

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 2012-2013 School Year

The executive committee of each PTA/PTSA may apply for one grant up to the amount of \$500.00. To qualify for the grant your unit must have sold a minimum of 50 Major Saver cards to be eligible.

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, 2013. Please send to St. Joseph PTA Council, PO Box 8716, St. Joseph, MO 64508.

School name: _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Signature of PTA/PTSA President _____

Signature of Principal _____

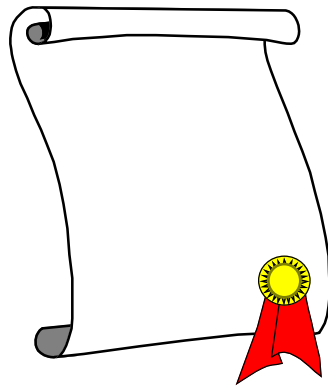
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III. Describe your project:

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, 2013!!** Please only one nomination per principal.

Nominations are to be sent to: **Lori Prussman**
2504 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 Medallion 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 answers**

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 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, 2013 to Lori Prussman, 2504 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.

The St. Joseph PTA Council
Lifetime PTA Leadership Award

The Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award

Nominee _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Nominated by _____

Nominator's Address _____ Phone _____

Reason why the nominee should be awarded the Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award: (Please use this form or attach sheet with all necessary information.)

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, 2013.**

Please mail nominations to:

Lori Prussman
2504 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 23 school principals is requested.

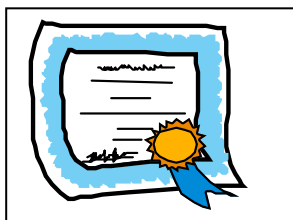
These outstanding volunteers will be presented an award at the Founder's Day Celebration, February, 2013.

Deadline

All nominations must be sent to St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chair **no later than January 15, 2013.**

Please mail nominations to:

Lori Prussman
2504 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 _____

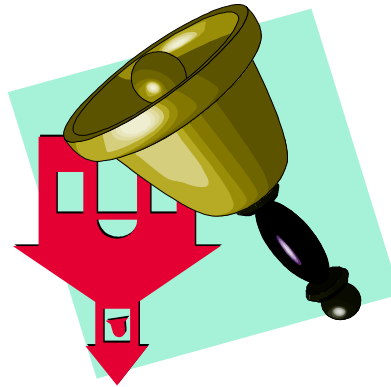
MY NOMINEE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE BY.....

(Please use back of page if necessary.)

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

NOTICE OF MEETING



St. Joseph PTA Council

St. Joseph PTA Council
PO Box 8716
St. Joseph, MO 64508