

# Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Joseph PTA Council

## Happy New Year!



**Volume 28, Issue 5**

**January 2013**



### Presidents

#### Corner...

Happy New Year!!!

Things to look at in January include selecting a nominating committee, a winter membership drive, and review all of your fall activities. Did it work? How can we improve? What needs a change or update? Making suggestions for next year's team will make their jobs easier.

This year for Founder's Day we are doing a service project for The Diaper Depot. This organization has stemmed from Leadership St Joseph, which is a United Way program. Teams are asked to develop plans to help our community. For the past year team #3 has been working hard to put together a program to support the need for diapers in our community.

One in four babies is left in diapers for extended periods of time, due to low income. Neither the WIC nor SNAP programs fund the purchase of diapers, leaving many babies at risk for abuse. The Diaper Depot is a non-profit program working with AFL-CIO Community Services to raise awareness of the diaper issue and to gather funds and diapers to pass on to those in need.

If you are interested in donating, you can bring a package of diapers or a monetary donation to the PTA Council Meeting in January or you can make your donation at our Founder's Day event. PTA Council will present a check, for the money donated, and the diapers to a Diaper Depot representative. All funds will go toward the purchase of diapers.

The Diaper Depot appreciates all of the community support gathered thus far and hope to continue the program to help the children of Saint Joseph into the future.

Have a great month!!!  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Plastic Cover, Shell, Pin Back=1 Component)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Send Bill To:

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

#### Send request to:

Joyce Brewka  
3006 Felix St.  
St. Joseph, MO 64501  
816-390-7287  
j3girlsmom@yahoo.com

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

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#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

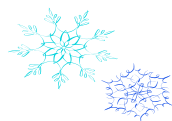
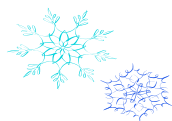
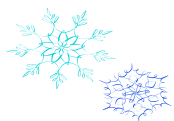
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Confirmation  
Your Request for the Button Machine is confirmed for \_\_\_\_\_

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

Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board  
Treasurer's Report  
Nov. 19, 2012

Beginning Balance September 1, 2012	\$2,431.13
Total Deposits/Sept. & Oct.:	\$6,029.52
Interest for Sept.	\$0.15
Interest for Oct.	\$0.37
Skate money & Lafayette & Edison donations	\$1,029.00
Transfer from Money Market	\$5,000.00
Total Disbursements/Sept. & Oct.	\$211.55
Tobin Eye Inst.	\$165.00
Postmaster	\$46.55
Balance on hand as of November 1, 2012	\$8,249.10
Bank Midwest Money Market Acct.	
Beginning Balance Sept. 1, 2012	\$15,442.97
Total Deposits/Sept. & Oct.:	\$3.21
Interest for Sept.	\$2.01
Interest for Oct.	\$1.20
Total Disbursements/Sept. & Oct.	\$5,000.00
Transfer to checking	\$5,000.00
Money Market Ending Balance	\$10,446.18
Total Balance as of Nov. 1, 2012	\$18,695.28



***Council Clippings Article Assignments for Feb. 2013***  
***Articles are due January 10, 2013***

❖ <b><i>Presidents Report</i></b>	❖ <b><i>Character &amp; Spiritual</i></b>
❖ <b><i>Regional Director article</i></b>	❖ <b><i>Bylaws</i></b> ❖ <b><i>Membership</i></b>
❖ <b><i>Nominating committee report</i></b>	❖ <b><i>Salute to School report</i></b>

***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.***

### Treasurer's Tips

Now is a great time to make sure that you have receipts attached to your vouchers. This is so very important that you have the proper documentation. If you don't have a receipt for vendors at least attach a copy of the signed contract if possible. I have a receipt form that you can use for vendors. Just contact me and I will send it to you.

You also need receipts for council dues and membership dues sent to MO PTA. I have receipts for council dues, just let me know if you didn't get a receipt. The form that you send to MO PTA will work for a receipt for memberships. You just need to make a copy to keep for the treasurer's records.

Also attach any minutes that note something that wasn't on your original budget or that you approved.

Submitted by  
Shelly Baker, PTA Council Treasurer

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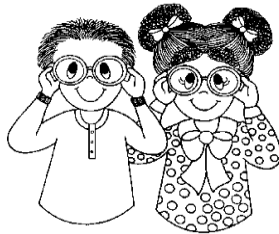
***"Acceptance and tolerance and forgiveness, those are life-altering lessons." – Jessica Lange***

Submitted by Jacy Atkins

# **“Help a Child to See” Campaign kicks off**

The Clarence J Carpenter Memorial  
Fund Board’s annual fundraiser;  
“Help A Child To See” Campaign  
runs from **January 7<sup>th</sup>– January 23rd**

See your School Nurse for more details.



**AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS!!!** It’s that time of year to complete the Awards applications for recognition at our February Founders Day.

- ❖ St Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Volunteer
- ❖ PTA Council Outstanding Principal Award
- ❖ Davis-Langemach PTA Council Award of Excellence
- ❖ Dr. Dan L Colgan National PTA Foundation Award

All award applications can be found in the December 2012 Council Clippings AND online at [www.stjoepta.org](http://www.stjoepta.org).

**DEADLINE** for applications is **January 15, 2013!** Mail to Lori Prussman, 2504 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506.

Family and Community Engagement  
Submitted by: Charisse Giseburt

*Break Through the Social Media Glass Ceiling: 10 Tips to Connect & Engage Today’s PTA Member* by Joy Lindsey from Our Children – National PTA Publication

Today’s PTA is part of a growing social media universe that is connected and powerful. With Facebook boasting more than 900 million monthly users and Twitter accounting for 140 million monthly users, breaking through social media message clutter presents a challenge PTAs can and should take on.

If you are one of the 850 Twitter followers of your city’s superintendent of education, but she’s still not following your tweets, or if you’ve invited 200 Facebook friends to your upcoming PTA event, but so far only seven people have replied they are “going,” the following tips are designed to help you break through the social media’s glass ceiling to connect with the busy members of Today’s PTA.

1. **Share current content that matters.** With so much Facebook and Twitter noise, it can be hard for members to hear your message. Good content helps. Share YouTube videos that give your Facebook friends and fans news they can use about education, family engagement, and Today’s PTA resources, and tag friends within the shared post who will spark comments about the topic. Ask Twitter followers to retweet your messages.
2. **Ask a question!** Nothing creates engagement like asking a question! Facebook and Twitter are excellent places to gather feedback on the hottest topics in education, health, safety, advocacy, and more. Respond to your friends and be sure to invite them to continue the discussion at an upcoming PTA event. Send invites to top commenters on Facebook and link to a snapshot of your event flier on Twitter.
3. **Stay connected 24/7.** People use social media 24 hours a day. Your social media should work for you even when you are sleeping. Wake up your Facebook and Twitter accounts by using social media management tools such as HootSuite, TweetDeck, or Feed 140 that can auto-post 24/7. Scheduling posts around the clock keeps your pages fresh around the clock.
4. **Enhance your PTA website.** Show important “above the fold” on your website. “Above the fold” refers to the area people can see on their computer screen without scrolling down. Include e-newsletters sign-up boxes, Facebook and Twitter links, and contact information. Go to [PTA.org/Today](http://PTA.org/Today) to link current membership resources to your PTA website above the fold.
5. **Make new Facebook friends.** Facebook is great for friending people you know (friends, coworkers, and family, however making new friends is not as easy due to the “friend request” system. A random friend request to or from someone you don’t know is typically greeted with a silent “not now.” To make new friends on Facebook, label photos on your timeline with “Join us next time! Send me a friend request.” When your friends “like” the photo, the photo will bleed through to their Facebook friends, creating the opportunity for new friends to click your name to “add a friend.”

Joy Lindsey has 5 more social media tips that will be in the February edition of Council Clippings.

## Health/Wellness and Safety Chair Report

In the fall of 2012, a group from Youth Alliance and the St Joseph Safety Council had introduced an idea of “Safe Homes” for Buchanan County. This dream is still in progress and has not quite been finalized yet, but I thought I would share with you the latest “pledge” form that parents/guardians would be signing. If you have any thoughts, comments or suggestions on how to implement this “Safe Homes” project, please feel free to contact me. Lisa Little; 816.232.3489, Momlittle3@hotmail.com

### What is BC Rocks?

The Buchanan County Rallying Our Community to Keep Kids Safe (BC Rocks) is a directory of families who agree with the Safe Homes Pledge. By signing this pledge, parents promise to:

- Actively supervise all youth in their home
- Ensure that drugs, alcohol and tobacco will not be accessible to youth
- Call other parents to be sure that their home will be a safe environment for youth to visit.

### Why Sign Up?

- To know where your youth are going and who they are with
- To send a clear and consistent message that underage drinking, tobacco and other drug use are unlawful and unacceptable
- To talk with other parents about upcoming get-togethers when your youth will be at their home
- To know that other parents will welcome your call for information.

### The Pledge:

I will actively supervise all gatherings or parties of youth in my home or on my property.

I will not allow youth to possess or use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs while in my home or on my property.

I will set expectations for my youth by knowing where they are going, whom they are with, their plans and when to expect them to return home.

I will communicate with the parents of other youths involved when plans are made or parties are scheduled to be held.

I will provide a secure storage place for all forms of alcohol and tobacco in my home.

I will talk with any parent of a youth I personally observe using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Submitted by Lisa Little, Chair

## Regional Director Report...

Can you believe it's a new year—2013!!! I'm hoping this is going to be the best year ever!!! You know that lucky 13!!!!

I'm so excited to share that most of our units are in good standings with the MO State PTA. Just a few things need to be turned in and hopefully by the printing of this issue all of those will have been completed!!

It's an exciting time of year...Reflections contest, Founders Day, Salute to Schools and Spelling Bee all coming soon, just to name a few. Exciting and busy. I want you to remember in the hustle and bustle of everything going on to take some time and relax. If our batteries get to run down then we can't be effective in our efforts. I want each of you to take care of yourselves and your boards. Presidents please take note...delegate, delegate, delegate!! The reason we have a whole board is so that the work load can be divided up. As president it is not your responsibility to do everyone else's jobs, so please share the load with them. Really this will help develop a strong, close knit board and that is the best kind. When everyone pulls their own weight everyone is happier!!!

A happy volunteer is a volunteer who is more likely to stick around!!! That is another thing to keep in mind as we are forming our nominating committees. When those folks get together it is really important that they know what office your nominee would be most comfortable in. If you have someone who loves to work with numbers...treasurer's position seems obvious. If you have someone who naturally leads then a president or VP would be great for them. I also suggest putting people in a position that they can handle and that they can be successful at. Building confidence is key in PTA. We want to nurture and help develop people into stronger leaders. Stronger leaders means better advocate for our students!!!

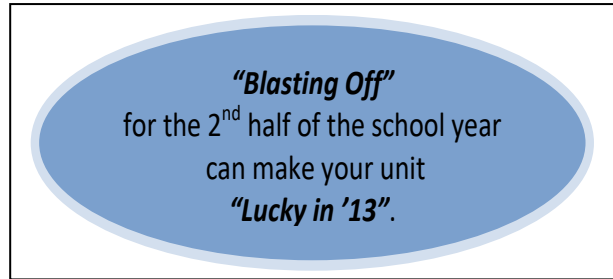
Being a strong advocate for our kids is the most important thing that we in PTA can do. That doesn't mean going to Jeff City or DC on a weekly basis. You can advocate in your school. If you are concerned about things going on at your school or in our district it is our responsibility to make sure these things are addressed. If there is a bullying situation going on it is our duty to make sure the situation is resolved. If the cars aren't stopping in your schools crosswalk make it the problem know and do something to help resolve the problem. There are so many ways to advocate it's as simple as taking an hour a week and volunteering at your school and tutoring a student or helping a teacher make copies or volunteering in the cafeteria and talking with students. Listening to what is going on in their lives. You never know but maybe just maybe one of these things will make a huge impact on a child's life.

Lori Prussman  
Pony Express Regional Director



# LUCKY 13 IN 2013!!!!!!

## MO PTA Winter Membership Challenge



For every **13 memberships** we receive between **January 13, 2013-March 13, 2013** your unit will be put in a chance to win one of three \$50.00 prizes!

**Keep *BLASTING OFF* for 2013 & good *LUCK!***

### ***Challenge Rules:***

- ❖ The unit must be considered a "Unit in Good Standing" by **January 1, 2013**. Please see the Tool Kit or the Missouri PTA website; [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org) for these requirements.
- ❖ All memberships must be received in the MO PTA office by **March 13, 2013**. Remember to mail in time for them to be received!
- ❖ Winning units will be contacted by Joyce Brewka, MO PTA Emphasis Chair after prizes have been drawn for. Winning units will be listed on [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org).

The MOPTA Board of Managers is excited to announce the LUCKY 13 in 2013 Challenge! For every 13 memberships we receive between January 13, 2013-March 13 your unit will be put in a chance to win one of three \$50.00 prizes! We want to keep everyone **BLASTING OFF** for 2013. ***Challenge Rules:***

- ❖ The unit must be considered a "Unit in Good Standing" by **January 1, 2013**. Please see the Tool Kit or the Missouri PTA website; [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org) for these requirements.
- ❖ All memberships must be received in the MO PTA office by **March 13, 2013**. Remember to mail in time for them to be received!
- ❖ Winning units will be contacted by Joyce Brewka, MO PTA Emphasis Chair after prizes have been drawn for. Winning units will be listed on [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org).

I am excited to announce and hope you will take the challenge back to your units and do your best to GO FOR IT. If you have any questions contact me at [joyceb@mopta.org](mailto:joyceb@mopta.org)!



Please join us as we celebrate  
**St. Joseph PTA Council Founder's Day**  
Thursday, February 7, 2013

Registration begins at 5:30pm.  
Dinner begins promptly at 6:00pm.

Catering by Spanky and Buckwheat's  
Pulled chicken, brisket, potato casserole, green beans, corn, salad, dinner rolls and fruit cobbler.

Dress is business casual

Stoney Creek Inn, 1201 North Woodbine Road  
816-901-9600

Cost-\$13.00 per person

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REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: Tues., January 22, 2013

NO REFUNDS - NO EXCEPTIONS

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) Attending

St. Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Volunteer Award Winner \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

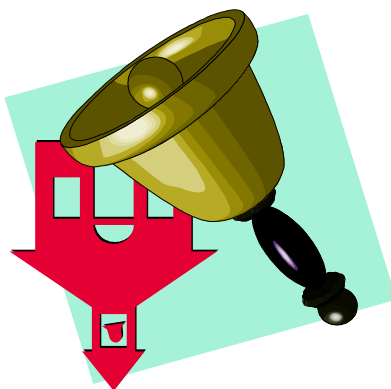
Note anyone who is a Missouri Life Member (MLM) with \*  
Note anyone who is a Past Council President with #

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
AND MAIL TO:

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

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

## SIGNATURE REQUIRED



THIS NOTICE MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PARENT

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

