

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 24, Issue 5

January 2009



Presidents Corner...

Peggy wood, Council President

Now that the holidays are over and you are rested and energized for 2009, it seems a good time to evaluate how your PTA is doing. January brings to mind Salute to Schools Month and Reflections. Salute to Schools month is an opportunity to let everyone in your school know they are appreciated. In addition, Reflections entries are due Thursday, January 8th 2009. The items need to be taken to the Troester Media Center at 3401 Renick (just off of Mitchell). Remember there will be a reception in April at the Keatley Center. In addition, state winners will be recognized at the Missouri State Leadership Conference.

On February 2nd, the Saint Joseph Council and Units will hold a celebration of the founding of the PTA. This year our Founders Day Dinner will be at the Holiday Inn. Reservation information is included in this issue of Clippings. Please remember to get your reservations turned in by the due date. This is a great opportunity to meet with other PTA members for an enjoyable meal and good conversation.

Next on the PTA Council agenda will be the Buchanan County Spelling Bee. This event will be held on February 14th at Truman Middle School. Now is the time for each school to complete their spelling bee. This will allow your winners to prepare for the big event in February.

This is also the time to be considering selection of your PTA unit's nominating committee. This is your PTA's most responsible body. Their decisions will affect your PTA in the future. Remember these few simple reminders. Select qualified people with skills, personality, enthusiasm, and time for their job. Consider new people for your PTA so you can grow. Finally, explain the expectation of the job to the potential candidate so they know what is expected.

Continued on page 2

Reflections

"WOW..."

The **deadline** for Reflections is fast approaching. All Reflection entries must be delivered **Friday, January 8, 2009 to the Troester Media Center; 3401 Renick before 4:30. Please deliver all entries to Mr. Darren Verbick's office.**

Please make note that all entries information is completed and signed by the parents. This is a State PTA program, so all units must have memberships turned in, bylaws must be up to date and Council dues must be paid to be in good standing so that all entries will be excepted.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by e-mail: ajhailey@sbcglobal.net
Or by phone 816-248-2071.

Submitted by
Azure Hailey
Reflections Chair

Council Clippings Article Assignments for February 2009

Articles are due January 10, 2009

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Presidents Report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Character & Spiritual</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Regional Director article</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Bylaws</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Membership</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Nominating committee report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Salute to School report</u>

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.



Happy New Year

Continued from page 1

As we ring in 2009 remember to celebrate your PTA successes, evaluate your progress toward goals, and set new goals. Don't forget that membership continues!! If you have memberships collected send them in to the state office. Thank you for believing in the over 11,000 students in our Saint Joseph Public Schools.

God Bless,
Peggy Wood
Saint Joseph PTA Council President

Spelling Bee reminder...

**Our annual spelling bee will be held at
Truman Middle School on Feb. 14th.
Registration will begin at 8:15 am.**

**"Life is not measured by
the number of breaths we take,
but by the moments
that take our breath away."**

Important Dates to remember

**January 5th: PTA Council meeting, 6:00
Hillyard Tech. Center**

**January 8th: Reflections deadline to TMC
By 4:30**

**January 15th: Principal of the Year deadline,
Dr. Dan Colgan Award deadline,
Davis-Langamach-Kosek deadline,
To Mary Cargill; 2610 Ashland Ave.**

**January 15th: Grant application deadline to
Peggy Wood; 3018 County Line Road**

**January 21st: Founders Day registration
Deadline to Sheila Johnson,
3017 Mayfair Drive**

January: Salute to School month

**February 2nd: Founders Day Dinner,
Holiday Inn, registration 5:30**

Third Party Child Abuse Resolution Adopted

WRITTEN BY DENISE MCCARTER

The Third Party Child Abuse Reporting Policy resolution was adopted by the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers at the 2007 State Convention held in Columbia on October 17-19, 2007.

This resolution addresses the gap in the law that allows those who report child abuse or suspected child abuse by a school employee to the school administration to be open to civil liability if the administration takes action toward the employee who was reported.

According to the Missouri Revised Statutes, Chapter 210 "Child Protection and Reformation" in Section 135, "Any person...in the making of a report in cooperation with the Division of Family Services (DFS) shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that otherwise might result by reason of such actions." The current law in Missouri protects those who report child abuse to the Division of Family Services, but those who report abuse by a school employee to a school administration are vulnerable to civil litigation. A parent's most important responsibility in raising their child is to ensure that child's safety. Think for a minute about your own children. Do you believe it should be your right to protect your child? What if you honestly believed that your child or other children were being abused in school? Would you do the right thing and report it?

In Jackson County, Missouri in 2003, a family was sued by a part-time, temporary school employee who was released partly in response to a report of suspected abuse that the family made in good faith to the school administration. The family incurred almost \$100,000 in legal expenses defending their right to protect their child and other children. They did what they believed was the right thing to do, and they paid quite a cost.

Now that the "Third Party Child Abuse Reporting Policy" resolution has been adopted by the Missouri PTA, we will be able to use our collective voice of nearly 85,000 members statewide to close this gap in the law and make our schools a safer place for our children.

The first action that Missouri PTA will work to put in place is legislation that protects third party child abuse reporters. We are all responsible for the safety and welfare of our children, and the fact that this gap in the law exists discourages parents or others from ever reporting abuse of any kind for fear of legal retaliation.

The second set of actions that Missouri PTA will take is to promote child abuse awareness within families and schools and will create, promote, and provide usable abuse reporting procedures and policies for Missouri schools.

The Missouri PTA is one of our children's largest advocates. Two of the stated purposes of the PTA are 1) to promote the welfare of children and youth, and 2) to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. Take advantage of your membership in PTA, and contact your local representatives. Let them know that you are concerned about this gap in the law, and tell them that you want them to become involved in sponsoring this bill. Contact information for all Missouri legislators is available on the Missouri PTA website.

The resolution can also be viewed on the new Missouri PTA website. Go to Missouri PTA Website for more information or [click here for the Third Party Child Abuse Reporting in Missouri Schools](#). If you have questions about this resolution, contact Donna Petiford, Vice President of Legislation and Advocacy or Denise McCarter, Resolutions Chairman.

View more articles online at www.mopta.org
Submitted by Lori Prussman



Please join us as we celebrate
St. Joseph PTA Council Founder's Day

Tuesday, February 2, 2009

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

Choice of Chicken or Pork
 Casual dress

Holiday Inn, 102 S. 3rd, St. Joseph, MO

Cost-\$11.00 per person

REGISTRATION FORM
Registration Deadline: Monday, January 21, 2009
NO REFUNDS – NO EXCEPTIONS

School Name _____

Person Attending	Chicken	Pork

Davis-Langamach-Kosek Award Winner: _____
 Dinner choice (please mark choice) _____

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

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 AND MAIL TO:

St. Joseph PTA Council
 Sheila Johnson, Treasurer
 3017 Mayfair Drive
 St. Joseph, MO 64506

It Is Never Too Late To Begin Parent Involvement

Six types of Involvement

1. **Parenting:** Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students. Also, assist schools to better understand families.
2. **Communicating:** Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.
3. **Volunteering:** Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.
4. **Learning at Home:** Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.
5. **Decision Making:** Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.
6. **Collaborating with the Community:** Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

As PTA members and volunteers we can help our schools to bring parents and the community along side us in teaching and growing great students. Many ideas I have been reading about talk about things the administration and teachers can do but we, as already involved parents, know that they need our help to get all parents involved.

Don't Forget! Take Your Family To School Week is February 8 – 14, 2009

As we end the holiday season remember that we have just spent the last 6 weeks or so asking parents to give. "Send your contribution for"... food drives, coat drives, penny drives to support some organization or whatever it is your school supports during the holiday season. It is great to remember there is always someone who needs a leg up but not all parents have the resources to give, give, give.

This is a great time to give back to the parents. Provide a dinner or a parent information program. One great idea I found was the *Common Sense Schools Parent Media Education Program*. This program is designed to help parents and educators work together to teach kids how to be safe and smart in today's media world. You can register at commonsensemedia.org/schools for free access to the program, including videos, downloadable tip sheets, and discussion materials.

If You Tell Them, They Will Help

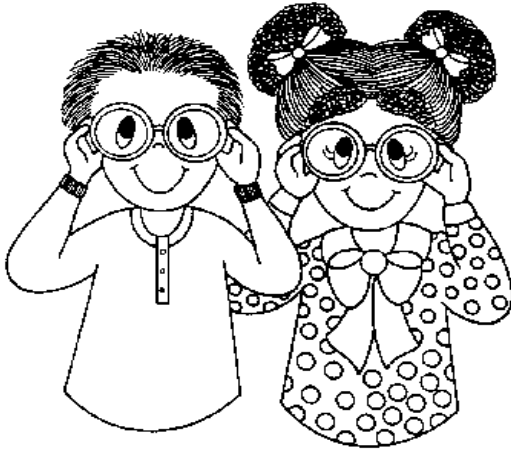
You might hold an *Information Fair*. Set up booths around the school to show the areas that parents can help. Booths that highlight special school activities coming up that parents can come to or help organize, dates of parent/teacher conferences, after-school programs that may need parent volunteers, etc.

You could also create a Wish List. There are always needs, from things such as craft sticks, carpet squares and/or software, to services like stapling newsletters, chaperoning field trips and/or coordinating special events. Make sure there are free and inexpensive things on the list too. Parents want to help when they know what you need.

-Nadienne Hoffman
Parent Involvement Coordinator
St. Joseph PTA Council



HELP A CHILD TO SEE



CAMPAIGN 2009

*The Children of the St. Joseph School
District*

Needs You!!!

With Your **Generous Donation** we will be able to continue to serve the students of the St. Joseph School District with eye care.

2007-2008

84 Students were helped at a cost of \$5747.19

YOUR \$\$\$ WILL BE APPRECIATED

SEE YOUR SCHOOL NURSE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board
Auditor's Report
August 25th, 2008

Audited Balance as of August 27 th , 2007		\$16,994.80
Total Receipts		8,552.84
Total Disbursements		8,446.85
Ending Balance as of August 25 th , 2008		<u>\$17,100.79</u>
Bank Statement Balance as of July 31 st , 2008	7,228.05	
Outstanding Deposits	none	
Outstanding Checks	none	
Balance per Books		S 7,228.05
Certificate of Deposit		9,872.74
Total Funds as of August 25 th , 2008		<u>\$17,100.79</u>

I have examined the books of the Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board and have found them to be in order. No exceptions were noted.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathy Cordero

Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2008 through November 17, 2008

Beginning Balance as of 7-31-08 **\$17,100.79**

RECEIPTS:

Interest on Checking 8-31-08	2.87
Interest on Checking 9-30-08	3.21
Interest on Checking 10-31-08	4.00
Hofheimer Trust Fund Donation	2,600.00
Lafayette PTSA Donation	30.00
Central PTSA Donation	50.00
Robidoux PTSA Donation	50.00
Parkway PTA Donation	<u>30.00</u>

Total Receipts 2,770.08 **\$ 2,770.08**

DISPURSEMENTS

Ck #707-The Spec Shoppe 550.00

Total Disbursements 550.00 **\$ (550.00)**

Ending Balance as of 11-17-08 **\$19,320.87**

Bank Balance Comprised of:

Bank Midwest CD 4910014155	9,872.74
Bank Midwest Checking	9,448.13
	<u>\$ 19,320.87</u>

Have you made your Clarence J. Carpenter Board donation this year?
Is the Clarence J. Carpenter Board a budgeted item for your PTA?

Please consider sending a donation to treasurer:

Christy Callaway
2125 N. 33rd St.
St. Joseph, MO 64506

Thank you for your continued support.





You are Invited to Attend the 2009 Legislative Forums

The St. Joseph PTA Council along with the St. Joseph Region of the Missouri State Teachers Association (MSTA) are working together to sponsor four Legislative Forums, one per month from January through April, at Hillyard Technical Center in Room 103. The forums are set to be held the last Friday of each month from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. There is no admission charge. Senator Shields and each Missouri Representative open the forum with an update of what is happening in Jefferson City. After the update, questions are taken from the audience. At the close of the forum, if there are questions for Congressman Graves, the individuals may speak with his legislative staff member--Chad Higdon-- directly. Chad takes the questions to the Congressman for his response.

The tentative dates for the four forums are

**Friday, January 30, 2009;
Friday, February 27, 2009;
Friday, March 27, 2009; and
Friday, April 24, 2009**

Participants. State Senator Charlie Shields of Missouri's 34th District, State Representative Rob Schaaf, of the 28th District, State Representative Ed Wildberger of the 27th District, State Representative Martin Rucker of the 29th District, and Chad Higdon, a representative of Congressman Sam Graves' Sixth US District office, are invited to participate. PTA Council leaders serve as greeters. The PTA Legislative Chair serves as moderator.

Legislative Update. Senator Charlie Shields was recently selected by the GOP Caucus as Senate president pro tem—a position referred to as the second most powerful in state politics. Records have been reviewed, but Missouri historians think that this is the first time that such an important position has been held by someone from St. Joseph. Senator Shields will be term limited out of the Missouri Senate in 2010. Both Ed Wildberger and Dr. Rob Schaaf will be seeking Charlie's Senate seat when he is term limited out of office. (Schaaf and Wildberger will also be term limited out of their current representative positions in two years.) Representative Martin Rucker is considering seeking the Senate seat as well.

PTA Council Responsibilities. PTA Council will be responsible for the following:

- Hold multiple communications between the legislators and their legislative assistants
- Send press releases to TV, radio, newspaper media, and others.
- Provide the moderator, greeters, and helpers
- Make building reservations at Hillyard via the office.
- Provide a room map for the physical room setup to the Hillyard Maintenance Department
- Set up prior to the event and clean up the room after the event
- Be prepared with a welcome book, pens, and supplies including handouts advertising the forums
- Encourage attendance including PTA members, students, and the general public
- Compose thank you notes for participants

It is important to have a conversational relationship with your State Representative and State Senator as well as a legislative aide from your US member of Congress. When a key issue arises, you will have already established a positive rapport with them.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon G. Kosek, Ed.D.
Legislative Chair, St. Joseph PTA Council

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)

Send request to: Jena Kirschner
10489 SE State Rt. A
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-244-1687

Signature_____

jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us

Or at TMC 816-671-4390

Title_____

Send Bill To:

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

For Council Use Only

Button Machine reserved for

Date_____

Confirmation Sent_____

Check out date_____

Signature_____

Check in date_____

Signature_____

Number of Components Issued_____

Number Returned_____

Number Used _____ @ _____

Date_____

Total Due_____

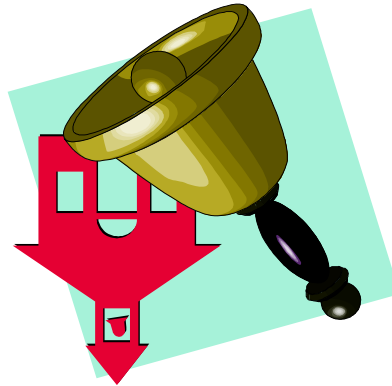
Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is Confirmed for _____

Signature_____Date_____

NEWSLETTER FOR NOTICE

COMMUNITY TIDINGS



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

St. Joseph PTA Council
c/o lori Prussman
2504 ashland ave
St. Joseph, MO 64506

