

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council



Happy Valentines
Day

Volume 29, Issue 6

February 2014



Presidents Corner...

I hope this finds everyone doing well in our units!!!! It is a busy time for Council as we are getting ready for your Founders Day Celebration. I am very excited to hear about all the wonderful things going on in your units!

I trust you all have found time to turn in your applications for the grants the Council has to offer your units. Don't forget once you have made your purchases the Treasurer Shelly Baker will need a copy of your receipts for the purchases you made with the grant money for our auditor.

Keep going after those memberships!!!! Don't forget now is the time to go to www.mopta.org to look at those applications for membership awards and other awards they have to offer. Your unit deserves recognition for the hard work you all have done!

If you have not become a unit in good standing PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE see me and I will work with your unit to do so both on the Council and the State Level!!!! I am here to help you and if I don't know the answers to the questions you have I will definitely search them out!!!

It is definitely time to have your nomination committees formed and getting your next years officers nominated and elected. Check your By-laws for your procedures. I will help in any way I possibly can please contact me and I will get back with you ASAP. I do work M-F 8a-5pm so please bear with me but I will get back with you.

If anyone is interested in working with the St. Joseph PTA Council in a chairperson position please contact me as I would love to have a talent pool to be able to offer the next group of elected officers.

In all you do remember that it is deeply appreciated, though this might not always be vocalized, it is very much felt. Remember the work you are doing is to benefit the most important part of who we are; our children! EVERY CHILD; ONE VOICE! Lets continue to make our VOICE heard!

Joyce Brewka

St. Joseph 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) Derrick Brewka
806 South 38th
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-390-7287
j3girlsmom@yahoo.com

Signature _____

Title _____

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 _____

Family & Community Engagement
February 2014 Clippings
Submitted by Charisse Giseburt

The following article excerpt is by Joyce Epstein in *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action*

Most parents want their children to succeed in school and are willing to help them in as many ways as possible.

At the same time, most educators know that parent involvement can be a big factor in increasing student achievement and decreasing behavior problems at school. Unfortunately, teachers sometimes have a hard time figuring out how to connect with parents in meaningful ways. Because of parents' work schedules, outside commitments and individual preferences, it helps to give parents choices in how they can be involved. Some may like helping out in the classroom, sharing a talent or skill, organizing special events or tutoring. Others might appreciate ideas for helping their children with homework at home or other ways to support learning outside of school. Some may want to serve on a school improvement committee or in other decision-making and advisory capacities.

Extended family members such as grandparents, aunts and uncles are another resource and can substitute for parents who aren't available — so can any other caring adults who want to share their time and resources to make a difference in the lives of young people.

How to get started...

1. Create a list of concrete ways parents can be involved in their child's education.
2. Let parents know what choices exist.
3. Invite parent participation.
4. Thank parents for their involvement.

It is especially important to get information to all families — not just those who attend PTA meetings or school carnivals. Make sure letters and notes to parents are clear, and consider the needs of parents who do not read well or possibly do not understand English. Schools need to reach out to parents in as many different ways as possible. When parents feel welcome and valued they become real partners in their children's learning.

Council Clippings Article Assignments for March 2014 Articles are due February 10, 2014

▪ <u><i>Presidents Report</i></u>	▪ <u><i>Character & Spiritual</i></u>
▪ <u><i>Council Award</i></u>	▪ <u><i>Spelling Bee</i></u>
▪ <u><i>Ways and means</i></u>	▪ <u><i>Reflections</i></u>
	▪ <u><i>Regional Director</i></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.*

"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." Robert Frost

Submitted by Mollie Siemens

News from MOPTA...

Friends Of PTA

Missouri PTA would like to both recognize and thank the Friends Of PTA whose generous donations support our efforts to speak for *everychild*. If you are interested in becoming a Friend Of PTA, click on the PayPal donation button. Missouri PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization making your donation tax deductible. Together we can strive to make every child's potential a reality. The work we do today impacts the world of tomorrow.

Go to www.mopta.org and click the donate button on the top right corner.

Legislative Forum

St. Joseph PTA Council

To be held at Hillyard Technical Center

On March 28th, at 5:00 p.m.

Legislator's who have been invited are

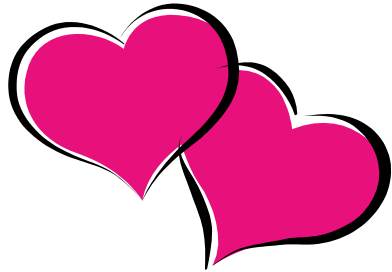
Congressman Sam Graves, Sen. Rob Schaaf,

Rep. Pat Conway, Rep. Delus Johnson, and Rep. Galen Higdon.

Missouri Child Advocacy Day

Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Jefferson City, Missouri
Join us in asking lawmakers to make the health, safety and
Education of Missouri's children a top priority for the state.

Learn more at www.mopta.org



Founder's Day Dinner
Thurs., February 6th
Stoney Creek Inn
Registration begins at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm

Nominating Committee Report

**St. Joseph Council of Parent Teacher Associations
of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers
2014-2015**

Council Officers

President	Joyce Brewka
1st Vice President	Nici Hayes
2nd Vice President	Jackie Grimwood
3rd Vice President	Linda Gaddie
4th Vice President	Michael Otto
Recording Secretary	Tammi Gumm
Corresponding Secretary	John Hickman
Treasurer	Sandy Burg
Sergeant-At-Arms	Tara Shryock

Clarence J Carpenter Memorial Fund Board

- 1) **Lori Prussman 3 year term (2nd term)**
- 2) **Judd Clark 3 year term**
- 3) **Wendy Czerwonka 3 year term**

Nominating committee: Lori Prussman; Chair, Nici Hayes, Jackie Grimwood, Stacey Case and John Hickman.

Treasurer's Report
Clarence J Carpenter Memorial Fund Service
Jan. 21, 2014

Balance on hand	November 18, 2013	\$8,094.77
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Receipts:

School PTA Donations		
Council/Other Donations		
Memorial Donations	50.00	
Interest Income	0.60	
Help a Child to See		
Miscellaneous		
Total Receipts		
<u>50.60</u>		
TOTAL		\$8,145.37

Disbursements:

Vision Expenses	1796.50	
Dental Expenses		
Secretarial Expenses		
Gifts to SJSD		
Postage		
Treasurer's Expense		
Help a Child to See Expense		
Insurance Bond for Treasurer	90.00	
Miscellaneous		
Total Disbursements		<u>1,886.50</u>

Total Balance	January 21, 2014	\$6,258.87
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Money Market ACCT #7625		
Beginning Balance 11/18/13		\$10,461.96
Interest Paid	\$ 2.53	
Ending Balance 1/21/14		\$10,464.49

Total Funds for Carpenter Board		\$16,723.36
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Treasurer Tidbits...

Lori Prussman
MOPTA State Treasurer

Tax exempt status...have you checked your expiration date?? You should. The MO Dept. of Revenue will send your unit/council a letter about 3 months prior to the expiration date. Just complete the form and return, and all is well. If you did not respond to the letter and you have now lost your tax exempt status, please contact me and I can help with getting that reinstated as well. I have completed a guide to fill out the form and have a list of what will need to be submitted to MO Dept. of Revenue. This guide can be used if your unit/council has never had a tax exempt number. All PTA units/councils should have their own and not use the school's.

Budget committee...now is the time to start looking at your budget for next school year. Please check your bylaws and standing rules to see who is to serve on the budget committee. If it is not stated in your bylaws or standing rules, it is time to add it. This committee is very important to the financial health of your unit or council. Best practice is having a committee of five members. Bylaws state that the treasurer is to be the chair of this committee. Other people to consider having as part of this committee: incoming treasurer, current fundraiser/ways and means chair, incoming 1st VP, and current Recording secretary. This mix will give you experience of current board with the input of new board members.

The current treasurer will have the current budget and the year to date totals for all line items. The treasurer should also give you numbers from the previous year as well. These numbers will give you a look at how well the budget is working. This committee should also ask for input from the chairmen to get their point of view, if the budget needs to be modified, or what adjustments should be made.

PTA is very different from any other "business" because you are setting a budget for the following year and fundraising in that school year to make your budget. Neither the National PTA nor the IRS has any guidelines on how much money your unit/council needs to carry over. I have always suggested that half of your budget should be in your account to start the year off solid. I spoke with Tina Zubeck, National PTA Sec/Treasurer, and she suggests having 2-3 months of the budget as a good start.

When you set your 2014-2015 budget this spring, your fundraising efforts in the school year 2014-2015 are to fulfill that budget. You will need to plan your fundraising according to what you need to meet those budget needs. You do not set your budget based on "what you have left in your checking account at the end of the year".

Best practice is to pass your budget at the last general meeting of the school year (usually May). Fiscal year for most units ends June 30th. If you wait until the fall to pass your budget, please keep in mind that your board cannot "do business" until the budget is passed. That means that while planning can take place, there will be no purchases made over the summer and that some of the projects that have been planned will not have funding until the budget is in place.

If you ever have any questions please feel free to call or email, 816-262-2664 or lorip@mopta.org. I'm happy to help.

Bylaws update....

Units with expired bylaws are...
Skaith due on Sept. 15, 2013
Humboldt due on Nov. 20, 2013
Spring Garden due on Nov. 18, 2013

Units with upcoming expiration dates...
Lafayette due March 23, 2014
Lindbergh due March 31, 2014
Robidoux due June 1, 2014

Units who have expired bylaws are not in “good standing” with the State PTA or with PTA Council. It is very important that we keep our bylaws current. Let us know if you need any help.

Membership update...

Memberships are due the first of every month to the State PTA office. To be in good standing with the State PTA and Council you must have at least 1 membership turned in.

Now is the time for that 2nd semester membership drive. It's not too late to get those parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles involved!!!

Awards deadline is fast approaching!!!
Don't miss out on an opportunity!!!

Spelling Bee...

Just a friendly reminder...Registration of the qualifying spelling participants for the bee is at 12:30 P.M. on Saturday, February 15, 2014, 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

Smart from the Start Community Outreach Grant

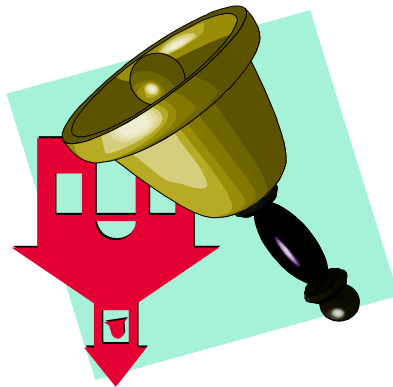
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 28, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. EST/2:00 p.m. PST

Smart from the Start: Community Outreach provides PTA Regions, Districts and Councils with tools and resources to educate families of children ages 3-5 and partner with a local neighborhood community to improve awareness of energy balance concepts. Energy balance is finding a balance between the calories we consume through what we eat and drink and the calories we burn through physical activity.

For more details go to www.pta.org

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

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

