

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 20, Issue 2

October 2004



Presidents

Corner...

Kerry Funck, Council President

School is in full swing now and I hope you are taking full advantage of any opportunity to gain more members. We will be talking more about the membership incentive at our meeting in October and again in November. We are still working on TV spots and will keep you updated. Bring any membership idea you have to the October meeting, whether it worked or not.

CONVENTION: Did you register to go to convention? There are many great workshops being offered, I hope you can take time to go to Kansas City and attend them. St. Joseph PTA Council and the Liberty Council are co-hosting the hospitality room so stop in and see us.

Have a wonderful year and let us know the great things you are doing in your units. I would love to share your successes with everyone.

Kerry Funck



“A Different Kind of Hero.....” Reflections 2004-2005

The Reflections program started in 1969 in Colorado and is one of the most popular offerings from the National PTA. The program provides opportunities for students to express themselves through the arts. Students compete in the following four categories:

- Musical Composition
- Photography
- Literature
- Visual Arts

Each PTA unit should have a Reflections chair. This individual can work with his/her fine arts instructors in his/her school. The goal is to have as many students participate as possible. The classroom or language arts teachers should also be encouraged to have their students write poems or short stories for the literature category. Students may wish to do a drawing for the visual arts category. Each piece of work should go along with the theme for this year (A Different kind of Hero). Please consider having an “Evening for the Arts” at your school to display the entries. A certificate could be presented to each participant.

It is imperative that the individual Reflections chairs receive a copy of the information. Specific guidelines for each category. The checklists for each category are very helpful. As always, there are changes and/or modifications in this year’s rules. Entries continue to be disqualified at the state level for failure to follow specific guidelines.

Each school may submit a **maximum of three entries in each category** for the state competition. The entries will be due in Mr. Tom Schneider’s office (925 Felix – first floor [second level]) on Friday, January 14, 2005. Each entry must have the proper Official Entry Form completed. The form requires certain signatures, “Pony Express” Council or region, bylaws review date and the National PTA identification number. Each school will also have a Participation Form A to complete with entry totals and number of students enrolled in the school. Note that each submitting unit **must have current PTA bylaws and have paid at least some monies to the state organization**. This is another common reason for disqualification of entries.

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The **St. Joseph PTA Council mails/delivers the schools' winning entries to Columbia, Mo.** PTA units must not mail their entries directly to Columbia. The Council Reflections chair will carefully review all of the entries to be sure all the rules are met before mailing to the state Reflections chair. Participants need to type or print all entry forms in blue or black ink.

There will be a Reflections evening in late April or early May to honor students who were winners at their school as well as those who have won at the state and national levels. Students who receive recognition will not have their entries returned until following the 2004 fall PTA convention where the entries will be displayed. (Literature and music entries are not returned. Be sure to make a copy before submitting them). Diana Slawson (233-0627 or slawson@stjoelive.com) is the local Reflections chair and will be glad to help. The Missouri PTA office (1-800-328-7330) is another good resource. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to use their imaginations and creativity. Here is a chance to involve your artistic but organized volunteers! Have fun with this activity. Don't wait – get your volunteers and teachers started today.

*The above article borrowed heavily from Sharon Kosek's excellent article prepared for the May 1999 School of Information.

Council Clippings Article Assignments for
November 2004
Articles are due October 10, 2004

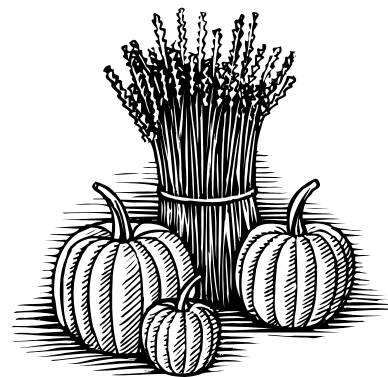
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Presidents Report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Character & Spiritual</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Regional Director article</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Convention Report</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Reflections</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Council Award</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.

The Blank Page

A child's life is a blank page.
What will the first words be?
Shut up!
Get out of my sight.
Go play.
Don't touch!
You, that child's parent, write upon
These words teach fear.
They register unwantedness.
They say, "I don't love you."
Let your words teach gentleness and beauty.
Let them supply high moral principles,
courage to meet life's disappointments, pride
in a job well done.
Use words that reflect your love:
Beautiful, son!
You did a great job.
Don't worry--we'll clean it up together.
I'm so proud of you!
When your child is grown, you will look at
him
and see the words you wrote on that blank
page.
Write words you will be proud of!

-- Unknown



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, or staff member, 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.)

The administrator of the nominee as well as the nominating party must sign the form to assure validity.

Each month one winner will be selected and recognized by the St. Joseph PTA Council. The winner will be awarded a certificate of recognition. In addition, a book valued at \$25 will be given in honor of the winner to the school where they are employed. If they are not employed at a school, then they may select which school will receive the book.

An impartial panel of three individuals will determine the winners. The panel will include a school district official, a PTA Council representative, and a local parent.

Nominations submitted will be kept for consideration for that school year unless they are chosen as a winner.

The child’s name will not be released to the public.

In order to be considered as the next month’s award recipient, three copies of the nomination must be received by the 20th of the previous month. The first award will be in September.

Nominations should be sent to:

Bea Dobyán
PTA Council Awards
4603 S. Lakewood Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64506



Thank you for your interest!

**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: Maria Reynolds

1115 E. Highland Ave.

St. Joseph, MO 64505

816-364-2848

rama@magiccablepc.com

Signature _____

Title _____

Send Bill To:

Make Checks Payable to: *ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL*
Send Payment to: St. Joseph PTA Council
PO Box 1271
St. Joseph, MO 64501

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 _____

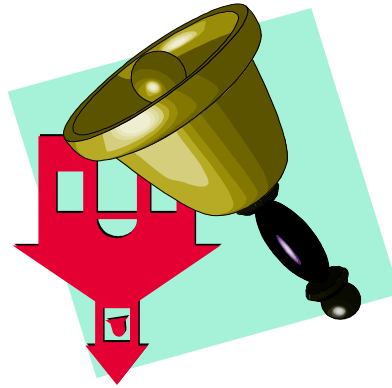
Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is Confirmed for _____

Signature _____ Date _____

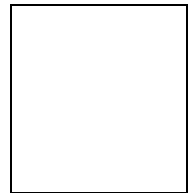
ADDRESS ONLY

COMMUNITY CENTER



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

St. Joseph PTA Council
PO Box 1271
St. Joseph, MO 64501





St. Joseph PTA Council Legislation Committee 2004-05 Program of Work

As Chairperson of the St. Joseph PTA Council Legislation Committee for the 2004-05, under the Department of Promotion, I plan to participate in the following activities for the year:

1. Promote the “**Declare Yourself VOTE**” campaign to encourage people to register to vote, learn about candidates, and vote.
2. Support St. Joseph School District issues that affect education such a levy, bond, or other similar issues.
3. Serve as a member of the Missouri PTA Legislative Network where I will respond to requests for action by Missouri PTA and contact appropriate state or national representatives or senators. In addition, promote that others be an active network member.
4. Attend the annual Missouri PTA Legislative Rally or other rallies held in Jefferson City, Missouri, and advocate for PTA issues while visiting the offices of our area State Senator and State Representatives.
5. Attend the St. Joseph Regional MSTA/Classroom Teachers’ Association monthly Legislative Forums, held January through April at Hillyard Technical Center, serving as a greeter or moderator as needed.
6. Attend the annual Northwest Missouri/Kansas City MSTA Legislative Brunch held in at the Hilton Inn at the Kansas City International Airport.
7. Prepare articles for the **St. Joseph PTA Council Clippings**, as needed.
8. Report legislative information at the local St. Joseph PTA Council meetings.
9. Provide legislative guideline information sheets to be distributed at the St. Joseph PTA Council School of Information.
10. Visit the offices of United States Senators and our Congressman to promote educational legislation and issues while in Washington, DC, March 6-8, 2005.
11. Email, write, fax, or call my state and federal representatives and senators as needed regarding issues concerning education or children, as needed. Encourage other PTA members to also communicate with officials.
12. Register Buchanan County residents to vote, as needed.
13. Attend political activities to hear and ask opinions of potential candidates and elected candidates of their positions on education-related issues.
14. Invite legislators to visit and tour St. Joseph School District facilities.
15. Assist with other activities as assigned by the PTA Council President.

Sharon G. Kosek
Sharon G. Kosek, Legislative Chair
St. Joseph PTA Council

Declare Yourself

VOTE

Declare Yourself is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign to energize and empower a new movement of young voters to participate in the 2004 presidential election. It includes an unprecedented nation-wide voter education initiative for high school seniors; a comprehensive voter registration and election information Web site; a massive voter registration drive, and public service announcements. The intent is to ignite millions of young voters. The website is <http://www.declareyourself.com>.

Our goal as PTA leaders is to inspire students to declare themselves and get involved in the voting process. As leaders we want to do such things as:

- ✎ Hold a voter registration day and make it a special event for the student/individual registering.
- ✎ Serve as a voter registrar at your school.
- ✎ Wear a pin signifying and reminding students of the importance of voting.
- ✎ Invite legislators into your building.
- ✎ Have your students email or fax their opinions regarding current issues or bills to their senators and representative's office (both state and federal).
- ✎ Make announcements at your school of registration deadlines, dates to vote, etc.
- ✎ Encourage students to Absentee Ballot if they are unable to vote at the regular time.
- ✎ Allow students to access the *Declare Yourself* website and read about current issues in the presidency

The campaign was founded by Norman Lear, TV producer and philanthropist. The campaign is supported by Home depot, the United States Postal Service, AXA Financial, Inc., Yahoo!, ClearChannel, and others. The goal of Declare Yourself is to teach young people—particularly those eligible to vote for the first time, every piece of information he/she needs to know:

- How to register to vote
- When and where to register
- How to get information about absentee ballots
- How to become and stay informed about campaign issues
- How to find his/her polling place
- How to VOTE on Election Day

As PTA leaders, we want to inspire our students to get involved, participate in the process, be informed, and vote in each election. We want to increase the percentage of voting eligible Americans. EVERY VOTE COUNTS.

Sharon Kosek
St. Joseph PTA Council Legislative Chair

St. Joseph PTA Council
Legislative Committee Proposal
Approved September 7, 2004

Declare Yourself VOTE

The St. Joseph PTA Council Legislative Committee voted to support the **Declare Yourself VOTE** campaign on September 7, 2004, by supplying buttons for the following individuals to wear:

High School Principals and Vice Principals
High School Social Studies Teachers
PTA Presidents/Leaders and St. Joseph PTA Council Leadership
Elementary Principals
Middle School Principals

Buttons were distributed at the September 7 to those attending the PTA Council meeting.

The individuals listed above are asked to wear the button as a reminder to vote in the Tuesday, November 2, election. They could also be used as a reminder for students to register to vote. The last day that Missouri residents can register for the November 2 election is Wednesday, October 6.

It is very important that we encourage qualified individuals to register and vote in the November 2 election—and every election.

Sharon Kosek
St. Joseph PTA Council
Legislative Chair