

# Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 27, Issue 2

October 2011



## Presidents

### Corner...

Great things are happening in St Joseph!! I have heard so many wonderful reports about the HUGE increase in membership numbers. I can tell that each unit has really stepped up membership efforts!! Please be sure that you are turning in membership dues to Missouri PTA at least monthly. The membership form was mailed to the PTA Presidents this summer and you can also find the form on our website ([stjoepta.org / forms](http://stjoepta.org/forms)) to send the dues in. Be sure to keep a copy of the form for the Treasurer's records. Turning in your dues is how you receive more cards. If you don't turn in money, you aren't able to get more cards. Stay ahead of the need and turn money in often!! You'll want to keep a supply of cards handy to keep selling all year long at your PTA events.

Kudos to Cheryl Martin, Edison PTA Officer, who shared with us her strategy for membership sales. Cheryl isn't afraid to ask people wherever she goes if they want to join PTA. She even asked the men at the auto repair shop if they wanted to join. It's efforts like Cheryl's that will help the Council reach the goal of ONE membership for EVERY child enrolled in the District. That's approximately 11,400 children. I have all the confidence in you that we will reach this goal. Have you asked every school board member? Have you asked every teacher? Have you asked every parent? Have you asked every administrator? **JUST ASK!!**

Bode Middle School PTSA won \$50 for having the largest number of PTSA members turned in to Missouri PTA as of 9/2/11. President, Bobbie Cronk, was excited and is planning something fun for the Unit! More membership contests are coming each month and Nici Hayes, our Membership Chair, will be using the numbers provided to us by Missouri PTA in order to win.

I was overwhelmed with the wonderful attendance and participation at our September Council meeting. Our goal is to make the meetings more interactive and informative so that you feel you have learned something and maybe have a little fun while there. October's meeting will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 7pm at Hillyard Technical Center, Room 103. The October membership contest is: The Unit with the **MOST** Officers/Chairmen attending! *Wear your school colors or School Tshirts so you are easily recognized. Wow – you better be there early to get a seat!*

*Continued next page...*

## 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  
10489 SE State Rt. A  
St. Joseph, MO 64507  
816-244-1687

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

[jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us)

Or at TMC 816-671-4390

Send Bill To:

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

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Involvement

Hip, Hip, Hooray!

Three cheers for the St. Joseph School District!

Volunteers, Educators, Students – Together.

There's a theme here.

3? What does 3 have to do with me you ask? So I ask you, can we get... Three hours of your time to volunteer in some way that will positively impact your family?

That's right – 3 hours of your time. Why? National PTA has a volunteer program called Three For Me. It is a program designed to effectively involve parents and families in support of children and their education.

Three hours is not a crazy goal, and if you think about it, you are probably already involved for at least 3 hours in your child's education. We just want to know about it!

Contact your child's school to find out how you can sign up and have your 3 (or MORE) hours counted this year.

Go to [three4me.com](http://three4me.com) to find out more information and to see the many benefits this program has on education.

Note – your three hours can be spent anywhere in the community that you have an interest in. The important piece is that you involve your family and do something that is meaningful.

Ready, set, go!

Submitted by Charisse Giseburt, Parent Involvement Chair



## Council Clippings Article Assignments for November 2011

Articles are due October 10, 2011

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Presidents Report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Character &amp; 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>Parent Involvement</u>

**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. Just a friendly reminder to send articles in word document (.doc),. pdf form is not easily transferable.**

Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is Progress... Henry Ford

Submitted by Brady Burks

Continued from page 1

**Please remember that at least one representative from your unit needs to be at every Council meeting.** Once you attend the meeting, be sure you are sharing the information with your own unit officers.

Let's continue to unite together and build ONE STRONG, CLEAR VOICE for the children in St Joseph!!

Yours in PTA,  
Lisa Little, President

The PTA Council submitted a grant to the National PTA for Healthy Lifestyles the first part of September. If won, the \$1000 grant will work with the 7 Title I elementary schools on nutrition, exercise, and health care. Monthly events will begin in November and run through March. The 10 National winners will be notified the middle of October.

The PTA Council will also apply for the Missouri PTA Health/Wellness & Safety Education Award Application.

Has your Unit looked over the various Missouri PTA awards available and decided on which awards you'd like to apply for? Review them now so you will be able to meet all the criteria. If you do not have a copy of the Missouri PTA Awards, check out [www.mopta.org](http://www.mopta.org) to find the information. Azure Hailey, is the Council Awards Chair, and she will be happy to assist you if you need any assistance!

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**DID YOU FORGET US??** We feel left out!! Dr. Melody Smith and I are asking to become a member of YOUR PTA unit. Please provide two membership cards and the letter (found on [stjoepta.org / forms](http://stjoepta.org/forms)) not later than the October 3<sup>rd</sup> General PTA Council Meeting! If it is easier to mail prior to Council meeting, please mail to: St Joseph PTA Council, PO Box 1116, St Joseph, MO 64501. These are the units we are still wanting memberships from: **Ellison, Hosea, Hyde, Lindbergh, Mark Twain, Parkway, Pickett, Bode & Robidoux.**

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Are you wondering how to correctly complete the front of the PTA membership card? A sample is included for you!! All PTA Units have a membership year of 7/1/11 to 6/30/12. Your Unit ID can be found on the spreadsheet included in this mailing. Best of all, you can access a template to print off the required information on the cards so it's less handwriting for you to do. The template can be found on [www.stjoepta.org / forms](http://www.stjoepta.org/forms)

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**PLEASE REVIEW** the spreadsheet that is included in the mailing to see what documentation is still needed to be a Unit in Good Standing. Please provide all documentation to Lisa Little PRIOR to October 15<sup>th</sup>!!

Please friend us on FACEBOOK!!! Search: St Joseph MO PTA Council. We are trying to use this Facebook site to share information about events and activities that are going on in the units. Post what's happening in your own unit – BRAG on yourself!!! It's OKAY!!

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Make [www.stjoepta.org](http://www.stjoepta.org) a favorite and check our website often. Information is posted there frequently and is also a quick resource for you on forms, clippings, legislative issues, etc. There are quick links to Missouri PTA, National PTA, SJSD and PACT.

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BYLAWS DUE IN OCTOBER:  
Hosea Elementary PTA Expiration Date of 10/16/2011

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We have a few units that need to change the fiscal year in their bylaws to JULY 1<sup>st</sup> through JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>. Those units are: Coleman, Skaith, Pershing, Lafayette, Lindbergh & Mark Twain.

Propose this change to your unit either by newsletter or general meeting – wait at least 30 days – then VOTE. Once voted, then send the completed “Amendments Cover Form” to Missouri PTA for final approval.

Your PTA Council is diligently work to help you keep up to date on bylaws and IRS fiscal years! We understand that this can be very confusing, so let us HELP YOU!!

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The PTA Council just received some information from Major Saver that they are adding the ability to purchase cards online. We are excited about this new feature and hope that it will help with card sales this spring. Details will be provided later.

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Has your unit had any changes in Officers?? Please provide current information of all Unit Officers to Lisa Little.

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If you are attending PTA Convention October 14-16<sup>th</sup> and need a ride, please let Lisa Little know. There are two spots available in the van.

## Next Steps for PACT Walk-a-thon

Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am  
Central HS

Join us for a short training session, and then we will be going door to door in our St. Joseph neighborhoods to spread the word about PACT Draft Master Plan, which was submitted to the Board of Education.

We are still asking for community input. Call your schools' coordinators to volunteer.

Hours do count towards VEST volunteer program.

Wear your school's colors!!

What a great way to spend the morning with a friend and get a little exercise while helping make the future of St. Joseph students better.



## Reflections

Diversity Means...Building your reflections program by contacting writing teachers, dance instructors, photography teachers, piano teachers or drum instructors, give them the opportunity to join the Reflections support team. Give the instructors contact information for your school, a copy of the rules and the due date for the projects. Diversify and show some of the other talents of our children.

The Council Deadline is Dec. 8th all Reflections projects will be due at Troester Media Center.

Submitted by Brigitte Lindstrom

## American Education Week

Plans are underway for American Education Week. This year our theme is "What I Like Best About My School".

AEW is November 13-18. As we did last year, all schools will be asked to submit a poster. Plans are also underway to maybe have some different groups performing throughout the week at East Hills Mall. Looking forward to an exciting week in the St. Joseph School District!!

Submitted by Amy Ryan, AEW Chair

## Regional Director Report

Congratulations on a great start to your 2011-2012 school year. Membership drives are going great!!! Most units are already in good standings with the State PTA!!! I've heard that many units are sending representatives to the State Convention!!! All good news!!!

With all the new memberships being sold that gives each unit a new database of potential volunteers. Let's try and get those people involved in your unit. We all need volunteers for the carnival, school picture day, and fundraiser pick up day. How about the book fair? Let's not forget the most important aspect of PTA; child advocacy!!! Let's invite them to make a difference!!!

In most cases the simple act of asking is all it takes to recruit new people. You never know until you ask. Your next PTA leader may be waiting to just be asked to get involved and if you don't you may have lost out on an awesome opportunity.

I'm looking for some success stories from your units. I would love to share with my board members and also feature them in my newsletter; Pony Express News. You never know how your story may be just what someone in a struggling unit needs to inspire them and help them become successful. Email me pictures of you and your officers at your activities. State PTA is always looking for pictures for various projects.

Keep up the great work!!! I'm really proud of all that you do for the students in our School District.

Lori Prussman  
Pony Express Regional Director

## PACT Open Houses

PACT will host two Open Houses.  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00 pm at Troester Media Center  
October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00 pm at Spring Garden.

Community members will have the opportunity to learn more about the PACT recommendations and the Draft Master Plan. A series of stations will be set up that address different aspects of the plan. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with school facility experts, District officials, Board of Education members and PACT volunteers. An informational video produced for PACT will be playing so you may view that as well.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the experts and others regarding the plan moving forward. There will be ample opportunity for community members to offer feedback and suggestions that they have to help make the plan the best it can be.

This is a community project, so everyone's input is vital to make this successful. The future of our students is literally in the hands of the community. You can make a difference!

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Submitted by Lori Prussman, PACT co-chair

PACT wants to come to your unit PTA meeting!!! We would love to show our video and answer any questions you may have regarding the plan.

Schools that may be slated for retirement or repurposing; may want us to come for an extended program. Your parents may have many more questions and we want to give them an opportunity to voice their concerns.

Call or email me to add your school to our schedule.

Lori Prussman  
816-232-2125 or 816-262-2664  
lorimopta@gmail.com

Unit in Good Standing Report 2011-2012 RECAP

as of 9/10/11

St Joseph PTA Council

PTA Unit for St Joseph	IDNumber	Bond Exp Date	Fin Rev	Ann Rpt	IRS 990	Budget	STJ Dues	MOPTA	2 Memb
Benton High School PTSA	00005340	2/3/2011							x
Bessie Ellison PTA	00005141	10/8/2011					x		
Bode Middle School PTSA	00023707	Aug-12	x	x	x	x		x	
Central High PTSA (Vest)	00032390	10/7/2011	x	x	x				x
Coleman Elementary PTA (Ves)	00005351	6/24/2011					x		x
Edison Elementary PTA	00005355	10/13/2011	x	x	x		x	x	x
Eugene Field Elementary PTA	00005357	10/31/2011	x	x	x	x	x		x
F. L. Skaith Elementary PTA	00005335	11/1/2011					x		x
Hall Elementary PTA (Vest)	00005361	6/7/2012					x		x
Harry S Truman Middle School	00005359	12/10/2010							x
Hosea Elementary PTA	00005339	10/31/2011	x	x					
Humboldt Elementary PTA	00005342	12/18/2011	x	x	x	x			x
Hyde Elementary PTA	00005336	12/10/2011							
John J. Pershing Elementary PT	00005344	12/7/2011	x	x	x	x	x		x
Lafayette High P TSA	00005356	9/1/2012	x	x	x	x	x		x
Lake Contrary Elementary PTA	00012491	10/25/2011	x	x		x	x		x
Lindbergh Accelerated Elementa	00005345	Needed ASAP	x	x	x		x		
Mark Twain Elementary PTA	00005331	Needed ASAP	x	x	x	x	x		
Noyes Elementary PTA	00005353	12/17/2011							x
Parkway PTA	00010229	3/29/2012							
Pickett Elementary School PTA	00005363	7/27/2011							
Robidoux Middle School PTSA	00010230	12/3/2011							
Spring Garden Middle School P	00005338	10/13/2011						x	x
St. Joseph Council PTA	00053666	9/2/2012	x	x	x	x	n/a	x	n/a

Category of **2 Memb** is for the 2 PTA cards that need to be turned in for Lisa Little & Dr. Smith to join your PTA unit.

*Please turn the missing information in to Lisa Little prior to OCTOBER 15th.  
Lisa will forward all required documents to the Missouri PTA on your behalf.*

## **CLASS SIZE**

**SUMMARY:** During turbulent times it is important to remember a high-quality education is vital to our children. One way to ensure our students receive the attention to their education they deserve and need is by keeping class sizes at manageable levels. Reducing class sizes has been a proven method for increasing learning and narrowing the achievement gap. Currently, according to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MODESE), kindergarten through second grade classes can have as many as 25 students, third and fourth grades as many as 27 students, and fifth and sixth grades as many as 30 students. These numbers can change as MODESE recommends. This resolution would encourage MODESE not to increase those numbers while also calling for a 15% decrease in class size recommendations over the next five years.

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Smaller class size, particularly in the early grades, is one of the few educational strategies shown to increase learning and narrow the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, Smaller class size in the middle and upper grades are linked to higher student achievement and lower rates of dropouts and disciplinary referrals; and

WHEREAS, Teachers with smaller class sizes experience better working conditions and have a better chance to succeed; and

WHEREAS, The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "2011 Missouri Accreditation Standards for Public School Districts" minimum class size standards are as follows; K-2 (25 students), grades 3-4 (27 students), grades 5-6 (30 students), and grades 7-12 (33 students); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils, encourage school districts to maintain smaller class sizes in all grades; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, encourage the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to maintain or decrease the minimum and desired standards of class sizes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, encourage the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a written master plan of significantly reducing class size recommendations by at least fifteen percent (15%) of the "Missouri Accreditation Standards for Public School Districts" within the next five (5) years by the beginning of the 2017 school year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, urge the Missouri State Legislature to adequately fund public schools in order to make these reductions in class sizes possible.

**(Submitted by MOPTA Resolutions Committee)**

# **IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND SCHOOLS**

## **SUMMARY:**

In the past few years two very significant factors have lead to more of Missouri's students walking and biking to school. Programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles by walking and biking to school are promoted in the schools, by PTAs and the Media. In addition, high fuel costs and budget deficits have lead many schools to limit busing. Unfortunately, for many students living in rural, suburban and urban settings, the route to school is not a safe one. Safety is the primary factor causing parents to be hesitant in allowing their children to walk or bike to school. Improving the infrastructure around schools would dramatically improve walking and biking conditions. Currently, there are many grants, programs and allotted monies in city budgets to improve infrastructure. This resolution would bring awareness to unsafe routes and encourage the utilization of available funds, programs and grants to improve these conditions.

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Parents cite safety issues and traffic concerns as the number one reason for not allowing their children to walk or bike to school; this concern is substantiated by the fact that between 2008 and 2009 Missouri experienced a rise in pedestrian fatalities and in 2009 one pedestrian was killed or injured every 6.7 hours, and improvements in traffic control and infrastructure design could greatly reduce such risks to pedestrians and bicyclist; and,

WHEREAS, Health experts and health programs recommend walking and bicycling to school as an effective strategy to fight childhood obesity; and,

WHEREAS, School districts faced with a 10% increased cost in fuel since the beginning of 2010, and restricted scope in reimbursement funds from the state no longer offer transportation for students living less than a mile from school, and due to recent budget deficits some schools have eliminated bus transportation; and,

WHEREAS, Several infrastructure programs and grants exist that are designed to improve local neighborhoods and parks; in addition, most local governments already include capital funding in their budgets for infrastructure improvement; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), their units and councils, work directly with school administrations and local officials to bring attention to unsafe walking and biking routes to schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Missouri PTA, their units and councils, encourage local governments to seek out and apply for state and federal infrastructure grants; utilizing funds to build and improve infrastructure, including but not limited to sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, crossing signals, traffic signals and street lighting.

**(Submitted by South Valley Middle School PTSA, Liberty, MO)**



## **DISTRACTED DRIVING**

**SUMMARY:** We submit this resolution because it's not just teens that text, it's the adults too. And we all are just not texting; we are checking email, Twitter and Facebook. The number one cause of distracted driving is the use of handheld devices. In one year alone this has affected 38% of all Americans. As the youth of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers we would like to see laws restricting the use of handheld devices in order to make our roads safer.

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The number one cause of distracted driving is the use of handheld devices; drivers using a handheld device are four times more likely to cause a crash serious enough to cause injury, and in one year, accidents or near misses caused by distracted drivers affected 38% of Americans; an estimated one million drivers talk on their phones, whether handheld or hands free, while driving; and

WHEREAS, More than 80% of all drivers admit to hazardous behavior including changing clothes, painting nails, shaving, eating, or steering with body parts other than their hands; in addition, 9 out of 10 teen drivers say they have seen people driving distracted; and

WHEREAS, According to recent studies, in one year approximately 6,000 people were killed due to distracted driving and half a million more were injured; when accidents resulting from distracted driving occurred, 16% were fatal and 20% caused injury, and using a phone while driving, whether handheld or hands free, delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol level of 0.08%; and

WHEREAS, Adult drivers are just as likely to text and drive as teens; out of 2,252 adults surveyed, 27% admitted to texting on the road and 61% admitted to talking on the phone while driving, and deaths due to distracted driving have surpassed the number of deaths due to drunken drivers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils, urge the Missouri State Legislature to create and promote the enforcement of laws that restrict the use of hand-held and portable communication devices while driving; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, urge the Missouri State Legislature to require the Department of Transportation to promote and provide educational resources on the dangers of distracted driving; and be it further

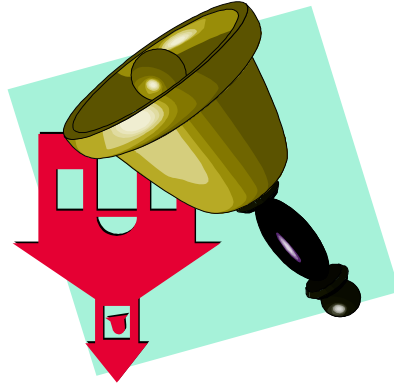
RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, urge adults and students when driving to serve as an example by refraining from driving distracted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its unit and councils, collaborate with school districts, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other organizations to promote awareness and education of distracted driving in the community.

**(Submitted by Missouri PTSA Student Delegates 2011 Leadership Conference)**

PTA PARENTS FOR ALL

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

St. Joseph PTA Council  
PO Box 1116  
St. Joseph, MO 64502

