

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council



Volume 28, Issue 2

October 2012



Presidents

Corner...

We have kicked it off in style! Many membership drives, carnivals, fundraisers and Reflections campaigns have already started. I commend all of you on your hard work and dedication to the children of the SJSD. Your work shows pride in your community and the education of our children.

As we move into October and strive to be Units in Good Standing, annual audits become due to the council and the state. When emailing or postal mailing your audit to council, forward a copy to state. The audit will include copies of your annual report, financial review and your 990 receipt.

Paperwork requested by the PTA Council includes copies of your 2012-13 Budget, and current Bonding Insurance. The final pieces to becoming a Unit in Good Standing are paying council dues; providing membership cards for the council president and superintendent, the council will write you a check for dues; and sending membership totals to the state level. If you have questions, please email me at sjpta@hotmail.com.

As always I am very excited to hear about your ideas for programs in your school. Join us on Facebook at St Joseph Mo PTA Council and tell us what your unit is doing. While you may not think your program is a big deal, another school may be able to use the idea to help their unit.

*Thank you and have a great month!!
Brigitte
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) Jena Kirschner

Signature _____ 10489 SE State Rt. A

Title _____ St. Joseph, MO 64507

816-244-1687
jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us

Send Bill To: _____

Or at TMC 816-671-4390
**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 _____

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH, 2012
 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 A PROCLAMATION

Over the past several decades, childhood obesity has become a serious public health issue that puts millions of our sons and daughters at risk. The stakes are high: if we do not solve this problem, many among America's next generation will face diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other health problems associated with obesity. Thankfully, while more remains to be done, we are making real progress toward a healthier future for our children. During National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, we rededicate ourselves to meeting that critical responsibility.

For more than 2 years, First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative has worked with stakeholders across the private and public sectors to expand access to nutritious food, promote physical activity, encourage healthy food choices, create healthy starts for children, and ensure families have the tools they need to make healthy decisions. Communities from coast to coast are taking action to fulfill those goals. Over 4,000 schools have established rigorous nutrition and physical activity standards through the HealthierUS School Challenge, and more than a million Americans have earned the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award by committing to healthy eating and regular exercise. The Healthy Food Financing Initiative is developing projects that increase access to healthy, affordable food in communities that currently lack these options. Let's Move! has also partnered with faith based and community organizations that are expanding access to fresh fruits and vegetables in their neighborhoods, and local elected officials are leading the way in making healthy changes for cities, towns, and counties across America.

Earlier this year, my Administration implemented part of the historic Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act by releasing new rules for school lunches and breakfasts that ensure a higher nutritional standard one that includes more whole grains, vegetables, and fruits, and less fat and sodium. These changes represent the first major revision to school meal requirements in more than 15 years, and they come on the heels of recent updates to the Federal Government's Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To commemorate the healthy choices families, schools, and communities are making in kitchens across America, the First Lady was proud to host the first Kids' "State Dinner" this summer, which welcomed 54 young chefs to the White House for a formal luncheon to celebrate their commitment to healthy, affordable recipes. To find additional information on how we can solve the problem of childhood obesity within a generation, visit www.LetsMove.gov.

Each of us can play a role in ensuring our children have the opportunity to live long, healthy lives, and by joining together in pursuit of that mission, I am confident we can build a brighter future for America's youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 2012 as National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. I encourage all Americans to learn about and engage in activities that promote healthy eating and greater physical activity by all our Nation's children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty first day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

Submitted by Lisa Little, Health/Wellness and Safety Chair

Council Clippings Article Assignments for November 2012
Articles are due October 10, 2012

<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>Parent Involvement</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. Just a friendly reminder to send articles in word document (.doc),. pdf form is not easily transferable.

"Industry, thrift and self-control are not sought because they create wealth, but because they create character." – Anonymous

Submitted by Jacy Atkins,
 Character & Spiritual Leader

Happy 100th Anniversary
 MO PTA



Legislation Report...

With the Presidential Election looming on the horizon, it is important that we keep communications open and 'innocent' with our friends and neighbors. Does political talk make you squeamish? It certainly can be difficult when neighbors and close relatives quickly become belligerent while explaining their views. Here are a few ways to let them be heard, while politely resisting the urge to argue:

1. Remain CALM.
2. Let the other person talk. They inevitably stop.
3. Curry favor...and know thy facts. A simple "oh, I see" will do wonders.
4. If the situation gets out of hand, leave the conversation. "We should continue this conversation after you have calmed down." ... works with 6 year olds, as well as middle-aged men.
5. Love politics. Hate politics. But don't NOT care.
6. Now get out and VOTE! As child advocates it is their voice that can be heard through ours.

The latest updates from the PTA Legislation include a revised policy on charter schools. PTA has long opposed school vouchers, tuition credits and deductions, which are often associated with charter schools, including not having to follow education guidelines set by the government. In accordance with the National PTA's mission statement: "To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children." We realize that "every child" means EVERY child. While there are still issues to discuss and settle, we cannot ignore the growing number of schools in which there are no organizations balancing the powers and enabling parents and teachers to act on behalf of the students. As long as the charter schools "adhere to and comply with applicable laws and guidelines", the same as public schools, PTA will support legislation and policies concerning charter schools.

For more information:

http://www.pta.org/topic_position_statement_support-for_public_education.asp

- Michelle Rautmann, Legislative Chair

Reflections...

The Magic of a Moment...

Hoping to make this years Reflections Program "Magical". We can all work together by getting as much information out to as many people as possible by sending your school's contact information, Reflections guidelines and rules, and due date for the projects to dance studios, music instructors, writing teachers and photography instructors. If we all spread the word, this could be our most "magical" year yet!

ALL ENTRIES are due in the Fine Arts Coordinators room (9) at WEBSTER LEARNING CENTER office by 4:00pm December 18th.

Submitted by Tara Shryock, Reflections Chair

Bylaws update....

Units with bylaws due this school year are...

St. Joseph PTA Council...	11/13/2012
Central.....	10/12/2012
Edison.....	5/22/2013
Ellison.....	5/22/2012
Lake.....	12/30/2012
Noyes.....	12/4/2012
Pershing.....	1/28/2013

Bylaws changes must be presented to your general assembly and set out (check your bylaws for appropriate timeframe) and then voted on by the general assembly. Once they have been voted on you must send to the State PTA bylaws chair for approval. Please contact Barb Harris, PTA Council bylaws chair, if you need any help; jbcb4@att.net.



A note from our State Legislation Chair...

On September 28th, 2012, theaters nationwide will release the movie Won't Back Down. This film depicts the story of two moms who attempt to mobilize parents in demand of reforms for their failing school. While the film does not mention or use the term "parent trigger", the parent trigger movement inspired this film.

This film was influenced by true events that took place in 2010 at McKinley Elementary School in Compton, California. However there are many differences between the film's dramatization and the actual events that took place. The film simplifies the parent trigger process and created an outcome. Currently there are no incidents in which a parent-approved intervention plan has been successfully implemented.

PTA does not review or endorse films. This film, despite its dramatization, does shed light on the need for educational improvements and the benefit of community, parent and teacher collaboration. PTA encourages all PTA members to engage in an informed dialogue around this and other education reform issues.

PTA has not taken a position in support or opposition to parent trigger legislation. PTA continues to support legislation at the state and federal level that empowers parents to be engaged in their child's education, is reflective of community interests, prioritizes student achievement and builds systemic and sustainable family-school partnerships.

Currently Missouri does not have a parent trigger law. Because of the political climate in Missouri it is possible local or national media may contact you to comment on the film or parent trigger legislation in general. **To ensure consistency, PTA has asked that all media inquiries at the state, district, council and unit level be forwarded to National PTA (James Martinez - jmartinez@pta.org) for comment on behalf of the Association.**

Hopefully, this movie will result in an increased awareness of the importance of parent and community involvement in our schools. Please feel free to contact Missouri PTA if you need more information regarding the benefits of parent and community involvement or parent trigger laws in general.

Dorothy Gardner
Vice President and Director Department of Legislation and Advocacy
Missouri PTA
Dorothyg@mopta.org

Regional Director Report....

I'm so excited to see so many units doing well with membership and so many activities going on. The beginning of the school year is filled with so many things going on and sometimes you can meet yourself coming and going. I was always so happy to see the school year start and see all the kids and how excited they were to get back to school.

If you have anything exciting going on in your Unit please let me know so that I can brag on you at the State PTA board meetings. I'm really so proud of you all.

This month I want to talk about your "tax exempt status". There are a few units who don't have their own tax exempt letter and are using their schools. I really want to discourage this. We need you to have your own. It really is not a difficult process. Please contact me if you need to get yours set up. I have the form and a cheat sheet that will make the process very easy.

The cheat sheet includes all materials that will need to be sent in along with the form. I even tell you what you need to put on the form.

I talked with the Dept. of Rev and they told me that if you already have a tax exempt letter you will receive a letter 3 months prior to your expiration date. They will send it to the last known address. I suggest that you use the school's address as your permanent address, that way it won't go to a past president who may not be at your school any longer. Once you receive the notification you need to fill out the renewal form and mail back. I was told that they have the right to deny or ask for further information, but that usually doesn't happen.

Also, when renewing you may need to fill out form 126E, this is a form to change address and officers information. This form really only needs to be filled out when renewing. Unless you know that your address has changed and you will not receive the renewal letter then go ahead and fill out and send in.

As always keep a copy of everything for your records; I suggest the president and the treasurer have copies for their procedure books.

Please let me know if you need any help with this or anything else. I'm here to help. Let me know if there is a topic that I need to address in future articles.

I hope to see many of you at convention. This is a great opportunity since it is in our backyard. So many great workshops and meet our National PTA President. Remember this is our 100th Anniversary for MO PTA the celebration will be awesome!!

I wish you continued success and a great year!!

Lori Prussman
Pony Express Regional Director
lorimopta@gmail.com
816-262-2664

Excerpts from "A New Breed of Volunteer Calls for a New Volunteer Culture" by Thomas McKee in Our Children August/September 2012 Issue

Yesterday's volunteer programs were designed for a different world, and they worked great - back then. PTA leaders who still operate like it is 1979 keep asking these questions:

- Where have all the volunteers gone?
- Where is all the passion and excitement?
- Why aren't people as committed as they used to be?
- How do I get volunteers engaged when they are so busy?

PTAs have always faced the challenge of competing for volunteer time. Your primary volunteer base is made up of parents of public school children, and parents are being pulled in many directions, as their children are more engaged than ever in multiple extracurricular activities that may have their own specialized parent groups. Parents with limited time have to pick and choose where they volunteer and may only get involved in the music parents group or sports boosters.

In addition, PTA leaders have to face the reality that volunteers do not act like they did in years past. Seismic shifts are shaking up the world of volunteer engagement, and we have a whole new breed of volunteers to involve.

The new challenges of volunteer management

What are some of the factors that have caused shifts in volunteer engagement?

Changed family dynamics. Good-bye "Father Knows Best," hello "Modern Family."

New modes of activism. "Slactivism" provides a convenient feel-good experience to those with the desire to give back to society without actually getting their hands dirty...wearing wristbands, or making small donations from a smartphone while sitting on the couch.

Episodic volunteering. [D]ropping in and out of involvement by taking on only short-term projects.

Social Networking.

These four seismic shifts are not going away. They new breed of volunteer calls for a new volunteer culture.

Assess your PTA's volunteer culture

Question One: Are you emphasizing the constants?

The first constant is passion. Parents are passionate about their children, and PTA offers opportunities to fulfill their passion. That is your starting point.

The second constant is your mission. For 116 years, PTA has promoted the education, health, and safety of children, youth, and families. PTA has this long-term, constant advantage over other groups that are trying to recruit parents. Emphasize early and often what you are doing today to enhance the education, health and safety of our children and families.

Question Two: Do you depend on announcements to get volunteers?

Twenty-first century volunteers do not raise their hands. They new breed of volunteer wants to be asked personally to get involved, and they want to decide for themselves what tasks they want to take on.

Question Three: Are you asking for a "date" or "marriage"?

It may take three or four...dates before you ask for a commitment to be a regular volunteer, but through this careful cultivation, you should be able to get a volunteer as eager to work for your PTA as you are.

Question Four: Are you taking advantage of social networks to communicate?

[W]ikis, YouTube, Facebook, blogs, and Twitter to communicate quickly to your volunteers?

[M]ake plans to create a new-breed volunteer culture and recapture the excitement of engaged volunteers working toward a common goal.

Submitted by Charisse Giseburt, Family Involvement Chair

Treasurer's Tip...

Cash Box Funds

* Make check payable to bank and make sure to note on memo that this is for Cash Box Funds-Note What Activity. Fill out an Expense Voucher for this check.

* Use the Talley Sheet Deposit Voucher to note the breakdown of Cash Box Funds. Have someone else count the cash box before the activity starts and record on the Talley Sheet Voucher. There is a line for them to sign this form. This will now be your receipt to attach to the Expense Voucher. This is an expense not income because you are using your own money.

*After the event, pull out the amount of your Cash Box Fund (startup fund) before totaling the cash box. Someone will need to verify this and sign the form that this was recorded. This will need to be re-deposited and is best if done separate from event or activity deposit. This is easier to track that the Cash Box Funds were re-deposited when financial review is completed.

Shelly Baker, St. Joseph PTA Council Treasurer

October is Disability Awareness Month

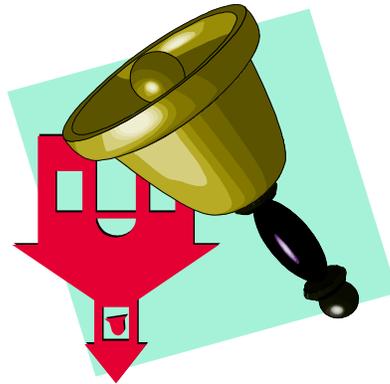
Please help support the "spread the word to end the word" efforts and help prevent bullying!

Submitted by Lisa Gray, Special Education Chair



NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

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

