

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 20, Issue 4

December 2004



Kerry Funck, Council President

Have you asked Dr. Colgan to join your PTA/PTSA yet? Have you asked me? We would like to be members of 25 units. Please send us a card along with your dues amount and we will send you our dues or bring a card to the next meeting. We will be back at Hillyards.

I would like to hear from all of you on how your membership drives are going. Please take time to fill out the short questionnaire. We just might have a surprise for the school with the most innovated membership idea. Now would be a good time to get the final membership push under way. We still have until March to get 100% participation or 10% above last years numbers.

If you attended our last meeting you heard our Convention report but I would like to thank Peggy Woods for spending 2 days manning the hospitality room. She went way above and beyond the call of duty to make St. Joseph look good. Thanks also to Lori Bergman and Deb Conrad. Peggy, Lori, and Deb, you all are wonderful and caring people and I am glad I can call you friends. All three of you do St. Joseph PTA Council proud. American Education Week is over and I hope you had a chance to go out to the mall and see the wonderful displays and hear the great groups perform. Chauntel, thank you for organizing this week along with MSTA and NEA and thanks to Sharon Kosek for getting up early to be on the Morning Show. Mrs. Weston needs our thanks as well for retrieving the displays from the storage area at the mall and making sure they got to the proper schools. Isn't it amazing what can be accomplished with a team? PTA people make great teams!

Well, it is only December. We still have a lot of PTA events and programs left. Salute to School in January, Reflections, Spelling Bee, Founder's Day (I have heard it is going to be wonderful again this year), Principal of the Year, and so much more. We are hoping to have a new program in March, it is still in the planning stages right now. I will let you know more when we have all the kinks worked out.

I think that is all I have for you right now. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas, Happy Hanukah, or Kwanza and a joyful New Year.

Kerry Funck



SALUTE THE SCHOOLS MONTH

January 2005 is the month PTA's salute their school's staff. The PTSA Council will be saluting all the district staff that are not associated with a PTA. This would include central office, maintenance, print shop, Huston Learning Center, Hillyard Technical School...etc.

Founders Day 2005

A Different Kind of Hero is the theme this year for the St. Joseph PTA Council Founder's Day.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 15, 2005 at Stoney Creek Inn with registration at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Principals and Presidents watch your mail for your Founder's Day invitation.

Lori Bergman, Chairman

Council Clippings Article Assignments for January 2005 Articles are due December 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>Reflections Awards</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Founders Day</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 Christmas Envelope

From Sowing Seeds Ministry

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past 10 years or so.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas---oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it-overspending...the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma -- the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church, mostly black. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat.

Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids--all kids--and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church.

On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years.

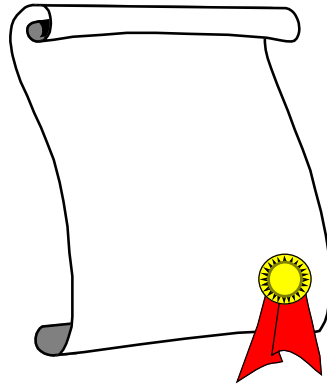
For each Christmas, I followed the tradition---one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there.

You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more. Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing around the tree with wide-eyed anticipation watching as their fathers take down the envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us.

May we all remember Christ, who is the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always.



THE ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL AWARD

Our school principals provide a great deal of leadership for the children, their families, staff, teachers, other principals of the St. Joseph School District, and our community. They deserve recognition for their dedicated efforts.

The St. Joseph PTA Council (since 1994-95 school year) will honor one outstanding St. Joseph School District principal at the annual Founder's Day Banquet.

The principal must be nominated by a member of his or her PTA/PTSA unit and should be an exemplary individual for his/her peers.

The principal should actively encourage PTA/PTSA leaders in his or her school; use creativity in working with the school's unit; encourage PTA/PTSA membership; attend PTA/PTSA functions; encourage teachers and staff members from his or her school to be members of PTA/PTSA as well as encourage them to attend PTA/PTSA functions; and work for the overall betterment of PTA/PTSA.

Nomination forms for this award, **MUST** be received by the St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chairman **NOT LATER THAN January 21, 2004!!** Please only one nomination per principal.

Nominations are to be sent to:

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

Only the Award Winner will be announced at the PTA Founder's Day Banquet. He or she will receive a prestigious, engraved PTA Medallion Award and a financial stipend for his or her outstanding leadership in PTA/PTSA. The individual's name will also be put on display in the School Board Room of the St. Joseph School District.

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



Thank you for your interest!

DAVIS-LANGEMACH PTA COUNCIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

SCHOOL / ASSIGNMENT _____ WORK PHONE _____

WORK ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

NAME OF NOMINATOR _____

ADDRESS / SCHOOL _____ PHONE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

MY NOMINEE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE BY

(Please use back of page if necessary.)

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE _____

NOMINATOR'S SIGNATURE _____



**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 _____

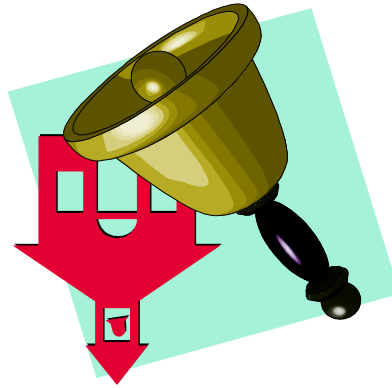
Confirmation

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

