

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 24, Issue 4

December 2008



Presidents

Corner...

Peggy Wood, Council President

Happy Holidays to all!!!! It doesn't seem possible that we could be at this point in the school year already. Time flies by too quickly. So, as we approach the holidays, it is a welcome time to slow down, spend time with family and friends and enjoy.

The St. Joseph PTA Council has had an eventful fall. Membership kick offs at the local units have been great!! Thank you, thank you, thank you to all those units who have again stepped up to the challenge. Let's keep pushing to gain more memberships.

January and February are shaping up to be busy months for PTA. January 9, 2009 is the deadline for Reflections entries. This year's theme is WOW!! Please contact Azure Hailey at 238-2409 for additional information or assistance. We hope everyone will participate in all events this year. We always have great entries and lots of winners!!!! Please remember that if you need to have your entries picked up, I will be glad to come by your school. Give me a call at 390-6948. Reflections entries are due by 4:00 the afternoon of January 9 at the TMC.

The County Spelling Bee will be held at Truman Middle School on February 14, 2009. Registration for the event begins at 8:30 a.m.

Grant applications are included in this issue of Clippings. Please be sure and fill this out as it needs to be completed to receive your grant money. According to our standing rules a unit must have the following to be eligible: at least one membership turned in to the state office, Council dues paid, and bylaws current. Checks will be passed out at our Founder's Day Banquet.

Our Founder's Day Banquet will be held February 2, 2009 at the Holiday Inn. Please make plans to attend this event. It will again be casual dress and we always have a great time.

I want to talk about our monthly meetings at Hillyards. Presidents should try to attend these meetings every month. If the president is not able to attend then someone from your unit should be asked to attend in their place. I am finding that when we have General meetings the Principals seem to be the majority of those in attendance. There were only a handful of presidents at our last General meeting. Please remember that our principals don't attend these meetings for the presidents. I don't want to seem "grumpy" about this but we need to step up to the plate and handle our own duties.

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Founder's Day Dinner

Feb. 2, 2009

Holiday Inn

Registration begins at 5:30

Dinner at 6:00

Invitation will be in next month's
Clippings and mailed to each school.

Merry Christmas



Please note that Clippings deadline
Is **December 5th** due to
Christmas break.

**Council Clippings Article Assignments for
January 2009**
Articles are due December 5, 2008

<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.**

Continued from page 1...

Last but not least, I have to let you all know that I have a new grandson. Brenden Lee was born on November 6th and weighed 7 lbs. 15 ounces. He is awesome!!!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Let's be ready to begin 2009 with some great PTA events. Our next meeting is January 5, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

God Bless You All,
Peggy Wood
St. Joseph PTA Council President

Missouri Child Advocacy Day - January 27, 2009

WRITTEN BY MOPTA

Missouri's Child Advocacy Day
Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Make plans now to join Missouri PTA and Missouri's Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families in the Capital beginning at 9:00am in the Capital Rotunda.

The events for the day include:

- Recognition of this year's Child Advocate Award
- Workshops
- Exhibits showcasing services for children and families
- Meetings with legislators
- Networking with other advocates
- March to the Capitol and Rally

Items to Remember:

- You do not need to preregister.
- You may attend Child Advocacy Day free of charge.
- Parking is available in the Madison Street Garage for a fee. Free parking is available on the west side of the Capitol (down the hill).
- Call your Senator or Representative in advance to make a 15-minute appointment.
- Find the name of your senator or representative on the internet at

http://www.senate.mo.gov/lookup/leg_lookup.aspx

Business casual clothing is suggested.

Submitted by Lori Prussman

REFLECTIONS

This year's theme is
WOW.....

We have 6 categories to choose from:
**Visual Arts, Literature, Photography, Music,
Choreography and Film.**

*Remember all entries must be turned in by January 7, 2009
at the Troester Media Center
no later than 4:00pm in Darren Verbick's office.

If you need any help please feel free to contact me
by e-mail ajhailey@sbcglobal.net
or by phone 816-248-2071.

Azure Hailey
Reflections Chair

Convention Report

As a representative of the St. Joseph PTA Council, I attended the Missouri PTA 93rd Annual State Convention at the KCI Expo Center. The convention was held October 17-19. Those in attendance had a large selection of workshops, general meetings and speakers to fill the days. There were training opportunities in areas such as membership, advocacy, leadership and marketing.

I attended classes such as PTA Votes-Millions of Members-One Voice. This class was geared towards learning how to use our voices to speak up today for our children's tomorrow. Another class I attended was No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Update. This class gave an overview of the federal law and discussed what's new and how it is working. We also discussed ideas for improving student achievement and parent involvement.

I volunteered to work at the registration booth on Saturday morning and that was fun because I got to meet other members from across the state. There are some great PTA people across the state!!!

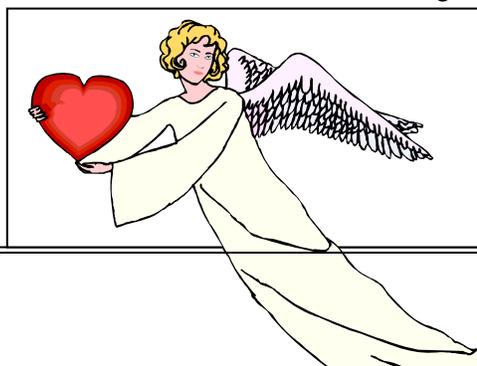
Advocacy may be the strongest component of PTA membership. One of the PTA purposes is to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth. We should all know that our voice does matter, but collectively our voice is 83,000 strong. PTA has helped create kindergarten classes, child labor laws, public health services, hot lunch programs, a juvenile justice system and mandatory immunizations.

I want to give a huge THANK YOU to our Principals. As I visited others at the convention, I found out that our St. Joseph Principals are just about the only ones in the state that attend Council meetings and play an active role in PTA. This is something that we should be so thankful for.

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend the convention this year, please consider it for next year. Another training opportunity will be coming in spring 2009 at the annual Leadership Conference. It is an important tool for training and re-energizing your PTA leaders and members. Please consider supporting your members to engage in these activities.

Peggy Wood
PTA Council President

Success....
is not measured by what we have.
It is about who we are and what we give.



Being Busy Does Not Mean Being Uninvolved

Technology Can Keep Us Connected

In today's society most everyone we come in contact with has a cellphone, including even our younger students. Though cellphones often seem to be a distraction, studies do show that they may strengthen the family unit. "Parents are extending themselves to provide their children with technology because they think it's important or useful," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet project. He suggests that parents and students are in touch more often, with what he calls "love taps" to touch base with each other, than what we saw 10 years ago.

Thinking on these lines we need to jump into the technology world ourselves. Obviously, cellphones, as well as the internet, make teacher-parent communication much easier. Knowing that papers often do not get to the parent in a timely manner, if at all, we can use the technologies at our fingertips to keep the parents involved. A quick email or a short call or text to their phone can let them know how they can help you.

Easy Help as Flu Season Begins

As flu season approaches there are plenty of ways our parents can help our schools. Remember, they just need to be asked.

- **Host a Clean-Up Night:** Invite parents and volunteers to get together to clean and disinfect classrooms.

OR

- **Sponsor a Classroom Wellness Drive:** Have a drop-off where parents can donate tissues, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizers, and health and wellness products that are needed in schools over the course of a year.

Take Your Family To School Week is February 8 – 14, 2009

Some great ideas for this event are found on the PTA website, http://www.pta.org/take_your_family_to_school.asp. Just a few might be: a Monday Morning Coffee Drive-thru, a family dinner, a Community History Telling, a Game Night, a Craft Extravaganza, or a Family-Student-Faculty Sports Event.. Check out the website and let your imagination go wild.

The most important thing is to let the parents know that we want them to be involved however they can. We all understand that life is very busy so we need to be creative about how we include the parents and families.

-Nadienne Hoffman

Parent Involvement Coordinator

St. Joseph PTA Council

Send Your Best Wishes to Elected Officials

It is important that you create an open line of communication with elected officials at the local, state, and national levels. It is appropriate to send a note or letter of congratulations to state officials and an email or phone call of congratulations to federal officials. Be sure to identify yourself as a proud PTA member and the school(s) in which you are a member as well as your home address. Also let them know that you are a supporter of public education and send your best wishes for success in the next session. Below are elected officials at the state level who represent our St. Joseph area and also our legislators at the federal level.



Your state Senator is most likely Senator Charlie Shields. Since he and other state officials are currently out of session, you could send a note of congratulations to each of their homes. We each have one state Senator and one state Representative. We also each have one US Representative (Sam Graves) and two US Senators (Claire McCaskill and Kit Bond). Please go to <http://house.mo.gov> and key in your nine-digit zip code under *Legislator Look-up* to determine who are your elected state and federal officials. You could email Senators Bond and McCaskill and wish them continued success.

State Senator Charlie Shields Selected as Senate President Pro-Tem
District 34
47 SE Erin Court
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Representative Ed Wildberger Re-elected November 4, 2008
District 27
2414 Dewey Street
St. Joseph, MO 64505

Representative Dr. Rob Schaaf Re-elected November 4, 2008
District 28
516 Pinewood Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64506

Representative Martin Rucker Re-elected November 4, 2008
District 29
2703 Meadowridge Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64504

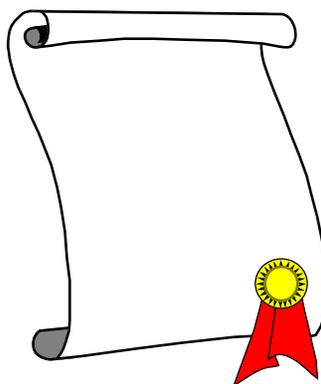
An email of congratulations should be sent to US Congressman Sam Graves. Emails and phone calls are appropriate at the federal level. You may go to the website <http://www.house.gov/graves/contact.shtml> and send him an email. His Washington office phone number is 202.225.7041 and his St. Joseph office phone number is 816.233.9818. Congressman Graves was also re-elected on November 4, 2008. Below are our two US Senators from Missouri.

[Bond, Christopher S.](#)- (R - MO)
274 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-5721
Web Form: bond.senate.gov/contact/contactme.cfm (to contact Senator Bond)

[McCaskill, Claire](#)- (D - MO)
717 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20510
(202) 224-6154
Web Form: mccaskill.senate.gov/contact/ (to contact Senator McCaskill)

Local legislative forums will begin in January. The dates will be listed in our next *Council Clippings*. This is an opportunity for you to hear how state legislation affects you, our schools, and other topics. State Senator Shields and State Representatives Schaaf, Wildberger, and Rucker usually attend the forums. Also traditionally attending the Legislative Forums is a representative of Congressman Sam Graves. I hope you will make a commitment to attend these forums.

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



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 **NO LATER THAN January 15, 2009!!** Please only one nomination per principal.

Nominations are to be sent to: **Mary Cargill, 2610 Ashland Ave., 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.

***Please feel free to use additional page for answers**

St. Joseph PTA Council
Outstanding Principal Of The Year Nomination Form

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Home Address: _____

Nominator's Work Phone: _____

Nominator's Home Phone: _____



Principal's Name: _____ School: _____

Principal's Position in the
PTA/PTSA: _____



How my principal encourages individuals to become PTA/PTSA members and how my principal encourages individuals to attend PTA/PTSA activities:

Please list and explain **THREE** great ideas or things your principal has done at your school during this school year:

*The St. Joseph PTA Council
Lifetime PTA Leadership Award*

The Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award

Background:

In order to keep the National PTA organization financially strong for generations to come, the National PTA started a Foundation.

At the 2005 National PTA Convention, the first National PTA Foundation Breakfast was held. This activity helped to initiate the idea of making gifts to the National PTA Foundation to keep PTA a strong organization for the future. Please see www.pta.org for additional information about the foundation.

The Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award is named after Dr. Colgan because of his strong support and positive relationship with the St. Joseph PTA Council, its units, and members as well as the Missouri PTA. Dr. Dan Colgan has been a model for superintendents across Missouri as a caring and passionate supporter of all children and PTA.

Dr. Colgan has served as the Superintendent of School District of St. Joseph for 13 years. During that time, he has successfully passed much needed levies and a bond issue, befriended thousands of St. Joseph residents, and given of his heart and soul to the children for whom he has been devoted.

Award Information:

The Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award, which is sponsored by the St. Joseph PTA Council, will donate \$250 each year to the National PTA Foundation in the name of a PTA leader who has given a lifetime of enthusiastic dedication to PTA.

It is hoped that other PTA units will follow the example of the St. Joseph PTA Council and begin a National PTA Foundation Award in their schools. PTA members are also encouraged to make donations to the National PTA Foundation.

The National PTA address is

National PTA
541 North Fairbanks Court - Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60611-3396
Phone: (312) 670-6782
Toll-Free: (800) 307-4PTA (4782)
Fax: (312) 670-6783

Any PTA member may make a nomination for the Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award. **Nominations are due January 15, 2009 to Mary Cargill, 2610 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph, MO 64506**, St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chair; with the St. Joseph PTA Council Executive Officers Board making the decision as to the award winner. The presentation will be made at the Founders' Day Banquet. The winner will be presented an award as a keepsake. The first presentation was made at the 2006 Founders' Day Banquet.

The **PURPOSES** of The Parent Teacher Association

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

MISSION STATEMENT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The mission of the PTA is three-fold:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

Grant Request
Through the St. Joseph PTA Council
For the 2008-2009 School Year

The executive committee of each PTA/PTSA may apply for one grant up to the amount of \$750.00.

All proposals will require the following information to be eligible for consideration:

1. General description of the project's purpose and population served.
2. Brief description of the project's implementation plans.
3. Current Bylaws on file, Council Dues paid and at least one membership turned into the state PTA office.
4. Detailed description of project for which funds are requested including:

Purpose and goals of project

- A. Participants to be served
- B. Breakdown of funds requested by specific categories.

Completed proposals should be returned to St. Joseph PTA Council on or before Jan. 15, 2009. Please send to Peggy Wood, 3018 County Line Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505. Grant check will be presented at the Founders Day Celebration, Feb. 2, 2009.

School name:

Contact person:

Address:

Phone number:

Signature of PTA/PTSA President _____

Signature of Principal _____

I. Describe the purpose of your project, including the population that will be served, types of activities, length of project and how this project aligns with the Purposes of the PTA and our Mission statement, please remember that projects should be education based or have a student need focus:

II. Describe the organizational structure of your project. An organizational chart may be attached to help satisfy this requirement. (What staff will be involved? Who will be accountable for funds? Who will order and receive materials?)

III. Describe your project:

A. Purpose and goals for the project (projects must have preapproval from the District office):

B. Describe participants to be served, including how they will be selected.

C. Provide a detailed breakdown of expenses, including categories and anticipated expenditures in each category. Be sure amounts are correct, including any shipping and handling fees. To ensure that funds are being used for projects that have been approved we ask that you submit receipts for said project. Once approval has been made on a project we ask that you use grant money for said project only.

**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: Jena Kirschner
10489 SE State Rt. A
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-244-1687

jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us

Or at TMC 816-671-4390

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 _____

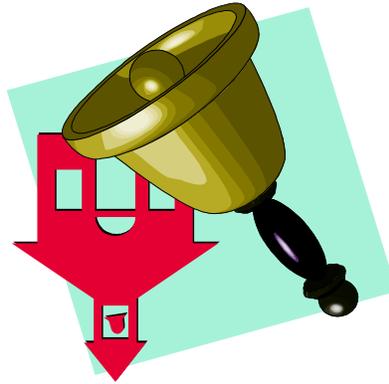
Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is Confirmed for _____

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

COMMUNITY MEETING



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

St. Joseph PTA Council
C/O Lori Prussman
2504 ashland ave
St. Joseph, MO 64506

