

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 25, Issue 4

December 2009

Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year



Presidents

Corner...

Where has the time gone? It seems like just yesterday we were preparing for the first day of school and here we are at Christmas break. The older I get the more quickly time goes by.

I want to again thank you all for your support of the levy. The restoration of these funds will help with maintaining and creating new programming; paying salaries and day to day costs. It was a huge relief when the final numbers came in. I know we all could breathe a little easier. We look forward to a brighter tomorrow.

So much is going on with Council. We share so much information each month it is really vital that each unit send at least one representative. We would like to see even more participation at the monthly meetings. If you are interested just let me know and I will email you a schedule of dates and times. The more ears that hear the more knowledge is passed along to others.

You will find in this issue of Council Clippings a short survey. As Brigitte reported at our last meeting we are making changes to our School of Information. It will help us in the planning stages of this event to get as much feed back as possible. We really need this to be more relevant to not only incoming officers but to our returning officers as well. Your help is crucial in making this as informational as possible. Feel free to make comments and suggestions.

The surveys are to be returned to Brigitte Lindstrom, via school mail, to Edison. We will have copies at our Dec. meeting if you want to fill one out while at the meeting. Again, we really appreciate your input.

Founder's Day is coming along. We're really excited about it. You will find in this addition an invitation with all the details. It will be held at the Knights of Columbus. Spanky and Buckwheat's will be catering. (It will be delicious!) We are going with a picnic theme and dress will be casual. The invitation with your reservations need to be mailed to Mary Kelly, via school mail, to Hosea or to the address listed on the invitation.

In this addition you will also find the applications for our awards that will be presented that night. Mary Cargill is our Awards chair and she will be accepting nominations, deadline is January 15, 2010.

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

Signature _____

Title _____

10489 SE State Rt. A
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-244-1687
jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us
Or at TMC 816-671-4390

Send Bill To: _____

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 _____

Parent Involvement/ Dad Involvement

It is important that we encourage our dads to become a part of PTA and the schools. Students have a higher rate of success when both parents are involved in their schooling. Here are 10 ways to help encourage male involvement.

1. Make your PTA membership pitch relevant to men. Men like to be a part of a solution, show them how they will be helpful.
2. Use specific messaging and advertising aimed toward men. Men want to know they are needed, be specific.
3. Just ask them. Many men just aren't asked to be a part of PTA or what is happening at school.
4. Ask the women in PTA to ask all the men involved in their child's life to join. It is not just dads that make a difference, grandpas, uncles and brothers do too.
5. Create more volunteer opportunities and special events just for dads. Hands on project and sports events will draw men to see how they can help.
6. Remind the men that PTA membership does not always require a large amount of time. Often men don't see where they will fit in a lot of extra time to another program, give them opportunities to come and go as they have time.
7. Give it to them straight. Men want the what, where, when and how. Be specific.
8. Communicate with men the way they want to be reached. Fewer meetings and clear agendas are important. In between meetings use email or short newsletters.
9. Seek male members in the community. Look for members or volunteers through Kiwanis, Rotary, or Lions clubs.
10. Recognize and celebrate your members. Let the community know when you have a great group of male volunteers in the school. Send a newsletter out to businesses sharing the great things they are doing.

Keep these things in mind and remember that without the dads you are missing half of your PTA work force.

- Nadienne Hoffman
Parent Involvement

Council Clippings Article Assignments for January 2010 Articles are due December 5, 2009

<i>Presidents Report</i>	<i>Character & Spiritual</i>
<i>Regional Director article</i>	<i>Reflections</i>
<i>Founders Day</i>	<i>Awards</i>

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...

Just a reminder that Reflections deadline to TMC is Friday, January 8th. Please make sure that all proper paperwork is filled out and all signatures have been obtained. Without signatures and proper paperwork we will not be able to send them on to the State level. It is really important to double check each entry.

Also, State does not return literature, dance or music composition. Please make a copy for Council and a copy for your students. We will display the copy at our Reflections ceremony in the spring. We had some sad students when they did not get their pieces returned last spring. It's really no fun seeing those sad faces.

We are looking forward to sending off even more entries this year, as the State has changed the number of entries that can be sent in. This year we can send in three (3) entries per grade level per category. That is great news!! Good luck to all the students!

I want to extend a heart felt Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you. I pray that each home will be blessed and full of joy. Have a great time with your families and enjoy each and every moment.

Continued success.
Lori Prussman

PS: We have several volunteer opportunities coming up. If you would like to become more active in one of our upcoming events please email me and we can get you more information.

Today...Tomorrow...Together State Convention 2009

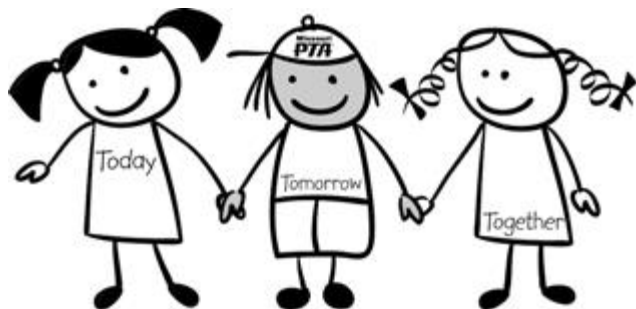
If you were unable to attend the 2009 Missouri PTA state convention mark your calendar now for 2010! Each year the state convention provides numerous workshops to help PTA leaders learn about programs, services, and issues that PTAs across the state face.

This year was no different. I left the convention with more knowledge and ideas from attending leader training workshops and more options for programs, fundraisers, and services available to PTAs from workshops and the exhibit hall. Every PTA is similar; we all have successes and we all face challenges. Attending state convention gives you a chance to share your success stories and look for solutions to your challenges.

You will be amazed by the new ideas and information that surface each year. For example, this year I attend a workshop about child identity theft. One of the key tips that stuck with me is that you should have a credit report run on your child periodically. There should not be any information come back on the report. If anything shows up you know that your child's identity has been stolen.

So, as I said earlier... mark your calendar now for 2010. In 2010, state convention will be held in Columbia, MO. The dates are October 15 – 17.

Mary Kelly



A few reminders for PTA presidents and treasurers--

All PTAs must file with Missouri PTA: Part of being "in good standing" is that all PTA units and councils **must send to Missouri PTA by December 1** of every year a copy of all of the following:

1. **Annual Financial Review** (audit)--see Audit Reporting Form accompanied by the Audit Submission Form included in Summer Tool Kit and on www.mopta.org under forms/applications
2. **Annual Financial Report** (summary of all transactions for the fiscal year)
3. **IRS 990 Filing** (990-N electronic receipt or 990EZ and Schedule A)

All PTAs must file with IRS: Regardless of income every PTA unit and council must file each year with the IRS by the fifteenth day of the fifth month following the close of your fiscal year. Therefore, if your fiscal year ends on June 30, your IRS filing is due Monday, November 16. As listed above, a copy of that filing or of the electronic receipt is due to Missouri PTA by December 1.

Patty Buckholz
Missouri PTA Treasurer
pattyb@mopta.org
816-353-3698

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."

~ Oren Arnold

Submitted by Shelby Hawkins

BUCHANAN COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Saturday, February 13, 2010, may seem like a long time off, but it will be here before we know it. For those schools who enrolled by the October 16, 2009, deadline, they already have access to all the information needed to insure that their spelling champions are eligible to move up to the county level. If your school didn't enroll by October 16, a late enrollment period from October 17, 2009, through December 18, 2009, is available. All schools enrolling during the late enrollment period will be subject to a late enrollment fee of \$75 per school in addition to the original \$99.

Two major changes will occur during the 2010 Buchanan County Bee regarding the time schedule and the determination of the finalists who will attend the regional bee in March. The registration and bee time has been changed from morning to afternoon. Registration is at 12:30 P.M. with the bee following immediately at 1:00 P.M. To determine the top two finalists who will attend the regional bee, a spell-off with the five finalists from both the elementary and middle school divisions will take place. These ten finalists will compete for the 1st and 2nd place trophies and the opportunity to represent Buchanan County at the regional bee.

As always, if you have questions or comments on anything concerning the bee, please contact me at karenheyde@yahoo.com or 816-279-9290.

Respectfully,
Karen Heyde-Lipanovich
Coordinator, Buchanan County Spelling Bee

Tips for Helping Children Deal with Bullies

- Teach your children early on to steer clear of youth with bullying behavior.
- Teach your children to be assertive rather than aggressive or violent when confronted by a bully. Instruct them to walk away and get help from an adult in more dangerous situations. Practice various responses with your children through role-playing.
- Teach your children to never defend themselves from bullies with a gun or other weapon.
- Keep communication lines open with your children. Encourage your children to share information about school and school-related activities.
- Pay attention to the following symptoms that may indicate your child is being bullied: withdrawal, abrupt lack of interest in school, a drop in grades, or signs of physical abuse.
- If your child is a victim of bullying at school, inform school officials immediately. Keep your own written records of the names, dates, times, and circumstances of bullying incidents. Submit a copy of this report to the school principal.
- Respond to your children's concerns and fears with patience, love, and support.

For more information visit www.pta.org

"The earth has grown old with its burden of care
But at Christmas it always is young,
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair
And its soul full of music breaks the air,
When the song of angels is sung."

~ Phillips Brooks (1835-93)

Submitted by Shelby Hawkins

School of Information survey...

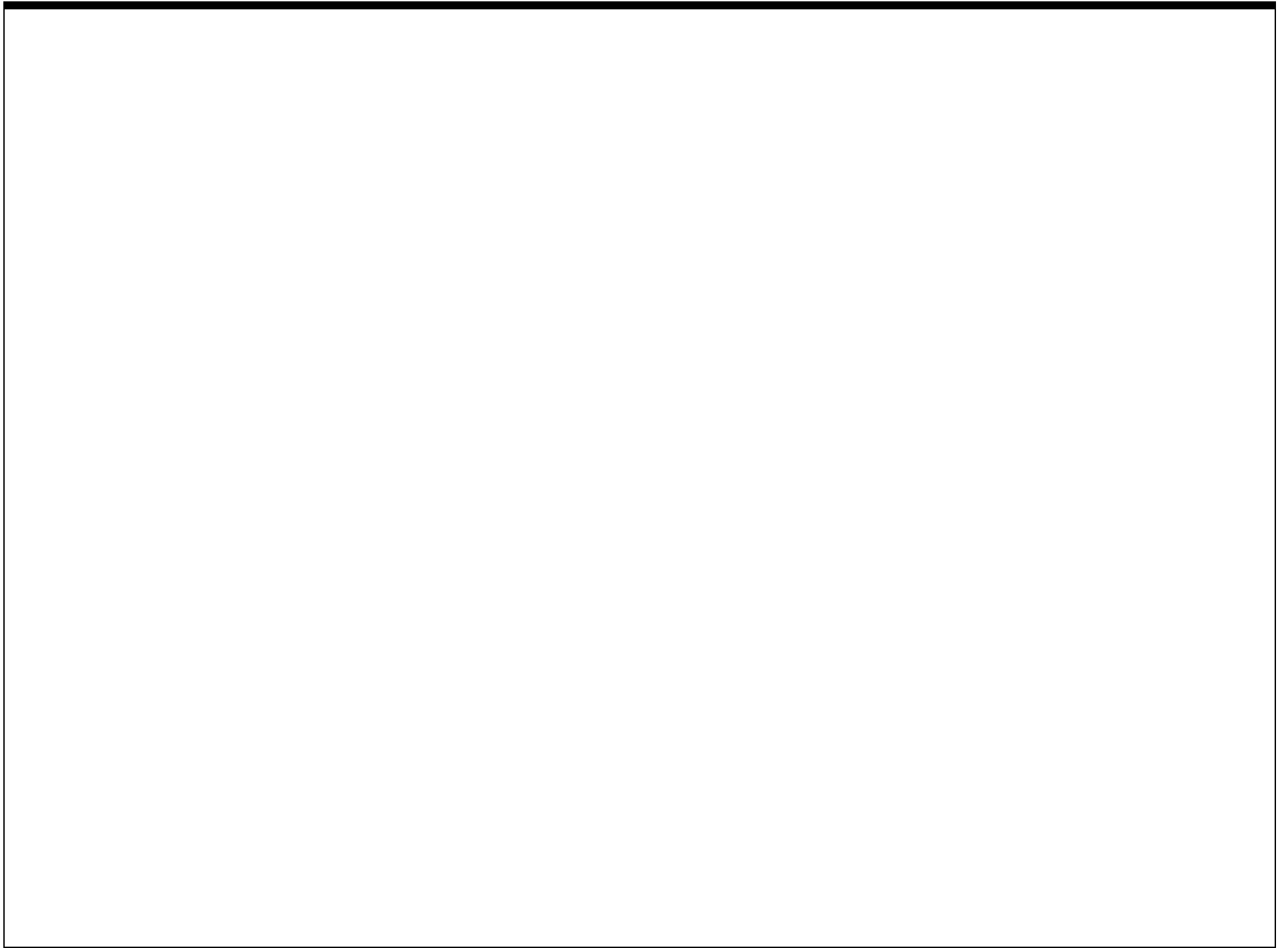
Please help us help you. We are in the process of updating the School of Information format. We need your input as soon as possible to complete these changes. Please take a few minutes and answer these questions, so that we can get a better feel of what our unit officers need. We greatly appreciate all of your help.

1. Have you attended a School of Information in the past?
2. Do you plan to attend this spring?
3. What information do you wish you had as an incoming officer?

4. How can we best help new officers get the information and mentoring they need?
5. As an existing officer, what would you like to learn from the School of Information?
6. How can we best achieve the goal of educating our new and existing officers?
7. What topics would you like us to present?
8. Would you like to be a volunteer?

Feel free to use additional paper.

Please return to Brigette Lindstrom via school mail at Edison Elementary School by **January 5, 2010**.





Please join us as we celebrate

St. Joseph PTA Council Founder's Day "Life's a picnic with PTA!"

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Registration begins at 5:30pm.
Dinner begins promptly at 6:00pm.

Catering by Spanky and Buckwheat's
Chicken and brisket buffet with all the fixin's

Casual dress

Knights of Columbus, 1205 N. 49th Terr., St. Joseph, MO

Cost-\$10.00 per person

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: Thursday, January 21, 2010

NO REFUNDS – NO EXCEPTIONS

School Name _____

Person Attending

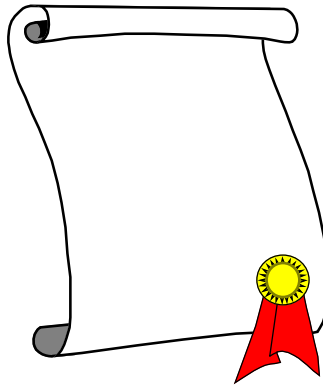
St. Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Volunteer Award Winner _____

Total number of guests: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Note anyone who is a Missouri Life Member (MLM) with *
Note anyone who is a Past Council President with #

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
AND MAIL TO:

St. Joseph PTA Council
Mary Kelly, Treasurer
321 West Hyde Park Ave., 64504



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, 2010!!** Please only one nomination per principal.

Nominations are to be sent to: **Mary Cargill, 1609 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 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 answer.**

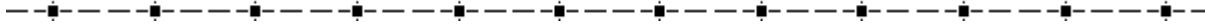
St. Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Principal Of The Year Nomination Form

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Home Address: _____

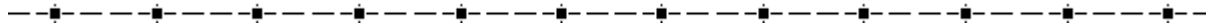
Nominator's Work Phone: _____

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.

Any PTA member may make a nomination for the Dr. Dan L. Colgan National PTA Foundation Award. **Nominations are due January 15, 2010 to Mary Cargill, 1609 Ashland Ave., St. Joseph MO 64506.** The 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.

Davis-Langemach-Kosek PTA Council Award of Excellence

Background

The “Davis-Langemach-Kosek 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. This award is also in honor of Mrs. Sharon Kosek who is a past St. Joseph PTA Council President.

Determination of Winner

The administrator, teacher, staff member, or volunteer 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.)

This honoree will be presented an award at the annual Founder’s Day Celebration.

Deadline

All nominations must be sent to St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chair no later than January 15, 2010.

Please mail nominations to:

Mary Cargill
PTA Council Awards Chair
1609 Ashland Ave.
St. Joseph, MO 64506



Thank you for your participation.

DAVIS-LANGEMACH-KOSEK PTA COUNCIL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

SCHOOL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

NAME OF NOMINATOR _____

SCHOOL _____ PHONE _____

MY NOMINEE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE BY.....

(Please use back of page if necessary.)

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE

St. Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Volunteer Award

Background

This award is to recognize the outstanding volunteers who give of their time to help make a difference at their school. Please help us to show our appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication. These outstanding volunteers are to be honored annually at the Founder's Day Celebration to be held each February.

Determination of Winner

A nomination from each of the 23 school principals is requested.

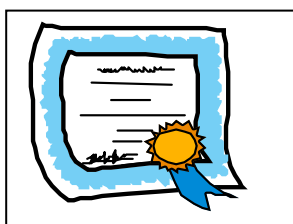
These outstanding volunteers will be presented an award at the Founder's Day Celebration, February , 2010.

Deadline

All nominations must be sent to St. Joseph PTA Council Awards Chair no later than January 15, 2010.

Please mail nominations to:

Mary Cargill
PTA Council Awards Chair
1609 Ashland Ave.
St. Joseph, MO 64506



Thank you for your participation.

St. Joseph PTA Council Outstanding Volunteer Award

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

SCHOOL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

NAME OF NOMINATOR _____

SCHOOL _____ PHONE _____

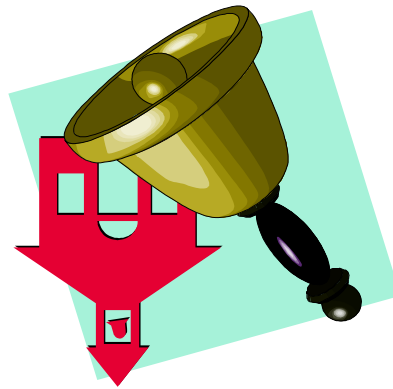
MY NOMINEE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE BY.....

(Please use back of page if necessary.)

ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE

FOR PARENTS

ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

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

