

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 25, Issue 5

January 2010



Presidents

Corner...

Happy New Year! I can't believe we are starting 2010! It sounds so sci-fi. We are continuing to move forward and to help make sure that all is well at each unit. I would like to set up a time for a meeting with each unit to help with any lingering questions or concerns. Please contact me to set up a time that would work for you. Our goal is to help everyone be as successful as possible.

At our December meeting we handed out a ton of information regarding "year end report", "audit", "units in good standing", "how to file a 990 N", Reflections information and a few more items. I sent via school mail all these materials to those units that were not present. Please make sure that you have sent to MO PTA all of the required forms to remain in good standing. We also talked about the "requested information" that Council requested back in July; the deadline has elapsed, so all units have until Jan. 5th to complete this task. We announced several months ago that this is required and that any unit not completing this task would not be able to apply for the St. Joseph PTA Council grants. Please turn in all materials asked for as soon as possible. You can drop off at my house; 2504 Ashland Ave or send to Mary Kelly via school mail at Hosea.

January is Salute to School month. This is a wonderful opportunity to thank everyone at your school for all of their hard work. Deb Conrad; Council chair, will make deliveries to School District sights without a PTA as our thank you. We really appreciate every person for the part they play in our school community.

Reflections deadline is January 8th; please turn in entries to Darrin Verbick and Kevin Griffin at TMC by 4:00. We are hoping for 100% participation this year. Council will hold its work day on the following Monday at TMC; January 11th. We will be checking entries and preparing them for shipping. If you would like to volunteer please contact Azure Hailey at 816-238-2409. This is a big job, so we really need volunteers to help us out.

Founders Day Celebration is coming soon. Deadline for awards is January 15th. Mail your award applications to Awards Chair; Mary Cargill, 1609 Ashland Ave, 64506. Award applications were published in our December Clippings; email me if you need another copy, aokmom@hotmail.com.

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 _____ 10489 SE State Rt. A

Title _____ St. Joseph, MO 64507

Send Bill To: _____ 816-244-1687
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 _____

Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board

Treasurer's Report
July 31, 2009 through November 16, 2009

Beginning Balance as of 7-31-09 \$17,247.14

RECEIPTS:

Interest on Checking 8-30-09 1.51
Interest on Checking 9-30-09 1.46
Interest on Checking 10-31-09 1.46
PTA Donations 425.00
Memorial Donations 1,250.00
Hofheimer Trust Donation 2,000.00
Total Receipts 3,679.43

\$ 3,679.43

DISPURSEMENTS

Total Disbursements 0.00

\$ -

Ending Balance as of 11-16-09

\$20,926.57

Bank Balance Comprised of:

Bank Midwest Checking 10,783.22
Bank Midwest CD 4910014155
Balance as of 05-20-09 10,143.35
10,143.35
\$ 20,926.57

**Don't forget to make your donations to the
Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board**

Donations can be sent to:

Christy Callaway
2125 N. 33rd
St. Joseph—64506

*Please make checks payable to:
Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board

***Council Clippings Article Assignments for Feb. 2010
Articles are due January 10, 2010***

❖ <i>Presidents Report</i>	❖ <i>Character & Spiritual</i>
❖ <i>Regional Director article</i>	❖ <i>Bylaws Membership</i>
❖ <i>Nominating committee report</i>	❖ <i>Salute to School report</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.***

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Keep an eye out for more information regarding our newly revamped School of Information. Don't forget to get your survey into Brigitte Lindstrom; via school mail at Edison, by January 5th. This information is vital for us to put together a valuable workshop. We would like to thank you for your help in this process.

It's again time to begin the nominating process for elections in March. Form your committee and start recruiting now. There will be a form in next month's Clippings that will need to be turned into Council by March 15th and one that needs to be turned into State PTA by March 31st. It is really important that each form is filled out and sent in. These forms are how we collect the names, addresses, emails and phone numbers of officers for next year; they will be used to compile our mailing lists. This will ensure that each unit receives the appropriate correspondence.

Don't forget about recruiting new PTA members! It's not too late to become a member. I always had a fall and winter contest to encourage new members to join. You will find in this issue an article from National PTA regarding membership and also information on membership awards; deadlines and such. Please take a moment to go over those articles.

Again, thank you for all you do. Much success!
Lori Prussman

American Education Week

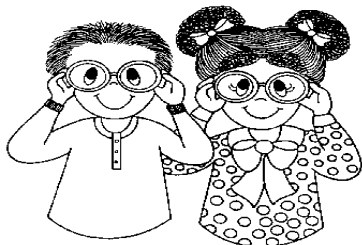
Congratulations to all the schools! American Education Week was a great success at East Hills Mall. The following schools brought banners to hang in the Mall: Central HS, Lafayette HS, Robidoux MS, Truman MS, Bode MS, Parkway, Edison, Eugene Field, Coleman, Noyes, Hosea, Pickett, Mark Twain, Skaith, Lindbergh, Lake Contrary, Hall, Bessie Ellison, and Hyde. There were many comments from Mall visitors on the wonderful banners. Parents and community members were excited to see student work and pictures displayed for AEW. Ashley Albers, manager at East Hills, was instrumental in this success and we need to express our thanks to her. We received great media coverage from KQ2 and St. Joe Now. They showed film of the banners being hung and an interview of the reason for this event. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation to make AEW a success.

Robin Kelly, AEW Chair

“Help a Child to See” Campaign kicks off

The Clarence J Carpenter Memorial
Fund Board’s annual fundraiser;
“Help A Child To See” Campaign
runs from January 6th – January 27th.

See your School Nurse for more details.



Many PTAs run only one membership campaign a year—in the fall. But those units that run more than one campaign a year have, on average, **20 percent more members**. That’s because potential members have more opportunities to say “yes” to becoming a member. Some facts:

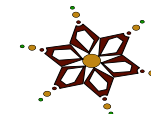
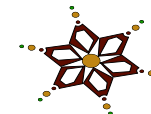
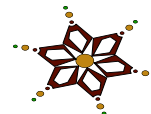
- 1) Nationwide, approximately 18 percent of PTA members join in January and February.
- 2) Running membership campaigns more frequently reminds your members that membership is everyone’s business, especially if you weave membership into programs, activities, and general PTA work, too.
- 3) January is not too late for parents to make a real impact in the current school year. Plus, people who join PTA in January will be ready to renew their membership the following school year.

The “New Year... New Opportunities” Theme

The PTA January Membership Campaign theme, “New Year... New Opportunities,” plays on people’s optimism that the new year brings new opportunities to improve ourselves, our lives, and the world around us. For parents, the world in which they want to make a difference is largely defined by children and schools. Encourage parents to make it their number one resolution to be more involved in their children’s education. It’s a resolution they’ll want to keep. And PTA makes it easy.

As you recruit new members, make sure you involve current members, who will likely feel a renewed commitment to the decision they made at the start of the school year. Tell members their important role in the campaign: Each member should resolve to invite at least one new person to join PTA.

For more information visit www.pta.org



Awards:

What are the Membership Awards? There are several different membership awards. Early Bird, Golden Gavel, Community Involvement, Students Make a Difference, Silver Acorn, Exclusive 100, 100% Faculty/Golden Apple and the Outstanding Membership Campaign Grant.

Where can I find the Membership award applications? Copies of the award applications can be found in the Tool Kit sent to each unit president, on the website under Awards.

When is the last date for dues to count towards awards? Dues must be postmarked by March 1st, to count toward awards.

What is the deadline for Membership awards? Membership award applications must be postmarked by April 15th. The only exception to this is the Outstanding Membership Grant – due April 1st. The Early Bird, Golden Gavel & Community Involvement awards are not application awards and are figured by the state office.

How does our unit make the Missouri PTA Honor Roll? PTA units that send in dues equal to or greater than the previous year's membership are automatically placed on the Honor Roll. Dues must be postmarked by March 1, to count toward this award.

For more information visit www.mopta.org



St. Joseph PTA Council
Legislative forums set

Mark your calendars

Friday, Feb. 26th
Friday, April 16th

Hillyards
4:30-5:30

"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man."
~Benjamin Franklin

Submitted by Shelby Hawkins

PTA UNIT IN GOOD STANDING

Member → Local Unit PTA → Council PTA → State PTA → National PTA

Local PTA units must be deemed to be "in good standing" in order to fully participate in the programs and benefits offered by the association. A PTA unit is "in good standing" if it:

- *Adheres to the Purposes and basic policies of the PTA;*
- *Remits national and state dues to the state PTA by dates required;*
- *Has bylaws approved every three years according to the procedures of the state PTA;*
- *Submits a copy of the unit's annual financial report and audit to the state PTA by December 1st of each year;*
- *Submits a copy of the required IRS tax form to the state PTA by December 1st of each year;*
- *Submits the names and addresses of officers to the state PTA by March 31st of each year; and*
- *Meets other criteria as may be prescribed by the state PTA.*

If a local PTA becomes "not in good standing," as soon as it has fulfilled the necessary requirements, it is again considered "in good standing."

By virtue of being part of National and the state PTA, the IRS grants a local unit PTA non-profit (501(c)(3)) status. This requires PTAs to be non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-commercial. PTAs cannot endorse political candidates or parties. PTAs are not religious nor do they endorse products, services, or companies.

If a PTA is not in good standing, neither the unit nor the students attending the PTA's school are eligible to receive awards and recognition, e.g., membership awards, Reflections, etc.



Take Your Family to School Week February 7 – 13, 2010

Don't forget about Take your family to school week. Make an effort to invite your families into your school so that they can see what is happening. This is a great time for a chili supper, a spaghetti dinner, a math night, a talent night (include the parents). You could have a health fair, or a MAP info night, or a simple reading night. Bring in a special speaker or have a demonstration for self-defense, the possibilities are endless. Be sure to start planning if you haven't already.

This is an opportunity to connect with the parents of your students. This is an opportunity for the parents to see how each and every faculty and staff member, along with the volunteer staff works together to help their children learn and grow. This is an opportunity for parents to get involved as well. Reach out to the whole family and you may find you have a better student.

What Kind of Learner is Your Child?

If you have struggled with your own child doing homework or with students in a classroom focusing on their work, you might want to read this article.

Parenting's article [Quiz: What is the Best Way for your Child to Learn](http://www.parenting.com/article/Child/-/Learning-Quiz/1) at <http://www.parenting.com/article/Child/-/Learning-Quiz/1>, helps you to figure out just what kind of learner your child is and how to make those endless nights of homework go a little smoother. Is your child; body smart (known as bodily/kinesthetic), word smart (linguistic/auditory), image smart (visual/spatial), or numbers smart (logical/mathematical)? They have a simple quiz you can take to help you figure this out.

This information can really help you at home with homework and also, your child's teacher. I have a child who is body smart. He must learn while moving. Once his teachers know this they are no longer annoyed when he shakes his foot, taps his fingers, asks to stand at his desk or finds excuses to move about the room. They can usually find a way for him to work without disrupting the other students. Learning is much easier for him now that we know.

As we learn more about the way our children learn we can help them to be the best learners they can be. This makes our schools less disruptive and gives the teachers a chance to really teach and make a difference.

Nadienne Hoffman
Parent Involvement Chair

National PTA to Mobilize Parents for Common Core Standards

**Receives \$1 million grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
to engage parents in four states**

CHICAGO (December 2, 2009) – National PTA is positioning itself as a key player at the front line of education reform. The association today announced a new three-year effort to mobilize parents to advance key education priorities, beginning with common core state standards—a voluntary, state-led, internationally benchmarked set of high academic standards in English language arts and mathematics. A \$1 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will help support the effort.

Beginning in January 2010, National PTA will educate and train PTA members and parents about the common core state standards, focusing early outreach in four states: Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, and North Carolina. National PTA plans to engage additional states as this work moves forward in mid-2010.

“Currently, there are disparities in the level of rigor because every state has a different set of standards. This reform effort will educate parents about the need for higher, clearer and fewer standards so that they know what their child should be learning in school and how they can support learning at home,” said Charles J. “Chuck” Saylor, National PTA President. “Parents should be able to rest assured that their child is up to par with their peers across the country and around the world no matter where they choose to raise their child.”

For decades, National PTA has taken action for children. Through this effort, the association is taking another step toward education reform by addressing common core standards. It is National PTA's fundamental belief that every child, regardless of zip code, deserves an equal education, and all teachers deserve a set of clear, high standards.

“Education standards have historically been too vast and too vague to provide the focus required for students and teachers to achieve at high levels,” said Vicki L. Phillips, Director of Education, College-Ready, at the Gates Foundation. “National PTA and its five million members can be a leading voice in the common core standards movement, raising academic expectations nationwide and preparing all students for success beyond high school.”

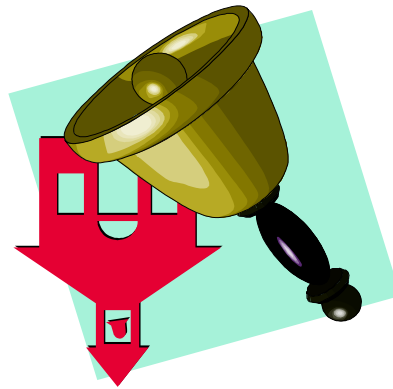
National PTA is committed to ensuring that all students graduate college- and career-ready. Earlier this year in June the association called for the creation of common core state standards and became an endorsing partner of the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers' Common Core State Standards Initiative. In September, National PTA also offered its full support of the initiative's draft college- and career-readiness standards.

To date, 51 states and territories have joined the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The full K-12 standards are expected to be finalized in early 2010. “National PTA believes that there should be a level playing field among states, school districts and schools that will give all students the opportunity to be ready for their college and career. This effort will bring us one step closer to real education reform. It will ensure equity in education nationwide and will improve the level of rigor that will ultimately make the U.S. more competitive with other leading countries,” said Byron V. Garrett, National PTA's Chief Executive Officer.

See more information on pta.org

FOR PERSONAL USE

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St. Joseph PTA Council
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st. Joseph, MO 64502

