

# Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 23, Issue 5

January 2008



*Presidents*

*Corner...*

*Peggy wood, Council President*

Now that the holidays are over and you are rested and energized for 2008, it seems a good time to evaluate how your PTA unit is doing. January brings to mind Salute to Schools Month and Reflections. Salute to Schools month is an opportunity to let everyone in your school know they are appreciated. In addition, Reflections entries are due on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to the Fine Arts Office at the Troester Media Center, 3401 Renick St. (just off of Mitchell). Remember, there will be a local reception for Reflections in April at the Keatley Center. In addition, state winners will be recognized at the Missouri State PTA Leadership Conference.

Next, on the PTA Council agenda will be the Buchanan County Spelling Bee. The event will be held at Truman Middle School on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. So, now is the time for each school to complete their spelling bee. This will allow your winners time to prepare for the event in February

On February 12, 2008 the Saint Joseph Council and Units will hold a celebration of the founding of PTA. This year our Founder's Day dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn. Invitations are being sent out and additional information is included in this Clippings issue. Please remember that reservations are due by January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This is a great opportunity to meet with other PTA members for an enjoyable meal with great conversation in a relaxing setting.

Our Saint Joseph PTA Council held a special meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> to elect a 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Lori Prussman was elected and will serve as 1<sup>st</sup> vice for the rest of this year. Lori does Clippings for us now and we really appreciate her taking on this position also. Lori is a past president and is very knowledgeable about Council issues. You can find her e-mail and phone number in your PTA Handbooks.

Continued on page 2

## Reflections

**"I can make a difference by..."**

The **deadline** for Reflections is fast approaching. All Reflection entries must be delivered **Friday, January 11, 2008 to the Troester Media Center; 3401 Renick before 4:30. Please deliver all entries to Mr. Darren Verbick's office.**

Please make note that all entries information is completed and signed by the parents. This is a State PTA program, so all units must have memberships turned in, bylaws must be up to date and Council dues must be paid to be in good standing so that all entries will be accepted.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by e-mail: [aokmom@hotmail.com](mailto:aokmom@hotmail.com) or home phone 816-232-2125.

Submitted by  
Lori Prussman

### Council Clippings Article Assignments for February 2008

Articles are due January 10, 2008

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Presidents Report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Character &amp; Spiritual</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Regional Director article</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Bylaws</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Membership</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Salute to School report</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Nominating committee report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Council Award</u>

**All articles must be emailed to Lori Prussman at [aokmom@hotmail.com](mailto:aokmom@hotmail.com), subject: CLIPPING ARTICLE . Thank you for getting your articles to me in a timely manner.**



## Happy New Year

Continued from page 1...

As we ring in 2008 remember to celebrate your PTA successes, evaluate your progress toward goals, and set new goals. Don't forget membership continues!!!! If you have memberships collected, be sure and send them in to the state office. The Saint Joseph PTA Council is here to serve its member units. Please contact any board member if you need assistance. **Thank you for believing in the over 11,000 students in the Saint Joseph Public Schools.**

Peggy Wood  
Saint Joseph PTA Council President

### Spelling Bee reminder...

**Our annual spelling bee will be held at Truman Middle School on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 8:15 am.**

Take a look at those two open hands of yours.  
They are tools with which to serve, make friends, and reach out for the best in life.

Open hands open the way to achievement.

Put them to work today.

-Wilfred A. Patterson

Success in life is a matter not so much of talent or opportunity as of concentration and perseverance.

-C.W. Wendte

submitted by: Heather Slawson

### Plan of Work for School of Information For the 2007-2008 School Year

The School of Information for the St. Joseph PTA Council will be April 7<sup>th</sup> after the regular executive board meeting of the PTA at the Hillyard Tech School. There will be break out sessions for the officers of: President, secretary, treasurer, membership, and Reflections. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided.

Submitted by:  
Joyce Clibon  
Chairman of the School of Information

## Ideas for Parent Involvement

Written by MOPTA

Listed below are ideas shared within workshop focus groups on the six standards, and how they interact to improve Parent Involvement. Please share these with parents, teachers, administrators, and your school board.

**Standard 1. Welcoming all families into the school community – Families are active participants in the life of the school and are connected to what students are doing in class.**

- School newsletters/teacher weekly newsletter for class information
- Agenda's (assignment books) between home and school - must be signed by parents and teachers need to read parent comments
- Websites for calendars and all-district/school, also to list classroom assignments and a "pop-up" if a student is failing or having trouble (this is
- being done in some districts in the Kansas City area)
- Once-a-week folder for two-way communication
- Use the same colored paper for PTA information so parents know who it's from
- Have the principal/teachers research or survey for commonly asked questions for Parent Teacher Conferences
- Record a weekly message from the principal on the website or on voicemail
- Hold grade level or classroom round table discussions between the teacher and parents
- Message marquee in front of the school with school and PTA news
- Set up Parent Resource table in the entrance of the school with school and PTA news available
- E-mail always available between parents, teachers, and staff

Each month I will continue with this article by adding the next Standard(s) until all 6 have been printed.

Submitted by Lori Prussman



Please join the roundup of friends as we celebrate  
**St. Joseph PTA Council Founder's Day**

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

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

Choice of Chicken Chardonnay or Roast Sirloin  
 Western casual dress

Holiday Inn, 102 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Joseph, MO

Cost-\$11.00 per person

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REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: Monday, January 28, 2008

NO REFUNDS – NO EXCEPTIONS

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Person Attending	Chicken Chardonnay	Roast Sirloin

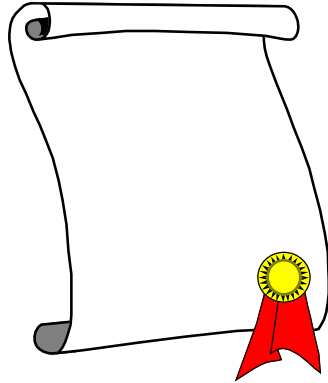
Note anyone who is a Missouri Life Member (MLM) with an \*  
 Note anyone who is a Past Council President with a #

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

St. Joseph PTA Council

AND MAIL TO:

Deb Conrad, Treasurer  
 4405 Appletree Ct.  
 St. Joseph, MO 64506



## **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 19, 2008!!** Please only one nomination per principal.

Nominations are to be sent to: **Carla Ewart, 215 Ohio, St. Joseph, MO 64504**

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**

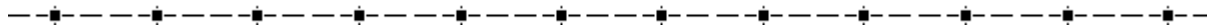
**St. Joseph PTA Council**  
**Outstanding Principal Of The Year Nomination Form**

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

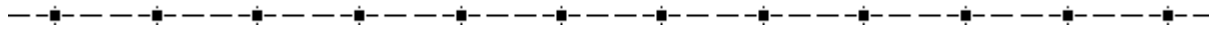
Nominator's Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://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 the first day of the month of the Founders' Day Banquet. (For 2008, the deadline would be February 1.)

It is recommended that nominations be made to 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 each year. 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 and Legislative chair.

## 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.)

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 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. The first award will be in September.

**Nominations should be sent to:**



**Carla Ewart**

PTA Council Awards  
215 Ohio  
St. Joseph, MO 64504  
[carlae@stjoelive.com](mailto:carlae@stjoelive.com)

Thank you for your interest.



DAVIS-LANGEMACH-KOSEK 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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

[jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us)  
Or at TMC 816-671-4390

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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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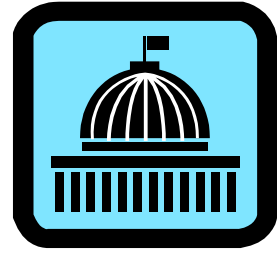
Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is Confirmed for \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# St. Joseph PTA Council Legislative Update

- Sharon G. Kosek, Legislative Chair



## **2008 Legislative Forums**

Be informed about what is occurring at the State level from our legislators. Legislative forums are scheduled for the last Friday in each of the months of January through April 2008. The dates are Friday, January 25; Friday, February 29; Friday, March 28; and Friday, April 25; at Hillyard Technical Center in Room 103 from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. State Senator Charlie Shields, Representative Ed Wildberger, Representative Dr. Rob Schaaf, and Representative Martin Rucker traditionally participate in these events. Each of these gentlemen lives in St. Joseph and was elected by his constituency to represent their wishes in Jefferson City. They are in session from January through May 2008—but return home for the weekends. They are interested in your concerns. Also attending the forums is Chad Higdon (representing Congressman Sam Graves). Chad takes questions at the end of the forum to ask of Congressman Graves—then gets back with you with responses.) Chad is one of several legislative aides who work for Graves' in his local office at the US Post Office at 201 South Eighth Street. Chad may be reached at 816.233.9818.

PTA Council members traditionally serve as greeters or assist with refreshments at the forums. If you would like to volunteer, please email Sharon Kosek at [sharongkosek@hotmail.com](mailto:sharongkosek@hotmail.com).

These forums are a great opportunity to keep informed of current topics. If you do not know who your state- and federal-elected officials are go to <http://www.senate.state.mo.us/> and key in your nine-digit zip to determine their names.

## **PTA Council Board of Education Candidate Forum**

The St. Joseph PTA Council will hold a St. Joseph School District Board of Education Forum in the spring for candidates seeking one of two positions available on the Board. The forum will likely be held at Hillyard Technical Center in Room 103, and it usually lasts about one and one-half hours. It is important that the public attend this forum to hear what each of the candidate's viewpoints is regarding our children and the District's future. Your presence is needed to help make the Board of Education Forum a success. The date of the forum will be announced in the February issue of PTA *Council Clippings*.

Petitions are being circulated for registered St. Joseph (School District) voters to sign. You may sign for any or all of the candidates. Signatures on the petitions allow the candidate to get on the ballot. Your signature does not mean that you must vote for that candidate.

As of printing of this issue of *Clippings*, there are three individuals who have picked up petitions to seek office: Dr. Brian Cronk, David Mejia, and Sue Wagner. They file a declaration for candidacy on or after December 18, and petitions have to be turned in and verified by January 18. If only two end up seeking the office, there does not have to be an election.

**Dr. Brian Cronk** is a Missouri Western State University professor with many years of experience in teaching College Statistics. Brian is the author of several books on statistics. Brian is the husband of Bobbie Cronk and the father of two children who attend Coleman School.

**David Mejia** is employed by Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory where he also serves as a pastor. David is a former St. Joseph School District Board of Education member. His wife Gwen is a teacher at Bode Middle School.

**Sue Wagner** is a former SJSJ Teacher of the Year who taught for the District for over 30 years. She was the SJSJ Gifted Program Coordinator and a Gifted Program teacher upon her retirement. She currently teaches part time in the Avenue City School District. She continues to work with SJSJ students in the Future Problem Solvers group.

Prior to the forum, candidates will be given a series of questions to answer. Their answers will be copied and distributed to PTA Council members, schools, and interested individuals. During the forum (where light refreshments are served), each candidate will be asked a few questions—one at a time, followed by questions from the audience. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2008. If there are only two candidates, an election will not be held.

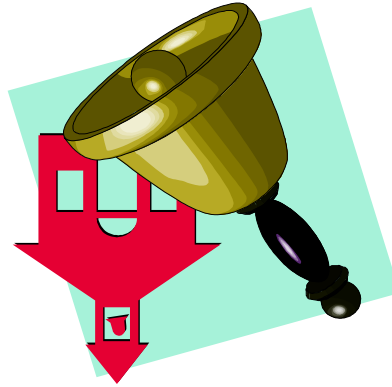
**David Hornaday** and **Dr. Teresa Humphreys** will be both going off of the Board after having each served two consecutive terms of dedicated service to the SJSJ Board of Education—12 years total each. Both have had children in the District.

## **St. Joseph School District Featured in National PTA – *Our Children Magazine***

"Educating Every Child for Success" by Meredith Hines-Dochterman is a featured article in the December 2007/January 2008 National PTA *Our Children* magazine. Meredith is a former education writer for the *St. Joseph News-Press*. (The children of Meredith and her husband attended Skaith School while they lived in St. Joseph.) Meredith received the Phi Delta Kappa St. Joseph Chapter #1199 "Outstanding Child Advocate Award" in 2004 for her superior efforts in keeping the public informed. Congratulations SJSJ on this great feature article!

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

# COMMUNITY MEETING



# ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

St. Joseph PTA Council  
PO Box 1271  
St. Joseph, MO 64501

