

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council



Happy Valentines
Day

Volume 26, Issue 6

February 2011



Presidents

Corner...

Hello Everyone. Our school year is clicking away so fast. I can't believe it's time for nominating a new slate of officers. Your unit should have already elected a nominating committee to select officers to serve next year. Nominations must be presented and "sit out" for 30 days before you can officially elect the new group. Please remember that only officers are elected. Chairmen are appointed by the new group of officers.

Please remember that the new group of officers are free to meet and appoint the chairman and start making plans for next year once they have been elected, but they will not start their official duties until this fiscal year ends. That means that the current officers will conduct business as usual until that time. Check your bylaws to verify those dates.

Enclosed you will find the forms that need to be sent into State PTA and to Council. It is very important that these be mailed in by **March 31st**. We use these to set up data bases and mailing lists.

The current treasurer will be responsible for getting the financial review/audit done and get the books closed out before the new treasurer takes over. This includes "end of year report" and filing taxes. Taxes can be filed as soon as your financial review is complete. An incoming treasurer will have a hard time trying to put these reports together, so please make sure that everything is complete before the new treasurer takes over.

Reports due to be in good standings can be mailed to State PTA and the Council when financial review is complete as well. Let's get a head start on these so that all our kids can participate in Reflections and your school can apply for the Council grant. Waiting until the last minute never is a good idea. It just makes things much more stressful than they have to be. Please be proactive.

It is also time to put together a budget committee. Check your bylaws to see who needs to be on that committee. The budget is a little different in the fact that you can present it at your May meeting and approve it that same night. It does not need to "sit out" for any length of time. Again, planning early makes things so much more stress free. You should not end your fiscal year without passing a budget for the following year! It is best to present and pass it at your May General meeting. The executive committee cannot pass the budget it must be presented to the general assembly.

Continued on 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
_____ jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us
_____ 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 _____

Bylaws news:

There are several units that are nearing their bylaws renewal date. Please make plans now. A committee must be formed; according to your bylaws.

Remember, the committee must present any changes 30 days before changes are voted on. Changes must "sit out" for 30 days before approval can be made.

Your tool kit has procedures and forms that need to be filled out and sent to the State PTA for their approval. Once approval has been obtained you will need to send the Council 2 copies; one for bylaws chair and one for Council President.

The portions of the bylaws that have the "#" symbol are State and National portions and we can not change them; they must remain as written.

Units nearing renewal are:

Coleman, 5/29/11
Hosea, 10/16/11
Lafayette, 11/30/10
Lindbergh, 5/21/10
Robidoux, 6/22/11

Having your bylaws up to date is a requirement for a "unit in good standings". Please do not hesitate to contact us for help. We're here to help with any questions that you may have.

Barb Harris; jcb4@att.net or
Lori Prussman; aokmom@hotmail.com



"be true to your word, your work, and your friends."
-Henry David Thoreau

Submitted by
Jameison Welch

Council Clippings Article Assignments for March 2011 Articles are due February 10, 2011

▪ <u>Presidents Report</u>	▪ <u>Character & Spiritual</u>
▪ <u>Council Award</u>	▪ <u>Spelling Bee</u>
▪ <u>Ways and means</u>	▪ <u>Reflections</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...

Please remember to update procedure books for the next person who is taking over your position. It is vital to keep accurate records of what your unit does each year. There is no reason to reinvent the wheel each year. Always keep in mind that all that we do is to help support our school and our children. So when we don't update procedure books and keep accurate records for the group that follows who we are really hurting is the school and our children.

Again, I want to let you know that if you ever have a question or need help putting together procedure books or you want to meet with me as a group please call. That is what I am here for. I've been doing this for 17 years and would love to answer any questions or help in any way. I really do want each of you to be successful.

Each month we hold our PTA Council meetings, officers from each unit are encouraged to attend; not just the president. The more ears that hear the more informed we all can be. We will have our attendance contest going on this semester as well. The unit with the most people attending will win a \$50.00 prize to use for their students however they chose.

Be sure to check out our website for info; www.stjoeppta.org.

Much success!
Lori Prussman



Missouri PTA's 100th Anniversary Celebration

WRITTEN BY MOPTA

Missouri PTA's 100th Anniversary Celebration

In 2012 Missouri PTA will celebrate their 100th year of serving all children and we need your help now! Over the next two years units or individuals will have the option of donating to the Missouri PTA 100th Anniversary Fund. For a \$25.00 donation your unit or individual name will be acknowledged in the CONTACT bulletin, for a \$50.00 donation, you will receive your name engraved on a permanent honorary plaque, kept at our Missouri PTA office and for a \$100.00 donation, you will receive both of the above plus a special 100th Anniversary souvenir at the celebration in 2012. These donations will be accumulative over the next two years as are the acknowledgements. By making a donation to the 100th Anniversary Celebration it will help Missouri PTA honor 100 years of serving children, parents, teachers in an amazing way.

For more details and to make a donation go to www.mopta.org



Reminder

Founder's Day Dinner
Thurs., February 10th
Word of Life Church
Registration begins at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm

St. Joseph PTA Legislative Forums

Friday, February 25th

&

Friday, April 8th

Hillyards Tech. Center

4:30 – 5:30

Invite your schools forum club, student council, government classes or anyone interested in the political field. Representatives will be discussing issues related to school matters.

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act: S. 3307

On Monday, December 13, 2010, President Barack Obama signed S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act into law. The act reforms and improves programs under the Child Nutrition Act, including school breakfasts and lunches. This legislation comes at a pivotal time when both childhood obesity and child hunger are at alarming levels.

National PTA applauds the passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and has played a vital role in the formulation, debate, and passage of this critical legislation.

For more details see www.pta.org

School Modernization Overview

School Modernization and Environmental Health

An estimated 14 million American children attend deteriorating public schools. The average public school building in America is 42 years old, was not designed to meet the demands of current and future technology, and, in some cases, fails to meet basic health and safety codes. Schools today face enormous challenges, including record-high enrollments, new demands for educational technology, the need for school-based before- and after-school programs, and health and safety hazards caused by deteriorating facilities. Of the existing 80,000 public schools, at least one-third need extensive repair or replacement. At least two-thirds have unhealthy environmental conditions, such as polluted indoor air, toxic chemical and pesticide use, molds, the presence of asbestos and mercury, and lead in water and paint. Far too many children and school staff are entering school buildings that undermine their learning and health.

School Environmental Health

Poor environmental conditions negatively affect the health of our nation's students and school staff and contribute to absenteeism, student medication use, learning difficulties, sick building syndrome, staff turnover, and greater liability for school districts. In 2004, to comply with Section 5414 of the No Child Left Behind Act, the U.S. Department of Education commissioned a literature review examining the relationship between indoor environments in schools and student academic performance and attendance. According to the report, "overall evidence strongly suggests that poor environments in schools, due primarily to effects of indoor pollutants, adversely influence the health, performance, and attendance of students." Every day, parents send their children to school, believing that the buildings dedicated to their children's learning and growth won't hurt their children. Many parents assume that the safety provisions that protect adults in their workplaces also apply to children in their school buildings. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act was passed in 1970 to ensure "safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women; by authorizing enforcement of the standards developed under the Act." The overall purpose of the regulations is to protect healthy, adult workers in industrial occupations from unhealthy work environments and exposure to substances known to cause adverse health effects. The regulations are not intended to protect children in school buildings, where the weekly exposure to a "sick building" can often exceed a typical workweek. Unhealthy indoor environments, however, cause greater damage to children's bodies than to adults'. According to the Department of Education report, "Children have greater susceptibility to some environmental pollutants than adults, because they breathe higher volumes of air relative to their body weights and their tissues and organs are actively growing."

School environments must be examined in order to determine their overall effect on children's health and, consequently, on children's academic achievement. Sick children cannot attend classes, and repeated absences can cause children to fall behind, thus adversely affecting their academic performance.

School Modernization Overview continued...

School Construction

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) releases an annual Report Card for America's Infrastructure, which grades the condition, performance, capacity, and funding of our nation's infrastructure. Among the infrastructure categories examined are roads, bridges, dams, solid waste, mass transit, aviation, hazardous waste, and schools. In ASCE's report card, schools earned a grade of D (poor).

The overwhelming national need to improve the condition of public schools and to construct new buildings to accommodate rising enrollments affects school districts in every state. A June 2000 report from the National Center for Education Statistics estimated that \$127 billion is needed to fix America's school buildings. This figure is consistent with the findings of an earlier U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) study that estimated the cost of bringing schools into good overall condition to be \$112 billion. Other studies estimate that the cost to construct new schools and classrooms and to modernize existing schools is more than \$300 billion nationwide. This figure includes the costs of health and safety renovations, as well as the costs of upgrades such as modern science labs and media centers, telephones in classrooms, cable hookups, wiring for computers, and Internet access. None of these figures, however, include the enormous costs associated with hurricane-related cleanup and rebuilding in Louisiana and Mississippi.

School overcrowding is another serious problem. Many schools are trying to reduce class sizes so students can receive the attention they need to succeed academically. In large classes, maintaining discipline can take teachers' time and attention away from instruction. Large classes also make it more difficult to mainstream students with disabilities. Furthermore, overcrowding can limit instruction in subjects such as science, music, and art that require more space and special materials. Makeshift classrooms that schools are forced to carve from closets, corners, and hallways do not appropriately serve students' learning needs and can have a detrimental effect on teacher and student morale. In addition, lack of space often impedes a school's ability to offer before- and after-school enrichment opportunities and/or to create parent resource centers.

These problems demand a strong and sustained partnership of federal, state, and local entities. States and schools cannot address these problems alone, and equity in education must be a national priority. Modern, safe, and healthy education facilities will result in a better-educated, more informed, more productive population. This investment by our local communities, the state governments, and the federal government is essential if we are to create the schools our nation needs to compete in the 21st century.

For more information go to www.pta.org



Areas of Volunteer Services

Volunteers in the St. Joseph School District generally work in one of the following areas. This list, however, is not inclusive and is limited only by your imagination in creating interesting, challenging activities for volunteers to do.

- Clerical Volunteers: perform clerical needs of school personnel, such as typing, filing, copying, answering phones.
- Classroom Assistants: give service of a general nature in preparing materials for teachers, decorating bulletin boards, doing non-professional tasks to aid teachers.
- Instructional Volunteers: carry out teacher-directed drill work, tutor individuals or small groups in specific subject or skill areas, hear individuals or small groups read, assist in science labs, etc.
- Chaperones: have responsibility in supervisory-type activities such as field trips, lunchrooms, playgrounds, school parties, assemblies.
- Resource Volunteer: enrich curriculum by sharing special interests, skills, talents or hobbies in a classroom presentation.
- Library/Media Center and Computer Lab Assistants.
- Health Services: work under direction of school nurses to give assistance with school clinic, screening, health education programs, etc.
- At-Home Volunteers: help with clerical duties, make posters and displays, prepare materials, assist with telephoning, etc. in their homes.
- PTA Volunteers: participate in PTA activities, school parties, registration activities, etc.
- VEST Volunteers: assist with recruitment, scheduling and recognition of current volunteers.
- Committee Volunteers: participation on SJSD Citizens Advisory Committees or other related planning committees.
- Connect-Tomorrow Mentors: spend one hour a week, at school, with a youngster who needs motivating and encouragement.

2011/2012 PTA/PTSA Officers List

Send completed form to Lori Prussman, 2504 Ashland Ave, St. Joseph, MO 64506

This list will be used for St. Joseph PTA Council mailings.

Do not use school address for President mailing address.

Deadline March 31, 2011

School Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

1st Vice's Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

2nd Vice's Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Secretary's Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Treasurer's Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Please continue to the back of this page for additional information needed.

School Name: _____

Membership Chair Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Reflections Chair Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

**Please feel free to add additional officer's names, positions, addresses,
phone numbers and email addresses below.**

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

OFFICERS FORM

Important: Our **2011-2012** School Year Mailing List will be compiled from the information on this form.

Please mail this form by **March 31, 2011** with the names of NEW and/or RE-ELECTED officers. DO NOT use the school address for president mailings.

**CONTACT INFORMATION NEEDED BY MISSOURI PTA: PRESIDENT,
TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND REFLECTIONS CHAIR.**

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

REGION _____ **DATE** _____

UNIT NAME _____

CITY _____ **SCHOOL DISTRICT** _____

COUNTY IN WHICH SCHOOL IS LOCATED _____

PRESIDENT _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

E-MAIL _____

TREASURER _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

E-MAIL _____

**Information is due to Missouri PTA office by March 31, 2011. If you
have not filled all the positions, send what you have by the deadline.**

Please complete information on reverse side.

UNIT NAME _____

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

E-MAIL _____

REFLECTIONS CHAIR _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

E-MAIL _____

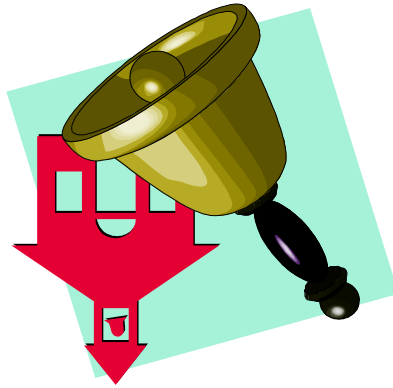
SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Missouri PTA
2101 Burlington Street
Columbia, MO 65202

Fax: 573-445-4163
office@mopta.org

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

STUDENT FUNDS



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

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

