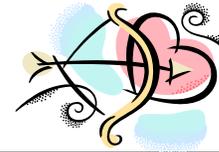


Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council



Happy Valentines
Day

Volume 27, Issue 6

February 2012



Presidents

Corner...

Dear Friends in PTA:

I am just loving this position!! It has been a privilege to meet so many people who love kids and want what is best for them. We have 23 great PTA units in our school district and each one does so many wonderful things to benefit children. I am proud to be a part of it all! I have been celebrating our success as a Council in memberships. Each unit has worked to increase memberships this year. Our Council is one of three in the State of Missouri that has had an increase in memberships. I hope that you are PROUD of YOUR accomplishment! Your membership adds to the 55,966 members in the State of Missouri, which add to the millions of members nationwide. PTA does make a difference!

It's time to work on a Winter Membership Drive...we are half way to our Council goal of one member per student enrolled in the school district. All units submitting at least 25 membership dues between January 1st and March 1st will be entered into a drawing to possibly win \$50 from Missouri PTA. On January 5th, I had the honor of attending a special luncheon for our School Board members. This luncheon was a thank you to our 7 school board members for the time and effort that they spend to benefit the children in our district. I gave each school board member a PTA membership!

Please note that our MARCH COUNCIL MEETING will have a change in time and place. Executive Meeting will begin at 6:00pm-6:30pm. General Meeting will begin promptly at 6:30pm-7:00pm. At 7:00pm the St Joseph PTA Council is hosting a School Board Candidate Forum and the public will be invited to attend. Our meeting will be held at Troester Media Center to accommodate the crowd. Watch for your reminder postcard in the mail and encourage the parents at your schools to attend.

At the time of writing this message, we are in the process of preparing for our Founders Day event. I hope that each of you plan to attend. I am sure that the event will be worth your time. Angie Riggs and her committee work hard to plan and prepare so that evening is a success. Thank you!! I am blessed to have met so many caring people!

Your President,
Lisa Little

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

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 _____

Did you know that the St Joseph PTA Council has partnered with Hillyard Technical Center's Dental Hygiene Program? The Dental Hygiene students will be teaching dental health to the 3rd graders in our Title 1 schools during the month of February. Your PTA Council has purchased 500 toothbrush kits (brush & paste) to be given to each student after the presentation. This is a great opportunity for those in the Dental Hygiene program to share their knowledge with the children and help spread the word about the low cost dental services offered there.

Each PTA Unit President recently received the "Winter Packet" from Missouri PTA. Only one packet is sent out, so please share this information with your PTA board members.

It's never too early to plan for the upcoming Leadership Conference!!!

Title: MOPTA Leadership Conference

When: 05.04.2012 - 05.05.2012

Location: Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO

Encourage all of your incoming PTA officers to attend!! More information will be provided soon.

Remember to send a copy of your PTA Unit's letter from the IRS to Lisa Little. All Units should have received this letter by now. They were mailed to the school. Please email, mail or fax 364.5113 as quickly as possible. This will help standardize all of the fiscal years with the IRS.

Thank you to Lisa Holmes, Salute the Schools Chair, for delivering a thank you treat to the District offices in January. The PTA Council provides this each year in January. We want all of our District employees to know that we appreciate their work.

Council Clippings Article Assignments for March 2012
Articles are due February 10, 2012

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

It's never too early to start working on the 2010-2011 Award and Grant Applications through Missouri PTA. All award information has been mailed to the Unit Presidents. If you need the information, it can be found on the Missouri PTA website – mopta.org. The majority of the awards are due April 1, 2012. Be sure that your efforts are acknowledged and apply for the awards.

Thank you to Brigitte & Todd Lindstrom, Shelly Baker, Barb Harris & for their efforts to review and package all of the Reflections entries. The pieces were shipped off to Missouri PTA in record time. We had 120 Reflections entries submitted. The Reflections Recognition Night is scheduled for **April 12th**. The gallery viewing will be from 6-6:30pm with cookies and punch being served. Recognition will begin at 6:30pm and the event will be held at the Keatley Center Gymnasium. Invitations will be sent out prior to the event, but please mark your calendars now!

LEGISLATION

Kids First Town Hall Meeting

by Missouri PTA and Saint Joseph Sponsored PTA Council

To be held at Hillyard Technical Center

On February 24th, at 5:30 p.m.

Legislator's who have been invited are

Congressman Sam Graves, Sen. Rob Schaaf,

Rep. Pat Conway, Rep. Delus Johnson, and Rep. Galen Higdon.

Missouri Child Advocacy Day

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, Jefferson City, Missouri
Join us in asking lawmakers to make the health, safety and
Education of Missouri's children a top priority for the state.

Learn more at www.childadvocacyday.org



Founder's Day Dinner
Thurs., February 9th
Word of Life Church
Registration begins at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6:00 pm

Education Dept. concerned about another year of under-funding

December 27, 2011 By [Jessica Machetta](#)

The Department of Education is concerned about a funding shortfall, but looks forward to working with the legislature on addressing the problem. Missouri's school foundation formula is the mechanism the state uses to distribute money to public schools. It has gone underfunded in recent years, and Department of Education Commissioner Chris NiCastro says this year's outlook is no better.

She says the formula was never designed to be underfunded, and bills filed during the upcoming legislative session will seek to fix that. She says if the structure isn't reformulated, there will be vast funding differences between districts, creating an environment of winners and losers throughout the state. NiCastro it's going to be difficult for the legislature to maintain level funding this year, but the department is still hopeful it will happen. The Department, she says, anticipates working with legislators when they come into session Jan. 4.

The current formula the state uses to fund public schools was revised during the the 2005 legislative session, before the economy plummeted. The new, higher-funding formula was to be phased in over a seven-year period, but the failure to fully fund the formula has thrown that schedule way off. The phase-in process began at the start of fiscal year 2007, which is in July, 2006, with schools receiving 17 percent of their state funding from the new foundation formula and 85 percent from the formula that was written in 1993.

The plan was that each year, the phase-in plan would progressively raise the percentage of funds based on the new, higher foundation formula. For this year, 2012-2013 year, Missouri's schools should be at 100 percent of the new formula. That has not happened.

NiCastro says she anticipates the legislature will try to rewrite legislation to fix that this year.

Article from <http://www.missourinet.com/2011/12/27/education-dept-concerned-about-another-year-of-under-funding/>

Nominating committee report...

Presented by Joyce Brewka, Tara Shryock, Chester Brown, Erin Ivanov, Brigitte Lindstrom and Steve Huff (District rep.)

OFFICER NOMINEES 2012-2013

President: Brigitte Lindstrom
1st Vice President: Angela Sears
2nd Vice President: Stacy Lybarger
3rd Vice President: Charisse Giseburt
Recording Secretary: Erin Ivanov
Corresponding Secretary: Cheryl Martin
Treasurer: Shelly Baker
Sgt At Arms: Lisa Holmes

CLARENCE CARPENTER BOARD has 3 open 2 year positions open to fill.

Heather Weddle
Carol Bunge
Susan Farmer

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when
you take your eyes off your goal.

Henry Ford



Family Involvement Clippings – February 2012
Submitted by Charisse Giseburt Family Involvement Chair

Source: <http://add.about.com/od/childrenandteens/a/fathers-school.htm>

Ask any parent around and most will agree that being involved in your child's school is important and can make a difference in your child's academic and social success. Too often, however, the involvement ends up being one-sided – with moms tending to know more about what is going on at school. Luckily, this pattern is beginning to change. Both stay-at-home dads and career dads are getting involved; as a result, there is also an increased awareness about the powerful, positive impact dads can make. Whether your home is a two-parent home or you live apart from your child, your interest, enthusiasm and involvement with your child's education is important.

Benefits Research shows that children of involved fathers are more likely to enjoy school, have better grades and more positive peer relationships, have fewer behavior problems, and become more responsible adults. When you are involved with your child's education, you send your child an essential message - school is important. It is not only the kids who benefit from their dad's involvement. Research also finds that men who are involved fathers feel more self confident and effective as parents, find parenting more satisfying, and feel more intrinsically important to their children. Obviously, the time you need to be at work can place limitations on how you can get involved at school, but with creative planning you can be a dad involved and interested in your child's educational life. By doing this you also get to know who your child's peers and friends are, making it less likely that your child will get picked on or bullied. You get to know your child's teacher, making communication of issues much more likely and more frequent. All great benefits!

10 Simple Ways to Get Involved Below is a list of simple ways for dads to volunteer and get involved at school:

1. Attend parent-teacher conferences.
2. Volunteer to drive or chaperone during field trips.
3. Coordinate a time with the teacher to read to the class or be involved with class projects or unit studies.
4. Together with your child, prepare snacks for special class celebrations. If you aren't one for the kitchen, you can sign up to bring drinks or paper products. Plan an outing with your child to purchase the items.
5. Set up or clean up after a class party.
6. Come in and have lunch with your child once a month or however often you can swing it.
7. Drive your child to school or pick him/her up after school.
8. Join a PTA committee.
9. If you're handy with the computer, volunteer to set up a class website.
10. Don't forget that being involved with your child's education includes providing support at home – help your child set up a good homework area that is free of distractions, review homework, help your child prep for an upcoming test, call out spelling words, read and respond to paperwork that the teacher sends home, etc.

Sources:

Fatherhood Institute. Research Summary: Fathers' Influence Over Children's Education. Fathers Direct. February 2007.
Sarah Allen, MSc and Kerry Daly, PhD. The Effects of Father Involvement: A Summary of the Research Evidence. Newsletter of the Father Involvement Initiative - Ontario Network, Volume 1, Fall 2002.

How to elect a nominating committee

In November or December your unit needs to start thinking about nominating committee. I know it seems crazy to suggest but really you must start working on the new slate of officers for the following school year that early. Some units don't meet each month, so electing that committee is vital.

First thing you need to do is go to your bylaws. Your bylaws will give you the guidelines in which to elect your nominating committee.

You may ask; who can be on the nominating committee? Isn't that our officers' jobs to do that? Again, check your bylaws and you will find that more times than not your current officers are not to meet and pick the new slate of officers.

The committee is formed to give everyone a chance to be involved. The PTA is many times accused of being a clique. This should be the furthest thing from the truth. A PTA should be made up of parents who want to be a positive influence at their school. This should not give someone a platform with an axe to grind. This is not helpful to your unit or your kids. The committee will choose someone to chair and set meeting dates to start work.

The nominating committee's job is to look at what positions are available in their unit; do you have anyone who is terming out or leaving? The committee needs to make a list of potential parents who may be interested in coming on your board. Then talk about everyone's strengths and find the best fit for them. It is so much easier to make a volunteer happy when you put them in a position that they can be passionate about. The job must fit the volunteer.

Contact the individual and just ask; be able to give them a good idea of what the scope of work will be and maybe a time commitment. Once you have filled your slate your committee must report to the executive board and then your general assembly. This report must be done either in January or February, depending upon your meeting schedule. The slate must sit out for 30 days prior to your election. Election must be held in March. All officers' information must be submitted to the State PTA and the St. Joseph PTA Council by March 31st. As your Regional Director it is helpful to me if you send me a copy as well.

It is vital that you meet this deadline. This information will be used to build the data base for the following years' mailings.

Submitted by Lori Prussman

Regional Director Report...

In 2012 Missouri PTA will celebrate their 100th anniversary! This is a great accomplishment! We need to take time to reflect on our past, where we are now and where do we want to be in the future?

We need to take a hard look at what we are doing. Are we being pioneers like the women who came before us? Is there a need that we have not addressed? Is there a project that needs to be done? Are we reaching the parents of those students who are the most vulnerable extending a helpful hand?

In our community we are over 60% poverty level!!! That is unbelievable. The majority of our students do not have a choice of what school they attend. They don't have a choice of public vs private school. They don't have that luxury.

What can we do about it? We give them a voice!!! We make sure that they have what they need!!! Individually we are a small voice but together we make a load noise.

What can you, and your unit, do to give all children a voice? We need to educate our parents on what is going on in education. We need to give them the knowledge that will help them make good decisions. We empower them and encourage them to register to vote. They need to become aware of who is running for office, state and national elections. They need to know that their voice is important.

The days of putting on blinders and hoping that other people will do what's best are over. We must advocate for our children. We must be the ones who say "enough is enough". We must be the ones who make a difference in the lives of all students in our community. If we don't...who will?

We must make our memberships count. We must show the importance of advocacy. Share with your units' resolutions that are being presented and resolutions that have passed. Did you know that your unit can write a resolution and submit it to Council? Did you know that our Council can submit a resolution to the State PTA?

Let's make a difference!!! Let's let our kids know that they are worth it!!! Let's be there voice!!! Let's be a positive change!!! Let's be united and stand together and show how important our kids and their futures are!!!

Lori Prussman
Pony Express Regional Director

2012/2013 PTA/PTSA Officers List

Send completed form to St. Joseph PTA Council, PO Box 1116, 64502

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

Do not use school address for President mailing address.

Deadline March 31, 2012

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: _____

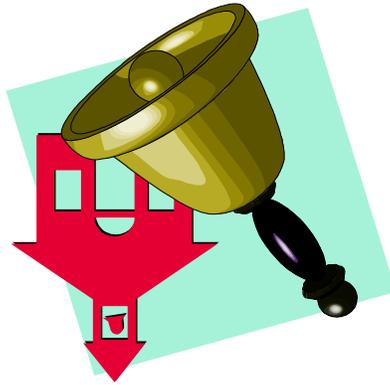
Phone _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

COMMUNITY FUNDING



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

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

