

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 19, Issue 7

March 2004



Presidents

Corner...

Kerry Funck, Council President

"Kids First" was the cry heard around the Capital Building and St. Joseph was there. We were a small group in a sea of thousands all with the same message "Kids First!" Please help us keep this message going. Write your Congressmen and Senator today, attend the monthly Legislative Forums and most importantly VOTE.

Founder's Day was celebrated this month with Tina Zubeck, Missouri PTA President, as our special guest. We had a chance to honor some wonderful school district employees, teacher of the year, David George, with the Caroline B. Ullmann Scholarship Fund Award and support person of the year, Louise Hodgkin with the Missouri PTA Building Fund Award. PTA Council presented Tina Zubeck with \$100 for each of these programs. As of this writing I don't know who earned the Outstanding Principal Award but what I can tell you is that we have 25 deserving people. Unfortunately we can only choose one. The Clarence J. Carpenter board honored a great supporter of PTA and the school district, Ray Swope owner of the Hoof & Horn and handed out awards of the "Help A Child To See" campaign. I hope everyone who attended had a memorable time. Thank you, Robin and your committee, for doing an outstanding job!

Nominating Committees within all the units should be working to fill vacant officer slots. Please remember to send in the names to the State Office and myself. I have added forms in this months clipping for you.

The Spelling Bee took place this past month also. We had over 70 participants. Thanks go out to Jean Donaldson and her family for organizing the bee this year. Thank you, Donaldson Family!

Whew! We have had a very busy month and we just have a few months left so hang in there a little while longer. You are very much appreciated! Thank you for all you do!

ABC's of Friendship

- (A)ccepts you as you are
- (B)elieves in "you"
- (C)alls you just to say "HI"
- (D)oesn't give up on you
- (E)nvvisions the whole of you (even the unfinished parts)
- (F)orgives your mistakes
- (G)ives unconditionally
- (H)elps you
- (I)nvites you over
- (J)ust "be" with you
- (K)eeps you close at heart
- (L)oves you for who you are
- (M)akes a difference in your life
- (N)ever Judges
- (O)ffers support
- (P)icks you up
- (Q)uiets your fears
- (R)aises your spirits
- (S)ays nice things about you
- (T)ells you the truth when you need to hear it
- (U)nderstands you
- (V)alues you
- (W)alks beside you
- (X)-plains things you don't understand
- (Y)ells when you won't listen and
- (Z)aps you back to reality

Author unknown



School of Information

The PTA Council will be having a School of Information after the **May 3rd** Council meeting. The location of the meeting and the school of information is **Lindbergh** Elementary School on St. Joseph Avenue. The Council meeting will begin at **5:00 PM**, dinner will be served at 6:00 PM and the School of Information will be from 6:30 to 7:00 PM. At the School of Information we will have break out sessions for the President, secretary, treasurer, and your membership chair to attend. Please plan to come, the meal is free and you will meet people and receive information to make your job easier. The reservation form must be filled out and returned by **April 23rd**.

Hope to see you there!

Joyce Clibon, Chairman

Council Clippings Article Assignments for April Articles are due March 10, 2004

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Presidents Report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Character & Spiritual</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>School of Information</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Council Award</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Budget (proposed)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Application for 2004-2005 Character & Spiritual Award</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.

“I am really happy when...” Reflections

Twenty schools participated in the Reflections contest this year. Eighty nine entries in the four categories of music, literature, photography and visual arts were submitted to be sent to the state level. There were some exciting entries. Hopefully, we will have some place at state. Thank you to all of the Reflections chairmen in the individual schools and to all of the teachers who worked so diligently to make this contest a success in the participating schools. This contest could not happen without everyone’s assistance! This year I hope a huge debt of gratitude to Kerry Funck, Diana Slawson and Joyce Clibon for collecting, packing up, and shipping the Reflections entries to state. These ladies did an outstanding job.

Remember some of the writing entries not submitted to state will be on display at our Founders’ Day dinner on February 26th. This will be an opportunity for you to see the entries that placed 4th through 6th at some of the buildings.

The state results will not be known until early April when it will be published in the Missouri PTA Contact. Please be sure to share the results with the students and teachers in your buildings. A reception to recognize all of the students with work submitted to state will be held April 15^h at 6:30 p.m. in the Leah Spratt Building at MWSC. Invitations will be sent to the individual students in April.

Allene Wright
PTA Council Reflections Chair

The Public is Invited to the

St. Joseph School District

Board of Education
Candidates' Forum



Tuesday, March 23, 2004
7 p.m.

Hillyard Technical Center; Room 103

Sponsored by the St. Joseph PTA Council, the CTA (Community Teachers' Association of the St. Joseph MSTA [Missouri State Teachers' Association] Region), and the St. Joseph NEA (National Education Association)

Seeking election to office are the following: for the two, six-year terms—Leo Blakley, Martin Rucker, and Ed Catron. For the one, two-year term, Bob Hughs and Dean Mausolf are seeking the position.

For more information contact, Sharon Kosek, St. Joseph PTA Council Legislative Chair, 671-4170

St. Joseph PTA Council – Legislative Report

Sharon Kosek, Legislative Chair

March 2004



Kids' First Rally in Jefferson City – February 16

St. Joseph PTA Council members, students, teachers, and others attended the *Kids' First Rally* on Presidents' Day, February 16, in Jefferson City, Missouri. The actual rally was from 1 to 2 p.m. Visits with representatives and senators were made after the rally. It was a very positive advocacy experience.

SJSD Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire

A questionnaire will be used to help determine the Board of Education candidates' positions on issues important to the future of our children and our St. Joseph School District. Members of the St. Joseph PTA Council, the St. Joseph Community Teachers' (CTA) of the St. Joseph MSTA (Missouri State Teachers' Association) Region, and the St. Joseph NEA (National Education Association) assisted in writing questions. The current goal is for the questionnaire to be mailed to all five candidates, and the responses posted in several places including the SJSD website. It is planned that the results will be available at the March 23 candidates' forum.

SJSD Board of Education – Candidates' Forum – March 23

The St. Joseph PTA Council in partnership with the CTA (Classroom Teachers' Association of the St. Joseph MSTA [Missouri State Teachers' Association] Region) and St. Joseph NEA (National Education Association) will host a SJSD Board of Education Candidates' Forum for the five candidates seeking election to our Board of Education. The forum will be held Tuesday, March 23, at Hillyard Technical Center in Room 103, beginning at 7 p.m. The general public is invited to attend. PTA members are particularly encouraged to attend this event where the audience will be invited to ask the candidates questions.

Seeking election to office are the following: for the two, six-year terms--Leo Blakley, Martin Rucker, and Ed Catron. For the one, two-year term, Bob Hughs and Dean Mausolf are seeking the position. Mr. Blakley and Mr. Rucker currently serve on the Board.

Please encourage your PTA members, your school's staff, and others to attend. It is important that we elect positive, education-minded board members. The election for school board candidates will be held on Tuesday, April 6. Be sure your voter registration is up to date so that you may vote in the election.

Levy Yard Sign Help Needed

Please support our children and our St. Joseph School District by allowing a yard sign to be placed in your yard supporting the proposed levy. If you would like a yard sign placed in your yard, please leave a message on Sharon Kosek's phone at 232-7096 with your name and address or email her at sharon.kosek@sjsd.k12.mo.us. The signs will be placed in yards on Friday, March 12, and picked up on Tuesday, April 6, Election Day, after 7 p.m.

We are also looking for teams of enthusiastic individuals who are willing to place signs on March 12 after 4:30 p.m. and pick them back up on April 6 (beginning at 7 p.m.) Please email Sharon Kosek know if you are interested in participating in this as well. If you have questions, please call Dan and Jennifer Kellogg at 232-3862 or Sharon Kosek at 232-7096.

Next Legislative Forum: March 26, 4:15 – 5:15; Hillyard Technical Center

The St. Joseph PTA Council is a sponsor of the Legislative Forums held monthly at Hillyard Technical Center in Room 103. The forums are free and open to the public. The last one will be held Friday, April 30.

The St. Joseph School Levy – April 6

What's at stake and how will your money be spent?

Why is a levy increase necessary?

The St. Joseph School District stands at a financial crossroads. The District has tightened its belt as much as possible without overly affecting the students. Over the past two years, the District has cut \$5 million from its budget, eliminated 97 positions, frozen salaries, and frozen hiring.

Another \$4 million to \$7 million in new budget cuts are expected to come from the state this year. This would be devastating.

How much does the District need and how much will it cost you?

The District needs to raise the levy by 63 cents, which will generate approximately \$8.9 million. Half of that will come from local property taxes, and half from the state. So, for every dollar you invest in your children, the state will invest another dollar.

If your house has a fair market value of \$50,000, the increase will cost you around \$59 a year – a little over a dollar a week.

What's all this talk about a Sunset Clause?

The "sunset clause" included in this proposal means the tax will expire in five years. The District would have to then come back to the voters for approval to continue the tax. The District would be accountable to you for how it spends your money.

The District believes in keeping its words about how your tax dollars are spent – a promise made is a promise kept – just as it did with the 2000 bond issue that resulted in improvements at every school.

Did you know?

- *For every dollar St. Joseph raises locally in property taxes, the state will send an additional dollar back to St. Joseph.*
- *Only 4 cents of every dollar the St. Joseph School District receives from the state comes from the riverboats and gambling.*
- *Of 524 school districts in the state of Missouri, nearly 500 spend a higher percentage of their budget on administration than St. Joseph*
 - *That District's per pupil expenditure is \$6,232, well below the state average of \$7,345.*
 - *The Districts' drop-out rate has declined from 25% a decade ago to just under 12 % today.*
- *Of some 74 school districts in Northwest Missouri, only 7 have a lower operating levy than St. Joseph's.*
- *Of the 7 school districts represented in the Midland Empire Conference, only one has a lower operating levy than St. Joseph's.*
- *Of the 7 school districts represented in the Suburban Mid-Eight Conference, none has a lower operating levy than St. Joseph's.*
- *The "Circuit Breaker" protects senior citizens on fixed incomes from increases in property taxes (call 671-4000 for eligibility information)*

The St. Joseph School Levy – April 6

Passage of the levy will maintain the current level of services and programs.

A "YES" vote means:

- You keep all neighborhood schools – schools are the heartbeat of a neighborhood
 - Your children keep small class sizes
 - Your children continue to go to schools they attend on transfers
 - Your children who live a mile or more from school can ride a school bus
 - Your children benefit from current alternative school programs
 - Your children choose from current levels of extracurricular activities

Failure to pass the levy will require further budget cuts.

A "NO" vote means:

- You lose one of more neighborhood schools, depending on depth of cuts
 - Your children's class sizes will increase
 - 200 to 300 jobs will be eliminated
- Your school boundary lines will be redrawn, shifting thousands of children to new schools
 - Almost all transfers will be eliminated
- Your children's transportation will be reduced (the state requires only that students living three and one-half miles from schools be bused)
 - Your children's alternative school programs will be reduced or eliminated
- Your children's athletic and fine arts activities will be reduced (or "user" fees could be adopted)

Resolution

St. Joseph PTA Council Support of the

St. Joseph School District Levy

WHEREAS, one of the PTA Objectives includes the united effort between educators and the general public to secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education; and

WHEREAS, parents want high quality schools that provide all children the opportunity to achieve academically and the ability to enter the work force well-prepared; and

WHEREAS, we have one of the highest performing school districts in the state; and

WHEREAS, our funding, as a district, is one of the lowest in the state, we are 67th out of 74 Northwest Missouri School Districts; and

WHEREAS, our state will add an additional dollar for every dollar that we invest in our schools which turns our \$4.5 million (approximately) into \$8.9 million; and

WHEREAS, we have not passed a levy in over ten years; and

WHEREAS, our turnover rate is high—salary and retirement are the top two reasons; and

WHEREAS, in 60 months, we will turnover half of our existing teaching staff;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the St. Joseph PTA Council strongly supports the Tuesday, April 6, 2004, St. Joseph School District Levy.

Unanimously supported February 9, 2004
St. Joseph PTA Council Executive Meeting

Davis-Langemach PTA Council Award of Excellence

Background

The “Davis-Langemach 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.

Determination of Winner

The administrator, teacher, or staff member, 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 20th of the previous month. The first award will be in September.

Nominations should be sent to:

Linda Peters

PTA Council Awards
406 Kentucky Street
St. Joseph, MO 64504



Thank you for your interest!

**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: Maria Reynolds

1115 E. Highland Ave.

St. Joseph, MO 64505

816-364-2848

rama@magiccablepc.com

Signature _____

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

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 _____

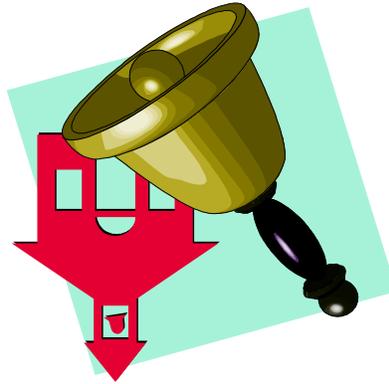
Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is Confirmed for _____

Signature _____ Date _____

ADDRESS ONLY

COMMUNITY CENTER



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

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

