

# Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 23, Issue 8

April 2008



## Presidents

### Corner...

I finally saw a robin last week and I hope that means spring is right around the corner. As we all prepare to be outside more, remember there are a couple of PTA items to tie up before our year is complete. At the top of the list should be filling in those PTA positions and committees that are still open for the 2008-09 school year. Having those positions filled and sending this information to the state PTA office and Council will help next year run more smoothly. To recruit potential parents, think about having a booth at the kindergarten screenings. Have a questionnaire available to find out how each parent might be interested in assisting with PTA at your school. Remember, the more parents who are involved the less work for you all.

In keeping with PTA leadership, remember that Missouri PTA offers a Leadership Conference each year. The conference this year will be in Independence, Missouri at the Hilton Garden Inn on April 25-26<sup>th</sup>. This is another outstanding opportunity for leadership training and learning from the best!!!! Each unit president should have received information about this conference and if not be sure to go to the Missouri PTA Website for information.

Your Saint Joseph PTA Council will continue to offer various programs over the next several months. Legislative Forums will be held the last Friday of each month from 4:15 to 5:15 through April. These events are held at Hillyard Technical School. On April 17<sup>th</sup> the Reflections reception will be held at Keatley Center at 6:00. Our April 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Meeting will include a school of information for incoming officers. Finally, the council is excited about our upcoming Major Saver Fundraiser which kickoffs in April. Let's make this a record year for our fundraiser!!!! As always, our units will benefit with profits shared from Council. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Please keep in mind that your council is here to help with any questions or concerns you have. Our phone numbers and e-mail addresses are in your handbook. Don't hesitate to contact any one of us at any time. You are all super and I care about each and every one of you and the schools you support. God Bless.

Peggy Wood  
PTA Council President

## SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

April 7, after the regular monthly Council meeting, will be the School of Information. It will begin at approximately 7:30 PM and be finished by 8:15 PM. There will be break out sessions for President, treasurer, secretary/Reflections, and membership. Great door prizes in each workshop with the grand prize for two to the State PTA Convention in October. Plan to attend, learn lots of stuff, and maybe win a door prize!!

Do what you can, with what you  
have, where you are."  
- Theodore Roosevelt

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where  
he stands in moments of comfort, but where he  
stands at times of challenge and controversy."  
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

"You can't wait for inspiration.  
You have to go after it with a club."  
- Jack London

- respectfully submitted by  
Heather Slawson

### Council Clippings Article Assignments for May 2008

Articles are due April 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>Reflections Ways and means</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Membership report</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Budget for 05- 06</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.

St. Joseph PTA Council Reflections  
Recognition Ceremony  
at the Keatley Center, 1202 S. 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 Gallery viewing  
6:30 Recognition Ceremony

Cookies and punch will be served 6:00 – 6:30

Call Lori Prussman with any questions,  
816-262-2664

### **Why should I attend State functions?**

I have heard this statement many, many times throughout my time on the State PTA Board - Pony Express Regional Director. The reason why you should send as many people from your unit to attend training - Legislation Rallies, Leadership Conference, Regional training, Regional School of information and the State Convention is that it is one of your many rights/benefits of being a paid member of PTA. Training for your board members must be part of your budget. It is a great way to learn new ideas, share what works for your unit and what has not been going so well. If you are a new officer it is a great way to meet other new officers and share your ideas and concerns. Even if you have been involved in PTA for many years, it is a wonderful opportunity to see old friend and meet some new ones throughout the State. You also find out that whatever problem or concern you have are not limited to just your board or unit.

You never stop learning until your 6 feet under. So please join us and the rest of the State of Missouri PTA councils, units and members.

Leadership conference is in Independence this year at the Hilton Garden Inn April 25-26.

Training, networking, skills development and resource opportunities. Adults and students in middle school through high school are encouraged to attend—I would like to see more Pony Express - St. Joseph, MO people there. You all do such a wonderful job in your councils and unit, you need to be proud of what your doing and show off.

Elaine Gerstenberger

Pony Express Regional Director

## **Ideas for Parent Involvement**

Continued from last month...

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 4. *Speaking up for every child* – Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children**

- Take surveys of teachers to see what they need parents to do
- Create a parent task force to give input on school issues
- Hold a parent "mixer" to meet and discuss student issues
- Create a volunteer sheet for sign-in at the office so you know how many hours your volunteers are contributing and who they are – school volunteers know what's happening in the building
- Utilize your PTSA students as conflict managers and advocacy mediation
- Become knowledgeable about the operations of schools and the laws that govern those operations

### **Standard 5. *Sharing Power* – Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children**

- Attend PTA, school, and district meetings regularly to stay informed
- Run for your local school board
- Create a Site-based management team (parents, educators, administrators, and students) to focus on issues in the school affecting your children
- Offer in-service training for teachers, staff, and parents so collaborative partnering can happen
- PTA's and schools should give information to parents in simple language
- Recognize and reward Site-based management teams/action teams for the work they are doing
- Share information continually by newsletters, websites, and e-mail

Look for Standard 6 in our next issue.

Sumbitted by Lori Prussman

## **ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL CHARACTER AND SPIRITUAL LEADER SCHOLARSHIP 2008-2009**

**The St. Joseph PTA Council established this scholarship. The amount of this scholarship is \$500.00. This scholarship is for a one-year term to the student.**

### **Requirements for eligibility:**

1. Must be a graduating senior of a St. Joseph Public School (2008-2009).
2. Must be a member of their high school PTSA for 2008-2009.
3. Must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.
4. Must have one (1) letter of recommendation from a school personality (example: Teacher, Principal or Guidance Counselor.)
5. Must complete the application attached.
6. Must attach a transcript with application
7. Must write and attach an essay on your goals for college and career (150 words or less).
8. **Must attend bi-monthly General meetings of the St. Joseph PTA Council and the Founder's Day Dinner and be prepared with a motivational "thought for the evening" at these meetings. (Five meetings and one banquet)**
9. **Must prepare monthly motivational thoughts or short poem to be published in our monthly newsletter (Council Clippings). This does not have to be an original work of art.**
10. **If chosen, you will be on the committee who will choose the following year's award winner. Other members will be St. Joseph PTA Council appointees.**

**\*\*Though not mandatory, please enclose a photo. It is good to have a face with a name.**

## Application Process

Applications will be available at guidance counselor office. **Applications are due to the guidance counselor no later than May 1, 2008.** Selection will be made by May 15, 2008. Applications will be forwarded to chairman by the schools counselor: Carla Ewart, 215 Ohio, St. Joseph, MO 64504. Phone 816-238-7908.

### APPLICATION FOR THE ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL CHARACTER AND SPIRITUAL LEADER SCHOLARSHIP.

APPLICANT'S NAME:

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LAST	FIRST	MIDDLE	DATE OF BIRTH
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ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
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TELEPHONE #	PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME
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Name and address of high school attended and number of years at that school.

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Name and address of the college or university you plan to attend.

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I plan to be a member of my high school PTSA for the year of 2008-2009. Yes / No

I have been a PTA/PTSA member for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

I hereby certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

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Date

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Signature of Applicant



# Remember to Vote . . Tuesday, April 8

- Sharon Kosek, PTA Council Legislative Chair

We have seven St. Joseph District Board of Education candidates whom each seek to be elected to serve for the next six years. We may vote for two of the candidates listed below. Two will be elected on April 8.

- Sue Wagner** Former SJSD Gifted Coordinator/teacher /Teacher of the Year; currently the gifted teacher at Avenue City School District.
- Sarah Siemens** Mother of two Eugene Field students; former CPA with Clifton Gunderson; active volunteer at Field.
- David Mason, Jr.** Retired St. Joseph teacher and former SJ National Education Association president.
- Walt Hanabury** Retired St. Joseph School District principal.
- Dr. Brian Cronk** MWSU psychology professor; father of two children who attend Coleman School.
- Stan Hall** Retired business executive.
- David Mejia** Former SJSD Board of Education member from 1992-2004, employed at Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory where he also serves as a pastor.

In addition to the Candidate Forum that the PTA Council sponsored, the St. Joseph School District hosted a Candidates' Forum on March 6 that was recorded for viewing on Channel 41. The District is making the recording available every day through April 8 at 11 a.m., 4 p.m., and 7 p.m.

## Final 2008 Legislative Forum – Friday, April 25

Please plan to attend the fourth and final Legislative Forum for this legislative session on Friday, April 25, from 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. at Hillyard Technical Center in Room 103. PTA Council helps to sponsor this event. Your attendance is appreciated. State Senator Charlie Shields, State Representative Ed Wildberger, State Representative Dr. Rob Schaaf, State Representative Martin Rucker, and Chad Higdon (representing Congressman Sam Graves) are invited to attend.

### David Liechti, State Board of Education Member Former President SJSD Board of Education - Appointed to National Committee

David Liechti of the Missouri State Board of Education has been appointed to serve on a committee of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Mr. Liechti has been chosen to serve on NASBE's standing Governmental Affairs Committee, which develops policy recommendations for the organization and communicates with Congress and federal officials. As part of the 20-member panel, Liechti will meet with other state education leaders, national policymakers, and others to evaluate the impact of the federal *No Child Left Behind* act on the states and suggest possible changes for Congress to consider. This is a very important role; we are proud of Mr. Liechti.

Mr. Liechti has been a member of the State Board of Education since 2003. He currently serves as vice president of the board. He is a former president of the St. Joseph School District Board of Education. David is a past recipient of the Davis-Langemach Award from the Council.

### A Visit to Washington, DC



It was my privilege to visit our nation's capitol from March 8-12 and speak to legislators or their staff members about the importance of public education. I had the opportunity to visit with staff members in the offices of Senator Claire McCaskill, Senator Kit Bond, Congressman Sam Graves, Congressman Russ Carnahan, and Congressman Emanuel Cleaver. One of the topics discussed was the decline in projected spending on education and the need for increased funding. Last year 2.3 cents of every US budget dollar was spent on public education. It is projected that 2.1 cents will be the amount spent this year. The revision of *No Child Left Behind* was also a topic of important discussion. All agreed that revisions are needed in the plan. On my visit to Senator Bond's office, I had the opportunity to visit with Seth Logston, a MWSU student who was recently hired as a staffer for Bond's office. In addition, I was pleased to greet a 2005 Central High School graduate interning in the office of Congressman Graves.

*Thank you for your support of the PTA Board of Education Candidates' Forum and the Legislative Forums.*

**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

[jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto:jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us)

Or at TMC 816-671-4390

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

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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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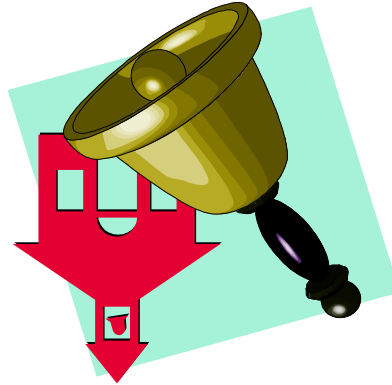
Confirmation

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

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

NOTICE FOR PARENTS

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ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

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

