

# Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Joseph PTA Council

Volume 24, Issue 8

April 2009



It's Easter Time!



## Presidents

### Corner...

As I type this issue of Clippings the most important item to think about right now is the levy and bond issues on the ballot for April 7. I want to say thank you for all your hard work you have all done and continue to do. We have to keep on fighting for this because our kiddos depend on us to make good decisions for them and voting YES TWICE on April 7 is the right decision. Please continue to work hard for this and on April 6 remember to keep your phones lines "hot" with calls to any and everyone asking them to vote "YES".

Don't forget that PTA positions should be filled and information to the state PTA office and Council should be complete by March 31. Having those positions filled and sending in your information will make next year run more smoothly.

While collecting memberships is over, applying for membership awards is not. Please take the time to review the various membership awards for the state available in your Winter Packets. Most of these award applications are due to the state office by April 15. The Saint Joseph PTA Council will be presenting membership awards at our May meeting. Units do not need to apply for these Council awards. These awards are awarded based on membership numbers supplied by the state PTA office.

On April 23 the Reflections reception will be held at Keatley Center. Reflections viewing will begin at 6:00pm and the awards ceremony will begin at 6:30pm. A big THANKS to Lori Prussman and Azure Hailey for taking care of Reflections this year. These two gals are awesome and they give so much to this project.

Our last Legislative Forum will be held on April 24 from 4:15 to 5:15 at Hillyards. This is such a good way to find out what our representatives are doing for us and also for you to ask questions. Sharon Kosek has worked really hard to promote these events and I hope to see more PTA support at this forum. THANK YOU so much Sharon for working so hard on our forums.

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## 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  
St. Joseph, MO 64507

Title \_\_\_\_\_ 816-244-1687  
[jena.kirschner@sjsd.k12.mo.us](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

**PTA COUNCIL SPONSORS  
BUCHANAN COUNTY SPELLING BEE**

The Buchanan County Spelling Bee was held on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at Truman Middle School. A total of 93 contestants competed for awards in the Elementary and Middle School Divisions sponsored annually by the SJSD PTA Council.

The Buchanan County champion is **Alissa Bright**, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Truman Middle School. She is the daughter of **Rick and Rebecca Bright**. Second place at the County level went to **Emily Demming**, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Coleman Elementary School. She is the daughter of **Perry and Debbie Demming**. Both **Alissa** and **Emily** now qualify to compete in the Northwest Missouri Regional Spelling Bee, sponsored by the St. Joseph News Press, on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at St. Francis Xavier.

Other winners in the Elementary Division were; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- **Jackson Pollard**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, St. Francis Xavier, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- **Devyn Johnson**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Lindbergh, 4<sup>th</sup> Place- **Rebekah Thimes**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Eugene Field, and 5<sup>th</sup> Place- **Taylor Harris**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Parkway. Other winners in the Middle School Division were 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- **Scott Pritchard**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Spring Garden, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- **Tyler Allen**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Truman, 4<sup>th</sup> Place- **Hunter Griswold**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, St. James, and tied for 5<sup>th</sup> Place- **Justin Dee**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Bode and **Summer Murren**, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Truman.

The pronouncers were **Lori Witham**, Middle School Division, and **Rhonda Slawson**, Elementary Division. The judges were **Debbie Elder**, **Randy Harr**, **Joe Marmaud**, **Chandler Cooper**, **Zachary Coughlin**, and **Shelley Hughes**. Round Keeper was **Melodie Brennan**. Registrars were **Peggy Wood**, **Sharon Kosek**, **Brenda O'Meara**, **Karen Bechtold**, and **Lara Gilpin**. **Mark** and **Jean Donaldson** served as grievance judges.

An event this size cannot be successful without the help of many capable and dedicated people. In addition to the work of the pronouncers, judges, and registrars, the **Central JROTC** came out in force to provide help with parking and directions. The Truman custodial staff coordinated a well-equipped and spotless environment.

Karen Heyde-Lipanovich  
Buchanan County Spelling Bee Coordinator

**Council Clippings Article Assignments for  
April 2009**

**Articles are due March 10, 2009**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>Presidents Report</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>Character &amp; Spiritual</u></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>School of Information</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>Council Award</u></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>Budget (proposed)</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b><u>Application for 2006-2007 Character &amp; Spiritual Award</u></b>

**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.**

Try not to become a man of success but a man of value.  
**Albert Einstein**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.  
**Abraham Lincoln**

**Presidents Corner**

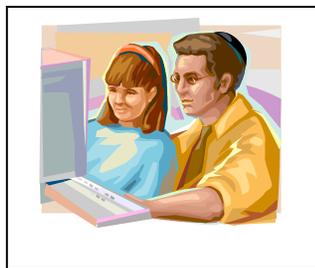
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Don't forget that our April Executive meeting has been changed from April 6 to April 14. It is still at Hillyards and the time is still 6:00pm. Please have all your officers attend this meeting as Joyce Clibon will be doing our School of Information. This is very beneficial to all of the officers on your board.

Finally, we will be doing our fundraiser with Major Saver towards the end of April. I will have exact dates at our April meeting. As always, all units will benefit with profits shared from Council. With your support, we should have another great year.

God Bless You All,  
Peggy Wood  
PTA Council President

## Atta Boy!



As PTA members and the biggest pool of parent volunteers in our public schools, we are aware of the need for increased parent involvement. I know that I am “preaching to the choir” so to speak when I write these articles. We know that a parent’s involvement increases our student’s achievement; it boosts our student’s attitude about school, while improving attendance in our schools.

Some parents are eager to volunteer and to be a part of their students learning, others will need some nudging. The Center on Families, Communities, Schools, and Children's Learning, found that parents are more likely to be involved in their student’s school when they receive positive feedback about their child. Let’s face it, often parents are contacted by the school when there is a problem with or because of their child. Parents want an “atta boy”! Parents who hear frequent positive things about their child from the school will be more comfortable being a part of the school.

## How can we help as PTA executives?

Provide opportunities for teachers to show off the work their students are doing:

- A newsletter
- An open house
- Note cards
- Special events during school hours and after
- School website

Build a bulletin board around a class or grade level so that teachers and students can show their amazing work. Help teachers to display class work throughout the school so that parents can see what their children are learning.

## Parent Centers

Each of our St. Joseph schools has a Partner in Education. Ask these partners to help develop a parent center--a place where parents can go to find resources to help their children. Get parenting help. Share their experiences and struggles as a parent. Provide information about getting support during difficult times. Provide books that might help them provide a better learning environment for their child. Give them the opportunity to share what they would like to see in the school.

We all need help at some time or another during our children’s school years. Help to build a place where parents can exchange thoughts and ideas. Give all parents a voice at your school. Let them know that all parents are important and their input is invaluable.

**Atta Boy! St. Joseph PTA for all you do in your schools and for our school district. You make our schools better schools.**

Nadienne Hoffman  
Parent Involvement Coordinator  
St. Joseph PTA Council

## Reflections Award Ceremony

April 23, 2009  
Keatley Center

6:00 Viewing  
6:30 Awards presentation

Cookies and punch will be served.

## **ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL CHARACTER AND SPIRITUAL LEADER SCHOLARSHIP 2009-2010**

**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 (2009-2010).
2. Must be a member of their high school PTSA for 2009-2010.
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; Sept., Nov., Jan., March, May, and one banquet; Feb.)**
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.**

**\*\*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 Friday, May 22, 2009.** Selection will be made by June 2009. Applications will be forwarded to PTA Council Awards chairman by the schools counselor:

### 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 2009-2010. 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.

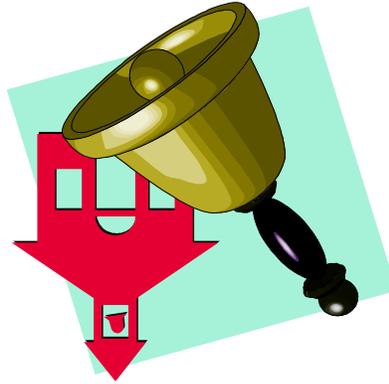
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



NOTICE FOR PRUSSMAN

COMMUNITY NOTICE



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

St. Joseph PTA Council  
c/o Lori Prussman  
2504 Ashland ave  
St. Joseph, MO 64506

