

Council Clippings

Monthly Newsletter of
St. Joseph PTA Council



May 31st
High School Graduation
Congratulations!

Volume 24, Issue 9

May 2009



Presidents

Corner...

I can't believe we are at the end of another school year!!!! Time goes so fast. Everyone is gearing up for the end of the year activities.

First, I want to say THANK YOU to those who helped sooo much with the "Vote Yes Twice" campaign. It was a heart breaking outcome but we need to move on and keep in mind that we have thousands of kiddos counting on us to do what's best for them. A special thanks to Sharon Kosek for working so hard on this campaign and representing PTA Council with me. Also a big thanks to Carla Ewart for helping with election night food and attending election night with me. Carla also visited election sites that day and I can't thank her enough.

We have our Major Saver Campaign starting and I am excited about our card this year. We have some awesome offers on the card. Please do what you can to help with our sales as each unit benefits from these sales.

PTA Council will also be hosting a Mustangs Ball Game on Friday, June 5th at 7:00pm. The San Diego Chicken will be there and discount tickets will be available. If you have any questions give Carla or me a call. Carla can be reached at 238-7908 and you can reach me at 364-4575 or my cell at 390-6948. I will have more information at our May meeting. Please join us and have a great time!!!!

As we wrap up this year I want to thank each one of you for doing all that you do for the kiddos. You are ALL awesome and I am so proud to have you all as my friends. A special thank you goes to Carla Ewart for taking my place so many times this year and always being there when I needed a hand. Also to Lori Prussman who I have leaned on so much the past two years. I wish you all knew just how dedicated these two gals are to your kiddos. They have been a TRUE BLESSING to me the past two years.

I want to thank Dr. Smith and Steve Huff who have not only been great advisors this year but have also become my good friends. You will both

continued

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
10489 SE State Rt. A
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-244-1687

Signature _____

Title _____

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 _____

Date _____

Confirmation Sent _____

Signature _____

Check out date _____

Signature _____

Check in date _____

Number of Components Issued _____

Number Returned _____ Date _____

Number Used _____ @ _____ Total Due _____

Confirmation

Your Request for the Button Machine is confirmed for _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Reflections 2008-2009

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the 2008-2009 Reflections program. This year we had 23 of 25 schools send in entries with a total of 104 entries. That is an awesome showing.

We would like to thank all of the Reflections chairs and PTA parents for all of their dedication to this important program. All children should be exposed to the Arts and this is PTA's way of involving all children in the St. Joseph School District to participate.

We had 19 students who either placed or had an honorable mention at State. Congratulations to these students. Please see this list below for all of those students and their categories.

Literature

Middle/Junior
3rd place Madion Herrington;
Robidoux

Photography

Intermediate
1st place Kennady King; Parkway

Middle/Junior
HM Regan Schultz; Bode
HM Paige Musser; Coleman

Senior
1st place Taylor Bronson; Central
3rd place Andrew King; Central
HM Thomas Nelson; Central
HM Carolyn Pease; Benton

Visual Arts

Primary
HM Madeline Arn; Hall

Intermediate
HM Kennedy Ruffcorn; Neely
HM Austin Reed; Coleman
HM Julio Hidalgo; Neely

Middle/Junior
HM A-lese Wilson; Bode***
HM JoAnne Dodge; Bode
HM Alexandrine Casem; Bode

Senior
1st place Charles Henderson;
Lafayette
HM Brock Spinner; Central

Dance Choreography

Intermediate
2nd place Brooklyn Wattenbarger;
Lindbergh

Middle/Junior
3rd place Elsa Kunz; Bode

Submitted by Azure Hailey; Reflections Chair

Council Clippings Article Assignments for September 2009

Articles are due August 10, 2009

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Presidents Report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Character & Spiritual</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Treasurer</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Regional Director article</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Membership</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>State Convention</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>National Convention</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Information</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Clarence Carpenter Annual report</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Ways & Means</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.

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.
~Benjamin Franklin

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds
that you plant. ~Robert Louis Stevenson

Presidents Corner

Continued from page 1

have many gold stars in your crowns someday for all that you do for our kiddos!!!

If you have questions or concerns this summer, I will be your president until July 31st so call myself or Carla with any issues you need help with. Have a great summer and God Bless You ALL!!!!

Peggy Wood
St. Joseph PTA Council President

2009 Legislative Forums

PTA Council did a great job of hosting the 2009 Legislative forums held on January 30, February 27, March 27, and April 24 in Room 103 of Hillyard Technical Center. Each was held the last Friday of the month during the first four months of the 95th Missouri Legislative General Assembly. State and national leaders or their field representative were invited to participate. The public was invited to ask questions.



This year not only were we very pleased to have our area state legislative leaders participate as well as a representative for Sixth District Congressman Sam Graves office, we also added field representatives from the offices of US Senator Claire McCaskill and US Senator Kit Bond. Bond's and McCaskill's field representatives traveled from their Kansas City area offices to participate. It is difficult for them to attend our forums as they are so busy so we greatly appreciated their involvement. Thanks to 34th District State Senator Charlie Shields, 27th District Representative Ed Wildberger, 28th District Representative Dr. Rob Schaaf, and 29th District Representative Martin Rucker for their regular participation. This 2009 Missouri Legislative Regular Session is scheduled to end on Friday, May 15. The 2010 Second Regular Session convenes January 6, 2010.

Thank you to our Council members who assisted with greeting guests, timing candidates, and distributing flyers. PTA Council was the lead sponsor of the forums for 2009; St. Joseph Region MSTA was the assisting sponsor.

It is very important as we are made aware of state and national legislative issues that we keep in contact with our officials.

A **BIG** Thank You . . .

A **BIG** thank you goes to our St. Joseph School District leaders for their heartfelt dedication in our recent levy and bond campaign. In particular, we sincerely appreciate the tremendous leadership of Dr. Melody Smith, our superintendent. Please personally express your thanks to Dr. Smith when you see her the next time.

Thank you also to those who assisted with yard signs and in other capacities of support during the campaign. You certainly helped make a difference.

Our schools are the center of our community and our children are our most valuable assets. Your continued positive support makes a **BIG** difference.

-Sharon G. Kosek
PTA Council Legislative Chair

Advocacy for Public Education Washington DC; March 8 – 11, 2009

It was an honor to represent the St. Joseph PTA Council on a trip to Washington, DC, to advocate for public education on March 8-11. The trip included advocacy classes, multiple sessions on updated information on education bills and issues including No Child Left Behind, and a personal visit and speech by recently appointed US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Secretary Duncan previously was the Chicago Public Schools CEO.



Congressional office visits were held with legislative representatives of Senator Kit Bond, Congressman Sam Graves, Congressman Russ Carnahan, and Senator Claire McCaskill. A small group of public education advocates personally spoke with Congressman Roy Blunt where we had our photo taken with the Congressman. In 2010 Congressman Blunt is seeking the office of Senator Bond who is retiring. Each Congress member was overall favorable in their response to supporting public education issues.

While I was in Washington, President and Mrs. Obama were in town. On several occasions, I saw and heard the Presidential helicopter and another similar "decoy" helicopter zoom quickly overhead. Inaugural memorabilia was still for sale in many stores. A very large banner with large bold red lettering still hung from a large building on Pennsylvania Avenue welcoming the new President to Washington.

It is always a pleasure to advocate for public education in Washington, DC. The trip is a very valuable asset in personally communicating the significance of public education to national leaders. The Council's support of this trip is greatly appreciated; it makes a difference for our community.



Public Education Advocacy in Jefferson City February 11, 2009

Appointments with state legislative officials were held in Jefferson City, Missouri, on Wednesday, February 11, to speak about support for public education issues. The offices of Representative Ed Wildberger, Representative Martin Rucker, Representative Dr. Rob Schaaf, and Senator Charlie Shields were visited. Also, State Auditor Susan Montee's office and Secretary of State Robin Carnahan's office were visited. Your support of this advocacy strengthens our position for PTA issues. Thank you for helping to make this trip possible.

-Sharon G. Kosek
PTA Council Legislative Chair

Procedure books!!

Each unit should have in place procedure books. They are essential to make your unit run smoothly. Having everyone on the same page will make a world of difference.

What should be included in a procedure book?

The basic sections should be.....

- First each should have a copy of “The Purposes of the Parent Teacher Association” and the “Mission Statement of the Parent Teacher Association” . This can be found in your tool kit that the state office will send out.
- Next should be a copy of your roster (officers list) including chairman. Please include names, numbers and email addresses for all of these people.
- Next should be your budget for the year. This should include all line items (Salute to school, Founders Day, Principals Day, etc.). At a glance you will have all of your financial numbers.
- Next a working calendar for the year. Makes planning a breeze if you have all of your dates sets before school starts.
- Next your current bylaws. These need to be updated every three years. The state office will have a list of when to renew and make updates.
- Next a section for your meeting agenda’s. It is good to have them on hand in case you need to go back and verify a task.
- Next a section for your meeting minutes. Again, a good thing to have on hand in case a question arises and you have them to refresh everyone’s memories.
- Next a section of your treasurer’s reports. Always good to have to keep track of spending.
- Presidents, I suggest you include your tool kit (supplied by the state office). This will contain valuable information you will need. Make copies of sections and distribute them to appropriate officers or chairman, but keep a complete copy for your records. This will help keep a handle on things if a copy is lost; you have an original to fall back on.

Submitted by Lori Prussman

Treasurer check list....

- 2009-2010 Budget ready
- Change signatures on checking account (have three signatures on signature card and always two signatures on checks)
- Pay all end of year bills & close out books
- Prepare for audit
- Turn books in asap to new treasurer (they need time to prepare)
- Make sure procedure book is updated

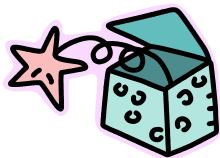
End of the Year Check List

- ✓ Send new officer list to the state office.
- ✓ Send new officer list to Peggy Wood.
- ✓ Approve next year’s budget.
- ✓ Set up Fall picture day.
- ✓ Set up Fall fundraiser kick off date.
- ✓ Collect and update procedure books or start new ones. These hold valuable information to help your unit run smoothly.
- ✓ Check your bylaws; when is your expiration date? Do you need to work on this over the Summer? Do you need to set a committee to update before school starts in the Fall? Bylaws must be up to date so that you will remain in good standings with the State and Council.
- ✓ Send officers to National Convention.
- ✓ Have a summer planning session, so you can have a jump on next year. Ask Council or State officers to assist with any questions you may have.
- ✓ Enjoy some family fun.

Submitted by Lori Prussman

2. Provide "Fact Cards" for parents with school name, address, phone number, name of principal, school secretary, school nurse, PTA president—perhaps a refrigerator magnet.
3. Establish "Take Home Tuesday" as day to send school papers home.

There are many ways to build parent involvement. It may mean thinking outside the box. It may mean doing something as simple as a personal invitation to new parents to be at your PTA meetings. Think outside the box, think personal and think parent involvement.



I hope that you have benefited from these articles. I have enjoyed writing them and sharing some new ideas with you. I look forward to sharing with you next year.

- Nadienne Hoffman
Parent Involvement Coordinator
St. Joseph PTA Council

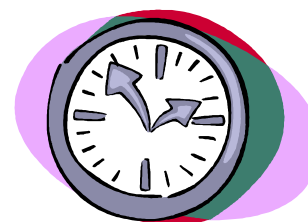
The Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board would like to thank all of the schools that made a donation to our organization. It is these donations that allow us to continue helping the students of the St. Joseph School District with gaining eye care when there are no other resources for them. We have helped numerous students in years past and with your continued support we will help many, many more.

Please consider a line item in your budget for next year to help us continue this most needed program.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Christy Callaway, Treasurer
Clarence J. Carpenter Memorial Fund Board
2125 N. 33rd, St. Joseph, MO 64506 816-233-2184

A Little Involvement Means a Lot



As we wind down the school year, remember, there is still time to give three hours of your time to your child's school and see what a difference it makes.

- Participate in school beautification activities.
- Read to your child's or another child's class.
- Tutor students before, during, or after school.
- Help write or publish the PTA or school newsletter.
- Join the planning team for a PTA or school event.
- Make calls for the school or PTA.
- Create classroom or event decorations.
- Ask your employer for a donation.

Three hours for your child's education is all it takes to fulfill the PTA Three for Me commitment, but it has big returns for parent-teacher communication, family-school partnerships, and student success. Talk to your PTA today about how you can help.

Use Your Summer!

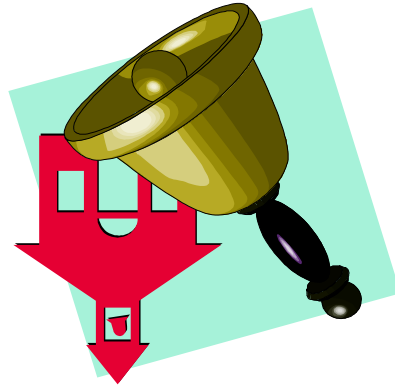
As members of a PTA Executive board, spend your summer brainstorming great ways to build parent involvement and support. Consider these suggestions:

1. Hold your first parent meeting at a fast-food restaurant.

Continued...

NOTICE FOR PRUSSMAN

COMMUNITY CENTER



ST. JOSEPH PTA COUNCIL

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

