

January 2013
Volume 1, Issue 5

Springfield Council of PTAs

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"The Magic of a Moment"

Join us for the Reflections Showcase
Sunday, January 13, 2013
Battlefield Mall – JC Penney East Court
12 Noon until 4 p.m.
Awards Ceremony at 3 p.m.

Deadline for Missouri PTA Competition is January 17, 2013 (4:30 p.m.)
Questions? Contact Alice Lunn at rolunn@sbcglobal.net or 883-2392

City Winners 2012-2013

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

PRIMARY

1st	Kilari McWilliams	Grade 2	Horace Mann Elementary
2nd	Brock Jacobs	Grade K	Hickory Hills Elementary
3rd	Kiara Jacobs	Grade 2	Wilder Elementary

INTERMEDIATE

1st	Chanel Bullock	Grade 4	Wilder Elementary
2nd	Lily Prescott	Grade 3	Sequiota Elementary
3rd	Janae Jacobs	Grade 4	Wilder Elementary

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st	Cindy Nguyen	Grade 7	Cherokee Middle School
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HIGH SCHOOL

1st	Lindsey Shipley	Grade 11	Kickapoo High School
2nd	Lauren Downie	Grade 11	Greenwood Lab School

City Winners list continued on page

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A Letter from the President

I hope you all had a refreshing break for the Holidays and are now ready to start afresh with the New Year and all the events at your schools. We heard of tragic news this past month from Newtown, Conn. Following is an excerpt from the National PTA letter to parents and media.



I hope you all had a refreshing break for the Holidays and are now ready to start afresh with the New Year and all the events at your schools.

On Friday, December 14, Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, experienced a violent shooting that resulted in nearly 30 deaths. National PTA® President Betsy Landers issued a statement that same day to express her sympathy for the students, families and communities affected by the horrendous tragedy. School and child safety, a crucial component of effective learning, is one of PTA's core tenets. National PTA believes that the protection of children in all school settings is a fundamental right and has made it the utmost priority for our work and advocacy.

Following is a sampling of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) National PTA has received since the shooting summary. If you have additional questions, please contact info@pta.org.

Q: Does National PTA have resources to assist parents, families and educators in dealing with the aftermath of this tragedy?

A: Yes, you can find PTA resources, including tips for talking to children and for improving school safety, online at PTA.org/schoolviolence. Like you, our attention and assistance is focused on helping schools, families, and children coping with this traumatic event. Your help in sharing PTA resources within your state is invaluable.

Q: Does National PTA support gun control? Where does National PTA stand on federal efforts that restrict access to firearms?

A: National PTA celebrates a long history of advocacy for the safety of our nation's children and youth and supports federal efforts to protect children and youth from gun violence. National PTA believes school safety is a critical priority and that every attempt must be made to reduce violence, especially incidents involving use of firearms. Parents, educators, community members, and government must prioritize this issue to ensure a safe learning environment for all students.

National PTA advocates for preventative measures to educate students, educators and community members on school and firearm safety, such as:

- Inclusion of safety education in public school curricula and community programs;
- Support and promotion of programs to educate parents, children, youth, and communities about the importance of firearm safety and awareness;
- Promotion of public education campaigns to alert parents and community members to the devastating effects of firearm-related violence; and
- Adoption of school-level and school district-level safety policies and guidelines, including the preparation of educators and pupil support personnel in crisis response.

Additionally, National PTA advocates for specific provisions to restrict access to firearms. National PTA believes gun violence must decrease to make our schools and communities safer. National PTA encourages Congress to take action to enact federal laws to restrict access to firearms and improve school safety.

National PTA supports the following specific policy recommendations:

- Mandatory license to purchase a firearm

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- Mandatory three day waiting period and background check to purchase a firearm, regardless of retail venue
- Prohibition on the sale of more than one handgun per month to any individual
- Prohibition of firearm purchase and possession by those convicted of spousal abuse and child abuse
- Mandatory increased annual license fee for any firearm retailer
- Reenactment and expansion of federal ban on the sale and possession of military-style assault weapons.
- Federal ban on non-sporting ammunition
- Establish federal tax on assault weapon ammunition
- Mandatory restrictions on Internet firearms sales, including restrictions on materials used to make/modify guns
- Federal minimum age requirement of 21 years of age for all firearm purchases
- Mandatory background check for any firearm retailer
- Increased penalties for the transfer of firearms, including handguns and assault weapons, to juveniles for use in a crime
- Licensure revocation for any retailer who knowingly sells to minors
- Prohibition of firearm sale to any adult convicted of committing a violent crime as a juvenile

National PTA advocacy on the subject of access to firearms has included continued support for the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and a federal ban on military-style assault weapons and participation in the Million Mom March.

Q: Does National PTA support the Second Amendment?

A: National PTA supports the Second Amendment and recognizes the right to bear arms. Other rights guaranteed by the Constitution, such as free speech and private property, have certain reasonable restrictions to protect the freedom and safety of our fellow citizens and the same principle should apply to the Second Amendment. National PTA encourages Congress to adopt legislation that would help prevent future tragedies like the massacre of innocent children and adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School while preserving the lawful use of firearms for sport and personal protection.

Q: Does the National PTA support arming teachers and school administrators as a way to prevent school violence?

A: No. National PTA believes that in order to achieve an effective school climate, schools must be completely gun-free.

Q: Does National PTA support increased access to mental health services as one of many efforts to promote public safety?

A: National PTA has long been committed to providing improved mental health programs and services to children and youth and believes that all children and youth have the right to mental health treatment. National PTA encourages each community to make available mental health programs and services, which will meet the needs of all children and youth.

National PTA strongly endorses efforts to:

- Establish comprehensive community mental health facilities to provide preventive and treatment services to children and adults.
- Improve teacher and administrator understanding of child growth and development to insure the provision of an emotional climate in the school conducive to good mental health.
- Promote educational programs for parents to improve the atmosphere of the home.
- Provide special preventive services in the school to detect impending difficulties early.
- Urge that teacher-training institutions incorporate in their programs courses designed to give greater emphasis to children's emotional health.
- Improve community conditions adversely affecting children's emotional health.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Rorick, Deputy Executive Director of Government Affairs and Communications at erorick@pta.org, or visit our website at PTA.org.

Organization News

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – APRIL 2, 2013 – 31st Missouri Child Advocacy Day in Jefferson City. Please make plans to join fellow PTA members, healthcare providers, childcare professionals and community members to ask legislators to make the education, health, and safety of Missouri's children a top priority for the 2013 legislative session.

From the Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth and Families – Missouri's Children:

268,000 live in poverty • > 100,000 lack health insurance • 10,000 drop out of school • 7,000 are abused and neglected.

A Tisket, A Tasket – Please donate a Basket. SCPTAs will be having a silent auction during the Founder's Day Banquet to benefit the CARE Fund. We are encouraging all PTA units to donate a basket, gift card or new saleable item. Please contact Dot Atkinson at dotdatkinson@gmail.com to arrange pick-up or bring items to the February (2/6) General Membership Meeting at Hickory Hills Elementary.

SPS Board of Education Legislative Priorities:

Last month the legislative priorities of Missouri PTA were presented - to review go to MOPTA.ORG

Missouri Vision Project

SPS encourages the Missouri Legislature to use the Missouri Public Education Vision Project to direct their work for the children of Missouri.

Missouri Tax Credits

SPS supports the Tax Credit Review commission's recommendations for Missouri Tax Credits.

Finance

SPS opposes any attempt to divert revenue committed to or intended for public schools.

Support fully funding the school funding formula

Oppose unfunded and underfunded mandates

Governance

SPS believes in local control and that locally elected boards of education are fundamental to the governance of the school system.

Support charter schools being accountable to the local school board

Accountability

SPS supports a comprehensive staff evaluation system including process and performance results.

Support MSIP5

Encourage DESE and the legislature to describe what the child should learn and allow the local district to determine how the child will learn.

Early Childhood

SPS supports a quality early childhood education for every child.

Financial Overview – November 30, 2012

Bank Balances	Start 11/1/12	End 11/30/12	Last Reconciled Bank Statement
CARE Checking	\$ 2,704.90	\$ 2,705.45	11/30/2012
Clothing Bank Checking	3,732.84	2,998.50	11/30/2012
General Checking	70,814.20	69,678.02	11/30/2012
McBride Checking	8,083.99	8,085.62	11/30/2012
Scholarship Checking	1,144.17	1,144.40	11/30/2012
Z Scholarship CD (Restricted)	45,349.54	45,388.05	11/30/2012
Total	\$131,829.64	\$130,000.04	

Detailed financial records are available on-line at <http://www.nonprofitcentral.biz>. Use SCPTA as the username and SCPTA as the password.

FILM PRODUCTION

PRIMARY

1st	Kiara Jacobs	Grade 2	Horace Mann Elementary
2nd	Brock Jacobs	Grade K	Hickory Hills Elementary

INTERMEDIATE

1st	Max Gifford	Grade 3	Wilder Elementary
2nd	Janae Jacobs	Grade 4	Wilder Elementary

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st	Drew Kellogg	Grade 7	Cherokee Middle School
2nd	Channing Bullock	Grade 6	Pershing Middle School

LITERATURE

PRIMARY

1st	Jenna Skidmore	Grade 2	Pleasant View Elementary
2nd	Travis Peak	Grade 2	Pleasant View Elementary
3rd	Darcy Drake	Grade 1	Wilder Elementary

INTERMEDIATE

1st	Hailey Youngblood	Grade 4	Sherwood Elementary
2nd	Isaak Bartlett	Grade 5	Pershing Elementary
3rd	Aubrey Albert	Grade 5	Mark Twain Elementary
HM	Maggie Courtney	Grade 5	Disney Elementary

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st	Henry Stine	Grade 7	Central – SSP
2nd	Jeffrey Su	Grade 7	Central – SSP
3rd	Adalia Cuevas	Grade 6	Jarrett Middle School
HM	Ankit Jain	Grade 7	Cherokee Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL

1st	Bryant Hammerschmidt	Grade 10	Greenwood Lab School
2nd	Anna Martinez	Grade 11	Greenwood Lab School
3rd	Cole Malkmus	Grade 11	Greenwood Lab School

MUSIC COMPOSITION

PRIMARY

1st	Chloe Morse	Grade 2	Wilder Elementary
2nd	Luke Prescott	Grade 2	Sequiota Elementary
3rd	Daniel Hellman	Grade 1	Wanda Gray Elementary
HM	Elaine Klepper	Grade 2	Rountree Elementary
HM	Emily Scott	Grade 2	Disney Elementary

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INTERMEDIATE

1st	Ellie Duncan	Grade 4	Wilder Elementary
2nd	Sam DeLong	Grade 3	Rountree Elementary
3rd	Emma Gaddy	Grade 3	Horace Mann Elementary

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st	Aki Anand	Grade 7	Central – SSP
2nd	Alexander Varga	Grade 7	Central – SSP
3rd	Ben Brake	Grade 6	Jarrett Middle School

HIGH SCHOOL

1st	Bryant Hammerschmidt	Grade 10	Greenwood Lab School
2nd	Derian Sullivan	Grade 12	Kickapoo Lab School
3rd tie	Peter Sharpe	Grade 11	Central High School
3rd tie	Zuzanna Fraezak	Grade 9	Central High School

PHOTOGRAPHY

PRIMARY

1st	Megan Gifford	Grade 1	Wilder Elementary
2nd	Zoe Allie	Grade 1	Harrison Elementary
3rd	Brock Jacobs	Grade K	Hickory Hills Elementary
HM	Kiara Jacobs	Grade 2	Wilder Elementary
HM	Amalia Espinoza	Grade 1	Sherwood Elementary

INTERMEDIATE

1st	Isaac Espinoza	Grade 4	Sherwood Elementary
2nd	Max Gifford	Grade 3	Wilder Elementary
3rd	Sumeya Tummala	Grade 5	Greenwood Lab School
HM	Hailey Youngblood	Grade 4	Sherwood Elementary
HM	Mallory Montgomery	Grade 4	Greenwood Lab School
HM	Albrey Albert	Grade 5	Mark Twain Elementary

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st	Delaney Cannon <i>Catepillars</i>	Grade 7	Jarrett Middle School
2nd	Jaylee McDaniel	Grade 8	Study Middle School
3rd	Delaney Cannon <i>Storm</i>	Grade 7	Jarrett Middle School
HM	Meredith Montgomery	Grade 7	Greenwood Lab School
HM	Carson Marquart	Grade 4	Pershing Middle School
HM	Caelyn Marquart	Grade 6	Greenwood Lab School
HM	Emily Downie	Grade 6	Greenwood Lab School

Congratulations!

Parliamentary Pointers January 2013

Election of Officers

After the Nominating Committee is elected, the committee should review the Bylaws to verify the date of the election meeting, notice of the election meeting, when the committee report is published and requirements for additional nominations from the floor.

Some common methods of voting are by voice vote, by show of hands, by roll call, and by secret ballot. Secret ballots are generally preferred in large organizations and many bylaws state if there is more than one nomination for an office, a secret ballot is required.

Common rules for secret ballot votes:

- When the bylaws mandate a secret ballot vote, this requirement cannot be suspended, even by a unanimous vote. Of Course, bylaws are never suspended.
- In a secret ballot vote, the president should always vote at the time that the other members vote. In this case the president loses his tie-breaking vote.

Two common methods of election:

- By plurality vote. The person receiving the largest number of votes is declared elected. For example, if three persons were nominated for a position, the one receiving the largest number would win, even if the number were not a majority of the votes cast.
- By majority vote. A candidate must receive a majority (more than one half) of the total votes for all candidates to be elected.

Common rules for election by majority vote:

- Abstentions are never counted. Blank ballots are discarded, and not reported as part of the vote.
- Illegal votes are reported as part of the vote, but may not be credited to any candidate.
- Under normal parliamentary rules, repeated balloting should be done until a candidate obtains a majority. Names of all nominees should be kept on the ballot, unless the bylaws provide some method of dropping the nominees receiving the lowest number of votes.
- Unless otherwise stated in the bylaws, candidates are elected by a majority vote of members present and voting.

If two or more candidates are nominating for office:

- The chair announces the procedure for election.
- A tellers' committee is appointed for election.
- Ballots are cast by qualified members.
- The tellers collect the votes and retire to a private room to count votes.
- The chair of the tellers' committee returns with a written report, signed by all of the tellers, which he/she reads and then hands to the president. The tellers' report should include: Number of votes cast, Number needed to elect, List of candidates in order of number of votes received, number of votes received after each name, Number of illegal votes.

This procedure is reported for each contested office. The president re-reads the report and announces the results for each office.



Some common methods of voting are by voice vote, by show of hands, by roll call, and by secret ballot.

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The procedure for collecting ballots should be established before the election begins. Possible methods are:

- Tellers give ballots to members and collect them.
- Tellers give ballots to members and the voter places the ballot in a box set up for that purpose.

Remember when voting by ballot:

- Members are to be advised when and how ballots are to be collected.
- Candidates are not to be involved in the election procedure (teller, collecting ballots, or counting votes).
- In a contested election, each candidate may designate a person as an observer at the time ballots are counted.
- Only members may vote and each person votes only once.
- After the vote is taken, counted and announced, the chair can designate how and when the ballots will be destroyed without objection from the membership. If there is an objection, a motion should be made to designate a time to destroy the ballots.

Occasionally, after the nominating committee has made its report, a member will call out "Move to vote the slate", which would mean the member wishes to have the entire slate of officers voted on in its entirety. As president/presiding officer or as a member, one cannot allow this to happen, as it takes away every member's right to be nominated from the floor. In this case, the presiding officer could simply state, "That motion is not in order at this time," and continue with the call for additional nominations from the floor, voting on each office in turn.

Founder's Day Volunteer of the Year

As we know, PTA would not exist without its wonderful volunteers. This is the time to put them in the spotlight! We would like each school to submit the name of an outstanding PTA volunteer for their school. This person should be someone who has personified the PTA mission by giving of his or her time unselfishly. We would like to honor this PTA volunteer at the Founder's Day Celebration.

Please submit your **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year's Name, Photo, PTA/PTSA Unit, and Unit President** to Kim Horton at SCPTAPromotionVP@scptamo.com
NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1ST!

Agenda

January 2, 2012

Weller Elementary

- I) Welcome – Thanks to Principal, Mrs. Marilyn Monroe and the Weller PTA for hostessing our meeting today.
- II) Pledge of Allegiance
- III) Children's Performance
- IV) Superintendent – Dr. Ridder
- V) Speakers – Jeff Plaster, All Pro Dads
Denise Kelly, SPS Reading Specialist
Natalie Murdock, Foundation for SPS
- VI) Financial report – Treasurer, Angela Knight
Council Reports
Mary Christiano
Dot Atkinson
Kim Wrinkle
Kim Horton
Alice Lunn
- VII) Unfinished Business – The election of a Nominating Committee member from Hillcrest area
- VIII) New Business – Vote to establish a fifth High School Scholarship
- IX) Sergeant at Arms – Beth Finke draws names
Announcements – Next month's meeting at Hickory Hills on Feb. 6
- X) Adjourn

Programs Update

4th GRADE PLAY. Springfield Council of PTAs invites each 4th grade student to experience a play–*free of charge*–at the historic Landers Theatre. This year, the play will be "Seussical Jr." and will be held on Monday, February 25, and Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Principals, be looking for information about bussing and permission slips. For more information, contact Flo Graham at fgraham@spsmail.org.

RIF. The 2nd RIF distribution will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 from 9 a.m. to Noon at National Audio, 309 E. Water St. (across from Founder's Park) due to Tefft renovations. Questions? Contact Beth Finke at 887-8820 or bethfinke@hotmail.com

Clothing Bank

The Clothing Bank will re-open on January 23 with regular hours. We still need winter coats and jeans in all sizes. We would also like to encourage our volunteers to come help on any day you can, even if it is not your school's assigned day. We can always use more volunteers. Starting immediately, The Clothing Bank will be open from 9-11am when school is out for Professional Development Days.

You can still get a Clothing Bank shirt. Please contact Kim Wrinkle with any questions.

ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY BANQUET



Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
(doors open at 6:00)

Parkview High School

Tickets: \$16.00 per person

We will be honoring the “Volunteer of the Year”

PTA Founder's Day 100th Anniversary Celebration ticket order form DUE February 8, 2013.

Remit to Angela Knight, 1543 North Pearson, Springfield, MO 65802.

A confirmation email will be sent to you from Angela Knight in lieu of paper tickets.

Contact name: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Unit _____ # Attending _____ @ \$16.00 each _____

Check # _____ Please make checks payable to “SCPTAs”.

Questions? Contact Angela Knight at Treasurer@scptamo.com

Schools are seated together according to date of purchase, so purchase early for best seating!