

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF UNIVERSITY CITY CONNECTIONS

DEDICATED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

A publication connecting the School District of University City and Parents in the University City Community

January/February 2009

Snow make-up days

As a result of inclement weather forcing the School District of University City to shut its doors on December 15, January 27 and 28, the 2008-2009 school calendar has been adjusted.

Consequently, June 1 will be an early release and last day of school for students.

In the event of future inclement weather days, the end of the year dates could be adjusted again.

Need Assistance?

If you are in need of special accommodations or assistance in order to participate in a school or district sponsored event, contact Erie Gonzalez-Rubio, operations supervisor, at 314/290-4004.

For current calendar and event information, visit the District website at www.ucityschools.org.

District seeks passage of \$53.6 million zero-tax-rate increase bond measure on the April 7 ballot

Voters who live in the School District of University City will be asked to approve a \$53.6 million zero tax-rate-increase bond measure known as Proposition U during the upcoming April 7 election.

The district's board of education approved the ballot proposal at its January 15 meeting.

If approved, funds from Proposition U will finance the construction of two new schools

– Barbara Jordan and Pershing Elementary Schools, and pay for renovations at the district's existing elementary schools, middle school and high school.

The decision to place Proposition U on the April ballot is based upon recommendations that were made during the district's recent community engagement program known as Destination U. City Schools.

What should our new and renovated schools look like?

In January 2009, the School District of University City began conducting and organizing Facilities Imperative: Community Engagement Sessions with architects from Bond Wolfe and the community to scope the details of the new construction and renovations proposed in the Proposition U bond issue.

Session One "Vision" discussions are being held with faculty and staff in late January and early February to discuss needs assessments.

Session Two "Interpretation" meetings further discuss building needs assessments and possible solutions with the community for the sites affected by the bond issue funds. These meetings are being scheduled for early February.

Session Three "Planning Options" meetings present proposed solutions for the bond issue sites to the community for their input and discussion from mid-February through early March.

Session Four "Review" meetings share with the community finalized solutions in March.

A Districtwide open house will share with the community the final recommendation from all the above sessions for projects that will be part of the bond issue work that will go before the school board for later approval.

Specific dates and times for these meetings will be posted in each District building and on the District website at www.ucityschools.org, as they become available.



Bridges postponed and will begin in February

Due to the January 27 snow day in the School District of University City, the Bridges Across Racial Polarization® introductory meeting has been postponed to Thursday, February 19 at 6 p.m. in the McNair Administration Building.

As a continuation of the Destination U. City Schools program, the District, in partnership with Focus St. Louis, is hosting a series of meetings to encourage open dialogue on racial issues and attitudes within the School District and City of University City and their impact on education and student performance.

Bridges Across Racial Polarization® is an innovative program that builds increased communication and understanding among people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for people of different races to meet who might otherwise not have an opportunity to do so, it increases racial awareness and understanding as well as provides a sounding board to discuss challenging and divisive issues.

For more information, call 314/290-4002.

Spring Fired-Up, March 31

Missed the School District of University City's "Fired up for Kindergarten" on November 13? Tell your neighbors with preschool children that a second-semester event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. University City parents with pre-school aged children may visit their neighborhood elementary school to meet kindergarten teachers and other school staff, tour classrooms and receive enrollment information. All six District elementary schools – Barbara C. Jordan, Delmar-Harvard, Flynn Park, Jackson Park, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Pershing – participate in the biannual event. For details, call your neighborhood school or 314/290-4019.

Brittany Observations Days rescheduled

Due to the January snow days, Show Me Brittany Parent Observations Days have been rescheduled. Prospective parents are invited to visit and observe classrooms from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. during Show Me Brittany Parent Observation Days on Wednesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 12. Parents are invited to join the students for lunch between 11:50 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. Lunch costs only \$2.55 per adult.

For details, call 314/290-4278.

Parent & Community Advisory Council

As part of its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), the School District of University City will host its quarterly Parent & Community Advisory Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18 at the McNair Building.

Meet the Superintendent forums canceled

Due to open dialogue with the community through the *Destination U. City Schools*, State of the District and other meetings, the Meet the Superintendent meetings have been canceled for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.



Nomination accepted through Feb. 6

Due to the January 27 and 28 snow days, the nomination deadline for the School District of University City's Teacher of the Year and Educational Support Personnel of the Year has been extended to February 6.

Nomination forms are available from school offices, administration building or at www.ucityschools.org.

Who goes the EXTRA mile for your child?

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond the status quo to help the students and staff in the School District of University City? If so, PACEsetter (Positively Affecting Community Education) nomination forms are available from school offices, McNair administration building or at www.ucityschools.org. Awards are presented during the annual Honorees/Retirees Reception in May. For details about District recognitions or to volunteer to serve on a selection committee, email ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us or call 314/290-4019.

Returning Artist reception, February 8

The Arts & Letter Commission of University City is hosting Eric Mink, a 1965 graduate from University City High School (UCHS) and commentary editor, as this year's Returning Artist.

Mink is conducting residencies in several classrooms at UCHS on his journalistic expertise and how to conduct in-depth research and opinion writing. A public reception honoring Mink is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 8 at Centennial Commons.

Music In Our Schools Month

"Music! Just Imagine" is the 2009 theme for the national Music In Our Schools month. University City will host an Instrumental Music Celebration on Tuesday, March 3 and a Vocal Music Celebration on Thursday, March 5. Both events will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the University City High School Auditorium. Admission is free and the community is invited to attend.

Districtwide Arts Night

A Districtwide Arts Night will be held in conjunction with the Vocal Music Celebration on Thursday March 5, beginning at 7 p.m. at the University City High School.

CONNECTIONS is a publication of the School District of University City. Published monthly throughout the school year, containing information of interest to parents of children throughout the school district.

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Please send suggestions or comments to: School District of University City, Communications and Media Services, 8136 Groby Road, University City, Missouri 63130; call: 314/290-4019 or e-mail ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us.