

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 2011

February 2011 Highlights

- 3 Board of Education Meeting
- 5 Parent Meeting
- 7 Returning Artists Week
- 8 BCJ Black History Program
BCJ PTO Meeting
Per PTO Meeting
JP Passport Festival
8th Grade Transitions
HS Band Boosters Meeting
- 9 DH International Night
Returning Artists Reception
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UCHS Valentine Dance
- 14 FP Valentine's Day Parties
- 15 BW PTO Meeting
FP Passport Night
- 16 NH Black History Program
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- 19 U.City - Birder's Club
- 21 Centennial Celebration Kickoff
Schools and Offices Closed
- 23 UCHS Junior Parent & Student Night
Accountability Committee Meeting
FP 4th & 5th Grade Concert
- 25 JP- Black History Program
UCHS Seussical the Musical
- 26 U. City Equations Open Tournament
UCHS Seussical the Musical

For more information about school and district events, visit www.ucityschools.org. Click on "Calendar of Events" in the top menu bar or call 314/290-4019.

Centennial Celebration kicks off on Feb. 21

The School District of University City will kick off its centennial celebration on Monday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. in the McNair Board Room. Travel back in time to February 21, 1911 as we re-enact the public meeting that officially organized the school district. Guest speakers will include current school leaders and descendants of the District's founders, as well as student participation in the re-enactment. There will be birthday cake to celebrate our 100th birthday! This will be just one of the exciting events occurring throughout 2011 to mark this historic milestone. More information will be forthcoming about other centennial activities.

Questions? Call 314/290-4016 or e-mail lrussell@u-city.k12.mo.us

School calendar revised

As a result of inclement weather resulting in schools being closed on Dec. 16; Jan. 11, 20-21, and Feb. 1-3, the 2010-2011 school calendar has been revised as follows:

- **Friday, Feb. 18 will be a regular school day, professional development has been canceled;**
- May 19, 20, 23-27 will be regular school days;
- Monday, May 30 is Memorial Day, a national holiday. Schools and offices are closed.
- Tuesday, May 31 will be an early release for high school exams;
- Wednesday, June 1 will be the last day of school and an early release for PreK-8 record day and high school exams;
- Thursday, June 2 will be the last contract day for teachers.

In the event of future school closings, further revisions will be made.

Nomination deadlines extended

Nomination deadlines for District Teacher of the Year and Educational Support Personnel of the Year have been extended to Friday, Feb. 18. PACEsetter nominations will be accepted through Monday March 21. Nomination forms are available in schools or at <http://tinyurl.com/UCNom0111>. For more details, call 314/290-4019.

School board filing update

Candidate filing closed on Jan. 18. The School District of University City has three Board of Education seats available for a term of three years for the General Municipal Election on April 5, 2011. Because there is an equal amount of candidates as available seats, there is no need to hold an election. Incumbent candidates Stacy Clay and Rodney Jennings Sr. will be sworn in along with new candidate Rick Salamon at the first meeting in April 2011. For details, contact Charlotte Tatum at ctatum@u-city.k12.mo.us or 314/290-4003.

Returning Artists

University City High School alums Peter Martin, '87, and James Smith, '92, have been selected as the 2011 Returning Artists.

They are visiting schools throughout the District and community during the week of Feb. 7.

A public reception is planned for Wed., Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in the UCHS library. This event is free and open to the public.

The Returning Artist series is sponsored by the University City Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters and coordinated by Diane Davenport.

Redesigned District website launched

A redesigned and restructured District website at www.ucityschools.org launched over winter break. A website redesign is always a work in progress for a little while, even after officially launching. Feedback is appreciated if there is additional information you think should be added to improve the site for parents, staff and/or community members.

To share your suggestions, contact Linda Russell, director of communications, at lrussell@u-city.k12.mo.us or 314/290-4016.

Seussical the Musical, Feb 25-26

Seussical the Musical will be held on Friday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the UCHS auditorium.

Tickets are available in advance and at the door. For more information, call 314/290-4100.

Black Mask drama, April 15-16

The UCHS Black Mask Drama Club announces this year's senior play, *The Miracle Worker*, a dramatization of Helen Keller's childhood and how her teacher, Annie Sullivan, opened up the world to Helen when she learned to speak with her hands. This play is scheduled for April 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Tickets are available in advance and at the door. For more information, call 314/290-4100.

Save the date for UCEF Progressive Dinner

UCEF Progressive Dinner has been scheduled for Saturday, April 16. More details will be coming soon.

Can't afford a new computer?

The School District of University City has again partnered with WITS (Web Innovations & Technology Services, Inc.) to provide low-cost, refurbished (used) computers to District families and staff with prices starting at only \$75 for a desktop computer and \$125 for a laptop.

If interested, submit a request form (available at <http://tinyurl.com/WITScomp0211> or school office) to your school's main office by Friday, Feb. 18. Once this information is received by WITS, a representative will contact you to discuss further details. Appointments will be made for pick up.

All questions about this program should go directly to WITS at 314/382-1650.

Take-It bookshelves need K-8 books

Start the new year by cleaning out your, or a friend's, shelves. Find a new home for children's books that are no longer being read and help stock the "Take It" bookshelves in our elementary schools and Centennial Commons. Book donations are accepted throughout the year, but there is currently an urgent need for replenishment.

Donations may be sent to the communications office in the McNair building or delivered directly to Ellen Bern at 7001 Washington Ave.

Call 314/721-1841 if you have any questions about the "Take It" bookshelves.

U-City Birder's Club continues

The University City Birder's Club, coordinated by Nikki Davenport, still welcomes new members. Upcoming Saturday events include:

Feb. 19 - 9-11:30 a.m. – Various Locations - Great Backyard Bird Count

March 12 - 10-noon – World Bird Sanctuary - Birds of Prey

April 16 - 8-10:30 a.m. – Forest Park - Warblers

April 23 - 1-3 p.m. – TBD

May 14 - 1-3 p.m. – TBD - U-City Birders Birding Festival

For details, contact ndavenport@u-city.k12.mo.us or 314/290-4013.

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.

Help maintain a proper learning environment for our children...

**School District of University City
Anonymous Tip Line**

(314) 290-4444

...report inappropriate behavior.



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. Please send suggestions or comments to: School District of University City, Communications and Media Services, 8136 Groby Road, University City, Missouri 63130; call: 314/290-4016 or 314/290-4019; e-mail lrussell@u-city.k12.mo.us or ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us.