

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 2010

Calendar Highlights:

JANUARY 2010

- 1 Schools Closed & Offices Closed - Winter Break
- 4 Classes resume
- 8 DH Science Fair Assembly
- 10 U.S. Cellular Voting deadline
- 11 Everyday Mathematics (K-5) Parent Workshop
- 11-15 AEL Open House
- 12 Quality Council Meeting
BCJ PTO, DH PTO, JP PTO, NH PTO & Per PTO Meetings
FP PTO Business Meeting
Young Brains:
- 13 UCHS PTO Meeting
College Financial Assistance 101
UCEF board meeting
- 14 Board of Education Meeting
- 15 Schools Closed for Building Professional Development
- 16 U-City Birders Club
- 17 Communitywide
Dr. King Celebration
- 18 Schools & Offices Closed - MLK
- 19 OASIS Meeting
BW Afterschool Activities begin
Board Filing closes at 5 p.m.
BW PTO Meeting
- 21 NH How to Construct a Science Project
Title 1 Math Night
Show Me Brittany Parent Night
- 22 UCHS Step Show
- 25 PTO Council meeting
Family Engagement Comm. Mtg.
- 26 Show Me BW Parent Observation Day
- 27 Show Me BW Parent Observation Day
- 28 Early Release for Professional Dev.
UCHS AA monthly meeting
- 29 Academic Reform Committee
ESPoY and TOY nomination deadline
- 30 Board of Education Workshop

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.

Understand Everyday Math

Everyday Math is the curriculum used in grades K-5. On January 11, the District will host its second Everyday Math parent workshop at 6 p.m. in the McNair Boardroom. During the first workshop in October, parents learned about the philosophy of the District's math curriculum and tips on how to support their child's homework. The January workshop will feature hands-on practice using Everyday manipulatives and techniques. For more information, contact Nikki Davenport, math/science coordinator at 314/290-4013 or ndavenport@u-city.k12.mo.us.

What are they thinking?

Learn how to help your child communicate and improve relationships at home and school. The University City PTO Council and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse present "Young Brains: What Are They Thinking?" a TryPOD 2 parent workshop, on Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Brittany Woods Middle School gymnasium, located at 8125 Groby Road (63130). This event is funded in part by The Missouri Foundation for Health. A dessert reception will follow the program. Free child care will be available.

For more details, contact Nichole Dawsey at 314/664-7550 or ndawsey@ncada-stl.org.

College Assistance 101

University City High School cordially invites UCHS juniors, seniors and their families to the annual College Financial Aid Workshop on Wednesday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the UCHS Cafeteria, located at 7401 Balson Avenue (63130). "Financial Assistance 101" is presented by St. Louis University's George S. Winston, assistant director of recruitment, and Katie Goedde, coordinator for new students and outreach.

For more information, contact Dr. Bailey at 314-290-4111 or email kabailey@u-city.k12.mo.us.

MLK Celebration, January 17

Community volunteer Nicole Adawale will receive the University City Board of Education's 2010 MLK Spirit award during the district's 24th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration, "Fulfilling Dr. King's Dream," on Sunday, January 17, at 3:30 p.m. in the University City High School auditorium. The event will kick-off at 3 p.m. with a symbolic march from Jackson Park elementary School. In case of inclement weather, the celebration will be rescheduled for Sunday, January 24.

Inclement weather closings

Reminder: If schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, an automated phone message will be sent to parents/guardians. Information will be posted at www.ucityschools.org and shared with local radio and television stations.

If the District declares a "Late Start," morning school busses will run and classes begin one hour late. School will be dismissed at the regularly scheduled time.

Show Me Brittany, January 21

Brittany Woods Middle School will host its annual "Show Me Brittany" Open House Parent Night on Thursday, January 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for University City families, especially sixth graders. Parent Observation Days have been scheduled for Tuesday, January 26 and Wednesday, January 27 to visit and observe classrooms from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and join students for lunch between 11:50 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. for only \$2.55 per adult. For details, call 314/290-4278.

School board filing schedule

Informational packets are available for candidates seeking election to the Board of Education for the School District of University City on April 6, 2010. Candidate filing closes at 5 p.m. on January 19. For more information, contact Charlotte Tatum, administrative assistant to the Board, at 314/290-4003.

Students selected to perform

UCHS Jazz Band musicians Terrence Childs, trombone, and Chiles Russell Taylor, trumpet, will participate in the 2010 E. Des Lee Jazz Band Concert scheduled for January 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the U.M.S.L. campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

Family Engagement Committee

The Family Engagement Committee (FEC) will meet on Monday, January 25, at 7 p.m. in the McNair Board Room to continue their discussions from the December 7 meeting. Community members are encouraged to share additional forms of parental involvement and roadblocks by reviewing the committee's brainstorming list posted to the "For Parents" section of the District's website at www.ucityschools.org and responding accordingly as posted.

2010 Returning Artist Traci Moore Clay

In partnership with the University City Municipal Commission on Arts and Letters, the School District of University City will be hosting Traci Moore Clay, UCHS class of 1988, as the Returning Artist in February 2010.

Clay, a professional graphic designer, will be visiting classrooms February 1-5, 2010. A free public reception and artist talk will be held at the Centennial Commons Recreation Facility on February 7, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call 314/432-0236.

AEL hosts Open House in January

The University City Adult Education and Literacy Program invites the community to attend their Open House in their new facility at New City Fellowship, located at 1483 82nd Street (63132). The facility will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 11-15, 2010 and also from 6 to 8 p.m. on January 11 and 13.

For more information, call 314/993-0462, email info@ucityaelprogram.org or visit www.ucityaelprogram.org.

Help UCHS win \$100,000

Stop by any authorized U.S. Cellular store by January 10 and obtain a code to vote online for University City High School. The 10 schools with the most votes will receive \$100,000 each. This promotion has been approved and endorsed by Superintendent Joylynn Wilson. Encourage friends, family and neighbors to vote for UCHS. If successful, funds will help the UCHS marching band participate in the 2010 Memorial Day parade in Washington D.C.

Help BW library earn money

Use Good Search or Good Shop and the Brittany Woods Middle School library will receive funds. Both of these sites are available at www.goodsearch.com.

Who goes the EXTRA mile?

Do you know a district employee who goes above and beyond? If so, consider nominating them for Teacher of the Year or Educational Support Personnel of the Year. Forms are available from school offices, administration building or at www.ucityschools.org. Nomination deadline is January 29. For details about District recognitions or the selection process, or to volunteer to serve on a selection committee, email ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us or call 314/290-4019.

FAFSA Frenzy, February 21

University City High School will host FAFSA Frenzy on Sunday, February 21, at 2 p.m. with state financial aid professionals available to assist families with the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more details, visit <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/collegegoalsundayFAO.shtml>.

Attendance is limited to the first 50 pre-registrants, from across the metropolitan area. To register, contact Dr. Katherine Bailey at 314/290-4111 or email kabailey@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Social networking helps share information

The District has begun using Facebook and Twitter to enhance its communications efforts. Users may sign up to be a "fan" or "follow" through links at www.ucityschools.org. The District's Twitter account name is UCitySchools and Facebook is School District of University City.

Winter Trails Day, January 9

Start the new year by giving back and supporting wildlife habitat restoration with The Green Center. The work day begins at the Brittany Woods Middle School prairie at 9 a.m. on January 8, and will continue into the adjacent Ruth Park Woods until noon. Please dress appropriately for outdoor work and bring a water bottle. For more information, email events@thegreencenter.org

Stories in the Greenhouse

As the sun sets, The Green Center's Geodome Greenhouse will be illuminated by candles and storytellers who will capture and share the wonderment of nature. Story times are set for 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Sundays: January 31, February 7, February 21 and February 28. Cost is only \$2 per person and pre-registration is required. Call 314/725-8314 ext. 105.

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: 314/290-4019 or e-mail ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us.