

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

February 2010

Calendar Highlights:

FEBRUARY 2010

- 1-5 Returning Artist in Classrooms
- 4 Board of Education Meeting
- 5 JP Mardi Gras Trivia Night
Free Immunization Clinic
- 6 Pi Beta Phi Trivia Night for DH
UCHS - ROTC Ball
- 7 Returning Artist Reception
- 9 BCJ PTO Mtg. & Black History Prog.
FP Passport Night
JP PTO meeting & Passport Festival
NH PTO Meeting
- 10 Accountability Committee
UCHS PTO Meeting
- 11 Early Childhood Committee Meeting
- 12 Schools Closed for Prof. Dev.
- 13 Board of Education Workshop
- 15 Schools and Offices Closed - Pres. Day
- 16-18 OASIS Training
- 16 BW PTO Meeting
America In Bloom presentation
- 17 UCHS Black History Assembly
Finance/Bond Issue Oversight Mtg.
- 18 Board of Education Meeting
- 20 U. City Equations Open Tournament
U-City Birders Club - Backyard Count
- 21 FAFSA Frenzy
- 22 JP African-American Read-In Chain
- 23 OASIS Meeting
FP Music Concert (Grades 1 & 5)
DH Unity Night
- 24 Early Release for PreK-12 Prof. Dev.
BW Black History Assembly
PER Black History Program
NH Black History Program
JP Black History Program
UCHS AA monthly meeting - new date
- 26 FP Geography Bee

March 2010 Highlights

- 1 Early Release for Prof. Dev.
- 3 Young Brains parent workshop
- 4 Board of Education Meeting
- 6 UCEF Progressive Dinner
- 8 Music In Our Schools - Instrumental
- 9 Conversations with the Superintendent
- 10 Fired-Up for Kindergarten
UCHS Arts Night
- 11 Music In Our Schools - Vocal
End of 3rd Quarter
- 12 - Schools Closed for Prof. Dev./Rec. Day
- 15-19 - Schools Closed for Spring Break

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.

School board elections

Tom Peters, Rodney S. Jennings Sr., Bobby Shields and Maria N. Chappelle-Nadal (in order of filing) are candidates in the April 6 election. The four are vying for two seats on the University City Board of Education. Candidate statements will be printed in the March 2010 issue of *PRIDE* and information tables within the District and around the community. Information is also archived to the Document Library section at www.ucityschools.org.

For more information about the election, contact Charlotte Tatum, administrative coordinator to the Board, at 314/290-4003.

Snow make-up days

Due to snow days that forced the District to close on Jan. 7 and 8, the 2009-2010 school calendar has been adjusted:

- May 24/25 - school is in session
- May 26 - early release for high school exams
- May 27 - last day of school and early release for PreK-8 record day and 9-12 exams

On snow days, remember to listen for an automated phone message, tune into your local media or check the website for information on changes in the school day. If a "late start" is announced, morning school busses and classes will begin one hour late. School will be dismissed at the regularly scheduled time.

Brittany wins \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant

A \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation was awarded to Brittany Woods Middle School for "Learning Spaces, Growing Places: Brittany Woods Updates." As the school undergoes major building renovations and additions, these funds will be used to assist in creating a welcoming, safer, more appealing learning environment for teachers and students.

Haiti relief efforts

Across Missouri, students and school faculty members are helping with Haiti relief efforts following the January 12 earthquakes.

University City schools have been coordinating or participating in creative relief efforts ranging from "Change for Children" and "Hats Off" for the American Red Cross to books and clothing drives. Most District schools also participated in the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Kits 4 Kids project. Approximately 500 kits were collected by U. City schools by Feb. 2.

Attention trivia buffs, Feb. 6

The St. Louis Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club is hosting its third annual Trivia Night on Saturday, Feb. 6, at The Heights, 8001 Dale Avenue (63117). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person in advance or \$30 at the door. (All attendees must be 21 or older.) Proceeds benefit Delmar-Harvard Elementary School classroom libraries. The registration form is available at the News link at www.ucityschools.org.

Sky Kingsland, Feb. 9

Barbara C. Jordan PTO invites all District families to their Black History Program featuring Sky Kingsland on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the McNair Board Room, 8136 Groby Road (63130). Admission is free. Snacks will be sold with proceeds benefiting the BCJ PTO.

America In Bloom, Feb. 16

U. City in Bloom invites community members to learn more about their plans to participate in the 2011 America in Bloom competition and boast the "Plant Pride in U. City." An informational presentation will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Blvd. (63130).

For more information, contact Dick Shaw at 314/727-3587 or Judy Prange at 314/721-7401.

Alvin Ailey dancers support UCHS

UCHS dance students teamed with COCA on Jan. 29 for a performance honoring African-American history and culminating a 4-week, Missouri Arts Council funded, dance residency with Antonio Douthit and Alicia Graf, who are affiliated with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and COCA. UCHS dancers will perform Graf's piece again during an in-school assembly at 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 17. In Feb., dance students will begin a new 3-week residency with River North Dance Company from Chicago.

U. City Equations, Feb. 20

The annual U. City Equations Open Tournament will be held from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, in the University City High School gymnasium, 7401 Balson Ave. (63130).

For more information, see the news article with registration form at the News link at www.ucityschools.org or contact this year's event coordinator Judy Maffitt at equations@att.net or call 314/863-5928.

FAFSA Frenzy, Feb. 21

University City High School was invited to host FAFSA Frenzy on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. State financial aid professionals will assist families with the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Details are available at www.dhe.mo.gov/collegegoalsundayFAO.shtml. Attendance is limited to the first 50 pre-registrants, from across the metropolitan area. To register by Feb. 20, contact Dr. Katherine Bailey at 314/290-4111 or email kabailey@u-city.k12.mo.us.

MHA presents SuicidePREV, Feb. 27

Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri (MHA) SuicidePREV (Prevention, Response, Education and Victory) workshop is being offered on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Victory Christian Outreach Church of University City, 7091 Olive Blvd. (63130). This free workshop educates adults who impact the lives of young people ages 15-24 years in recognizing the warning signs of suicidal behavior in adolescence; and provides mental health resources, reference materials and helpful crisis intervention tools.

For details, visit www.mhaem.org or contact R. Bryan Evans, associate program director MHA, at 314/773-1399 or mhasoseducation@aol.com.

"Young Brains" rescheduled for March 3

Learn how to help your child of any age improve communications and relationships at home and school. The University City PTO Council in partnership with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse has rescheduled the Young Brains: What Are They Thinking? TryPOD 2 parent workshop for Wednesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the McNair board room, 8136 Groby Road (63130). A dessert reception will follow the program. Free child care will be provided. For details, contact Nichole Dawsey at 314/664-7550 or ndawsey@ncada-stl.org.

UCEF Progressive Dinner, March 6

University City Education Foundation (UCEF) invites the community to attend its Progressive Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 6. Cocktails and dinner begin at 6:30 p.m. The evening concludes with dessert and silent auction at 8:30 p.m. at the Regional Arts Commission, 6128 Delmar (63112). Ticket price is \$50 per person. For reservations, send a check made payable to UCEF, along with the number of tickets, name(s), address, phone number, email address and special dietary needs to UCEF, c/o Kim Deitzler, 8160 Stanford Ave., University City MO, 63130, by Feb. 27.

Are you "Fired Up for Kindergarten"?

Did you or a neighbor miss the fall opportunity to learn more about University City's kindergarten? If so, the spring date has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10.

School-specific details will be posted to the District's webcalendar at www.ucityschools.org closer to the date of the event.

2010 Summer Sports Camp

UCHS Athletic Boosters' 2010 Summer Sports Camp for students completing grades 3-7 is being coordinated for June 7 - 11. Camp will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with before and after care also available. More details will be posted at www.ucityathleticboosters.org.

Talking It Out, Alateen support

Do you know a child or young adult whose life has been affected by someone else's drinking? If so, consider referring them to participate in Talking It Out - Getting It Together, an Alateen program that meets on Monday afternoons from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. at Christ the King School, 7324 Balson Avenue (63130). For details, contact social worker Ponchita Argieard or call 314/290-4114.

Keep in the e-loop for webcalendar changes

Keep current with District events, select the "Calendar of Events" tab at www.ucityschools.org, and click to "Sign In" to receive email event reminders and updates of postings listed on the webcalendar of events, a primary source for current calendar information.

Cleaning out old bookshelves?

Winter is a great time to clean out your bookshelves, and elementary school "Take It" libraries would appreciate donations of gently used children's K-8 books. Contributions may be sent to McNair Administration Building, c/o Ellen Bern.

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.