

# 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

March 2010

### Calendar Highlights

#### **MARCH 2010**

- 1 Early Release for Prof. Dev.
  - 2 Read Across America Day  
FP Playspace Design Meeting
  - 3 Young Brains parent workshop  
Deadline for UCEF reservations
  - 4 Board of Education Meeting
  - 5 Free Immunization Clinic, JGEC
  - 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
  - 13 Board of Education Workshop
  - 14 Daylight-Savings Time Begins
  - 15-19 - Schools Closed for Spring Break
  - 17 UCEF board meeting
  - 18 UCHS AA monthly meeting
  - 19 Schools and Offices Closed
  - 21 School Board Candidates' Night
  - 22 Classes Resume: 4th Quarter begins
  - 23 Early Release Day  
PreK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - 24 Early Release Day  
PreK-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - 25 Board of Education Meeting
  - 26 Schools Closed, Offices Open
  - 29 Map Testing Window begins
  - 30 U-City Birders Club
- April 6 - Election Day
- May 5 - Celebration of Learning
- May 20 - Honorees/Retirees Reception

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

### Census coming April 1, 2010

Every ten years the United States Census Bureau does its best to count every person living in the U.S. The results help to decide how citizens are represented in the federal government and how federal money is spent in local communities, including schools. In March, the U.S. Census Bureau will be sending a form to every home in America asking simple questions about age, race and number of people living in a household. Families who do not return a completed form will be visited by a census worker in May or June. Superintendent Joylynn Wilson strongly encourages all residents to participate and be counted. If you have any questions about the process, visit <http://2010.census.gov>.

### Snow make-up days

The 2009-10 school calendar has been adjusted to make up for the Feb. 9 snow day. May 24, 25 and 26 are now regular school days. May 27 is an early release for high school exams. May 28 is the last day of school and an early release for PreK-8 record day and high school exams. Tuesday, June 1, is the last contract day for teachers. The calendar is subject to further weather-related changes.

### Music in Our Schools

The 2010 theme for Music In Our Schools Month is "Music: Just Imagine." The instrumental music performance will be on Monday, March 8, and the vocal music performance will be on Thursday, March 11. Both events begin at 7 p.m. in the UCHS Auditorium, 7401 Balson Avenue (63130). Admission is FREE and open to the public.

### Districtwide Arts Night

A districtwide visual and performing art show featuring student dance and musical performances will be held on Wednesday, March 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at UCHS, 7401 Balson Avenue (63130). Admission is free. For details, call 314/290-4100 and ask for Kimberly Westrich.

### Conversations with the Superintendent features Kinesis

Superintendent Wilson invites you to an informal "Conversations with the Superintendent" opportunity at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, in the UCHS Auditorium. The event features a performance by the UCHS Kinesis dance troupe under the direction of Heidi Morgan.

For details, call 314/290-4002.

### Preschooler families - get "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 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at all elementary schools. School-specific details are posted to the District's webcalendar at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

### School Board Candidates' Night

The District PTO Council is sponsoring a School Board Candidates' Night, on Sunday, March 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the McNair Board Room, 8136 Groby Road (63130). Linda Sumlin will moderate and take questions from the audience.

Candidates Tom Peters, Rodney S. Jennings Sr., Bobby Shields and Maria N. Chappelle-Nadal (in order of filing) are vying for two seats on the University City Board of Education. Candidate statements are in the March 2010 issue of *PRIDE*.

For more information about Board elections, call 314/290-4003. Don't forget to vote Election Day April 6.

### 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](http://www.ucityathleticboosters.org).

## Who sets the PACE for your child?

Due to spring break, PACEsetter (positively affecting community education) nominations will be accepted through Friday, March 26. Awards are presented during the annual Honorees/Retirees Reception that is scheduled for May 20. For more details contact CarolAnn Cole at ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us or 314/290-4019.

## Tour renovated UCHS science labs

See some of your bond issue funds at work making U. City Schools a destination for the 21st Century. Visit University City High School for an open house on Thursday, April 1, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to tour the newly renovated science labs and classrooms. At 7 p.m., Principal Timothy Wernentin will discuss academic reform, including program and schedule changes, for the upcoming school year.

## U. City Day at the Ball Park

U. Citians will be heading to Busch Stadium on Sunday, May 2, for "U City Day at the Ball Park." The St. Louis Cardinals will take on the Cincinnati Reds at 1:15 p.m. A limited number of discounted tickets are available. The cost of \$18 includes a voucher for a free hot dog and a soda. Tickets may be purchased through the school's PTO through April 2. All proceeds from ticket sales ordered through the school go directly to the PTO.

## Margaret Williams' Teacher Tales

Margaret Williams, a retired UCHS social studies teacher, shared a special story on pages 155-157 of the recently released Chicken Soup for the Soul: Teacher Tales. Williams received University City and Missouri Teacher of the Year honors in 2009.

## State Wrestling Champ recognized

On March 4, the University City Board of Education recognized UCHS senior DeMarco Kemp for earning the title of the 2010 Class 3 Missouri High School State Wrestling Champ with the support of UCHS coaches Pat Oligschaeger and Eric Morgan, along with Frank Kelton, Brittany Woods Middle School coach and UCHS alum, and Kimberly Loomis, District athletic director.

## Latin students excelled on new exam

UCHS Latin students, under the supervision of Latin teacher Jennifer Ice, took the newly-established Classical Literacy Exam in February. Three students earned the gold certificate, five earned silver, seven earned bronze and nine received honorable mention.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be conducted at all schools on the evenings of Tuesday, March 23 and Wednesday, March 24. Meet with your child's teacher and discuss how you can support his/her academic growth.

## Celebration of Learning and Academic Improvement Awards

The annual Celebration of Learning features hands-on, faculty-organized activities based on what students in preschool through 12th grade are learning or have learned during the school year, along with a recognition of students from each grade level at each school who have shown significant academic improvement. The 2010 event has been scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, at Brittany Woods Middle School. Watch for more details to come in a backpack flyer closer to the event date.

## Honorees/Retirees Reception

The School District of University City hosts an annual recognition for retiring staff and outstanding supporters. Mark your calendars - this year's celebration is scheduled for May 20. More information will be forthcoming.

## Jazz band brings home seven more awards

UCHS music teacher Stan Coleman and his students were awarded all five outstanding soloist awards along with the Outstanding Musician Award for the Big Band and the Jazz Combo during the February 5-6 UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance's George Salisbury Jazz Festival.

## Anonymous Tip Line

Help maintain a proper learning environment for our children. Call the school district's anonymous tipline at 314/290-4444 to report inappropriate behavior.

## Preparing children for testing

When preparing students for test days (standardized or otherwise), school educators recommend the following checklist:

- Emphasize every day that education is important.
- Be aware of when your child will be taking tests.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep.
- Provide or make sure children have a good breakfast.
- Send them to school on a positive note.
- Encourage and support daily attendance at school.
- Encourage being on time to school and to class.
- Remind your child to bring pencils, eraser, calculator, etc.
- Instill good study habits, such as using class-time wisely and completing homework assignments.
- Be willing to assist when your child needs help with homework.

## Get tweets from UCitySchools... sign up TODAY!

**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.