

# 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

April 2009

### Calendar Highlights

- April 2.....Facilities Imperative:  
Districtwide Open House
- 3-4.....UCHS Spring Musical- FAME
- 7.....Election Day
- 14.....Bridges
- 15.....MAP Testing ends
- 16.....Board of Education Meeting
- 17.....Early Release for PreK-12
- 23..... UCHS Golden Lion Award  
SSD Parent Advisory Council
- 30.....Board of Education Meeting
- May 2.....Health Fair U. City
- 6.....Celebration of Learning
- 7.....UCHS Spring Choir Concert  
SSD PAC Meeting
- 11.....PTO Council
- 12.....UCHS Academic Awards
- 14.....Board of Education Meeting
- 16.....Kinesis Performance
- 19.....UCHS Athletic Awards
- 21.....Districtwide Honorees & Retirees  
Reception
- 22.....U. City Day at the Ball Park
- 25.....Schools and Offices Closed
- 26.....UCHS Graduation
- 28.....Board of Education Meeting
- 29.....UCHS Final Exams Early Release
- June 1.....Early Release  
Last Day of School:  
4th Quarter (2nd Semester) Ends  
UCHS Final Exams
- June 2.....Teacher Work Day
- June 11.....Board of Education Meeting
- August 1.....Back To School Rally

Click on "Calendar of Events" at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org) for the most current calendar information.

If you are in need of special accommodations or assistance in order to attend or participate in any District event or function, contact **Erie Gonzalez-Rubio**, operations supervisor, at 314/290-4004.

### Don't forget to vote April 7, School Board and Proposition U

Six residents have filed for candidacy in the April 7, 2009, bid for two, three-year seats on the University City Board of Education. The candidates, in order of filing, are Linda Peoples, incumbent Meg McClelland, incumbent Ellen Bern, Shlomo Soroka, Mark Barnes and Jackie Scott.

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 April 7 election. 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 ballot request is part of the District's plans for educational reform specified in the *Destination U. City Schools* recommendations. Based on current projections, the District would be able to finance the \$53.6 million bond issue without changing the tax rate of 73.8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. As the District pays off old bonds, money becomes available to fund new bonds without changing the tax rate; or, eventually, property taxes can be reduced. Based on the current property values, the District would lower its debt service tax rate by approximately 50 cents if a bond issue is not passed by September 2009.

**This Sunday, April 5, District parents, students and staff will participate in the Proposition U March on University City Rally. The informational event will begin on the steps of University City High School at 2 p.m.**

For details on Proposition U, and the District's educational reforms visit [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

### Superintendent named to National Roundtable, will visit China in June

Superintendent Joylynn Wilson has accepted an invitation to join the National Superintendents Roundtable.

The Roundtable gives superintendents from across the country an opportunity to develop a national voice, explore global educational challenges, participate in professional development opportunities and work with colleagues from across the United States.

As a member of the Roundtable, Wilson will travel to China in late June to participate in an educational tour of the country. While there, she will discover ways to bring Chinese influences into District classrooms and network with Chinese and American educational leaders.

### Students receive top honors

University City High School senior Julian Nicks received two distinguished honors: the 2009 Missouri Outstanding Citizenship Award presented March 27 at the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City and honorable mention in the 2009 Missouri Scholars 100 Program, based on grade point average, ACT and/or SAT scores, top 10-percent class ranking and upper level courses in mathematics, science, English and foreign language.

Missouri Scholars Academy has accepted Kayla Fisher, Jason Mazrotoulos and Sarah Sarber to participate in the June 2009 summer program that focuses on liberal arts and stimulating extracurricular activities for gifted high school juniors and seniors. For more details, visit [www.moscholars.org](http://www.moscholars.org).



### District reschedules meeting on racial attitudes

As a continuation of its Destination U. City Schools community engagement program, the School District of University City has rescheduled its second Bridges Across Racial Polarization meeting for Tuesday, April 14 at the McNair Administration Building, 8136 Groby Road from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This meeting will include a brief review of the Bridges program and Bridges Co-Host Training, which prepares individuals to facilitate dialogue sessions in small group settings.

Bridges, sponsored by FOCUS St. Louis, engages families, community and staff in discussions about racial attitudes and class and their impact on education and student achievement. It is an innovative program that builds increased communication and understanding among people of various racial and ethnic backgrounds.

District officials are hosting the Bridges program as a result of *Destination U. City Schools* participant requests for future discussions that would increase community involvement and focus on issues that have impacted both the District and city.

New participants are welcome and encouraged to attend. To register, go to <http://www.focus-stl.org/ProgramsInitiatives/PromotingCommunityConnections/BridgesAcrossRacialPolarization.aspx>.

## Preparing children for testing

Taking a test has probably never been anyone's favorite thing to do. When preparing students for test days (standardized or otherwise), school educators recommend the following checklist:

- Emphasize every day that education is very 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 off 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.
- Install good study habits, such as using class-time wisely and completing homework assignments.
- Be willing to assist when your child needs help with homework.

## Student art displayed in April 2009

Come see exhibits of student artwork from across the District at the St. Louis Galleria's food court. Student work will be on display April 1-20.

More student artwork will be exhibited this spring at the Gallery of the University City Public Library. The elementary show will run April 5-27. Middle and high school students will be exhibited May 6-22.

Can't attend the above April shows? Then stop by The Green Center. University City student artwork will be shown April 27 - May 11.

## "FAME," April 3-4

Mark your calendar for the University City High School presentation of "FAME" on April 3 at 7 p.m. and April 4 at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students with ID, children under 12 and senior citizens.

## Watch election results on April 7

The University City community is invited to Election Night Watch, to watch the television coverage and election results for the April 7 University City elections in the McNair Administration Building, Board Room, beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7.

## Track meet, April 11

University City High School's track team hosts the annual Charlie Beck Invitational Meet on April 11 with 36 area teams competing.

"This is one of the coolest events in the St. Louis area," said Kim Loomis, District athletic director. "Come see it live and in person!"

Check out UCHS sports schedules at [www.highschoolsports.net](http://www.highschoolsports.net). Sign up for e-blasts, which include schedule changes and rain-outs.

## Board inductions, April 16

The newly elected or re-elected members of the University City Board of Education will be inducted during the April 16 school board meeting. Board meetings are held at 7 p.m. in the McNair Administration Building. Agendas and summaries are posted to the District Web site at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

## Celebration of Learning, May 6

The School District of University City has scheduled Celebration of Learning 2009 for Wednesday, May 6, at Brittany Woods Middle School.

## Summer Learning Academy registration deadline is May 18

Parent notification letters were distributed during or soon after March parent-teacher conferences for students who need to attend the 2009 Summer Learning Academy. Application forms should be returned to the student's school by May 18. After this date, registrants will be put on a waiting list. For questions regarding the 2009 Summer Learning Academy, contact your school office.

## U. City Day at the ball park

A limited number of tickets are still available for "U. City Day" at Busch Stadium. The Cardinals versus Royals game begins at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, May 22. Tickets are \$15 and \$17 and include a free stadium hot dog and soda. Check with your school PTO for tickets as soon as possible.

## What is U. City in Bloom?

Ever notice the beautiful gardens throughout the school and city properties? Has your child mentioned working in the school garden? These are a part of U. City in Bloom (UCB), a local not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to beautify and teach the value of beautification. The next UCB fundraiser is the Perennial Plant Sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Heman Park Community Center.

For more information, call 314/727-4232.

## Permissive transfer applications accepted

Submission of permissive transfer requests will be accepted in the office of Pupil Personnel from April 15 through June 30. If needed, a lottery will be conducted prior to the July school board meeting. For details, call 314/290-4045.

## Health Fair U. City

The School District of University City's nursing staff will host the second annual Health Fair U. City on Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center, located at 737 Kingsland Avenue. This is a great opportunity for local children to get a school physical and to pick up free information on health and wellness.

Free monthly immunization clinics provide DTP/Td, Polio, Hib, MMR, HEP B and Tdap for children ages 2 months to 18 years. Clinics are scheduled for April 3 and May 1, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Julia Goldstein ECEC, 737 Kingsland. Parents/guardians are asked to bring the child's immunization records.

Call 314/290-4045 for more information.

## Podcasts available on District Web site

Visit <http://www.ucityschools.org> to see podcasts of recent meetings and other topics of interest. Currently available are Superintendent Wilson's State of the District presentation to the community, Assistant Superintendent Chauna Williams' Public Forum on educational reform, Destination U. City Schools bond issue slide show and Missouri Teacher of the Year. Margaret Williams

**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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