

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

August - September 2009

Calendar Highlights:

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 1 Jackson Park - Curriculum Night
Delmar-Harvard PTO Mtg & Curr.
Night
- 2 Brittany Woods Open House
- 3 Board of Education Mtg
U-City Birders Club Info Mtg
- 7 Schools Closed - Labor Day
- 8 Quality Council Mtg
Nathaniel Hawthorne PTO Mtg
Pershing PTO Mtg
Jackson Park - Parent Mtg
Flynn Park PTO Speaker Series
- 9 UCHS Open House & PTO Mtg
Accountability Committee Mtg
- 10 Barbara C. Jordan Groundbreaking
Flynn Park Kind. Curr Night
Nathaniel Hawthorne Curr. Night
- 12 UCHS ACT Testing
- 15 Brittany Woods after school
activities begin
Flynn Park Family Math Night
- 16 UCHS Alumni Association Mtg
Jackson Park Science Night
- 17 Board of Education Workshop
- 18 First quarter progress reports
mailed home
Flynn Park Picture Day
- 21 UCHS College Fair
- 22 Early release
- 24 Board of Education Workshop
Nathaniel Hawthorne MAP Night
- 25 UCHS Fall Academic Award
Assembly
- 26 U-City Birders Club - Migrating
Warbler Study
- 30 Jackson Park Science Fair Workshop

OCTOBER 2009

- 1 Board of Education Mtg
- 6 Conversations with Superintendent
- 15 Board of Education Mtg
- 23 Hall of Fame 2009
- 24 Homecoming
- 26 & 28 Parent/Teacher Conferences

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.

Dear Parents:

A new school year has begun. I've been visiting schools and have seen students eager to learn and teachers ready to instruct from the very first day. That's a powerful combination - coming together for a common cause of student/teacher successes.

This year, I will again host two public forums with the community entitled Conversations with the Superintendent (previously Meet the Superintendent). The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. These gatherings have been revamped to include an update on the District, including facilities, student achievement, programming or other hot topics, before opening for questions or other dialogue that patrons may wish to discuss. I'm looking forward to this new format and hope you will consider attending one or both of the forums.

I also have one request of all parents; that is to get involved with your child(ren)'s education by visiting their school and/or volunteering in the classroom or office. There is strong data that indicates children have a higher success rate when parents are involved in their child's education.

May you and your child(ren) have a wonderful school year.

Sincerely,



Joylynn L. Wilson, Superintendent of Schools

Twitter "tweets" keep stakeholders informed

The School District of University City has begun harnessing the power of Twitter, the social networking website and mobile application, to enhance its communications efforts with staff, students, parents, news media and the world. Through Twitter, the District's Communications & Media Relations department is posting news 'tweets' about District headline news, events, forums and other updates. Users may sign up to "follow" through a link at www.ucityschools.org or directly through the Twitter website at <http://twitter.com/UCitySchools>.

"Social networking has become an important part of communicating in today's culture," explained Jim Jennings, communications coordinator. "We are striving to provide a 21st-century education to our students and that includes using contemporary tools to communicate with them and other stakeholders."

School board liaisons for SY2009-2010

Each school year, the University City Board of Education assigns additional responsibilities to its members, including the role of liaison to particular schools and representatives appointed to various committees. School liaison assignments for the School District of University City for the 2009-2010 school year are:

Julia Goldstein ECEC	Trudy Moon
Barbara Jordan Elementary	Todd Gilyard
Delmar-Harvard Elementary	Todd Gilyard
Flynn Park Elementary.....	Stacy Clay
Jackson Park Elementary	Ellen Bern
Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary	Bob Elgin
Pershing Elementary.....	Trudy Moon
Brittany Woods Middle	Linda Peoples
University City High	Tom Peters
Lieberman Learning Center	Bob Elgin
Adult Education & Literacy	Linda Peoples

Conversations with the Superintendent

To keep the channels of communication open, Superintendent Joylynn Wilson will host "Conversations with the Superintendent" forums. These events will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, October 6 and March 9 at University City High School's auditorium, located at 7401 Balson Ave.

For more information, call 314/290-4002.

Parental rights under No Child Left Behind

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110), public school districts are required by law to provide parents with certain information. When requested, the School District of University City will release to parents/guardians the following information in a timely manner:

- ◆ whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction,
- ◆ whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or another provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived,
- ◆ whether children are provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications, and what baccalaureate degree major the teacher has and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification.

In addition to the information that parents may request, districts must provide each individual parent the following:

- ◆ information on the achievement level of their child in each of the state academic assessments as required under this part, and
- ◆ timely notice that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Need Assistance?

If you are in need of special accommodations or assistance in order to participate in a school- or district-sponsored event, contact Eric Gonzalez-Rubio, operations supervisor, at 314/290-4004.

District names Support Staff and Teacher of the Year

Lillian B. Blackshear-Summers, a third-grade teacher at Flynn Park School, was named the 2009-2010 University City Teacher of the Year. Anthony Curtis, custodian at the McNair Building, was named the 2009-2010 University City Educational Support Personnel of the Year.

Nominations for the 2010-2011 honors are available in schools and at www.ucityschools.org. Nomination deadline is the last Friday in January for both awards.

10 things you can do to prevent flu

In school, we are reminding parents and guardians how best to avoid the flu, and what to do to protect your family and our community to stop the spread of germs if one comes down with the flu. Unlike the seasonal flu, which tends to affect seniors and the very young, the new H1N1 flu virus primarily affects young adults, especially those under 25 years of age, and is highly contagious.

1. **GET A FLU SHOT.** Getting vaccinated as soon as possible is the single best way to keep yourself from getting the flu and spreading it to other people. The Department of Health recommends vaccination as long as a vaccine is available. (H1N1 is expected to be available this fall.)
2. Don't care for shots? **TRY THE NASAL SPRAY VACCINE.** The spray is recommended for healthy individuals age 5 to 49.
3. **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN.** Especially before and after eating and after using the bathroom. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
4. **COUGH OR SNEEZE INTO YOUR ARM OR SLEEVE,** not your hands. Covering your mouth is not just good manners, it's vital to preventing the spread of flu and other illnesses. Sneeze or cough into the crook of your arm so your hands do not get contaminated.
5. **AVOID INFECTING YOURSELF.** Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth unless you know your hands are clean.
6. **WIPE DOWN PUBLIC ITEMS.** Keep a box of alcohol-based disposable wipes handy and rub down telephones and door knobs.
7. **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.** At least three feet will help decrease the spread of disease.
8. **IF YOU FEEL SICK, STAY HOME.** If you've got the flu - or any other respiratory illness - stay home and get better. If a child is diagnosed with the flu, keep him or her home until they are well.
9. **PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR OVERALL HEALTH.** Get enough sleep, maintain a healthy diet and manage stress.
10. Doctors may recommend **ANTI-VIRAL MEDICATION.** There are medications available by prescription that may help to prevent flu or lessen symptoms if taken regularly.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) does not recommend closing schools due to confirmed or suspected cases of influenza A or H1N1. Instead, this flu is treated like any other seasonal flu that impacts schools every year. For more information about seasonal flu and the new H1N1 flu, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu or www.flu.gov.

NOTE: As of press time, the District does not have information as to when or if the H1N1 vaccine will be available for administration through the schools. Keep and eye on www.ucityschools.org for more details.

Subscribe to U-Times!

Get the scoop on what is happening at University City High School, written by our very own UCHS students. U-Times offers a way to stay on top of all the student news, activities and sports. The definitive voice of University City High School can be delivered to your home for only \$15 each year. Just send your name, address, city, state and zip code along with check or money order made payable to UCHS to: University City High School, 7401 Balson Ave., University City, MO 63130, ATTN: Business Office for U-Times. For more information, contact Mary Williams at marywilliams@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Help UCHS keep "Roaring with Colors" lion

The University City High School (UCHS) PTO is coordinating efforts to raise funds to purchase the lion statue currently located in the midst of the Balson Circle. The statue was decorated by a professional artist in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the University City Lion Gates with proceeds to benefit the Historical Society of University City's preservation efforts for the lion gates. To learn more or donate, call 314/863-0550 or email coley7365@swbcglobal.net.

U-City Birders flock together!

The School District of University City's Birders Club, known as the 'U-City Birders', is once again flying high for the 2009-2010 school year. An informational meeting was held September 3. There is no need to get your feathers ruffled if you are new to birding, new members are always welcome. Experienced "birders" share birding experiences and plans for the new school year, which includes field trips and a special service learning project.

Other upcoming meetings include Saturday, September 26 at 8 a.m. in Tower Grove Park for a Migrating Warbler Study and Saturday, October 17 at 9 a.m. in Powder Valley for Bird Feeders and Nature Walk. More are posted on the District website at www.ucityschools.org.

For more details or to get involved, contact Nikki Davenport, math/science coordinator, at 314/290-4013, or ndavenport@u-city.k12.mo.us.

New Briefs from City Hall

- September 11 is the National Green the Block Day with the Green Teens out in force to influence patrons to recycle and not litter.
- University City Dog Park's Puppy Pool Party scheduled for 1-4 p.m. on September 11. Admission is \$10 your pooch and two humans.
- Missouri Vintage Base Ball Tournament for the Missouri Cup will be held September 12 on Jack Buck Field in Heman Park all day. For more information, call 315/726-6168.
- "Roaring Lions" will be moved to the individual gardens for the U City in Bloom's Garden Tour on September 13. Advanced tickets are available at the Public Library, University Gardens, Winslow's Home, Plowsharing Crafts, and Garden Heights Nursery in Richmond Heights. The Lions will be auctioned on October 10 at City Hall. Admission \$25. Call 314/721-7401 or 314/726-6168. See the Lions at www.lionsbirthdaybash.org.
- 2009 University City Park-athlon celebrates our remarkable park system on September 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Heman Park soccer field, (east of the Centennial Commons). Admission is \$5 for activities including:
 - 1 Mile Fun Run - at Heman Park's jogging trail;
 - Art in the Park - paint miniature lions;
 - Captain Target golf game - kids can test their budding golf skills;
 - Football Target Toss and Soccer Ball Target;
 - Adult-Child Tennis Tournament at Heman Park tennis courts and
 - FREE exercise class demonstrations including Cardio Kickboxing, Tai Chi, Zumba, Senior Stretch and Belly Dancing at Centennial Commons. Call 314/495-5239 or email tmiller24@hotmail.com for details.
- September 26 Starlight Concert features Satin, Motown revue, at 1 p.m.
- October 10-11 is U. City in Bloom's Fall Bulb Sale in the Delmar Loop.
- River Des Peres Watershed Coalition is offering free rain barrels for residents Call 314/505- 8567 for details.
- CALOP Commission seeks volunteer intern. If interested, contact glay@ucitymo.org or c/o CALOP intern, 6801 Delmar Boulevard, 1st Floor, University City, MO 63130.

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 cole@u-city.k12.mo.us.