

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

October 2009

Calendar Highlights:

OCTOBER 2009

- 1 Sunrise Conservatory begins for DH, FP and Per Board of Education Mtg
- 2 Sunrise Conservatory begins for BCJ, JP and NH
- 6 Conversations with Superintendent
- 7 Early release
- 10 Board of Education Workshop
- 15 End of First Quarter Board of Education Mtg
- 16 Schools closed Hall of Fame RSVP deadline
- 19 K-5 Everyday Math Workshop
- 23 Hall of Fame 2009
- 23-31 Red Ribbon Week
- 24 Homecoming
- 26 & 28 Early Release Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 27 Community Connections
- 30 Schools closed UCHS Dark of the Moon
- 31 UCHS Dark of the Moon

NOVEMBER 2009

- 5 Board of Education Mtg.
- 6 Schools closed
- 12 Fired Up for Kindergarten
- 14 Board of Education Workshop
- 17 Early release School board candidate's information packet available
- 25-27 Schools closed

DECEMBER 2009

- 12 Board of Education Workshop
- 17 Board of Education Mtg.
- 18 Early release
- 21-Jan 1 Schools closed

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.

Understanding Everyday Math for K-5 parents

The department of curriculum and instruction has scheduled two Everyday Math workshops for elementary parents. Everyday Math is the curriculum used in grades K-5. At this workshop, parents will learn about the philosophy of the District's math curriculum and how it progresses through the grade levels, specific topic threads taught and tips on how to support their child's homework.

The Everyday Math parent workshops will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the McNair Boardroom on Mondays, October 19, and January 11, 2010.

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

Kindergarten open house for preschoolers, November 12

The School District of University City will be hosting its fall "Fired up for Kindergarten" open house for preschool families on the evening of Thursday, November 12. Families with preschool children may visit their neighborhood elementary school and meet kindergarten teachers and other school staff, tour classrooms and receive enrollment information.

For more details, call your elementary school office or 314/290-4019.

Preparing for conferences

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for the evenings of October 26 and 28.

Parent-teacher conferences provide an opportunity for one-on-one conversation between parents and teachers. Before the meeting, consider asking your child if there is anything specific to discuss, write down questions and topics and arrive promptly or early. To best facilitate dialogue with the teacher, consider beginning the meeting with positive comments, remain poised and respectful, stay on topic, listen to suggestions, take notes, express appreciation and set the opportunity for follow-up and feedback. Because other parents are also anxious to speak with the teacher, please be considerate and do not stay beyond your allotted time.

Sixth graders move to middle school for fall 2011

Sixth grade students in the School District of University City will not move to Brittany Woods Middle School for the fall of 2010. The new sixth grade wing is scheduled for completion during the 2010 - 2011 school year and should be available for sixth grade students to beginning classes at the middle school in the fall of 2011.

Now that H1N1 is in schools, what can you do?

Unlike the seasonal flu, which tends to affect seniors and the very young, the new H1N1 flu virus primarily affects young people, especially those under 25 years of age, and is highly contagious. Parents and students are asked to adhere to the following tips to help decrease the spread of both seasonal and H1N1 flu viruses:

- Get a flu shot or try the nasal spray vaccine.
- Wash hands often. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer and avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth unless hands are clean.
- Cough or sneeze into arm or sleeve.
- Keep at least three feet between you and other people and wipe down public items.
- If you have the flu, or any other respiratory illness, stay home and get better. Get enough sleep, maintaining a healthy diet and manage stress.

For details about the seasonal flu or the H1N1 flu, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu. or www.flu.gov.

November 6 immunizations clinic postponed to November 13

Schools are closed for Professional Development on November 6, so the monthly immunization clinic will be postponed until November 13. Free DTP/Td, Polio, HIB, MMR, HEP B and Tdap immunizations are offered for children ages 2 months to 18 years from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Julia Goldstein Center, 737 Kingsland. For questions or to register for a specific immunization, call 314/721-2965.

District seeks more parents for committees

The School District of University City is seeking to expand current committees to include more parental input. If you are interested in more information about serving on a committee for Finance/Bond Issue Oversight, Academic Reform, Early Childhood, Parent Involvement and Accountability - which establishes benchmarks for other committees, contact Charlotte Tatum at 314/290-4003 or ctatum@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Helping students with special needs

A new school year brings with it new possibilities, experiences and goals. It can also be a time of new challenges that are especially challenging for children with special needs. A child having trouble adjusting to the new school year may show signs of stress by:

- Sleeping habits changing drastically
- Non-compliance regarding completing school assignments
- Complaining of illnesses like headaches and/or stomachaches
- Aggression towards self and/or others
- Increased or decreased eating habits
- Decreased or lack of social interactions

The Special School District (SSD) recommends five conversation starters to help open communications with children about social situations:

1. Who did you sit next to at lunch? What did you talk about?
2. What are your friends' names?
3. What do you play at recess? What is your favorite game to play with your friends?
4. Did you pick a partner for any activities? Who was your partner?
5. What do kids in your class like to play at home? Are they in any other activities?

SSD is also offering training sessions for parents from 7-9 p.m. at the SSD Central Office, located at 12110 Clayton Road (63131):

Helping Your Child with Homework, Oct. 12 - Room 57

Help Your Child Learn Anger Management, Impulse Control and Empathy Skills, on six consecutive Tuesdays, Oct. 13 - Nov. 17 - Room 57

Positive Behavior Interventions at 6 p.m., Oct. 19 - Room 60

To register, call 314-989-8100 or visit www.solutionwhere.com/ssd/cw to view your options of these and other helpful classes for all parents but especially those with students with special needs.

New fundraiser for middle school

Brittany Woods Middle School has just registered for My Coke Rewards for schools. Those who drink Coke products are asked to save and donate the points to the school library for magazine purchases. Codes are on the inside of each bottle cap and box of soda. Double points are available through October 31. To donate, directly at www.mycokerewards.com or contact Kelly Werthmuller for details or assistance.

Honor the spirit of Dr. King

The University City Board of Education is accepting nominations for the Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award to honor University City residents who work or have worked toward racial unity and justice. The nomination form and guidelines are available in school offices and at www.ucityschools.org. Deadline for submission is December 4, 2009. Recipients are recognized during the January celebration.

UCEF cycle grant update

The University City Education Foundation (UCEF) is awarding \$4,879.59 in 2009 fall cycle grants during the October 15 University City Board of Education meeting. Congratulations **Jennifer Augenstein**, Julia Goldstein ECEC; **Tricia Harris**, Flynn Park; **Jill Rogers** and **Carrie Moore**, Delmar-Harvard; **Larry Schulz**, Brittany Woods; **Kelly Werthmuller**, Brittany Woods Middle, and **Barry J. Williams**, Brittany Woods.

For more information about the Foundation and ways to support, visit www.ucityeducationfoundation.org.

Social workers team-up for Holiday Appeal

For the third consecutive year, school social workers are teaming together to sponsor Holiday Appeal, which provides food, hygiene and household supplies to more than 100 local families in crisis for the Thanksgiving/Fall Break. If your family, business or organization would like to sponsor a family or make a donation, OR you are interested in receiving services, contact the Team through your neighborhood school social worker. More information will be sent home with students in October to explain individual school or classroom collections.

Dark of the Moon haunts Halloween 2009

The UCHS Black Mask drama club presents *Dark of the Moon*, a folk-tale thriller, directed by senior **Cameron Tesson** on Friday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 31 (Halloween), at 8 p.m. in the UCHS Auditorium. Cost is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Promotional space may still be available in the playbill. For details, contact Edward Propst at epropst@u-city.k12.mo.us or 314/290-4100.

Celebrate UCHS Hall of Fame inductees

Members of the 2009 UCHS Hall of Fame induction class are **Myrna Balk '57**, **Jesse R. Bodine '44**, **Marty Ehrlich '73**, **Mama Lisa Gage '80**, the late **Dr. Roger Edward Gollub, '73**, **Suzy Gorman '80**, **Robert Hamilton '56**, **Carol Ann Jackson Ph.D. '74**, the late **Michael R. King '76**, **Eric Jesse Norman Ph.D. '59**, **Sanford E. Pomerantz J.D. '58**, **Dr. Frank O. Richards Jr. '71** and **Raymond A. Thomas '84**

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 23, at the Crowne Plaza in Clayton. The reception begins at 6 p.m., with dinner following at 7 p.m. Reservation deadline is October 16 with early bird rates available to staff through October 2. Contact Janice Beverly at 314/290-4101 or jbeverly@u-city.k12.mo.us for details.

UCAEL has a new home

University City Adult Education and Learning Program has found a new home at 1483 82nd Street. The school administration is in the process of moving into the new facility. Classes are scheduled to begin there in November.

CONNECTIONS is a publication of the School District of University City. Published monthly throughout the school year, it contains 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.