

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

November 2008

It is here! MSIP Cycle 4:

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) granted Superintendent Joylynn Wilson's request for an early Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) accreditation review on November 10-13, 2008.

By requesting this review two years earlier than scheduled, the District receives feedback about its strengths and can immediately address any instructional concerns that surface.

Superintendent forums

Keeping the channels of communication open, Superintendent Joylynn Wilson will continue to host "Meet the Superintendent" forums.

The next session begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, at Pershing Elementary, 6761 Bartmer.

Second semester sessions will be held at 9 a.m. on February 11 and 6 p.m. on April 22.

For more information, call 314/290-4002.

Destination UCity Schools meeting schedule revised

The schedule for the School District of University City's community engagement program known as "Destination UCity Schools," has been revised since the publication of the October 2008 issues of *PRIDE* and *Connections*. A postcard with this updated information was sent to local residents, businesses and District employees during the last week of October.

Since July, several hundred University City parents, residents and other stakeholders have attended the Destination UCity Schools

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Inclement weather closings

If schools are closed for inclement weather conditions, parents/guardians will receive a SchoolReach phone message with specific information. School closing information will be posted on the District website at www.ucityschools.org and shared with local radio and television stations. Days missed due to inclement weather closings will be made up at the end of the school year.

Holiday Appeal still seeks donations

School social workers are coordinating a districtwide effort, "Holiday Appeal," to support local families during the holiday season. Donations of nonperishable foods, personal care items and household cleaners may still be delivered to the McNair Curriculum Library during the week of November 17. Grocery and store gift cards in increments of \$10 will be accepted by school social workers through December 12.



School board filing opens December 16

Informational packets are now available for candidates seeking election to the Board of Education for the School District of University City. The election will be held on April 7, 2009. Candidate filing begins December 16 and closes at 5 p.m. on January 20 for two seats that each fulfill a three-year term. For more information, contact Charlotte Tatum, administrative assistant to the Board, at 314/290-4003.

UCHS Jazz Band at Powell

University City High School Jazz Band will be the FIRST performers in the E. Desmond Lee Showcase at the Powell Symphony Hall on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. Admission is free. The concert starts at 6:30 p.m. and the doors open at 6:00 p.m.

District to host second annual Minority Educator Career Fair in January

The School District of University City will be hosting its first Minority Educator Career Fair on January 24. More information will be posted soon on the District's website at www.ucityschools.org for interested, qualified applicants.

Community stakeholders are invited to contribute items for the participants' "goody bags" and door-prize raffles.

For details, contact the Office of Human Resources at 314/290-4023.

Need Assistance?

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

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meetings aimed at soliciting community input to help determine the District's future. Remaining dates, topics and locations are.

• **Finalizing the Plan & Recommendations***

Tuesday, November 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,

Barbara Jordan Elementary School

Saturday, November 22, 9:30-11:30 p.m.,

Julia Goldstein ECEC

• **Presentation to the Board of Education**

Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.,

McNair Administration Building

• **Special Board of Education Meeting for Approval**

Tuesday, December 16, 6 p.m.,

McNair Administration Building

Light snacks will be served and childcare is available.

For more details, call Daphne Dorsey at 314/290-4016.

* *The same topic will be discussed at both sessions.*

Plan to attend the one that best fits your schedule.

Free Immunizations continue

The School District of University City sponsors monthly Immunization Clinics FREE to children ages 2 months to 18 years for DTP/Td, Polio, Hib, MMR, HEP B, Tdap. Clinics are typically held the first Friday of each month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center, 737 Kingsland (northwest of the Delmar Loop).

Remaining clinic dates are December 5, February 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1. Parents/guardians are asked to bring the child's immunization records. For questions or to register for a specific immunization, call 314/721-2965.

**If inclement weather arises, clinics will be postponed and generally rescheduled for the following Monday. Specific date(s) will be announced on the calendar of events at www.ucityschools.org.*

Kindergarten open house for preschool families, March 31

Missed the School District of University City's "Fired up for Kindergarten" on November 13? Tell your neighbors with preschool children that a second-semester event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. This event gives University City parents with pre-school aged children an opportunity to visit their neighborhood elementary school to meet kindergarten teachers and other school staff, tour classrooms and receive enrollment information. All six District elementary schools – Barbara C. Jordan, Delmar-Harvard, Flynn Park, Jackson Park, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Pershing – participate in the biannual event.

For more information, call your neighborhood elementary school or 314/290-4019.

2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award nominations being accepted

The University City Board of Education is seeking nominations for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award to honor current or former University City residents, living or deceased, who work or have worked toward racial unity and justice. Nomination forms are available in school offices and on the District website at www.ucityschools.org. Deadline for submission is December 5, 2008.

Recipients will be recognized during the annual University City communitywide Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration on Sunday, January 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the University City High School Auditorium. The Celebration festivities will begin with a "Positive Protest March" beginning at 3 p.m. on the front lawn of Jackson Park Elementary School.

Nominations are open

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond the status quo to inspire others in our school community? If so, consider nominating them for one of the School District of University City's recognition awards including Teacher of the Year, Educational Support Personnel of the Year or PACEsetter. Nomination forms are available from school offices, administration building or the District website at www.ucityschools.org. For details about District recognitions or the selection process, call 314/290-4019.

High school field hockey celebrates

Congratulations to the University City High School field hockey team who not only celebrated their 80th anniversary during homecoming weekend, but also won the 2008 homecoming parade float competition.

District calendar reminders:

November 25-27 Schools closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26-27 Offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
December 18..... Early Release for 9-12 for Exams
December 19..... Early Release for PreK-8 for Record Keeping
Early Release for 9-12 for Exams
End of Second Quarter / First Semester
December 22-January 2..... Schools closed for Winter Break
December 24- 26..... Offices closed for Winter Break
January 1-2..... Offices closed for Winter Break
January 5 Classes resume
January 16..... Schools closed for Professional Development
January 18..... Communitywide MLK Celebration
January 19..... Schools & Offices closed for MLK holiday

For more information about school and district events click on the "Events Calendar" button on the right side of the District's home page at www.ucityschools.org or call 314/290-4019.