

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

December 2010

December 2010 Highlights

- 2 Board of Education Meeting
- 4 UCity Equations Practice Session
JGEC Parent Meeting
UCHS Kinesis Dance Concert
- 6 UCEF Plowsharing Fundraiser
- 7 JP PTO Cookies, Cocoa & More
FP PTO Meeting
- 10 UCHS Choir Concert
- 11 Board of Education Workshop
- 12 BCJ PTO Meeting
UCity - Birder's Club - Eagle Watch
- 14 UCHS Band Boosters Meetings
Pershing PTO Meeting
DH Winter Concert
- 15 UCHS AA monthly meeting
Brittany Woods Winter Concert
- 16 Early Release for 9-12, UCHS Exams
DH Spelling Bee
NH Science Activity Night
- 17 Early Release for PreK-12
End of 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester
FP Winter Party
AEL CYCLE II Ends
- 20-21 Schools Closed, Offices Open
- 22-24 Schools & Offices Closed
- 27-29 Schools Closed, Offices Open
- 30-31 Schools & Offices Closed
- January 3 - Classes Resume, 3rd quarter begins

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.

New elementary attendance lines approved for the 2011-2012 school year

The Board of Education approved new elementary attendance lines on Nov. 11. Superintendent Wilson Pruitt sent a letter home with elementary students the following week regarding details and next steps. Beginning in August 2011, Delmar-Harvard students will attend Flynn Park. Nathaniel Hawthorne students will attend either Barbara C. Jordan or Jackson Park. Each family that will be attending a different school next year will receive a packet of information from the District. The committee also recommended and the Board approved grandfathering of current permissive transfer students, but no new permissive transfer requests will be accepted.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/boundarylines2010> or call 314/290-4016.

School board filing schedule

Informational packets are available for candidates seeking election to the Board of Education for the School District of University City. Candidate filing begins at 8 a.m. on Dec. 14, 2010 and closes at 5 p.m. on Jan. 18, 2011 for three seats that each fulfill a three-year term. Election day is Tuesday, April 5, 2011.

For details, contact Charlotte Tatum, administrative assistant to the BOE, at 314/290-4003 or email ctatum@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Nominations for District recognitions

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 or at www.ucityschools.org.

For details about District recognitions or the selection process, call 314/290-4019.

UCEF Fundraiser, Dec. 6

Help support the University City Education Foundation (UCEF) during their annual Winter Event at Plowsharing Crafts, 6271 Delmar (in the Loop). Make a purchase on Monday, Dec. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. and a percentage of your bill will be donated to support UCEF.

Centennial Celebration

In just a few short months, the School District of University City will kick off its 100th birthday celebration with events throughout the year. Mark your calendars for Monday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. for the Centennial Kickoff. Watch the District website at www.ucityschools.org and school publications for location and other details to come.

MLK Celebration, new date!

The annual University City communitywide Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration is changing tradition and will be hosted on Saturday, Jan. 15. The parade begins at 2 p.m. in front of Jackson Park School and proceeds along Balson to Hanley and back along the stadium sidewalk to the front of University City High School. The commemorative program will begin immediately following in the UCHS auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

UCity Equations, Dec. 4 & Feb. 26

Equations tournament helps students improve math skills. A practice session has been scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4 at UCHS and costs only \$1 per person. The 14th annual UCity Equations Open Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26 with registration due by Feb. 19.

For details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/UCeq2011> and submit the downloadable forms or contact Judy Maffitt at equations@att.net or 314/863-5928.

For families with Special Needs

Special School District hosts an informal parent-to-parent coffee for University City parents and families interested in asking questions or sharing experiences regarding children with special needs. An SSD representative will be on hand on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. in the Jackson Park School library.

SSD also offers free parent workshops throughout the year. Visit <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ssd/cw/main.asp> for a complete listing or call 989-7807 to register.

For more information contact Shelley Shray, University City's parent representative to the Parent Advisory Council for SSD, at 314/863-1918 or sshray@sbcglobal.net.

Cyberbullying 101 Highlights

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic devices, websites, internet, or cell phones to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

During the Nov. 17 Cyberbullying 101 presentation by The National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse (www.ncada-stl.org), they explained how students can protect themselves:

- Don't respond to uncomfortable messages.
- If you are being bullied, turn off the computer or phone immediately and block the bully's number or screen name.
- Save and print all messages from cyberbullies as evidence.
- Tell an adult you trust about the incident.
- Notify your school for help if the cyberbullying is occurring through your school district's Internet system or involves another student.
- Report to law enforcement if you are threatened or harassed.

For more information, visit <http://makeadifferenceforkids.org>, a nonprofit organization that promotes awareness and prevention of cyberbullying and suicide through education, or <http://www.inobtr.org/>.

Spring Musical, Feb. 25-26

Auditions were held the week of Nov. 8 for the UCHS Spring Musical, *Seussical the Musical!* Performances are scheduled for Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 26 at 2 and 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Black Mask drama, April 15-16

The UCHS Black Mask Drama Club announces this year's senior play, *The Miracle Worker*, a dramatization of Helen Keller's childhood and how her teacher, Annie Sullivan, opened up the world to Helen when she learned to speak with her hands. This play is scheduled for April 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. in the Lecture Hall

Construction Updates

Construction crews remain hard at work throughout the District to bring exciting changes to nearly every building during this school year, thanks to the passage of the \$53.6M Prop U bond issue in April 2009.

- The new **Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School** will be open for students in August 2011. A time capsule and corner stone were placed in November. Interiors and landscaping should be completed in February in time for a springtime building dedication.
- Special steps are being taken at **Flynn Park Elementary School** to keep construction traffic away from students and prevent problems for space around the school. The cafeteria addition construction will begin in December. Interior renovations to the existing building, limited classrooms reconfiguration, ADA-compliant restrooms and main office reconfiguration will occur in Summer 2011.
- Renovations at **Jackson Park Elementary School** have been approved by the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) and City Council. Construction for the gym and cafeteria addition begins in December. Interior renovation of existing building, including reconfiguring classrooms and administrative area and updating ADA accessibility for bathrooms, will occur in Summer 2011.
- **Pershing Elementary** students will be temporarily relocated to the Nathaniel Hawthorne building for the 2011-2012 school year. Early abatement and asbestos floor tiles removal occurred last summer. Demolition is scheduled for Summer 2011. New construction begins in Fall 2011 and will be completed for students to return in August 2012.

For current status and next steps for District construction and renovation projects, visit <http://tinyurl.com/BondProjectsUpdate>.

Help maintain a proper learning environment for our children...

**School District of University City
Anonymous Tip Line**

(314) 290-4444

...report inappropriate behavior.



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: 314/290-4016 or 314/290-4019; e-mail lruessel@u-city.k12.mo.us or ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us.