



# INSIDE

## the School District of University City

A publication for and about the staff of the School District of University City

January 2010

### University City community celebrates Dr. King's dream

Community volunteer Nicole Adawale will receive the University City Board of Education's 2010 MLK Spirit award at the district's 24th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration on Sunday, January 17.

The event entitled, "Fulfilling Dr. King's Dream," will kick-off at 3 p.m. with a symbolic march that begins at Jackson Park and ends at the University City High School (UCHS) Auditorium, located at 7401 Balson Ave. (63130).

The community is invited to join marchers including Superintendent Joylynn Wilson, Mayor Joseph Adams, school board, community members and students led by the UCHS drum line. The marchers will travel west along Balson to Hanley, east along the Muhl-Schemmer Stadium sidewalk, back to Lawless Plaza and into UCHS's Charles Banks Auditorium.

This year's celebration will feature the talents of the UCHS Jazz Band, Choir and Kinesis dance troupe. Community member Rodney Jennings Sr. will share excerpts from Dr. King's "Drum Major for Justice" speech. Students of all ages will also share their personal writings on the day's theme.

In case of inclement weather, MLK celebration will be rescheduled for Sunday, January 24.

### UCEF cycle grant reminder

The University City Education Foundation (UCEF) spring 2010 cycle grant submission

deadline is February 3. Application forms are available on the District's website at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).



### Help UCHS win \$100,000

U.S. Cellular is currently encouraging communities to come by any authorized U.S. Cellular store and obtain a code to vote online for UCHS before January 10. The 10 schools with the most votes will receive \$100,000 each. Part of that prize money would help send our marching band to Washington, D.C. for the 2010 Memorial Day parade.

The nearest store is located at 6623 Delmar in the Loop. Flyers with more details and other locations have been distributed to all schools.

Please encourage friends, family and neighbors to vote for UCHS!

### Help the BWMS library earn money when you Yahoo!

Thanks to a new program made possible by Yahoo, the BWMS library will earn money every time you use Good Search or Good Shop. Good Search is a search engine powered by Yahoo. For every search you do through this site, the BW library can earn a penny (1¢). When you use Good Shop to make online purchases the library can earn a percentage of the sale. There are also coupons available. Both sites are available through [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Simply download the toolbar to make searching and shopping easier!

### UCHS Musicians selected to perform in community concert

UCHS Jazz Band musicians Terrence Childs, trombone, and Chiles Russell Taylor, trumpet, were selected in December to participate in the 2010 E. Des Lee Jazz Band Concert scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the U.M.S.L. campus. Admission is free and open to the public. Lee is a member of the UCHS Hall of Fame and class of 1936.



Photo provided by The Green Center



Photo by Cindy Thierry



### Would you like to see your students featured in PRIDE or on the website?

Email your favorite photo and information to [ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us). Be sure to only send photos of students who have not been exempt.

Check with your school secretary to be sure.



## Inclement weather late start or closings

Reminder: If schools are closed due to inclement weather conditions, staff and parents will receive an automated phone message with specific information. School closing information will also be posted on the District website at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org) and shared with local radio and television stations.

The District has also instituted a one-hour "Late Start" option. When late start is declared, morning school busses will run one hour later than regularly scheduled and classes will begin one hour later, however school will be dismissed at the regularly scheduled time. McNair offices will open one hour late, at 9 a.m., and Sunrise Conservatory will be cancelled.

Days missed due to inclement weather closings will be made up at the end of the school year.

## "Young Brains: What Are They Thinking"

Learn how to help your child improve communications and relationships at home and school.

The University City PTO Council is partnering with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to present a TryPOD 2 parent workshop - Young Brains: What Are They Thinking?

The event will be held in the Brittany Woods gymnasium, located at 8125 Groby Road, on January 12 at 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. A dessert reception will follow the program. Free child care will be provided.

TryPOD 2 (Try Putting Off Drinking), a three-year program for University City students in grades 1-5, brings information and skills that aims to prevent injury and/or death due to underage consumption of alcohol and vehicle related risks. It includes Protecting You Protecting Me, a science-based, eight-lesson curriculum that teaches children about the brain, its growth and the negative effects of alcohol on that growth.

Additional assistance includes support for individualized and group instruction, preparation for standardized testing, and/or conflict resolution; along with free substance abuse assessments for students or families of students, and family financial assistance for counseling services through Provident Counseling.

Major funding for this project has been provided by The Missouri Foundation for Health.

For more information, contact Nichole Dawsey at 314-664-7550 or [ndawsey@ncada-stl.org](mailto:ndawsey@ncada-stl.org).

## UCHS Step Show

University City High School's Step Team will be exhibiting their talents on Friday, January 22 beginning at 6 p.m. in the University City High School Auditorium.

## Technology and grants reminder

When seeking or accepting assistance for improving technology, District staff is asked to verify that the grant aligns with CSIP and the Technology Plan, so that it is complimentary to the curriculum and the Information Systems (IS) department can support it. If you are working on a technology grant or gift, please coordinate with your building principal so that he or she may involve both IS and the department of Curriculum and Instruction. Working together, we can find the best solution.

## Interested in voluntary early retirement?

Certified employees who plan to retire at the conclusion of the 2009-2010 school year may be interested in participating in the District's Voluntary Early Retirement plan. According to Board Regulation 4760, "employees who elect to participate in this program should make their wishes known as soon as possible and no later than January 7 of the current school year by letter of request to resign for purpose of Voluntary Early Retirement."

To learn more about retirement options, contact Human Resources at 314/290-4021.

## "Show Me Brittany" in January 2010

Mark your calendar for the "Show Me Brittany" parent night. Brittany Woods Middle School (BWMS) will host its annual "Show Me Brittany" Open House Parent Night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 21. All University City parents are encouraged to bring their children, particularly sixth graders, who will have an opportunity to learn more about the curriculum, programs and staff of the middle school; tour the school and meet the faculty and other parents.

Show Me Brittany Observation Days have been scheduled for Tuesday, January 26 and Wednesday, January 27. Prospective parents are invited to visit and observe classrooms from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and join students for lunch between 11:50 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. at a cost of only \$2.55 per adult.

For more information, call 314/290-4278.

## Need assistance?

Community members in need of special accommodations or assistance in order to participate in a school- or district-sponsored event may contact Erie Gonzalez-Rubio, operations supervisor, at 314/290-4004 or email [egonzalez-rubio@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:egonzalez-rubio@u-city.k12.mo.us).



## 2010 Returning Artist Traci Moore Clay visits classrooms in February

In partnership with the University City Municipal Commission on Arts and Letters, the School District of University City will be hosting Traci Moore Clay, UCHS class of 1988, as the Returning Artist in February 2010.

Clay, a professional graphic designer, will be visiting classrooms February 1-5, 2010. A free public reception and artist talk will be held at the Centennial Commons Recreation Facility, located at 7210 Olive Blvd. (63130), from 2 to 3:30p.m. on Sunday, February 7.

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in connection with the artistic, cultural and scholarly development within the City. It is charged with the task of encouraging the beautification of the City and the improvement of its cultural life especially through its educational component, "The Returning Artist Series."

This series continues to facilitate the return of artistically renowned University City High School graduates to the hallowed halls of their alma mater and into both public and non-public classrooms in the community. This program serves students as a resource for investigating careers in the arts. Returning Artists have included musicians, painters, photographers, actors, dancers, writers, graphic designers, glass blowers, videographers, animators, composers, and singers.

For more information, call 314/432-0236.

## College "Financial Assistance 101"

University City High School cordially invites UCHS Juniors, Seniors and their families to the annual College Financial Aid Workshop on Wednesday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the UCHS Cafeteria, located at 7401 Balson Avenue (63130). "Financial Assistance 101" is presented by St. Louis University's George S. Winston, assistant director of recruitment, and Katie Goedde, coordinator for new students and outreach.

For more information, contact Dr. Bailey at 314/290-4111 or email [kabailey@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:kabailey@u-city.k12.mo.us).

## AEL hosts open house in January

The members of the University City Adult Education and Literacy Program invite the community to attend their Open House in their new facility at New City Fellowship, located at 1483 82nd Street (63132). The facility will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 11-15, 2010 and from 6 to 8 p.m. on January 11 and 13.

For more information, call their new number at 314/993-0462, email [info@ucityaelprogram.org](mailto:info@ucityaelprogram.org) or visit [www.ucityaelprogram.org](http://www.ucityaelprogram.org).

## "FAFSA Frenzy" offers support for college financial aid for parents in February

University City High School has been invited to be one of two area high schools to host the FAFSA Frenzy on Sunday, February 21, 2010. The event will begin at 2 p.m. with state financial aid professionals available to assist families with the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Attendance is limited to the first 50 pre-registrants from across the metropolitan area. For more information, contact Dr. Katherine Bailey at 314/290-4111 or email [kabailey@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:kabailey@u-city.k12.mo.us).

FAFSA Frenzy, a program of College Goal Sunday SM, is offered through partnerships between the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) with the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel (MASFAP), the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA), the Lumina Foundation for Education and the YMCA. For more details, visit <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/collegegoalsundayFAO.shtml>.

## Parent Involvement Committee renamed Family Engagement Committee

As a parent or guardian, you play a vital role in the development and education of your children and in the success of our schools. The program is designed to help schools and the school district identify, develop and implement strategies that will create the conditions for parents to further engage in the educational process and reduce barriers for parents who find involvement more challenging.

The revitalized Parent Involvement Committee, now renamed the Family Engagement Committee (FEC) met for the first time on December 7

District administration met with members of the PTO Council and other interested parents to begin defining the role of the FEC. The group identified various forms of involvement and engagement along with potential roadblocks. Community members are encouraged to review and take part in the committee's brainstorming exercise. Information is posted to the "For Parents" section of the District's website at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org). The Committee is still open to new members interested in increasing family engagement in the district. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25 at 7 p.m. in the McNair Administration Building, located at 8136 Groby Road (63130).

For more information, call 314/290-4019.

## Social networking sites help keep staff and community stakeholders informed

The School District of University City has begun harnessing the power of Web 2.0 by using social networking websites and mobile applications such as Facebook along with Twitter to enhance its communications efforts with staff, students, parents, news media and the world through news about District headline news, events, forums and other updates.

Users may sign up to be a “fan” or “follow” through links at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org). The District’s Twitter account name is UCitySchools and Facebook is School District of University City.

## Bond issue progress

Interior and exterior projects are progressing since the passage of the \$53.6 million Destination U. City Schools bond issue passed in April 2009.

A formal “groundbreaking” was held for Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School on September 9 and a webcam is available on the District’s home page to watch the progress of the new building as it is being built.

Foundational waterproofing and a new neutral air unit have been installed at Flynn Park Elementary School.

Jackson Park Elementary School had tuckpointing on the exterior brick walls as well as foundational waterproofing completed.

Preparation has begun for the footings of the new media center at Brittany Woods Middle School. An auxiliary parking lot on the south west corner of the campus has also been established.

At University City High School (UCHS), new handicap parking spaces were designated along Balson with a new ADA-compliant door installed at the nearby entrance. Restrooms near the main gym have been upgraded and the switchback ramp entrance installed for the gym’s mezzanine. The new elevator is expected to be operational by late fall 2010. The front foyer and auditorium were repainted. The state-of-the-art science wing will be operational for second semester classes. Old science labs are being converted into transitional classroom space. UCHS is also receiving a new heating, ventilation and air condition (HVAC) system, including a neutral air unit in areas being renovated.

You can follow the progress of construction, renovations and academics by visiting the Destination U. City Schools link at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

## Recognition nominations are due January 29

Do you know a colleague who inspires students and supports your school community? If so, consider submitting a nomination for Teacher of the Year or Educational Support Personnel of the Year.

Nomination for the 2010-2011 honors will be accepted through January 29. Nomination forms are available from school offices, administration building or at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

For details about District recognitions or the selection process, or to volunteer to serve on a selection committee, email [ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us) or call 314/290-4019.

## Who goes the EXTRA mile?

Do you know a parent or community member who goes above and beyond to help the students and staff in your school or for the School District of University City? If so, PACEsetter Award (Positively Affecting Community Education) nominations are being accepted through March 19. Awards are presented during the annual Honorees/Retirees Reception in May.

Nomination forms are available from school offices, administration building or at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

For details about District recognitions or the selection process, or to volunteer to serve on a selection committee, email [ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us) or call 314/290-4019.

## “Stories in the Greenhouse”

As the sun sets, The Green Center’s Geodome Greenhouse will be illuminated by candles and storytellers who will capture and share the wonderment of nature. Storytimes are set for 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Sundays, January 31, February 7, February 21 and February 28. Cost is only \$2 per person and pre-registration is required. Call 314/725-8314 extension 105.

## “Winter Trails Day,” January 9

The Green Center invites the community to start the New Year by giving back and supporting wildlife habitat restoration. Volunteers are needed to help remove litter and invasive plants and to help with general trail maintenance in their natural areas. The work day begins at the Brittany Woods Middle School prairie at 9 a.m. on January 8, and will continue into the adjacent Ruth Park Woods until noon.

Please dress appropriately for outdoor work and a water bottle is suggested. For more information, email [events@thegreencenter.org](mailto:events@thegreencenter.org)



## Calendar of Events for January 2010

To have *YOUR* information included in the *Calendar of Events*, be sure to submit it to your school's key communicator prior to the 15th of the preceding month.

- 1 Schools Closed & Offices Closed - Winter Break
  - 4 Classes resume
  - 7 Voluntary Early Retirement deadline
  - 8 DH Science Fair Assembly
  - 10 U.S. Cellular Voting for UCHS deadline
  - 11 Tungsten Benchmark  
FP My Sci Van  
YAC Cafe  
Everyday Mathematics (K-5) Parent Workshop
  - 11-15 AEL Open House
  - 12 Quality Council Meeting  
BCJ, DH, FP, JP, NH & PER PTO Meetings  
Young Brains: What Are They Thinking?
  - 13 UCHS PTO Meeting  
College Financial Assistance 101  
UCEF board meeting (*new date*)
  - 14 Board of Education Meeting
  - 15 Schools Closed for Building Professional Development
  - 16 U-City Birders Club
  - 17 Communitywide Dr. King Celebration
  - 18 Schools & Offices Closed - Martin Luther King Holiday
  - 19 OASIS Meeting  
BW Afterschool Activities begin  
School Board Filing Closes at 5 p.m.  
BW PTO Meeting
  - 20 UCHS AA monthly meeting rescheduled
  - 21 NH How To Construct A Science Project  
Title 1 Math Night  
Show Me Brittany Parent Night
  - 22 JP School Wide Field Trip  
UCHS Step Show
  - 25 PTO Council Meeting  
Family Engagement Committee Meeting
  - 26 Show Me Brittany Observation Day
  - 27 Show Me Brittany Observation Day
  - 28 Early Release for Professional Development  
UCHS AA monthly meeting (*new date*)
  - 29 Academic Reform Committee  
Educational Support Personnel & Teacher of the Year nomination deadlines
  - 30 Board of Education Workshop
- February 1-5 - Returning Artist in Classrooms
- 3 UCEF Cycle Grant deadline
  - 4 Board of Education Meeting
  - 7 Returning Artist Reception

## BEYOND OUR WALLS

Eighth grade math teacher **Melissa Stefanowicz** was awarded a grant from the Innovative Technology Education Fund (ITEF) for \$3,810 to purchase a SMART Board and a document camera for her class. ITEF partners with schools and other non-profit organizations to support innovative ideas and models that leverage the use of technology to enhance learning for students and classroom educators. Their grants focus on improving student achievement, extending learning outside regular classroom hours, and providing technology orientated professional development. <http://enhancinglearning.com/>



**Amanda Farrell**, former paraprofessional and teacher assistant at the Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center, earned a masters degree in early childhood special education from the University of Missouri - Columbia on December 18. Farrell resigned her position as a paraprofessional in August 2008 to accept a full scholarship to UMC. She is the daughter of Johnnye Farrell, school nurse at Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School.

## Riddle for the Month

The "official" answer to the December 2009 riddle was "a pen." Raffle winners for a trip to the "Prize Box" were Bridget Cochren, Mary Pfyl and Juli Ward.

Solve this riddle and submit your correct answer to [ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us) by email or print by 12 noon on January 8 and enter a drawing to receive a pick from the Communications "Prize Box." Winners will be announced via email during the following week and in the next issue of INSIDE. Here's the riddle:

*Who was the famous playwright, born in the year the District was officially founded and graduated from UCHS 18 years later? (Pen name is acceptable.)*

INSIDE the School District of University City is published 11 times per school year during the first week of each month except July. The August issue is mailed to all staff homes. Subsequent issues are emailed to all staff with District e-mail addresses. Building secretaries are asked to post the current issue for all staff to read. If you have any information to contribute to this publication, contact CarolAnn Cole at [ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us), phone 314/290-4019, fax 314/725-7846 or inner-office mail to McNair Administration Building.

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