



INSIDE

the School District of University City

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

February 2009

District seeks passage of \$53.6 million zero-tax-rate increase bond measure on the April 7 ballot

Voters who live in the School District of University City will be asked to approve a \$53.6 million zero tax-rate-increase bond measure known as Proposition U during the upcoming April 7 election.

The district's board of education approved the ballot proposal at its January 15 meeting.

If approved, funds from Proposition U will finance the construction of two new schools

– Barbara Jordan and Pershing Elementary Schools, and pay for renovations at the district's existing elementary schools, middle school and high school.

The decision to place Proposition U on the April ballot is based upon recommendations that were made during the district's recent community engagement program known as Destination U. City Schools.

Snow make-up days

As a result of inclement weather forcing the School District of University City to shut its doors on December 15, January 27 and 28, the 2008-2009 school calendar has been adjusted.

Consequently, June 1 will be an early release and last day of school for students with June 2 the last contract day for teachers.

In the event of future inclement weather days, the end of the year dates could be adjusted again.

What should our new and renovated schools look like?

In January 2009, the School District of University City began conducting and organizing Facilities Imperative: Community Engagement Sessions with architects from Bond Wolfe and the community to scope the details of the new construction and renovations proposed in the Proposition U bond issue.

Session One "Vision" discussions are being held with faculty and staff in late January and early February to discuss needs assessments.

Session Two "Interpretation" meetings further discuss with the community building needs assessments and possible solutions.

Session Three "Planning Options" meetings will present proposed solutions to the community for their input.

Session Four "Review" meetings share with the community finalized solutions.

A Districtwide open house will bring the final recommendations to the community.

Specific dates and times for these meetings will be posted in each District building, as they become available.

Meet the Superintendent forums canceled

Due to open dialogue with the community through the *Destination U. City Schools* and State of the District meetings, the Meet the Superintendent meetings have been canceled for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.



Bridges postponed and will begin in February

Due to the January 27 snow day in the School District of University City, the Bridges Across Racial Polarization® introductory meeting has been postponed to Thursday, February 19 at 6 p.m. in the McNair Administration Building. For more information, call 314/290-4002.

REMINDER:

UCEF Spring 2009 Cycle Grant submission deadline is Tuesday, February 3. The next cycle is Fall 2009. Application form is available on the District website.





Summer Isn't That Far Away!

The School District of University City is accepting applications for the following positions for 2009 Summer Learning Academy:

- Kg-5 Administrator
- PreK certified teachers
- Elementary certified teachers
- Middle School content certified teachers:
 - math, communication arts, science and social studies
- High School content certified teachers:
 - math, English, science, social studies, business and health
- Library/Media certified librarians
- Reading certified specialists - K-8
- Special needs certified teachers
- Support Staff:
 - facility assistants, instructional aides, nurses and secretaries

Information and applications are available on the District website at <http://www.ucityschools.org/vnews/display.v/ART/497a3579375b4>.

Questions, contact Rebecca O'Connell at rforgash@u-city.k12.mo.us or 314/290-4020.

Music In Our Schools & Arts Night

"Music! Just Imagine" is the 2009 theme for the national Music In Our Schools month. University City will host an Instrumental Music Celebration on Tuesday, March 3 and a Vocal Music Celebration on Thursday, March 5. Both events will begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the University City High School Auditorium. Admission is free and the community is invited to attend.

A Districtwide Arts Night will be held in conjunction with the Vocal Music Celebration on March 5.

Technology Thursdays continue

Information Systems offers Technology Thursdays workshops for ALL staff members, 4 - 6 p.m. in the McNair training lab. The current schedule of classes include:

- February 19, 2009 - SMART Board - SB2
- February 26, 2009 - Microsoft Excel
- March 5, 2009 - Microsoft PowerPoint
- March 12, 2009 - SMART Board - SB3
- April 2, 2009 - SMART Board - SB3
- April 9, 2009 - Microsoft Access

Limited space, reservations are required. If this is within your scheduled work hours, please be sure to submit the appropriate conference attendance form through your supervisor. To reserve your seat, call 314/290-4014. Suggestions on topics for future training possibilities are also welcome.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Margaret Williams, a social studies teacher at University City High School and the current Missouri Teacher of the Year, lead the Pledge of Allegiance during the inaugural swearing in ceremony for Governor-Elect Jay Nixon on January 12 at the state capitol in Jefferson City.

Kathryn Glenn, district data processing coordinator, shared that her daughter Tracy B. Glenn was recently made a partner with Cokinos, Bosien & Young Attorneys At Law in Houston, Texas.

Tricia Harris, Flynn Park music teacher, received a \$700 grant from Target. With the funds, each of her students will receive a recorder and book with two CDs. Her fourth and fifth grade students will join more than 2,000 area students at Powell Symphony Hall for a field trip to play their recorders with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra on April 28 as part of Link UP.

Pat Oligschlaeger, UCHS wrestling coach and Flynn Park physical education teacher, is coaching a wrestler who has already broken the UCHS record of 88 wins set by John Miller in 2004. UCHS junior DeMarco Kemp currently has 90 wins and an undefeated 26-0 record that ranks him #1 in Missouri in Class 3. He is set to up to 150 career wins by the end of his senior year.

Returning Artist reception, February 8

The Arts & Letter Commission of University City is hosting Eric Mink, a 1965 graduate of University City High School (UCHS) and commentary editor, as this year's Returning Artist. Mink is conducting residencies in several classrooms at UCHS on his journalistic expertise and how to conduct in-depth research and opinion writing. A public reception honoring Mink is scheduled for Sunday, February 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Centennial Commons.

Nomination accepted through Feb. 6

Due to the January 27 and 28 snow days, the nomination deadline for the School District of University City's Teacher of the Year and Educational Support Personnel of the Year has been extended to February 6. Nomination forms are available from school offices, administration building or at www.ucityschools.org.

Who goes the EXTRA mile?

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to help the students and staff in the School District of University City? If so, PACEsetter Award (Positively Affecting Community Education) nominations are being accepted. Awards are presented during the annual Honorees/Retirees Reception in May. To volunteer for the selection committee, email ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us.

INSIDE the School District of University City is published 11 times per school year the first week of each month except July. The August issue is mailed to all staff homes, subsequent issues will be 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, please contact CarolAnn Cole at ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us, phone 314/290-4019, fax 314/725-7846 or inner-office mail to McNair Administration Building.