



# INSIDE

the School District of University City

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

February 2010

## Snow make-up days

As a result of inclement weather forcing the School District of University City to shut its doors on January 7 and 8, the 2009-2010 school calendar has been adjusted.

Consequently, May 24 and 25 will be regular school days; May 26 will be an early release for high school exams; and May 27 will be the last day of school and an early release for PreK-8 record day and high school exams, with May 28 the last contract day for teachers.

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

## Keep in the e-loop for changes to the District web-calendar

To keep current with the District web-calendar reminders, click on the "Calendar of Events" tab at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org), then click on "Sign In" at "Stay up-to-date... Sign In now for FREE event reminders!" at the top of the webpage. Choose to "Sign Up" for TheCalendar to receive reminders and updates for postings on the District's web-calendar of events, our primary source for most current calendar information.

## Sky Kingsland performance is open to the public on February 9

Barbara C. Jordan PTO is sponsoring the school's Black History Program and invites University City families of all ages to attend. The event will feature drum presentations, dance and storytelling by Sky Kingsland Company. It is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m. in the McNair Board Room, located at 8136 Groby Road (63130). It is free and open to the public. Snacks will be available for purchase with proceeds benefiting the BCJ PTO. Call 314/290-4360 for any further information.

## School board elections

Tom Peters, Rodney S. Jennings Sr., Bobby Shields and Maria N. Chappelle-Nadal (in order of filing) are candidates in the April 6 election for two seats on the University City Board of Education. Their candidate statements will be printed in the March 2010 issue of *PRIDE*, which is mailed to all District residents, businesses and staff members; delivered for information tables in local public schools and city offices, and archived to the "Document Library" section of the District website at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

For more information about the election, contact Charlotte Tatum, administrative coordinator to the Board, at 314/290-4003.

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

Traci Moore Clay, UCHS class of 1988, is visiting classrooms during the week of February 1-5 as the 2010 Returning Artist. A free public reception and artist talk is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, at 2 p.m. in the Centennial Commons Recreation Facility, located at 7210 Olive Blvd. (63130).

For more details, call 314/432-0236.

## Talking It Out - Getting It Together

Do you know a child or young adult whose life has been affected by someone else's drinking? If so, District staff is asked to please consider referring them to participate in Talking It Out - Getting It Together, an Alateen program that meets on Monday afternoons from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. in the lower level of Christ the King School, located at 7324 Balson Avenue (63130).

For more details, contact social worker Ponchita Argieard or call 314/290-4114.

## 2010 Spelling Bee Winners



Photo by Shannon McMurray



Photo by Nikki Weiss



Photo by Lindly Mabry

**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 verify.



## Students and staff support Haiti relief efforts

Across Missouri, students and school faculty members are helping with Haiti relief efforts following the January 12 earthquakes that devastated the island country.

Each school in the School District of University City is coordinating or participating in relief efforts for Haiti. In addition to a variety of creative projects ranging from “Change for Children” and “Hats Off” for the American Red Cross to books and clothing drives, most schools have chosen to also participate in the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (DESE) Kits 4 Kids project.

In conjunction with Convoy of Hope, a relief organization based in Springfield, MO, DESE coordinated the Kits 4 Kids efforts and encouraged schools, students and families to assemble simple, personal hygiene kits in one-gallon plastic zipper bags and arrange to deliver the “Kits” in sealed boxes to the RPDC in their region by February 2 where Convoy of Hope will pick up the kits and transport them to Haiti later in the month.

DESE believes it is possible that Missouri can create 100,000 “Kits 4 Kids” as part of this effort and University City is working to do their share and much more.

## Alvin Ailey dancers support UCHS dancer

UCHS dance students teamed with COCA on January 29 for a performance honoring African-American history and culminating a four-week, Missouri Arts Council funded, dance residency in January with Antonio Douthit and Alicia Graf, who are both affiliated with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and COCA. UCHS dancers will perform Graf’s piece again during an in-school, Black History assembly at 7:30 a.m on February 17. In February, dance students will begin a new 3-week residency with River North Dance Company from Chicago.

## Cleaning out old bookshelves?

Winter is a great time to clean out your bookshelves, and the “Take It” libraries at Barbara C. Jordan, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Pershing Elementary Schools would appreciate more books.

Students enjoy taking a book home and keeping it for their own home libraries. Studies show that children with more access to books become better readers and thus better students.

Please consider donating gently used children’s K-8 books for these and other “Take It” opportunities around the community.

Staff members may send book donations through the inter-office mail to the office of Communications & Media Services c/o McNair Administration Building.

## Attention trivia buffs, February 6

The St. Louis Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club is hosting its third annual Trivia Night on Saturday, February 6, at The Heights, located at 8001 Dale Avenue (63117). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person in advance or \$30 at the door. (All attendees must be 21 or older.) Proceeds benefit Delmar-Harvard Elementary School classroom libraries. The registration form is available at the “News” link at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org).

## U. City Equations Open, February 20

The annual U. City Equations Open Tournament will be held from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 20, in the University City High School gymnasium.

For more information, see the news article with registration form at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org) “News” link or contact this year’s event coordinator Judy Maffitt at [equations@att.net](mailto:equations@att.net) or call 314/863-5928.

## FAFSA Frenzy, February 21

University City High School is one of two local high schools invited to host FAFSA Frenzy (formerly CollegeGoal Sunday) on Sunday, February 21, at 2 p.m. State financial aid professionals will be available to assist families with the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

For more details, visit <http://www.dhe.mo.gov/collegegoalsundayFAO.shtml>.

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

## SuicidePREV, Feb. 27

Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri’s (MHA) SuicidePREV (Prevention, Response, Education and Victory) workshop is being offered for FREE to parents, school staff and others who impact the lives of young people ages 15-24 years. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, February 27, at Victory Christian Outreach Church of University City, located at 7091 Olive Blvd. (63130). This workshop educates adults in recognizing the warning signs of suicidal behavior in adolescence; and provides mental health resources, reference materials and helpful crisis intervention tools.

For more information, visit [www.mhaem.org](http://www.mhaem.org) or contact R. Bryan Evans, associate program director for MHA-Eastern Missouri, formerly MHA of Greater St. Louis, at 314/773-1399 or [mhasoseducation@aol.com](mailto:mhasoseducation@aol.com)



## America In Bloom, February 16

U. City in Bloom invites community members to learn more about their plans to participate in the 2011 America in Bloom competition and boast the "Plant Pride in U. City." An informational presentation will be held on Tuesday, February 16, at 7 p.m. at Centennial Commons Recreation Facility, located at 7210 Olive Blvd. (63130).

For more information, contact Dick Shaw at 314/727-3587 or Judy Prange at 314/721-7401.

## "Young Brains: What Are They Thinking" rescheduled for March 3

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?

This event has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the McNair board room, located at 8136 Groby Road (63130). A dessert reception will follow the program. Free child care will be provided.

For more information, contact Nichole Dawsey at 314/664-7550 or ndawsey@ncada-stl.org.

## UCEF Progressive Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser scheduled for March 6

Community members are invited to help support the University City Education Foundation (UCEF) through its Progressive Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 6. Cocktails and dinner begin at various area locations at 6:30 p.m. and the evening concludes with a dessert reception and silent auction at 8:30 p.m. at the Regional Arts Commission, located at 6128 Delmar (63112).

Cocktails, dinner and dessert reception are included in the ticket price of \$50 per person.

For reservations, send check made payable to UCEF, along with number of tickets, name(s), mailing address, phone number, email address and any special dietary needs to UCEF, c/o Kim Deitzler, 8160 Stanford Avenue, University City MO, 63130, by February 27.

## Are you "Fired Up for Kindergarten"?

Do you know someone who missed the fall opportunity to learn more about University City's kindergarten program? If so, the spring date has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10.

For more information with school-specific details, visit the District's webcalendar at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org) closer to the date of the event.

## BEYOND OUR WALLS

Congratulations to **Rebecca O'Connell**, director of instruction, on the birth of her little girl, Camille, born at 7:28 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 20 inches long.



A \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant from the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation was awarded to **Brittany Woods Middle School** for "Learning Spaces, Growing Places: Brittany Woods Updates." As the school undergoes its major building addition, these funds will be used to assist in creating a welcoming, safer, more appealing learning environment for teachers and students, from refurbishing the teacher work area and repainting the gym mural to hanging university team banners and cork-strips for displaying student artwork in the hallways.



*If you have something to share "Beyond Our Walls," email [ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us)... remember, we can't share if you don't tell us!*

## Riddle for the Month

The "official" answer to the January 2010 riddle was Thomas "Tennessee" Lanier Williams, UCHS class of 1929. Raffle winners for a trip to the "Prize Box" were Clint Christensen (FP), Kelly Werthmuller (BW) and Andrea Jones (Per).

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 February 4 and enter a drawing to receive a pick from the Communications "Prize Box." Winners will be announced in the next issue of INSIDE.

Here is February's riddle:

*In 1902, E. G. Lewis began working on developing our beloved University City... a few years after our city was established, he ventured west to start work on our "sister city." What is the name of that city?*

## Need assistance?

If you or someone you know is in need of special assistance or accommodations in order to attend or participate in this or any other district function, please contact Erie Gonzalez-Rubio, operations supervisor, at 314/290-4004 to discuss specific needs.



## Calendar of Events for February 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.*

- 1-5 Returning Artist in Classrooms
- 2 Groundhog's Day  
MySci Van at Delmar-Harvard
- 3 MySci Van at Delmar-Harvard  
UCEF Cycle Grant deadline
- 4 Board of Education Meeting
- 5 Mardi Gras Trivia Night  
Free Immunization Clinic  
JP Trivia Night
- 6 UCHS - ACT ROTC Ball  
Pi Beta Phi Trivia Night to benefit Delmar-Harvard
- 7 Returning Artist Program Reception
- 8 Boy Scout Day  
YAC Cafe
- 9 Quality Council Meeting  
JP PTO meeting & Passport Festival  
NH PTO Meeting  
Flynn Park Passport Night  
BCJ PTO Meeting & Black History Program
- 10 Accountability Committee  
UCHS PTO Meeting
- 11 Early Childhood Committee Meeting
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday  
Schools Closed for Professional Development
- 13 Board of Education Workshop
- 15 Schools and Offices Closed - Presidents Day
- 16 OASIS Training  
BW PTO Meeting  
America In Bloom presentation
- 17 Ash Wednesday  
UCHS Black History Assembly  
OASIS Training  
Finance/Bond Issue Oversight Committee Meeting
- 18 OASIS Training  
Board of Education Meeting
- 20 U. City Equations Open Tournament  
U-City Birders Club - Great Backyard Bird Count
- 21 FAFSA Frenzy (formerly CollegeGoal Sunday)
- 22 Washington's Birthday  
Jackson Park African-American Read-In Chain

- 23 OASIS Meeting  
FP Music Concert (Grades 1 & 5)  
Delmar-Harvard Unity Night
- 24 Early Release for PreK-12 Professional Development  
Brittany Woods - Black History Assembly  
Pershing Black History Program
- 25 UCHS Black History Assembly  
Nathaniel Hawthorne - Black History Program  
Jackson Park - Black History Program  
UCHS AA monthly meeting - new date
- 26 FP - Geography Bee
- 28 Purim

### Future Highlights

- March 1 - Early Release for Professional Development
- March 3 - Young Brains parent workshop
- March 4 - Board of Education Meeting
- March 6 - UCEF Progressive Dinner & Silent Auction  
fundraiser, registration deadline February 27
- March 8 - Music In Our Schools - Instrumental
- March 9 - Conversations with the Superintendent
- March 10 - Districtwide Fired-Up for Kindergarten  
- UCHS Arts Night
- March 11 - Music In Our Schools - Vocal  
- End of 3rd Quarter
- March 12 - Schools Closed for Prof. Dev./Record Day
- March 15-19 - Schools Closed for Spring Break
- March 19 - Offices Closed for Spring Break
- March 23 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 24 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 25 - Board of Education Meeting
- March 26 - Schools Closed
- March 29 - MAP Testing Window begins
- April 6 - Election Day

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.