



INSIDE

the School District of University City

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

April 2010

Census is here!

If your U.S. Census is not completed and returned by the April 1 deadline, a census worker will be visiting your home in May or June. Superintendent Joylynn Wilson strongly encourages all residents to participate and be counted. Shared information, including names, addresses including GPS coordinates, Social Security numbers and telephone numbers, is confidential and used to produce statistics. Your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

If you have any questions about the process, visit <http://2010.census.gov>.

Elementary boundary line revision process has begun

In an effort to fully engage the community in the transition from six elementary schools to four, the School District of University City has contracted with a demographer to analyze data and conduct a series of committee sessions and public forums.

The public is invited to attend and observe the committee meetings, which began March 29, but only committee members may participate in the discussion. Comments and questions may be submitted via a suggestion box or e-mailed to feedback@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Upcoming committee meetings are scheduled for April 12 and May 10 with a public forum on May 24.

Communication about upcoming meetings, the overall process and responses to comments/questions will be posted to the "Elementary Boundary Lines Update" link of the "Destination UCity" button at www.ucityschools.org

Tour UCHS renovations, April 1

See bond issue funds at work making U. City Schools a destination for the 21st century. Visit UCHS for an open house on Thursday, April 1, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to tour the newly renovated science labs and classrooms. At 7:30 p.m., Principal Timothy Wernentin will discuss academic reform including program and schedule changes for the upcoming school year.

Bond issue updates

The March 2010 issue of *PRIDE* included an extensive article with detailed bond issue project updates. This article and other updates, including the elementary boundary line revision process, are posted to the recently revamped "Destination UCity" section of the District website at www.ucityschools.org. This section is being updated on a regular basis.

Centennial Committee forming

The School District of University City will be celebrating our centennial birthday during the 2010-2011 school year. Superintendent Wilson is looking to make this an exciting year with a variety of special events, curriculum and activities focusing on our 100 years of dedication to educational excellence. If you are interested in helping plan and structure the celebration, contact Linda Russell, communications director, at 314/290-4016 or email lrussell@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Missouri NEA president visits Flynn Park

The Missouri National Education Association president, Chris Gunther, shared the spotlight with Dr. Seuss on March 1 during Flynn Park Reading Night.



Photo by Marsha Alvey

Photo by A.J. Jones

Photo by Alison Cien Fiegros

Photo by Alison Cien Fiegros

In March, Dr. Seuss visited schools across University City.

Email your favorite photo and information to 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.

Help needed for UCHS track meet, April 10

On Saturday, April 10, 2010, the UCHS athletic department is offering you an opportunity to assist with one of the best track meets in the state, the Charlie Beck Invite. See some of the best athletes in action before they take off to the Missouri State High School Activities Association's High School meet in Jefferson City. This year, more than 1200 student-athletes from 32 teams will participate. Paid event workers and volunteers are needed to help set up Friday, April 9 from 3-6 p.m. and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 10. If you are available to assist for an hour or more as a timer, award coordinator, hospitality room helper, parking attendant, gate worker or flex staff, e-mail kloomis@u-city.k12.mo.us or call 314/290-4106.

Support the arts through the Arts & Education Council Fund Drive

The annual Arts & Education Council Fund Drive will be held April 12 - 23. When you receive your pledge card, consider the many ways that the local art community supports our schools and consider giving back to support them.

"Just a few dollars from each staff member could go a long way in supporting arts in our schools," said Linda Russell, the new communications director.

At the end of each week during the campaign, participating staff members will be entered into drawings for arts-related prizes including tickets to the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra and a tote bag from the Contemporary Art Museum.

Cinderella... spotlighted on the UCHS stage, April 16 & 17

Don't miss the UCHS spring musical, Cinderella, scheduled for Friday, April 16 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 17 at 2 and 7 p.m., in the UCHS auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students, children and seniors.

UCHS Jazz Band performs Duke Ellington at The Nu-Art Series

The Nu-Art Series will feature the UCHS Jazz Band, directed by Stan Coleman, playing the music of Duke Ellington at The Jazz Composers Series on Saturday, April 17. The concert runs from 3 to 6 p.m. and costs \$10 per person for open seating at the auditorium located at 2936 Locust Street (63103). For details, call 314/535-6500, email info@thenu-artseries.org or visit www.thenu-artseries.org

Back-To-School Rally

The 2010 Back-To-School Rally has been scheduled for the morning of Saturday, August 7. If you are interested in being a part of this year's planning committee, contact Linda Russell, communications director, at 314/290-4016 or email lrussell@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Spring 2010 grant recipients

UCEF will be recognizing the Spring 2010 cycle grant recipients during the April 22 school board meeting and awarding \$5,434.89 in grant funding this semester. Please come and show your support to:

- **Marsha Kay Alvey**, Pershing, "Closing the Gap Using At-Home Reading Intervention" - \$997.77
- **Nikki Davenport**, McNair/Brittany Woods, "Outdoor Classroom Garden" - \$868.33
- **Kimberly Fileccia**, Brittany Woods, "Discovering Your World" - \$707.17
- **Julie Marie Hume**, Jackson Park, "Listen Up!" - \$982.53
- **Curtis Stuart**, UCHS, "Digital Video Camera for Broadcasting" - \$999.99
- **Terri Thomas**, Brittany Woods, "Science DVD's" - \$879.10

What is U. City in Bloom?

Ever notice the beautiful gardens throughout the school and city properties? Have your students worked in the school garden? These are a part of U. City in Bloom (UCB), a local not-for-profit organization, whose purpose is to beautify the community and to teach the value of beautification. The next UCB fundraiser is the Perennial Plant Sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Heman Park Community Center.

For more information, call 314/727-4232.

Dine Out to support UCHS

The UCHS Loop Dine & Shop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Detailed posters with specific restaurant locations will be posted in schools and around the community. Mark your calendars now to reserve the date and plan to attend.

U. City Day at the Ball Park

Tickets are still available for "U. City Day at the Ball Park" on Sunday, May 2. The St. Louis Cardinals will take on the Cincinnati Reds at 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$18 through school PTOs and includes a voucher for a free hot dog and a soda. With the order deadline on April 2, tickets may still be available after the deadline, while supplies last. Contact your school PTO for details.

Hot topic in the news: UCHS students hosted Peace Committee panel discussion

In a time when teenagers across the nation are stereotyped as a generation known for violence and poor choices, a group of University City High School (UCHS) students known as the Peace Committee hosted discussions on the topic and offered information on peaceful alternatives to violence.

These students began exploring the topic of school violence in the fall of 2009 as part of an ongoing student-driven effort to improve schools and communities. In April, members will attend training on non-violent peer mediation offered by Building Life Foundations Nonviolence Center, and each student will be certified as a peer-mediation trainer.

Next school year, these students will serve as peer mediators and help grow the team. As part of their efforts, the committee hosted in-school, educational forums to gather feedback and share information on March 29 and April 1. On March 30, students led a panel discussion with school and community representatives on ways in which they can work together to reduce violence among teens.

Make waves at your library

Teen volunteers entering middle or high school may meet other teens, earn community service hours, perform Teen Readers Theatre at Festival U. City, sponsor fundraising activities for water-related causes of their choosing and win prizes. Attend a Teen Volunteer Training Meeting on May 18 at 4 p.m., May 27 at 6:30 p.m. or June 2 at 10:30 a.m. for more information. Call 314/727-3150 to register or for more details.

Make a Splash, Read!

Young readers can win great prizes and improve their reading skills through the University City Public Library's Make a Splash, Read! summer program that kicks off at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, with Serengeti Steve and his amazing collection of live reptiles.

To join, children ages four to 17 must be card-holding members of the Library. Participants track reading minutes from May 28 to July 26 and meet with a teen volunteer to discuss what they have read and win prizes. With 12 hours of reading, children earn an invitation to the Finisher's Party. With 16 hours, children are invited to other parties and chances to win bigger prizes. With 24 hours, prizes increase and include a special prize book, name listed on the virtual Outstanding Reader list and an Outstanding Reader yard/window sign.

For details visit www.ucpl.lib.mo.us/childrens/ or stop by the Library, located at 6701 Delmar (63130).

Celebration of Learning, May 6

The School District of University City is already working on coordinating the 2010 Celebration of Learning for Wednesday, May 5, at Brittany Woods Middle School.

Schools are submitting their annual nominations for the Academic Improvement Award, according to the nomination form that was e-mailed to all staff.

Nikki Davenport, district math and science coordinator, is accepting applications from staff for the hands-on aspects of the event.

Faculty and staff are asked to encourage parents and students to attend this enlightening event that spotlights the exciting academics being taught in our schools.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Kelly Werthmuller, Brittany Woods librarian, secured a \$1,162 Missouri Afterschool Retreat Reading and Assessment grant for middle school students through the Community Education section of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for spring 2010.



Tony Thomas, UCHS science teacher, has been selected as one of seven local teachers to participate in Washington University's Robert Noyce Master Teacher Scholarship program, funded by the National Science Foundation. For details, visit <http://www.nsfnoyce.org/>.

If you have something to share "Beyond Our Walls," email ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us.

Riddle for the Month

The "official" answer to the March 2010 riddle was that the paragraph contained all letters of the alphabet except the letter "e." We had only ONE correct answer. It was from Nancy Mozier who has won a trip to the "Prize Box" in the communications office.

Solve this riddle and submit your correct answer to ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us by email or print by 12 noon on April 6 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 April's riddle:

I'm where yesterday follows today, and tomorrow is in the middle. What am I?

Are you twittering UCitySchools?

If not, go to www.ucityschools.org for a link to get your updates!

Calendar of Events for April 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.

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| <p>1 April Fools' Day
Map Testing Window continues
6 p.m. Early Childhood Committee Meeting</p> <p>2 Good Friday
Magic House Comes to Delmar-Harvard
9 a.m. Free Immunization Clinic, JGECEC</p> <p>4 Easter</p> <p>6 Election Day
Concluding days of Pesach (Passover)</p> <p>7 6 p.m. Delmar-Harvard PTO Meeting, Cafeteria
1:30 p.m. BW 3rd Quarter Honor Assembly</p> <p>8 7 p.m. Board of Education Meeting, McNair</p> <p>10 ACT Testing, UCHS
9 a.m. Board of Education Workshop</p> <p>11 Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance)</p> <p>12 6 p.m. Boundary Committee Meeting, McNair</p> <p>13 Band Boosters Meeting, UCHS
Jackson Park Quality Council Meeting
6 p.m. Pershing PTO Meeting, Library
6 p.m. Nathaniel Hawthorne PTO Meeting
6:30 p.m. Barbara C. Jordan PTO Meeting, McNair
7 p.m. Flynn Park PTO Speaker Series
7 p.m. Jackson Park PTO Meeting, Playroom</p> <p>14 6:30 p.m. National Junior Honor Society Induction, Brittany Woods</p> <p>15 Tax Day
6:30 p.m. Flynn Park Playspace Meeting</p> <p>16 Early Release for PreK-12 Professional Development Districtwide
7 p.m. Cindrella, UCHS Auditorium</p> | <p>17 2 & 7 p.m. Cindrella, UCHS Auditorium
1 p.m. U-City Birders Club - Spring Song Birds Forest Park</p> <p>19 Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)</p> <p>20 6 p.m. BW PTO Meeting</p> <p>21 Administrative Professionals' Day
6 p.m. Finance/Bond Issue Oversight Committee Meeting, McNair
6:30 p.m. FP Music Concert (Grades K & 3)</p> <p>22 National Take Daughter/Son to Work Day
Earth Day
6 p.m. Nathaniel Hawthorne - Science Fair
7 p.m. Board of Education Meeting, McNair</p> <p>23 4th Quarter Progress Report
NH Pick up Science Fair Projects</p> <p>27 7:30 a.m. UCHS Golden Lion Assembly
6 p.m. Flynn Park Art Night, Cafe & Gym
6 p.m. Delmar-Harvard Literacy Night, Cafeteria</p> <p>30 UCHS ROTC Banquet
Arbor Day</p> <p>May 5 - Celebration of Learning</p> <p>May 20 - Honorees/Retirees Reception</p> <p>May 21 - UCHS Graduation</p> |
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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, phone 314/290-4019, fax 314/725-7846 or inner-office mail to McNair Administration Building.