



# INSIDE

## the School District of University City

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

September 2008

### MSIP Fourth Cycle Review is scheduled for early November 2008

The Fourth Cycle Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) accreditation review for the School District of University City will be held November 10-13. Superintendent Joylynn Wilson has requested that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) conduct the evaluation two years early so that the District can receive feedback about its strengths and immediately address any instructional concerns that surface. By requesting this early review, the District maintains its accreditation status.

The MSIP review evaluates the District's implementation of the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), approved by DESE. Fourth Cycle MSIP focuses on evidence of student achievement. Students and parents will have the opportunity to participate in the process by completing surveys. All principals, teachers, nurses, librarians and counselors will be interviewed during the review. Some students and teachers will participate in focus groups. All classrooms will be observed using the MSIP observation form. Some teachers will submit assessments for review by the review team. In addition, Central Office personnel and members of the Board of Education will be interviewed. This is NOT a preliminary review, but a real review. MSIP Cycle Five is scheduled for 2013.

"MSIP is not a show, but an opportunity to grow," said Chauna Williams, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

### University City High School boasts Missouri's Teacher of the Year for 2008-2009 school year

During a surprise assembly at University City High School, social studies teacher Margaret Williams learned that she would be Missouri's 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year. Last spring,

Williams, along with Mariah Spanglet, a Special School District of St. Louis County teacher assigned to Flynn Park Elementary School, were the only St. Louis area candidates among the six state finalists in the Missouri competition.

Williams will be honored during a special recognition banquet on November 19 in Jefferson City. As the Missouri Teacher of the Year, she is a candidate for National Teacher of the Year. This announcement is typically made in April.



### District welcomes new staff

On August 5, 6 and 7, new teachers in the School District of University City received introductory orientation training. The District welcomes new staff members including Phuong Bang (JP), Robert Battle, Jr (UCHS), Kristina Benjamin (JP), Margaret Cook (SSD), Thomas Croce (BW), April Dodge (JP), James Edwards (BW), Heather Erwine (JP), Ashley Federico (UCHS), Andrea Ginsburg (Per), Erin Hall (UCHS), Lindsay Hendrix (JP), Thomas Henson (UCHS/JROTC), Monique Hite (JG), Kristin Hofer (BCJ), Ellen Hoorman (JP), John Igoe, Jr (UCHS), LaKisha Joiner (Per), Moira, Kelly (DH), Franklin Kelton (UCHS), Patricia Keys (UCHS), Stacie Kinstler (FP), Katherine Mahon (BCJ), Nicole Martineau (UCHS), Shannon McMurray (BCJ), Rachel Munoz (Per), Christi Parker (GATE), Cherae Parnell (BW), Monica Perry (UCHS), Joan Ross (FP), Levi Smith (BW), Robin Smith (JP), Janice Vaughn (JP), Lillian Wells (Per), Kimberly Westrich (UCHS) and Joan Williams (UCHS).



Carolyn Chapman talked about differentiated instruction as part of the Opening Day teacher professional development on August 11.



Nearly 100 friends and family members attended the dedication of the Bev Frasier memorial garden at UCHS on August 28.

### Twenty-eight employees had perfect attendance in 2007-2008!

Congratulations to the following School District of University City employees who had perfect attendance during the 2007-2008 school year: Mark Bratkowski, Alison Cien Fuegos, Bridget Cochren, CarolAnn Cole, David Cooperwood, Johnnye Farrell, Kathryn Glenn, Amanda Gordon, Lisha Grady, Ellen Hoskin, Marlon Johnson, Terry Johnson, Sharon Knuckles, David Lewis, Bessie McClendon, Patricia McGarvin, Byron McKinney, Peggy Merriweather-Willilams, Rich Miller, Robert More, Gwendoyle Nelson, Wally Patterson, Andrew Purley, Shawn Sample, Richard Scott, Jerri Wenneker, Bernadette White and Barry Williams. These individuals did not use any personal or sick leave days. In recognition of their perfect attendance, each received a gift card to the St. Louis Galleria Shopping Mall as a token of appreciation.

Tickets are now available for

### 2008 Gateway Classic Football Game

Alabama's **Stillman** College Tigers VS Kentucky State University Thorobreds

**Saturday, Sept. 27 • 3 p.m.**  
Edward Jones Dome

Cost: \$16, \$22, \$30 and \$35

For tickets, contact Daphne Dorsey at 314/290-4016 by Friday, September 19.

### Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year!



## KidSmart offers school supplies

Through the "Volunteer To Shop" Program, KidSmart offers certified classroom teachers in PreK-12 the opportunity to help students in their classrooms who may not have the supplies necessary to enrich their learning experience. Armed with an official letter from the principal verifying status as certificated staff with self-contained teaching assignment, teachers may attend an orientation and volunteer for three hours per month in KidSmart's free educational supply store and earn a shopping trip valued up to \$500., limit one per month.

In University City, Barbara C. Jordan, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Pershing schools are qualified as "Special Shoppers." Teachers in these three schools are only required to volunteer three hours each year, in order to shop once per month throughout the year.

Volunteer hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. until noon and from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Shopping hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. KidSmart is located at 12175 Bridgeton Square Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044 (near the intersection of McKelvey and St. Charles Rock Rd.).

For more information about KidSmart, visit [www.kidsmartstl.org](http://www.kidsmartstl.org) or contact their Volunteer Coordinator at (314) 291-6211.

## Be a part of Destination U. City Schools

A third Destination U. City Schools community engagement meeting was held on September 9 to further discuss Student Achievement. A second opportunity for this meeting will be on Saturday, September 13 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Julia Goldstein ECEC.

Nearly 400 parents, residents and District staff are currently involved with this initiative.

The goal of the program is solicit input and opinions that will help decide the future direction of the School District of University City that will ultimately lead to the school system becoming a high performing district that provides the best education for children.

Over the next several months, meetings will be held on October 7 and 11 and November 5 and 8. More meetings may be added to the schedule if needed. Participants are encouraged to pick the date that best suits their schedule for each session.

On November 18 and 22, the team will review and refine the data to develop a proposal for the school board. A final presentation, based upon the comments and recommendations gathered from the meetings, will be made to the Board of Education on December 4.

To succeed, the effort needs the support of everyone in the community. For more information about the community engagement initiative, contact Daphne Dorsey at 314/290-4016 or email [destinationucityschools@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:destinationucityschools@u-city.k12.mo.us).



## Photo Show entries, October 3 & 4

U. City is calling for entries for the 2008 Photo Show, which is open to amateur adult and youth photographers in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Some of the photos may be used in the 2010 U. City Calendar. Entries may be submitted on October 3 & 4 at Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive. Judging and awards will be announced on October 19. For more information, call Tom McCarthy: 314.505.8612; or Barbara Santoro: 314.725.6206.

## BEYOND OUR WALLS

**Sue Anne Whitener**, a Title I prekindergarten teacher at Julia Goldstein ECEC has been selected to be included in the 2008-09 Edition of Who's Who of American Women.



Superintendent **Joylynn Wilson** was a guest on KMJM/Majic 104.9's Sunday Morning Live, hosted by Kevin Pulley and Jade Harrell, on August 10. She shared information about the District's community engagement process, AYP and APR.



Retired Jackson Park first-grade teacher **Donna Patton**, was selected to receive the prestigious 2008 Stellar Achiever in Education award at the St. Louis American Foundation's 21st annual Salute to Excellence in Education Scholarship and Awards and Scholarship Banquet on September 5 at the America's Center.



**Adrienne Patel**, art teacher for Barbara C. Jordan and Delmar-Harvard Elementary Schools, will be in a juried art exhibition, "Express Yourself" at The St. Louis Artists' Guild, Two Oak Knoll Park (63105). The show opens on Sunday, September 14 with a reception from 1-3 p.m. and runs through November 15, 2008.

## 2008 PDC Recognitions

Each year, the Professional Development Committee (PDC) recognizes district employees for dedication to helping support professional development in the School District of University City. This year's recipients received a certificate of appreciation from Superintendent Joylynn Wilson along with a gift card to Barnes and Noble Bookstores.

Retirees Sharon McClinton (FP) and Judy Goldthree (BW) were recognized during the May 29 Honorees & Retirees Reception.

The PDC recognized the following employees for contributions during the 2007-2008 school year: Andrea Ahrens (BJ), Lillian Blackshear Summers (FP), Cathleen Callahan (LLC), Charles Corno (FP), Shauna Crain (FP), Jeannette Dampier (BW), Kristina Erby-Carr (Per), Donna Gilchrist (FP), Julie Gagne (BJ), Elizabeth Gardner (BW), Dan Holden (LLC), Julie Hume (JP), Karen Johnson (BW), Shumsheia Johnson (Per), Marlise Jones (Per), Debbie Kravitz (BW), Laurie Lecours (FP), Nancy Luebbers (BJ), Lanesha McPherson (LLC), Tori Palmer (BJ), Belinda Pankoff (JG), Anita Parks (JG), Christine Powers (Per), Leannett Payne (BJ), Christine Powers (Per), Mary Sampson (BW), Larry Schulz (BW), Laura Small (BW), Nicallee Stephens (Per), Denean Steward (Per), Rosemary Strembicki (JG), Terri Thomas (BW), Lori Walsh (JG), Kelly Werthmuller (BW), Barry Williams (BW), Katina Willis (BJ) and Corrie Woolley (JG).

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](mailto:ccole@u-city.k12.mo.us), phone 314/290-4019, fax 314/725-7846 or inner-office mail to McNair Administration Building.