



INSIDE

the School District of University City

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

September 2009



“Changing the Work to Raise the Level of Challenge”

District staff have been challenged by Superintendent **Joylynn Wilson** to “Changing the Work to Raise the Level of Challenge” for all students in the School District of University City. During her opening day keynote address, Superintendent Wilson highlighted the work ahead, which includes:

- Making connections between CSIP, MSIP, Community Engagement and CSIP Focus.
- Defining the work with the CSIP Focus and Instructional Core.
- Re-visioning the work by changing what we ask our students to do - from knowing facts to building skills, processes and procedures.
- Engaging students through inquiry and positive behavior support.
- Using formative assessment to track student growth, teach goal setting and self reflection with focused revision.

Building level support for the endeavors will come through professional development that will support the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

Twitter “tweets” keep stakeholders informed

The School District of University City has begun harnessing the power of Twitter, the social networking website and mobile application, to enhance its communications efforts with staff, students, parents, news media and the world. Through Twitter, the District’s Communications & Media Relations department is posting news ‘tweets’ about District headline news, events, forums and other updates. Users may sign up to “follow” through a link at www.ucityschools.org or directly through the Twitter website at <http://twitter.com/UCitySchools>.

“Social networking has become an important part of communicating in today’s culture,” explained **Jim Jennings**, communications coordinator. “We are striving to provide a 21st-century education to our students and that includes using contemporary tools to communicate with them and other stakeholders.”

Twenty-five employees had perfect attendance!

Congratulations to the following School District of University City employees who had perfect attendance during the 2008-2009 school year: **Herbert Buie, Raymond Brown, Chrystal Chambers, CarolAnn Cole, Sandra Cox, Johnnye Farrell, Kathryn Glenn, Amanda Gordon, Lisha Grady, Sharon Knuckles, David Lewis, Kimberly Loomis, Bessie McClendon, Patricia McGarvin, Robert More, Marilyn Neuner, Mary Pfyl, Andrew Purley, Karl Scheidt, Annette Smith, Lillian Wells, Kimberly Westrich, Bernadette White, Michelle Williams and Todd Yancy.**

These individuals did not use any personal or sick leave days during the entire school year. In recognition of their tireless service, and as a token of the District’s appreciation, each will be the recipient of a gift card redeemable at the St. Louis Galleria Shopping Center.

District welcomes new staff for the 2009-10 school year

On August 4, 5 and 6, new teachers in the School District of University City received introductory orientation training (pictured above). The District welcomes all new staff members, including **Angelique Brown (BW); Darryl Cobb, Ed.D. (McN); Kathleen Collins (McN); Cassandra Conner (HS); Ashley Crawford (BW); Andrew Czarnecki (BW); Shenelle Dubose (HS); Matthew Hesse (FP); Vielia Jeffries (Per); Jim Jennings (McN); Lysha Johnson (JP); Jamie Jordan, Ed.D. (BW); Elizabeth Knutilla (JP); Latasha Nelson (JP); Ester Rhebergen (HS); Scott Rigg (BW); Byron Rogers (BW); Sharon Shannon (HS); Victoria Stevens (NH); Linda Thorpe (NH); Ashley Tucker (BW); Christina Vitale (BJ); Tom Waggle (BW); and Timothy Wernentin (HS).**

Keep up with District news... visit www.ucityschools.org.



District names Support Staff and Teacher of the Year

Lillian B. Blackshear-Summers (*above right*), a third-grade teacher at Flynn Park School, was named the 2009-2010 University City Teacher of the Year.

Anthony Curtis (*below right*), custodian at the McNair Building, was named the 2009-2010 University City Educational Support Personnel of the Year.

Nominations for the 2010-2011 honors are available in schools and at www.ucityschools.org. The nomination deadline is the last Friday in January for both awards.



Need homeless assistance or know someone who does?

The Homeless Coordinator plays a vital role in ensuring that children and youth experiencing homelessness enroll and succeed in school. The federal McKinney-Vento Act requires that every school district appoint a Homeless Coordinator who serves as the link between homeless families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and social service providers.

Bernadette White, director of Pupil Personnel, services as the District's Homeless Coordinator and is responsible for:

- Assisting homeless children and youth with enrolling and accessing school services.
- Obtaining immunization or medical records.
- Coordinating transportation services.
- Informing parents, school personnel of the rights of homeless children and youth.
- Collaborating and coordinating with Missouri's State Homeless Coordinator, the community, and other school personnel.
- Handling disputes over enrollment, school placement and transportation.
- Ensuring that homeless children and youth are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of any disputes.

For information regarding services for homeless students in the School District of University City, call 314/290-4045.

U-City Birders flock together!

The U-City Birders are flying high for the 2009-2010 school year. Avian friends and followers are invited to flock to an informational meeting on September 3, from 5-6 p.m., at the Green Center, 8025 Blackberry Rd. (63130). Experienced "birders" share birding experiences and plans for the new school year, which includes field trips and a special service learning project. New members are welcome.

Other upcoming Saturdays include September 26 in Tower Grove Park and October 17 in Powder Valley. Details are posted at www.ucityschools.org.

For more information, contact **Nikki Davenport**, math/science coordinator, 314/290-4013, or email ndavenport@u-city.k12.mo.us.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

How did you spend your summer?

Tricia Harris, Flynn Park's music specialist, attended the American Recorder Society's Conference, July 30 through August 2, where she played, learned teaching techniques, discussed strategies and challenges of teaching the recorder and heard some amazing concerts.



This summer, the UCHS Academic Literacy Team sent English teachers **Carole Gibbons**, **Caroline Hackmeyer**, **Erin Hall**, and **Curtis Stewart** to the Fontbonne Summer Literacy Institute where they worked with adolescent literacy expert Kelly Gallagher.



The UCHS PBIS team of **Collen Hagen** and **Tricia Diebold** were recognized for their end of the year newsletter.



Adrienne Patel, art teacher at BCJ and D-H, has been selected by The Arts Group of Union Avenue (AGUA) to exhibit her painting, "Flower Power," in the Gretchen Brigham Gallery in the Union Avenue Christian Church until September 21, 2009.



Terri Thomas, an eighth grade science teacher at BW, is running the Chicago Marathon on October 11 to benefit Girls on the Run (GOTR). Find out more about supporting GOTR, visit www.active.com/donate/teamtiara2009/TThomas296.



Cassandra Y. Conner, UCHS science teacher, spent a week last summer at "Energy With IMSA (Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy) at SIUE (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) for professional development related to teaching through inquiry and then a week of practical experience with high school freshman and sophomores exploring energy through chemistry and physics.



For those who hadn't heard, **Bridget Tierney**, a second grade teacher at FP, I had a baby boy on April 25 and managed to move into a new home with both her 2 year old and 3 month old under foot.



Help keep the “Roaring with Colors” lion in the District

The University City High School (UCHS) PTO is working with the UCHS Student Council to coordinate efforts to raise funds to purchase the “Roaring with Colors” lion statue currently located in the midst of the Balson Circle. The statue was decorated by a professional artist, William Baur, as part of the “Roaring Lions” in celebration of University City’s 100th birthday of the “Gates of Opportunity,” commonly known as the lion gates. Proceeds from the Roaring Lions fundraiser benefit the Historical Society of University City’s preservation efforts for the lion gates.

The PTO needs to raise approximately \$5,000 to purchase, relocate and maintain the “Roaring with Colors” lion. To learn more, contact Derrick Coley at 314/863-0550. To make a donation, send checks to School District of University City, c/o Roaring with Colors Lion Campaign, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130. Make checks payable to the UCHS PTO and note Roaring Lion in the memo section.

What can you do to prevent the flu?

Unlike the seasonal flu which tends to affect seniors and the very young, the new H1N1 flu virus primarily affects young adults, especially those under 25 years of age, and is highly contagious. Below are some tips:

- Get a flu shot or Try the nasal spray vaccine.
- Wash your hands often. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth unless your hands are clean.
- Cough or sneeze into your arm or sleeve.
- Keep at least three feet between you and other people and wipe down public items.
- If you’ve got the flu, or any other respiratory illness, stay home and get better. Make sure you are getting enough sleep, maintaining a healthy diet and managing stress.

For more information about the seasonal flu or the new H1N1 flu, visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu. or www.flu.gov.

Calendar of Events for September 2009

- 1 Jackson Park - Curriculum Night
Delmar-Harvard PTO Meeting & Curriculum Night
- 2 Brittany Woods Open House
- 3 Board of Education Meeting
U-City Birders Club Information Meeting
- 7 Schools Closed - Labor Day
- 8 Quality Council Meeting
Nathaniel Hawthorne PTO Meeting
Pershing PTO Meeting
Jackson Park - Parent Meeting
FP PTO Speaker Series
- 9 UCHS Open House & PTO Meeting
Accountability Committee Meeting
- 10 Barbara C. Jordan Groundbreaking
Flynn Park Kindergarten Curriculum Night
Nathaniel Hawthorne Curriculum Night
- 12 UCHS ACT Testing
- 15 Brittany Woods after school activities begin
Flynn Park Family Math Night
- 16 UCHS Alumni Association Meeting
Jackson Park Science Night
- 17 Board of Education Workshop
- 18 First Quarter progress reports mailed home
Flynn Park Picture Day
- 21 UCHS College Fair
- 22 Early release
- 24 Board of Education Workshop
Nathaniel Hawthorne MAP Night
- 25 UCHS Fall Academic Award Assembly
- 26 U-City Birders Club - Migrating Warbler Study
- 30 Jackson Park Science Fair Workshop

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- 23 Hall of Fame 2009
- 24 Homecoming
- 26 & 28 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Need assistance?

Community members who are 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.

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.

Tickets are now available for
2009 Gateway Classic Football Game

Tuskegee University
 VS

Kentucky State University

Saturday, Sept. 26 • 3 p.m.

Edward Jones Dome

Cost: \$15, \$22 and \$30

For tickets, contact Jim Jennings at 314/290-4016
 by Friday, September 18.