



# INSIDE

the School District of University City

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

October-November 2008

## Destination UCity Schools meeting schedule revised

The schedule for the School District of University City's community engagement program, known as *Destination UCity Schools*, has been revised since the publication of the October 2008 issues of *PRIDE* and *Connections*. A postcard with this updated information was sent to local residents, businesses and District employees during the last week of October.

Since July, several hundred University City parents, residents and other stakeholders have attended the *Destination UCity Schools* meetings aimed at soliciting community input to help determine the District's future.

Here are the remaining dates, topics and locations of the meetings.

### • District Finances\*

**Wednesday, November 5,**

6:30-8:30 p.m.,  
Pershing Elementary School

**Saturday, November 8,**

9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Julia Goldstein ECEC

### • Finalizing the Plan & Recommendations\*

**Tuesday, November 18,**

6:30-8:30 p.m.,  
Barbara Jordan Elementary School

**Saturday, November 22,**

9:30-11:30 p.m.,  
Julia Goldstein ECEC

### • Presentation to the Board of Education

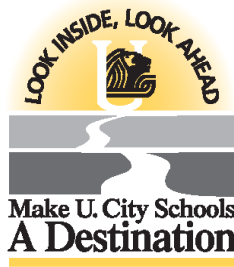
**Thursday, December 4,** 7 p.m.,  
McNair Administration Building

### • Special Board of Education Meeting for Approval

**Tuesday, December 16,** 6 p.m.,  
McNair Administration Building

Light snacks will be served and childcare is available. For more details, call Daphne Dorsey at 314/290-4016.

\* The same topic will be discussed at both sessions. Plan to attend the one that best suits your schedule.



## TIE day expands to Business Day

The Brittany Woods TIE day has been so successful that it has expanded to "Business Day" on Tuesdays and Thursday. Not only has the idea been adopted by University City High School, but a challenge has been sent by the Male Role Models of University City to the "Outstanding Women Role Models of University City" for a "Dress Off," to dress in business attire and spend at least 10 minutes consciously mentoring young male and female students. This effort is being spearheaded by Dominic LeNoir, assistant principal at Brittany Woods.

## Support the 2008 United Way campaign in University City

October 28 marked the kick-off of the 2008 United Way campaign in the School District of University City. District staff are invited to make a difference in the lives of people in our community through a United Way donation. More more than 90 cents of every dollar contributed goes to St. Louis area services that help people in need. More than one million people receive services through nearly 200 locally supported health and human service agencies. This year's campaign will run through Friday, November 7. Each District employee has been given a personalized pledge cards. Contributions can be made through payroll deduction. For more information, contact Daphne Dorsey at [ddorsey@u-city.k12.mo.us](mailto:ddorsey@u-city.k12.mo.us) or 314/290-4016.

## UCHS Jazz Band at Powell

University City High School Jazz Band will be the FIRST performers in the E. Desmond Lee Showcase at the Powell Symphony Hall on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. Admission is free. The concert starts at 6:30 p.m. and the doors open at 6 p.m.

## UCHS field hockey celebrates

Congratulations to the University City High School field hockey team who not only celebrated their 80th anniversary during homecoming weekend, but also whose float won the 2008 UCHS homecoming parade.

## IT IS HERE!

## Cycle 4: MSIP 2008

### U. City welcomes early review team in November 2008

Superintendent of Schools Joylynn Wilson recently requested the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) conduct an early Missouri School Improvement Plan (MSIP) accreditation review.

DESE will honor the request and conduct the District's MSIP review November 10-13, 2008.

The School District of University City is fully accredited. By requesting this review two years earlier than scheduled, the District can receive feedback about its strengths and immediately address any instructional concerns that surface.

The early review also allows the District to maintain its full accreditation status.



## Kyrgyz educators visit University City

Because their education system is undergoing reform, ten educators from the Kyrgyz Republic of the former Soviet Union visited the School District of University City on October 21 for a first-hand lesson on the American educational system. The group spoke with District administrators and staff about the public educational system including grade-level structures, teaching methods, hiring and education of staff, finances, evaluation instruments, parental & community involvement as well as the role of local, state and federal governments.

University City was the only local K-12 public school district honored during the 22-day tour, coordinated by the Community Connections program of the World Affairs Council of St. Louis.

## 2009 MLK Spirit Award nominations being accepted

The University City Board of Education is seeking nominations for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award to honor current or former University City residents, living or deceased, who work or have worked toward racial unity and justice. Nomination forms are available in school offices and on the District website at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org). Deadline for submission is December 5, 2008.

Recipients will be recognized during the annual University City communitywide Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration on Sunday, January 18. The Celebration festivities will begin at 3 p.m. with a "Positive Protest March" starting from the front lawn of Jackson Park Elementary School. The Celebration program will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the University City High School auditorium.

## Calling All Sports Fans . . . Check Us Out

Check out the new UCHS Athletic Boosters Club's page on the high school athletics link at [www.ucityschools.org](http://www.ucityschools.org) to find newly enacted bylaws, listing of executive committee contacts, notices of meetings, membership forms, monthly minutes, sports updates, etc.

The Boosters Club is a volunteer organization of parents, students, and staff organized to support, promote, and encourage student athletes and the athletic programs of University City High School. The Boosters' run the concession stands at home football and basketball games, host various fund raising events, sponsor a summer sports camp for younger athletes and provide financial assistance to the athletic programs. Members receive free admission to all regular season home games.

**REMINDER: UCEF Spring 2009 Cycle Grant submission deadline is Tuesday, February 3. Application form is available on the District website.**

## 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*.



**Declan FitzPatrick**, communication arts/social studies coordinator, has been published in the November 2008 issue of the *English Journal*, published by the National Council of Teachers of English. In "Constructing Complexity: Using Reading Levels to Differentiate Reading Comprehension Activities," FitzPatrick suggests specific methods to raise students' reading comprehension and support higher order thinking skills.



In her role as Missouri Teacher of the Year, **Margaret Williams**, UCHS social studies teacher, has been invited to speaking engagements and recognitions including, but far from limited to, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri Board of Education; St. Louis Black Leadership Round Table; Missouri Council for History Education; Literacy for Social Justice Action Research Group; Missouri Math, Science, and Computer Technology Academy - Northwest Missouri State University; and University City Education Association. She has been interviewed by local colleges, for on-line radio, MissouriNet and filmed with the NEA vice president. Other unique honors include receiving a "Teacher" Bear from the corporate leadership of Build-A-Bear, serving as grand marshal for the UCHS Homecoming Parade, meeting with visiting Kyrgyzian educators and being recognized during the Mizzou vs. Kansas State football game. During the next several months she will continue to give speeches, lead workshops and seminars. In January, she will attend the national Teacher of the Year conference in Dallas. In April, she will meet President Obama at the White House. During the summer, she will attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

## Enrichment classes available

The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc., in partnership with St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley, St. Louis Better Business Bureau and United Way of Greater St. Louis, offers enrichment classes at the Urban League, located at 8960 Jennings Station Road (63136). Upcoming Saturday classes beginning on November 1 and running through December 13 include Get Up and Dance from 10 to 11 a.m. and Technology for Youth ages 9-13 years from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.. Class fee is \$20 for all six session. Call 314/513-4444 for more information and enrollment.

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.