



INSIDE

the School District of University City

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


December 2008/January 2009

Season's Greetings from the Superintendent of Schools...

Dear Staff:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish every staff member of the School District of University City an enjoyable holiday season. May you take time during this break to spend quality time with your family and close friends.

Sincerely,


Joylynn L. Wilson, Superintendent

State of the District meeting

On January 16, Superintendent Joylynn Wilson will host a "State of the District" meeting during professional development for District staff.

A communitywide meeting will be held on January 21 in the University City High School, Charles Banks Auditorium at 6 p.m.

During the meetings, Wilson will discuss the overall state of the School District of University City, the recent early Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP) accreditation review and provide an update on the Destination U. City Schools community engagement program.

Interested in voluntary early retirement?

Certified employees who plan to retire at the conclusion of the 2008-2009 school year may be interested in participating in the District's Voluntary Early Retirement plan. According to Board Regulation 4760, "employees who elect to participate in this program should make their wishes known as soon as possible and no later than January 7 of the current school year by letter of request to resign for purpose of Voluntary Early Retirement."

To learn more about retirement options, contact Human Resources at 314/290-4023.

District to host second Minority Educator Career Fair in January

The School District of University City will host its second Minority Educator Career Fair on Saturday, January 24. Interested, qualified applicants may visit the District's website at www.ucityschools.org for more information about the event. Preregistration procedures will be posted soon.

For more details, contact the Office of Human Resources at 314/290-4023.

School board approves Destination U. City Schools recommendations

In a unanimous decision, the University City Board of Education voted to approve recommendations from its Destination U. City Schools community engagement program during a special meeting on December 16.

Since July, more than 530 staff members, parents and other stakeholders attended Destination U. City Schools meetings to discuss issues related to four district imperatives – student achievement, finances, facilities and community and family involvement. Feedback generated from these meetings produced recommendations aimed at moving the District forward and helping define its future as an educational destination.

As a result, the District's administration will seek passage of a \$53.65 million no tax rate increase bond issue on the April 7, 2009 ballot for the construction of two new schools on the sites of Barbara Jordan and Pershing Elementary Schools and renovate several existing buildings. The recommendations also call for comprehensive academic reforms and new grade level configurations.

To learn more about Destination U. City Schools, visit www.ucityschools.org.



Bridges begins in January

As a continuation of the Destination U. City Schools program, the District, in partnership with Focus St. Louis, will hold a series of meetings that will encourage open dialogue on racial issues and attitudes within the School District and City of University City and their impact on education and student performance.

Bridges Across Racial Polarization® is an innovative program that builds increased communication and understanding amongst people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for people of different races to meet who might otherwise not have an opportunity to do so, it increases racial awareness and understanding as well as provides a sounding board to discuss challenging and divisive issues.

The first Bridges meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, at 6 p.m. in the McNair Board Room. It will be an informational and recruitment session.

For more information, call 314/290-4002.

February Superintendent forum has been canceled

The next Meet the Superintendent meeting, scheduled for February 18, has been canceled.



2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

The School District of University City invites the community to attend the 23rd annual University City communitywide Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration on Sunday, January 18 at 3:30 p.m. in the University City High School Auditorium, 7401 Balson Ave. (63130). This year's theme is "Celebrating the impact of Dr. King on today's society." The school board's MLK Spirit award winner(s) will be announced during the Celebration.

The Celebration festivities will begin with a "Positive Protest March" at 3 p.m. from the front lawn of Jackson Park Elementary School, west along Balson to Hanley and back east along the Muhl-Schemmer Stadium sidewalk back to Lawless Plaza and into University City High School's Charles Banks Auditorium.

NEW FOR 2009... RIDE THE BUS! Transportation from Flynn Park, Julia Goldstein, Pershing, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Barbara C. Jordan and Brittany Woods Schools will begin route at 2 p.m. Bus will run again for return route from UCHS to same locations after the program. ONLY reserved seats will be permitted to ride the bus. The bus will be canceled if NOT enough reservations are made by the deadline. Call 314/290-4019 by Monday, January 5 to make your bus reservation.

In case of inclement weather, the MLK celebration will be rescheduled for Sunday, January 25.

District seeks input on school calendars

The School District of University City is preparing to set its school calendars for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. The District is interested in the community's opinion about these calendars.

The District encourages respondents to take the survey online by going to the District's website at www.ucityschools.org. The survey deadline is January 9.

For more information, contact the Office of Human Resources at 314/290-4023.

School board filing closes January 20

Informational packets are available for candidates seeking election to the Board of Education for the School District of University City. The election will be held on April 7, 2009. Candidate filing closes at 5 p.m. on January 20 for two seats that each fulfill a three-year term.

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

2008 United Way campaign results

In October and November, staff from the School District of University City participated in the 2008 United Way campaign. Staff donations for this campaign totaled nearly \$5,000 in contributions.

BEYOND OUR WALLS

Fall 2008 Cycle Grant recipients

University City Education Foundation announced during the November 6 University City Board of Education meeting that \$7,405.16 in cycle grants were awarded to teachers in the School District of University City for the 2008 fall grant cycle. Recipients included:

Julie Ertmann, University City High School science teacher, was awarded \$1,000 for **Qwizdom Interactive Remote Learning System**.

Debbie Kravitz, eighth grade communication arts teacher at Brittany Woods Middle School, was awarded \$969.15 for **Real Talk Girls' Book Club**.

Chris Kwiatkowski, seventh grade social studies teacher at Brittany Woods, was awarded \$1,000 for **What Type of Man Makes a Great President?**

Mary Ann Kerr, Jackson Park art teacher, and Kim Deitzler, Jackson Park parent, were awarded \$755.38 for **Niki in the Classroom**.

Bunmi Ramey, seventh and eighth grade communication arts teacher at Brittany Woods, was awarded \$560 for **Boys Book Club**.

Laura Small, eighth grade communication arts teacher at Brittany Woods, was awarded \$538 for **Listening Library**.

Marsha Alvey, reading specialist at Pershing Elementary School, was awarded \$324 for **Picture This!**

Katina Willis, fifth grade teacher at Barbara C. Jordan School, was awarded \$263.75 for **The Magazine Rack**.

Jeri Wenneker and Matt Keller, physical education and health teachers at Brittany Woods, were awarded \$1,000 for **P. E. Fun Fit Club**.

Stanley E. Coleman, middle and high school instrumental music teacher, was awarded \$994.88 for **Cases and Cases**.

For more information about the UCEF, visit www.ucityeducationfoundation.org. To support the UCEF in funding these and other grants, send contributions to UCEF c/o McNair Administration Building, 8136 Groby Road, University City, MO 63130.

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

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, phone 314/290-4019, fax 314/725-7846 or inner-office mail to McNair Administration Building.