SDUC January News and Superintendent's Blog

1 message

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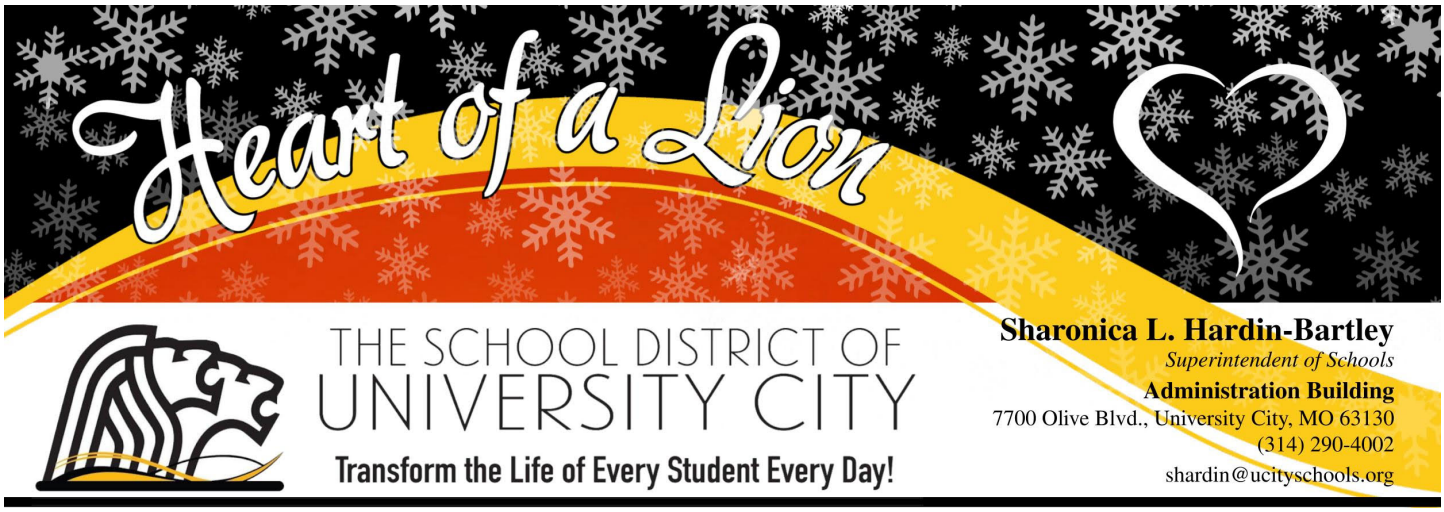
Tue, Jan 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM



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January 30, 2024

From the Desk of Dr. Sharonica L. HardinBartley

Winter Weather Update

I would say that winter 2024 came in like a "Lion!" Snow, winds and ice led to three January "snow days" in rapid succession. And, for those counting (likely all 2,700 students), we have two days remaining before we need to consider Alternate Methods of Instruction (AMI) or make-up days.

We are accustomed to the District's early morning wake-up calls, but I want to give you background on how the team makes weather decisions, what factors we consider, and through what channels we communicate the details. Of course, the safety of our students, staff, and contractors is always our top concern, and our decisions will always err on the side of safety...(read more in the Superintendent's Blog)

NEWS UPDATE

Proposition U is on the April 2 Election Ballot

On January 18, the Board of Education of The School District of University City, unanimously decided to place a bond issue on the April 2 ballot. Proposition U (Prop U) is a $65 million zero tax rate increase bond issue. If approved by voters, it will NOT raise the tax rate, but it would provide funding for repairs, renovations, and reimagined spaces (e.g. multipurpose field at UCHS, outdoor classrooms) in all schools. The tentative list was developed from facilities studies commissioned 18 months ago and feedback from community engagement meetings last year. We will continue to post more information on the website at www.ucityschools.org/PropU. If you have any questions, please call 314-290-4016 or email communications@ucityschools.org.

State of the District Community Meeting Feb. 5

The State of the District community meeting, originally scheduled for Jan. 22, 2024, has been rescheduled for Monday, Feb. 5. Beginning at 6 p.m. in the University City High School Library. We will share a detailed look at increases in student growth and enrollment; important information about APR, Proposition U (*a zero tax rate increase bond issue on the April 2 ballot),* and other District updates. Please register at www.ucityschools.org/SOD2024 to help ensure ample seating and refreshments.

U. City Schools are Preparing to Celebrate Black History Month

Schools across the District are planning activities, events and special presentations to celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of African Americans throughout history. A summary of Black History Month events will be available at www.ucityschools.org/BHM2024.

Community Book Study Kicked Off Last Friday at UCHS

The Black History Month **Community Book Study** of "Black Folk: The Roots of the Black Working Class," by Blair LM Kelley, kicked off with a virtual author visit via Zoom on Friday, Jan 26. Registration to participate in the book study is available through Friday, Feb. 2, at www.ucityschools.org/BookStudy2024. To register for the Thursday, Feb. 29 **Fireside Chat** culminating activity, go to www.ucityschools.org/022924Registration.

One U City Parent Group Wants to Show You the World!

This Sunday, Feb. 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Brittany Woods Middle School, One U City is hosting its annual, "World Tour." This is a multicultural celebration of the many cultures within our schools and community. Enjoy West African dance and drumming, Chinese Lion Dancing and K-Pop performances along with incredible foods including Afghan Mantu, Syrian Yolanji, West African FuFu & Egusi and more. The first 300 U. City families who RSVP at https://forms.gle/DUrb35QxqUtoyzaW9 are guaranteed two free World Tour of Food tickets per family member to sample two of the incredible international dishes that will be available. Additional World Tour of Food tickets will be available for purchase as well as pizza, hot dogs, chips and soda. This event is paid for in part by SDUC Title 1 Parent Involvement Funds.

Also, please mark your calendar and plan to attend One U City's next All-Community Meeting scheduled for 5:45 to 8 p.m. on **Tuesday, Feb. 20** (new date), at Brittany Woods Middle School.

Good People, Know Good People
University City Schools Host Hiring Event
On Feb. 27, The District is hosting a network hiring event for prospective teachers and administrators from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at Brittany Woods Middle School, (8125 Groby Road). Interview-ready candidates may meet one-on-one with District administrators and staff. A job list of current openings is available at www.ucityschools.org/employment. Please register to join us at www.ucityschools.org/Hire24.

District Calendar Committee Forming
The District's Human Resources Department is seeking staff and parent representatives from PreK, elementary, middle and high school to serve on the District Calendar Committee for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. The committee is scheduled to meet in-person twice on Thursdays, Feb. 8 and 22, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the McNair Administration Building. Attendance at both meetings is preferred and essential to the process. Space is limited on this committee, yet we want to ensure stakeholder voices. Everyone who expresses interest will receive a follow-up email directly from Dr. O'Connell confirming an available space on the committee. If interested, register online by 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at www.ucityschools.org/CalendarCommittee.

Is Dyslexia Really a Super Power?
Break down the mysticism of Dyslexia and get your questions answered during the Wednesday, Jan. 31, virtual "Dyslexia Café 2024." The event is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. and hosted by the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. Register for this important, zoom parent session at www.ucityschools.org/DyslexiaCafe. More information about Dyslexia is available at www.ucityschools.org/Dyslexia or contact Christina Sneed at chsneed@ucityschools.org or 314-290-4020.

K-5 Baseball/Softball Teams are Forming
Youth sports are a great way for K-5 students and families to form important social bonds before middle school and build skills for life! Parent organizers of our U. City Athletics League are committed to ensuring all students have a chance to join and to play. Click here for more information. Register your K-5 students for the Spring 2024 season by the Friday, Feb. 2, deadline (click here). Need-based scholarships are available.

Upcoming Key Dates

Click here for the full list of Key Dates for the 2023-24 school year.
Remember to check emails from your school principal for school activities.

Jan. 26 – Community Book Study Kick-Off, 6-7:30 p.m., University City High School library, 7401 Balson Ave. (Jackson Entrance). Register for in-person or Zoom at www.ucityschools.org/BookStudy2024.
Jan. 31 – Dyslexia Café 2024, 6-7 p.m. Register for this Zoom event at www.ucityschools.org/DyslexiaCafe.

Feb. 1 – Board of Education Work Session, 5:30 p.m. *(note new start time for this session)*, McNair Administration Building, 7700 Olive Blvd.
Feb. 4 – One U City World Tour, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School. Register at https://forms.gle/DUrb35QxqUtoyzaW9.
Feb. 5 – State of the District, 6-7:30 p.m., University City High School library, 7401 Balson Ave. (Jackson Entrance). Register at www.ucityschools.org/SOD2024.
Feb. 6 – Parent Cafes for BCJ & Pershing Parents/Caregivers, check for emails from the school principals for times and registration
Feb. 10 – University City High School JROTC Military Ball
Feb. 15 – Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom - Register at www.ucityschools.org/BOE021524.
Feb. 16 – No School, Professional Development Day
Feb. 19 – District Closed, Presidents' Day
Feb. 20 – One U City Community Connect Meeting, 5:45 to 8 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School, 8125 Groby Road
Feb. 27 – Good People Know Good People Hiring Event, 3:30-6:30 p.m., Brittany Woods Middle School, 8125 Groby Road. Register at www.ucityschools.org/Hire24.
Feb. 29 – Community Book Study Fireside Chat (culminating event for book study), 5-7 p.m., University City High School Library, 7401 Balson Ave. Register at www.ucityschools.org/022924Registration.

In Closing
February is a very exciting month! I look forward to seeing you at one of these amazing events. As always, contact me at shardin@ucityschools.org or by cell phone at 314-399-0941.

In Service of Our Children,

Sharonica L. Hardin-Bartley, PhD PHR
Superintendent

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