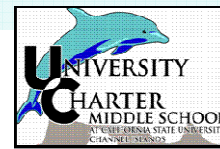




Dolphin Update-January 2016

School and PTSA Newsletter



Upcoming Events

- ◆ January 12th- 6th and 7th Dual Classes Field Trip to Natural History Museum
- ◆ January 13th- 6th Language Enrichment Classes Field Trip to Natural History Museum
- ◆ January 15th- 2016 7th Grade Enrichment Field Trip - Natural History Museum LA
- ◆ January 18th- Martin Luther King Day-No School
- ◆ January 20th- 8th grade Field Trip to the Museum of Tolerance
- ◆ January 23rd- Spelling Bee
- ◆ February 11th - LCAP Parent Meeting at 6pm
- ◆ February 15th - Presidents Day- No School
- ◆ February 15th-17th- 4th and 5th grade Key Experience Trip to Catalina Island Marine Institute
- ◆ February 18th-26th- Conference week
- ◆ February 18th -26th 11:45am Dismissal

PTSA
everychild.onevoice.®



Directors' Message

Volume 14 - Issue 4

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR CHILD, THE SCHOOL, AND YOU.

Your Child....Your child's education is our number one priority. A school year at UPS/UCMS is 180 days. In these days of high standards there is a lot for teachers and students to accomplish. Important learning and teaching moments happen from the minute the children enter class. The school community works together to ensure that the students learning time is not interrupted and that the time-on-task is taken seriously. If a student is absent for one day, there is a strong likelihood that they missed key instruction and that instruction cannot be "made up". Instruction is always presented in a variety of ways to help all students access learning. Absences limit the number of ways a student is exposed to a concept. Arriving late is very disruptive to the learning process, as well.

The School....Each child's attendance impacts the budget of our school. Just as all public schools do, UPS and UCMS receive funding based on the number of students who attend school each day. This is money that is critical in supporting our student's educational program. In addition to the lost money, it puts additional work on the teacher to catch the student up on missed work and additional work on the office staff to track why students were absent. All absences count against us...illness or not...excused or unexcused.

We recognize that it is unrealistic to expect a 100% attendance rate as students do get sick and emergencies (such as the death of a family member) do occur. Sick students certainly should not attend school as that would infect other students and the sick student would take longer to get better. Students who are vomiting or have fevers over 100 should stay home.

You....So what does this all mean for you as a parent? How Can You Help?

- ☆ Parents are legally responsible for ensuring their child's attendance at school. You need to make careful decisions about when your child is going to miss school. Some decisions are clear and unavoidable such as an illness with a fever or vomiting. A family emergency such as a death would certainly be a reason to miss school.
- ☆ Because of state laws regarding compulsory attendance, schools are mandated to enforce the regular attendance of students. After three consecutive days or combined total of ten days, student absences must be verified through a doctor's note. Once the 11-day mark is reached or a student has more than three unexcused absences, parents will receive a letter from the school stating that their student has an attendance problem.
- ☆ Schedule appointments for after school hours or at least come to school for part of the day.
- ☆ Come to school on early dismissal days...the teachers have valuable lessons planned for those days, too.
- ☆ Plan family trips to be taken during our scheduled vacation/holiday weeks. The school recognizes that once in a lifetime opportunities do come up. Parents need to look at the big picture.
- ☆ Complete an Independent Study program if your child must be out for a special occasion. You can make arrangements ahead of the planned absence through the office. This will help your child keep up with some of the school work and the school will also receive important funding.

Sincerely,
UCS Administrative Team



A Message from Our PTSA

"PTSA Happy New(sletter) Year!"

We are hoping you had a peaceful and restful winter break, and we're excited to skate through this new year! Speaking of skating...

Thinking about New Year Resolutions? Perhaps you can invest more time and/or talent to your PTSA. Join a collaborative team of dedicated teachers, students, and parents in building a strong UPCS community of support.

We are currently seeking nominations for next year's board, and we have volunteer openings for ongoing committees and events.

With the first half of the school year whizzing past, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our school community for their support. We had a great turnout at our Fall Festival and Winter Boutique, not forgetting the great success of our first annual UCMS Color Run! Also, thank you for your participation in book fairs, dine out nights, and other school community-building events.

Great ideas (and new faces) have emerged at our 'volunteer meetings' held after school on the 4th Mondays of every month, and we hope you will keep them coming! Plans for Luau (including the Silent Auction), a 'Camp-Out' Night, the Dolphin Fun Run, and other events are being discussed, and we could use more helping hands. This year, we are applying new technology to help us communicate and organize volunteer opportunities through "Volunteer Spot" (a link available through our school website.). By registering with your email address, you gain access to our PTSA activities and can volunteer to suit your availability while staying updated with our event schedule. We appreciate you taking a moment to check it out and register.

Thanks again, and keep bringing your great ideas, comments, or concerns that makes for such an inspiring school!

Cheryl Kewley

University Preparation Charter Schools PTSA President

LOTTERY FOR THE 2016-2017 School Year

It is Lottery time for the 2016-2017 school year. If you have a child who will be entering preschool, kindergarten, or Middle School FOR THE FIRST TIME you need to fill out a lottery application. Applications are due no later than Thursday, March 3rd at 4:00 pm. Students returning to the same program (preschool, UPS, or UCMS) do not need to fill out a lottery application. If you currently have a UPS preschool student and you are interested in UPS kindergarten you must fill out a lottery application. Your child must be five (5) years old on or before September 1st. Please visit our website to download and print an application or you may pick one up in the office. If you would like to come on a tour of UPS or UCMS please refer to the website or call 482-4608. Please tell friends and family about our upcoming lottery!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS -

Better known as BOB!

The Primary Years and Intermediate Years students, under the instruction of Ms. Eggebraten and Mrs. Kent, are enjoying a wonderful selection of great literature that has been provided for us by the school. The program, Battle of the Books, is a nationally run program in support of good literature. The students are required to attend a minimum of seven of the club meetings held during lunch every other Thursday, and also read a minimum of seven of the thirty books on the reading list. They also complete a book review about each book. Games and challenges are part of the meeting time to help the students recall the titles, authors, and essential parts of the books. In May, there will be an all-school assembly where the qualifying students will participate in a Jeopardy-type game. It is great fun, great reading, and a great program to encourage reading at all levels for our great students. If your child is not participating, but would like to, it is not too late to start! 📖

Intermediate Years' Key Experience Fieldtrip to Catalina Island Marine Institute

Students in Intermediate Years will be participating in a wonderful experience this year. In February, students will board a boat and travel to Santa Cruz Island. Here they will visit and participate in some of the following experiences:

- Snorkeling
- Ocean Kayaking
- Oceanography-Plankton-Tidepool
- Mini-Ecology Hike/Low Ropes Initiatives/Climbing Wall
- Night Campfire
- Squid Dissection
- Free Recreation Time
- Team Building



We have planned three different field trips at different grade levels for students to support and extend classroom learning.

- Based on classroom learning
- Build upon one another
- Provide a hands-on, real-world learning experience
- Create a meaningful, relevant lesson for all students
- Expose students to new places and experiences



UPS Child Care Program



We are very excited to offer child care at UPS. This program is for students in grades K-5. Our after school program begins at dismissal time even on minimum days. We offer additional enrichment activities during vacation weeks. Please stop by the office if you are interested in enrolling your child in this program. We have a few openings left.

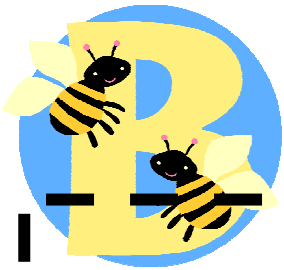
Volunteer Hours Update/Reminder

Turn in your volunteer hours! So many of you are volunteering your time in the classroom, at the school, or with school projects at home. All of these hours count toward your family volunteer hours. Please get a form in the UPS office or download one from our website. Please log your hours each month and turn your form into the office.



UCMS Cheerleaders

UCMS Cheerleaders Update: The squad will be competing February 29, 2016 in Las Vegas at the JAMZ Competition!!!! Our talented girls also danced in the Camarillo Christmas parade and spread their joy representing our school. Great job, ladies! We wish our girls the best of luck on earning their third JAMZ title!



Spelling Bee

The Scripps Spelling Bee is coming! Every classroom at UCMS and all Intermediate Years students at UPS participated in the classroom spelling bee during December. The winners from each classroom will now compete in the gym at UCMS in January. The winner and runner-up from each school will be invited to CSUCI for the area/county competition in March. This will include written spelling and vocabulary eliminations. Those students who pass this level will be competing that afternoon, go on to represent our county and eventually may be spelling for the nation in Washington, D.C!



UCMS Spirit Day is THURSDAY!

Want to show your school pride? Wear your UCMS gear on Thursday. We love the school pride. Go dolphins!

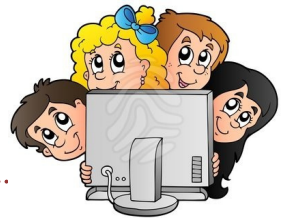
UCS Participated in the Hour of Code!

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it than a decade ago.

That's why our school joined in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 7-15.) Last year we joined students worldwide to reach 100 million students!

Our Hour of Code is a statement that University Charter Schools is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. To continue bringing programming activities to your students, we want to make our Hour of Code event huge. I encourage you to visit the website code.org, ask your child about it.

UCS is participating in a movement whose mission is to change the future of education. See <http://hourofcode.com/us> for details, and help spread the word.



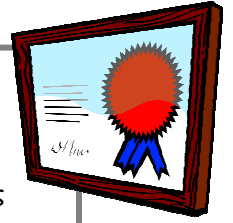
Dolphin Leadership

The leadership team has been working hard these past few months to continue bringing fun activities to campus, and supporting those that are already in place. Here are some highlights (pictures available on the UCMS Leadership webpage):

- Our Fun Fridays have brought music and games to campus each month and we're always looking forward to what the students come up with next – relay races, people decorating, dance parties, and more!
- Other activities have included Locker Lottery, dress up days, Hot Chocolate sales, and Red Ribbon Week.
- We grew as leaders at our annual California Association of Student Leaders Conference with 1,000 other middle and high school leaders at Seaside Park in Ventura. Our small team of 30 students came back with many new ideas to implement around campus, and a renewed spirit to help make the lives of our students even better here at school each day.
- Students, teachers, and staff spread their gratitude around campus during our annual Thank-You Grams in early November. Over 100 people received a happy note and duck as a show of love and appreciation. Spring grams will take place in April!

Thank you to all the members of the leadership team for their continued devotion and enthusiasm to our school. I think you are all amazing!

Miss Phillippe, Leadership Team Advisor



UCMS Renaissance Program = Academic Excellence

At UCMS, we foster a community of learning that encourages and motivates students to strive for growth and accomplishment in the classroom. The Renaissance program provides the opportunity to recognize and honor students for these academic successes. If you haven't been able to attend a rally yet, we encourage you to do so soon! Each quarter we find ourselves with a growing number of members. Our student leaders have been working hard to recognize these students for their hard work and achievement, and find ways to motivate others with days such as "Show Me an A!" Teachers have been looking for students striving for excellence and rewarding them with Renaissance Teacher Awards. Pictures, information, and details about all of our events in this program are available on the school website, so check it out!

Please save the date for our 2nd Quarter Renaissance Rally on Thursday, February 11th at 12:15 pm

8TH GRADE WASHINGTON DC TRIP – IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!

Your child can still be a part of this incredible opportunity to see history in action while we explore our nation's most important historical sites throughout DC and Virginia's Historic Triangle. Visit worldstridesdiscovernow.org for more information and to sign-up. Our school's ID number for this trip is 122157.



CLASS OF 2016!!

WOW, can you believe almost half of your 8th grade year has already gone by? Just a few reminders from your core teachers!

- This is a year full of learning and preparation for your future in high school! Stay organized, be responsible, remember that quality counts, and be your own advocate – communicate with your teachers as needed to ensure success.
- Remember that there are promotion celebration and event requirements. This includes 90+ dolphin points and a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA for your 8th grade year.
- Our next big events are just around the corner, and you don't want to miss out on these opportunities
 - Holocaust Remembrance – a survivor of Auschwitz will be speaking with all of you before our visit to the Museum of Tolerance this February
 - LAST middle school DANCE! These memories will last a lifetime - Friday, February 5th
 - Science Fair, March 4th – third time's a charm – make this one your best yet, Scientists!

Box Tops

We would like to thank all our families for helping collect Box Tops. All your efforts and hard work benefit our students.



2015-2016 UCMS/UPS YEARBOOKS

All Yearbooks will be Hardcover!

*Only \$25 if ordered before January 8th
Order forms available in the office*

We are also collecting Labels for Education. Last year, we collected over 1000 points. These points help purchase playground equipment. Help us beat last year's record. Please continue to send in Labels for Education.



SEE'S Candy and Dolphin Fun Run

Dolphin Fun Run & See's Candy Sales

Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting all of our great fundraisers for the beginning of this school year! Our next fundraising opportunities are the Dolphin Fun Run and See's Candy sales. If you would like to volunteer to help for these fundraisers, please contact Deanna Grimshaw at dgrimshaw@verizon.net! Thank you so much!

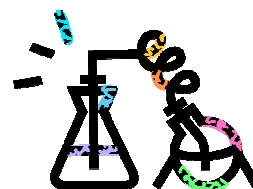


News from Early Years

Early Years has planned another movie fundraiser. We were able to book one theater at the Roxie for the evening of January 21, 2016 to see "Norm of the North." Tickets will go on sale on January 5th and will be sold until January 15th or until we sellout, whichever comes first. If we sellout early, the theater has advised that they will try to find us a second theater. Please check your child's folder/backpack for the ticket order forms in January. We hope to see you all at the

Science Fair

When: March 4th, 2016
Where: UCMS Gym
UCMS is having its annual Science Fair. Students from 6th to 8th grade will be displaying their science fair projects. Come view their research and experiments.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

February is parent/teacher conference time! Conferences are being held February 18-26, 2016. In February you will be receiving an invitation to a conference for your child. Each teacher handles their conference sign-ups a little differently, so if you have any questions, please speak to the teacher.

Conference time is an excellent opportunity for parents, students, and teachers to share information and celebrate progress made thus far. The best conferences end with both the parents and teacher feeling they have learned something about the child. The tips below may help you make the most of your conference time.

Before you go

- Jot down questions and think about your child's learning style and work habits
- Think about what you want to tell the teacher about your child
- How does your child feel about school?
- What academic and social successes and challenges are you seeing?

At the conference

The teacher will be prepared to tell you about your child's progress. Here are some questions you might want to ask:

- In what subject does my child do well and what are areas for improvement?
- How are my child's peer relationships?
- What can I do to help my child?

Be aware that other parents are waiting for their conference. Schedule a follow up meeting if needed.



Yearbook!

If there are any parents, teachers or students who would like to contribute photos, please contact the UPS office or via email

VickyLewis.yearbookpiz@cheerful.com or Charterschoolsphotos@gmail.com

Any and all photographs are welcome (school events, field trips, sporting events, etc...) Please drop off a disk to the UPS office or quickly upload them to the emails above. Please share your photos to help make this yearbook wonderful.

Math Homework Resource for Kindergarten to 5th grade

This is a great resource which parents can use to help their children with math homework.

http://www.oakdale.k12.ca.us/ENY_Hmwk_Intro_Math

