

# University School

## at The University of Tulsa

# January 2013

### Preferential Enrollment

It's hard to believe, but it is time to think about the 2013-2014 school year! The month of January is designated as a Preferential Enrollment period for all current University School families. After January 31, enrollment will be open to new students who are not currently attending USchool. It is not uncommon for our classes to have no openings for new students because all current students re-enroll.

**Enrollment information and payment agreements will be emailed to all current families the week of January 7. Don't forget, if you want to be with us next year, be sure to turn in your signed payment agreement and your \$400 deposit by January 31, 2013.**

### Funding the Future

Choosing a University School education for your child is one of the most important decisions you can make. At USchool, we truly understand the needs of gifted children. Gifts to our annual fund, Funding the Future, are critical to the success of University School, because they are earmarked specifically for the needs of our school community. We feel certain that you understand the importance of annual fund giving, and we hope that you will choose to support University School with a gift to Funding the Future.



### Director's Message

One of the most important things that your donation to Funding the Future (FTF) provides is staff development for our teachers. The opportunity for continuous learning helps keep teachers and staff at the top of their game.

Each year, the majority of our staff attends the Oklahoma Association for Gifted, Creative, and Talented (OAGCT) Convention. Many of our teachers give presentations on current education topics, and all teachers attend sessions presented by professionals from all over the state.

Each year, USchool also sends several teachers to the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Convention. Often, our staff holds offices in this national association. For the past two years, I was Chair of the *Special Schools and Programs* group, and Mrs. Carter will hold that position for the next two years. This year, Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Rutter gave two presentations at NAGC on the topic of the importance of physical activity for brain development. Mrs. Carter and I gave a presentation about teaching art to various age levels.

Other teachers and staff have attended a variety of educational conferences in their specialty areas. These include conferences sponsored by: Oklahoma Technology Association, National Science Teachers Association, Texas Computer Educators Association, American Library Association, College Preparatory Math, and others.

Presenting at conferences is an excellent way for University School to maintain its state and national presence and excellent reputation. Most importantly, continuous learning keeps teachers motivated, energized, and even more dedicated to teaching. **Thank your for making this happen through your donation to FTF!**

- Pat Hollingsworth, Ed.D.

## News from the USA

### USA Meeting and Luncheon Wednesday, January 9 - 11:30 a.m.

All University School parents are invited to attend the January meeting of the University School Association (USA). The meeting will be held in the school library at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 9. We will update families on new USA business and hear presentations from some of USchool's specialty teachers. A complimentary lunch will be provided.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Shelly McCollum at shelly-mccollum@utulsa.edu. This will help us make sure we have plenty of food.

### Needs-Based Financial Aid for 2013-2014 Online Application Due January 31

Don't forget! If you are applying for needs-based financial aid for the 2013-2014 school year, you must complete the Parents' Financial Statement (PFS) online at the SSS website and submit tax documents for 2012 to SSS. Complete details are available on an informational flyer which you can find on our website, in ParentsWeb, or at the front desk at school.

- The online application is due January 31, 2013
  - Tax documents must be submitted (uploaded or mailed) by April 16, 2013
  - The fee to complete the application is \$39 per family, and is paid online directly to SSS.
  - You only need to pay one fee and submit one application, even if you are applying for aid for more than one student.
- Please refer to the flyer referenced above for all the details.



## NAGC Conference

In November, four University School teachers attended and presented at the annual National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Conference, which was held this year in Denver. Dr. Hollingsworth has just completed a two-year tenure as Chair of the Special Schools Network, and Mrs. Carter is now taking over that role. Both attended committee meetings while in Denver.

- **Dr. Hollingsworth and Mrs. Carter** gave a presentation entitled **30 Minute Art Lessons**. They demonstrated how drawing, art history, and art appreciation can all be taught in a series of short art lessons. The audience got to participate as students during the session, and the information was very well received.
- **Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Rutter** gave a presentation about the connection between activity, learning, and the brain. They taught speed stacking skills and 5-minute "brain energizers."

Some of the sessions that teachers attended included:

- **The Power of Play** - This session covered the importance of play for children.
- **Best Pieces of Advice for Parents of Gifted Students** - **Sylvia Rimm** (pictured at right) discussed the importance of having high, but reasonable expectations for gifted students. She also covered ways to instill a strong work ethic, how to model and teach the connection between hard work and outcome, how to help students develop competitive resilience, and the importance of united parenting. Dr. Rimm will be the speaker for USchool's Parent-Teacher Institute in the fall of 2013.
- **Ridley Pearson**, author of *Kingdom Keepers*, was a keynote speaker. He described his path to becoming a highly successful author. His advice to teachers and parents was to push kids, but not to "squash them." He also advised being careful of criticism.



- **Michael Clay Thompson** (pictured at left) gave a presentation on reading. A former teacher, he is now an education consultant and author inspiring students and educators with a love of language and literature. He stressed the importance of reading lots of excellent literature in order to become good writers. Classics are important, and students often enjoy them when they are led through the material by teachers. He calls books the "time machine of culture."

# USchool Happenings



**TU Night Light** - On the evening of December 6, 70 University School students, led by Mrs. Call, sang at the TU Night Light celebration on the university's Chapman Commons. Students and their families enjoyed TU's "lights-on" event to kick off the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who joined in!

## Family Fun at WinterFest

On December 10, USchool families gathered at WinterFest at the BOK Center in downtown Tulsa. The cold weather was perfect for an evening of ice skating during the holiday season.

Thanks to Chrissie Wainright for organizing these parent-led family fun USchool community events!



Lily Oertel and James-Henry George on the ice skating rink at WinterFest.

## Canned Food Drive

Thanks to all who donated to the True Blue Neighbor canned food drive in November! Your generosity resulted in the collection of nearly 250 cans of food and included some generous financial donations as well. With TU's help, Governor Fallin's campaign to feed hungry Oklahomans was a great success!



INT-1 students pose by a statue at Woolaroc.



At Rose Hill School, students listen carefully.

## Intermediate 1 Field Trips

Intermediate 1 students enjoyed two fun and educational field trips during the fall semester. They went to Rose Hill School in November, where they traveled back in time and spent a day in a 1910 one-room schoolhouse. In December, INT-1 students visited Woolaroc, where they experienced Oklahoma history in a hands-on environment.

# January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 - First Day of Second Semester	4	5 - Science Saturday - 1:00-3:00
6	7	8	9 - USA Mtg and Lunch 11:30 a.m.	10	11 - Winter Dance @ ACAC 6:00-8:00 p.m.	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <b>No School</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 - Fin. Aid Applications Due online		

## Important Dates for Spring 2013

Put these dates on your calendar now!

### Events

- February 14 - Classroom Valentine Parties
- February 25 - March 1 - Spring Book Fair
- March 14 - Drama Festival - ACAC 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- April 20 - "Let the Good Times Bowl" Auction Fundraiser @ Andy B's
- April 25 - Creative Producers International ACAC - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- May 9 - Awards, Concerts, Graduation  
Daytime - Awards Ceremonies (times TBA)  
6:15 p.m. - Preschool Concert (LPC)  
7:00 p.m. - Concert/8th Grade Graduation (LPC)

### "No School" Days for Second Semester

- January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 15 - OAGCT Conference
- February 18 - Presidents' Day
- March 15 - Staff Development
- March 18-22 - Spring Break
- April 11-12 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- April 26 - Staff Development

