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► Fifth Grade Meets Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

FALL 2010

On September 24, E.L. Haynes fifth graders had the honor of visiting the Supreme Court and meeting Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The students toured the court room and learned about the difference between the Supreme Court and other courts – like the number of judges and how cases are presented. The tour guide explained the meaning behind the Tortoise and the Hare sculptures present outside of the Supreme Court – that the Justices must be slow, persistent, and determined in applying laws to ensure fairness and equality to everyone.



Justice Ginsburg met the students in a conference room and shared the history of the Supreme Court with the students. She pointed out portraits of past Chief Justices that were hung around the conference room, stopping to point out Justice Roger B. Taney, who presided over the 1857 Dred Scott case, saying he wrote the “worst opinion ever” and explaining the impact that ruling had, but saying that outside that opinion, he was a pretty good judge.



One student asked Justice Ginsburg, “What was it like to be the only woman on the court?” Justice Ginsburg said it was lonely and it looked wrong, informing the students that there are now three women on the Supreme Court. She later explained that “women have as much talent as men, and all of the years that women were left out, I think the court suffered from that.” She mentioned that the 19th amendment is one of her favorites and explained how she argued cases as a lawyer in the 1970s to the Supreme Court to establish the obligation for women to serve on juries.

Another student asked, “What is your favorite thing about being a Supreme Court Justice?” Justice Ginsburg said that the Supreme Court is the top of the judicial branch so they hear cases where other judges have disagreed on what the law is and so all of their cases are challenging.

Justice Ginsburg also offered advice to fifth grade students who may hope to one day serve on the Supreme Court – 1. Be a good reader 2. Be a good writer 3. Be a good debater. She told them, “If you enjoy what you are studying, even if it is hard, you will thrive in doing it.”

► USA Science and Engineering Festival

This October, the National Mall was host to the first-ever USA Science and Engineering Festival. The two-week festival culminated in an expo featuring more than 1,000 displays and demonstrations, with information and hands-on activities exposing people of all ages to the wonders of science.



► USA Science and Engineering Festival (continued)

E.L. Haynes was one of a handful of schools that had the opportunity to participate in this exciting event. Our students shared an interactive recycled paper project. Two teachers and eight students served as representatives of E.L. Haynes over the course of the two-day expo. They set up their booth so that visitors to the festival could actively participate in the steps of creating recycled paper – starting with used paper, cutting or ripping it up, soaking the paper shreds in water, blending the paper into a pulp, using a deckle to drain the pulp and then laying the fine pulp flat to dry into a new piece of paper. E.L. Haynes science teacher Rabiah Harris said it was an interesting experience for students to present their project to complete strangers. “It was exhilarating for the students to have all the people interested in what they were doing and saying.”

Our students saw the need for recycled paper when they looked at how much paper was used daily at school. Kiara Gross, an eighth grade student, said, “Schools leave behind a lot of paper, so we just need to reuse it!” In addition to their recycling project, students suggested that the school make an effort to purchase recycled paper, that students do a better job of recycling their papers in recycling bins, and that students stay after school to make recycled paper for their classrooms.

At the Festival, E.L. Haynes students also shared information that they had learned when conducting a trash audit to determine the school’s use different materials – paper, aluminum, plastic, food waste and other products.

By taking turns presenting at the E.L. Haynes booth, they had an opportunity to explore other booths at the Festival. Nearby they could see presentations by NASA scientists, university students and faculty, and much more, providing students an opportunity to explore science career paths.

Ms. Harris was pleased with the group’s presentation at the Festival. She said, “The students worked really hard and did a great job!”

► Community Helpers

Pre-k students are learning about different community helpers – like firefighters, police officers, bus drivers, and mail carriers. The students learned about their important roles, helping the community and keeping people safe. Expert visitors came to the school to talk about their jobs and help the students understand what they do. Ms. Bryant, a pre-k teacher at E.L. Haynes, said the project is helping students build their vocabulary and language skills. She says, “It is so important for kids to be able to recognize and identify people in their community. They need to know that these people are here to help us and keep us safe.”

DC Firefighters visited E.L. Haynes’ Kansas Avenue Campus with their fire trucks this October. Students prepared for the visit by making a fire truck out of boxes, their own fire hoses, and fireman hats. During their visit, the firefighters showed the students how quickly they can put on all of their gear. They also used the water cannon to shoot water out across the field to demonstrate how they put out fires.

On October 26, US Park Police Officer Clowers visited the school with her horse, Steely Dan. She talked about what it is like to be a park police officer. She talked about her job, her uniform, and about her horse and how she takes care of him. The students got to pet Steely Dan. Ms. Bryant said that meeting a real horse was definitely a special part



of the visit for the students. Miles, a pre-k student said, "I liked when the police officer came because she told me about her horse."

Students also learned about police officers, mail carriers, and bus drivers. When the mail carrier, a grandfather of one of the students, visited, he had each student write a letter to their friend and showed them how to mail their letters. Pre-k student Leleng said "My favorite part was when I saw a mail carrier. A mail carrier has a mail bag and a mail box and they put the mail in somebody's house." Two police officers visited the school and talked about their job, making good choices, and demonstrated how they use handcuffs. Pre-k students also learned about buses and trains and their drivers and went on a field trip to see a bus driver in action.

To culminate their study of community helpers, students each chose an occupation to represent and dressed up in the uniform for that occupation. Each student presented what they had learned about that particular type of community helper and how they could help others.

► Kansas Avenue Campus

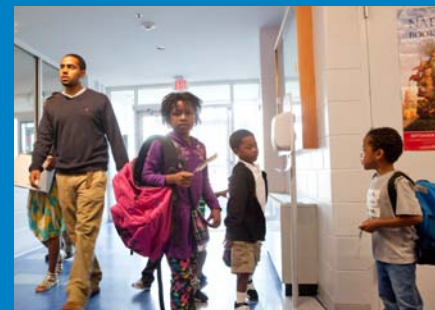
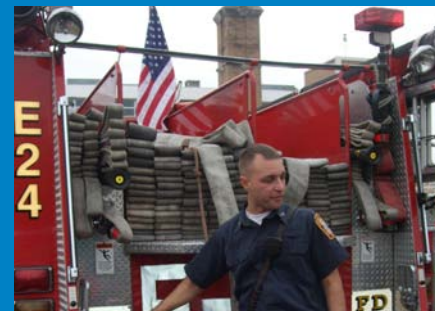
We are excited to share news of the opening of Phase 1 of our new Kansas Avenue Campus! E.L. Haynes has expanded into two campuses this fall, which will facilitate our planned growth to serve 1,100 students in grades pre-k through twelve by the 2014-2015 school year. Our existing building has become known as our Georgia Avenue Campus and we recently completed the first phase of renovations on the five-acre, 46,000 square-foot DC public school facility which has become our Kansas Avenue Campus. The Kansas Avenue Campus project is not only exciting because it allows E.L. Haynes to continue to expand through high school and to serve more students in all grades, but because it returns an important community asset to its originally-intended use; the former DC public school facility will no longer be a vacant building, but will once again serve DC students.

E.L. Haynes' Kansas Avenue Campus will ultimately serve approximately 650 students and enable E.L. Haynes to achieve its mission and vision by providing space for E.L. Haynes High School and for our Early Childhood Program (pre-k to second grade). Grades 3-8 will remain at the Georgia Avenue Campus, which will serve approximately 450 students.

Site renovations and construction are taking place in a three-phase approach. The first phase was the renovation of the existing building, which was completed in August 2010 to allow grades pre-school to second to move into the building and enable E.L. Haynes to begin to offer pre-school to three-year olds for the 2010-2011 school year. The new facility has large, light-filled classrooms, a Family Resource Center, and many small group spaces.

Phase two of the renovations will include the addition of a gymnasium, a high school cafeteria, a new classroom wing, and additional parking for the High School. Phase three of the renovations will develop the extensive outdoor space into athletic fields, playspace, and outdoor academic space. Situated on five acres, the new campus has ample space for outdoor play and exploration. The playground has a climbing structure and a tricycle track and there are athletic fields and space for outdoor science and gardening.

For month-by-month photos of the construction of our beautiful building, visit our photo journal at <http://www.elhaynesbuilds.org/kansas/>.



► Meet Our High School Principal

Through the generous support of the Walton Family Foundation, E.L. Haynes was able to hire our High School Principal for an entire year of planning before the High School opens in the Fall of 2011. We are pleased to announce that Caroline Hill will serve as E.L. Haynes' High School Principal. Ms. Hill comes to us from DC Public Schools and the Columbia Heights Education Campus where she served as Assistant Principal. She is a former chemistry teacher and graduate of New Leaders for New Schools, which prepares outstanding urban principals. Ms. Hill has a Master's in public administration from Trinity University, a Master's degree in education from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Virginia.



Ms. Hill has an exciting vision for E.L. Haynes High School. She plans to create a college-ready atmosphere where 75% of the curriculum is Advanced Placement (AP) classes. There will be a focus on technology, to ensure that students are able to be critical users of technology and create with technology – game design courses may be a requirement for all students.

Ms. Hill and the leadership team will continue to visit the best schools in the nation so that we can put best practices to work in our high school. They are also exploring colleges and universities to better understand the expectations that students will need to meet when applying and the skills that help determine college success. About the program, Ms. Hill says, "E.L. Haynes High School will be designed to get our students ready for college. The program will provide the kind of experiences – courses, electives, trips, technology and responsibility – that will directly lead to college success."

► Pre-K for Three-Year-Olds

This year we have expanded our early childhood program to serve three-year olds for the first time! In August, we added two classrooms of pre-kindergarten for three-year olds, each serving 21 students. E.L. Haynes' goal as a school has always been to meet children where they are developmentally and to give them the specific support needed to grow academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and artistically. Our pre-k program gets children on-track for school success right from the start.



The new three-year olds program is housed in our newly renovated early childhood center at the school's Kansas Avenue Campus and enrollment is open to all children in the District of Columbia.

We are excited to be offering a high-quality education to these three-year olds and to begin what we hope will be a 15-year partnership with families that will last through each student's high school graduation and college experience.

► E.L. Haynes on CBS News

E.L. Haynes was featured on CBS News! You can view the video of E.L. Haynes students and teachers and an interview with Jennie Niles, E.L. Haynes Founder and Head of School, about DC's successful Race to the Top proposal by visiting: <http://bit.ly/blu7Yc>.



► Volunteers at E.L. Haynes

We want to thank all of the wonderful people who have taken time out of their own lives to volunteer at E.L. Haynes. Over the last year, these individuals have helped tutor students, provided reading support, led Chess Club, shared their expertise with our students, and provided administrative support to the school. We greatly appreciate the efforts of each one of our volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at E.L. Haynes, please contact Yasmine Taylor-Hart at yhart@elhaynes.org.

► A Case Study of Dramatic Gains

E.L. Haynes is featured as an example of a data-driven success story in a new book, *Driven by Data: A Practical Guide to Improve Instruction* by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo. The section on E.L. Haynes details our implementation of data driven instruction to drive outstanding student growth.