



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

January 28, 2010

## E.L. HAYNES

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Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to a fantastic Day of Service tomorrow. Thanks in advance to all the parents who have helped and who plan on helping.

This week I would like to highlight our Middle School program. Specifically, what distinguishes the middle school from the rest of the school? The program is based around three principals: *Rigor*, *Responsibility*, and *Relationships*. These are embodied in several unique practices, including:

- ▶ *Advisory* – Every student is part of an advisory of 8-10 students led by a faculty member which meets 4 times per week. Advisories are a student’s “family” within the Haynes community.
- ▶ *Middle School Community Circle* – Every Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders meet together in the renovated middle school hub to celebrate successes, share key accomplishments, and meet interesting and important visitors.
- ▶ *Student Council* – Students have the opportunity to participate in a student council that organizes quality leadership activities, provides input to decisions, and serves the school and community.
- ▶ *Homeroom Competitions* – Homerooms compete with one another to earn points toward dress down days. Competitions re-enforce scholarly habits in ways that are fun and engaging.
- ▶ *Trips* – Students experience the world beyond Haynes’ walls. They visit several colleges every year (this year’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade will take a trip to UVA!), and have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-the-year trip to celebrate their hard work and expand their horizons.
- ▶ *Middle School Hub* -- For those of you who haven’t been up to the fifth floor recently, Middle Schoolers now have a special space to call their own. This winter break we renovated the hub on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Middle school students will have the opportunity to help decorate the hub and will be responsible for keeping it neat and organized.

The elements above are unique to Middle School but there is a clear connection to our Elementary program. ***It is a joyful community that is serious about learning.*** At the heart of the joy/rigor balance are our outstanding teachers, who have been trained at many of the top colleges and universities in the country. They are the secret sauce that makes it all possible.

If you would like to know more about our Middle School program, please feel free to come see me or Ms. Pierre-Floyd, our Principal in Residence.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf  
Principal, 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Michelle M. Molitor  
Principal, Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

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|-----------|-------|--|--------|----------|--|-----------|
| Sun<br>31 | Mon 1 | Tues 2<br>Parent Series:<br>Accessing Public<br>Benefits | Wed 3  | Thurs 4  | Fri 5<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Ford<br>Theater Trip<br>Family Game Night | Sat<br>6  |
| Sun<br>7  | Mon 8 | Tues 9<br>Parent Series:<br>Planning for the<br>Future   | Wed 10 | Thurs 11 | Fri 12<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lincoln<br>Cottage Trip                  | Sat<br>13 |

# NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

**T O N I G H T !! Middle School Family Meeting, January 28<sup>th</sup>**: 6:15-7:15pm – Our middle school families will meet to discuss middle school and high school. We will update parents on our middle school initiatives, including our upcoming trips, and collect ideas for our high school program.

**E.L. Haynes Day of Service**: The First Annual E.L. Haynes Day of Service, in memory of Chris Kim, will be held on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-12:30. The day will kick off with an all school meeting with students, staff, friends and family of Chris's, and other members of the community. Please see the additional, detailed e-mail from Michelle with details of what each of the grades are doing in the spirit of service and how you can help.

**Tomorrow is the Last Day for our School-Wide Help for Haiti**: Join the Year Round Programs Penny Challenge - We invite families and friends to join our efforts to support survivors of the recent earthquake in Haiti. Collection jugs are located in the main lobby beneath the television monitor.

**Financial Literacy Workshops**: Do you think you or someone in your family might be eligible for Medicaid? Food Stamps? SSI? Public Assistance? Come find out in this informative workshop next Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:15pm-7:30pm. Dinner and child care provided!

**Save the Date! African Heritage Celebration**. Friday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. Our All School Meeting begins at 8:30 and we would love to have parents out to join us!

**Applications for New Students for 2010-2011**: are now available!! Specifically, we are recruiting students and families for our pre-k 3year old class and our 6th grade class (our 6th grade will be expanding by one class!). If you have another child who you would like to have attend ELH, please fill out the application available in the clear boxes outside the main office. We also would love for you to advertise to your friends and neighbors who are looking for a dynamic school for pre-k – grade 8! The application date for middle school is February 26th (lotter on March 6th). The PK-5th application date is April 2nd (lottery on April 10th).

**E.L. Haynes Family Game Night!**: Come play games at E.L. Haynes on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:15pm-8:15pm. We'll have board games, pizza, and drinks - \$5 suggested donation per family. We need volunteers! If you would like to help out, please call or email Beth Hood at [bhood@elhaynes.org](mailto:bhood@elhaynes.org)

## **Community Activities:**

**Parkview Rec Center Activities**: Come have fun on Saturdays at Parkview Rec Center! Every Saturday from 11:30-4:00pm, come to the center at 693 Otis Pl., NW for art, yoga, guitar lessons, girls action, lunch and movie time. For more information, call Katie Delaney at 434-227-9599.

**Ms. Teri**

**Counselor's Corner**

Our middle school students often find themselves in the midst of controversial discussions. Many of these discussions can enhance social and peer relationships and others actually destroy trust and bonds that have been establish over the years .

We encourage our students to be kind and treat others the way you would indeed want to be treated . We encourage students to take full responsibility for their actions and focus their energy on restoring relationships through deeds and words. Being kind, trust worthy and respectful are incredible ways to build friendships that last over time .

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"Did you see the outfit she had on?" friends Zuri and Meimi laugh.

It's often irresistible and painful. "[It] ruins friendships, ruins lives, messes people's reputations, hurt's people's feelings," seventeen-year-old Zuri says.

"I'm normally the one who starts and spreads the gossip," says seventeen-year-old Kyle, "so, I mean, I've broken up a lot of good friends over gossip."

And sixteen-year-old Caitlin has been the brunt of it as well, "I've had my fair share of broken friendships that I've kind of had to rekindle because of things that were said or spread around because people didn't know all the facts."

Gossip can hurt, psychologists say, but here's the surprise, "It lets people really know each other, and know what's going on in their lives," explains Wendy Simonds, professor of sociology at Georgia State University, "And that enables people to feel safe. It makes them feel a sense of belonging."

And in a teenager's life it can act as a social road map of right and wrong and as a warning signal, not to befriend the wrong person.

## **Tips for Parents**

Gossip can be extremely harmful, but there are some times when it can be helpful. Dr. Offra Gerstein, a clinical psychologist, gives the following suggestions for parents to share with their children for how to handle gossip in a healthy manner:

- Create healthy ways of connecting with others that do not require negative talk about a third party.
- When you are told about another person, ask for verification of the information. Trusting that what is said is true without challenging its veracity makes you a partner in perpetuating gossip.
- If you hear negative talk, refuse to listen and politely attempt to stop the speaker.

## **References**

- Psychology Today
- Santa Cruz Sentinel
- University Press of Kansas

(excerpt taken from the Connect with Kids website)