



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES

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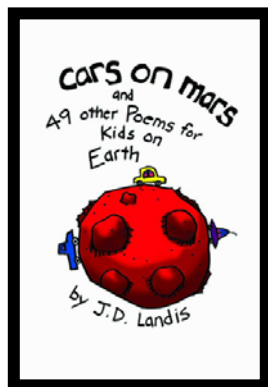
E.L. HAYNES HERALD

February 26, 2009

Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

We at E.L. Haynes are fortunate to have visitors come to the school regularly. People come for all different reasons. We have student visitors from Stone Ridge, Maret, and Sidwell Friends who come to volunteer with our classes by working alongside them and providing them mentorship. We have adult volunteers who share their expertise in chess and sports, help organize classrooms, and chaperone field work. We have teachers and other educators who peek into rooms to see how we do things, and in turn invite us to look into their schools to see how they approach learning.

Haynes staff recently had the opportunity to host US Senate staffers and Japanese professors from Okinawa who sat with our teachers and administrators to hear about our strategies to make sure that every student is ready and able to attend the college or university of their choice upon graduation. The common thread is that our visitors get a chance to see our students and educators in action and learn from us, and we get to do the same by talking to them. It's this sharing of ideas that continues to help our "community of learners" grow and improve our practice over time.



In addition, we have the pleasure of hosting practitioners in a range of fields who share with our students what their work is, and how they've gained their expertise. Next week the Haynes student body will have the chance to learn from two very special guests. The first is DC Poet Laureate Deloris Kendrick who joined us at our Grand Opening, has been a great friend to the school, and knew Dr. Haynes for many years. The second visitor is author J.D. Landis. Mr. Landis is widely known for his novels, but is also a very passionate writer of children's poetry including his latest work Cars on Mars and 49 Other Poems for Kids on Earth.

In a recent interview he shared, "It's very different from my other work and something that other serious novelists might not do because they are afraid they would look silly or couldn't do it well enough. With poetry, the language is of much greater importance..." He goes on to share that he and his own children have always joked around and enjoyed wordplay and plenty of laughter. Landis says that when he reads the poems, it's like he's taking kids out on a field trip. And because he writes rhyming poetry, when he stops in the middle of a stanza, the kids finish the lines. "It becomes a collaboration, almost like a poetry workshop."

Ms. Kendrick and Mr. Landis will talk to groups of students this coming Wednesday. We look forward to what their collaboration and creativity will stir in the minds of Haynes students after these very special guests have joined us and shared their stories.

Sincerely,

Michelle Molitor, Principal, Pre-K – 3rd Grades

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4th – 6th Grades

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

Quote of the Week

"Education is a social process. Education is growth. Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

~John Dewey

- ▶ **STOP, DROP, & ROLL:** Parents in an effort to improve our efficiency and safety during morning drop off, please obey the following procedures:

Drop Off Zone is from the corner of Georgia and Otis to the brick building behind the school on the right hand side of Otis Place.

1. Pull forward as far as possible on Otis Place (do not stop in front of the door).
2. Parents **Do Not** exit the vehicle.
3. Have children exit the vehicle on the passenger side, so they are not in the way of traffic passing down Otis Place.
4. Do not drop off your child(ren) from the passing lane on Otis Place. (The middle lane must be open to allow cars to pass)
5. Children should be ready to exit the vehicle after coming to a complete stop.
6. Please do not spark a conversation with other parents or staff in the **Drop Off Zone**.
7. Once your child exits the vehicle, please safely exit the **Drop Off Zone**. (No idling)
8. If you need to come in the building for any reason, you **MUST** park outside of the **Drop Off Zone**.
9. If you park across the street, please cross at the cross walk. (Please do not step into traffic on Otis Place.)

Drop Off Zone hours are 7:30AM – 3:15PM. Thanks

- ▶ **RE-ENROLLMENT:** Please complete the enclosed re-enrollment form for the 2009-2010 school year and return it to the main office no later than **Friday, March 6, 2009**. If you plan to apply for a sibling, not currently enrolled at E.L. Haynes, for the 2009-2010 school year an Application Form Admission must be completed and turned into the front office no later than March 31, 2009. Please direct any questions about re-enrollment to Ms. Griffin in the main office.
- ▶ **All School Meetings: Friday, February 27th – 9:00 to 9:30 AM.** This will be our **Culminating Event for Black History Month**. Each grade will have the opportunity to share what they learned. Parents are welcome to join us!
- ▶ **February Birthday Celebrations! Friday, February 27th** we are going to celebrate the birthdays of the month. Families are encouraged to join the festivities by contributing treats and/or attending the party. Please, contact your child's classroom teacher for more details.
- ▶ **Principal's Coffee: Thursday, March 12th – 8:15 to 9:00 AM** – Come and meet the Principals, Ms. Molitor and Mr. Westendorf, in an informal setting to discuss any questions or concerns that you might have.
- ▶ **Spring Intersession:** Spring Intersession is scheduled to begin on **Monday, March 16th and end on Friday, March 20th**. Packets will be given out on Monday during dismissal in the main lobby.
- ▶ **Charter School Performance Hearing: Thursday, March 5th** starts at 4:00 PM at the Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW – Room 500, the city council will hold a public charter school "performance oversight hearing". E.L.Haynes parents lets get organized and showed to the councilmember's that charter schools are working. Please contact Lisa Landmeier at (202) 332-8723 or lisa@landmeier.net if you are planning to attend. Please , find more information in the Thursday Express.
- ▶ **DC Charter Ambassador Network:** Friends of Choice for Urban Schools (FOCUS) and the DC Association of Chartered Public Schools have joined together to organize and mobilize DC residents, especially parents, who value and support public charter schools. The mission of DC Charter Ambassador Network (CAN) is to build awareness of and support for public charter schools as an education reform strategy for the District of Columbia. The DC Charter Ambassadors Network (CAN) is looking for a parent from E.L.Haynes to serve as **Parent Leader**. Please check the Thursday Express for information about how to apply for the position, the Parent Leader job description, and the \$1,250 stipend. If you have any questions, please contact Carmelita Naves at (202) 667-4446 or cnaves@elhaynes.org or contact FOCUS at (202) 387-0405.

- ▶ **2009 CSA Basketball League!** Let's keep supporting E.L.Haynes girls and boys basketball teams!

Games schedule:

- **Monday, 3/2** - E.L.Haynes vs. Friendship Edison – 4:30 PM(girls) and 5:30 PM (boys) at Friendship Edison – 645 Milwaukee Place, SE (Charter Sports Alliance)
 - **Thursday, 3/5** - E.L.Haynes vs. Riggs LaSalle (girls)– 6:00 PM at Trinidad Rec. – 1310 Childress Place, NE (DC Rec. League)
 - **Tuesday, 3/10** - E.L.Haynes vs. Marie Reed – 7:00 PM (boys) at Kennedy Rec. – 1401 7th Street, NW (DC Rec. League)
- ▶ **SAVE THE DATE! - 1st E.L. Haynes Yard/Bake Sale: Saturday, April 18th!** Please save your gently used clothes, books, toys, furniture and other items for the sale. If you have no items for the yard sale, consider donating baked goods to the bake sale! Find more information on how you can help in the Thursday Express! Contact ParrieHenderson-O'Keefe at 202-667-9087 or elodie0808@mac.com or Amy Tinto at amygeorgetinto@yahoo.com if you would like to help plan the sale or are available to volunteer.
 - ▶ **SAVE THE DATE! - Spring Picnic: Saturday, June 13th** - Planning has begun for an all-school picnic for the end of the year. Contact Badia Paniagua at badiapan@verizon.net or (202) 462-1408 to get involved.
 - ▶ **Raffle/Auction:** Parents, we need your help in soliciting prizes for our spring raffle! As in the past, the drawing will be held at the end of the year family picnic! If we secure a large number of prizes, we will also have a small silent auction at the family picnic. Contact Keely at 202-667-4446 or kflaherty@elhaynes.org if you would like to donate a prize or get more information about soliciting prizes. We have created a request letter that you can take with you when soliciting prizes.

Counselors Corner
Ms. Teri

Talking to our children about the death of a friend or a loved on can be very concerning for a parent or caretaker. At times parents speak to being awkward and not knowing what words to use to explain death. In addition the discussion of death and dying is one that as a parent we will have to discuss with our children at some point. Whether it is in the form of the death of a family pet or a favorite plant loss and change are part of our lives.

If you are feeling unable to talk with you child about death, find someone you trust to do so. Your child may have questions for you about what happened, what it means and what will happen to them. Try to reassure and answer each question as it is asked. Explain death in basic terms. Be honest. Remember a child’s attention span is short. He or she may be crying one moment and then running outside and playing the next. It is *normal* for children to play even when they have difficult emotions. Like adults, children grieve differently. They often do not have the words to explain their feelings. Your child’s response to this death may depend upon their age. What small children need may be different than what an adolescent needs. But, all children need to be included, as much as they desire, in the family’s activities during the memorial or funeral services.

When talking to a young child we encourage you to explain death as honestly as possible to avoid future confusion and pain. Here are some ideas:

- ▶ Died means the person is not alive anymore. Their body has stopped working.
- ▶ Died means they cannot talk, breath, walk, move, eat or do any of the things that they could when they were alive
- ▶ Discuss your own beliefs and spirituality with the child. You can also share your beliefs in an afterlife – if you believe in one.
- ▶ Remembering is important for children. It may be helpful to share memories and talk about the person who died.

(Excerpt taken from website www.thewendtcenter.org)

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

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|----|----|---|----|--|--|----|
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 Thursday Express Newsletter for grades 3 - 6 | 06 | 07 |
| 08 | 09 | 10 Principal’s Coffee 8:15 – 9:00 AM | 11 | 12 Thursday Express Newsletter for grades PK – 2 | 13 All School Meeting 9:00 – 9:30 AM Class Birthday Celebration | 14 |

OUR MISSION

Every E.L. Haynes student – regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or home language – will reach high levels of academic achievement and be prepared to succeed at the college of his or her choice. E.L. Haynes students will be instilled with a deep appreciation for mathematics and science and will develop lifelong skills needed to be successful individuals, active community members and responsible citizens.

BE KIND | WORK HARD | GET SMART