



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

February 26, 2009

**E.L. HAYNES**

3600 Georgia Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20010

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

Believe it not, Spring Intersession and break are fast approaching us (March 16-27). Please encourage your child to read a lot during those weeks. We want every student to help us reach our 5 million minute goal, but more importantly, we want every student to be ready by June for the next grade level. The best preparation – reading, reading, reading.

We need your help to make sure this happens. Here are some tips for helping your child.

1. Make sure your child reads a total of at least **30 minutes** every night (in the higher grades it may be more). This can include reading together for younger students, or letting them tell you the story using pictures.
2. Check in with your child for 5-10 minutes **every** evening
  - a. Listen to your child read 2 pages out loud to you “like a storyteller” (pay attention to pace & expression)
  - b. Ask 3-4 questions about those pages (Who is telling the story?, What kind of person is the main character?, How do you know?, What’s the problem the character faces?, etc).
  - c. Initial the last column on your child’s reading log after this 5-10 min check-in (& s/he gets double min!)

Thank you so much for the commitment you have already made and continue to make to your child’s growth this year. Working together at school and home, we will make sure that each of our young readers has the skills and character s/he needs to be successful.

On a different note, thanks to everyone who attended our *All School Meeting* last Friday. In celebration of Black History Month our students performed a handful of songs and dances, including: *Choo Choo Ch’Boogie* (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Alvin Ailey’s *Revelations* (5<sup>th</sup> grade), Bill Wither’s *Lean on Me* (ELH Choir), Billy Holiday’s *God Bless the Child* (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Ben E. King’s *Stand By Me* (6<sup>th</sup> Grade), and a special Tera Ti Bu presentation (4-6<sup>th</sup> graders). A big shout out goes to our specials teachers for preparing the students for the performances!

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

Michelle Molitor, Principal, Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

# NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

## Quote of the Week

*“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”*

~ Joseph Addison ~

- ▶ **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 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.
- ▶ **Principal's Coffee**: Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – 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.
- ▶ **All School Meetings**: Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 to 9:30 AM. Parents are welcome to join us!
- ▶ **Birthday Celebrations!** Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 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.
- ▶ **Spring Intersession Packets are out!** Intersession will begin on **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and end on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**. Registration packets should be turned into the main office by Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Forms for students received after the 6<sup>th</sup> will be placed in classes that have available spaces.
- ▶ **2009 CSA Basketball League!** Let's keep supporting E.L.Haynes girls and boys basketball teams!  
**Games schedule**: Tuesday, 3/10 - E.L.Haynes vs. Marie Reed – 7:00 PM (boys) at Kennedy Rec. – 1401 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (DC Rec. League)
- ▶ **SAVE THE DATE! - 1<sup>st</sup> E.L. Haynes Yard/Bake Sale: Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>!** 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 inside of the Thursday Express a sign-up sheet of items to donate to the yard sale. Return it to Carmelita Naves in the front office. If you would like to help plan the sale or volunteer in the event contact ParrieHenderson-O'Keefe at 202-667-9087 or [elodie0808@mac.com](mailto:elodie0808@mac.com) or Amy Tinto at [amygeorgetinto@yahoo.com](mailto:amygeorgetinto@yahoo.com).
- ▶ **SAVE THE DATE! - Spring Picnic: Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>** - Planning has begun for an all-school picnic for the end of the year. Contact Badia Paniagua at [badiapan@verizon.net](mailto:badiapan@verizon.net) or (202) 462-1408 to get involved.
- ▶ **Raffle/Auction**: Parents, we need your help in soliciting prizes for our spring raffle! Contact Keely at 202-667-4446 or [kflaherty@elhaynes.org](mailto: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**

There are times when students come into my office and are overwhelmed with sadness. Sometimes their sadness is a result of overwhelming academic and social demands and some times it's about family issues. However, there are times when their sadness apparently has no identifiable stress or concern. I encourage parents to talk and share and open the lines of communication with their children. All children "feel blue" from time to time, have a bad day or are sad. However, when these feelings persist and begin to interfere with a child's daily life, depression could be the cause. It is important to understand that depression is not a personal weakness, a character flaw or a mood that a child can simply "snap out of." Depression is different from feelings of grief or sorrow that follow a major loss, such as a death in the family. It is a common mental health problem that affects people of all ages, including children. In fact, according to the Center for Mental Health Services, as many as 1 in 33 children and 1 in 8 teens have depression. Fortunately, depression is very treatable.

What can parents do if they suspect their child may have depression?

- Talk to your child about how he or she is feeling.
- Educate yourself about depression. The more you know the better position you are in to help your child.
- Know the signs of depression, and note the duration, frequency and severity of troubling behavior.
- If your child is struggling with any combination of the signs of depression for more than two weeks in different settings (e.g., at home, at school, on the playground), consult a mental health professional or pediatrician.
- Discuss all available treatment options with your child's doctor, and carefully weigh all the risks and benefits associated with each treatment. A comprehensive treatment plan may include psychotherapy, ongoing evaluation and, in some cases, medication. You and your child, if possible, should fully participate in the development of a treatment plan.
- Talk to other families in your community or find a family network organization to help you better understand how depression can affect your child and your entire family.
- Know that treatment works and that your child will get better.

*(excerpt taken from [www.nmba.org](http://www.nmba.org))* If you or someone you know is in crisis now, seek help immediately. Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach a 24 hour crisis center or dial 911 for immediate assistance.

**TWO-WEEK CALENDAR**

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
15	16 SPRING  INTERSESSION	17 SPRING  INTERSESSION	18 SPRING  INTERSESSION	19 SPRING  INTERSESSION	20 SPRING  INTERSESSION	21

**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**