



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

April 15, 2010

E.L. HAYNES

3600 Georgia Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20010

(202) 667-4446 phone

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

It's time for the big dance! Between April 20th (next Tuesday) and April 30th students in grades three through seven will participate in the District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessments System, or DCCAS. The DCCAS measures our students' achievement in reading and math.

Our students are poised to do an exceptional job. You can help us by encouraging your student to take his/her time and do his/her very best. Most importantly, we ask that you make sure your student arrives at school **on time, well rested and well fed.** Please also note that in most testing grades there will be a moderate level of homework given during the testing weeks. Thank you.

We recently heard some exciting news. E.L. Haynes has won a silver EPIC award for the 3rd year in a row! We are one of 22 charter schools from across the country recognized for significant student achievement gains in the 2008-2009 school year. In addition, we are only one of four schools in the nation to win the award three years in a row!!!

I am also thrilled to share some individual accolades. Both Lindy Russell-Heymann, our art teacher, and Premila Mistry, our music teacher, were recently named finalists for the Mayor's Art Award! Meanwhile, our 5th grade math/science and literacy teachers, Nate Franz and Brigham Kiplinger, were named finalists for the Meyer Foundation Teacher Award and Nate Franz was named DC Charter School Teacher of the Year! One final piece of good news – our own Jennie Niles was recently named an Aspen Institute-NewSchools Fellow for Entrepreneurial Leadership in Public Education.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf, Principal

Michelle Molitor, Principal Pre-K – 3

Sun 18	Mon 19	Tues 20 DCCAS Testing Gr 3-5	Wed 21 DCCAS Testing Gr 3-5	Thurs 22 DCCAS Testing Gr 3-5 SPT Meeting 6:15-7:30	Fri 23 DCCAS Testing Gr 3-5 and 7	Sat 24
Sun 25	Mon 26 DCCAS Testing Gr 4-7	Tues 27 DCCAS Testing Gr 5-7	Wed 28 DCCAS Testing Gr 6-7	Thurs 29 DCCAS Testing Gr 6-7	Fri 30 DCCAS Testing Gr 6-7	Sat 1

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder! The DCCAS will be given to students April 19-April 30th. Please make sure your students are here each day, on time, well fed and well-rested, especially during this period of time!

Yard & Bake Sale: The Yard & Bake Sale is **THIS SATURDAY**, April 17 from 10am – 2pm in the E.L. Haynes parking garage. Donate gently used books, clothes, household items, toys, and baby items to the sale. Bring Yard Sale items to donate to the school on Friday, April 16 after 5pm. Bring Bake Sale donations on the morning of April 17 before 10am. If you have questions about what donations will be accepted, please contact Keely Flaherty at kflaherty@elhaynes.org or 202-667-4446.

We need volunteers to help with sorting items as they arrive on Friday, April 16 from 5-9pm and volunteers to help with the sale on Saturday, April 17 from 8am – 3pm. And we encourage all families to come shop at the sale on Saturday!



Family Picnic Details: Mark your calendars! E.L. Haynes will hold our Annual Family Picnic on Saturday, June 5 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm at Raymond Recreation Center. The event will be a potluck for all families and staff and include activities for students, the raffle drawing, and a silent auction. If you are interested in helping plan the event or able to volunteer on the day of the event, please contact Keely at kflaherty@elhaynes.org or 202-667-4446

School Parent Team Meeting: This month's meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22nd at 6:15pm on "An Update on our Kansas Avenue Transition". If you have other issues that you would like to have addressed at our SPT meetings, please contact Beth Hood at bhood@elhaynes.org or at 667-4446.

An Update on our Kansas Avenue Transition-Spanish Edition: For our Spanish speaking parents, we are holding a special meeting in Spanish from 5:30-6:00pm to review the transition at Kansas Ave. Please come and find out about our exciting plans!

Financial Literacy Individual Sessions: If you are interested in meeting individually with one of the financial counselors on creating a budget, managing credit/debt, and plan for the future who provided the workshops, please contact Beth Hood at 202-667-4446, ext. 3207 or bhood@elhaynes.org.

ELH Basketball Team News: Both 3rd-4th, and 5th-7th grade teams were victorious last Friday against Howard Rd. Academy PCS. This Thursday, we'll host a home game against Truesdale ES at 4:30pm. Come out and support our teams!

Food Stamps/Medicaid Applications: If you would like guidance in filling out the Food Stamps/Medicaid/Public Assistance applications, please stop by Ms. Hood's office, located in the main office or call her at 667-4446, ext. 3207 to set up an appointment.

Community News:

Parkview Rec Center's FUN Saturdays: Every Saturday, from 11:30-4pm, Parkview Rec. Center has arts, sports, and music activities for kids ages 3-14! See the Flyer in your child's folder for details.

Keeping Your Home Lead Free: The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Residential and Community Services Division, will host "The ABC's of the Lead Safe Washington Program" on Tuesday, April 12 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at 1800 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, Southeast (Corner Entrance, 1st Floor Conference Room).

Seminar topics will include:

- Ways to reduce or eliminate lead-based paint hazards
- Protecting the health of your family
- Basic facts you should know about lead hazards

- How to qualify for a Lead Grant
- The Law
- Lead ABC's

It is still not too late to register. **Walk-ins are always welcome.** Contact Pamela.hillsman@dc.gov or phone (202) 442-7271 for further information.

Saturdays from April 3rd – May 29th from 10-11:30am: Capoeira Children's Class

Come join us for a fun eight week introductory class designed especially for children ages 5 to 11. Parents are encouraged to take classes as well. Capoeira Angola helps stimulate hand-eye coordination, musicality, socialization, discipline, autonomy, and curiosity in relation to other cultures. All children will learn about the history of Capoeira Angola, the movements and music related to this Afro Brazilian Martial Art/Tradition and some Portuguese language. Classes will be held in a fun and safe environment. At the end of the section (February 27) we will have a performance for all parents, friends and family.
Cost: \$50 for entire session or \$10 per class

Counselors Corner -----Ms. Teri

Often students who are overwhelmed with anxiety don't necessarily language their thoughts and feelings and often suffer silently. I encourage parents to open the lines of communication with their children about their worries and concerns. I encourage the use of strategies such as parent child communication, guided imagery to self calm and as a parent becoming increasingly aware of how responses to our children fears and anxiety support their social emotional development or may be interfering with normative social emotional progress.

Parenting Your Anxious Child

Helping your child handle his own feelings

It is okay to let your child experience some anxiety. Your child needs to know that anxiety is not dangerous but something your child can cope with. You can let your child know all feelings are okay and it is all right to say what you feel. Anxious children sometimes have a hard time expressing strong emotions like anger or sadness because they are afraid people will be angry with them. It's okay to take time for yourself even if your child wants to be with you at all times. You are modeling for your child that everyone needs some time to themselves.

Passing on your fears

Try to keep your fears to yourself and as best you can present a positive or at least neutral description of a situation. Let them know that it is safe to explore. It is not helpful to laugh or minimize your child's fear. But humor does help one deal with the world, so show your child how to laugh at life's absurdities and mistakes.

Working together as parents

It is important to work with your spouse to have an agreed upon way of handling your child's anxiety that you both feel comfortable with. It is very important that one parent not be "too easy" because the other parent "pushes your child too much." This is very confusing for your child who does not know what to count on.

Consequences

Don't confuse anxiety with other types of inappropriate behavior. It is very important to set both expectations and have limits and consequences for inappropriate behavior. Parents who have reasonable expectations of their children and clear and consistent limits and consequences for behavior along with love and acceptance have the most competent, self confident and happy children.

Brought to you by The Children's Center for OCD and Anxiety.