



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

April 22, 2010

## E.L. HAYNES

3600 Georgia Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20010

(202) 667-4446 phone

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

This coming school year, grades pre-kindergarten through 2 will attend school at our **new campus!** We are very excited to continue to provide a top-notch early childhood program for your children in our new space. Just a mere 0.7 miles north of our current Georgia Avenue Campus, E.L. Haynes' Kansas Avenue Campus is located at **4501 Kansas Avenue, NW** and has approximately **50,000 square feet** of space. Some of the many exciting aspects of our new facility are large light-filled classrooms equipped to deliver outstanding instruction, a Family Resource Center, many small group spaces, two playgrounds, and an adjoining Specials and Year Round Programs wing of the building—there is even a stage for student performances!

**Construction has already begun!** The work will have three main stages. The first stage — which will allow us to start school right on time on August 2, 2010 — will have two parts; stage 1A and stage 1B. Stage 1A will include having all three floors of the main building completed and ready for students by this August, including classroom renovations and temporary arts classrooms on the third floor. In stage 1B, we will renovate the Arts and Year Round Programs wing of the building, which is estimated to be completed by the start of the second quarter of the 2010-2011 school year. In stage 2, we will finish the High School facilities, which are separate from the Early Childhood areas, and in stage 3, we will complete the fields and other necessary landscaping.

**Our Kansas Avenue Parent Survey is online and available for your participation if you have a student attending school at the Kansas Avenue Campus for the 2010-2011 school year.** We know that moves and changes are never easy, and want to be supportive of all of our families. We would love your input to make sure we are meeting your needs as best as possible. Please participate and share your thoughts and ideas! [www.surveymonkey.com/KansasAvenueParentSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/KansasAvenueParentSurvey) or [www.surveymonkey.com/KansasAvenueParentSurveySPANISH](http://www.surveymonkey.com/KansasAvenueParentSurveySPANISH)

Finally, there will be an update on how the construction is going, along with info on the parent survey, followed by committee work at **tonight's SPT meeting**. The meeting will run from 6:15-7:15 and the committees meeting will focus on the end of the year picnic (*interested in helping plan the event, have been a part of the Kansas Avenue Committee working on this event, or are able to volunteer on the day of the event, please contact Keely at [kjflaberty@elhaynes.org](mailto:kjflaberty@elhaynes.org) or 202 667-4446*), the Parade to Kansas Avenue student event, the E.L. Haynes Community Garden, and parent involvement. We want you to share your ideas, so please feel free to e-mail or call Ms. Molitor at [mmolitor@elhaynes.org](mailto:mmolitor@elhaynes.org) or (202) 667-4446. Please get involved!

Sincerely,

Michelle M. Molitor

Principal, Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

Eric Westendorf

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

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
Sun 2	Mon 3	Tues 4	Wed 5	Thurs 6	Fri 7	Sat 8

# NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

**SAVE THE DATE!! END OF YEAR PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS, BUT PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILD(REN) TO THEIR CONFERENCE!**

**Beating the DCCAS:** You may hear your student talk about being “trained” and doing their best to beat the test! Next week will be the second and final week of the DCCAS and we’re excited for our students to do their very best. Please make sure your students are here each day, on time, well fed and well-rested.

**Middle States Accreditation:** Ms. Niles would like to share the accreditation self study with parents and get input and comments on the draft on Thursday, April 29 from 6 – 7 PM in the school cafeteria. A draft of the self study will be available from Ms. Niles by Tuesday, April 27, for any parents who would like to read it ahead of time. For parents who won’t have time to read it beforehand, don’t worry - Ms. Niles will ask for specific input at the meeting so that your insights can be helpful. Childcare and interpretation services will be provided. The team from Middle States Accreditation will be visiting the school from May 24 – 27 for their review.

**School Parent Team Meeting:** This month’s meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and will the discussion will be focused 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](mailto:bhood@elhaynes.org) or at 667-4446.

**Yard & Bake Sale:** Thank you to all the parents who volunteered or donated items to make this year’s Yard and Bake Sale a success! The event raised almost \$2,000 to support the school!

**Early Childhood Campus Survey:** Please stop by the front office or go on our website to fill out our survey. We’re looking for your input as we plan our programming.

**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](mailto:kflaherty@elhaynes.org) or 202-667-4446

**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 Activities:**

**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! For more information, contact Katy Delaney at 434-227-9599.

**The DC Jazz Festival:** is just around the corner. Register now for one of two fantastic concerts just for DC Public School students at THEARC or the Atlas Performing Arts Centers . See the flyer in the Thursday Express for more details.

**Maryland Day:** The University of Maryland campus is open from 10am-4pm Saturday for families with free fun events, games, demonstrations, music, arts, and sports activities. For more information go to: [www.marylandday.umd.edu](http://www.marylandday.umd.edu)

**Higher Achievement Program:** Higher Achievement’s rigorous after-school and summer academic program gives youth from at-risk communities their best opportunity to succeed in middle school—and in life. Our research-based program challenges motivated middle school students to meet their full potential in

three key areas: academics, social skills, and leadership. With small group instruction, mentoring, high school admission support, field trips, workshops and university visits.

Higher Achievement is currently recruiting for its next class of Scholars, looking for highly motivated 4th and 5th grade students. Achievement Centers are located in Wards 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, and Alexandria. For more information or to apply, please visit [www.higherachievement.org](http://www.higherachievement.org). The deadline for applications is May 14th, 2010. Please contact Abigail Cohen at 202-375-7715 or [acohen@higherachievement.org](mailto:acohen@higherachievement.org) with any questions.

**The ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp:** (BHSSC) is a free, academic program of The Harris Foundation, which takes an active role in shaping education in students entering grade 6,7, or 8 in the fall of 2010. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are critical to society's infrastructure for the 21st century and preserving that future requires an investment, such as the BHSSC, in our youth today. This camp program was originally developed as a collaborative effort of the Harris Foundation, the Houston Independent School District, the University of Houston (UH) and the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), designed to support historically underserved and underrepresented students with limited opportunities. These camps are located at universities across the country, the closest being in Delaware. Want to know more? Go to: [ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp Sites](#). Or email us for more information at [info@theharrisfoundation.org](mailto:info@theharrisfoundation.org).

**Ms. Teri**

**Counselor's Corner**

There are times when our parents have complained of the challenges in organizing themselves and their children in the morning. Often the most minor task becomes huge and intense which then establishes this negative parent child exchange. As parents become increasing organized and maintain a degree of predictability and structure parent child relationships is greatly enhanced. However, parents benefit from tools to establish morning routines that are effective and helpful in preparing our children for a day of learning.

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### **Making Your Morning Routines Manageable**

Getting out of the house on time with children dressed, teeth brushed, tummies filled and backpacks in hand can be challenging. Getting out the door without nagging, yelling and racing may seem impossible. You can create an environment that teaches your child to take responsibility for his/her morning routine. And, have more pleasant interactions with your child each morning. Doing so will help your child feel more successful and better about him/herself. And your relationship with your child will also likely benefit from a smoother morning routine.

Getting through the morning routine can become relatively stress free if you follow some simple steps on a daily basis. I didn't say it would be easy. Old patterns are hard to break. You and your child have a history with morning routines that will need to be overcome. With time, effort and patience smoother, happier mornings are possible.

A key is to allow the strategy described below to work. That is, the child is responsible for doing his/her morning tasks. If you take responsibility by reminding, doing for, helping (when help isn't required) your child will likely let you keep reminding, doing and helping him/her. Such a pattern actually teaches your child he/she doesn't have to keep track or do his/her morning routine on his/her own. This plan is about teaching your child to take care of his/her morning routine as independently as possible. Here is one way to make your mornings more manageable and enjoyable.

1. Decide what time you need to walk out the door to be to school on time.
2. Think about all the things your child needs to do from the time he/she awakes until it is time to walk out the door. Think carefully about how much time is needed to complete the tasks and ensure you and your child have enough time to get everything done.

3. Make a list of the things that need to be done in the order they are to be completed. For young children drawings or pictures maybe helpful on the list.
  - Get dressed
  - Brush hair
  - Eat breakfast
  - Take medicine
  - Brush teeth
  - Put coat and backpack next to the door
4. Identify with your child a preferred activity he/she would enjoy doing after the rest of the list is completed when he/she has at least 5 minutes of time to spare before it is time to leave. This activity must be approved by you. Some ideas include: watch TV, play a video game, play with the dog, read, listen to music, play piano, get on the computer, etc. Place this activity at the bottom of the list.

Planning and patience are key. If you give this strategy a try and it doesn't seem to be working, make sure enough time is allowed for everything to be done, praise is readily being given and access to the fun activity is available after everything else is done. And remember, change takes time.

(Excerpt taken from parenting org)