



E.L. HAYNES

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PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

April 30, 2009

Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

First of all, thank you for all your support (encouragement, participation in All School Meeting, snacks, etc) during these two weeks of testing. Our third through sixth grade students have been upbeat and focused throughout the two weeks. Even our younger students got into the action. Many of the PK-1st grade classes brought "Turtle Power: Slow and Steady" cards and posters to the older students to show their solidarity.

Second, we wanted to remind you that you should receive third quarter progress reports in the mail this week. We encourage you to have a conversation with your student(s) about his/her progress. Also, please feel free to contact your student's teacher directly with any questions about how to interpret their report, or with any follow-up questions.

Third, we want to assure you that we are actively monitoring the swine influenza situation to ensure the safety of our children and the community. As you have heard on the news, human cases of swine influenza ("swine flu") have been identified in the U.S. and abroad over the past few days. Fortunately, as of this morning there are no cases of swine flu in Washington, DC.

According to health officials, the symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of seasonal influenza. Symptoms include: fever plus a cough or sore throat and possibly runny nose, congestion, headache, chills, and/or fatigue. Younger children may develop vomiting and diarrhea. Individuals with symptoms of swine flu are contagious for up to seven days after becoming ill, or longer if they remain symptomatic.

It is important for you and your children to stay home if you develop these symptoms so that you recover and prevent the spread of the illness. It's also a good idea to call your child's doctor in case the doctor wants to do a test or suggest a treatment.

There are other simple but important steps you can take to keep your family healthy. These include:

- ▶ Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water
- ▶ Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth to prevent the spread of germs
- ▶ Avoid close contact with those who have symptoms of flu
- ▶ Stay home when you are sick

The scope of the swine flu illness is changing rapidly and we will keep you posted as we learn more. For more information you can visit the following sites:

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm and

<http://www.itsasnap.org/snap/about.asp>.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4th – 6th Grades

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

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

Quote of the Week

"Anything that has real and lasting value is always a gift from within." Franz Kafka (1883 - 1924)

- ▶ **Re-Enrollment Information:** Phase I of the enrollment documentation for the 2009-2010 school year is enclosed in this week's Thursday Express. To secure your child's enrollment at E.L. Haynes for the 2009-2010 school year all forms must be complete and returned to the front office no later than Friday June 12, 2009. Additional packets are located in the Front Office if you did not receive the packet for any reason. The only exceptions to the June 12, 2009 deadline are health and dental forms. If your child's health and dental forms are current (no more than one year old) you do not have to turn in physical forms by June 12, 2009. If your child's health and dental forms are not current you must turn in current health and dental forms by June 12, 2009. Included in the packet is the date of your child's most recent health and dental physical on file. Also please keep in mind, if your child's immunization expires after June 12th you must turn in a current health and/or dental physical forms before they return to school on August 3, 2009.
- ▶ **Health Physicals, Dental Physicals, and Immunizations:** This year we have been audited by the DC Department of Health. Each child is required to have a yearly health physical, yearly dental physical, and up to date immunization records before enrolling in a public school. We continue to struggle with this requirement and do not have current (year to date) physical for all students and/or immunizations records. It's important to note the difference between a physical and immunizations. Your child may not need to be immunized (receive medication to fight diseases) yearly; however the child must receive a yearly health and dental physical. Currently we are 96% compliant with immunizations and we are required to be at least 98% compliant by the Department Of Health.

It is extremely important for you to respond immediately to request for health information. This is a matter of public health and compliance. Students will not be allowed to enroll for the 2009-2010 school year if their health records are not up to date. Find inside of the Thursday Express information about Health Clinics and Immunization Clinics.

- ▶ **Haynes Herald by email:** E.L. Haynes has begun emailing electronic copies of the Haynes Herald to families who expressed interest in receiving email copies. If you would like to receive the Haynes Herald by email, please contact Carmelita at cnaves@elhaynes.org and give her your name and email address. Please remember that reading the email Haynes Herald does not release you from having to open, read, and sign the weekly Thursday Express. The Thursday Express includes many important communications from your child's classroom and from the school that are not included in the email version.
- ▶ **Earth Day Celebration!** E.L. Haynes will teach students about the importance of Earth Day this year. Unfortunately, Earth Day falls during the DCCAS. Classrooms honored the day in small ways throughout Wednesday. However, the whole school recognition of Earth Day will be put off until after testing, on Tuesday, May 5th. Classrooms will do service and fieldwork related to their expedition and in support of a clean, green environment.
- ▶ **The 5 Million Minute Mountain:** Keep encouraging your student to read and log it. If each class log at least 10,000 minutes per week we are going to make it to the summit! Then, it's DANCE PARTY time!!
- ▶ **Attention Parents! Loudspeaker Films** is looking for parents to make and submit home videos of themselves expressing their views about the public school system and considering the question, "Do you have to be rich to get a good education in America?" Clips from these videos might be used in a new documentary film being made about public schools. The film looks especially at inner-city schools and asks if the students in these schools are getting as good of an education as students in wealthier, more suburban areas. It investigates the achievement gap between minority and white students, and ponders to what degree teacher quality and expectations explain it. Find inside of the Thursday Express a helpful list of questions - **DEADLINE FOR VIDEO SUBMISSIONS IS MAY 5, 2009.** We are also accepting videos from **students** and **teachers** talking about their views and schools--the deadline for those videos is also May 5. You can learn more about the film (working title "Teached") at www.loudspeakerfilms.com.
- ▶ **Save the date!** May is "Asian/Pacific Heritage Month". On May 28th we are going to have our "Asian/Pacific Heritage Day". More details on the coming weeks.

- ▶ **Choir to Sing on Capitol Hill:** On Tuesday May 5th the Choir will be singing on Capitol Hill for a reception hosted by the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools.
- ▶ **Grupo Folkloric of E.L.Haynes:** On April 25th, the “Grupo Folkloric of E.L.Haynes” (4th,5th and 6th grades) participated at the “International Children Festival” at the Mary Center as part of the “Fiesta DC” events. Mrs. Niles and Mr. Westendorf went to support the students. They were super! Congratulations!
- ▶ **DC Neighborhood Pace Car:** E.L.Haynes has been chosen to participate in the **DC Neighborhood Pace Car Program**, a traffic safety initiative which works in conjunction with the **Safe Routes to School Program**. The **Pace Car Program** is a very easy and good-natured appeal to motorists to take pride in their community by driving within the posted speed limit on all city streets - *especially in neighborhoods and near schools*. Look inside of the Thursday Express for more information.
- ▶ **Girls on the Run:** Many of our 3rd graders have been working hard this spring in Girls on the Run (GOTR), a self-esteem and healthy living program. We have been training for the end of season 5K run. The run is for all 38 DC GOTR teams and they expect around 1,000 runners! You can support our girls as they work towards their goal by signing up to run with us (or just come to cheer) in the 5K on May 10. (Yes, this is Mother’s Day, but the run starts at 8 and should be done by 9). It is \$25 dollars to register and you will get a t-shirt. All proceeds go to providing scholarships so that all girls can participate in the program. For more information and registration forms contact Alyssa Van Duyn at aveselick@elhaynes.org or (202) 667-4446.
- ▶ **Girls softball team:** We need softball equipment for our girls softball team. We are looking for any softball equipment you might have: gloves, helmets, bats, balls, bases, catcher’s equipment, etc. Please drop your donations off to room 210. Thanks for your support!!
- ▶ **E.L. Haynes Raffle and Silent Auction:** Thank you to all the parents who have solicited or donated prizes for our raffle and silent auction! We cannot accept any more prizes for the raffle, but there is still time to solicit or donate prizes for the silent auction. If you still plan on soliciting or donating prizes for the silent auction please contact Keely Flaherty as soon as possible to ensure that all prizes are collected and advertised in time for the auction. We have great raffle prizes this year! This year’s prizes will be
 - 4 premier tickets to two Washington Nationals Baseball Games
 - \$200 gift certificate to BLT Steak
 - Apple iPod nano 8GB
 - 2 tickets to the Shakespeare Theatre Company production of *Design for Living*
 - Dinner or brunch for four at Hank’s Oyster Bar
 - Private yoga session with Beth Lawrence
 Tickets will be sent home with students in May to be sold at \$1 each. More details will be available in May. Contact Keely Flaherty with any questions.
- ▶ **Sidewalk Safety:** The garage door entrance to the parking lot on Georgia Avenue is now the main point of entry to the lot for our staff. Please keep this in mind when walking across the entrance on the sidewalk and use caution, just as you would when crossing the entrance to an alley way. The staff has been informed to enter and exit the lot with extreme caution; however your assistance is needed as well. Again, please advise children to use caution and look before crossing in front of the garage door. Thank you for your help.
- ▶ **Planning for Summer 2009:** Have you made plans for this summer? As you know, from **June 22nd to July 17th** E. L. Haynes will offer **Summer Intersession**. The last 2 weeks of July, **July 20th to July 31st** **E.L.Haynes will be close for students**. The **2009-2010 school’s year will start on Monday, August 3rd**.The intersession packages will be available to all families by June 4th.

Counselors Corner

Ms. Teri

As I meet with students about sharing their experiences openly with varied adults in their lives, I am also confronted with questions about the advantages versus the disadvantages of sharing their concerns and worries. We encourage our children to share and talk to adults they trust to keep themselves and others safe in our community. Often time students make alarming statement as a way of asking for help.

He was saying 'I'm gonna kill people,' everyone took it as a joke. I can't say that I would take it any differently."

– Joanna, 15, talking about the school shooting in Santee, California

A student who seems strange, a comment that sounds frightening ... how can students tell who's serious and who isn't, what's a joke and what's a real threat?

The problem is students say those kinds of 'jokes' are made all the time.

"I've had friends who were just like, 'man I just want to kill that teacher' or 'I just hate it here and want to blow up the school,'" says Tara-Lynn, a high school junior, "I've probably said things like that myself."

"I mean I hear people say that all the time. I don't take it seriously," adds Joanna, a freshman.

When *should* students take it seriously? They're in a bind. If they tell on someone, they're called a rat or a snitch. If they don't tell, someone could die or be injured. Always in the back of their mind, what if they tell on someone... and they're wrong?

"How do you know you're not gonna just end up crying 'wolf' all the time, every time a kid makes a threat," says Cliff, a junior.

How should kids evaluate a threat? Experts say first, kids should follow their instincts. If something another student says doesn't feel right, even just a little bit, it probably isn't.

"Either afraid, or guilty, or this is just going against my values, it doesn't feel right," says psychologist Dr. Wendy Blumenthal.

Then find an adult you trust. Someone you can trust to protect your anonymity. Someone you can trust not to panic when you tell them you're worried.

Maybe that's your parents, but it could also be a school counselor, a minister from your church or a coach.

Because if a disaster happens and you stay silent about what you heard, just think how that would make you feel.

"Because if we take everything for granted," says Crystal, a junior, "this (the school shooting in California) is what can happen."

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

3	4 PEP I class 6:00 – 8:00 PM	5 Choir Singing on Capitol Hill	6	7 Parents Group "Parents Guide to Second Step" (Spanish) 6:00 – 7:30 PM	8	9
10	11 PEP I class 6:00 – 8:00 PM	12	13	14 Parents Group "Parents Guide to Second Step" (Spanish) 6:00 – 7:30 PM	15	16

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.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

WHAT: Advocates for Justice and Education - Parent Leadership Institute

WHEN: Saturday, May 9 and Saturday, May 16, 2009; 9:00am-3:00pm

WHERE: 4201 Georgia Avenue NW, WDC

DETAILS: For parents or family members of a child with special needs.

CONTACT: For more information contact, Aj Dhali (202) 678-8060 x15

WHAT: Round House Theatre's Summer Program Open House

WHEN: Tuesday, May 12, 2009; 6:30pm-7:30pm or Saturday, May 16, 2009; 10:00am-11:00am

WHERE: 925 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

DETAILS: Education staff members will be present to speak about program options. Students in grades K-4 and 5-7 can take sample classes (advance registration required).

CONTACT: For more information call 301-585-1225 or visit www.roundhousetheatre.org.

WHAT: Girl Scout Leadership Conference

WHEN: 1:00pm Saturday, May 16, 2009 – 8:00am Sunday, May 17, 2009

WHERE: Howard University, WDC

DEADLINE: First-come first served

DETAILS: A convening of youth leaders designed to inspire teen girls to recognize their own abilities and become active in their schools and in their communities. The overnight program is being provided at **no cost** to the participants and will include interesting activities, exciting workshops, college preparation activities, and influential guest.

CONTACT: The Conference is limited to 200 participants from the District of Columbia so to secure spaces for your students contact Aisha Williams at 202-237-1670 ext 244 or email awilliams@gscnc.org to obtain an application.

WHAT: Camp Shakespeare

WHEN: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 – Sunday, August 16, 2009

WHERE: The Shakespeare Theatre Company Rehearsal Studios Sidney Harman Hall and Montgomery Community College in Silver Spring

DETAILS: Cost is \$675/session. Limited Scholarships are available. During the two-week day camp, young people ages 9–18 will investigate the artistry and process of classic theatre in performance under the guidance of Shakespeare Theatre Company Teaching Artists. Students will analyze and interpret Shakespeare's texts, create several characters with their bodies, voices, and imaginations, and explore the art of unarmed stage combat. Camp will culminate with a performance for friends and family.

CONTACT: Kate Kirby, 202-547-5688 to register or go to www.shakespearetheatre.org for more information.

WHAT: Sugarfoots Performing Arts Camp

WHEN: June 22, 2009 – August 14, 2009

WHERE: 409 Rittenhouse Street NW, WDC 20011

DETAILS: Sugarfoots the renowned multi-cultural rag dolls designed in the three complexion shades of Cocoa, Ginger and Cinnamon; featured in *Essence Magazine*, *the Washington Post*, *NBC Affiliate WRC News Channel 4 – Liz Crenshaw's Hot Holiday Picks*, debuts its Performing Arts Summer Camp and the dolls are coming to life! The camp productions are adapted from *Sugarfoots*, Sugarfoots children's book series, featuring folktales with a fresh new twist. Participants from ages 5-13 will be instructed in acting, dance, music and art by industry professionals.

CONTACT: visit the website at www.sugarfoots.com or call (202) 723-8890.

WHAT: DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Teen Nights

WHEN: Friday nights, April 3 through September 25, 2009; 7 pm to 12 midnight

WHERE: At DPR centers across the District

DETAILS: Teen Nights are open to teens ages 13 - 19. DPR Teen Nights provide planned activities for young adults to include sports, movie nights, fashion shows, poetry slams, Go-Go concerts, dance nights, go-kart racing, karaoke, and participation in life skills workshops. This year DPR will require the use of a valid DC One Card for admission to a DPR Teen Night. Teens who do not have a valid DC One Card, may obtain one at any DPR Teen Night location, even on the night of the event, or prior to the event at any other location issuing the DC One Card.

CONTACT: For more information call (202) 671-0451. For participating locations, visit <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/dpr/section/2/release/16611>.

WHAT: Job training opportunity

WHEN: Friday, May 1, 2009

WHERE: Location TBA

DETAILS: Free job training for DC residents with a High school diploma or GED. This is a free program and offers training in the areas of HVAC/Electrical/Plumbing, Solar, Energy Audit, Weatherization, Administrative Assistant, Lead Inspector, and Lead Supervisor.

CONTACT: For more information contact Mike Jackson, 202-546-1288