



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

May 7th, 2009

E.L. HAYNES

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

The E.L. Haynes Choir performed for members of Congress and participants in the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools lobbying sessions yesterday evening. Making their way in the rain down to the Rayburn House Office Building at Independence Ave SE & 1st St SE, students dried off just in time to give a stellar two-part performance. Led by music teacher Ms. Mistry, the choir of 4th, 5th, and 6th graders performed songs in both Spanish and English. Several songs included violins, piano, drums, and xylophones. Chaperones Mr. Yarborough, Ms. Russell-Heymann, Mr. Westendorf, Ms. Molitor, and Ms. Niles lent a hand as students had the opportunity to feast on the delicious food available to guests (including fancy dessert!), and got to sit in the dais, or *raised seating often used for dignitaries*, while they listened attentively to the guest speakers at the event.



Special guests and speakers included Rep. Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island, E.L. Haynes Board of Trustees member and President and CEO of the NAPCS Nelson Smith, and this year's winner of the Alliance's award for their work in charter advocacy Mr. Dan McKee, who has championed the charter school movement as Mayor of Cumberland, RI.



The work the Charter School Alliance does for the charter community nation-wide is both extremely important and relevant to our work at E.L. Haynes. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools develops sound, coherent policies that support high-quality public education options for families who need them the most. Key priorities include lifting arbitrary "caps" on charter growth, closing the finance gap between charters and other public schools, and updating the federal Charter Schools Program to spur a new era of charter achievement. To increase public support and political understanding of charter schools, the Alliance proactively delivers the message of accountability and

results through print, broadcast, and online media; Issue Briefs and other publications; and conferences such as last summer's Chartering 2.0 leadership summit.

For the E.L. Haynes Student Choir this was the first of what will surely be a long line of performances to come. In the words of Rep. Kennedy, "What a fantastic job these young people did performing for us here this evening. You are why we're here. Thank you!" The performance was fantastic indeed.

Sincerely,

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

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4th – 6th Grades

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

Quote of the Week

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music." ~Aldous Huxley (1894 - 1963)

- ▶ **Haynes Herald by email:** 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.
- ▶ **Coaches Needed!** In an effort to expand its extracurricular offerings in science, math and technology, E.L. Haynes hopes to have several teams compete in the **FIRST LEGO League** and **Junior FIRST LEGO League** next year. LEGO League teams prepare for, and participate in, competitions that require designing and building with LEGOS. LEGO League teams engineer and program robots to perform specific tasks in the competition. E.L. Haynes is looking for parents, family or community members to participate as coaches. Coaches would lead or share leadership of a team of about six students that meets once a week. If you, or someone you know, might be interested but cannot attend, please contact Kate Hubbard at kahubbard@elhaynes.org
- ▶ **DC Neighborhood Pace Car Program:** 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*. Today you are going to find inside of the Thursday Express a brochure that give you more information about the program; also we are asking you to **put the enclosed static cling sticker on the inside of your vehicle rear window; sign the pledge inside the brochure; and return it with your student before May 19**. By doing so you are helping your child's classroom win a pizza party and E.L.Haynes win the competition!
- ▶ **Safe Routes to School:** We received the Safe Routes to School Draft Action Plan! The document is available at the school website and also at the "Parent Resource Center". Now it is time for us to review the document. Please send your comments and questions to Carmelita or Keely – cnaves@elhaynes.org or kflaherty@elhaynes.org, before the next SPT meeting on May 14th.
- ▶ **SPT Meeting: May 14th from 6:00 – 7:00 PM.** DDOT and RBA representatives are going to present the Safe Routes to School Draft Action Plan and answer our questions.

SAVE IN YOUR CALENDAR!

May 25: NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day

May 28: Gallery Walk for PK – 3rd Grade 6-7 PM

May 29: All School Meeting, 9-9:30AM

May 29: Asian Heritage Month Celebration

June 3: Spring Concert for 4th -6th Grade 6-7 PM, Gallery Walk 7-8 PM

June 4: Parent Session about Child Safety (internet, gang/drug prevention), 6-7 PM

Counselors Corner

Ms. Teri

Last Counselors Corner, we discussed the importance of students telling as a way of preventing violence within our community. Encouraging our students to share their thoughts and concerns about a student that may have said a worrisome and concerning statement is important to maintaining safety in our community.

Tips for Parents:

Police have been able to prevent several ‘Columbine-like’ massacres at US schools recently--thanks to tips from students. Students notified school officials after learning that other students planned to carry out violent acts. And while kids are more willing to report the acts of violence after Columbine, experts say parents should explain to their children that there is a difference between ‘telling’ and ‘tattling.’

According to the National Education Association (NEA):

- ▶ Children ‘tattle’ to get their own way or to get someone else in trouble.
- ▶ Children should be encouraged to ‘tell’ an adult when someone is in danger of getting hurt.

Some schools have started anonymous hotlines so that parents or children can provide information that could alert authorities to potential problems.

According to the American Psychological Association one in 12 high schoolers is threatened or injured with a weapon each year. To reduce that risk, the APA lists several ‘warning signs’ that kids need to recognize in other students, indications that violence is a “serious possibility”:

- ▶ Loss of temper on a daily basis; frequent physical fighting; significant vandalism or property damage; increase in use of drugs or alcohol; increase in risk-taking behavior; detailed plans to commit acts of violence; announcing threats or plans for hurting others; enjoying hurting animals; carrying a weapon

Once students recognize a warning sign, the APA says there are things they can do. Hoping that someone else will deal with the problem is “the easy way out.” The advice for students:

- ▶ Above all, be safe. Don’t spend time alone with people who show warning signs.
- ▶ Tell someone you trust and respect about your concerns and ask for help (a family member, guidance counselor, teacher, school psychologist, coach, clergy, or friend).
- ▶ If you are worried about becoming a victim of violence, get someone to protect you. Do not resort to violence or use a weapon to protect yourself.

The key to preventing violent behavior, according to the APA, is asking an experienced professional for help. **The important thing to remember is, don’t go it alone.**

(References: National Education Association; American Psychological Association)

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

10	11 PEP I class 6:00 – 8:00 PM	12	13	14 SPT MEETING 6:00 – 7:00 PM	15	16
17	18 Terra Nova Upper grades PEP I class 6:00 – 8:00 PM	19 Terra Nova Upper grades	20 Terra Nova Upper grades	21 Terra Nova Upper grades	22 Terra Nova Upper grades	23 Terra Nova Upper grades

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

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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.shakespeartheatre.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: CentroNia's Free Car Seat Distribution and Workshops

WHEN: Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 6:00pm-8:00pm; Tuesday, May 12, 2009 6:00pm-8:00pm

WHERE: 1420 Columbia Road NW, WDC

DETAILS: Nationwide Insurance Co. has once again, generously agreed to sponsor this event. We will also have the great support from Karen Gay, DC Department of Transportation, who will lead the trainings and car seat installations. Parents will need to attend one of the two workshops on "Child safety and car seat installation" in order to be eligible to receive the car seat and have it installed in their car. RSVP is suggested. Seats will be distributed on Saturday, May 16, 2009, 9:00am-1:00pm

CONTACT: contact (202) 332 4200 or info@centronia.org for more info.

WHAT: Spring into Action – A Town Hall Caucus with DC VOICE

WHEN: Saturday, May 9, 2009, 10:30pm-12:15pm

WHERE: Ward Memorial AME Church, 241 42nd Street NE

DETAILS: Community members will assemble to take action on the previous town hall meetings regarding topics from the DC VOICE Ready Schools Project findings.

CONTACT: Please call 202-986-8535 or email events@dcvoice.org to RSVP.

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: Education Equality Day - A Call to Action

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2009, 10:00 am

WHERE: at the White House Ellipse, (15th Street and Constitution Avenue NW)

DETAILS: On the 55th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, there are hundreds of people from all parts of our country, from all political ideologies, coming together to demand Education Equality for all our children. It's called the *Education Equality Project* (EEP). Guest speakers include Secretary Arne Duncan, Raul Yzaguirre, Joel Klein, Rev. Al Sharpton, Speaker Newt Gingrich, and many more.

CONTACT: to RSVP and for more information, visit www.edequality.org

WHAT: S.T.E.P. Up D.C. Spring Event: The Commencement

WHEN: Thursday, May 14, 2009; 4:30-6:00pm

WHERE: 1100 16th NW, WDC

DETAILS: Come hear D.C. youth speak out on the dropout crisis. This event will feature results from our survey of nearly 1000 youth in D.C. schools on factors that cause them to stay in school & the factors that cause them to drop out; a photo exhibit of student photographs documenting the causes and consequences of dropping out; and the four key issue areas youth have identified as contributing to the dropout crisis in D.C. schools.

CONTACT: If you have questions contact Critical Exposure at 202-745-3745 ext. 20 or DCAYA at 202-587-0616, www.stepupdc.net

WHAT: African-American Storytelling with Opalanga Pugh

WHEN: Wednesday, May 28, 2009; 12:00noon-1:00pm

WHERE: The Library of Congress, Coolidge Auditorium, ground floor, Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street, SE

DETAILS: Under her grandmother's tutelage, Opalanga absorbed cautionary tales and proverbs while she learned the ethic of hard work. Later as she traveled among the Yoruba and other people of West Africa, Opalanga listened closely to the way people shaped language into story and song, and witnessed firsthand how tightly storytelling was woven into the fabric of human life. Opalanga will tell stories from her African cultural experiences, classic African American tales, and stories from the lives of early blacks in the American West. Askia Touré will use his voice and drums to add rhythm and fullness to the stories. Near Capitol South (Blue and Orange Line) Metro.

CONTACT: Part of Folklife Concerts, a free noon concert series presented by the American Folklife Center and the Music Division at the Library of Congress, 202-707-1743.

WHAT: Exploring College Options Information Session

WHEN: Monday, May 11, 7:30pm

WHERE: Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street NW

DETAILS: Georgetown University Office of Admissions is hosting an information session for local students and their parents. This event, Exploring College Options, will also feature admissions representatives from Duke, Harvard, Penn, and Stanford.

CONTACT: To RSVP, please visit www.exploringcollegeoptions.org.

WHAT: Round House Theatre's Summer Program Open House

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

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.