



E.L. HAYNES

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PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

May 14th, 2009

Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

This past week was Teacher Appreciation Week and the parent and student community did an amazing job of showing how much they care. Students arrived on Monday morning with arms full of flowers, barely able to contain how excited they were to present them to their teachers. Wednesday, students wrote letters of appreciation and painstakingly added pictures and sealed envelopes with love. On Friday families went all out, providing a spread of food to rival all meals in the teacher's lounge. The staff happily munched their way through dishes and desserts from around the world and they continue to snack on some of the left-overs!

We want to take the time to thank YOU so much for making Teacher Appreciation Week such a wonderful experience for the staff. Part of the E.L. Haynes Student Promise asks students to Treasure Teachers, and this came through loud and clear this past week. We find that teachers are our schools' most valuable asset and they make all the difference in your student's growth and experience—there is nothing more important to us than to follow through on our vision of providing an excellent teacher for your student, every year.

We also want to let you know that over the next two weeks all students in grades K—6 will be taking the Terra Nova. The Terra Nova is a test which we use as a benchmark assessment to understand how our students are doing earlier in their academic careers. Since ELH's first year, students in grades kindergarten on have taken the Terra Nova so that we can gather longitudinal data about how our students fare against students in their grade level nation wide. This data gives us another glimpse into the progress we are making. Results are shared with families in the fall of the following school year.

Grades K—2 will be testing the week of May 18th and students in grades 3—6 will test the following week beginning on May 25th. We ask that you do your part in making sure that students are here Every Day, On Time, that they are well rested, and that they have eaten a nutritious breakfast before coming to school, or arrive early enough to eat breakfast at school (if this is their normal routine). We will do our part to make sure they have all they need to be successful in the coming weeks. Please remember, this year's message is "Turtle Power: Slow and Steady WINS the Race!" Encourage your students to take their time, check their work and do their very best.

Sincerely,

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

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4th – 6th Grades

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

Quote of the Week

"People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built." ~Eleanor Roosevelt

- ▶ **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS: Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day**
- ▶ **Re-Enrollment Information:** Phase I of the enrollment forms for the 2009-2010 school year were sent home two weeks ago, April 30th, via the Thursday Express. To secure your child's enrollment at E.L. Haynes next 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.
We are only accepting complete packets! All enrollment forms must be turned in together. For example, corrected enrollment forms will not be accepted without proof of residency, lunch application, and health forms (if required). The only exceptions to the June 12th deadline are health and dental forms; however please read further for clarification of this exception. On the back of the enrollment form you will find the exam date of your child's most recent health and dental form on file. If you don't see a date listed, we do not have a form on file. If your child's health and dental forms are current (will be no more than 12 months old year old on June 12th) your packet **will be accepted** without health forms on or before June 12, 2009. However please be mindful of the date, because we must have current forms on file before your child is allowed to start school on August 3rd. If your child's health and dental forms are not current (will be more than 12 months old on June 12th) your packet **will not** be accepted without current health and dental forms.
We need your help, because the front office can not track forms individually for each student and it is our goal to increase the accuracy of our student records. Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions please see Ms. Griffin in the front office.
- ▶ **Bike Rack Update:** In the past week bikes have been stolen from the student bike rack, located on Otis Street near the visitor parking lot. Police reports have been made and security surveillance recording has been turned over to the police to assist in the investigation. We have been advised by the Police to recommend a U style bicycle lock to secure bicycles going forward. The stolen bikes were secured to the rack with wire or small chain locks and easily cut by the perpetrators. In addition to increased durability and theft prevention, many of them come with a warranty to protect your investment. We are doing everything possible to help assist the police and increase awareness in light of the recent events. If you have any questions please see Ms. Griffin in the front office.
- ▶ **All School Meeting: Friday, May 29th – 9:00 – 9:30 AM,** where we are going to start our day of Asian/Pacific Heritage Celebration. See details below.
- ▶ **Asian Heritage Month Celebration:** Come and help us recognize and celebrate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descents in the United States! Our E.L. Haynes **Asian students, parents and teachers** will be able to share their culture with the school. We are going to start our celebration on the All School Meeting with students performing music, dance and martial art. During the day students are going to take turns visiting the "Marco Polo Tea and Space Station" and having samples of tea, eggrolls, fortune cookies, pita bread, etc. Students and visitors are also going to see the exhibition on different Asian/Pacific countries. **Parents are welcomed to be with us on this celebration!** Students, parents and teachers can wear Asian costumes that day. We are asking parents to contribute Asian food for the classroom parties. Please make arrangements with your child's classroom teacher.
- ▶ **Birthday Celebration: Friday, May 29th –** Please contact your child's classroom teacher for more details.
- ▶ **Silent Auction:** E.L. Haynes will be holding our first-ever Silent Auction at this year's Family Picnic. Look for more information about it inside of the Thursday Express.
- ▶ **End of the Year Family Picnic:** Saturday, June 6 – 12:00 – 3:00 PM. We are asking everyone to bring food (details to be announced soon) and also need parents to **organize activities for the kids.** If you have any great ideas (eg. face-painting, bean bag toss, three-legged race, soccer, etc.) **AND** are willing to organize to make it happen, we need you! You only need to be responsible for providing the gear needed for your activity, then we'll help you get people signed up to man it at the picnic. If you're interested please contact Anne Crowley at 202.387.3003 or anne@studiocrowleyhall.com.
- ▶ **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:** Remember to sign the pledge 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!

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

17	18 Terra Nova Lower grades PEP I class 6:00 – 8:00 PM	19 Terra Nova Lower grades	20 Terra Nova Lower grades	21 Terra Nova Lower grades	22 Terra Nova Lower grades	23
24	25 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	26 Terra Nova Upper grades	27 Terra Nova Upper grades	28 Terra Nova Upper grades Gallery Walk PK – 3 rd grade 6:00 – 7:00 PM	29 Terra Nova Upper grades All School Meeting Asian Heritage Month Celebration	30

UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE IN YOUR CALENDAR!

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

June 6: End of the Year **Family Picnic** - 12:00 – 3:00 PM

June 8: Progress Reports Mailed Home

June 8: School Parent Team Meeting – SPT – 6:00 – 7:00 PM

June 9: Principal's Coffee – 8:15 – 9:00 AM

June 10: Expedition Culminating Events (whole day)

June 12: Parent-teacher conferences

June 17: All School Meeting 9:00 – 9:30 AM
Class Birthday Celebration

Last Day of School
(1:00 PM dismissal – NO AFTERCARE)

June 22: First Day of Summer Intersession

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.

Counselors Corner

Ms. Teri

Through the week I am often confronted with students who find themselves completely overwhelmed academically, socially and with adult and child interactions. These experiences often leave of children feeling overwhelmed and “stressed out”. Most of our students eagerly seek ways to manage stress experienced in a way that is helpful and promote success in the school and home setting. Parents its important to support our kids in managing their stress and in the process we may be managing our own stress. Its important that we manage our own stress and use stress busters daily. Tips for...

Parents with children ages birth to 5: Get out together with your child. A change of scenery, even just a short walk, can put everyone in a better, more relaxed mood. Have reasonable expectations. Know that kids this age sometimes “lose it,” occasionally don’t make it to the bathroom or blow out their diapers, and often run out of steam and need to rest. You’ll save yourself stress if you can learn to prepare for these situations before they occur.

Parents with children 6 – 9: Send a short note of thanks to someone who has influenced your parenting. Reaching out to others and remembering their gifts to you can be surprisingly comforting in times of stress. Get moving. When exercising, your body releases chemicals that can help you calm down both emotionally and physically.

Parents with children 10 – 15: If you parent with a partner, make sure you work on keeping that relationship happy and healthy. You, your partner, and your kids will all benefit. As much as possible, try to keep a sense of humor. Laugh with your kids, your partner, a friend, your dad, anyone who can empathize with the rapid changes in mood, personality, opinion, and so on, that your child is experiencing. Never stop asking for help and support. Even though you’ve been parenting for a while now, new things come up during adolescence. Those who’ve been through it, particularly parents of young adults, can share their wisdom and perspective. Choose someone you trust and who won’t judge you or your parenting.

Parents with children 16 – 18: Share the workload. Your kids are old enough now to prepare and clean up after meals, take care of a sibling, clean the bathroom, or do other household tasks. Get organized. Even little steps such as making a To-Do List or keeping a family calendar can ease the strain on your brain that comes from trying to keep track of a bunch of information. Take a break. If you always change the oil on the car, get someone else to do it or go to a shop; if you have a job, take a vacation day just for yourself; if you don’t get out much, call a friend and go to a game or movie together.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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: Status Update on Effort to Restore Charter Funding and Preserve Autonomy

WHEN: As of Tuesday, May 12, 2009

DETAILS: Yesterday City Council members met in a public session to discuss their changes and amendments to the Mayor's 2010 budget. Those of you who have been following this know that the budget included a \$24 million cut to charter school facilities funds and provisions that would limit public charter school autonomy. WE DID IT! Thanks to your calls, emails, postcards, and petitions, the City Council responded to your concerns and restored \$16.7 million of the Mayor's proposed \$24 million cut and they removed all the provisions that would have undermined charter school independence.

NOW WHAT: First, thank your Council member (and the At-Large members and the Chairman). Second, support the Council members as they ask DCPS to be more accountable with the public funds they receive.

BACKGROUND: The budget hearings surfaced some areas where DCPS is getting double funding (facility maintenance) and extra funding (enrollment of 3,000 new students). Historically, DCPS has been losing almost 3,000 students per year as families leave DC or enroll their children in public charter schools. This year, the Mayor projected that DCPS would lose only 136 students instead of 3,000 (which would mean DCPS gets more funding). Based on enrollment data from previous years, this is highly unlikely. The Council is looking into it and the Chairman has proposed holding back the funding for the 3,000 students (\$27 million) until Chancellor Rhee can verify that the 3,000 students actually enroll. With the serious budget deficit the city is facing, it's appropriate for the Council to ask DCPS to be accountable with the public funds they receive and only take what they need for the students they have. If not all of the 3,000 students enroll, that extra funding can be used for other important needs in the city.

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 *Sugarfootn*, 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: 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: 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.

WHAT: Housing Opportunity – Jubilee Housing

WHEN: Open for new applicants - Tuesday, May 20, 9:00 AM

WHERE: 1640 Columbia RD

DETAILS: Affordable Housing. There are a lot of people interested in this opportunity, so it is important to get there early in the morning. They don't think that it would take more than a couple of hours to distribute all the applications.

CONTACT: For more information call (202) 299-1240

WHAT: CHAMPS – Children and Adolescents Mobile Psychiatric Services of Catholic Charities

WHEN: Ongoing community support and a safety net for children in the District of Columbia.

WHERE: The team provides services wherever a child is in crisis, whether home, school, or in the community.

DETAILS: Offer 24 hour, 7 day a week service for kids who are experiencing a psychiatric or behavioral crisis. The teams deescalate the situation and perform safety and psychiatric assessments. They do not take children. The goal is to keep children out of jails and hospitals by providing in the moment care.

CONTACT: Requests for services can be made by anyone involved with the child, by calling ACCESS Help Line at (202) 561-7000 or the direct number (202) 481-1450.

WHAT: Community Foreclosure Prevention Clinic

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2009 10:00am-2:00pm

WHERE: 3939 Benning Road NE, WDC

DETAILS: There will be a short presentation on how to avoid foreclosure, followed by one-on-one foreclosure counseling by HUD-Approved Certified Foreclosure Counselors.

CONTACT: www.dhcd.ed.gov Bernice Butler, 202-442-7173

WHAT: COMMISSIONER'S CAMP: SUMMER OF SUCCESS

WHEN: JUNE 22, 2009 – AUGUST 7, 2009; 8:30AM-4:30PM

DETAILS: Summer of Success is a seven (7) week coeducational summer camp designed to physically challenge and academically motivate middle school students in the District of Columbia. Partners include the DC Department of Parks & Recreation, the Prince Hall Freemason and Eastern Star Charitable Foundation, Tennis at Shiloh and DC Baseball.org. This summer enrichment program will expose students to softball and tennis clinics as well as academic sessions to educate and engage them in a non-traditional fashion. We hope to encourage youth to remain active throughout the summer through sports while improving their reading, math and writing skills in preparation for the upcoming academic year. *Applications are being accepted now* and there is only a \$35 application fee so that any student, regardless of ability to pay, can be involved in the camp. Extensive fundraising and generous support from community and business members has made this possible.

CONTACT: Email Melissa S. Johnson, Camp Director, at Ms.M.Johnson@gmail.com or visit www.commissionersmith.com

WHAT: Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance

WHEN: July 13, 2009- August 7, 2009

WHERE: Hughes United Methodist Church, 10700 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

DETAILS: The Culkin School of Irish Dance teaches 2-week summer programs at two locations. The sessions are two hours long, and run Monday- Friday for two weeks. Cost is \$220/session

CONTACT: www.culkinschool.com or call 301-593-9600 for more information

WHAT: Girls Rock! DC Open House & Instrument Share

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2009; 2:00pm-4:00pm

WHERE: MLK Jr. Public Library, 901 G Street NW, 2nd floor

DETAILS: Try out rock instruments, enjoy snacks, see videos from last year's Camper Showcase at the Black Cat, and apply for the 2009 Girls Rock! DC camp for girls ages 8 to 18 who live in DC.

CONTACT:

WHAT: *Students for President Obama* letter writing campaign

DEADLINE: Friday, May 29, 2009

WHERE: National Charter School Conference, Washington Convention Center

DETAILS: The Alliance has invited President Obama to keynote the NCSC and we are encouraged by Secretary Arne Duncan's participation. We are asking all DC public charter students to write to President Obama, postmarked by May 29th, to invite the President or the First Lady to speak at the conference. If they accept our invitation, the first 1,000 participating students will be invited to hear their remarks. Students must have a sponsor in order to participate; check with your school's leaders to see if the school is coordinating letter writing for their students.

CONTACT: For instructions, contact: Antwaune Goode at Antwaune@PublicCharters.org or (202) 521-2825.

WHAT: Become a Family Book Club Coach

WHERE: CentroNia, 1420 Columbia Road NW, WDC 20009

DETAILS: Are you a parent who is interested in – reading with your child; strengthening your child's academic skills; obtaining valuable leadership training? Try running a book club in your neighborhood - receive free children's books and earning \$\$\$! Books clubs are run in English or Spanish.

CONTACT: For more information, contact Diane Gardner or Claudia Beloso at 202-332-4200.

WHAT: Bag Stuffing for National Charter School Conference in DC

WHEN: Friday, June 19, 2009; 12 noon-4:00pm

DETAILS: Every year at the conference we have a bag stuffing project that requires some dependable volunteers to help us. Looking for at least 30 adults and/or responsible high school students.

CONTACT: If you're interested, please email Veria Samaroo at veriavs@gmail.com or call her at 954-481-8960. In your email, please include your name, school, and cell phone contact.