



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

May 20, 2010

E.L. HAYNES

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"When we talk about that which will sustain and nurture our spiritual growth as a people, we must once again talk about the importance of community. For one of the most vital ways that we sustain ourselves is by building communities of resistance, places where we know we are not alone." ~bell hooks Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom

Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

One of the cornerstones of the E.L. Haynes community is our diversity. As a community, we have the opportunity daily to interact with students and families from across the District of Columbia; we speak different languages, have different family structures, have a wide variety of interests and talents, love different music and foods, are interested in a variety of opportunities to learn, and more. We come together with rich family histories and cultural backgrounds from around the world.

This past week several of our staff had the opportunity to focus on one aspect of our diversity—race. Our three day journey was the first of what will become an ongoing part of our conversation as a school community—involving staff, families, and students alike. The work of the National School Reform Faculty along with the Center for Equitable and Effective Leadership informed the staff's work together.

Our focus on race is a simple and very important one: race is an undeniable factor in education and continues to play a factor in the gap between white and Asian students and their Black, Latino, Native American, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander counterparts across the United States and many parts of the world. Without question, poverty and wealth impact student achievement as well. Statistically, however, even within the same economic strata, there is an achievement gap based on race.

The only way we will be truly able to reach our mission as a school is to embrace this work as an entire community—bridging gaps across difference, reaching out to learn more about one another, helping one another in the education of all of our students, and continuing to grow. **Building our alliances across difference** will make us strong and break the cycle of inequitable practices so prevalent in our nation's schools. We must do this work and our vision and mission state this need clearly. (See Announcements.)

Thanks for being a part of our community's work—the fulfillment of our mission for all students. Join us at:

- ❖ SPT (School Parent Team) Meeting: Tuesday, June 1 from 6:15-7:30 PM
- ❖ Coffee Talk About Race: Wednesday, June 9 from 8:30-9:30 AM

Sincerely,

Michelle M. Molitor

Principal, Pre-K through 3rd Grades

Eric Westendorf

Principal, 4th through 8th Grades

Sun 23	Mon 24 Accreditation Visit Begins	Tues 25	Wed 26 Asian Heritage Day, 11am 3:30pm	Thurs 27 Spring Choir and Dance Performance 6 pm	Fri 28 1:00 PM Dismissal	Sat 29
Sun 30	Mon 31	Tuesday, June 1 SPT Meeting, 6:15pm - 7:30pm	Wed 2	Thurs 3	Fri 4 1:00 PM Dismissal Middle School Dance 7-10PM	Sat 5 Family Picnic 12 – 3pm

Building Our Alliances Across Difference: Here are additional resources and inspiring quotes that guided the work of the staff retreat last week described in the Haynes Herald.

Educational Equity is raising the achievement of **all** students while

- ❖ narrowing the gaps between the highest- and lowest- performing students; and
- ❖ eliminating the racial predictability and dis-proportionality of which student groups occupy the highest and lowest achievement categories.

“Equity is not a guarantee that all students will succeed. Rather, it assures that all students will have the opportunity and support to succeed. In an equitable system, the barriers that inhibit student progress are removed. Students of color and their families can rest assured that the school will meet their needs to the same degree it meets White students’ needs. Equity does not mean that every student receives an equal level of resources and support towards his or her educational goals. Rather, equity means that the students of greatest need receive the greatest level of support to guarantee academic success.” From Courageous Conversations About Race. Glenn Singleton and Curtis Linton.

Suggested Readings:

- ❖ Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools by Glenn Eric Singleton and Curtis Linton
- ❖ Nurture Shock by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman
- ❖ Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire
- ❖ Check Out the ‘Teaching for Change’ Web site: <http://www.teachingforchange.org/>

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates!

Asian Heritage Day – Wednesday, May 26th, 11am-3:30pm
Spring Concert (Choir & Dance Performance) – Thursday, May 27 @ 6pm, ELH
School Parent Team Meeting – RESCHEDULED to JUNE 1, 6:15pm-7:15pm
End-of-Year Picnic – Saturday, June 5 @ 12:00pm-3pm, Raymond Rec. Ctr.
Expedition Culminating Events – Tuesday, June 8
European Heritage Day – Friday, June 11

School Parent Team Meeting RESCHEDULED: This month’s SPT is going to be pushed into June, to allow for more planning time after our recent training by the Critical Friends Group. Our focus will be on “Courageous Conversations on Race” and will include snacks and childcare.

2010-2011 Enrollment: Enrollment Packets went home two weeks ago. This coming Friday, May 28th is the last day to turn in the enclosed forms. Please see the front office immediately if you did not receive your packet or if you have any questions.

Don’t wait! Please make your Doctor’s and Dentist appointments today! All students must be Up-to-Date by the start of school to attend. In order to be Up-to-Date, the school must have documentation of an Annual Health Physical, Annual Dental Exam and Proof of Immunizations that correspond to your child’s age group. Copies of the DC Immunization Requirements (Purple Flyer) were included in the Re-Enrollment Packet and are also available through the Front Office.

Closing out year well with the Middle School —

Dress Down Day and Potluck Picnic on May 21st. This event will be a prize for the homeroom with the highest point total in the Dress Down Competition!

Middle School Dance: June 4th 7-10pm. We are setting parameters around what students will need to do to earn their tickets. We are also very excited to announce that we will introduce Haynes first ever VIP lounge to recognize students who have gone above and beyond all school year. If you are interested in volunteering

(chaperones, set up, clean up, etc.), please email Towana Pierre-Floyd (tfloyd@elhaynes.org) or Eric Westendorf (ewestendorf@elhaynes.org)

7th grade University of Virginia trip: Date and time TBD. We are in the process of planning these events but would love your help chaperoning. If you or someone you know is an alumnus of UVA, please let us know if you (or they) would be interested in leading a small tour group. We will send an update with date and time information as soon as it becomes available.

George Washington University trip: Date and time TBD. We are in the process of planning these events but would love your help chaperoning. If you or someone you know is an alumnus of George Washington University, please let us know if you (or they) would be interested in leading a small tour group. We will send an update with date and time information as soon as it becomes available.

Spirit Week: June 14-17. The Student Council will decide on key themes we can use to show our team spirit! Once the theme days are announced, we welcome you to join in the fun!

Talent Show: June 17. Our final closing event for the year, will be our own version of Haynes Has Talent. We will definitely include at least one teacher act and would love to have a parent act or two as well. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Towana Pierre-Floyd (tfloyd@elhaynes.org) or Eric Westendorf (ewestendorf@elhaynes.org)

Room Parent Meeting – June 1st @ 6:45pm There will be an end-of-year meeting for all interested in being room parents for their child's classroom during 2010-2011. We are getting started on planning the first 2 months of school and would love to have volunteers already in place by the beginning of the year! If you think you may be interested, or if you would like to find out more about what the role of a room parent, please join us on the 1st!

Asian Heritage Day: May 26, Wednesday: Tea ceremony, 11am-1:30pm., Classroom parties 1:30-2:30pm, and All School Meeting, 2:30-3:30pm. Please contact Towana Floyd or Beth Hood at 667-4446 or tfloyd@elhaynes.org, bhood@elhaynes.org if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

ELH Spring Concert: The Spring Concert which will feature the E.L. Haynes Choir and Dance Ensemble will take place on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 6pm in the cafeteria. The performance will feature a selection by the dance ensemble as well as songs and dances performed by the choir. Please attend-both groups are working hard to give another tremendous performance! Parents, we would love it if you could bring some light snacks for our students to enjoy afterwards – lemonade, finger food, cookies. Please sign up in the main lobby if you are able to contribute something!

Silent Auction: On June 5, at the Family Picnic, we will hold a silent auction to raise money for the school. We have collected almost 50 fabulous prizes including baseball tickets, restaurant and spa gift cards, home-cooked quiches, cakes, and pesto, and many more! Please see Ms. Keely to sign up to volunteer at the silent auction for a 30 minute shift or to help prepare for the event. 30 minutes of your time could make a big difference for the school!

ELH Raffle: Please visit the Raffle table in the lobby or see Ms. Keely for any raffle questions, to get more tickets, return sold tickets, or return unused tickets for another family to sell. All tickets must be returned by June 1

Help Needed! 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 and we **NEED YOUR HELP!** In order to have fun activities for all families, we need families to help plan the activities and volunteer to supervise activities in 30 minute blocks during the picnic. In the past we have had volleyball, soccer, 4-square, face painting, relay races, etc. We also need help planning and running our fantastic silent auction. Please contact Keely at kflaherty@elhaynes.org or 202-667-4446 if you think you can help!

Free Blood Pressure Screening: Next week, Nurse Crowder will be available for blood pressure screenings. She will be set up in the main lobby on Tuesday & Thursday all day and from 8:30-12:00pm on Wednesday.

Community Announcements:

WHAT: Energy Assistance Funding Available

WHEN: Monday-Friday 8:30am- 4:30 pm

WHERE: Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center, 2000 14th Street, Third Floor

DETAILS: There is additional funding available to the DC Energy Office to assist consumers in paying their seasonal energy bills. Consumers seeking energy assistance should apply for grants through the DC Department of the Environment, Energy Office. Applicants should bring:

§ Your disconnection notice (if applicable)

§ Your most recent utility bills (or a copy)

§ Your government-issued photo ID

§ Proof of income for everyone in your home who receives income

CONTACT: (202) 673-6700 or visit www.ddoe.dc.gov

WHAT: Children's Health Centers 8th Annual Health Fair

WHEN: Thursday, May 20, 2010; 10:00am-2:00pm

WHERE: 2501 Good Hope Road, SE

DETAILS: See vendors such as Healthy Start healthy Families DC Program, The Children's Law Center Health Access Project, FitFamily, Domino's Pizza, and other local agencies and participants! There will be give-a-ways, and food 11:00am-2:00pm

CONTACT: Elva Anderson at 202-476-6944 or email eanderson@cnmc.org

WHAT: HSC Pediatric Center's June Fair

WHEN: Saturday, June 12, 2010; 10:00am-4:00pm

WHERE: Michigan park, 1731 Bunker Hill Road NE

DETAILS: Free health screenings, dental screenings, immunizations, games, rides, vendors, clowns. Live talent, face painting, and special guest appearance by WPGC personality Herkules

CONTACT: http://www.hscpediatriccenter.org/whats_new.cfm

WHAT: Fiesta Asia Street Fair

WHEN: Saturday, May 22, 2010; 10:00am-7:00pm

WHERE: Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 3rd & 6th Street NW.

DETAILS: Sponsored by the Asia Heritage Foundation, Fiesta Asia Street Fair happenings include outdoor craft exhibits, live performances, food and open market vendors, interactive displays, martial arts demonstration, talent show, cooking demo, flash mob dancing and many more.

CONTACT: <http://www.asiaheritagefoundation.org/>

WHAT: Teatro de la Luna Play - Rifar el Corazón / Heartstrings by Dino Armas (Uruguay)

WHEN: May 6 - 29, 2010; Thursdays at 8pm, Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, & Saturday matinees at 3pm

WHERE: Gunston Arts Center - Theater Two, 2700 S. Lang Street, Arlington, VA 22206

DETAILS: Two sisters meet in a poignant farewell. Under the guise of humor and tenderness we also see joy, sorrow, cattiness, dreams, hopes and hopes dashed... and the fond memories life gives us during moments of happiness. In Spanish with English surtitles. Recommended for ages 13 and up. Childcare - \$10 (available Saturday matinees with 24 hour notification). Free Parking. Handicapped Accessible.

COST: Regular: \$25-\$30, Students/Seniors over 60: \$20-\$25. SAVE 10% buying on-line at www.teatrodelaluna.org, 15% Discount for Groups of 10 or more.

CONTACT: 703-548-3092; email: info@teatrodelaluna.org. For directions visit www.teatrodelaluna.org/directions.

Piano Lessons Anyone?: A Columbia Heights piano enthusiast, Rich Levy, is looking to give back to the local community by giving free piano lessons to interested students at ECAC starting the fall 2010. He can most likely accommodate several students for individual half hour lessons, or in some other format if there is

need or interest. Students age 12 and over are welcome. No experience is necessary, but an interested student should have access to a piano for practice.

For more information please contact Rich at 202.309.2583.

Saturday, May 29th from 2:00 – 5:00pm: We Are the Ones! Oratory Contest for Teenage Girls

The Contest, sponsored by the African American Women's Resource Center, is being held in honor of Septima Clark, an educator, civil rights activist and considered by some as the "grandmother" of the civil rights movement. Septima Clark was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1898. She was a renowned orator and employed others to always bring along two generations -- always asking those she came into contact with "who are you bringing along." Thirty seven girls have applied for the Contest. Your presence will add encouragement to these courageous young women. More information: Cassandra Burton at 202-332-6561 or cassandraburton@aawrc.org. Refreshments will be provided.

Cost: Free

Ms. Teri

Counselor's Corner

We live in a society where race matters. As a school community we are committed to focusing on our journey to address anti-racism and inequity to promote a caring community where all children can develop as learners. We encourage our parent to discuss issues of race with their children to further develop their social emotional development and contribute to our ability to nurture a caring and diverse school community. In our school community, we encourage children to have courageous conversations about race to promote and sustain positive social connections along differences .

Talking to Kids About Race By Nadra Kareem, About.com Guide

Say your kindergartener comes home with a question: "Why are some people called black and others white?" How will you answer? Next to the sex talk, talking to kids about race is perhaps the hardest conversation for a parent. Sure, America elected a black president, but we still live in a world that's far from color-blind. While it's natural to want to shield your child from life's harsh realities, staying silent about race isn't OK. Discussing the subject openly allows children to build bridges and respect others. Not openly having a dialogue with our children about race makes them unprepared to engage in a diverse global world .

The same way we remind our children that "Mommies can be doctors like daddies" we should be reminding all children that doctors come in all colors. As parent we often shush our children when they make a remark about a child's race but shushing them sends the message that this topic is unspeakable which makes race more loaded and intimidating ... (excerpt taken from Nurture Shock , Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman)

When's the Right Age to Talk Race?

Think your children are too young for the "race talk?" In fact, children as young as 3 can spot differences between racial groups. A few years after that, they start to make judgments about people from different races. What does this mean? Whether you talk to your kids about race or not, they'll form opinions about it anyway. If they make a remark that stumps you, investigate until you form a coherent response. You might just learn something in the process.

Go to a Cultural Event

How much do your kids know about people from different cultures? Whether they're totally clueless or ambassadors-in-the-making, they'll have loads of fun at cultural celebrations. With the food, music and

learning that take place at these events, what's not to love? The great thing is that cultural events take place all year.

Enjoy a [Chinese New Year](#) celebration in January, a [Black History Month](#) event in February, a [St. Patrick's Day parade](#) in March or a [Cinco de Mayo](#) bash in May. During these outings, your children won't only have the chance to learn about the history and cultural significance of different events, they'll also get to mingle with folks from all sorts of backgrounds. This gives a real boost to kids who live in places where they're racial anomalies, like trans racial adoptees with a better chance of meeting a celebrity than someone from their birth country. Want tips on how to talk race with children you've adopted cross culturally? Check out the [Fusion](#) program, which offers suggestions to parents just like you.

Take a Trip to a Cultural Museum

Slavery. The Holocaust. Japanese American Internment. How do you bring up racial oppression with children? A trip to a cultural museum is a great starting point. Throughout the country, you can find museums with a social justice bent. Drop by the [Museum of Tolerance](#) and the [Japanese American National Museum](#) in Los Angeles. There's also the [DuSable Museum of African American History](#) and the [Birmingham Civil Rights Institute](#) in Chicago and Alabama, respectively.

Get Out of Town

Don't have a museum like this in your area? Forget about Disneyland and the Grand Canyon. Make a visit to a cultural museum the focus of your next family getaway. If it's hard for the entire family to leave town, sign your teen up for a camp hosted by the [National Conference of Community and Justice](#) (NCCJ). There, your kid will learn about race and bias with the people they respect most—their peers!