



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

May 21, 2009

E.L. HAYNES

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

This week we'd like to highlight the important that work that our Early Childhood team does. All year, the PreKindergarten students and their teachers have been working hard at developing the skills they need to succeed at the college or university of their choice. Through teacher directed work and student directed play students have been developing their skills in speaking and listening; reading, writing and math.

Many of the same curriculum pieces that our older students use, have PreK versions. Our youngest students participate in Responsive Classroom traditions, and Second Steps social lessons. They use the PreK versions of Everyday Math, and Handwriting with Tears. In literacy the PreK teachers have created their own versions of Readers/Writers Workshop, and Foundations, our phonics program. Weaving all these pieces together is a framework called the Creative Curriculum for Preschoolers, which guides the teachers as they set up learning centers, and enrich student play.

Just like the older students, the PreK students participate in learning expeditions each Spring. In their expedition, *Animals Two by Two*, PreK students learn about living things, and about being scientists, as they care for, study, and compare pairs of similar animals. In April and Early May, the PreK students kicked off this expedition by studying their class namesakes: guppies and goldfish. Students carefully prepared the environment for their new pets, and then took a field trip to the pet store to select them. They listened to books about fish, and carefully observed the classroom fish. They also took a field trip to the zoo to see some huge fish from the South American Rainforest. Finally, they created class books about fish.

This week, the PreK classrooms started a similar process with a new pair of animals. The sensory table was filled with dirt, newspaper, moss and breadcrumbs. Then the students carefully added their new pets – redworms and night crawlers. Over the next few weeks, the students will carefully observe the worms. They will listen to stories and books, and make their own book about worms. Finally, in June, the PreK students will repeat the process with caterpillars and butterflies.

Throughout this unit, the PreK students are learning lots of new words, such as gill, and chrysalis; and interesting facts, such as the fact that worms have 5 hearts but no teeth. They are also practicing the academic and language skills they have learned. PreK students practice their listening skills as they listen to books; and their build their expressive language by asking and answering questions. The use math skills to read the chart that tells them whose turn it is to feed the fish; or to make comparisons between the size of a tiny redworm and a mighty night crawler. They practice reading and writing, as they make and share class books about what they have learned. They also learn to love learning, and to see themselves as scientists, mathematicians, and scholars.

Have a wonderful long weekend! Enjoy Memorial Day festivities, and we look forward to your return to school on Tuesday, May 26.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4th – 6th Grades

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

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

"I think we're learning lots of things not taught at other schools..." Dr. Seuss, Hooray for Diffendoofer Day

Quote of the Week

- ▶ **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS: Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day**
- ▶ **2009-2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR:** The next year school calendar is out! Check inside of the Thursday Express!
- ▶ **Year Round Program:** After School/Before School bills for the months of Feb-April will be sent out during the week of May 25th. **Intersession packets will go home through the Thursday Express on May 28, 2009.** In order for packets to be processed all after school, before school and late fee must be paid or arrangements made. Packets will be accepted during the following hours: 8:15 – 9:00 AM (Monday-Friday) and 3:15 – 5:15 PM (Monday-Friday). **Packets will be collected at the security desk beginning Friday, May 29th.**
- ▶ **Bike Rack Update:** In light of the unfortunate bike thefts at E.L. Haynes, The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) has kindly offered to help subsidize the purchase of U Locks for parents/students at E.L. Haynes who are interested. The U Locks would offer more protection against theft compared to the cable locks that some students are currently using. **WABA can offer the Kryptonite Evolution Mini LS lock for \$32. This is a lock that has a suggested retail price of \$62.99.** Please contact Carmelita Naves at (202) 667-4446 or cnaves@elhaynes.org to make arrangements if you are interested in using this special offer.
- ▶ **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. **Parents are welcomed to be with us on this celebration! More information inside of the Thursday Express.**
- ▶ **5th Grade Graduation:** The 5th grade will be having a graduation ceremony from 5:30-6:30 (ceremony from 5:30-6:15 and reception to follow) on the last day of school (Wednesday, June 17th). Please contact Carmelita if you're able to bring treats or drinks for after the ceremony.
- ▶ **End of the Year Family Picnic – Attention Parents!** Saturday, June 6 – 12:00 – 3:00 PM. For the Family Picnic we need a couple additional volunteers to coordinate activities. We'll help you find volunteers to help out in 30-minute increments at the picnic, but **we need a few more people willing to think of, organize, and set up activities.**
Keep in mind that the more activities we have, the more the children will be entertained and the less they will need to be disengaged from inappropriate behavior (for which the parents are responsible at this event!). Here are the volunteers thus far: Sprinklers Denia D.; Face Painting Henna Shandalyn; Obstacle Course Lutishia Walker; Volleyball Eric Westendorf (Anne Crowley to bring net); Soccer Obstacle Course Lora Lumpe. Successful past activities have included three-legged race, bean bag toss, parachute...We will also provide balls for 4-square and basketball and will have people sign up for playground duty.
If you have an idea for an activity and are willing to organize it, please let Anne Crowley at 202.387.3003 or anne@studiocrowleyhall.com by **Tuesday, May 26** (the day we return from Memorial Day) as we'll need to get the volunteer sign-up sheets up that week.
- ▶ **E.L. Haynes Raffle:** 20 raffle tickets were sent home with each student last Friday. Please see the parent volunteer in the lobby at or by the front desk if you did not receive tickets, would like more tickets, or have already sold your tickets and need to return them. Parent volunteers will be stationed there from 8:15 – 8:40 each morning at drop-off, from 3:25-3:40 each afternoon (except Friday) for pick-up, and 1:20-1:35 on Friday for pick-up. If you have raffle-related questions outside those times, please see Keely in room 212, call her at 202-667-4446, or email at kflaherty@elhaynes.org. Thank you for your participation! If you do not wish to participate in the raffle or will not be selling all of your tickets, please return extra tickets to the school as soon as possible so they can be distributed to other families for sale.
- ▶ **Volunteers needed!** The coordinators for the National Charter School Conference in mid-June need adults to help them prepare for the event. Volunteers will stuff bags with fliers and materials. Please let Carmelita know if you are interested. When: Friday, June 19 - 12:00 to 4:00pm. Where: Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW – Washington, DC 20001

Counselors Corner
Ms. Teri

As parents it's important to find numerous ways to manage worries. We encourage you to use stress busters skills to become the best parent you can be.

More ways to manage your worry:

1. **Read and research:** Time you spend reading up on your worry topic will indulge the worrying part of you while also moving toward a constructive solution.
2. **Share your worries with others:** It's another way of getting your worries out of your head and into the light where you can examine them better. The people you talk or correspond with may be able to help or just sympathize, but you're likely to get new insight just from the act of sharing.
3. **If you're plagued by worries that are not constructive at all, deconstruct them.** Write them on a piece of paper and then crumple the paper, cut it into pieces, set it on fire, put it at the bottom of the garbage, or do something else that symbolizes your rejection of those worries. Repeat every day if necessary.
4. **Use your old worries as signposts of progress.** If you're keeping a worry journal, flip back from time to time to see what you were worrying about weeks, months or years ago. You may be surprised to see how many things are no longer issues. Check them off, cross them out, and feel the power of constructive worrying.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

24	25 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	26 Terra Nova Upper grades	27 Terra Nova Upper grades	28 Terra Nova Upper grades	29 Terra Nova Upper grades All School Meeting Asian Heritage Month Celebration	30
31	01	02	03 Spring Concert 4 th – 6 th grade & Choir	04 Parent Workshop Child Safety 6:00 – 7:00 PM	05	06 End of Year Family Picnic 12:00 – 3:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE IN YOUR CALENDAR!

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

5th Grade Graduation

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.