



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

May 27, 2010

E.L. HAYNES

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

Thank you to all the families who helped to make our Asian Cultural Heritage day so successful!

I want to share some important news about next year's calendar. After much deliberation, the Board of Trustees and the leadership team has decided to start our 2010-2011 school year two weeks later than usual. **Our first day of school will be on Monday, August 16 rather than Monday, August 2.** We decided on this change to give us enough time to move our PK3-2nd grade classes into our new building. We have hit all our construction deadlines to date, but given the tight timeline, we think this is the prudent thing to do. We anticipate moving our PK3-2nd grade classes into the Kansas Avenue site on August 1.

In today's Haynes Herald you will find an English and Spanish copy of next year's calendar.

Let me anticipate some questions/issues that you might have about the revised schedule:

- ▶ Beth Hood and our team are thinking about ways we can assist families over the extended summer break. Please come talk to us if you are looking for alternative options for childcare for those two weeks in August.
- ▶ By starting two weeks late, we will only have one week of Intersession in October and one week in April. That means we will have 6 weeks of intersession, rather than 8, in 2010-2011.
- ▶ This adjustment is just for next year; we will return to starting the first week in August for school in 2011-2012 and have 8 weeks of intersession again.
- ▶ Our spring vacation is the same as DCPS's next year and turns out to be 10 days long; the DCCAS will take place before spring break next year.
- ▶ All other aspects of the calendar look like this year – our PD days, our parent/teacher conference days, and our end of school schedule.
- ▶ Beth et. al. are thinking about how we can assist families in identifying childcare for those two weeks in August.

If you have other questions about the calendar, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf, Principal 4-7

Michelle Molitor, Principal Pre-K – 3

Sun 30	Mon 31 No School Memorial Day	Tues 1 School Parent Team Meeting – 6:15pm- 7:15pm	Wed 2	Thurs 3	Fri 4 Middle School Dance 7-10	Sat 5 End of Year Picnic – 12pm-3pm
Sun 6	Mon 7 Uniform Purchasing Day	Tues 8 Expedition: Culminating Events	Wed 9	Thurs 10	Fri 11 European Cultural Heritage Day	Sat 12

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELH Spring Concert TONIGHT! 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.

School Parent Team (SPT): “Race Matters: Talking About Race with Each Other and With Your Children” 6:15-6:45; committee meetings following.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Please mark your calendars for June 18th for your student’s end of year conference.

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.

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!

Fitness Classes at ELH: Please remember to send your child prepared for fitness on the day they have their classes – it’s hard to run and play in sandals, and we’ll be going outside more regularly during Fitness Class – sneakers only, please!

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!

DC Youth Orchestra Summer Camps: The DC Youth Orchestra offers camps this summer from June 28th – August 6th. Scholarships will be available to students who are residents of the District (within zip codes 20001, 20002, 20003, 20007, 20009, 20010, 20011, 20012, 20015, 20016, 20017, 20018, 20019, 20020, 20024, and 20032). Scholarships through this contribution are available for the 2010 summer session only. Additional information about the scholarships is available at 202-723-1612 or info@dcyop.org.

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: 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

Counselors Corner

Ms.Teri

As a school community we are excited to address issues of race with our students in an effort to establish a more caring and compassionate school community. We aspire to develop a compassionate community that is able to have courageous conversations associated with issues of race and equity. Our journey towards creating an environment in which issues of racism and inequity can be processed and explored will impact our school community and bridge the achievement gap for all students to succeed. We eagerly encourage our parents to share and explore issues of race with their children to enhance understanding of others differences and develop healthy and diverse social connections. This dialogue also helps our students to develop a language to engage in dialogue about race across difference and enhance peer relationships and understanding.

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)

Talking to Kids About Race

By Nadra Kareem, About.com Guide

Stop Racism in Its Tracks

You've probably heard that racism is taught. Well, so is anti-racism. It's never too soon to teach kids to say no to prejudice. Want proof? After Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder in 1968, Jane Elliott taught third graders not to discriminate by separating the blue-eyed children from the brown-eyed children in her class and treating the latter as if they were superior. Elliott's experiment turned out to be unforgettable, not just for her students but for those who witnessed it. Get the lowdown on Elliott's experiment from PBS' Frontline program.

Lots of videos and books make excellent teaching tools about racism. Take the documentaries Eyes on the Prize and novel Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry, for example. Both show how African Americans struggled for civil rights. Visit the Southern Poverty Law Center's website for a list of age-appropriate literature about race and racism.

Practice What You Preach

You can't raise non-racist children if your own biases are left unchecked. What kind of remarks do you make about racial groups? Does the idea of your kids hanging out with people from certain races make you cringe?

Maybe you keep your thoughts about other ethnic groups to yourself. Instead, you cross the street to avoid members of particular backgrounds or have no friends from ethnic groups other than your own. Children will pick up on this behavior and follow suit. So, if you want them to value people of all backgrounds, be a role model.

Teach Your Child Cultural Pride

It's hard to swallow, but one day your child may come home crying, the victim of a racist taunt or gesture. Children don't have to be helpless in these situations. Teach them self-love in racism's wake. Compliment that beautiful head of hair or set of eyes a classmate made fun of. Give your child dolls and toys with features similar to theirs or magazines with positive images of people from their cultural backgrounds.

In Closing...

Talking about race isn't easy, but it marks one of the most important things you'll do as a parent. How you address race can influence your children's choices in friends, not to mention their view of their own heritage. That said, don't delay the race talk. By speaking honestly about **race**, **you can empower your little ones**.