



E.L. HAYNES HERALD

June 4, 2009

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

I hope you're having a great week. In this Haynes Herald, I want to share details about three important topics: (1) our exciting expansion through high school, (2) nominations for a new parent trustee, (3) our staffing status for next year.

Expanding Through High School

As you all know, we were thrilled – and even a bit surprised – that we were chosen as the winner of the competitive process to occupy Clark Elementary School on Kansas Avenue to be our second campus. This terrific turn of events ensures that we will be able to expand through 12th grade and reach our mission of preparing all of our students for the college of their choice.

In the past two months, I have been thinking deeply about what will make our 200 student high school truly outstanding. When writing the charter application, I predicted virtually no attrition (~2 %) based on my experience in Chicago. As a result two classrooms of each grade level made sense. The reality in DC is different. We have one of the lowest attrition rates of any public charter school at 10-12%; nevertheless, we will need more than two classrooms of 8th graders to ensure that we have two classrooms of prepared 9th graders.

We considered three options: a) to start a second elementary school that would feed into our high school (this is what KIPP, DC Prep, Friendship, and other charter school management organizations have done), b) to expand the number of middle school classrooms that would feed into our high school (this is what Capital City has done), or c) to expand our preK – 8th grade program to three classrooms at each grade so we grow our own 9th graders from the youngest age. The Board of Trustees, the school's senior leadership, and the Instructional Leadership Team decided that the last option was the best for ELH. Over the next five or six years, we will grow our preK – 8th grades from two classrooms to three which will feed into one high school of two classrooms of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. Of particular importance is that this expansion will take place slowly; we will start by adding a third kindergarten classroom next year.

In addition to providing our high school with prepared students, this decision has several educational merits. While we will have more students, we will continue to be small enough so that all the teachers know all the students' names and families. Expanding to three classrooms per grade will provide a broader social network for students and families; this becomes more important as students spend more years together at ELH. Finally, we will be able to serve more students; currently, we've had over 700 applications for 09-10.

Nominations for New Parent Trustee

ELH is governed by a Board of Trustees that is responsible for setting school policies related to enrollment, personnel, discipline, and organizational performance, as well as overseeing all aspects of the school including educational program, facilities, finance, fundraising, community relations, external affairs, and strategic planning. This summer Clarissa Potter, parent of Ennis and Jasper, will be stepping down after helping to guide the school through our first five years of growth. Clarissa's contributions to ELH have been invaluable – she served as Secretary of the Board, a member of the Audit and Finance Committee, a trusted advisor, and active parent – and we heartily thank her for her service.

The Board of Trustees is seeking one Parent/Guardian Trustee to join the board before next fall. The term of a Parent/Guardian Trustee is typically two years, but may be extended. The responsibilities of the position include to: 1) serve as the liaison between the Board and the parent/guardian community; 2) strengthen parent/guardian

community support for the school's mission and vision; 3) lead the parent/guardian fundraising efforts, with the goal of 100% parent/guardian participation; 4) participate on a committee of the Board; and 5) represent Haynes at external community events.

There is a nomination and interview process for interested candidates. On Monday, June 8, 2009 the applications and a more detailed description of the Board will be available to all interested parents/guardians. The completed applications will be due by the end of the day on Friday, June 12, 2009 and commence interviews shortly thereafter. The new parent/guardian trustee will join Michael Hall, parent of Isaiah and Sam, who is continuing his indispensable service as chair of the Facilities Committee (yeah!) as we undertake the renovations of Clark Elementary.

Our Staffing Status for Next Year


Departures: As the year comes to a close, we have to say goodbye to some of our wonderful staff members which is always a teary affair. First, six members of our staff, not counting our graduating teaching fellows and one-year teaching associates, are taking on new challenges and exploring new career paths. While we are incredibly sad to see them go, we wish them well on their new adventures, which include moving to Ecuador to teach, becoming program directors for Teach for America and DC Teaching Fellows, entering a principal preparation program, and attending graduate school in a different state. Second, all but one of our teaching fellows will be completing their second and final year with us this June, and we will miss them terribly. While they are in the throws of interviewing for jobs right now, we are confident they will be snatched up soon and be outstanding examples of ELH's desire to make a broader impact on public education in this region. Lastly, we will miss our departing one-year teaching associates; in just ten short months, they've imbedded themselves into our school and into our hearts. We hope that everyone who is leaving us this year comes back to visit often!

Staffing Changes: First, we have a number of staff members who are changing roles within ELH. These new roles will give them new opportunities to expand their knowledge and for us to tap their expertise in new ways. For instance, this includes two of our classroom teachers shifting laterally to become inclusion and English language learning teachers. Second, we will be piloting a co-teaching model to maximize how classroom teachers and specialists (English language learning and inclusion teachers) work together to support all the students. We are embarking on this for two reasons: 1) co-teaching is the next step in the development of our best practices instructionally and 2) the mayor's budget cuts caused us to downsize our teaching associate program and eliminate our support of graduate courses towards certification. Thus, third, next year we will have a teaching associate in each preK, K, and 1st grade classrooms. In grades 2nd – 6th, we will have one teaching associate working with both classrooms. Seventh grade will not have a teaching associate because we've hired three lead teachers instead of two teachers and an associate. Even with these changes, we still have less than a 12:1 student to teacher ratio.

Retention and Recruitment: First, we have all of our senior administrative and instructional leaders with us again next year along with nearly 90% of staff who are not teaching fellows or teaching associates. Second, we are happy to report that we've been inundated by outstanding resumes now that teachers have heard about our results, our collaborative culture, and our dedication to excellence. We are in the enviable position of being able to choose the cream-of-the-cream of the crop and have already filled all of our open positions with these outstanding educators.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have about the information shared above. I'll be available on June 12, our teacher/parent conference day, to speak with any of you and will take all other opportunities (e.g. our school picnic, Hamlet, etc.) to be available. I'm very excited that we are moving strongly toward realizing our mission of getting each and every one of our students to college. We knew there would be bumps in the road, but the most important ingredient to our success is our extremely talented staff and dedicated families who can figure out how to find solutions to any and every challenge we face.

Sincerely,



Jennifer C. Niles
Founder and Head of School

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

- ▶ **Re-Enrollment Deadline:** All enrollment forms are due to the Front Office no later than the close of business on **Friday June 12, 2009**. If you have not received or misplaced the re-enrollment forms please contact the front office immediately. The following forms were included in the packet. (Enrollment Form, School Lunch Application, DC Residency, Health and Dental Forms) It is mandatory, to secure enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year, that the packet is returned, complete, and on time.
Please note the entire packet is due on June 12th, including current health and dental physical forms!
- ▶ **Summer 2009 Intersession:** Summer 2009 Intersession starts on Monday, June 22nd. **Friday, June 6th is the last day to register!**
- ▶ **ATTENTION PARENTS! DON'T FORGET THE E.L. HAYNES FAMILY PICNIC – THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 6 - 12:00 – 3:00 PM.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR E.L. HAYNES FAMILY PICNIC!

NEW LOCATION: RAYMOND RECREATION CENTER 915 SPRING ROAD, NW

The Raymond Recreation Center is located behind Raymond Elementary School and is just 3 blocks from E.L. Haynes.

Directions from E.L. Haynes:

From E.L. Haynes' front door on OTIS PLACE, continue down OTIS and turn RIGHT onto NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, NW

Go one block and turn LEFT onto SPRING ROAD, NW

Raymond Elementary School is one block down SPRING ROAD, on your RIGHT.

You may park in the Raymond Elementary School parking lot.

The Recreation Center is located behind the school.

Come celebrate another great school year with the E.L. Haynes community. There will be lots of food, fun, and fabulous prizes!

Families are asked to bring the following, in quantities to feed 16-20 people:

Pre-K & K- desserts.

Grades 1 & 2 - side dishes and salads.

Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 - main dishes.

We also ask that you sign up for a 30-minute stint to help set-up and/or running kids' activities. We also need as many people as possible to stick around to help cleanup—the more people, the faster it will go! You can find the sign-up sheets in the school lobby.

Thanks to all of you who have offered to coordinate activities at the picnic! We could still use a few more people, but it's looking like there will be lots of fun things to do. Just to clarify, the recent calls were for **activity coordinators**. These are people who are willing to come up with activity ideas and get them set up at the picnic. If you have any question please contact Anne Crowley at anne@studiocrowleyhall.com.

- ▶ **PARENT-TEACHER – STUDENT CONFERENCE:** Friday, June 12th – **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**. Make sure to schedule a conference with your teacher. **Sign up sheets are available in the lobby.**
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Girls/Boys Step Show:** On Friday, June 5th at 4:00 PM the Girls and Boys Step Team will share all of the dynamic moves that they have been learning this year. **Come out and support them!**
- ▶ **E.L. Haynes Raffle:** As soon as you sell your raffle tickets, please return them with the money to the parent volunteer in the lobby at the front desk during arrival and dismissal. **Friday, June 5th will be the last day to return raffle tickets!** More tickets are available if families want to sell additional tickets!!

- ▶ **E.L. Haynes Silent Auction:** At this year's Family Picnic on June 6th, families will be able to participate in a silent auction which will include prizes like theatre tickets, jewelry, artwork, summer camp sessions, an interior design consultation, pet services, etc. Families will get a chance to bid on these prizes and all money raised will go directly to the school. Remember to bring cash and your checkbooks! More details will be included in next week's Haynes Herald.
- ▶ **SPT Meeting** – Last meeting of 2009-2010 school year! **Monday, June 8 – 6:00 – 7:00 PM.**
- ▶ **Principal's coffee** – **Tuesday, June 9 – 8:15 – 9:00 AM.**
- ▶ **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 at (202) 667-4446 or cnaves@elhaynes.org if you're able to bring treats or drinks for after the ceremony.
- ▶ **Expedition Culminating Events:** **Wednesday, June 10th, 11:00-3:30!**
 On June 10th ELH students will be showing off the learning and products from their expedition. Each class is scheduled for an hour long block of time. In order to accommodate families with students in more than one grade, we have reserved a half hour of "spotlight" time. The most important components of the culminating event will take place in this half hour spotlight, so that families can be sure to see all their students shine!
11:00 -12:00, 5th grade (spotlight 11:00 to 11:30)
11:30 - 12:30, 4th grade (spotlight 11:30 to 12:00)
12:00 - 12:30, Pre-Kindergarten (spotlight 12:00 to 12:30)
12:30 - 1:00, Kindergarten (spotlight 12:30 to 1:00)
1:00 - 2:00, 1st grade (spotlight 1:00 to 1:30)
1:30 - 2:30, 2nd grade (spotlight 1:30 to 2:00)
2:00 - 3:00, 3rd grade (spotlight 2:00 to 2:30)
2:30 - 3:30, 6th grade (spotlight 2:30 - 3:00)

YEAR ROUND PROGRAM UPDATE

As our first year in our new building comes to a close, the Year Round Programs Department is moving in full swing to ensure that all of our students are getting the most from their Out-of- School time. This year's addition of Electives to the After School programming has been an overwhelming success, with YRP participation increasing over last year's enrollment numbers. The elective experience wasn't confined to the walls of our building. During the course of the year our students have met the GWU Lady Colonials, attended RFK stadium's first Eagle Bank Bowl, and trained with various fraternity and sorority step teams from Howard University. The YRP message of service and leadership was alive in our students as they participated in a number of programs sponsored by groups in and around the DC area such as "Girls on the Run", "Walk for the Homeless", and 2nd/3rd grade Chess.

Feeding off of the energy and enthusiasm of each Intersession this year, we have been able to further engage our students with dynamic programming and educators from around the DC Metro area. This year alone we have been able to sponsor Intersession classes on subjects ranging from Going Green to Political Debate. As our students continue to grow socially and build connections locally, we ask that our families keep on providing us with their feedback. Your comments and continued support are critical to framing the direction the Year Round Programs Department will take in the coming years. Please contact Jayson Wilkinson at jwilkinson@elhaynes.org or (202) 473-4950 with your questions, concerns and comments.

Counselors Corner
Ms. Teri

As we transition into the summer time, our children may have additional unstructured time in the home. The impact of media on our children’s thoughts, emotions and behaviors is important. As parents let’s monitor media usage and make it parent child interactive. It’s vital to remember the importance of parent /child communication and play in developing enriched and memorable connections with our children.

Have Fun With Your Children!

“If you put down a more creative toy and the child says I don't want to do this... it's too much effort, it's too much work, I want to just go and watch t-v... that might be a warning sign.” Laura Mee, Ph.D., Psychologist

The T-V is rarely on.

The computer is off limits.

Almost every day Tashia and her sister get time to play with clay, crayons, or whatever they can find...

“And they’ll just pick up the uncooked spaghetti out and lying around,” says her mom, Carrie Flamer, “And they just pick up the uncooked spaghetti and start making a sculpture with that.”

Experts say some parents think television is an easy way to occupy their children...

Instead...

“In the long run it is harder because then they continually look to someone else to fulfill that need and to somehow entertain them,” says Psychologist Laura Mee, Ph.D.

And Carrie says Tashia can spend hours playing with blocks... or leggos... giving mom *more* free time than when the kids watch t-v or play video games...

Because then you don’t have to run around and put in a video and get a computer game going and ultimately I think it does make it easier for you,” says Carrie.

Experts say even more important is the sense of accomplishment young children get when they create a piece of art, a sculpture ... a creation they can call their own...

“Having a toy that’s something that they can control, and play with the way they want to play with it... gives them that sense of being in charge. That feeling of independence and mastery that children want and need as they’re growing,” says Dr. Mee.

“Start early and as soon as they can manipulate objects,” says Carrie, “Put a piece of string in front of them, put tape, put a piece of clay... and see what they do

(excerpt taken from www.connectwithkids.com)

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

07	08 Progress Reports Mailed Home School Parent Team Meeting SPT 6:00 – 7:00 PM	09 Principal’s Coffee 8:15 – 9:00 AM	10 Expedition Culminating Events (11:00 – 3:30)	11	12 Parent-teacher conferences SIGN – UP!!	13
14	15	16	17 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Dismissal at 1:00 PM All School Meeting 5 th Grade Graduation	18	19	20

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.