



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

June 9, 2009

**E.L. HAYNES**

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

"Communities are not built of friends, or of groups of people with similar styles and tastes," writes journalist Suzanne Goldsmith. "They are built of people who feel they are a part of something that is bigger than themselves: a shared goal or enterprise, like righting a wrong, or building a road, or raising children... To build community requires only the ability to see value in others; to look at them and see a potential partner in one's enterprise."

In this final Haynes Herald of the year we want to thank you for being a member of this community; a partner in our shared enterprise. Over the course of this, our fifth year, we shared both the challenges and the joys of raising children together. We talked, we analyzed, we problem solved, we shared stories, we shared theories, we problem solved some more, we laughed, we ate, and most importantly, every day we learned. Some days felt like dead ends; others revealed unexpected roads forward. Now it's been a year; and a year is a good marker in time when we can take stock of how far our children have come.

It's also a time to celebrate together. We are pleased that this past week gave us so many opportunities to do that. Last Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders performed dances and songs (some of them original compositions, some of them dance/song collaborations) at their Spring Concert. On Friday, we were treated to a heart-pumping, foot-stomping step show followed by a performance of Hamlet that was nothing short of spectacular. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders (along with guest actors Mr. Kipp, Mr. Franz, Mr. Epton, and Mr. Yarbrough) not only nailed their lines, they became their characters.

On Saturday we enjoyed one of the best End-of-Year Picnics yet, complete with delicious food, an encore of the step show performance, a magician, soccer, volleyball (the staff vs. student match ended in a tie ☺), and most importantly, swarms of happy kids. Thank you to all the parents who organized the event. Plus a special thanks to Keely and Carmelita who figured out that Parkview was double booked and saved the day by finding an even better venue!

Of course, a few celebrations still lie ahead. We are looking forward to Expedition Day and the dance celebration of reaching the 5 Million Minute Mountain (we are now less than 30,000 minutes away!!!) which will be held Tuesday afternoon in the cafeteria. We also look forward to seeing you this Friday for the final Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Thank you again for a great year.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades

Michelle Molitor, Principal, Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

# NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

- ▶ **PARENT-TEACHER – STUDENT CONFERENCE:** Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> – **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.** Make sure to schedule a conference with your teacher. **Sign up sheets are available in the lobby.**
- ▶ **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 12<sup>th</sup>, including current health and dental physical forms!**
- ▶ **Last Call for Summer Intersession Packets:** Any family that intends on sending their child to Summer Intersession “09” should turn in completed applications along with appropriate fees to the front office by Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>. Any form returned after the 12<sup>th</sup> will be placed on a wait list. Once all students have been placed than students from the wait list will be placed in classes where there might be space. **Please Note:** All after school balances along with late fees must be paid or an arrangement made in order for children to participate.
- ▶ **Last All School Meeting of 2009!** Wednesday, June 17, 9:00 – 9:30 AM. Parents are welcomed to join us!
- ▶ **5<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>**). Please contact Carmelita at (202) 667-4446 or [cnaves@elhaynes.org](mailto:cnaves@elhaynes.org) if you're able to bring treats or drinks for after the ceremony.
- ▶ **Carlos Rosario Family Literacy Program – 2009 Student Recognition Ceremony:** Friday, June 12 – 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Carlos Rosario International PCS. Congratulations to our families who have concluded their year long participation in the Family Literacy Program.
- ▶ **Orientation Meetings:** We will be holding meetings for all returning families during the week of July 27<sup>th</sup> from 4-5 PM. The K-1<sup>st</sup> grade families will meet on Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> will meet on Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> on Thursday, and the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> on Friday. This will be a great time to meet your new teachers and get oriented on what's in store for the upcoming year!
- ▶ **Raffle and Silent Auction:** Thanks to the hard work of our E.L. Haynes families, we raised more than \$5,000 with our school raffle and more than \$2,500 with our first-ever silent auction! Family fundraising activities brought in more the \$17,000 this year – more than twice what these activities raised last year! **Thank you!**
- ▶ **E.L. Haynes Athletic Team Sports Awards Night:** Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Students, who participated through out the year in one of the E.L. Haynes sports team, and their families are invited for a Potluck in the cafeteria to celebrate their accomplishments.
- ▶ **A note from Ms. Carmelita:** I want to share with you that unfortunately, because of family relocation to Brazil, I will not be returning to E.L. Haynes in the next academic school year. I would like to thank each Haynes Family for working with me over the course of the year. It has been a great pleasure to work with you and your children. I will miss all of the smiling faces that I met each morning as you walked through the doors of E.L. Haynes.

## Parent Corner: An experience to be shared

This year we decided to tutor one of our sons' classmates. We wanted to make it beneficial for both kids and to welcome the child in our home to play, enjoy occasional dinners and also for work time. We first met with the teachers and staff to discuss the idea and see if they agreed with the child we thought might benefit from such an arrangement. We then spoke with our son and finally we arranged to meet with the other child's parents.

Carmelita Naves has been a huge help throughout the entire process, aiding us in communicating with the family and smoothing out any issues we have encountered along the way.

Our meeting with the other family was wonderful. We wanted to make sure that they knew we wanted our son to learn from their child as well. They both bring very different skills to the table and we believed that fostering a relationship between them would prove helpful for them both. At the end of the year, we feel it has been a very good experience for both children.

Logistically it has been challenging at times. Shuffling our schedules has not been easy, but we feel it has been worth the effort. We have witnessed this child increase his reading proficiency and show enormous pride in his work. In addition, our son has built a stronger friendship; which is something we hoped would occur.

If your family can find the time to tutor one of our kids either in your own home, at a local coffee shop, or in one of the spaces at school, we believe you will not regret it. What could be a better use of your time than building up one of our E. L. Haynes scholars?

Debra and David Eichenbaum

**Counselors Corner**  
**Ms. Teri**

Last Counselors Corner we discussed the importance of play with our children in building enriched child-parent communication and connection. As parents it's important that we reviewed the impact of media on our children and develop alternate ways to interact with our children that's enhancing and fun!!

**Tips for Parents**

Most children will have more energy when they are young than at any other time in their lives. They also are at a critical stage for intellectual and creative development. Statistics have shown watching television excessively may not be the best option for this development, but many parents still use television to keep their children occupied. Consider the following:

- ▶ In a typical American home, the television is on for over seven hours each day. The average child spends more time watching television than in school.
- ▶ On average, kids spend about 20 or more hours each week watching television, which is more time than is spent in any other activity besides sleeping.
- ▶ An average person will have watched seven to 10 *years* worth of television by age 70.
- ▶ Advertisers target children, and each year an average kid sees tens of thousands of commercials on the television.
- ▶ Television viewing starts earlier than other forms of media, often beginning before the child is 2 years old.
  
- ▶ The television can act as a very useful tool when you need to keep your children occupied in order to get things done. However, this can often be a detrimental situation unless is approached with caution and wisdom. Experts at Young Media Australia suggest the following tips concerning television usage:

**Lead by example** – Children will model their viewing patterns on what they see you doing. Try to avoid turning on the television as soon as you arrive home and then leaving it on as background. Practice some guidelines for yourself such as turning the television off as soon as visitors arrive or after your favorite show is finished. Watch and support programs you believe are good. Let television and radio stations, network executives, and advertisers know what you like and dislike.

**Choose which programs to watch on television** – If we accept that we all use the television as a babysitter from time to time, consider how carefully you would normally choose a baby-sitter for your child. Remember your children will be picking up values and attitudes from the television they watch every day. Try to make sure these values and attitudes are what you believe in, too. The younger the child, the more impressionable he or she is, and the less experienced in evaluating content against the values of family and community. Some images in the news, for example, are extremely disturbing for very young children and could lead to sleep disturbance.

**Keep the television out of kids' bedrooms** – It is difficult to monitor what your children are watching when they are watching television in their own room. They may be tempted to watch it when it would be more appropriate for them to be studying, reading, sleeping or working on more creative activities. Having a television in a child's room discourages participation in family activities. It also means that you are not able to explain disturbing or misleading information, or explain how your family values may contradict the values being depicted.

**Decide as a family what you will watch in advance** – Go through a television-viewing guide and make family decisions on shows to watch for the week. Discuss the reasons for the decisions with your children. Discuss issues and ideas with other adults, friends and parents of your children's playmates.

**Teach children how to plan their own television viewing** – For very young children, have them write a list or draw pictures of their favorite shows that are coming up in the next week. Give them a counter for each one and have them give it to you as they watch it. Many very young children respond to star charts based around this idea. Or, give them a certain number of counters for a week, reflecting the amount of television you will allow them to watch. If they have counters left over, reward them with a special activity they enjoy.

**TWO-WEEK CALENDAR**

14	15	16	17 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Dismissal at 1:00 PM  All School Meeting  5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation	18	19	20
21	22 SUMMER INTERSESSION	23 SUMMER INTERSESSION	24 SUMMER INTERSESSION	25 SUMMER INTERSESSION	26 SUMMER INTERSESSION	27