



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

August 13, 2009

## E.L. HAYNES

3600 Georgia Avenue, NW

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

Welcome to 2009-2010 at ELH! We are so excited to kick off another great year at Haynes. We hope your student has enjoyed his/her first weeks of school. We want to highlight three topics in this letter: our weekly communication, mandatory orientations, and upcoming Back-to-School Nights.

**Thursday Express:** You should have found this Haynes Herald in the “Thursday Express” folder. Every Thursday your student will bring this folder home to you. Inside you will find newsletters, flyers, permission slips, and other important information. We need you to read the Thursday Express each week so that you know what’s happening at school. Our goal is to make home-school communication easy for you by consolidating it into one easy package. You also need to initial the Thursday Express so we know you got it and make sure it gets returned to school on Friday. The teacher will collect the Thursday Express folders every Friday morning.

**Mandatory Orientations:** Before school began and this week, we’ve held mandatory Orientation Meetings which had critical information about communication, attendance and tardiness, Year Round Programs, and our behavior expectations. If you were not able to attend one of the meetings yet, please make sure you attend one of the last sessions in the morning (8:30 – 9:00 am) or evening (5:30 – 6:00 pm) on Friday, 8/14. We want you to have a copy of the Teacher-Parent-Student Contract and other documents so that we can work together to ensure this is a successful year of learning for your student(s).

**Back-to-School Nights from 6 – 8 PM:** Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> will be the pre-K to 2nd grade Back-to-School Night. Teachers will present information about the education program, answer questions, and tell you about upcoming events. The Parent-Teacher-Student Contracts will be signed. Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Back-to-School Night for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Students should attend with parents/guardians.

We look forward to a terrific year of working with you!

Sincerely,

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

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

### The Next Two Weeks at E.L. Haynes

9	10 Orientation 8:30-9:00, 5:30-6:00	11 Orientation 8:30-9:00, 5:30-6:00	12 Orientation 8:30-9:00, 5:30-6:00	13 Orientation 8:30-9:00, 5:30-6:00	14 Orientation 8:30-9:00, 5:30-6:00	15 New Family Welcoming Event 10:00-noon
16	17	18 School Parent Team (SPT) 6:00-7:00	19	20	21	22

# NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**School Parent Team (SPT):** Our first meeting is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm in the cafeteria. Come learn about how our staff and parents work together to make this truly a special community.

**E.L. Haynes Community Basketball for Adults:** On Wednesday nights come play some ball with the E.L. Haynes staff and parents in our gym. Play is from 6-8 pm and all skill levels are welcome! This is for adults only and you'll be asked to sign a waiver before joining in the game.

**On Time Arrival:** Please have your children in the building by **8:20 am!** Our class morning meetings begin at 8:30am SHARP, and we need all students seated and ready to participate. Please do your part to ensure that your child gets off to a great morning start!

**Free Immunizations:** Saturday, August 22, 10am-2pm at Mary Virginia Merrick Center. See included flier for directions and information on what to bring to show income eligibility. Immunizations are also available for uninsured and underinsured at the Department of Health; 6323 Georgia Ave., NW; Suite 205; Monday and Tuesdays from 10am – 2pm.

**Picture Day is August 25:** 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders do not have to come in uniform, but should be wearing a collared shirt.

**School Improvement Plan Meeting August 25, 6-7 pm:** Tuesday evening we'll be meeting to finalize the parent involvement portion of the School Improvement Plan. We would love to have parents share your input as we finalize the plan for this coming year. See Ms. Hood or Ms. Niles if you'd like to see a draft of the plan before the meeting.

**Parent Listserv:** If you would like to subscribe to the parent listserve, please email Christine Martin at [Christine@dcmartins.com](mailto:Christine@dcmartins.com)

### **Follow E.L. Haynes on Facebook and Twitter**

E.L. Haynes is on Facebook and Twitter! In an effort to connect with E.L. Haynes families and the broader community online, we will share information about the projects our students are working on, updates on our construction project at the Clark Elementary site, and news about events and achievements on both of these popular social networking websites. Please become a fan of E.L. Haynes on Facebook, support our Cause on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter to stay connected and share your love of the school with your family, friends, and colleagues.

Facebook: E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

Facebook Causes: <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/46897>

Twitter: ELHaynesPCS

### **Information for Parents on the E.L. Haynes Website**

E.L. Haynes is adding features to our website to provide more information for our families. If you have suggestions for content, please contact Keely Flaherty by email [kflaherty@elhaynes.org](mailto:kflaherty@elhaynes.org), by phone at 202-667-4446 or ask for her the next time you are at the school.

## Counselors Corner

Ms. Teri

Welcome back to E.L. Haynes. Its so great seeing our new and returning students and parents this school year .I hope all of you are having an incredible summer . For our children the process of returning to school often evokes great excitement, worries , fears and joy as well as so many other emotions. Often there are some students who become so emotionally overwhelmed that they avoid coming to school . As parents its important to know that if school refusal is related to anxiety allowing our kids to stay home only worsens the symptom and having children return to school quickly produces the best outcome . Its important to support your childrens emotional development and open the lines of communication about this issue. Its our school community including are awesome parents that makes this transition to school as successful as possible. Enjoy talking to your children.

Dr. Rachel Klein of the [NYU Child Study Center](#) has provided some good tips:

- Do not deny the child's anxiety or worries, but acknowledge them and reassure him/her. For example: "I know you're worried I won't be there to pick you up, but there's no reason to worry. I'll be there."
- Try to find ways to enable the child to go to school. For example, a child is likely to feel reassured if times are set for him or her to call the mother from school.
- It is most important to tell the child exactly what s/he is to expect. There should be no "tricks" or surprises. For example, a child may be told that he should try to stay in school for only one hour, but after the hour he is encouraged or asked to stay longer either by the school or parent. This will backfire. The child will eventually refuse future arrangements for fear that they will be modified arbitrarily. Part of being anxious is anxiety about the unknown and the "what if?".
- Punishment does not work, but kind, consistent, rational pressure and encouragement do.
- Do not quiz the child about why s/he feels scared. The child often does not know why. By not being able to provide an explanation, in addition to being anxious, the child feels guilty about not making sense of what is happening. Better to acknowledge that the fears make no sense and that the child has to fight them.
- Be open to hearing about how your child feels. However, lengthy discussions about the child's problems are not always helpful and can be experienced as a burden by the child. The focus must always be that you want to help your child be free of worries and fears.
- A child's reluctance to go to school can be irritating to parents. Expressing resentment and anger is counterproductive. And you won't feel the urge to do so if you adopt specific strategies to assist your child.

### 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.

**BE KIND | WORK HARD | GET SMART**