



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

September 17, 2009

## E.L. HAYNES

3600 Georgia Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20010

(202) 667-4446 phone

(202) 667-8811 fax

Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

In order to design our new high school, we want to get input from our community in a variety of ways. Last week, a group of parents met to share their hopes and dreams for the high school; students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade participated in a homework assignment to draw their ideal high school; and last Saturday, September 12, we held our High School Charrette. A Charrette is an activity regularly used by architects to get perspectives and input from a variety of stakeholders – in our case, 20 students, 14 family members, and 6 staff members – about the design of our new high school. The three architects who are designing our high school—Mr. Shinberg, Mr. Levinas, and Mr. Vintro—lead the Charrette in English and Spanish.

The three key questions discussed at the Charrette were 1) how should we organize the outdoor space?, 2) what images/aesthetics/design elements do we want to have in the renovated building and new addition?, and 3) how are the high school students different than younger students and what do they need that's unique?

Charrette participants divided into 5 tables that worked with large plans, cut-outs, pictures, colored markers, and overhead images. Some of the key themes that emerged from the activities were that a) high school students should have more responsibility than younger students since they're more mature and, thus, should have more freedom, flexibility, and choice in their day; b) in addition to lots of athletic opportunities on the 5 acres, we also want space for gardens and outdoor learning spaces; and c) images of cafe spaces, varied study areas, and light, colorful rooms were favorites of the students.

We will renovate the 3rd floor of the existing building of Clark Elementary (4503 Kansas Ave, NW) for classrooms; add a new high school wing which likely will include a high school gymnasium, cafeteria, science and music rooms, and offices; and redesign the 5 acres to include athletic facilities, playground(s), gardens, etc. (The first two floors of the existing building will be for our preK to 2nd grade program.)

Highlights of the Charrette also will be shared at the School Parent Team meeting on Thursday, September 17 from 6:15 - 7:15 in our cafeteria.

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Niles  
Founder and Head of School

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

20	21 No School for Students	22 Acceleration Workshop for Parents (Invitation Only) from 6 – 7 PM	23	24	25 National Park Trust Assembly (Pre-k – 3 <sup>rd</sup> grades)	26
27	28 Yom Kippur (Students have school)	29	30	October 1 Sign up begins in lobby for Teacher/Parent Conferences on 10/9	2	3

## NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

**Don't forget!!** – No School for students on Mon, September 21.

**TONIGHT!! - SPT Meeting:** Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:15-7:15pm – Cafeteria. Committee work will take place the first half hour, and following will be a presentation on **“How the Responsive Classroom Model Teaches Positive Behavior.”**



**Hispanic Heritage Month is coming!!** And we have two exciting events!! **Sunday, Sept. 27** “Nations Parade” at 14<sup>th</sup> & Spring Sts., NW where E.L. Haynes students will represent Latin American countries as dancers and drummers. On **Thursday, October 8**, we have “Dia Latino” (Latin Day) where we will celebrate with a parade of countries, food, music and a school-wide assembly. We need lots of parent volunteers to help organize and guide our students as they participate in these festive occasions. If you would like to volunteer, please see Maestra or Beth Hood. You can also call them at 667-4446 or email at: [nalderson@elhaynes.org](mailto:nalderson@elhaynes.org), [bhood@elhaynes.org](mailto:bhood@elhaynes.org).

**Tardies at E.L. Haynes** We have a big problem with students arriving after class has begun at 8:30 am, folks... In the past two weeks we have had 98 students arrive late, with many students coming in late the majority of those days! This is creating disruption in class, and making it difficult for all our students to settle in to the daily routine. Class begins at 8:30, and your child is expected to be inside the building by that time. **Starting Tuesday, September 22 if your student arrives after 8:30 am...**

- You must sign in you child at the reception desk and include the reason for the tardy.
- If your student is late repeatedly, you must attend a meeting with an administrator.

Thank you in advance for making adjustments in your schedules, so that your child is at school on time, every day.

### **Suggestion/Comment Box...**

Many comments of late have been on the issue of security. **THANK YOU** to all parents who have contributed their comments and observations. Your concerns help us stay on top of issues that need attention, and we appreciate your input. We have been in communication with Officer Benjamin Firehock of the Metropolitan Police Department. He is aware of increased concern among parents and wants you to email him directly when you observe anything suspicious or outright illegal activity in the area. His email is [Benjamin.firehock@dc.gov](mailto:Benjamin.firehock@dc.gov). In the subject line, please put “E.L. Haynes Security Concern.” If you don't have easy access to email, ask Ms. Niles or Ms. Hood to share your observations with Officer Firehock or put a note in the Suggestion/Comment Box.

**We Still Need Room Parents for....** the following classrooms: Ms. Jensen (2<sup>nd</sup>), Ms. Wells (3<sup>rd</sup>), Mr. Kip (5<sup>th</sup>), and Mr. Green (7<sup>th</sup>). If you would like to help out in your child's classroom by being the liaison between the teacher and parents, please communicate with Anne Crowley at 202-387-3003 or by email at: [anne@studiocrowleyhall.com](mailto:anne@studiocrowleyhall.com)

**Lunch & Residency Forms:** Parents, if you haven't turned in your lunch or residency forms, please stop by the front office immediately!

**The National Park Trust Assembly...** has contacted us about partnering with them to build an appreciation for all things nature, especially parks and being in the Great Outdoors, and is coming to give our students in pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades a presentation on **Friday, September 25 from 8:45-9:15 AM.**

**JOINT UTILITY DISCOUNT DAY IS TODAY...** at the Washington Convention Center. Applications will be taken until 7pm this evening in person. Special discounts on electric, gas, telephone, and water bills for DC consumers who meet eligibility criteria. Following today, call 311 for more information on submitting your application. See the flyer in today's Thursday Express!

## **Counselors Corner**

### **Ms. Teri**

Many students at school complain of intense worries and fears. These fears often can impact the way our students are able to focus and learn within the classroom setting. They also impact our student's ability to relate social emotionally with others in a mutually beneficial way. Its important that as parents we support our children through their fears to relieve some of their intense emotions and make them much happier .

Have fun talking with your children.

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### **How can you help your child?**

Empower them by letting them know that they are normal and other kids experience these things too. Talk to them about fear and phobias. Never tell them their acting silly, these kinds of comments will not make the fear go away. Draw and play out their fears with them. Let them know you were scared once too. It does not make you a weak parent it actually helps them to know that you felt the same way and you can relate to them when you tell them these fears will go away... you are living proof.

### **Tips for Parents of younger children**

- Ghost away powder is made from baby powder... ghosts sneeze and they will not come near.
- Ghost Spray water bottle... A light mist and it keeps them away for 24 hours
- Signs with light bulbs drawn on it... all ghosts hate the thought of lights
- Draw pictures of their ghosts and then tear them up and crush them.
- Always take your child's fears seriously and let them know you are there for them to help and listen.
- Seek medical help for a child who is fearful to the point of anxiety

### **Tips for parents of older children**

- Tell them that no one has proof that ghosts do exist.
- Movies and shows are for the most part elaborated or false.
- Ghosts do not pop out of the woodwork to scare you.
- Remember a lot of movies that have ghostly events happening are usually rated PG or PG13. If you allow your children to view these movies then be prepared of the after effects.
- Remember a lot of night time television shows are geared as family viewing but are not as appropriate for the oversensitive child
- Always take your child's fears seriously and let them know you are there for them to listen.
- Seek medical help for a child who is fearful to the point of anxiety

This is in no way a substitute for medical or mental health professionals. If you feel that your child is suffering from fears or phobias then do not hesitate to phone a doctor.

(Excerpt taken from website psican.org)