



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

October 8, 2009

## E.L. HAYNES

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

Last week, Michael Hall (Co-Chair of our Board of Trustees), Patrice Griffin (our Project Manager for Clark/Kansas Ave), and I flew to Denver, Colorado to see the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) as part of our research to design the ideal ELH high school. We loved our visit to DSST for many reasons. Not only did we want to learn about the school, but we also wanted to see how the facility supported their educational program.



Here are a few key features of DSST that we'd like to mimic at our ELH high school:

- DSST is the highest performing high school in Colorado!
- DSST serves a diverse student body, like ours
- DSST 9<sup>th</sup> graders take physics, 10<sup>th</sup> grader take chemistry, and 11<sup>th</sup> graders take biology (called a Physics First model) which is the most effective way for students to learn science
- DSST lends a laptop computer to every high school student for the whole year
- The curriculum includes project-based learning, internships, and a focus on mastering standards

Here are a few key highlights we'd like to incorporate in our high school design:

- DSST had lots of informal learning spaces for students to work in between classes
- DSST had a "commons" where their morning meeting took place
- DSST had indoor and outdoor spaces for students to eat lunch (weather permitting)



More staff members are going to visit schools in San Diego and San Francisco during October Intersession to bring back even more great ideas. I'll share the highlights from all of our trips on Thursday, November 5 from 6 – 7 PM, ask for more input from family members, community members, and students, and update everyone on our renovation/construction timeline.

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Niles  
Founder and Head of School

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

11	12 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL	13 Week 1 of Intersession begins	14	15	16 End of Week Culminating Events During the Day	17
18	19 Week 2 of Intersession begins	20	21	22	23 End of Week Culminating Events During the Day	24

## NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** We're sure you've already signed up to talk with your child's teacher, but in case you haven't, please call the school ASAP! We're looking forward to seeing everyone at their scheduled appointment – please come **ON TIME** so that our day runs smoothly! Everyone is booked back to back 8am-6pm, so it's essential that we begin and end on time.

**Next School Parent Team Meeting is October 28 @ 6pm** – We will be talking about our school-wide bullying intervention program and meeting in committees. If you have additional agenda items, please email Towana at [tfloyd@elhaynes.org](mailto:tfloyd@elhaynes.org)

**Health Fair at EL Haynes** – November 4, 6:00pm-8:00pm. Among other health educators, we'll have Dr. Teach from Impact DC who will speak about Managing Your Child's Asthmatic Symptoms. More details to come.

**Parent Communication** – Thank you to a parent who made the suggestion to alternatively run information for parents on our lobby TV, along with our staff announcements. Important dates and activities for parents will be listed daily.

**Student Directory** – Thank you for your patience on the student directory. We have wanted to wait until our enrollment was stable before printing the directory for everyone. Please stop by the front tables in the lobby during Parent Teacher Conferences, to be sure your information is correct.

**Hail to the Haynes Flag Football Team!** Our kids beat our sister school and sports rival Capitol City PCS last week with a win of 25-24! Whoo-hoo! Come on out and support the students at the following games for the 09/10 season!

Junior Varsity: grades 4-5, Varsity: grades 6-7

**JV games begin @ 4pm V games begin @ 5pm. Games sites are:**

Parkview rec.(home) Otis & Warder St. NW

#11 Boys and Girls Club (away) 645 Milwaukee Pl. SE

Anacostia Park (away) Pennsylvania ave. Bridge, & 11<sup>th</sup> St. SE

Hamilton Park (away) 14<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton St. NW

**Game Dates are:**

Thurs, 10/1 Capital City @ E. L. H.: location Parkview rec.

Thur, 10/8 E. L. H. @ Friendship: location #11 Boys & Girls club

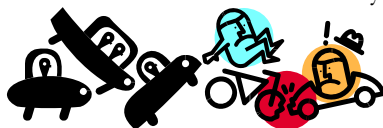
Thurs, 10/15 E. L. H. @ Howard Rd.: location Anscostia Park

Thurs, 10/22 E. L. H. @ Capital City: location Hamilton Park

**Thurs, 10/29 Friendship @ E. L. H.: location Parkview rec.**

**Thurs, 11/5 Howard Rd. @ E. L. H.: location Parkview rec.**

**Morning & Afternoon Drop Off/Pick Up:** Please be mindful that we are a school of 450 students, many of whom arrive by car. So that our and your morning runs smoothly, please only use the parking spots in front of the school for momentary pick ups/drop offs. If you need to sit for more than a minute, please park your car further up Otis St. so that traffic is not blocked – thank you!



**Community Announcements:**

**Food Donations at Clark Elementary Parking Lot on Fridays:** There is a distribution of free food every Friday at 3pm in the parking lot at Clark Elementary, located at 4501 7<sup>th</sup> St., NW. Bring your own bags and an ID. Distribution lasts until all food is distributed.

**Parkview Recreation Center Reading Circle:** Every Wednesday at 5:30pm there is a reading circle for children ages 4-10 at Parkview Recreation Center, at Otis and Warder Sts., NW. If you're interested, just show up, or call 777-4469.

**Friday Oct. 23: FIRST CRAFT NIGHT -- T-Shirts and Candles.** Time: From 6:00 until 9:00; come when you can. Location: In Mt. Pleasant, 1733 Kenyon St. NW, 20010. 1.5 miles east of school, 4 blocks from the Columbia Heights Metro, 1 to 2 blocks from the H2, H3, H4, H8 (this one goes from Petworth Metro almost to our house), 43, 42, S1 through 4, and The Circulator Bus. Parking is OK but not great. RSVP: Parrie Henderson-O'Keefe (202)667.9087 or [elodie0808@mac.com](mailto:elodie0808@mac.com). Bring broken crayons. If you can donate solid color t-shirts to paint, great.

**Another Free Food Distribution:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month, at the First Baptist Church, 1501 Columbia Rd., NW. The entrance is on 15<sup>th</sup> St., NW and the phone number is: 202-265-1410. Food is donated from the hours of 9am-11am.

**Ferdinand the Bull:** If you have the opportunity to get up to Bethesda, there is a wonderful play at Imagination Stage, written by our own Karen Zacarias, called Ferdinand the Bull. Ferdy is an easy-going, flower-loving kind of bull, whose best friend, the star-struck pig Cochina, takes them to exciting Madrid. There, Ferdy meets the unhappy Danilo, a boy torn between his own dreams and his father's very different plans for him. Their dramatic encounter has a happy surprise ending and shows how hard --- but ultimately how important --- it is to be true to one's self. For more information, you can go to the website at [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or call 301-280-1660.

### **Ms.Teri's Counselors Corner**

Many parents are often puzzled at the virtual minimal verbal exchange they experience with their children daily as they return from school . However we know that children are highly successful when they have the opportunity to share their ideas, thoughts and feelings with others. Parents really are a child's first teacher and the dining table is the best place to initiate the exchange of information knowledge and over all the modeling of great social skills. So let the table time talking begin !

### **Table Talk – Eating Together, Learning Together**

Source: [The Parent-Child Home Program](#)

Topics: [Growing Your Child's Intelligence](#), [Family Ideas and Inspiration](#)

Why is it a good idea for families to eat dinner together? Mealtime can be conversation time. In a study of 85 low income families in eastern Massachusetts, researchers found that young children exposed to talk during meals actually did better in kindergarten and first grade than their counterparts who did not eat with their families. The types of conversations that occur at the table, but can also occur elsewhere, are critical to language development. What implications does this have for parents of young children?

- Mealtime is a good time to expose youngsters to the “give and take” of conversation involving several people. Children learn how to negotiate their way into a conversation, as well as to listen to others both important preschool skills.
- The ability to tell a story, such as relating the events of the day, is crucial for pre-schoolers. Mealtime is a great time for storytelling.
- Narrative conversation can also take place when reading a book. Encourage children to relate back a story, in order, after becoming familiar with a book. Use the pictures as clues.

*(For more information see study by Catherine Snow and Patton Tabors of Harvard University, David Dickinson of Clark University, and Diane E. Beaus of Washington University, “Using Rare Words at Mealtimes Can Enlarge Children’s Vocabulary”, available on the web at <http://wvpa.wustl.edu/record/archive/1995/09-28-95/4234>)*

#### **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**