



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

October 29, 2009

E.L. HAYNES

3600 Georgia Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20010

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

Welcome back from Fall Intersession. We hope you and your students are well rested. We have already seen how ready for the second quarter students are—they've come back prepared to work!

ELH prides itself on knowing students academic, social, and emotional needs well. We have a number of measures in place to make sure student and families have what they need to be successful, including Second Step, Responsive Classroom, CSAT (Comprehensive Student Action Team), and many other school wide efforts. Before the break we conducted a survey with the entire student body, asking them to share their experiences with one another around the topic of bullying. Questions included "Has anyone ever hit, kicked, or pushed you more than one time (on more than one day)?" and "Have you ever called someone else a name, hit, kicked, pushed, or been mean to someone over and over?" "How often have you seen someone bullied?" and "What did you do if you saw someone being bullied?"

Based on the results, we will be launching a school-wide initiative to prevent and stop bullying. This will be conducted grade-by-grade, class-by-class, and fits in perfectly with the efforts and structures already in place at Haynes. This training will give students the language they need to help prevent bullying, will help them understand what bullying is in all its many forms, and will provide them tools to stop it when they see it, or are being bullied themselves.

What can parents do? If your child tells you about feeling bullied, you can:

- Encourage your child to share his/her problems with you. Ensure him/her that this is not tattling, but trying to solve a problem.
- Call us! Come talk with us! Please let us know if your child is receiving repeated teasing/bullying behavior, so that we can support your child and address the issue with the other student. Do not confront the student who is doing the bullying on your own, as it could make the situation worse.
- Role play and discuss with your child ways to respond to the bullying student, such as walking away, telling an adult, or asking help from peers.
- Teach your child that reporting bullying behavior is not tattling.
- Alerting the teacher allows us to help eliminate the behavior school-wide.
- Encourage your child to play in groups - as they will be less of a target for bullying behavior.
- Praise and encourage your child - a confident child is less likely to be targeted.

Sincerely,

Michelle Molitor, Principal, Pre-K – 3rd Grades

Eric Westendorf, Principal, 4th – 7th Grades

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

Welcome Back, Parents! We're looking forward to a busy and festive November and December. We're also entering the time of year when your child may be out from school due to illness, so please remember to call the main office at 667-4446 to let us know if your child is sick.

H1N1 Updates: A flyer went home on Monday with information on the free vaccination clinics that are taking place around the city. If you did not receive it, it is available on-line at www.dc.gov or you can pick up an extra copy on the tables in the lobby. **Please be sure that the main office has your correct contact information**, so that we are able to reach you if your child becomes ill during the school day. If your child is running a fever, they should remain at home until 24 hrs. After the fever breaks.

Asthma Informational Workshop: Dr. Teach from Impact Asthma will be at E.L. Haynes on Wednesday, November 4th from 6:15pm -7:00pm to talk with you and your child about managing asthmatic symptoms.

Math Night: Is postponed for the November 10th date – the new date will be posted in next week's Herald.

Family Resource Center: We hope to get a lending library together of parenting books that we can share with each other. If anyone has gently used books that they would like to share on parenting issues, please drop them off in Beth Hood's office. Also, please take a few minutes to look at the new bulletin board arrangement by the coffee machines – both sides of the board are being used to share information on community services and events. There is a side of the smaller board which is available for parents to post your own messages to each other, including events you want to advertise, help wanted/seeking employment postings, etc.

ELH Student Directories: We will be re-issuing our directories with parent contact information, next week. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE DIRECTORY, PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL BETHANY MOLITOR** at bmolitor@elhaynes.org

ELH Craft Nights: Come do beading crafts on Tuesday, November 10th at E.L. Haynes! We'll be making crafts to sell at our ELH Holiday Bazaar on December 5th.

7th Grade Potluck: 7th graders parents! You're invited along with your students to a potluck on Tuesday, November 3 at 6pm, in the cafeteria.

Parent Survey: Thank you to all 150+ of you who filled out the parent survey! Your input helps us as we plan our programs and services to you and your children. If you haven't completed the survey, you can pick up a copy in the lobby and drop it in the blue box at the front desk, or on line at:

<http://www.elhaynes.org/announcements.html>

If you have internet access... please remember to sign up for the parent listserv. This is a parent-run, parent-only listserv available to share information and network amongst ourselves. If you would like to be on the listserv, email Christine Martin at: Christine@dcmartins.com

November' 17th SPT Meeting – Our November School Parent Team meeting will be Tuesday, November 17th @ 6:15pm. If you have a particular item/issue that you would like to discuss, please contact Towana Pierre-Floyd at 667-4446 or by email at tfloyd@elhaynes.org



- **Especially to Anne Crowley** for her work in recruiting room parents for each class/grade and to all our **Room Parents volunteers** for taking their time to organize the grade level potlucks and coordinate communication with their classroom parents!
- **Thank you to Sha'Needa Warren** for inputting all the data for our bully prevention survey
- **And to Elena Jones** for facilitating this month's SPT
- **And to Parrie O'Keefe** for all her work in organizing the craft nights.

We Love Our Parent Volunteers! If you would like to help out with a project, community event, or help your child's teacher, please let us know! You can call Beth Hood at 667-4446 or contact your child's teacher directly.

Community Events:

The **Emergency Community Arts Collective** at 731 Euclid St., NW has many activities and classes for adults, families and children – including modern dance, drum circles, Capoeira classes and much more. They can be reached at 462-2285 or at www.ecacollective.org

This Sunday November 1st, 15th, and 22nd from 10:30-1:30: Little Dresses for Africa

Volunteer sessions for those interested in sewing dresses for children in Central Africa from donated pillowcases. Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide relief to children in Central Africa. Even a novice seamstress can be involved in this worthwhile project. Call 462-2285 for more information.

Counselors Corner

Ms.Teri

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.