



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

November 5, 2009

E.L. HAYNES

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

At the board meeting on October 29, the trustees elected new officers for 09-10. I am pleased to share that Guy Cecil will be the new chair of the ELH Board of Trustees joined by Michael Hall (Isaiah 4th, Sam 1st) as vice chair, Karim Zia as treasurer, and Marianne Keler as secretary. The board also has approved two new trustees in September and October: Sonia Shelton (Justice 1st) and Leander Gray (Leander K and Leland preK) as our new parent trustees. In August, the board celebrated the 5 years of service of Clarissa Potter (Ennis 6th, Jasper 4th) as she stepped down for her tireless, thoughtful, and balanced judgment as the board's secretary and key member of the Audit and Finance Committee.

As you may know, the school is governed by our Board of Trustees which has the key responsibilities of ensuring that ELH accomplishes the mission, overseeing the school's performance, setting policies, securing resources needed for success, and supervising me as Head of School. The board now has 14 members (see below for the complete list) and meets 10 times per year including a day-long retreat typically at the beginning of the school year. The dates and times for the board meetings are listed on the bulletin board in the Family Resource Center (near the coffee machines in the lobby). Board meetings typically are held in the Conference Room on the 5th floor. Prior to each board meeting the agenda is posted along with the approved minutes from the past meeting.

ELH Board of Trustees for 09-10

Guy Cecil, *Chair*

Michael Hall, *Vice Chair and Parent Trustee*

Karim Zia, *Treasurer*

Marianne Keler, *Secretary*

Susan Colby

Jacquelyn Davis

Carlos Garcia

Roy Jones

Winston Bao Lord

Jennie Niles, *Founder and Head of School*

Ilene Rosenthal

Sonia Shelton, *Parent Trustee*

Nelson Smith

Leander Gray, *Parent Trustee*

Information about each of the trustees is available on our website (www.elhaynes.org) and on the Family Resource Center bulletin board. Lastly, board meetings are open to the public, so please join us.

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Niles

Founder and Head of School

The Next Two Weeks at E.L. Haynes

Nov 8	9	10 Craft Night (preparation for Holiday Bazaar) 6 - 7 PM	11 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Professional Development Day for Staff	12 Public Charter School Board High Stakes Review	13	14
15	16	17 School Parent Team Meeting 6 - 7 PM	18	19	20	21

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

November 11 – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

High School Planning Meeting for Parents: Tonight! From 6pm-7pm, we will be gathering to discuss plans and ideas for our high school. All parents are welcome!

H1N1 Updates: There are just two more weeks of free vaccination clinics offered by DC Department of Health. They include: tonight at Coolidge Senior High and McKinley Tech Senior High at 5pm-9pm, Saturday at Cardozo HS, Ballou HS, Eliot-Hine MS, and Kelly Miller MS from 8am-4pm, Tuesday, November 10th at Coolidge SHS and McKinley Tech SHS from 5pm -9pm.

Terra Nova Scores: After extensive conversations with CTB/McGraw Hill, the company that makes the Terra Nova exam, we have identified that our student scores are not accurate due to some mix-up at the company. So, they have launched an investigation to figure out what went wrong and how to get us accurate student score information. Until we get the accurate information, we do not have student scores to share with parents. As soon as we get them, however, we will share them.

5th – 7th Grade Spelling Bee: Yalemwork Teferra won with the word “paucity”. Congratulations, Yalemwork!!

LEGO Competition! On Saturday, November 7th, from 9:30 to 3:15, come and cheer on the E.L. Haynes DC Speedstorms, one of our school's two First LEGO League (FLL) Teams as they compete with a robot they have programmed to meet pre-established challenges. The competition will be at Powell Elementary School at 1350 Upshur St. NW, WDC 20011. To learn more about FLL, go to <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll/default.aspx?id=970> OR see what its all about here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FIRSTWorldTube#p/p>

Crafting News..

Following three successful craft nights, we are adding two additional dates to our schedule. On **Friday, Nov. 13**, E.L. Haynes parent Antoinette Lee, renowned for her sewing and scrapbooking skills, will be hosting an event at her house to make coasters and other things with paint, rubberstamping, paperclay, and heat embossing. Antoinette lives very close to the school at 610 Princeton Place NW. The event will be from 6-9pm. Please contact her at aspeciallee521@verizon.net if you have questions or would like to let her know you are coming. Then, on **MONDAY Nov. 16th**, Parrie Henderson-O'Keefe will be hosting a make-up night for T-shirt painting (don't worry if you think you can't paint -- we have a plan!). The time is 6 - 9 PM located at 1733 Kenyon St. NW. In summary, here are the upcoming craft nights:

11/6 -- Sculpy beads and ornaments & Shrinky Dink beads -- 6 - 9 @ Parrie's house (led by Mara Mlyn and Parrie H-O'Keefe) 11/10 -- Jewelry making (using the beads we've made and others) -- 6 - 8 @ school (led by Mara Mlyn)

11/13 -- Coaster, etc -- 6 - 9 @ Antoinette's house

11/16 -- T-Shirt make-up night -- 6 - 9 @ Parrie's house 11/20 -- Mosaic Night Number 2 -- 6 - 9 @ Parrie's house

11/24 -- Painted Flower pots -- 6 - 8 @ school

12/1 -- Cards and Ornaments Night Number 2 -- 6 - 8 @ school

Reminder: Crafts are being created to be sold at the December 5 Holiday Bazaar to raise money for the school.

Math Night: Due to what we all know as the holiday rush... we've decided to hold off on Math Night until after the winter break!

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

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.

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 Leslie Detenber and Jamie Leeds for supplying us with pizza during our last SPT meeting
- AND to Pete's Apizza for giving us a generous discount!!

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.

Counselors Corner

Ms.Teri

I hope all of you enjoyed increasing communication between you and your children. Last Counselor's Corner we discussed some effective strategies that support improved parent child communication. Our children need the time to share with their parents in which they are given an opportunity to share their voices and thoughts in a respected manner. So below we have some more really great tips.

- Talk about things in the child's real life that are related to a particular book. For example, when reading a book about the zoo, encourage the child to tell the story about when he/she went to the zoo.
- Playtime is a great time for children to tell stories. A pretend tea party or block play can precipitate all sorts of conversation and imaginative storytelling.

- Expose children to “rare” words. Researchers cited words such as “gymnastics” or “wriggling” as vocabulary they would consider rare. Those children exposed to this enhanced vocabulary ultimately score higher on the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test, a test linked to children’s later abilities to read.
- Talk during bath time, talk during walks, talk while at the supermarket. The Parent-Child Home Program has always emphasized the joy and value of parents verbally interacting with their children everyday.
- Don’t forget — television can get in the way of conversation. Keep TV to a minimum. If a certain TV show is a must for a child, talk about that too!

(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://wupa.wustl.edu/record/archive/1995/09-28-95/4234>