



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

November 12, 2009

E.L. HAYNES

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

Last Thursday, November 5, the 7th graders, our architects, and many ELH staff spent half a day in a high school charrette to give our architects the opinions, insights, and idea of our 7th graders about the design of our new high school at 4501 Kansas Ave (formerly Clark Elementary School). As you may remember, our high school will share our new site with our preK – 2nd grade program.

In order to spur students imagination about what skills and experiences they'll need to be successful in college, we began the morning with an extended Advisory discussion anchored by a presentation with images of elementary school (photos of the students as 2nd graders was particularly well received), middle school, high school, and college. Students recognized that they will need to develop their ability to work independently without adult oversight, handle responsibility for organizing their own time, and build their endurance to study harder and longer to handle the increasing workload in each stage.

The next section of the morning was focused on the development of the physical design of the high school. First, the architects and I gave a brief overview of what architects do, illustrated the development of drawings and models using 3600 Georgia Ave as an example, and framed the first steps of the architectural process in which the students would participate that morning. We all broke into two groups and either walked or took a bus to our new Kansas Avenue site (the bus took less than 5 minutes and the walk less than 15 minutes!) and then walked around our new property highlighting the special aspects of the site.

After our tour of Kansas Ave, we returned to 3600 Georgia where the students broke into six groups focused on three topics: green building techniques and materials, field and site design, and key aspects of the high school learning spaces. Please look in the lobby for the groups work posted on the bulletin board next to reception desk. Students also took an on-line survey that ELH leadership created to give us more information about students' expectations, hopes, and dreams for their high school experience.

Our architects were thrilled by the students' insights that emerged through the charrette and will be integrating them into our high school design. Mr. Westendorf and I also hosted an evening meeting for parents about high school design on Thursday, November 5 where we gathered additional information from them and answered many more of their questions. We look forward to more dialogs with parents and more engagement in school design with our students.

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Niles

Founder and Head of School

The Next Two Weeks at E.L. Haynes

15	16	17 SPT Meeting – 6:15; Cafeteria	18	19	20	21
22	23	6PM – Craft Night	25 8:45 – All School Meeting 1pm – School Dismissal	26 SCHOOL CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday	27 SCHOOL CLOSED	28

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

November's 17th SPT Meeting – Our November School Parent Team meeting will be Tuesday, November 17th @ 6:15pm.

Congratulations to ELH LEGO Speedstorms! Our very own LEGO team went on to win the championship on Saturday, November 7th in the D.C. LEGO league. Under the leadership of Jim Wilson, David O'Keefe and Parrie Henderson O'Keefe, our students constructed the winning robot. Nice job, Speedstorms!

Mark Your Calendars! On November 25th, students are dismissed at 1pm. We are on school holiday November 26 & 27th for the Thanksgiving break.

Families of Pre-k, Kinder, & 1st Graders – Save the Date! We would like to invite you to come to a potluck on **Tuesday, December 1, from 6:30pm-7:30pm**. Ms Molitor will be talking about the upcoming move to Kansas Ave. next year, and how it will impact our younger friends as they move to a new campus. We would love to hear your questions/concerns and share with you our excitement over our new facility and grounds. If you are unable to come on the 1st, we will also be holding a coffee on the 3rd from 8:30-9:30am.

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:

11/13 -- 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

Saturday, December 5 – ELH Holiday Bazaar

The E.L. Haynes Choir and Dance Ensemble will be giving a WINTER CONCERT on **THURSDAY DECEMBER 10 at 6pm** in the Cafeteria. Please come and attend! Students will showcase their hard work from these two electives. Details are coming soon!

ELH Athletics Activity: On Saturday, November 7th, several ELH students, along with Mr. Yarborough were invited to a George Washington Colonials basketball game. Our students were able to be a part of the Colonial's practice, ran drills with GWU's coaching staff, ate lunch with the players, and also meet administrative staff of the university.

Parent Coaches - We are so lucky to have you coaching and organizing teams for our students! We want to make sure that we are posting information on practices and games, so that we're aware of ELH's related activities. If you could please drop off this information or email it to Beth Hood at bhood@elhaynes.org, and she'll post it on the parent bulletin board. Thank you!

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



Special Thanks to Jim Wilson, David O'Keefe, and Parrie Henderson-O'Keefe for opening their home and giving guidance to our LEGO team students as they worked so very hard on their project.

Continued thanks to **Sha'Neda Warren** for helping us in the front office!!

Kudos to **Lisa Landmeier** who is helping to coordinate our food drive.

.... And to our talented **Antoinette Lee** for hosting craft nights at her home.

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 am often fascinated by the variety of sibling relationships within our school community. I have noticed very kind, loving and gentle sibling exchanges, as well as aggressive exchanges. Siblings relationships often impact students within the school setting and within the home setting. The closer and healthier those relationships are the better students are able to strive in the school setting. Our children need our support in using effective problem solving strategies to build strong relationships.

Helping Your Child Settle Arguments and Disputes

By: Frank E. Bowers, Ph.D.

Boys Town Behavioral Pediatric and Family Services Clinic

Children fight and argue. Some more than others, and some more subtly than others, but most children will at one time or another attempt to exert their influence over another. It is possible that their target will resist, resulting in an argument. Disagreements are a normal part of behavior and can show that your child is an independent thinker and a self-motivated person – both qualities you want your child to have! However, when these disagreements escalate into fighting, the result can be troubling for everyone involved.

One of the goals of parenting is to teach your child appropriate conflict resolution skills. These skills will be very helpful to them as they negotiate life in the context of a social world. Therefore, every argument your child has can be seen as an opportunity for him or her to practice conflict resolution. Here are some tips to help your child settle arguments and disputes in a constructive manner and minimize arguments and fighting.

- Model appropriate conflict resolution skills yourself. Like it or not, our children learn how to handle social situations by observing how we do so. If a child sees his father yelling and becoming aggressive, then the child will learn that yelling and aggressiveness are the normal ways to handle frustration. If on the other hand, his father models appropriate skills, the child will learn that, also. One area where parents have a difficult time emotionally is when their children are fighting. It doesn't make sense to scream at your child when you are trying to teach her how to remain calm! Take a deep breath and remember, this is a learning opportunity.
- Communicate your expectations clearly. Let him know from the beginning that you will not tolerate fighting. "Joshua, fighting is unacceptable."
- Teach your child relaxation skills to assist her in calming down when she feels herself getting angry. When one reacts emotionally rather than responds thoughtfully, regretful behaviors are often the result. By learning to take some deep breaths BEFORE the explosion, there is a greater chance that she will respond appropriately, rather than react negatively.