



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

November 18, 2009

E.L. HAYNES

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Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

This week at our Community Circle, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we kicked off a new theme – gratitude. As you may know, students in the 4th through 7th grade meet on Monday or Tuesday mornings for Community Circle; family and community members are invited to join us anytime from 8:30 – 9:00 AM in the gym.

We started with a famous Japanese story about a man being chased by ferocious tigers. To escape, the man grabs a vine and swings over the edge of a cliff. Unfortunately, more tigers wait below. As he hangs from the vine, moments away from the tigers’ jaws, he notices a strawberry growing on the cliff wall. He plucks it from the wall and pops it in his mouth. At that moment, he realizes that he has never appreciated how sweet a strawberry can taste.

The students reflected on the story, pointing out that on normal days (when we’re not being chased by tigers), we miss the good things that surround us. It’s easy to take life’s wonders and joys for granted.

Research suggests that Thanksgiving is good for us too. Studies show that people who practice gratitude are healthier and happier. They sleep better, they have more energy, and they report higher levels of happiness.

To practice gratitude we have to slow down, even stop for a moment, to count our blessings. Next week at Community Circle students will do just that – each will write a thank you note to someone for whom they are grateful.

We, too, want to extend our gratitude. We are grateful for you, our wonderful parent body. You have raised joyful children; children who make us smile, children who make us laugh, children who make us happy to come to work each day. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with you to help your children reach their full potential. It is a miraculous journey and we are honored to be a part of it.

So, in this season of gratitude, we wish you a happy thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf

The Next Two Weeks at E.L. Haynes

22	MONDAY, 23	TUESDAY, 24 Crafts Night Prep for Bazaar, 6-7 PM	WEDNESDAY, 25 All School Meeting, 8:45-9:15 1 PM Dismissal, NO EDP so all students must be picked up promptly at 1 PM	THURSDAY, 26 No school Happy Thanksgiving	FRIDAY, 27 No school	28
29	MONDAY, 30 Community Circle, 8:30-9:00 (4-7 th grades)	TUESDAY, 1 Community Circle, 8:30-9:00 (4-7 th grades) Pre-k, Kinder & 1 st Grade Parent Potluck with Ms. Molitor on our new campus: 6:30-7:30	WEDNESDAY, 2	THURSDAY, 3 Pre-k, Kinder & 1 st Grade Parent Coffee to discuss our new campus for next year; 9:30-10:00	FRIDAY, 4	5 Haynes Holiday Bazaar 10am – 2 pm

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

E.L. Haynes Holidays: School will be dismissed at 1pm on Wednesday, November 25 and all students must be picked up promptly at 1 PM because **THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ON WED, NOV 25.** Also, school will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26-27, 2009.

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.

Food Donations: Thank you to all who made generous contributions to our food bins for donations. We are going to keep the bin in the main lobby for any who would like to continue donating food – as we know that this time of year can be difficult for many.

Two More Craft Nights: 11/24 6pm-8pm – Painted Flower Pots
12/1 6pm-8pm – Cards & Ornaments Night #2

Saturday, December 5 – ELH Holiday Bazaar from 10am – 2pm. Volunteers are needed for Friday evening to help set up and during the event itself. Please see the flyer in today's Thursday Express for details.

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. We would also love to have parents bring refreshments for the students following the concert! If you're able to bring something, please sign up on the table in the main lobby. Thank you!

Our Next SPT Meeting: will be Monday, December 14. Please email Towana Pierre Floyd (tfloyd@elhaynes.org) with any items or topics you would like to have addressed.



To all our fabulous Parent Volunteers!! We are most grateful for the generous time and involvement of all of you, including...

All Our Parent Coaches of Soccer Teams – Including 2nd grade coaches Jim Cason & Mojo Nichols, along with the help of Omar Cisneros and Mark Sugg; for 4th Grade – Reynoldo Paniagua & Anne Crowley, along with help from Nebosja Petritic, Jim Wilson, and Ted Smith, and coach Michael Lingenfelter

- **Jim Wilson** and **David O'Keefe** for coaching one of our Lego League teams.
- **Patricia Samuels** and **Angela Eiss**, who have both been a huge help to Coach Y in helping every week with Flag Football.
- **Britt Engen** who has helped us with the guided reading library for Ms. Franz.
- **Leander Gray** for facilitating our November School Parent Team meeting
- **Parrie Henderson** gives up every Thursday to help all of the teachers of her four kids, including inputting all the student reading minutes each week. Thanks!
- **Mara Mlyn** for leading a fantastic jewelry making craft night
- **Beth Lawrence** for putting visitor information folders together and supporting third grade computing tasks.
- **Sha'Neda Warren & Badia Paniagua** for helping get the print newsletter out.
- **Neal Christie**— classroom volunteer extraordinaire

- Also to **Badia Paniagua** and **Anne Crowley** for helping the 4th grade team organize their field trip

Community Activities:

WHAT: Feast of Sharing Event

WHEN: Wednesday, November 25, 2009; 9:30am – 2:30pm

WHERE: Washington Convention Center, Hall D, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW

DETAILS: job fair, training, employment opportunities, give-a-ways, health screenings, and food provided.

CONTACT: Faith Williams at 202-422-8968, feastofscharing@hotmail.com, for more information

WHAT: Flamenco en Familia: Zapateo and Castanet Workshops for Kids and Family Alike!

WHEN: Saturday, November 28; 11:00am-12:30 pm and 2:00pm-3:30pm

WHERE: Gala Theater, 3333 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20010

DETAILS: Free lecture and demonstrations in guitar and castanets for children and the entire family by local flamenco artists, Natalia Monteleon and members of the ArteFlamenco Company. This event is part of the three-week Fuego Flamenco Festival Begins!

COST: This event is free for the whole family.

CONTACT: For more information about the Festival, and to purchase tickets for other Flamenco events, contact 202-234-7174 or visit www.galatheatre.org.

Charter Chat is published weekly by Friends of Choice in Urban Schools, better known as FOCUS, a 12-year-old, nonprofit organization that supports quality public charter schools in the District of Columbia. The weekly e-newsletter publishes youth oriented and family-friendly events and resources. To receive this weekly, you can email them at charterchat@focusdc.org.

Ms. Teri

Counselor's Corner

Children need our support to effectively problem solve issues as they arise. The better our children are able to resolve sibling conflicts further support their relationships long term. Student can take a problem within the home setting and language the impact of such on the self concept, parent and child relationship and role within the family system. We also realize that these conflicts do impact our students' ability to focus and succeed in school. Let's support healthy sibling relationships within our homes everyday.

Some More Tips

- Discuss and practice ways of resolving disputes productively. For example, if a child will not share a toy, discuss taking turns. Role plays various options for solutions to conflict such as compromising or asking for help.
- Avoid being the judge/arbitreferee. If you have children who fight with each other, you will drive yourself crazy trying to determine who started it, who is at fault, etc. Instead of taking sides, it is more helpful to give both consequences (it takes two to fight) and then have them work on appropriate negotiation skills.
- Give positive feedback when you see your child attempting to use his or her new skill. Let your child know that you are watching and appreciate the effort he is making in trying to avoid arguments and fights.
- Provide natural, logical consequences when your child gets into a fight. Make sure your child knows that fighting will automatically produce certain consequences. For example, if your children are fighting over the video game, the game gets turned off.

By helping your child learn how to resolve conflicts appropriately, you will be training them to be peacemakers. It does not happen overnight, but the peaceful results are worth the effort.

(Except taken from the article Helping Your Child Settle Arguments and Disputes By: Frank E. Bowers, Ph.D. Boys Town Behavioral Pediatric and Family Services Clinic)