



**E.L. HAYNES**

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PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# E.L. HAYNES HERALD

December 3, 2009

Dear E.L. Haynes Families,

This week families from grades Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> were invited to join staff to learn more about the transition for the Early Childhood Program from Georgia Avenue to our new location at 4501 Kansas Avenue (the former Clark Elementary School). Families heard more about three major components of the move, including program, architectural design, and our steps going forward as a school community.

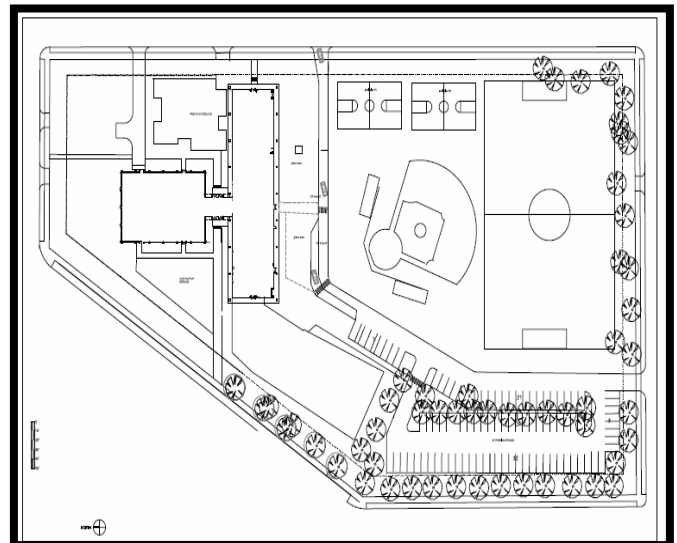
## Premier Early Childhood Program

Our move to Kansas Ave is built on the solid foundation of 6 years of Haynes Early Childhood Program success. We have spent large amounts of time doing research on developmentally appropriate practices, and visiting early childhood sites across the country, including outstanding schools in DC, Virginia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, California, and Texas. The new site will be a space built just for our youngest students, having their own entrance, floors of classrooms, and specials and extra-curricular facilities. It will be a small and manageable community, complete with routines tailored for pre-K to 2nd graders. It is a facility that will allow for students to be given space to develop socially, emotionally, physically, and academically at an appropriate rate, forming habits and skills to build upon for the rest of their academic careers. There will also be space for the physical play necessary for their developmental growth, community building space (All School Meetings, on site play dates, etc.), and a Family Resource Center to bring families together and into the school.

## Architectural Design

Parents then looked over the latest floor plans, and learned more about the 3 major stages of construction. All of the construction for the spaces for grades pre-K through 2 will be completed in phase 1 before the start of the 2010-2011 school year. High School and field landscaping will take place over the next few years. Major features of the design include:

- ▶ Large, light-filled classrooms
- ▶ 3 classrooms at each grade level
- ▶ Serving 3 to 8 year olds
- ▶ Family Resource Center
- ▶ Many small group spaces
- ▶ 2 playgrounds and athletic fields
- ▶ 0.7 miles from 3600 Georgia
- ▶ ~50,000 sf | 5.0 acres



## Going Forward

There are a number of logistics that we know are important to our families going forward that were discussed including public transportation options, possible staggered school day start/end times, cohesion of program and culture between campuses, and the Extended Day Program and Intersession running at the Early Childhood Campus. Each of these issues will be part of an ongoing discussion involving current teaching staff who will move with us, administration, and families.

Parents/Guardians interested in being a part of planning for our move should join the Kansas Ave Committee (picnic planning, garden prep, going over above issues, etc.) which will begin meeting regularly in January. Please let me know if you're interested in being parent chair/co-chair of this group. If you are not interested in joining the committee, but want to be involved, you can:

- ▶ Participate in spring walk to Kansas Avenue Campus with the school community
- ▶ Participate in a service clean-up day on Friday, January 29
- ▶ Read monthly Kansas Ave updates in Thursday Express
- ▶ More opportunities will be shared! ☺

If you have great ideas, or have questions or concerns, please write them down to give to staff members, or committee members. You can also e-mail me directly at [mmolitor@elhaynes.org](mailto:mmolitor@elhaynes.org), or give a call at 202-667-4446. Thanks and we're looking forward to working with you on this exciting new location for Haynes.

Sincerely,



Michelle Molitor, Principal, Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

### The Next 2 Weeks at E.L. Haynes

29	MONDAY, 30	TUESDAY, Dec 1	WEDNESDAY, 2	THURSDAY, 3	FRIDAY, 4 Drop off of items for Bazaar - 6pm- 9pm	5 Haynes Holiday Bazaar 10am – 2 pm
Dec 6	MONDAY, 7 )	TUESDAY, 8	WEDNESDAY, 9	THURSDAY, 10 Winter Concert – 6pm	FRIDAY, 11 Ms. Bryant's Class Potluck, ELH – 6:30pm	12

## NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

**THE BAZAAR IS HERE!! Saturday, December 5** – ELH Holiday Bazaar is 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's WINTER CONCERT: 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 a desert, snacks or beverage, please sign up on the table in the main lobby.



**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 and we would like to continue donating food to families in need.

**Breakfast is Essential...** Speaking of food, we have been noticing that several children are coming to the nurse's office with headaches or stomach aches due to not having eaten breakfast. Please make sure your child has breakfast in the morning, or is here before 8:10a.m. in order to eat with us here at school. This will help your child have a great start to their day!

**SPT Meeting – Monday, December 14!** 6:15-7:15pm – The presentation will be on “Understanding the New E.L. Haynes Progress Reports” and will be from 6:15-6:45. Committees will meet after the presentations.

**El Grupo Folklorico's Splendid Performance:** On behalf of the Friends of the 16th St. Heights Parks, I would like to thank Maestra Alderson and all of the students with El Grupo Folklorico de E.L. Haynes who performed on Nov. 7 at the 2nd Annual Fall Fiesta sponsored by the Friends of the 16th St. Heights Parks and the DC Department of Parks and Recreation. This was a wonderful community event where over 200 people gathered to enjoy music, food, and their wonderful community park. The Grupo Folklorico's performance was the highlight of the afternoon. Thank you again for bringing your lovely dancing, beautiful outfits, and smiling faces to our community.



Jean Badalamenti, President, Friends of the 16th St. Heights Parks

**Tuesday, December 8 - ANC Presentation for the Kansas Avenue Campus at Roosevelt High School.** The meeting starts at 6:30pm. All families are welcome to attend and we strongly encourage families from the Kansas Avenue community to attend. Please contact Ms. Griffin at 202-460-8918 or [pgriffin@elhaynes.org](mailto:pgriffin@elhaynes.org) if you plan to attend.

### **Community Activities:**

**Free Asthma Assessments:** George Washington University is offering free home visits to children diagnosed with Asthma to provide education, assessments, consultations, and resources on asthma management services. If interested, you can contact them at 202-994-9544 or [homes@gwu.edu](mailto:homes@gwu.edu).

**WHAT:** CREATE Arts Center Winter Break Camp

**WHEN:** December 21-24, 2009; December 28- 31, 2009 9am-3pm

**WHERE:** 816 Thayer Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

**DETAILS:** CREATE Arts offers fun art-filled camps during Winter, Spring and Summer breaks. There are four activities a day for camp. Activities differ from week to week, and may include different arts and crafts such as: drawing; indoor/outdoor games; painting; pottery; puppetry; sewing; weaving; sculpture. Each day features two 1-hour arts activities in the morning and two more in the afternoon, plus lunchtime games. Ages 6-14 (ages 13-14 can be CITs)

**CONTACT:** call 301-588-2787 or go to <http://www.createartscenter.org/camps2.php> to register

**WHAT:** Community Health Fair

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 5, 2009; 10:00am-1:00pm

**WHERE:** 2001 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, multi-purpose room & dining room

**DETAILS:** The Campbell Heights Residents' Association, Inc. was organized over 25 years ago. The association represents 171 senior citizens residing at the Campbell Heights Apartments. They will conduct a community health fair in partnership with Howard University. Screenings for glaucoma and other ophthalmology testing, blood pressure, prostate, audiology, HIV, and diabetes.

**CONTACT:** Rev. Dr. Sandra Butler-Truesdale at 202-246-6300.

**WHAT:** Babysitter's Training Course

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 13, 2009; 9:00am-4:00pm

**WHERE:** 2025 E Street NW, WDC 20006

**DETAILS:** The purpose of the American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course is to provide individuals, ages 11 to 15, with the information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible care for children in the absence of parents or adult guardians. This training will help participants develop skills in five critical areas: leadership, safety and safe play, basic care, first aid and professionalism

**CONTACT:** to register go to <http://www.redcrossnca.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](mailto:charterchat@focusdc.org).

**Ms. Teri**

**Counselor's Corner**

Supporting our children in processing a range of feelings is essential to their social emotional development. Helping our children to understand that feelings are not bad and that they are in deed a part of who they are is essential. Supporting our children in developing strategies to safely express their feelings helps to make them successful in our universe.

Frustration is a part of life for children and adults alike. Parents can help their children experience frustration in positive ways and to develop resilience in the face of setbacks and adversity. For more information regarding Positive Frustration .Below is one simple activities you can use with your young children to help them tolerate frustration and persist despite setbacks.

### **Shake Off the Frustration Dance:**

It doesn't feel good to be frustrated and sometimes the feeling of frustration is so strong that it makes it hard to continue with the game or task. You can help children modulate their frustration by teaching simple calming exercises. When my kids were young, we developed a "shake off the grumpies" dance that we did whenever frustration got too strong. We'd stand up, shake our heads, arms and legs and shake off the frustration. The dance was silly enough that it made us laugh and then my kids were usually able to get back to what they were doing in a calmer and more positive frame of mind. If the "shake off the grumpies" dance doesn't appeal to your child, work with your child to find a ritual that helps him or her calm and refocus. Taking deep breaths, repeating a positive phrase such as "It's okay. I can calm down and get back to work. My frustration doesn't have to stop me." For younger kids, doing something physical to help release the pent up energy that sometimes comes with frustration is often helpful. Keep in mind, that these techniques will require practice, so don't expect them to work the first time. The more you practice them, the more effective they will be.

(excerpt from article entitled Positive Frustration by Dr. Karen Reivich).