



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

E.L. HAYNES HERALD

December 10, 2009

E.L. HAYNES

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Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences, on Friday, December 18th. Please be sure to sign up for your time slot. Some of you may be asking, "Didn't we used to have conferences after the holiday?" We did. Last year, however, many of you pointed out that it is better to find out about your students' academic needs **before** the three week break, so that you and your student can address those needs during the break. We thought this made so much sense that we changed the schedule this year.

We have a lot of student performances this holiday season. This evening, for example, our Choir and Dance Ensemble are performing in the Winter Concert. We hope to see many of you there! The students have



been working very hard to prepare for this special holiday performance. After the break, on January 15th, a handful of our students will perform in our third annual Shakespeare play, directed by Ashby Semple and her Petworth Theater Company. If you saw either *Midsummer Night's Dream* (2 years ago) or *Hamlet* (last year), you know how good these performances are. This year's play is the *Tempest*.

Students also perform at our All School Meetings, which run once every month from 8:45 AM-9:30. Parents are encouraged to attend. Our most recent All School Meeting featured three impressive student performances. Members of the Speedstorms, one of our two First Lego League Team, presented the plaque they won at their first preliminary competition in which they came in first place for robot design and second place overall. They also dazzled the crowd with a special demonstration of their robot. Next, the choir gave us a sneak preview of their Winter Concert, performing a beautiful rendition of *Joyeux Noel*. Finally, we heard from Sparkz, our *Girls Rock* band, composed of fifth grade students with guitars, drums and bass. They wowed the crowd with an original composition.

We look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming performances, and at Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Sincerely,

Eric Westendorf

Principal, 4th through 8th Grades

Michelle M. Molitor

Principal, Pre-K through 3rd Grades

Dec. 6	MONDAY, 7	TUESDAY, Dec 8	WEDNESDAY, 9	THURSDAY, 10 Winter Concert - 6pm	FRIDAY, 11 Ms. Bryant's Class Potluck, ELH - 6:30pm	Dec. 12
Dec 13	MONDAY, 14 SPT Meeting 6:15-7:30	TUESDAY, 15 5 th grade trip to Ford's Theater	WEDNESDAY, 16	THURSDAY, 17 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	FRIDAY, Dec. 18 PARENT CONFERENCES NO CLASSES	20

NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

TAKE NOTE!!! PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 FROM 8AM-5PM – SIGN UP IN THE MAIN LOBBY!

*****NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS DECEMBER 18-JANUARY 8TH. CLASSES RESUME ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11TH*****

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!



Intersession Packets:

- Any family that hasn't turned in a Guarantee Form and is seeking a spot in the upcoming Intersession will now be placed on the wait list
- Intersession Packets along with remaining balances are due by this Thursday 12/10/09 (@ 5:30pm)
- Any family that has turned in a Guarantee Form but does not turn in their Intersession Registration form and payment by this Thursday evening may lose their spot to someone on the wait list

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.

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!

Toys for Tots: The Toys for Tots program distributes Holiday gifts to needy children. Toy distribution will be Dec. 9-22nd. If you are interested in receiving gifts for your children, you can fill out an on-line application at www.toysfortots.org and select the “sign up now” icon. If you do not have a computer, please see Ms. Hood in the main office. Pick up for toys is at 4665 Blue Plains Drive., SW, and a parent must bring an ID for parent and child and a print out copy of the registration form.

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.

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: 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.

Ms. Teri

Counselor's Corner

We rarely consider the long term implications for current behaviors that we notice with our children . We often focus intently on academic performance but how does behavior impact the outcome of our childrens' adult life . We know there are uncountable connections. So let's begin to focus on the urgency of supporting our children social emotionally .In school as educators we are often overwhelmed with stories and students perception of their experiences. We spend hours just to get at the truth and gaining some consensus regarding what the truth is . We focus on integrity and truth in an effort to support social emotional development

"If you try one big lie, you're going to keep doing it, over and over."

-Crystal, 13 years old

The latest survey from the Josephson Institute on Ethics finds that kids who cheat in high school are more likely to continue cheating and lying through life: to their spouse, their boss, their clients. What can parents do to stop the deceit?

Talk to any group of kids, and it's easy to find someone who has told a lie, or cheated. "Almost everybody has," says 14-year-old Kachun.

According to the Josephson Institute on Ethics, 64 percent of high schoolers admitted to cheating on an exam last year.

"[A friend] showed me her report card, it had a lot of D's and C's and no A's and she took a pencil and erased her grades!" exclaims 13-year-old Crystal.

And 42 percent of teens have told a lie to save money. "As far as telling the truth all the time I don't think that can be done by anybody," says Ross, 16.

"Societal standards are becoming lax and it's up to parents to counteract that," explains child psychologist Dr. Spencer Gelernter.

Parenting Tips

When discussing issues of morality and values, how can a parent illustrate what it means to be a person of character? The Center for the 4th and 5th R's provides the following examples of characteristics of an individual with a positive character. For example, a person of character ...

Is trustworthy:

- Honesty – Tell the truth. Be sincere. Don't deceive, mislead or be devious or tricky. Don't betray a trust. Don't withhold important information in relationships of trust. Don't steal. Don't cheat.
- Integrity – Stand up for your beliefs about right and wrong. Be your best self. Resist social pressures to do things you think are wrong. Walk your talk. Show commitment, courage and self-discipline.
- Promise-keeping – Keep your word. Honor your commitments. Pay your debts. Return what you borrow.
- Loyalty – Stand by, support, and protect your family, friends, employers, community and country. Don't talk behind people's backs, spread rumors, or engage in harmful gossip. Don't violate other ethical principles to keep or win a friendship or gain approval. Don't ask a friend to do something wrong.

Treats all people with respect:

- Respect – Be courteous and polite. Judge all people on their merits. Be tolerant, appreciative and accepting of individual differences. Don't abuse, demean or mistreat anyone. Don't use, manipulate, exploit or take advantage of others. Respect the right of individuals to make decisions about their own lives.

Acts responsibly:

- Accountability – Think before you act. Consider the possible consequences on all people affected by actions. Think for the long-term. Be reliable. Be accountable. Accept responsibility for the consequences of your choices. Don't make excuses. Don't blame others for your mistakes or take credit for others' achievements. Set a good example for those who look up to you.
- Pursue excellence – Do your best with what you have. Keep trying. Don't quit or give up easily. Be diligent and industrious.
- Self-control – Exercise self-control. Be disciplined.

Is fair and just:

- Fairness – Treat all people fairly. Be open-minded. Listen to others and try to understand what they are saying and feeling. Make decisions which affect others only on appropriate considerations. Don't take unfair advantage of others' mistakes. Don't take more than your fair share.

Is caring:

- Caring and kindness – Show you care about others through kindness, caring, sharing and compassion. Live by the Golden Rule. Help others. Don't be selfish. Don't be mean, cruel or insensitive to other's feelings. Be charitable.

Is a good citizen:

- Citizenship – Play by the rules. Obey laws. Do your share. Respect authority. Stay informed. Vote. Protect your neighbors and community. Pay your taxes. Be charitable and altruistic. Help your community or school by volunteering service. Protect the environment. Conserve natural resources

(Excerpt Taken from Parents and Company.com and Connect With Kids.com)