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Winter 2010

► The Tempest

On January 15, E.L. Haynes Public Charter School, in partnership with The Petworth Theatre Company, presented Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The special one-hour production was performed by E.L. Haynes students in fifth, sixth, and seventh grade. Ashby Semple, founder and artistic director of The Petworth Theatre Company, adapted and directed the play. She worked with students during fall and winter intersessions and during the Extended Day Program to help them read, understand, memorize and perform the play. She also guided students as they took an active part in both costume and set design.



Maya McBride, who played Prospera, admitted "When I read *The Tempest*, at first, I didn't get it. But Ms. Semple helped us comprehend it." Maya said she learned a lot from her experience with *The Tempest* and that she liked "knowing that I worked my hardest and did my best." Tasneem Robinson, who played Ariel, enjoyed performing her long speech because she "felt the satisfaction of having memorized and practiced it — it was really hard at first."

Shortly after seeing the performance, E.L. Haynes parent Deborah Menkart posted a review of the performance on E.L. Haynes' Facebook page. "The show was phenomenal — the staging, music, costumes, and props were very impressive — but most amazing were the actors. They memorized more lines than I could in a lifetime and they were funny, confident, and creative."

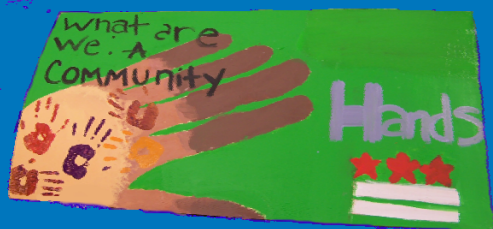
To see photos and video clips from the play, visit our Student Gallery at www.elhaynes.org/studentgallery.html.

Chris Kim Day of Service

► On Friday, January 29, E.L. Haynes held our first-ever Day of Service in memory of Chris Kim, an E.L. Haynes staff member who died in 2009. Students, staff, and special guests (many of whom were Chris' friends and family) worked together to collect, create, and deliver items to local organizations and clean up the community. Each grade level developed their own service project.

Pre-k students collected toothpaste and toothbrushes and sixth grade students collected disposable razors and deodorant and together they spent the service day packaging the toiletries into care kits for the homeless clients of Miriam's Kitchen. Kindergarten students wrote and illustrated books for the preschool students at Bridges Public Charter School. First grade students canvassed door-to-door around the neighborhood to collect non-perishable food items, toiletries, and monetary donations for Thrive DC. Our third grade students made more than 300 sandwiches to feed the homeless, also for Thrive DC.

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► Chris Kim Day of Service (continued)

Fourth grade students made cards for the homeless clients served by Miriam's Kitchen. Fifth grade students did community clean-ups at Parkview Recreation Center, a local community garden, and our future second campus on Kansas Avenue. Seventh grade students read to the second grade students about role models and then those students worked together to create informational book-marks based on what they read. The seventh grade also painted murals based on the theme "What is Community?" to be hung outside our future second campus on Kansas Avenue.

As part of the Before School and Extended Day Programs, students learned about the recent earthquake in Haiti and were encouraged to actively participate in the recovery effort. E.L. Haynes held a penny drive to raise money to support the survivors of the earthquake which raised \$880! Students also created posters to show that they were thinking of the survivors in Haiti and kindergarten students sang their own "We are the World" tribute.

Estonian Animation Project

► On October 30, Estonian Kinobuss (Cinema Bus) and Nukufilm (Puppet Film Studio) came to E.L. Haynes to create an animated film with a group of fourth through seventh grade students. The visit was arranged through the EuroKids Festival team and the Embassy of the Republic of Estonia. Students were chosen through an essay contest in which they described why they wanted to participate in the animation project. The visiting animation team showed students some stop animation videos and then demonstrated the animation process by taking a few pictures of puppets, changing the poses slightly each time to create movement when the pictures were linked together in a video. Then each student drew and colored a sea creature to star in their own video. Students posed for hundreds of photographs, where they began as seeds curled up on the floor and then made small incremental movements as they "grew" into trees. Then they posed around their sea creatures and moved them just a bit for each photograph to give the appearance that the sea creatures were swimming through the water.

Enjoy the students' video at www.elhaynes.org/studentgallery_animation.html.

Seventh Grade Charrette

► On November 5, E.L. Haynes' seventh grade students, architects from Bethesda firm Shinberg.Levinas, and many E.L. Haynes staff spent half a day in a charrette (an intense collaborative design process) to let students share their opinions, insights, and ideas about the design of E.L. Haynes' high school. The high school will be housed at a former DC Public School facility just $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from E.L. Haynes' current building.

The charrette began with a discussion to get students to think about the skills and experiences they will need to be successful in 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 of their education.



Students, staff, and architects traveled to the future high school site and walked around the property, highlighting the special aspects of the site. After the tour, they returned to our current school building where the students broke into six groups focused on three topics: green building techniques and materials, field and site design, and key aspects of high school learning spaces. Students also took an online survey that school leadership created to gather 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 integrate them into our high school design. Student ideas included tennis courts, basketball courts, a green roof, student lounges, a weight room, native plants, a biology pond, a football field, and a greenhouse.

Winter Intersession

Each year, E.L. Haynes offers eight weeks of Intersession, expeditions offered during breaks in our school's year-round calendar. During this January's Intersession, students explored a variety of interesting topics.

Second, third, and fourth grade students in the Cooking Chemistry class learned about basic chemistry, the periodic table of elements, and the scientific method through a series of fun experiments, a guest speaker, and a trip to the Natural History Museum. The seventh grade Algebra Aficionados class applied a hands-on approach to algebra. Students created their own astrolabes and then used their astrolabes and algebra knowledge to measure the height of objects they could not physically measure, including the Clock Tower at the Old Post Office Pavilion.

Several Intersession classes focused on ensuring our youngest students have many opportunities to develop their reading skills. Kindergarten students in the Seussology 101 Intersession class learned all about Dr. Seuss and read his books. In another class called Read, Snack, and Learn, pre-k and kindergarten students read books and created special snacks to go with every book.

Fifth, sixth, and seventh graders in the Social Justice class visited the National Portrait Gallery and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library to learn more about social justice movements. Then they explored social justice issues that are important to them. Students visited Thrive DC to prepare and serve meals for the homeless and wrote letters to DC Council Member Jim Graham sharing their thought on homelessness and immigration rights.

Roger Mason, Jr. Partnership Event

On January 2, several E.L. Haynes students and parents attended the NBA game between the Washington Wizards and San Antonio Spurs at the Verizon Center.

They were able to go early and stand courtside to watch warm ups and say hello to Roger Mason, Jr., native Washingtonian, Guard for the San Antonio Spurs, and a special E.L. Haynes partner this year. E.L. Haynes gives special thanks to MicroStrategy for donating their box at the Verizon Center and providing food and drinks for our students and families for the game!

Mason has been posting messages with students on their shared blog, located at workinghardwithrogermasonjr.blogspot.com. He will continue to connect with E.L. Haynes students via various forms of new and social media throughout the year while traveling with the Spurs.



▶ FIRST® LEGO League

This year, E.L. Haynes has begun a foray into engineering by establishing two FIRST® LEGO League teams. FIRST® is an international organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen with the vision of transforming our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of being science and technology heroes. Guided by outstanding parent and teacher coaches, and with the help of sponsors and mentors from consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton, the students worked together to design, build and program LEGO robots to complete tasks. The project helps students develop critical thinking, team-building and presentation skills and builds excitement about science and technology.



In November, one of E.L. Haynes' teams, the Speedstorms, participated in a preliminary competition (their first) in which they came in first place for robot design and second place overall. E.L. Haynes' other team, RoboMotion, made it to the State Championship after a successful performance at preliminaries in January. They designed a robot that could increase the efficiency of trash collection. Led by coach Jay Tucker, a Teaching Associate at E.L. Haynes, the team met every Tuesday and Thursday after school to develop a robot concept, program their robot, and do the necessary construction out of LEGOs. Mr. Tucker thinks the program helped build the students' interest in technology.

Zhara, a fifth grade student, described her participation on the LEGO League team, saying "I think LEGO League is very fun. And you can learn things about engineering because you get to build and design a robot. And we think about what our robot can do to help other people. When we build the robot we build a lot of different pieces, so it may take a while but persistence and patience pays off."

E.L. Haynes is grateful to Booz Allen Hamilton for its support of our participation in FIRST® LEGO League!

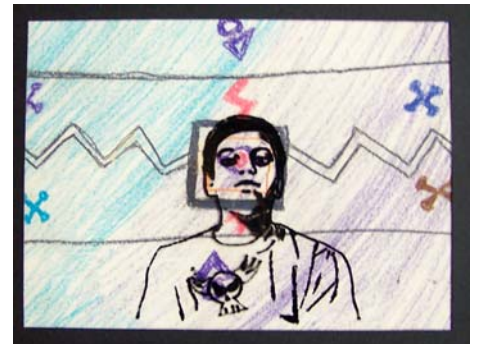
STUDENT ART GALLERY



George Martin, Grade 6



Tasneem Robinson, Grade 6



Alexi Rodriguez, Grade 6



Elijah Walker, Grade 7



Maura Ayala, Grade 7

If you would prefer to receive our newsletters via email, please email kflaherty@elhaynes.org.