

December 4th, 2012 Newsletter

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar - Dear Helms families, I would like to invite you to check out our website at <http://schools.houstonisd.org/Domain/22>. We have recently added a teacher wish list section. This will provide you with many ways in which you can support the needs of our classrooms. Visit our teacher wish list link to find out how you can help. Thank you in advance for your support. Here is the URL to visit the online teacher's classroom Wish List <http://schools.houstonisd.org/wishlists>

I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming **Family Literacy Night**, December 5 from 5:30-6:30pm. Our teachers and PTA have collaborated to provide our families with a warm and memorable event. **Don't forget to wear your pajamas.**

Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez – Dear Parents: We hope to see you all at the **Family Literacy Night**, Wednesday, December 5, 2012. This is a great opportunity to support your child in his education. **Wear your PJs!** Another reminder for PK and 5th grade parents: Be sure to get Magnet applications in for the 2013-2014 school year before January 11, 2013. If you are missing paperwork, contact me or Ms. Alvarado in the front office.

We will continue to have Magnet Tours up until April, so tell friends and family to contact us for a tour, 713-867-5130

Helms PTA – Room Parent Holiday Coffee will be Wednesday, Dec 5 at 6pm and Thursday, Dec 6 at 9am in T-11. If you have questions, please contact **Kim Martinez** at kmartinez2@hotmail.com or **832-867-4804**. **Movie Night!** Friday, Dec 7th at 6pm – Polar Express. Free Popcorn. 2 Cookies & Hot Chocolate combo - \$1.00. Also, don't forget the **Winter Box Tops Collection Contest** begins **Dec 17th** & runs through **Feb 1st**, please turn into **Ms. Hardin**.

In the Spirit of Giving, please consider donating school supplies for those students who have been affected by **Hurricane Sandy**. Many schools lost all of their supplies and have had devastating damage due to flooding. Supplies collected will be sent directly to students affected. Here's how each grade level can help gather items in need: **pk** – pencils, **kinder** – pens, **1st** – notebooks, **2nd** – folders, **3rd** markers, **4th** – crayons, **5th** – safety scissors.

There is a large box in the **front hall** of the school for drop off of the supplies. For more information, please contact **Allison Hartley** at allisondegiahartley@gmail.com

Nurse, Ms. Barraza - Just a friendly reminder that **Project Saving Smiles** permission forms are due by **Friday, December 14, 2012**. Remember-no late permission forms can be accepted.

If your child failed their vision screening and received a permission form for the Vision Partnership field trip, all Permission forms are due to Nurse Barraza by **Friday, December 21, 2012**.

Upcoming Events

December 5

Pajama Day for all students and teachers

December 6

PTA Parent Coffee Meeting
9-10am

December 7

Coffee with the principal 8:30am
and PTA Movie Night 6pm

Important Announcements

Future Early Dismissal Dates (12:45pm)

January 30th & February 20th

PTA

THERE WILL BE NO DECEMBER PTA GENERAL MEETING. PTA GENERAL MEETINGS WILL RESUME JANUARY 17, 2013

Individual Pictures

Are in and were sent home
Monday 12/3

Picture Retake Day

December 12, 2012

In the cafeteria. For those who were absent or didn't like the first set.

Parent Connection

This week in 5th grade, students are investigating the processes that build and break down the earth's surface. Through WEATHERING, EROSION and DEPOSITION, the earth's crust is constantly changing, but at a very slow rate. Likewise, we have recently been looking into weather, the water cycle, and phases of the moon. At home, take time with your child to figure out how these natural cycles work:

- Watch and discuss weather forecasts, observe the weather and keep a weather calendar with daily temperature, air pressure, precipitation, wind and other weather activity.

- Read nonfiction books regularly that involve these and other science topics.
- Research our Solar System online and discuss the causes of day and night, the seasons, and phases of the moon.

If you do this, you will allow your child to familiarize themselves with these complex natural cycles and systems which will lead to greater success in class. Thank you for all you do to support you child!