

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar - Dear Helms Families,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our **Helms Winter Concert**. The holiday cheer is in the air. This week will be busy with Friday's **Helms Winter Musical** and Friday **Class Winter Celebrations** from 2:0-3:00pm. I want to thank all room parents and volunteers for your support in making all of our events a great success! Parents please keep the following in mind:

1) Students need to continue reading daily and reinforcing their math skills during the winter break to avoid regression. HISD is providing a series of web resources to close gaps and enrich student learning from home.
2) Teachers will be providing user names and passwords for several programs. If you do not receive this information, please contact the **teacher before Friday** to get this information. You should receive log in information for the following programs.

PreK- Frog Street. **Kinder/First/Second-** Reading Street or Tesoros, Dreambox, iStation, Envision, Renzulli. **Third/Fourth/Fifth-**Reading Street or Tesoros, iStation, ThinkThrough Math, Envision, Renzulli.

3)McDonalds, Starbucks, Panera, and many other local venues offer free wi-fi. The Heights and Oak Forest Libraries offer computer access. There are many ways to provide your children with online learning experiences. You can find the links to many web based learning sites on the Helms webpage in the Resources Channel.

4) These web resources are all aligned to state and national standards and are adaptable learning environments that are differentiated for every child. I am asking that every parent make a commitment to provide learning time during the winter break and hopefully take advantage of our online learning tools.

May you have a safe and memorable break along with your loved ones! I look forward to seeing everyone at this week's events.

Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez – Attention 5th Grade Parents and Students: Magnet Coordinators from language magnet schools will be here at Helms on Thursday, **December 19, 2012 at 6:00pm** to give you all an opportunity to learn about their programs. Please save the date! Also, Clifton Middle held a presentation to the 5th grade classes today **December 17, 2012 at 8:30am** to share their S.T.E.M. Magnet Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). **Pre-Kindergarten Parents:** Make sure to turn in your child's magnet application so that he/she will be included in the lottery for the 2013-2014 Dual Language Kindergarten Program here at Helms! Phase I **Magnet Deadline** for all grade levels K – 5 is **January 11, 2013!**

Helms PTA – Walking Club will begin in January!!! Dates and times available are **Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8am and Tuesdays Thursdays at 3:30pm**. Sign up for dates and times to form walking groups by emailing **helmspta@gmail.com** or calling **Claudia de Leon @ 713-202-3274**.

Nurse, Barraza - 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 17

Box Top Collection Contest Begins

December 19

Winter Musical Dress REHERSAL at Reagan HS at 4pm

December 20

Winter Musical at Reagan HS at 6pm

Important Announcements

Future Early Dismissal Dates (12:45pm)

January 30th & February 20th.

PTA

The next BOARD meeting will be **January 10th at 6pm**
And the next GENERAL meeting will be **January 24th at 6pm**

Winter Box Collection Contest

Begins December 17th through February 1st.

Parent Connection

Second grade students visited the Menil Collection and learned to write their view on different art pieces.

Thank you to all the chaperones, 2nd grade teachers, and Writers in the Schools for this valuable experience