

# November 26 2012 Newsletter

## Helms Elementary

### From the Desk of



**Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar** – Dear parents, we hope all of our families experienced a wonderful and memorable Thanksgiving! We certainly have much to be thankful for. December is quickly approaching and with it come many events. During this exciting holiday season it is important that parents help us maintain our focus on student achievement, regular school attendance, and appropriate behavior. Our students in 3rd - 5th grade recently took district benchmark tests in reading and math. Fourth grade also took a writing test, and 5th grade took a science test. I encourage you to speak to your child's teacher about your child's test results and learn how you can support your child's learning and success. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming family literacy night and Winter shows. Remember to make sure your child reads every night and attends school every day by 8:05.

The winners of our Dia de Los Muertos door decorating contests are Mrs. Martinez's class, Mrs. A. Gonzalez's class, Mrs. Coates' class, and Mr. Newmans' class. These classes demonstrated depth and authenticity in their representation of Dia de Los Muertos. Congratulations! We are proud of your work.

### \*\*\*\*\*ALERT\*\*\*\*\*

The bicycle of a Helm's student was stolen last weekend. The bike was chained to the bike rack and left on campus over the weekend. If you have any information regarding this incident, please call the main office and speak to Mrs. Toni Guerra. Parents, we ask that you not leave bicycles or other personal property at Helms. I have noticed students leaving bicycles on several occasions. It is unfortunate that someone would steal property from our school grounds. I reach out to the Helms' community to be vigilant at all times and report any suspicious activity to the front office.

Attendance update: Thank you so much for your child's punctuality and every day attendance. For the month of **November** we totaled **97.4%, 99.0% in October** and **98.1% in September**. We want to build those numbers back up. So please keep up the good work and remember that everyday counts!

**Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez** – Dear Parents: I hope that your holidays were relaxing and enjoyable. There are only a few weeks to go before the Winter Break. Please remember to look for opportunities for your child to keep up with his reading during the time off. Read to him. Look for storytime at the local library or at bookstores. Make good use of the purple backpack and perhaps watch some educational programming on PBS or on Sunday mornings on Univision (Plaza Sesamo).

Don't forget that Magnet Applications are due for Kindergarten January 11, 2013. Fifth grade middle school applications are due the same day. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, 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](mailto:kmartinez2@hotmail.com) or **832-867-4804**. Movie Night! Friday, Dec 7th at 6pm – Polar Express. Free Popcorn. Snacks, water, & Juice for sale. Also, don't forget the Winter Box Tops Collection Contest begins Dec 17th & runs through Feb 1st

**Nurse, Ms. Barazza** – Attention all Second grade parents-this week permission forms are being sent home for Project Saving Smiles. Project Saving Smiles is a free field trip for second graders to receive Dental Screening, Sealants, Fluoride Varnish, and Oral Health Education at no cost. Project Saving Smiles field trip is planned for the week of January 14-18, 2013. The actual date of our field trip will be announced later. If you are interested in participating, please complete the permission form and return to me (Christine Barraza, R.N./school nurse). All completed permission forms are due by Friday, December 14, 2012. 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

### November 28

"Conmigo"  
at 10am & 11am

### November 30

"Conmigo" Session 2  
at 10am & 11am

### December 5

PTA Room Parent Holiday Coffee  
at 6pm in T-11

### December 6

PTA Room Parent Holiday Coffee.  
at 9am in T-11

### December 7

Coffee with the principal at  
8:30am

## Important Announcements

### Future Early Dismissal Dates

(12:45pm)

January 30<sup>th</sup> & February 20<sup>th</sup>

### Future Testing Dates

#### December 3

All of Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will take the **Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test** (NNAT2)

#### December 4-6 & 10-12

All Kindergarten will take **Stanford/Aprenda** Tests

## Parent Connection

Renzulli Learning is an on-line educational profile an educational learning system designed to match student interests, learning styles, and expression styles with educational activities and resources designed to enrich and engage students' learning process. All students in Houston ISD have an account at [www.renzullilearning.com](http://www.renzullilearning.com). Your child will soon have the opportunity to use this exciting and engaging tool.