

November 5, 2012 NEWSLETTER

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar- Dear Parents, our Campus Goal is to achieve 98% attendance. We need every parent and/or guardian to help us reach this goal. Students are to be at school Every day, On time, and All day. This includes tutorials if identified as needing tutoring. Absenteeism, tardiness and leaving early is correlated with lower academic performance and a higher dropout rate. Every moment at Helms is a learning moment. Our instructional day is from 8:00 am until 3:15 pm daily. Tardies are marked at 8:05 am. Please see Senate Bill 1 – TEC Chapter 25 subsection 25.085 Compulsory School Attendance. Students exceeding 3 unexcused absences in a 4 week period may have Compulsory Attendance laws enforced by a district truancy officer who may: (1) Conduct an investigation, (2) file a complaint in a justice or municipal court against a parent, and/or make a home visit.

Section 25.085. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

(a) A child who is required to attend school under this section shall attend school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided. (b) Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 18th birthday shall attend school. (c) On enrollment in prekindergarten or kindergarten, a child shall attend school. (d) Unless specifically exempted by Section 25.086, a student enrolled in a school district must attend: (1) an extended-year program for which the student is eligible that is provided by the district for students identified as likely not to be promoted to the next grade level or tutorial classes required by the district under Section 29.084; (2) an accelerated reading instruction program to which the student is assigned under Section 28.006(g); (3) an accelerated instruction program to which the student is assigned under Section 28>0211; or (4) a basic skills program to which the student is assigned under Section 29.086.

Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez – Magnet week is here! I want to thank all of the parent volunteers and the student greeters who are making our prospective parents at home here at Helms. We know that you all are our best advocates. You are appreciated. We had a large turn out to our booth at the Magnet Open House and School Choice Fair on Saturday. Make sure to keep reminding friends and family about Magnet tours happening everyday at 1:00. Also, Fifth graders are bringing home a packet with the papers they need for their applications for middle school. They will need to fill out a Magnet Application for each school they are interested in and one Vanguard Application that will be turned in to their first choice Vanguard Magnet Middle School. (The Vanguard Application gives space to choose 3 Vanguard Programs). Don't forget to turn in all Vanguard and Magnet Applications to the school(s) of preference by January 11, 2013.

Helms PTA – A BIG Thank you to everyone who came & supported the Fall Festival this year! It was a great success! Looking forward to next year's Festival!

PTA Board Meeting postponed to Thursday, November 8, 6-7:30 pm.

PTA Meeting Thursday, Nov 15th 6-7pm in school cafeteria

Next Movie Night!!! Friday, Dec 7th at 6pm – Polar Express. Free Popcorn. Snacks, water, and Juice for sale.

The Helms Wetland and Outdoor Classroom Committee – Will have a Community Work Day this Saturday, 11/10/12, from 9:00am to noon. Come out to help in the gardens and wetlands!! We will have a variety of projects for students and parents. Bring your work gloves and a water bottle. Don't forget to wear sunscreen and we will see you there!

Helms has been registered in the National Wildlife Federation Eco-School Program. We have a few steps to go but it is our goal to reach "Bronze" recognition status by the end of this school year for our school habitat and gardens! Stay tuned for more info and how to get involved.

Upcoming Events

November 6 And 7

Individual Picture Day

PK – 1st on Tuesday

2nd – 5th on Wednesday

November 6

**Election Day – VOTE at Helms
In Room T-11**

November 7

**Parent Information Meeting
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

November 9

**Coffee with the Principal
At 8:30 AM**

November 10

**Community Gardens and
Wetlands Work Day
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Important Announcements

**Future Early(12:45PM)Dismissal Dates:
November 14th, January 30th, and
February 20th.**

Voting Information

Tomorrow is Election Day and our school will be used as a polling location in room T-11. We anticipate extra traffic around the campus, and we are asking everyone to slow down and keep our school zones orderly and safe on behalf of all students. If you are visiting our campus to vote, welcome. Please enter through side gate to T-11. Remember, HISD's bond proposition is last on the ballot and would fund the replacement or repair of 38 schools and provide safety and technology upgrades at all campuses. So please, finish your ballot.

Parent Connection

Fifth grade students are diving into biographies and autobiographies this unit. The students are learning about important people in our world both present and past. They will be writing biographies about a classmate or a person they are interested in. Please continue to encourage your child to read every night and have them reflect in writing what they are reading.

In Science the 5th graders are tackling their first Laser i3 project on Force and Motion! They are creating vehicles and conducting hands on experiments to test how Newton's Law comes into effect.