

OCTOBER 1, 2012 NEWSLETTER

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar- *Thanks to the HISD Elementary Math Curriculum team, we were able to provide hands-on coaching for parents that will enable them to assist their children in becoming successful in the classroom! Our teachers are committed to growing professionally and providing your children with the best education possible. Eleven Helms teachers have completed the Everyday Counts Calendar Math Training. This was possible by a collaboration of Helms funds and the generous donation from The McMillian Family. This training is directly aligned with the State of Texas mathematics standards and is part of daily classroom routines. It is our vision to have 100% of Helms teachers trained and Everyday Counts Calendar routines be implemented in every class. It is very exciting to see the collaboration of teachers, parents, community members, district leaders, and business partners to reach a common goal that will set our students on the path to new heights!*

Counselor, Ms. Montañó – Students will sign the Pledge for Respect October 1st in order for Helms ES to participate in the No Place Hate initiative for 2012-13.

SIMS Clerk, Ms. Alvarado – **Lunch Applications:** October 9th - cutoff date for last year's lunch status. October 10th - new application status starts.

Librarian, Ms. Hardin – Is your child's birthday coming up? See the flyer in the Monday folder for details about making this year extra-special.

Helms PTA – is hosting its first free Movie Night on October 19, 2012 by showing E.T. at 6:30 PM. Doors open at 6:00PM and free popcorn will be provided. PTA members will be selling drinks and snacks. Blankets and chairs are welcome. Parents must stay with their child(ren) during the movie. This is **not** a drop off event.

Helms PTA – The Fall Festival & Dance-A-Thon will be on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 11:00 AM-3:00PM in the Helms Spark Park, and the Dance-A-Thon will be from 10:00AM-11:00AM in the school cafeteria. Volunteers are needed to help make the Fall Festival & Dance-A-Thon a success. The next meeting will be October 11, 2012, at 6:00 PM in the teacher's lounge. For more information, please contact: **James Inman** at 281-772-8862 or fallfestival@aol.com or **Debbie Treviño** at 713-416-2674 or debtrevino00@gmail.com. Please "Like" the Helms PTA on Facebook. You can refer to this page for the current happenings with the Helms PTA and connect with other Helms parents.

A look into the science curriculum- During the month of October, students will be exploring and mastering many science concepts, knowledge, skills, and processes.

Kinder, First, and Second grade are exploring: Properties of matter and measurement. They will also measure length, temperature, mass, and volume of objects. Ask your child about objects that sink and float.

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade are mastering: Properties and states of matter. Our students are classifying, making predictions, analyzing data, and making conclusions. Ask your child about the process water goes through when it changes from a liquid, to a solid, and to a gas?

Upcoming Events

October 2nd

National Night Out at the
Helms Spark Park 5:30 –7:30PM

October 5th

Bring \$1 donation and wear
PINK for "Passionately Pink for
the Cure" Week

Important Announcements

**Future Early(12:45PM)Dismissal
Dates: October 24th, November
14th, January 30th, and February
20th.**

Parent Connection

"As for the story, whether the poet takes it ready made or constructs it for himself, he should first sketch its general outline, and then fill in the episodes and amplify in detail."

-Aristotle, Philosopher, Writer, Poet

Every Helms student is an author.

You are your child's first teacher.

Modeling writing for your child through: diagrams, sketches, grocery lists, to do lists, notes, letters, journals, invitations, text messages, and by providing many examples of text in your home.

Develop young authors by inviting them to do the following:

- Make lists, lots of lists such as: grocery list, to do lists, wish lists
- Before going on a family outing talk about your plan and make a sketch, diagram, schedule, agenda, and list of things to do
- After a family adventure, talk about the most memorable event, illustrate it, and write about it in a journal.
- Set a place in your home for your child to leave you notes and letters such as on the refrigerator
- Take out a favorite picture and write a narration of the event or write a description of the picture
- Set up a library in your home where your letters, notes, journals, and child made books can be shelved and read by guests.

Recognitions:

Congratulations to Mrs. Edward's and Mrs. Vetter's classes for having the most parents attend our Parents' Math Workshops! They win pizza parties !