

OCTOBER 8, 2012 NEWSLETTER

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar- Helms Elementary School is reaching new heights! According to the most recent HISD Growth Report, Helms Elementary School ranks 13th out of 170 elementary schools in Reading/Language Arts student performance growth as measured by STAAR and Stanford/Aprensa. This places Helms in the top quartile for growth among all HISD elementary schools. Congratulations to our students, teachers, staff, and parents!

We want to remind everyone of our Helms uniform policy. Sweaters, jackets, and leggings should be solid school colors (red, white, navy blue) with no logos, except the Helms logo. The uniform policy was developed by the Shared Decision Making Committee which includes parents, teachers, non-teaching staff, administrators, and our community partner. The policy is available on our website, or in the front office.

Parents, we would like to remind you that if you would like to meet with a teacher you may schedule an appointment during the teacher's conference period, before school, or after school. Our goal is to maximize instructional time. Volunteer times and tasks are scheduled with the teacher. Please be certain to always sign in and wear a visitor's badge.

Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez – We have had a fantastic response for Purple Backpack! There are well over 100 students enrolled in the program! Backpacks went out on October 4, 2012, and need to be returned on Tuesday, October 9, 2012. They will be prepared with a new book to go home on Thursday, October 11, 2012. Thank you for participating in this fantastic opportunity to support your dual language child.

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 – Here is a list of the days your child will attend library. Please help students with their library books by keeping them in their backpacks. Monday – Marcelo. Tuesday - Martinez, Mulloy, Vendas, Easterday, Ms. Mansilla, Vetter, and Newman. Wednesday – Urquia, Monroy, Garcia, J. Gonzalez, Rodriguez, Mendez, and Andrade. Thursday – Alvarez, Edwards, Coates, Felder, Jara-Reyes, Menjivar, and Valle. Friday – Rivera, Trevino, A. Gonzalez, Mr. Mansilla

Helms PTA – The Just Poppin Popcorn fundraiser has started and the order forms were sent home with the students last week. We make 60% profit on every bag we sell, so \$3 of every \$5 bag sold goes directly to benefiting our students and our school. Your order MUST be paid in full when the form is turned in. We are extending the fundraiser until Oct. 19th, so everyone has plenty of time to sell! Please turn in your order forms on the mornings of Oct 17th – 19th to a volunteer in the office. Delivery is set for early – mid November. Prizes will again be awarded to the top seller and the top grade, and the game van will again be here for those that sell 30 or more bags!!! If each student sells just 6 bags, we will meet our goal!!! But don't stop there.....Let's all work hard to reach our goal and everyone will be rewarded – most importantly our school!!!! Contact Susan Davis at 832-788-5501 with any questions.

Helms PTA – The Fall Festival Planning Committee will meet on Thursday, October 11th, 2012 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the teacher's lounge. Please join us if you are interested in helping us make the Fall Festival the best it can be. We hope to see you there! For more information, please contact: **James Inman** at 281-772-8862 fallfestival2012@aol.com or **Debbie Treviño** at 713-416-2674 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.

The Helms Wetland and Outdoor Classroom Committee – Save The Date! The HWOC committee will be holding a Community Work Day in the gardens and

Upcoming Events

October 8th.

PreK Progress Report Sent Home

October 10th.

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

October 12th

Coffee with the Principal At 8:30 AM

Important Announcements

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

Parent Connection

The whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking. - Albert Einstein

Inquiry based science requires that we take a moment and ask ourselves questions about why we are investigating a subject. In class, we take apart science and "discover" new topics and ways to measure and make notations every day. At home, take the time with your child to figure out how things work:

- ask your child to figure out how home appliances and tools work.
- Look up facts on the internet
- take them to the library and let them look up books on the topic.
- Let them work with these resources to help them become more familiar with the world around them.

If you can guide them to discovery, they will be more willing to take the first steps in class. – Mr. Newman, Science Teacher, 5th grade.