

# SEPTEMBER 10, 2012 NEWSLETTER

## Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



### From the Desk of

**Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar** – We are off to an exciting school year! We are working hard to improve our communication with parents. We hope this new format will relay a clear and concise message that will enhance the parent-school connection. It is our goal to include parents in the education process and hope to see all of you at our upcoming events. *Parents + Schools = Successful Children*

**Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez**- It should be noted that a “full immersion” student’s English development may lag temporarily in reading, word knowledge, and spelling while instruction is occurring exclusively in the immersion language.

**Social Studies Lead Teacher, Guadalupe Mendez**- Fiestas Patrias is just around the corner. The parade is THIS Saturday, Sept.15th at 10 am. We will Meet at 7:30 am to help prepare the float and the participants for the parade. Friday night between 5 - 7:30pm we need volunteers to prepare items for the float. We will also need volunteers from 8- 11:00am to prepare for festivities at the school once the parade is over. Decorations, food and entertainment are welcome. More details to come this week.

**Fourth Grade Fund Raiser Committee Chair, Tina Sullivan**- It’s Time For Pie!!! Starting on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and ending Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. You can order Harvest Pumpkin, Chocolate Silk, Southern Pecan, Buttermilk Coconut, apple Streusel or even a gift card from students in Ms. Vetter, Mr. Mendez, or Mr. Menjivar’s class. Pies are \$20.00 each and will be ready for pick up November 19<sup>th</sup>. Come taste some pie at the Helms Open House. Remember to order early, order often! Email [tina.sullivan@gmail.com](mailto:tina.sullivan@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Vanguard/Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Nicole Gallagher**- Please consider attending the Vanguard/Gifted and Talented Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 from 5:00 – 5:30 PM in the cafeteria. We will conclude prior to Open House which is also on Wednesday from 5:30-7:30.

**Helms Parent and Teacher President, Claudia de Leon**- The Helms PTA invites you to be a member! Please contact Mrs. Claudia de Leon, PTA president by phone at: 713-202-3274, or by email at: [helmspta@gmail.com](mailto:helmspta@gmail.com). The 4th Annual Helms Family Camp-Out will be from September 28 - September 30, 2012 at the Doublelake Recreation Area Coldspring, TX. \$10 per family. More information and registration forms are available on the Helms website or in the front office. Questions? contact Kim Martinez at [kmartinez2@hotmail.com](mailto:kmartinez2@hotmail.com) or 832-867-4804

### Get in the Know....

Fotofest is partnering with Helms Elementary to develop critical thinking and communication skills. How? Through project based learning that integrates multi-media in the content areas. Ms. Ruth Robbins, our resident videographer is working with teachers in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade to help students discover the power of media to creatively communicate concepts, processes, and skills. One teacher in every grade is implementing media and has been trained by Fotofest. We are so excited to showcase our first products next month!

Art League Houston is also partnering with Helms! Our resident *Artbound!* Teaching artist, Carrie Sneider, will be working with three Helms teachers -in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This partnership between Art League Houston, HISD, and Target offers an extraordinary program- that connects concepts and skills in school to curriculum to concepts and skills in the visual arts.



## Upcoming Events

### September 12

Open House 5:30-7:30PM

### September 14

Coffee with the Principal 8:30 AM and 5:30PM

### September 15

Fiestas Patrias Parade 8:30AM meet at Helms

## Important Announcements

Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> is a Holiday. No School.

Wednesday, September 26 is **Early Dismissal** at 12:45. For a fee, you may take advantage of our After School Program on this day. Please contact Mr. David Preston at 713-867-0820.

Future Early(12:45PM)Dismissal Dates: **September 26<sup>th</sup>, October 24<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, January 30<sup>th</sup>, and February 20<sup>th</sup>**

## Parent Connection

Reading to your child, listening to your child read, and providing a print rich environment will increase your child’s vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing skills. More importantly, it will develop a life-long love of reading and start him/her on the path to college. Learn about the Heights Public Library at Open House.– Mrs. Del Pilar

