

SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 NEWSLETTER

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar - Thank you for celebrating Fiestas Patrias and supporting our students who participated in the parade. The Helms community honored the diversity of our campus as we celebrated Mexican Independence. Open House was a great success and we applaud your parental involvement in the education of your children. If you were unable to attend, please feel free to schedule a meeting with your child's teacher during their conference period to gather information shared at Open House. Please continue regular communication with your child's teacher so that you can stay informed about your child's educational goals and progress.

Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez- The Helms Purple Back Pack program provides bilingual books, cds, and family activities once a week. Contracts for program participation were sent home with the Monday Newsletter on September 10, 2012. If you are interested, please turn in your contract or pick one up from the front office. This is an excellent opportunity to support literacy development as a daily routine.

Librarian - Inprint Readings for Young People presents Lois Lowry, reading from her new book, *Son*, the fourth and final book in *The Giver* series. The event will take place on Sunday, October 14, 2012 3 pm at Johnston Middle School.

Music Teacher- October 1-4th Mrs. Holeman will be holding auditions for this year's Winter Musical. The auditions will include grades 2-5. They will be held directly after school in Mrs. Holeman's music room (T-12). Please have your child prepare a song to sing, a dance, a monologue, or a skit with a friend. All students in PreK – 1st grade will have the opportunity to participate in a Winter Concert, but will not need to audition. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Holeman at 713-867-5130.

The Helms Wetland and Outdoor Classroom Committee- hosted the first Community Work Day of the year on Saturday, September 8th, and a lot was accomplished in a short period of time. Special thanks to the committee members, teachers, parents and students that helped make it happen! Pictures will be posted on the Helms webpage in the wetlands section. The next community work day is scheduled for November 10, 2012.

Helms Parent and Teacher President, Claudia de Leon- The Helms PTA invites you to the first PTA Meeting on September 20th, at 6:00PM. Please contact Mrs. Claudia de Leon, PTA president by phone at: 713-202-3274, or by email at: helmspta@gmail.com. The PTA would like to remind you that **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 or 832-867-4804. **The Fall Festival & Dance-A-Thon** will be at Helms Spark Park on Saturday, October 27, 2012. Dance-A-Thon from 10:00AM-11:00 AM & Fall Festival from 11-3:00 PM. Volunteers are need to help support the Fall Festival and Dance-A-Thon. For

Get in the Know....

Helms Elementary has many ways you can get involved in our school. In the Volunteer Survey that was sent home today, you will learn about how you can contribute here at Helms. Please complete the survey and return the form to Ms. Cristina Alejandro, our VIPS coordinator. She will contact you with next steps. New parents and volunteers must go through a background check to participate in field trips or work within the school. You can complete volunteer background check application online at www.houstonisd.org/vipslogin. All volunteers must bring their identification to the front office to have their volunteer clearance verified. Remember that dual language parents signed a contract for ten hours of community service. We are counting on you!



Upcoming Events

September 21

Donuts with Dad 8:00-8:30

September 24

Progress Report Sent Home

September 26

Early Dismissal at 12:45

September 24-27

Camp Olympia 5th grd

September 28-30

Helms All Family Camp-out

Important Announcements

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: October 24th, November 14th, January 30th, and February 20th.

Lunch is \$2.25. Students that are provided a lunch tray, but do not bring lunch money, will be charged for their lunch to their HISD issued lunch account. Please send your child to school with lunch money or a nutritious lunch.

Parent Connection

You can help your child build their understanding of how measurement is used in the real world. A gallon of milk, a cup of rice, a teaspoon of sugar.... We use these every day. Help your child experience measuring at home and physically comparing the differences between objects. This is a mathematics standard that our teachers are working hard to improve campus wide. - Mrs. Del Pilar

Recognitions

Thank you Reagan High School Color Guard for presenting your flag raising ceremony this morning for our 5th. Graders!