

# OCTOBER 15, 2012 NEWSLETTER

## Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



### From the Desk of

**Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar** - We would like to thank all of you who came out to Coffee with the Principal. I was called away to another meeting, but Ms. Sanchez stepped in and there was a good turn out. We know that parent teacher conferences are coming and the presentation at Coffee with the Principal gave everyone some ideas of what to ask the teachers and what your rights are as parents.

Congratulations to our 4th graders who created a skeleton model which is on display at the Health Science Museum. Way to go! Hats off to Ms. Rickman, the 4th grade, an Ms. Allietta's Class!

Tutorials will be starting soon. If your child brings home a letter for tutorials, it is because the teacher has identified a need. These are targeted interventions that are designed with your child in mind. Please sign the letter and return it to school. Snacks will be provided to tutorial students.

**Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez** - It is magnet season. It's time for parents to start looking for a magnet middle school for our 5th graders heading for 6th grade. A flyer has gone out to fifth grade parents announcing middle school magnet nights that are happening around the district in the next few weeks. Additional copies, of the middle school magnet flyers are available in the office.

**Counselor, Ms. Montañó** - Dear parents, during the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> our school will be participating in the Red Ribbon week. This week we will encourage our students to have a healthy lifestyle and stay free of drugs. Please help us by explaining to your son/daughter that a drug free life can make dreams come true. Build your child's self-esteem through praise, hugs, and support. When children believe in themselves, they will resist being tempted by drugs.

**Helms PTA** - Helms PTA is hosting its first free Helms Movie Night on October 19, 2012 by showing E.T at 6:30pm (*sharp*) in the school cafeteria. Doors open at 6pm and free popcorn will be provided. PTA will be selling Pizza/Snacks/Drinks. Presale Wristbands for the Fall Festival will be available for purchase. 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** Volunteers are needed to help make the Fall Festival & Dance -A-Thon a success. The next meeting will be October 26, 2012 at 8:00am and 6:00pm in the teacher's lounge to finalize the festivities. The Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 11a - 3p in the Helms Spark Park and the Dance-a-Thon will be from 10a-11a in the school cafeteria. For information, contact:

**James Inman 281-772-8862**[fallfestival2012@aol.com](mailto:fallfestival2012@aol.com) **Debbie Treviño 713-416-2674**[debtrevino00@gmail.com](mailto:debtrevino00@gmail.com) **"Like" Helms PTA on Facebook - Newsletter:**

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.

**Box Tops Contest 2012 - Newsletter** Turn in your unexpired Box Tops to Ms. Hardin, school librarian, by October 26th! Each student who turns in at least 25 Box Tops wins a small prize. The classroom that collects the most Box Tops wins an extra P.E. class with Mr. Easterday!

### Engaging children in the pleasure and power of reading and writing.

Writers in the Schools (WITS) engages children in the pleasure and power of reading and writing. WITS writers work in year-long programs in over 350 classrooms in order to help students develop their creative and analytical thinking skills. With a focus on at-risk, inner city students, WITS also offers workshops in art museums, hospitals, community centers, private schools, and juvenile detention.

## Upcoming Events

**October 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**3<sup>rd</sup>. Grade Parent Workshop**  
**5:30-7:00PM**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**PTA Meeting on**  
**5:30-7:00**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Movie Night**  
**6:00PM**  
**K-5 Grading Cycle I Ends**

**October 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Marathon Kids Kick Off**  
**Celebration at 10:00AM**

## Important Announcements

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

### Parent Connection

Parents, there are many ways to make connections when students read. They can do "text to self". That is, "How does what I am reading connect to me? Are there any similarities between what is happening in the story or what the characters are doing and the things I know about in my own experience?" Another way to connect to a story might be "text to text". "How is this book similar to something else I have read?"

Making these connections helps a student to understand what he is reading and make it more relevant to him. This can strengthen reading comprehension. As parents we can ask the types of questions seen above of our children while we read aloud to them. As time goes by, they will begin to ask themselves the same questions as they read independently.