

OCTOBER 29, 2012 NEWSLETTER

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar – Greetings parents, I want to thank our Amazing Parent and Teacher Association leaders for the wonderful fall festival and dance a thon! It was a joy seeing all of our Helms families and staff having fun!

The safety of our students is an HISD and Helms priority. In order to increase the safety of our students we will be phasing in several safety improvements in our school. This will include new fencing, a receptionist window in the front entrance, and a set of safety doors in the lobby. We will also be installing key cards at all doors allowing us to prevent unscreened visitors into the building. We will share the designs of our safety improvement plans at our upcoming Coffee with the Principal. Remember, it is our responsibility to continually improve the safety of our students and all decisions that are made are centered on our students' safety.

***Safety alert *** We need all community members to be vigilant and help us keep all gates closed. Last week it was reported that two men were seen pilfering in our dumpsters during school hours. The teachers' parking lot gate must remain locked. Please notify the office immediately if you see any suspicious visitors on our grounds or see an open gate.

Magnet Coordinator, Julie Sanchez – "Don't forget that the School Choice Fair is at the Hattie Mae White Administration Building on Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 9 am to 12 Noon. Helms will be there. Please send your friends and family to the Helms table. **Helms Magnet tours** are the week of November 5th – 9th at 1:00 PM daily. Also, all fifth grade parents will be receiving a packet with test scores and other documents necessary for the middle school magnet application process. Make sure to get an early start on those applications. The deadline is January 11, 2013. Applications must be turned in by that date to ensure that they are considered in the Phase I of Magnet and Vanguard selection process."

Librarian, Ms. Hardin – Starting October 29th the ancillary schedule will change, we are sending home a copy in the Monday folder. Please be aware of your child's library day (bring books) and PE (wear proper shoes).

Helms PTA – Family Movie Night was a Success! Thank you to all those who came to movie night. Look for information on the next Movie Night in December.

Room Parents – For information on becoming a Room Parent & helping your child's teacher, please contact Christine Cullen chaosntnt@yahoo.com.

Early Voting – If you haven't already cast your ballot, early voting is still available. It's a great chance to avoid the lines and make your voice heard. You'll find HISD's \$1.89 billion bond proposal near the end of the ballot. If you need help finding your polling place, please visit www.harriscountyvotes.com. Thank you.

PICTURE DAY

Free Dress Day Individual Pictures

PK – 1st November 6

2nd – 5th November 7

Payment envelopes will be sent home this week.

Upcoming Events

October 29th

"Dia de los Muertos"

Door Contest

10/29 – 11/02

October 31st

Storybook Parade

PK – 1st 2:15 – 2:45

November 2nd

Early Voting

Monday, Oct. 22 – Friday, Nov.

2nd Early voting

Tuesday, Nov. 6: Election Day

November 3rd

Magnet Open House

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Hattie

Mae White

November 5th – 9th

Magnet Tours at 1:00 PM Daily

Important Announcements

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

Parent Connection

Second grade students are learning different reading strategies for comprehension. Practice reading comprehension at home by having your child: Analyze the Character, Identify the Setting and Plot, Make Inferences, Identify Main Ideas and Details, Cause and Effect, Compare and Contrast.

"The things I want to know are in books. My best friend is the man who'll get me a book I [haven't] read."
— Abraham Lincoln