

MARCH 5, 2014 NEWSLETTER

Helms Elementary

A Dual Language Magnet School



From the Desk of

Principal, Ms. Diana Del Pilar:

Dear Helms Parents, I would like to thank all parents that attended last night's meeting. We had a great turn out and your commitment to support and engage in your child's education is greatly appreciated! Together we will achieve greatness.

Parents, it is imperative that you are up to date on your child's attendance, grades, and the newly released HISD promotion standards:

In order for HISD students to move to the next grade level, they must show that they have reached HISD's "Promotion Standards" - what the State of Texas requires of all public school children. These standards generally include classroom grades and a local or state test.

In addition to local and state promotion requirements, the Texas Legislature created The Student Success Initiative (SSI) to ensure that students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in reading and mathematics. Under SSI, students in 5th and 8th grade must pass the STAAR reading and math tests. For more information, visit the Student Requirements website at <http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/41759>

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) standards for promotion:

Grade Level	Promotion Standards
1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must pass High Frequency Word Test – Recognizing and reading words that appear very often in written and spoken language.• State requirement of overall yearly average of 70 or above and local requirement of an average of 70 or above in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science or social studies.• Students must have sufficient attendance*
3, 4 and 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must pass STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness) in reading and math.• State requirement of overall yearly average of 70 or above and local requirement of an average of 70 or above in reading, other language arts, mathematics, and science or social studies.• Students must have sufficient attendance*

*Sufficient attendance: A student's total number of unexcused absences cannot exceed 10% of class meetings.

For English Language Learners, the Grade Placement Committee (GPC) in consultation with the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine promotion standards. For students with disabilities, the campus ARD/IEP committee will determine the promotion status based on mastery of IEP goals and objectives and /or course requirements.

If your child does not meet Promotion Standards, the school will contact you for further opportunities to receive additional instruction. Questions may be directed to Parent and Community Assistance Office 713-556-7121.

Upcoming Events

- **March 5: 5:30 – 7:00 PM @ Conf. Rm.**
PTA Board Meeting
- **Until March 7:**
PreK Enrollment
- **March 8: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**
Saturday Tutorials (Grades 3rd–5th)
- **March 8: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM @ Hattie Mae White Ed. Center**
When I Grow Up Expo
- **March 9: 2:00 – 4:00 PM**
Wetlands & Gardens Workday
- **March 11:**
Class Group Picture Day
- **March 13: 2:00 – 3:15 PM**
STAAR Pep-Rally (3rd–5th & Ms. A's)
- **March 14: 8:30 AM @ Cafeteria**
PAC Meeting & Coffee w/ Principal
- **March 14:**
End of 3rd Cycle
- **March 17-21:**
Spring Break

PTA Announcements

Helms Family Camp Out: April 25, 26, 27, at Double Lake Recreation Area. Camp Out the whole weekend or come up for just the day. Lots of family fun: fishing, bring your bikes for biking, and hiking. Create those childhood memories that last a life time. For more info, contact: Carol Burton, parent volunteer at 281-865-1966.

Headphones: Mr. Willman has confirmed that we reached our goal! He wanted to thank all the parents that made a donation so that the computer lab will now have new headphones for our children to use.

Popcorn Sales: Please sell as much popcorn to raise money for our school. Popcorn is \$5 a bag and Helms makes \$2.50 per bag. Orders due March 25th. Pick up day Monday April 7th. Smoothie party for the class that sells the most popcorn. The highest seller will receive a \$50 Chuck E Cheese gift card and the next 3 highest sellers will receive a \$10 Fat Cat Creamery gift card. Extra order forms are available in the office. Call Natasha Heard if you have any questions on 281-650-0767.

PTA General Meeting: The general meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 5:30 pm at the Library. Childcare will be provided.