



# CharlesHelmerts Elementary School

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*Saugus Union School District* SCHOOLS

**December 20, 2011**

## **Upcoming Important Dates:**

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 16 - Holiday/Winter break**

**Jan. 19 - Student Banking Day**

**Jan. 23 - Winter FIT Team ASE begins**

**Jan. 23 - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade CHORDS begins**

**Jan. 23 - Hearing Screenings k, 2, 5, SDC and special requests**

**Jan. 25 - PTA Association Meeting**

## **Principal's Message**

Have a terrific and fulfilling break. May this season of gift-giving help you to reflect on the most precious gifts of all, our children. Thank you for a wonderful 2011 and we look forward to a prosperous 2012.

## **Dismissal/Front of School**

We would like your cooperation in the dismissal process near the front of the school. Currently, many students who are with parents play in the grassy area out in front of the school, running around and often climbing the trees. We work diligently throughout the day to keep a good eye on our students so they remain safe and it is important we maintain the same standards after school. Unfortunately we do not have employee supervision in the front after dismissal. We love to see our children playing and interacting and we strongly encourage these activities. We would like to suggest you take your children to the park next door at dismissal to continue their afternoon play time. We appreciate your support and continuous effort to keep our children safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me.

## **Helmerts Renovation Update**

Many of you have asked about the proposed, tentative move at the end of this school year. At this time we are unable to give a definitive date as to when or if we will be moving to the Emblem site. This tentative move was dependent upon the completion of the construction at Emblem, which is currently behind schedule. Many other factors has influenced the timeline as well, such as the state of the economy and budget and the actual design of the new school, which is not yet complete, nor has it been permitted or officially approved by the board. We will keep you informed of any potential dates and timelines as we learn of them. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## **Helmerts' Website-**

If you have not yet taken a look at our website, please take a minute to do so. We have recently made some changes and added some parent resources. You can also find the Helmerts Happenings hot of the press every week at <http://helmerselementary.weebly.com>. If you have any questions or recommendations, feel free to email our webmaster at [scusack@saugus.k12.ca.us](mailto:scusack@saugus.k12.ca.us).

**Please Help** - We kindly ask that when you park on Philbrook Ave. and Belmont Court, you are courteous to our neighbors who reside there. We have had many complaints of blocked driveways, trash left on the streets, and trash from vehicles dumped into trashcans on trash day. Helmerts' wishes to be a good neighbor and we do not want to upset ours. Please be neighbor friendly and refrain from illegal parking, littering, and disposing of your items in other people's trashcans. Thank you so much for your assistance.

**Volunteers** - If you are on campus for ANY reason, please check in at the office and sign the visitor/volunteer book before going into any classrooms or other buildings. We have had many parents walk in and just bypass the office completely and just wander. For the safety of our students and your children, it is imperative that you check in with the office. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

**PLEASE HELP - THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE DONATED SO FAR!!!** As you know, the state of California is having a severe budget crisis. Unfortunately, this is trickling down to our district, and then us. Because of this, Helmers is suffering with our own budget. We are in desperate need of Xerox paper and ink cartridges for classroom use. Kudos to our parents! So far we have collected 200 reams of paper. We spend approximately \$1000 a month on paper and \$40 for each cartridge. Please see the list below.

- HP cartridges with numbers 15, 17, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 56, 57, 58, 74, 75, 92, 93, and 96, these are the small inkjet, DeskJet, and office jet cartridges for printers.
- Xerox paper in white, 8 1/2 x 11

If you can donate paper or ink, we would truly appreciate it. Donations can be left in the office.

**THANKS** - To Addison Kuncar who donated a book to room 19 in honor of her 7th birthday. Also to Alexis Kuncar who donated a book to Room 18 in honor of her 7th birthday.

**Lost and Found** - We have a large and growing number of items in our lost and found; please have your children look for any lost items. Parents are also welcome to check. The lost and found is located in the speech pod, just off the library. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity during winter break.

**Attendance** - Attendance is important for your child's success. Please help us by refraining from vacations until designated breaks. A student's non-attendance also causes our school a tremendous loss in the amount of funding from the state. We appreciate your support. Just a friendly reminder....Please be sure to call or email when your child is going to miss school. Include your child's name, the date, teacher and a detailed reason for the absence. The number is 661-294-5345 x45280, or email Cathy Duus at [cduus@saugus.k12.ca.us](mailto:cduus@saugus.k12.ca.us). There is also a link on the Helmers' webpage. Thanks.

**Doctor, Dental and other such Appointments** - We understand these appointments are necessary but we ask that you do your best to schedule these appointments after school hours, or during breaks whenever possible. This ensures that important academic time is not interrupted and also that you will not have to wait too long for your child to arrive at the office. If you must do so during school hours, we ask that you notify the teacher beforehand either in writing or via email; that way they expect the call when you arrive. We appreciate your help and understanding.

**Cartridges For Kids** - For numerous years now, Helmers Elementary School has been a participant in the "Cartridges For Kids" Fundraising Program. With your continued help, we have been able to raise hundreds - if not - thousands of dollars in the past by partnering with this amazing recycling program for the purpose of providing added classroom materials and supplies for our students. By remembering to donate your used/recycled empty laser and inkjet cartridges and cell phones to our school (lobby area) all year long, you will help to carry forth this much needed and rewarding fundraising opportunity. Thank you so much for your support! Your children will thank you too!

## PTA NEWS

**Gift cards** - Thank you to our Helmers families who generously participated in donating to the "Helmers Helping Families" gift card program. The Gift Card Collection program benefits families within our local Helmers community who need extra help this winter season and your generous gift card donations are so much appreciated. The PTA wants to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Miscione and Ms. Hurley for all their generosity and support. Special thanks to Mrs. Scully and Mrs. Collin's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class who ran a "pie throwing" fundraiser. (The money was used to buy gift cards!) Thank you for being such a good sport, Mrs. Collins! Thank you everyone for showing your generous Husky spirit in this season of sharing - Tracy Viergutz and Nancy Jones (Helmers Helping Families Co-chairs).

**More PTA discount coupons available to Legoland, Aquarium of the Pacific and Scooter's Jungle!** Looking for something fun to do over winter break? PTA members can pick up additional discount coupons to Legoland, the aquarium and Scooter's Jungle at the school lobby bulletin board. If you would like these discount coupons but did not sign up for PTA membership, you can still download a membership form at [helterspta.org](http://helterspta.org) and turn it into the office (\$5 for each membership) and then take your coupons (one for each PTA member in your family.) The Legoland PTA discount coupons are good for one free admission for PTA members to Legoland and Sea Life Aquarium with paid admission of equal or greater value. Plus receive \$10 off up to six additional tickets to Legoland.

**ASE Winter FIT Team signups-** We will be starting a ASE Winter Inter-session on Mondays and Wednesdays after school for grades K-6th. The Winter Session will start January 23rd through the week of March 12th. Download a flyer on [helterspta.org](http://helterspta.org) under Resources then click forms. Questions? Contact FIT Team Chair, Leslie Cheshier at [fitteam@helterspta.org](mailto:fitteam@helterspta.org).

**After School Enrichment** - PTA is in the process of getting ready to plan ASE classes for our Spring Session. We are looking for volunteers to help assist Jacque Anderson with the selection of classes and registration and paperwork. It takes a team of parents to help with registration for all the wonderful after school classes that PTA offers. Please e-mail Jacque Anderson at [execvp@helterspta.org](mailto:execvp@helterspta.org) if you would like to help with the selection of spring ASE classes.

**PTA Directory update** - Any changes, additions, or corrections to the PTA Family Directory? Please e-mail them to [directory@helterspta.org](mailto:directory@helterspta.org). An addendum to the directory will be sent out in the New Year to include all changes and new PTA families.

**Box Tops** - With all the holiday baking, please don't forget to clip those Box Tops and turn them in with all your regular Box Tops to the green box in the lobby. They add up so quickly and it's an easy way to raise money for our school.

**Reflections** - Congrats to 1<sup>st</sup> grader Emma Crary and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Sumin Choi! Both garnered "Honorable Mention" awards at the SCV PTA Council level! Awards for Emma's Literary entry and Sumin's Visual Arts entry will be awarded at the SCV Council Reflections Gala on February 22. We are so proud of you both!