



CharlesHelmrs Elementary School

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A Scopus Union School District **SCHOOL**

December 6, 2011

Upcoming Important Dates:

Dec. 5 to 9 - Last week of Fall ASE classes

Dec. 7 - PTA E-Board 9:30

Dec. 9 - FIT Team runs/Juice It Up smoothies after school

Dec. 14 - Last day to buy a yearbook!

Dec. 14 - Student Store (lunches)

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

Principal's Message

I would like to personally thank those of you who have so graciously donated copy paper, ink and supplies to our school. This has been so helpful to us and we certainly appreciate your generosity. Many of you have called the office to see how you can help and we suggest that you ask the classroom teacher if there is any need in the classroom at this time.

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.

Winners of Calendar Contest

Congratulations to the following students who won \$100 each in the All Valley Federal Credit Union drawing contest: Max Tran, Ashley Nichol, Lily Ren, Mikey McKenzie, Jacquelyn Nicholas, Sean McCollum, and Amanda Brzozowski. The Credit Union also gave our school a total of \$700 as well. We are so proud of you all. Extra calendars are available in the front office.

Helmrs Renovation

There have been many questions about this lately so below is a message that has been sent out prior to this date: 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.

PLEASE HELP - 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
- 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.

ATTENTION!!!! Our wonderful Fit Team Leader, Leslie Cheshire, had her IPOD and BOSE Dock stolen during after school Fit Team on Monday, November 14th. The docking station is black as is the IPOD. If found, please bring it to the office. We appreciate it.

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. 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!

Special Thanks - Thanks to Jay Wrage who donated a book to Room 19 in honor of his birthday!

SCE Running Warriors - Track & Field Signups going on now! The program is for girls and boys 5-17 years old and the 2012 season runs from February 21st until June 2nd 2012. We include trophies, ribbons, uniforms, pictures and an end of the year picnic included with the registration. Practices are held at Canyon High School on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. (also Tuesdays in February & March). Register on-line now or for more information go to trackeast.scvaa.com.

PTA NEWS

Last chance to order yearbooks! - The Yearbook Team has taken and collected almost 850 photos so far this year! We are busily creating pages for all school activities, including orchestra, CHORDS, Carnival, Reflections, even Student Store and Student Banking. Our mission is to include multiple photos of as many students as possible in the 116-page yearbook! You can help by ordering your yearbook before the Dec. 14th deadline (\$28.00 payable to "Helmers PTA"), and by sending any good photos you take to yearbook@helmerspta.org or leaving a CD of photos at the front office. Thanks for making our year in photos memorable! You can download a yearbook form at helmerspta.org. (Look under Resources, then Forms).

Student Store - Brand new this year - FIT Team water bottles available at the Student Store! It's a great gift for your very own husky! Shop for the water bottles and holiday stocking stuffers for your child! Next Student Store is Wednesday, Dec. 14 during lunches. Please email Erline Brown at studentstore@helterspta.org if you would like to help assist our little shoppers! All parents are welcome to shop and help during lunch. **Students who earned "student store punch cards" can use their cards next Wednesday.**

ASE FIT Team - This week is our last week of the Fall Session. 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. Look for a flyer this week with more details. For questions please contact FIT Team Chair, Leslie Cheshier at fitteam@helterspta.org.

FIT Team - We'll run again this Friday. Please remind your students to wear their FIT TEAM t-shirts or comfortable clothing and athletic shoes. We are always in need of volunteers for this fun program. Please contact FIT Team chair Leslie Cheshier if you are interested in volunteering at fitteam@helterspta.org

Juice It Up - Smoothies will be sold in front of the school Friday afternoon as well as by the picnic benches down court after school. Smoothies are \$3.00 a piece and a portion of the proceeds will go towards our FIT Team.

Helters Fundraising - Let Spreebird/Screamin Deal be your holiday solution while earning 25% for our school: Spreebird/Screamin Deals is a local daily deal site that offers 50%-90% off amazing restaurants, day spas, family activities, golf, travel and more. It's absolutely free to join. Now you won't have to guess or wait for the perfect deal to give, let your family and friends choose something they love! For every \$20.00 gift card you buy from Spreebird/Screaming deals, \$5.00 of that will go right back to Helters!! That's an amazing deal. Don't forget that with spreebird a \$20 gift card is worth at least \$40 in goods or services. No long lines, no driving around town, just pick up your order at school on December 15th. That's it! Look for the order form coming home this week. Fill it out and get it back ASAP. We will stop taking order Friday December 9th. If you have any questions please contact Kristen Wells at escrip@helterspta.org or our Spreebird rep at 661-212-1419.

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 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. An addendum to the directory will be sent out.

More PTA discount coupons available to Legoland - Going to Legoland over winter break? PTA members can pick up additional Legoland discount coupons at the school lobby bulletin board. If you would like the Legoland ticket coupons but did not sign up for PTA membership, you can still download a membership form at 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.

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.