



Charles Helmers Elementary School

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Valencia CA 91354

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A Santa Ana School District SCHOOL

January 24, 2012

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Jan. 23 - Hearing Screenings (K, 2, 5 & special requests)
- Jan. 23 - Winter FIT Team ASE classes begin.
- Jan. 24 - Site Council Meeting 4:15
- Jan. 25 - PTA Association Meeting 9:30 a.m. MPR A
- Jan. 25 - Student Store (lunch)
- Jan. 25 - Math Field Day Testing 3:15 MPR A
- Jan. 27 - Fit Team runs/Juice it Up smoothies after school
- Jan. 30 - Wokcano Helmers Fundraiser 11am - 8pm

Principal's Message

With the start of the New Year comes change. Mrs. Tanya Pascua, one of our SDC teachers has accepted a job in South Korea and will be moving at the end of this week. We thank Mrs. Pascua for her 2 1/2 years of service here at Helmers and wish her luck in her new surroundings. We will miss her.

Safety Tips/Reminders

Please keep the following tips in mind when sending your children to and from school:

1. There is safety in numbers. Use the buddy system on the way to and from school.
2. Remind your children to go straight home after school and not to linger at the park or on school grounds.

Thank you PTA! We are so grateful to our fabulous PTA for donating money for our new copy machine. As you know, the machines are expensive, yet necessary for instruction. We have such great support and are so appreciative of the extra funding.

Front of School - We Need Your Help!

As you can see, we are having some new landscaping done in the front of our school. We would like your cooperation in helping us keep that area clear of children before and after 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. Lately we have had many student injuries from climbing trees and falling. 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 anywhere on the school grounds after dismissal; this includes the blacktop area and the kindergarten yard.** 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.

Inter/Intra-District Transfers

Many of you have asked about these lately and we were told that all children who have been accepted by Helmers on these transfers will remain Helmers students, in other words, grandfathered in. The only way these transfers would be revoked would be if there are severe behavior problems or poor attendance patterns.

School News

Kindergarten Round Up - Helmers will be having kindergarten round up beginning Monday, February 27th through Friday, March 2nd. If you have an incoming kindergartner, this will be the time to register. You will need a birth certificate, vaccination records and two proofs of residency (such as utility bills, mortgage statement, rental agreement etc.). Please tell your neighbors and friends who may not have access to the Happenings. Packets will be available in a few weeks, more information on that coming.....

Student Council News - Friday, January 27 will be PJ and crazy hair day combined. So just get out of bed and come to school, no need to get dressed or brush your hair!!! Remember, no hair dyes, wires, hats or slippers.

Library News - A HUGE thank you to Ian McCormick for his generous donation of books to the library. The books make our collection that much better.

Wanted - We have a kindergarten teacher who is in need of two children's size white board easels. If you have some you would like to donate, please let the office know.

2012 Winter/Spring Storytimes - The city of Santa Clarita Public Library is once again offering story time for children 6 months through 3rd grade at the various library locations. The Valencia library's schedule is as follows; Baby - Toddler, 6mo. - 36 mo. - Mon. and Wed. at 10 a.m.; School Readiness, 3-5 years, Mon. and Wed. at 12:30 p.m.; K-3rd, Tues. at 7 p.m. Monday is also grandparent's day at the Valencia location. The Valencia Library is located at 23743 W. Valencia Blvd., 259 - 8942. For more information and other locations and times, please visit www.SantaClaritaLibrary.com

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.

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. **Each missed school day causes us to lose approximately \$35 per day per child.** 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. Be aware that the office will attempt to call 2 or 3 times only, after that they are unexcused.

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! **SO FAR WE HAVE RAISED \$186.65!**

PTA NEWS

THIS WEEK ONLY! LAST CHANCE FOR A YEARBOOK! We are taking final orders for Yearbooks this week. Send a completed order form (available on helterspta.org) and a check for \$28 (payable to Helmers PTA) to your child's teacher, or submit it to the front office staff, no later than **Friday MORNING**. You cannot order a nameplate or any icons at this time. The Yearbook Team has taken over 1,000 photos so far this year, and are working hard to make this an outstanding yearbook! You can get a sneak peak of the beautiful cover art on the Helmers PTA website under "Forms"! Once the yearbooks are printed, IF we have any extras, they will cost \$33 and be on a first come, first served basis at the end of the year. Thank you again to yearbook parents Cindy Marks and Rebecca Arnold along with yearbook advisors Mrs. Wong and Mrs. Galbreath and our talented yearbook staff for continue to work so hard to keep improving on this year's yearbook!

FIT TEAM ASE - It's not too late to join us for the Winter ASE Inter-session of FIT TEAM. Sessions begin this week **RAIN OR SHINE!** Session ends the week of March 12. All students who have registered are enrolled in the classes. Please go on line to helterspta.org. Tab to "Resources" then click "FIT TEAM" for sign up forms. Any questions, contact Leslie Cheshier at fitteam@helterspta.org.

PTA Meeting this Wednesday at 9:30am in MPR-A - Come hear the latest school news and campus updates from Mrs. Miscione and your PTA officers. The **entire 1st grade** will perform! All parents are invited to attend and babies and toddlers are always welcome. Refreshments will be served.

PTA Membership - It's not too late to get your PTA membership in and take advantage of all the PTA discounts. You can download a PTA membership form at helterspta.org. It's \$5 per family member. You will get Legoland and Aquarium coupons and other PTA membership perks just in time for spring break! Your membership goes a long way to enable our PTA to keep doing what we can for our huskies and our school.

Student Store this Thursday! - New inventory along with FIT Team water bottles for \$2 and FIT Team car stickers for 75 cents! Love to help your little ones shop? We need parent volunteers to work any time from 11:15am to 1:15pm. Please e-mail Student Store Chair Erline Brown at student_store@helterspta.org if you would like to volunteer.

Box Tops - Please continue to turn in Box Tops to the green box located outside the front office. Last year, Box Tops awarded our school over \$1,000 for sending in our box tops! That's free money to help our school buy supplies! Thank you and please continue to turn in your Box Tops! So far this year we have raised **\$527.20! Way to go!**

FIT TEAM - We have more runs coming up on 1/27, 2/3, 2/10 and 2/24. We'll need 12 to 14 parent volunteers to mark hands, supervise the runners, and help with prizes and checkout. Your kids will love seeing you volunteer out there while they are walking or running during lunch. Please contact FIT TEAM Chair Leslie Cheshier at fitteam@helterspta.org if you would like to volunteer any time between 11am to 1pm.

Juice It Up Smoothies this Friday - There will be **two** locations: in front of the school and down by the field. Various flavors will be offered for \$3.00 per 12 oz smoothie. A portion of the proceeds supports Helmers' FIT TEAM.

C.H.O.R.D.S. - 2nd grade CHORDS starts this week with "Remo Drums".

Wokcano Helmers Fundraiser - Meet us for a "Ladies Lunch or Ladies Night" and or "Parents Lunch or Dinner Date Night" at "Wokcano" at the mall next Monday. They will donate 20% from each bill to our school! Flyers will be sent home this week and will be available for printing on helterspta.org. Gather your mom friends or plan for a "Lunch Date" or "Date Night" with other moms and dads at Wokcano next Monday. Valet Parking is available! See you there!

Attn: 6th grade parents: Did you get your "Messages from the Heart" order form? These are short, heartfelt messages that parents can write for their graduate to be printed in the yearbook for a cost of \$5.00. Baby pictures may also be included but must be sent electronically to yearbook@helterspta.org. We cannot scan pictures. Order forms with a check in the amount of \$5.00 to **Helters PTA** must be sent in by the February 24th deadline. Order forms can be found on helterspta.org.

Reflections winners! – Congratulations to our Helters Huskies who will be awarded and recognized at the SCV Council PTA's Reflections gala on February 22: *Sumin Choi, Daniel Spencer, Leilani Hunt and Emma Crary*. *Special recognition goes to Bridget Bambrick for dance choreography and Kathryn Elliott for film production*. They garnered 1st place in their categories and will move on to the District Reflections competition. Thank you to Reflections Chair Tonde Razooly for all her hard work to prepare the entries for competition. Go Helters Huskies!

SCIENCE FAIR: Does your child love science? Do they like to experiment or invent? Then the Science Fair is for them. Our Helters PTA is proud to sponsor the 2012 Helters Elementary School Science Fair on March 29th. Look for Interest Forms to be sent home next week or go to www.helterspta.org starting next Monday to print out an interest form at home. Go to helterspta.org then click on to "Resources" then "Forms". Please fill out the interest form, send it into school and a science packet will be sent home with all of the science fair instructions. Can't wait to see all of the amazing projects!! For questions please email Jacque Anderson at execvp@helterspta.org.

Open Casting Call! Seeking women to portray the following trailblazers...Molly Brown, Dian Fossey, Ada Lovelace, Frances Perkins, Mary "Stagecoach" Fields and Susan B. Anthony. Women in History will take place on March 26 & 28. Please call Women In History Chairperson Donna Collins (661) 263-9394 for further information. If you like to act or are a former drama student, we hope you will be interested to take part in this great educational event for our huskies.

Check us out on Facebook! – Want to get the most updated PTA news? Look up "Helters PTA" on Facebook! "Like" us and you'll get **the very latest up to date details** on PTA news and activities happening at Helters! Go to www.facebook.com/helterspta.