



# CharlesHelmerts Elementary School

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*A Sycamore Union School District* **SCHOOL**

**January 31, 2012**

## **Upcoming Important Dates:**

**Feb. 1 - PTA E-Board Meeting**

**Feb. 2 - Credit Union/ Student Banking Day (lunch)**

**Feb.3 - PTA Music Assembly "Classical Blast of Mime and Music"**

**Feb. 9 - McTeacher Night Fundraiser, 4 - 8 p.m.**

**Feb.17 - No School, President's Day Holiday**

**Feb. 20 - No School, President's Day Holiday**

**Feb. 27 - Mar. 2 - Kindergarten Round-Up**

## **Principal's Message**

It's hard to believe that February is sneaking up on us already. We have accomplished much, but have lots more to plow through. Teachers are continuously assessing students and making sure the children's needs are being met in small RTI (Response to Intervention) groups.

## **Attendance**

We truly appreciate those of you who are mindful of getting your children to school on time. To put it in kid terms, you may want to relate it to having a job and one of the jobs of our students is to get to school on time. For every child that misses a day of school, we lose approximately \$33. If multiplied by 35 (which is a rough estimate for our daily absence rate) equals up to \$1,155 that we lose in funding each day. Wow! We certainly understand when a child is ill, which is excusable. School should be the number one priority for all of us and we encourage you to do your best to support us in this area.

## **Bullying/Cyber-Bullying**

We had a guest speaker at our Site Council meeting last week, our STAR officer, Deputy Casey McMichaels. He shared information with us on the topics about bullying and drug abuse in our community and also hit upon the topic of child safety to and from school. Cyber-bullying is taking place regularly and we need to be aware as parents that monitoring computer use at all times is so important. It is highly recommended that any computer a child uses is located in a central part of the house so you as a parent can monitor the websites. Did you know that there is an agreement/disclosure check-off on the set up of a Face Book page and that it states you must be 18 years or older to have a page of your own? We are working with our PTA to set up a parent information night with the sheriff's department to cover the above topics.

## **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 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. If you have children here already on a transfer and having incoming Kindergarteners coming up, they will also attend Helmers. The only way these transfers would be revoked would be if there are severe behavior problems or poor attendance patterns. Intra's - expect a renewal form coming home soon; Inter's - you will need to renew at your home district (Newhall, Sulphur Springs, Castaic etc)

### **MATH FIELD DAY TEAMS**

Congratulations to all of the students who tested for Math Field Day last week. This was a difficult test and we are so proud of the many students who attended after school to try out. We would like to thank Ms. Bailey and Ms. Rocha for their time in administering and grading the test.

Below are the selected Math Field Day Teams:

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
Kevin Konrad	Jenny Elliott	Tyler Thorne
Jeremiah Tantolo	Katelynn Pucci	Ryan Minkus
Matthew Striplin	Joseph McLaughlin	Yonghee Shin
Deborah Shlager	Brennan Book	Sophia Mendoza
Lacey Donahue	Kristen Kim	YeSeul Cho

The above students will compete with other schools in the district on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at Plum Canyon.

### **School News**

**Kindergarten Round Up** - Helmers will be having kindergarten round up beginning Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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....

**Child Care News:** for the upcoming 2012/2013 school year

#### **Priority Registration School Age Program (Before and After School)**

The Child Development Programs priority registration for the 2012-2013 School Age Program will begin **Wednesday, February 8, 2012**. If you are currently enrolled in the School Age Program and have a zero balance on your account, you may pick-up 2012-2013 registration materials on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. All priority registration materials are due back to your site supervisor by **Tuesday, February 14, 2012** to guarantee your continued enrollment in the School Age Program.

#### **Kindergarten School Age Program Registration**

The Child Development Programs Incoming Kindergarten School Age Program registration will be held as a lottery. Please see the Child Development Site Supervisor during the week of **February 27<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>** to complete a *Kindergarten Interest Card*. The lottery will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. You will then be contacted if your lottery form was drawn. All remaining families will be placed on a waitlist based on their drawing number in the lottery. If you have any questions, please contact Debra or Randi at 294-5346.

### **Preschool Registration**

Helmerts' preschool offers a multi-day option. Priority will be given to families with a child who will be four years old on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>, of the current school year, who live within Helmerts boundaries and who desire the 5-day preschool program. A 3-day (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) and a 2-day (Tuesday/Thursday) program are also an option based on space availability. In addition, if space permits, children who reach three years of age by September 2<sup>nd</sup> of the current school year, and are toilet trained, may also be enrolled in the 2-day option. Please see the Child Development Site Supervisor during the week of **February 27<sup>th</sup> -March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012** to complete a *Preschool Interest Card*. The lottery will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>. You will then be contacted if your lottery form was drawn. All remaining families will be placed on a waitlist based on their drawing number in the lottery. If you have any questions, please contact the site supervisor, Debra, at 294-5346.

#### **Full-Day Preschool Located Bouquet**

The Child Development Programs will be offering a full-day and multi-day (2, 3, or 5-day), year-round preschool program (6:30am-6:00pm). Children who are 4 on or before November 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year and 3 on or before September 2<sup>nd</sup> of the current school year; toilet trained, and reside within SUSD boundaries are eligible. Children residing outside of SUSD boundaries will be eligible to enroll, space permitting. Please see the Child Development Site Supervisor at your home school during the week of **February 27<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012** to complete a *Preschool Interest Card*. You will be notified no later than March 30<sup>th</sup> if your lottery form was drawn. All remaining families will be placed on a waitlist based on their drawing number in the lottery.

#### **News from our District:**

##### **School Accountability Report Card (SARC)**

State law requires all public schools receiving state funding to prepare and distribute a SARC. The purpose of the report card is to provide parents and the community with important information about each public school. A SARC can be an effective way for a school to report on its progress in achieving goals. Summary copies of your school sites SARC will be available in your school office and online at [www.saugus.k12.ca.us](http://www.saugus.k12.ca.us). If you have any questions relating to information in the SARC, please feel free to contact your school office or the Curriculum and Instruction Department at 661.294.5300, ext. 5140.

##### **Kindergarten Round Up & Transitional Kindergarten (TK)**

Kindergarten Round-up is a pre-registration time for the 2012-2013 school year.

Your child must be five years old on or before November 1, 2012. Children who turn five between November 2 and December 2 will be enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten "TK". Transitional Kindergarten is the first of a two year Kindergarten experience. Every child who attends TK will go to Kindergarten the following year. In the Governor's proposed 2012-13 budget, Transitional Kindergarten funding is at risk. However, the Saugus Union School District is moving forward with planning for the program while we await more information. Registering your child for Kindergarten or TK guarantees your child a place in SUSD for next year.

##### **The following is required to complete registration:**

- original birth certificate provided by the County Registrar/County Recorder or passport
- two utility bills or lease/escrow papers for proof of address
- verification of immunization against:
  - diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP)
  - polio (OPV or IPV)
  - measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
  - hepatitis B
  - varicella (chickenpox)
- verification of the results of a Mantoux Tuberculosis Test
- dental screening- (forms will be available at time of registration)

If you have any questions regarding Kindergarten Round Up or Transitional Kindergarten, please feel free to contact your school office or the Curriculum and Instruction Department at 661.294.5300, ext. 5140 or visit our website at [www.saugus.k12.ca.us](http://www.saugus.k12.ca.us).

### Transfer Period for Open Enrollment

Applications will be available online from February 21 through March 9. The following schools will be accepting transfers during the Open Enrollment window: Cedarcreek, Highlands/Emblem, James Foster, Rio Vista, Santa Clarita and Skyblue Mesa.

**Special Education Community Advisory Committee** invites you to attend: *Help Your Child Learn Social Skills*. This is an interactive workshop that will discuss parent-friendly strategies to developing social skills and social thinking. The program will begin at 7:00 pm, February 6, 2012, and will be held at Bridgeport Elementary School. Childcare and Spanish interpreters (please contact the SELPA Office [661-294-5398](tel:661-294-5398) to arrange) are available at no charge.

### School News

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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-3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](http://www.SantaClaritaLibrary.com)

**Attention Parents of 6th graders!** Its time to get together and start planning the 6th grade graduation party! Please join us on Wednesday, February 8th, at 8:30 am for an informal meeting to start the planning! The meeting will be held in room 28. If you have any questions please contact Sandra Berney at (661) 803 - 7329 or Shelley Kane!

**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 \$33 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](mailto: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!**

**Music Assembly** - Please join us this Friday for a free PTA sponsored Music Assembly on Feb. 3. "Classical Blast" is a captivating performance of classical music and mime with Beth Sussman on piano and Sharon Diskin (from the Chameleons) performing mime and physical comedy. A highlight of the show is Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. Show times are 9:15, 10:20, 11:20, and 1:10. Parents and grandparents are always invited to join our students at assemblies.

**PTA Membership** - Any Helmers families still need to renew or turn in their PTA memberships for this year? 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](http://helterspta.org). It's \$6 per PTA family member (18 and over have voting privileges at the PTA meetings.) 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.

**FIT TEAM - FIT Team HAS SET A NEW RECORD!!!** Our students are on the move and setting records!!! On January 20<sup>th</sup>, all classes received a 100% participation on our Friday run!!! This has never been done in the history of FIT Team! Way to go Huskies! Keep up the miles! And thank you to all the volunteers who make these runs possible and to the teachers and school staff for their continued support!!

**FIT TEAM** - We have more runs coming up this Friday and on 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](mailto: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.

**Restaurant Fundraisers** - Thank you to all our Husky families, teachers and staff for supporting the Wokcano fundraiser! They were so impressed with the great turnout during lunch and dinner. The restaurant would like get your feedback so you can go on YELP.com if you would like to give them a review. To date, we have raised \$3,500 that the PTA donated to fund the lease and service of our school's brand new copier in the copy room! We will continue to try to have restaurant fundraisers so we can keep raising funds for our school. Congratulations to Mrs. Bixler's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class for having the most class participation at the Panda Express Fundraiser last December. They get a free Panda Express party! Special thanks to Kathlene McCarty and Jennifer Sobkoviak for their help with the Wokcano fundraiser.

**Hearing Screenings** - Thank you to Vision/Hearing PTA Chairperson Mariko Mrakrich and her great team of volunteer parents: Pam Young, Michelle Nakama, Paulette Cooper, Laima Zbojnowic and Jaime Herrera. They made everything run so smoothly for all our hearing screenings with our precious huskies! Thank you also to Mrs. Hamburger in the health office for her assistance!

**SCIENCE FAIR:** Does your child love science? Do they like to experiment or invent? Then the Science Fair is for them. Our Helmers PTA is proud to sponsor the 2012 Helmers Elementary School Science Fair on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Look for Interest Forms to be sent home next week or go to [www.helterspta.org](http://www.helterspta.org) starting next Monday to print out an interest form at home. Go to [helterspta.org](http://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](mailto:execvp@helterspta.org).

**Interested in being adored by hundreds of kids? Casting Call for outgoing moms to play iconic women!** - "Women in History" performances are in March but we're ready to cast our own Helmers' moms to portray the following roles: Molly Brown, Diane Fossey, Ada Lovelace, Frances Perkins, Mary "Stagecoach" Fields and Susan B. Anthony. "Women in History" will take place on March 19 & 23. Please call Donna Collins (661) 263-9394 for further information. Get ready for autographs and admiration by all your husky fans!

**Check us out on Facebook!** - Look up "Helmets PTA" on Facebook! "Like" us and you'll get the very latest up to date details on PTA news and activities happening at Helmets! Please share this with your Helmets facebook friends! Go to [www.facebook.com/helmetspta](http://www.facebook.com/helmetspta).