



Charles Helmers Elementary School

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Saugus Union School District SCHOOLS

November 1, 2011

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Nov. 3 - Student Banking Day (lunch)
- Nov. 4 - FIT Team Friday/Juice It Up
- Nov. 4 - Reflections Gala 6:30 P.M., MPR A
- Nov. 8 - Election day, voting - upper pod
- Nov. 9 - PAC meeting at District Office
- Nov. 10 - Disaster Drill with KINDERGARTEN PARENT ONLY practice release
- Nov. 11 - No School, Veteran's Day

Principal's Message

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable Halloween. As our students rest from their night of fun, the staff is having some wonderful training. Teachers in grades 3-6 are receiving training in SPARKS (our PE program). Teachers in grades K-2 are enjoying a workshop on website design and RTI (reading intervention help).

PLEASE REMEMBER - Our district has a "No dogs on Campus Policy". We ask that you kindly refrain from bringing your dogs on campus before or after school. While we are sure that they are friendly, many of our students are afraid of dogs. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

English Learner (EL) Corner:

The English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) met last Tuesday, October 25th. We had a great turn out and welcomed elected voting members Hyun Kim, Marina Onaca, and Carolina Jimenez, and all parents who attended. The purpose of the ELAC is to provide an opportunity for parents of English learners (EL) and staff to discuss English Learner programs and give valuable input. All meetings are open to the public and parents are encouraged to attend. Our next ELAC meeting will be held Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 9:30 A.M. in the MPR C. During this meeting, Mrs. Williams will present a mini-workshop on Systematic ELD. She will present a lesson that will provide strategies for

parents to help their child (ren) with vocabulary development and sentence structure. We hope to see you all December 6th!

Helmets after school English language enrichment classes are underway! English Learners from grades 1-6 participate once or twice a week in structured ELD lessons to help build reading fluency and comprehension, as well as develop writing strategies. Thank you to our Helmets teachers Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Clyde, Mrs. Stricklen, and Mrs. White for providing this added language support and practice to our students! Classes will run through December 15th and then resume again in the New Year.

The first group of "official" *California English Language Development Test (CELDT)* results has arrived. Parents of English learners will receive the results this week. We will review CELDT results and how to interpret the testing data at the next ELAC meeting in December. If you do not receive your child (ren)'s CELDT scores this week, please do not worry. The next wave of CELDT results will most likely arrive in the month of November. If you have questions regarding your child's test results, please contact Ms. Hurley at 661-294-5345 ext. 191.

Happy November!

PTA NEWS

Raffle update - WE DID IT!!! Way to go Huskies!!! Our goal was to raise \$50,000 with the raffle to support our award winning C.H.O.R.D.S program, our FIT Team, and field trips for all of our students this year. We want to send out a BIG THANK YOU to all the Helmets families who have helped us make this happen as we were able to meet our goal and raise **\$50,041** in total sales! The response from our families was tremendous! The involvement from our kids was unbelievable! The support from our teachers and administration was incredible! With this achievement, we can now ensure that our kids will continue to benefit from our wonderful PTA programs. Thank you again! **Look for lunch line fast passes and student store gift cards to be going home sometime this week!**

Student Banking - This Thursday is Student Banking Credit Union Day!! Helmets students earn 5 % APY through Premier America Credit Union - it's not too late to open an account if you haven't already. You can open an account in any amount. Come and collect cool prizes for every deposit made to their account! Please e-mail Student Banking Chair Kathy Celentano at studentbanking@helterspta.org if you would like a student savers application sent home.

Attention Reflections participants - Please join us as we celebrate your hard work at the Reflections Gala this Friday at 630pm in MPR-A! All work will be displayed in our Gallery, and awards will be given out to each and every participant. Dessert will be served. Don't miss this celebration!

Red Ribbon Thanks - Many thanks to our Red Ribbon chairperson Lisa Andersen for planning a great week of awareness for our school on saying NO to drugs.

Teacher Appreciation - Teacher Appreciation Committee kick-off meeting Monday, Nov. 7 at 8:30am in room 28. Coffee and muffins will be served! If you signed up to help with this event you are encouraged to attend. Please contact teacherappreciation@helterspta.org if you have any questions.

Spiritwear update - Thank you to all the Huskies who ordered FIT Team or Classic Spiritwear for fall! Orders off the green form will be delivered mid November, and the orders on the FIT Team Waiver should be in this week...complete with bling! We are no longer taking orders for spiritwear; however look for us in the spring with another opportunity to show your school pride! Any questions, contact...spiritwear@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 from Kinder to 6th grade parents. 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 as well as by the picnic benches down court this Friday after school in honor of FIT TEAM Friday. Smoothies are \$3.00 a piece and a portion of the proceeds will go towards supporting our FIT TEAM.

FIT Team shirts - If you placed your FIT Team shirt order prior to Friday, October 14th, you will receive your FIT Team shirt this week. All other orders will be delivered in approximately 2-3 weeks.

Membership - Look for the PTA Family directories and membership cards coming home by the end of this week or beginning of next week. Any questions, contact membership@helterspta.org.

Box Tops - We need your Box Tops! - Just a reminder to bring in any Box Tops you are collecting. This is a great and easy way to raise money for our school. We have our first turn in date to Box Tops coming up so please put them in the green collection box in the lobby as soon as possible. Any questions, contact Jamie Herrera at boxtops@helterspta.org.

Check us out on Facebook! - Want to get the most updated PTA news? "Helters PTA" is now 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.