



CharlesHelmerts Elementary School

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A Saugus Union School District **SCHOOL**

November 22, 2011

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Nov. 21 - 23 - No ASE classes this week.
- Nov. 23 - Non-pupil Day/Staff Development
- Nov. 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday, no school
- Nov. 30 - Student Store during lunch
- Dec. 1 - Student Bank Day (lunch)
- Dec. 2 - PTA Music Assembly "Shout"
- Dec. 2 - FIT Team runs/Juice It Up smoothies after school
- Dec. 3 & 4 - Panda Express Helmerts weekend (Newhall Ranch/Copper Hill)

Principal's Message

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family. Be safe if you are traveling and enjoy the nice, long weekend.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Our teachers will be participating in a variety of activities tomorrow, 11/23. Some of our special education teachers will have the choice to attend Occupational Therapy workshops or Back Injury Prevention workshops while our general education teachers will be attending Systematic ELD presentations, Pearson Reading workshops, and Response to Intervention presentations.

MCDONALD'S FUNDRAISER

Thank you for joining us at McDonald's on Thursday evening. What a wonderful turnout! It was fun to mingle with the students and families while having a bite to eat. We appreciate your efforts in supporting us. McDonald's restaurant will give us 20% of all sales from that evening. Congratulations to Mrs. Grisanti's classroom for having the highest participation. They are the winners of the hamburger party!

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 off 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.

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, Helmerts 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 (biggest need), pink, blue, yellow and green pastels.

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 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!

PTA NEWS

Spiritwear - Spirit wear/FIT Team shirts will be delivered next week in time for another FIT Team run next Friday, 12/2.

PTA Directory update - Any changes, additions, or corrections to the PTA Family Directory? Please e-mail them to directory@helmerspta.org. An addendum to the directory will be sent out.

Student Store - Student store is coming next Wednesday, Nov. 30. Come and shop for holiday stocking stuffers for your child. We need Student Store helpers! Please email Eline Brown at studentstore@helmerspta.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 them next Wednesday.**

FIT Team - We'll run again next 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@helmerspta.org

Juice It Up - Smoothies will be sold in front of the school next Friday 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.

Yearbook reminder - Last day to purchase a yearbook is Wednesday, Dec. 14. Cost is \$28. Download a yearbook form on helmerspta.org under Resources then click "forms". *There are some free copies of last year's yearbook available at the school office. Pick one up before they run out!*

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.

Raffle thanks - As the Season of Thankfulness is upon us, I would like to take one last opportunity to thank all the students, parents, teachers and administration at Helmers for the support you have shown our school and your help in reaching our \$50,000 goal. It's a real blessing to be part of such a great community, and I am thankful for your support - *Marina Onaca, VP of Fundraising.*

Literacy & Arts Festival - Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Newhall Park
www.scveducationfoundation.org

- Book Swap and Storybook Characters
- Read a Painting and Ice Sculpture
- Storytelling and Pop-Up Town
- Food, Music, and Dance
- Jack & Charlie & the Chocolate Beanstalk

***All Helmers students and their families are invited for a day of fun!**

The City of Santa Clarita Arts Commission is looking for students, teachers, administrators, or parents who have contributed to the arts and cultural life of the Santa Clarita Valley. These outstanding individuals will be recognized by the Arts Commission at their monthly meetings, held on the second Thursday of each month, at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers, at City Hall. To nominate someone for this honor, please e-mail Phil Lantis, Arts & Events Administrator, at plantis@santa-clarita.com or contact the Arts and Events Office at (661) 250-3787.