



# CharlesHelmerts Elementary School

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*Saugus Union School District* **SCHOOLS**

**November 29, 2011**

## Upcoming Important Dates:

**Nov. 30 - Student Store during lunch**

**Dec. 1 - Student Bank Day (lunch)**

**Dec. 2 - PTA Assembly "I Can Do That"**

**Dec. 2 - FIT Team runs/Juice It Up smoothies after school**

**Dec. 3 & 4 - Panda Express Helmerts weekend (Newhall Ranch/Copper Hill)**

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

## Principal's Message

After a lovely, long weekend, Helmerts is back in full swing. Teachers continue to move along in curriculum and assess when necessary. We are thankful to those of you who support not only the school and teachers, but especially your children. Your support means so much and taking a bit of time with a child to check over homework and read for a few minutes a day makes such a difference.

## Helmerts 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.

We would like to honor **Emily Williams** as the **Helmerts' Teacher Tribute Honoree!** Mrs. Williams is such a terrific person. Her dedication to the teaching profession shines as she is so involved and shows such compassion for her students. We are so proud of you Emily!

**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 of 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](mailto: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

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](mailto: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

**Student Store** - Student store is coming this Wednesday, Nov. 30. Come and shop for holiday stocking stuffers for your child. We need Student Store helpers! Please email Erlene Brown at [studentstore@helmerspta.org](mailto: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 the cards this Wednesday.**

**Student Banking** - This Thursday is Student Banking Credit Union Day!! Helmers 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. Have your student stop by the Student Banking Credit Union table during their Play/Lunch time and we'll make sure the applications are sent home. Come and collect cool prizes for every deposit made to their account! Please e-mail Student Banking Chair Kathy Celentano at [studentbanking@helmerspta.org](mailto:studentbanking@helmerspta.org) if you would like a student savers application sent home.

**Character Counts Multi Media Assembly** - On Friday, December 2nd, the PTA is happy to welcome back Mark Bixler and 3Screens Productions with an all new multi-media presentation on three HUGE screens right in our MPR. The assembly, "I Can Do That!" is filled with inspirational stories of people who have overcome challenges and disabilities to do incredible things. Parents and grandparents along with siblings are always invited to attend. Assembly times are as follows: 9:15 - 10:00 3rd and 4th grade, Pascua and Bishop. 10:20 - 11:05 Fun for Fours, Kindergarten and First Grade, 11:20 - 1:05 5th and 6th Grade and Hildebrand, 1:10 - 1:55 2nd Grade and Stricklan. Come and see this inspiring production on the three **giant** screens with your child's class!

**Panda Express Fundraiser** - Support Helmers and eat at Panda Express this Friday and or Saturday on Copperhill and Newhall Ranch Road. Panda Express will donate 20 percent of your purchase towards our school so we can continue to

raise funds to purchase a copy machine and office supplies. Look for the flyer coming home this week. You can also download the flyer on [helterspta.org](http://helterspta.org). The class with the most participation gets a free Panda Express party, so don't forget to write your teacher's name on the flyer! See you there and support Helters!!!

**C.H.O.R.D.S. - 4<sup>th</sup> grade CHORDS with Andrew Grueschow Percussion Instruction finishes this Tuesday with performances in MPR-A.**

**Performance schedule is as follows:**

8:20am-9:20am - Grisanti

9:25am-10:25am - Bixler

10:45am-11:45am - Sabol

11:45am-12:45pm - Ehrlich

**3<sup>rd</sup> grade with Aimee Young Hopkins Vocal Instruction finishes next week on Monday, December 5, 2011 with their performance Assemblies in MPR-A. Performance schedule is as follows:**

8:15am-9:15am - Dunn

9:20am-10:20am - McCarty/Sutherland

10:45am-11:45am - Ritter

12:45am-1:45pm - Herrell

1:45pm- 2:45pm - Collins

Please come and see what your child has learned from these fabulous CHORDS artists this year! Special thanks to CHORDS chair Kelly Scully for all her help and organization with this award winning PTA program for our school.

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

**PTA Directory update** - Any changes, additions, or corrections to the PTA Family Directory? Please e-mail them to [directory@helterspta.org](mailto:directory@helterspta.org). An addendum to the directory will be sent out.

**FIT Team** - We'll run again on 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](mailto: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.

**Yearbook reminder** - Last day to purchase a yearbook is Wednesday, Dec. 14. Cost is \$28. Download a yearbook form on [helterspta.org](http://helterspta.org) under Resources then click "forms". *There are some free copies of last year's yearbook available at the school office. Pick one up while supplies last!*

**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.

**Literacy & Arts Festival - Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Newhall Park**  
**[www.scveducationfoundation.org](http://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 Helters 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](mailto:plantis@santa-clarita.com) or contact the Arts and Events Office at (661) 250-3787.