

The Helman Herald

Helman Elementary School News • February 2009

Principal's Message

Construction Update

Excitement is rising as we come closer and closer to completing the construction projects of our library, gym, and new bus area in the back parking lot. Landscaping has been held up to the extreme cold weather we experienced a couple of weeks ago. Until the buses can use the back parking lot, please continue to help us out by keeping the bus area by the office clear from 2:40 – 2:55. We have had a problem with people parking by Rooms 1 and 3 (Kari Smith's and Valerie McCoy's room) Buses are unable to get by safely when cars pull up at that place and wait for their children. We appreciate how carefully everyone is driving in and around the school. New bike racks and sidewalks will also make accessing school grounds from Randy and Helman Streets much safer and convenient.

Library

Please contact Carolyn Hald or Hazel Smith if you are able to help shelve books in the new library.

State Assessments

During the month of February, all fourth graders will participate in the State Writing Assessment. Later in March and April, all third, fourth and fifth graders take the on line assessments in Reading and Mathematics. Fifth graders also are assessed in the area of science. During our testing windows, it is very important that

children have consistent attendance and are well rested and nourished. Helman students year after year have produced strong achievement scores and academic growth.

Site Council Survey

In Friday folders you will find a survey sent out by Helman's Site Council. Information provided by your responses will help us further develop programs and improve communication. Please return to the office or your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Peanut Butter

Due to several severe peanut and nut allergies, our cafeteria has not served peanut butter or nut products since the beginning of school. In light of the recent issues around peanut butter, I thought this might be of interest to families.

Head Lice Update

Going, going, gone!! Thanks to diligence on the part of families, school personnel and bagging up children's clothing, head lice seems to be disappearing. We will continue to check heads weekly throughout January and February.

What a wonderful start to a new year. It is a pleasure for all staff to work in such a loving, peaceful, and gentle community. Your kids are the best.

Best regards, *Susan Hollandsworth*

SAVE THE DATE

for the annual

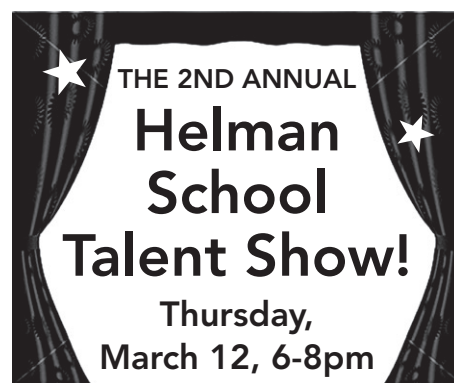
HELMAN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER DANCE



SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH, 8PM
STANDING STONE BREWERY

Live kiss FM DJ and dancing
Silent auction and raffles to be held
Reserve your babysitters now!

If you have questions or
want to volunteer, call
Kiley Shannon @ 488-3775.



The date has been set for the 2nd Annual school-wide talent show sponsored by the PTA. Auditions will be held during the **last week of February**, with rehearsals and the big show during the **week of March 9**, so start polishing up those acts!

Keep your eye out for a flyer with more information coming soon.

Save Your Old Ink and Toner!

Helman School will recycle your used ink and toner cartridges. Each one that qualifies is worth \$3 to the school for office supplies for the entire school. Bring them to the front office and they will be recycled at the proper locations. Thank you.



Helman Dragon T-shirts and "Hoodies"

Helman Dragon T-shirts and "hoodies," which are a fundraiser for the Helman PTA, are still available. The T-shirts are \$10 in sizes of Youth Small, Medium, Large and Adult Medium, Large and Extra Large in pink, blue, red, lime green and vegas gold. The "hoodies" (hooded sweatshirts) are available in Youth sizes in either grey or red for \$20 each. Adult "hoodies" can be ordered as well.

Both garments will be available at PTA meetings and other school events or you can contact Ashley Rife (482-6081 or arife@q.com) or one of the other PTA officers (listed on the next page of this newsletter).

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This notice informs you of your right to request the qualifications of your child's teachers, pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). If you would like to request this information, it is available in the school office.

NCLB established a new definition of "highly qualified" for teachers of core academic subjects, which include English, reading/language arts, math, science, foreign language, social studies, art, music, and drama. All teachers of core academic subjects must have met the new federal requirement by the end of the 2005-2006 school year. One-hundred percent of Ashland elementary teachers meet the definition of "highly qualified."

Helman Calendar of Events

February

- 9 OAKS: 4th Grade Writing Assessment Week
Site Council Meeting: 3 – 4:15 pm
School Board Meeting: 7:00 pm
- 11 PTA Meeting: 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- 12 PBS Parent Night, 5:45 – 7:15 pm, dinner and childcare – AMS Commons
- 13 Valentine Parties
DELUSIONS of Grandeur – PTA sponsored event: 10:45 am
- 16 Presidents' Day – NO SCHOOL
- 17 Teacher In-service Day – NO SCHOOL
- 19 BINGO Night – 5th grade fundraiser
- 23 OAKS testing: 5th grade Science
Talent Show Auditions begin this week (noon time)
School Board Budget Meeting:
Helman Library, 7 – 9 pm

March

- 2 – 6 OAKS testing: 5th grade Reading
- 9 OAKS Testing: 3rd grade Reading
Site Council Meeting: 3 – 4:15 pm
School Board Meeting: 7:00 pm
- 11 PTA meeting: 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- 12 TALENT SHOW: 6 – 8 pm. Helman Auditorium

From the PTA President

The shortest day of the year is past and the days are lengthening as we enter 2009 with a new president in office, a challenged economy, minimal snow in our mountains, and the resumption of all our pre-holiday activities. Thanks to all parents, teachers and staff who help educate our children. This is a challenging time and we still have most of the school year ahead of us, so please continue to share your time, energy and talents with us.

At the Wednesday, February 11, 2009 PTA meeting (6:30-8:00pm with childcare provided) we will

discuss these upcoming PTA projects & events (see the agenda in this newsletter for specifics). What projects and activities should the PTA support to enhance our kid's education? I hope to see you at the PTA meeting for your ideas and support.

We continue to work to enroll parents, staff, family & friends in the Albertsons and eScrip – Safeway (all you have to do is register and then shop) and Boxtops fundraising efforts. These three are ways the PTA can raise funds to support our activities, with minimal commitment or effort on your part.

The Lomakatsi Restoration Project will become more active as the weather warms and we will be glad to receive further Plantathon contributions for this ongoing activity.

The Talent Show will take place on March 12th, the Parent/Staff Party at Standing Stone on April 4, the Science Fair on April 23, and the Walkathon on May 1st. There will be lots of room for volunteers to participate. Jump in now for your activity of choice and contact Janese Williams (488-5447 or post2janese@yahoo.com) to volunteer. Otherwise, expect a call looking for assistance.

Susan Hollandsworth will be sending out a survey soon from the Helman Site Council looking for different ways to increase communication with parents and increase parental involvement outside of the classroom. Please respond with your thoughts and ideas.

– Paul Rostykus, PTA President

Next PTA Meeting: **February 11, 2009, 6:30-8pm**

Agenda

ITEM	LEAD PERSON	TIME	TYPE
Welcome & Introduction	Paul	3	
Approval of Minutes (1/14/09 mtg.)	Paul	2	Decision
Treasurer Report	Janese	5	Discussion
Helman Site Council Report	Leslie	5	Discussion
Talent Show – March 12	Kathy	10	Discussion
Bloomsbury Book Fair?	Ashley	10	Discussion
Parent Party & Fundraiser (Apr. 4)	Kiley/Joe	15	Discussion
Science Fair – April 23	Amy/Mona	5	Discussion
Script fundraiser	Janese	5	Discussion
Walk-a-thon – May 1?	Dominique/Matt	5	Discussion
Future Projects?		25	Discussion

Water filters – Leslie/Paul
 Marquee – Dominique
 Stage Curtain – Susan/Kathy
 Bike Racks/covered parking – Paul
 Solar panels – Carissa
 Sound system/soundproofing – Alan
 Artist in Residence – Susan
 Visiting Authors – Susan
 Lomakatsi – Mia & Mary

Total Time= 90

Childcare provided.

March meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 6:30–8 pm at Helman School.

Box Tops & eScrip Earnings Update

Box tops earning so far is \$66, next submission deadline is February 25th. Please bring all box tops to your child's classroom or the school office. Continue to save box tops for our next submission.

eScrip has earned our school \$568.74 for 2008. It's easy and free! Do your online shopping through eScrip and earn our school money effortlessly.

Thank you Helman parents for your continued support of these programs. Every penny counts.

*– Kiley Shannon
 Box Top & eScrip Coordinator
 488-3775*

2008-2009 Helman PTA Officers

President: Paul Rostykus	601-9709	sherpa@mind.net
Vice-President: Dominique Sukles	601-5940	sukles@yahoo.com
Secretary: Ashley Rife	482-6081	arife@q.com
Treasurer: Janese Williams	488-5447	post2janese@yahoo.com