



The _____ Helman Herald

Helman Elementary School News • October 2008

Principal's Message

Helman staff has thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful start of our new school year and looks forward to a year of learning and wonder. As we are underway, I will mention a few points of interest.

Construction Update

Adroit Construction continues to maintain a high degree of safety for all our students by communicating with the office weekly about the progress. The project is on schedule.

Landscaping design has started with the creation of a courtyard and planters. The back parking lot and bus ramp is scheduled for paving in October along with new landscaping. The new gym features a wooden floor, outside covered play area,

climbing wall, outside covered bike rack area and more. The library will feature window seats for quiet reading, a computer lab, classroom area, and story area.

During the month of October, our office remodel will begin which includes a large production area, storage for instructional materials and supplies, a conference room, ESL room, new health room bathroom and redesigned area for our office manager. Nearly completed is a roofing project and painting. We should see brand new outside lighting installed over the next week.

Thanks to many Ashland voters for passing a bond to support our exciting and needed projects.

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From the PTA President

Welcome to the 2008-09 Helman school year and a whirlwind of PTA activities, in addition to the rest of all of our busy lives.

The Helman PTA has helped with school registration, produced the Helman Dragon T-shirts (see page 3), held a Ice Cream Social as part of the September PTA meeting (the largest attendance I can remember), carried out a hugely successful Community Dinner (the Helman Hoedown was so popular and well-attended that we ran out of some food items early) and had a successful Walk/Bike/Scooter to School morning on Monday September 22nd as part of Ashland's Car Free

Day Celebration.

Activities in process include the Helman directory of students and staff, the Book Swap (looking for a coordinator), a 2nd Walk/Bike/Scooter to School morning on Wednesday, October 8th as part of International Walk & Bike to School Day, Plant-a-thon/Tree-athon to raise money for the Lomakatsi project, and Story Telling with Matt Damon on Friday, October 3rd.

A couple of projects are awaiting a coordinator to take charge and make things happen including the Math Olympiad and the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the American

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Story Telling Night

with Matt Damon

Enjoy stories from long ago and far away with family and friends. *(Bring pillows and blankets if you like.)*

**Friday, October 3, 6:45pm
in the Helman Gym**

The PTA will serve popcorn from 6:45-7:00. Stories will begin at 7:00.

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE
ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT!**

Henry's On Time Club



Hey you little dragons, school starts at 8:15 so your teacher wants you in class at 8:10 when the bell rings. If you come for breakfast, allow enough time to eat and still get to class on time. Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:05.



Helman T-shirts

New Helman School t-shirts are available for only \$10. The shirts come in blue, red, pink, lime green, and light yellow. Please contact a PTA Officer if you would like to purchase a shirt.

The PTA would like to thank Pokey McFarland of Utopia Graphics (pokeymcf@msn.com) for donating his artwork and creative services to Helman Elementary. He designed our new Helman Dragon for the t-shirts. We would also like to thank Dave Wisdom from Aztech Screenprinting and Design for printing the shirts at an affordable price.

The Brown Horse

by Nichole Taylor

I depend on that horse
In the barn,
who carries me through rain
or snow.
How it fights the wind
and lies within.

Title I School Information

Helman School is a school wide Title I school. Being a school wide Title program enables all children access to Title I reading support, CDS (Child Development Specialist support) extra Educational Assistants in classrooms, family education events, instructional materials, books for the Helman Book Club and more.

Our funding comes from the number of families who qualify for the Federal Lunch Program. We encourage and urge all families to pick up a form from the office and check to see if your family income qualifies your child for either free or reduced priced meals. Children who qualify do not have to participate by eating school lunch, but the funding source is extremely important to maintaining our Title I program.

Helman's Title I program and budget are overseen in the Helman Site Council, which is comprised of teachers, parents, and administration. Helman Elementary School Family/School Compact is located in the first page of the Parent/Student Handbook/Calendar.

Elves: A class of preternatural beings with magical powers



Helman Elves: A class of parents bringing their magical powers, time and talents to support the students and teachers of Helman Elementary.

As parents we want to help but do not always know how. The Helman Elves will match up teacher's needs with the parents desire to contribute. Want to be an Elf? Look for more information to be sent home soon.

Principal's Message (cont. from pg. 1)

Traffic and Parking Lot Safety

For your convenience and safety, the front parking lot off Helman Street is now designated for parent parking and student drop off. While changing habits takes time, please do not enter the Randy Street parking lot and drop off or drive through. This is reserved for staff only. New signage will help you with these new designations. Since we share space with bus drop off and pick up, the drop off lane is for only drop off. There are many parking spaces to enter if you want to walk your child to class. After construction is finished, the bus ramp will be located in the very back lot off Randy Street.

Peanut Allergies

Due to several very severe peanut and tree nut allergies, our cafeteria will no longer serve peanut butter. Our peanut free table is proving to be very successful and children have learned about the importance of sitting away from this table if they bring peanut butter from home. This decision was reached after consulting with doctors and our school nurse.

PBS (Positive Behavior Support)
In keeping with the theme of safety, Helman staff continue to focus children on our three main expectations: Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. During the first week of school, children practiced what it means to follow the expectations in the courtyard, on the playground, in bathrooms, hallways, and the cafeteria. We have also begun a series of lessons on Bully Prevention. Coming November 6th at Ashland Middle School in the commons, parents are invited to a Bully Prevention evening for all elementary schools. Mark your calendars, and look for more information at a later time.

Bike Safety

Kids in grades 4 and 5 have enjoyed two weeks of bike safety education. Remember to walk, bike, or scooter to school and wear safety protection and helmets. Please contact the office if your child needs protective gear.

It's a great day to be a dragon!!
Susan Hollandsworth,
Principal

New Instructional Programs at Helman

Mathematics

Investigations II emphasizes thinking and reasoning and problem solving strategies. Students explore units in measurement, geometry, number sense, probability, patterns and using data. Check out the website: <http://investigations.terc.edu/index.cfm>.

Health and Wellness

The Great Body Shop program is a nationally recognized comprehensive health program that addresses all the Oregon state standards and involves interesting engaging lessons for children. Michelle Zundel, Curriculum Director, is speaking at our next PTA meeting on October 8 at 7pm to introduce the program materials and answer questions. Website: www.thegreatbodyshop.net



Healthy Choices at School

In keeping with our school board policy on health, please do not send sugary cupcakes or sweets to school on your child's birthday. Most classrooms have a system for celebrating birthdays or other events so it is important to check

with the office or your child's teacher. Please check the Parent/Student Handbook and Calendar for the policy on class parties. To avoid excluding others, please at no time are invitations to any private event be handed out at school.

From the PTA President (cont. from pg. 1) Heart Association and the Helman PTA. If you are interested in either of these or have another idea for a project you would like to coordinate please contact one of the PTA Officers (listed below and on web page).

A project list is to the right of this articles and on the PTA website at: www.ashland.k12.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=1314

Speaking of websites, one of this year's goals is to increase communication among parents and staff about school and PTA events. In addition to the traditional flyers in students' Friday Folders, we are increasing e-communication (and reducing tree-cutting) with e-mail and the Helman PTA website. Go to www.ashland.k12.or.us, and click on the list on the left hand side for a calendar, agenda, minutes, and more. All of us are busy and we still want to know what is happening. (At least with e-mail I can easily use the Delete button.)

Monthly PTA meetings will happen on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and the agenda and old minutes will continue to be posted on the web site. Parents and staff are encouraged to attend. The meetings will run from 7-8:30 pm, will follow the agenda (please submit agenda items a week or two prior to the meeting), conduct PTA business, and have a program related to school activities. Childcare will be provided close by during the meeting time. The location of the meeting at Helman School will vary depending on the construction process.

This is your PTA to support and enhance our children's education and upbringing (academically, physically, socially and more) and your ideas, thoughts, questions, and suggestions are welcome. Please contact one of the PTA officers with your input.

*Thanks,
Paul Rostykus, PTA President*

The Book Swap

(October 15-17) is in need of a coordinator. Please let a PTA officer know if you are interested in helping to make this popular event happen this Fall and in the Spring.

PTA Projects 2008/09

Listed below are the projects that the PTA has taken on thus far for the 2008-2009 school year, along with the name of the coordinator(s) and dates. Please note where coordinators are still needed.

Book Swap – Coordinator needed
10/15-17/2008 & Spring 2009?

Plantathon/Treathon for Lomakatsi
Shannon Rinefort, Tia McLean, Catherine Van Ausdall, Fall 2008

Talent Show
Jennifer Bradley, Kathy Carter,
Feb/March 2009?

Book Faire
Hazel/Amy Welden, Feb/March 2009

Storytelling Nights
Matt Damon, 10/3/08 & Winter 2009

Stomp?
Shari Cellini?, Date?

Science Fair
Amy Welden, April 2009?

Walkathon
Dominique Sukles & Matt Damon,
April 2009?

Teacher Appreciation Dinner
Drew Baily, Week of May 4, 2009

Watermelon Olympics
Matt Damon, 6/5/09

Math Olympiad – Coordinator needed

Helman Herald
Kathy Carter, Monthly

PTA meeting babysitting
Dominique Sukles, Monthly

Lomakatsi Project
Mia Driscoll, All year

Year Book
Jane Cho Smith, Dana McLean,
All year

BoxTops/eScrip/Albertsons/SchoolPop
Julie McGrath, All year

Next PTA Meeting: **October 8, 2008, 7-8:30pm**

Agenda

| ITEM | LEAD PERSON | TIME | TYPE |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------|
| Welcome & Introduction | Paul | 3 | Decision |
| Scheduled Activities for the year – update | Paul | 5 | Discussion |
| Health Curriculum at Helman "The Great Body Shop" including Puberty, HIV/AIDS, Violence Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention, Nutrition, Personal Safety, Fitness and Relationship/Self Esteem | Michelle Zundel Ashland School District Curriculum Director | 30 | Discussion |
| Lomakatsi Restoration Project Overview & Treathon/Plantathon | Mia Driscoll | 15 | Discussion |
| Treasurer Report | Janese | 10 | Decision |
| Approval of last meeting minutes | Paul | 2 | Decision |
| Class PTA Representatives | Jane Cho Smith | 10 | Discussion |
| Other business | Attendees | 15 | Discussion |
| Total Time= 90 | | | |
| Childcare provided as always. | | | |
| November meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 7-8:30 pm at Helman School. | | | |

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 |

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Inspiring Learning for Life

DATE: July 16, 2008
TO: Students, Parent/Guardians of Students, Teachers, Staff & Employee Organizations
FROM: Ashland School District
RE: AHERA Notification

Uncontrolled asbestos contamination in buildings can be a significant environmental and public health problem. Both the public and private sectors have been dealing with the asbestos issue for many years. In 1986, Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) primarily to require school districts to identify asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. In 1987, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a regulatory program which enforces the AHERA.

In compliance with the AHERA regulations, we had our school facilities inspected by an EPA accredited building inspector. During the inspection, samples were taken of building materials suspected of containing asbestos. The results of the inspection and laboratory analysis of the samples have confirmed the presence of ACM in portions of the school facilities. **It is important to note that these materials are in a form and condition that does not pose an imminent health threat to students, faculty or employees.**

With confirmation of the presence of ACM, an Asbestos Management Plan was developed for our schools by an EPA accredited management planner. The Management Plan includes the inspection and physical assessment reports, the training program for our custodial and maintenance personnel, the plans and procedures to be followed to minimize disturbance of the asbestos-containing materials, and a program for regular surveillance of the ACM. Every three years, a reinspection by an accredited inspector must be conducted on all friable and non-friable known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) to determine whether the condition of the ACBM has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. This reinspection occurred most recently in December of 2005, with the next 3 year reinspection scheduled to occur in December of 2008.

During the 2008-09 school year, periodic surveillance inspections will occur every 6 months to check the condition of the remaining asbestos and to determine if any action is needed. During the 2007-08 school year, Asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) were removed from the Bellview School for the demolition/renovation project; the Helman cafeteria; Lincoln boys and girls restrooms; Walker administration, library, room 5, basement hall and girls restroom; Willow Wind kitchen; Ashland Middle School main hall ramps, gym lift, cafeteria; Ashland High School H Building, English Building closet, Science and Tech building, new health center in rooms H-10, H-11 and H-15, gym and music rooms. Ashland School District does not have any scheduled asbestos abatement projects for the period of September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009. There may be asbestos related activity that will occur in the course of maintaining the buildings.

For further details on the locations of the remaining ACBM or on the asbestos activities, you are welcome to review a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan in our facilities department during regular office hours. Bob Cyr is our designated asbestos program coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the plan should be directed to him at (541) 482-1626.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 885 SISKIYOU BOULEVARD ASHLAND, OREGON 97520 541-482-2811 FAX 541-482-2185