



The

Helman Herald

Helman Elementary School News • November 2008

Principal's Message

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall weather as much as the children during their field trips to Eagle Mill Farm, Ashland Pond, and North Mountain Park. Helman School with support from the PTA has entered into a restoration project with Lomakatsi and Ashland Parks at the Ashland Pond site. Over the course of several years, children will plant trees, observe wildlife as it returns to the pond, learn about native plants v.s invasive plants and see their restoration project develop from their hard work. To support this long range project, we are kicking off the Helman Plant-A-Thon fundraiser and appreciate your help by donating generously to the Ashland Pond Restoration Project.

Construction Update

Gym: Interior painting and installation of windows and the wood flooring is scheduled mid November. Mid to the end of November, finishes on the exterior painting and installation of decorative screening will be completed. Watch for Sir Henry to appear somewhere on the exterior walls of the gym!

Courtyard: Landscaping, ramps, window seats, bike rack areas and covered walk areas are due for completion.

Parking Lot is scheduled for paving mid-November. For safety reasons, this area will be reserved for staff/bus area only.

Library: Interior painting, windows, brickwork and stucco finishes plus lighting are due for completion early December. December, early January shelving, furniture, and computers arrive. The storytelling area and window seats will make the library a beautiful place to read and enjoy the views.

A new **intercom system** and **fire alarm system** will be installed upon completion of the office area.

Newly installed **outside lighting** provides a very safe and well lit environment for evening events.

Office: This is going to take a bit longer than first hoped but well worth the effort and inconvenience.

A great day to be a dragon!

*Susan Hollandsworth,
Principal*

*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 Dragon T-shirts & "Hoodies"

You have likely seen (and maybe purchased) some of the Helman Dragon T-shirts or "hoodies" which are a fundraiser for Helman PTA projects. Much thanks to Ashley Rife, PTA Secretary, who made this project happen.

The T-shirts are still available for \$10 each 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 sweat-shirts) 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 page 3).

Ashland Pond Restoration Project

Imagine a beautiful place, a 15 minute walk from Helman, where the sunlight filters through the trees, birds are singing, and the feeling of a brisk, fall wind runs through your hair. A place where you could see red tailed hawks, ducks, songbirds or, if you are lucky, a Great Blue Heron.

This is what the Ashland pond was fifteen years ago. Now, it's a place where invasive species have taken over and is more marsh than pond. Luckily the birds are still there. Helman School, Lomakatsi, and City of Ashland parks have partnered up to restore this open space back to its old state of glory.

The project started two years ago



when the Helman shade house was constructed as an AHS senior project. At that time Helman students helped pot over 500 baby trees. As the trees have grown so has the project. With the support and start up funds from the PTA, Lomakatsi has made a map

of the pond area and developed a plan for the restoration work to begin. Now, it's time to plant some of the trees at the Ashland pond, so we are having a plant-a-thon! This is a fundraiser to help support the Ashland Pond Restoration

Project and we will be collecting pledges between November 3rd and 14th. The planting will happen on the

17th and 18th of November. Most students have already visited the site and are excited to start planting.

The benefits of this project for the students are endless. It's teaching math and science along with providing community outreach and a unique learning environment. Students will get some of the final rays of fall sunshine while learning the values of our earth and how to help preserve it. They are learning about diversity, native species, math, restoration ecology and how good it feels to give back to the community. Students will understand that learning is not limited to a classroom and that the many valuable lessons don't come out of textbooks.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact Mia Driscoll in room 16 or call her at 482-5620, extension 136.

Free & Easy Ways to Help Raise Money for Helman

Raise money for Helman with your next online purchase, or your next trip to the market.

As parents, we understand that time is precious and we never seem to have enough of it. So donating our time and money is not always an option. Helman PTA wants you to know that there are several ways you can still help our school raise money and it will cost you nothing but a few minutes of your time online. Helman is associated with two wonderful fundraising websites that donate a percentage of your purchases to Helman – eScrip and Onecause. All you have to do is register on these websites, then return when you wish to do your online shopping.

As long as you access your favorite retailer through these websites, a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to Helman. Each website is very similar in its function, but each has a few different retailers. From eScrip you can shop at Amazon, Toys R Us, Barnes & Noble, Gap, JC Penney, Nordstrom, just to name a few. Onecause also boasts some

really great stores, like Target, Lands' End, and Kohls. There are literally hundreds of online stores to choose from on both of these sites. You do not have to share your credit card information to sign up and start raising money, however both eScrip and Onecause offer added benefits if you do register your credit card and use it to make purchases.

So as the holiday shopping season approaches, please show your support by doing your online shopping via eScrip or Onecause. It's an easy and free way to give to our school.

Grocery Purchases Count Too

You can also show your support by going online to Albertsons.com and registering your Preferred Savings card. After you link your card with Helman, a percentage of your monthly purchases will be given back to our school. Safeway is an eScrip partner, so while on the eScrip website you can enter your Safeway Club Card number during your registration and they

Important links

www.onecause.com

www.escrip.com

www.albertsons.com

will also donate a percentage of your monthly purchases to our school.

We encourage you to let family members and friends know about these wonderful fundraising programs, so they too can support our school. Every dollar raised for Helman will be used by the Helman PTA to support important school programs, special events and school improvements.

Box Tops 4 Education Make a Difference Too!

Our last collection of box tops totaled \$65.60. So please continue to cut all those valuable box tops.

If you have any questions, please contact Kiley Shannon at 488-3775 or Janese Williams at 488-5447.

From the PTA President

October has been another whirlwind month of PTA & school activities. And great weather to boot.

Matt Damon's Storytelling on Friday, October 3rd was a great success. Thanks to Tom and Bobbie Mullholland for helping Matt and making this event happen. Plan on a similar Friday evening in early 2009.

Thanks to Amy Welden who completed the Helman PTA Directory which you should have received by now.

Attendance at the last two PTA meetings has been great. To help with kids' bedtime schedules the meeting times will be shifted a half hour early – 6:30-8:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month effective November 12th. The meeting agenda is listed below. The meeting will most likely take place in Mark Sherbow's 4th grade room –#12. Childcare will

be provided close by to the meeting, probably in the cafeteria/gym.

This month we will discuss suggested PTA projects (bring your ideas) and fundraising efforts (bring your ideas) which may be needed to make projects happen. We will also hear about the Lomakatsi restoration project at the Ashland Pond, tree planting in November, how this project will be used to enhance our children's education, and the current fundraising project.

As usual, all Helman parents, teachers, and staff are welcome to attend and be heard, as time allows since we will finish by 8pm so that kids can get home to bed. When the time comes for a decision to be made and money spent or obligated only PTA members will be able to vote, as it is the PTA's money being spent.

Not a PTA member? Easy to

remedy – join and you can vote. Dues are only \$10 a year and you can sign up with Janese Williams (488-5447 or post2janese@yahoo.com) or ask Malinda in the Helman office for a sign-up form. Many parents who volunteer regularly for school and PTA activities (and are much appreciated) are not yet PTA members – joining us on the PTA allows you more of a decision in PTA activities. PTA members are all volunteers as well.

Jane Cho Smith is working to enlist a parent PTA representative for each class to enhance communication about PTA activities for parents and staff unable to attend the monthly PTA meetings.

This is our PTA to support and enhance our children's education & upbringing (academically, physically, socially & 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

Next PTA Meeting:

November 12, 2008, 6:30-8:00pm

Agenda

ITEM	LEAD PERSON	TIME	TYPE
Welcome & Introduction	Paul	3	
Approval of Minutes (10/8/08 meeting)	Paul	2	Decision
Treasurer Report	Janese	5	Discussion
PTA Projects & Fundraising What do we want to do? How do we pay for things? How do we decide what to do?	All	45	Discussion/ Decision
Helman Site Council Report	Jennifer or Lisa	5	Discussion
Lomakatsi Restoration Project Student educational activities Fundraising	Mia Driscoll	20	Discussion

Total Time= 80

Childcare provided.

December meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 6:30-8 pm at Helman School.

Flu Season Arrives

Fall is also the beginning of flu (influenza) season. Influenza is a specific respiratory illness with fever, cough, aches & fatigue (different than a cold, sore throat or stomach bug) which can be severe especially for those with chronic heart or lung disease or diabetes. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends influenza immunization for children age 6 months to 18 years, as well as for pregnant women, adults over age 50, persons with specific chronic medical illnesses or conditions and healthcare workers, among others. Immunization against influenza virus can be by nasal spray or an injection depending on age and other conditions. Immunization can reduce your risk of getting influenza, lessen its severity and reduce the chance of others getting it, helping to keep your children healthy and in school. Check with your doctor or healthcare practitioner to determine your best immunization options.

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

Mark your calender for these important dates!

November	5-7	Book Swap "old library" (before school & lunch recess)
	10	NO SCHOOL
	11	NO SCHOOL – VETERAN’S DAY
	12	Book Club, 1:30pm
	12	PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
	13	Grades 1/2 Math Night, 6:30pm
	17	Site Council, 3:00pm
	25	Harvest Luncheon – Everyone is invited
	26	HALF DAY OF SCHOOL – 12:30 RELEASE
	27-28	NO SCHOOL
December	2	Skate Night, 6:30pm
	8	Site Council, 3:00pm
	8	School Board Meeting, 7:00pm
	10	PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
	19	Last day of school for 2008 – 2:45 RELEASE
	20-Jan 4	WINTER VACATION – HAPPY NEW YEAR!
January	5	Back to school
	14	PTA Meeting, 6:30pm
	19	NO SCHOOL – MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
	20	Rogue Valley Chamber Players

We have lots of lost and found jackets and sweatshirts!

The lost and found is currently located in the "old library" space
(until the construction process moves it elsewhere).