



## **Lion's e-Roar**

### **September 23, 2022**

#### **Welcome Autumn!**

September 22, 2022 was the first day of Fall and marks the Autumn Equinox.

#### *Fun Facts:*

Both equinoxes and solstices only happen twice a year — the first days of fall and spring are equinoxes, while the first days of summer and winter are solstices.

How are they different?

#### **What is an equinox?**

On the day of an equinox, the Earth is tilting neither toward or away from the sun, and therefore receives almost an equal amount of daylight and darkness, according to the National Weather Service. At places along the equator, the sun is directly overhead at about noon on these days. Day and night appear to be equal due to the bending of the sun's rays, which makes the sun appear above the horizon when it is actually below it.

During an equinox, days are slightly longer in places with higher latitudes. At the equator, daylight may last for about 12 hours and seven minutes. But at a place with 60 degrees of latitude, such as the North Pole, a day is about 12 hours and 16 minutes.

#### **What is a solstice?**

On the day of a solstice, the Earth is at its maximum tilt, 23.5 degrees, either toward or away from the sun.

During a summer solstice, the sun is directly above the Tropic of Cancer in the Northern Hemisphere and is tilting toward the sun, causing the longest day of the year. It is winter in the Southern Hemisphere, where the Earth is tilting away from the sun.

Likewise, a winter solstice happens in the Northern Hemisphere when the hemisphere is tilting away from the sun, making it the day with the least amount of sunlight. The sun is above the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere, making it summer there.

#### **Fall Middle School Roaring 20's Dancing Party**

Tonight is our Fall Middle School Dance! This event is open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and admission is free. Our theme tonight is the Roaring 20's and there will be prizes for the best, authentic outfits. Food and treats will be for sale. Punch Cards for \$10 are available for the kids to spend at [www/heluspta.cheddarup.com](http://www/heluspta.cheddarup.com).

#### **Picture Retakes**

Lifetouch will return to HELUS on Thursday, October 6th for picture retakes. A reminder flyer will go out next week, however if you would like retakes done, and you are not ordering online, Order Forms will be available in the school office.

## **A Word From Mr. Andrews**

No team has ever come out on top, nor has any successful company has ever made it without including the people of the organization. HELUS has a wonderful team making this year start a successful one. One of my essential goals is to help everyone see the big picture. Likewise, I want to see your views as we make important decisions that improve achievement and programs here at the school. I believe in success, achievement, and accomplishment. Next month is the beginning of the autumn season. I hope that you and your family enjoy your time together during this special season. It is a season of the year that is steeped in tradition. The holiday period is time for personal reflection and to give thanks for what I have. It also provides me with time to express my appreciation for all that the staff, parents and community members do to make HELUS a wonderful place to work.

### **RISE afterschool program:**

The Mission of the RISE program is to deliver value-added school programs that support and reinforce academic achievement, fitness and enrichment opportunities for HELUS students in a safe, structured environment. During the summer of 2022, three main topics were focused with HELUS' RISE program on: Astronomy, Technology, and Engineering. Their curriculum was STEAM based and RISE had lessons for each week with art activities, fitness, and social emotional development. Social-emotional skills are provided to HELUS students during lessons every day with the RISE after school program. The RISE program provides academic support enrichment and fitness opportunities for all students.

## **Notice of Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District Board Vacancy**

**The Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School** is seeking applications for the current vacant positions on the Board of Education. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District would like to thank Melanie Dohn for her outstanding years of service to the Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School Board of Trustees. She has served for fourteen years and has played an instrumental role in leadership and as a member in guiding HELUS's Mission with her insight and unique expertise. Her dedication and passion has helped shape Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District into a strong and stable district for all students. All of the HELUS Family thanks her for her service!

To be eligible, the applicant must be a resident of Area 1 or Area 2 and a registered voter in the Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District, at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States and California, and not legally disqualified from holding civil office. Any person who has been convicted of a felony involving the giving, accepting or offering of a bribe, embezzlement or theft of public funds, extortion, perjury, or conspiracy to commit any such crime, under California law or the law of another state, the United States of America, or another country, is not eligible to be a candidate for office or be a Board member except when he/she has been granted a pardon in accordance with law. (Education Code 35107; Elections Code 20)

Interested persons must submit a letter of interest and Candidate Information Sheet to the Superintendent's office, Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District, 16633 Elizabeth Lake Road, Lake Hughes CA 93532 no later than 3:30 p.m. on October 20, 2022.

Following a review of submitted materials, the Superintendent and Board will schedule interviews with selected candidates. One individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position in Area 1 and the vacant position in Area 2. The selected individuals will fill the four year term for that Board Seat.

If you have any questions concerning the role of the Board of Education and responsibilities of a Board member, please contact Johannis L. Andrews, Interim Superintendent/Principal of Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District at 661-724-1231.

Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Educator who fully and actively supports equal access for all people, regardless of Race, Color, Religion, Gender, Age, National Origin, Veteran Status, Disability or Genetic Information or Testing, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression. Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union School District prohibits retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally, or in writing, to the employer of the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint, or otherwise opposite discrimination.

### **These suggestions will help students succeed at school.**

- Attend school every day and be on time to class.
- Stay organized, write down all assignments, complete all homework, and turn the homework in on time.
- Listen carefully, follow directions, and come to class with all the needed materials.
- Schedule time each evening to prepare for the next school day.
- Choose your friends wisely.
- Seek help from your teachers and our staff as soon as you need it, and don't wait until you are overwhelmed.
- Involve your parents/guardians in your schoolwork and school activities.
- Participate in extracurricular activities.
- Show respect and consideration for others.
- Talk with our staff about school, friends, careers, study skills, or any other topics or concerns.
- Strive to do your personal best!
- READ, READ, READ.

### **Bus Driver Shortage**

As a result of losing our bus driver as of September 6, 2022, we are asking parents to continue to drive their student/students to school. Until we are able to find a bus driver, we are asking you to provide alternate transportation for your student(s). If you are unable to provide transportation please contact the office so they are aware and will help in getting every child to school. When your child misses school because of lack of transportation, the absence would be excused, and the student(s) will have the opportunity to complete any missed assignments. Please check with your student's teacher to find the appropriate location for those assignments if you need assistance. If you are unable to provide transportation and need assistance please contact the office at 661-724-1231.

We recognize this is an inconvenience for the students and families impacted. Our goal is to find the bus driver replacement as soon as we can. This decision was not easily made and is certainly a last resort. We know the best place for our students during the school day is to be with their teachers, learning in-person. We have exhausted all other options prior to implementing these transportation changes. If further changes are needed, we will communicate this to our community.

As a district, we are committed to providing high-quality, safe transportation services that accommodate the various academic needs of our students. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a bus driver, please visit [www.edjoin.org](http://www.edjoin.org), and apply at HELUS.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at 661-724-1231.

## **Bus Passes and Fees**

Bus fees are on hold until further notice. If you submitted your child(ren)'s bus pass dues already, you have the choice of having it returned to you. In the meantime please still apply for the free or reduced lunch program. If you qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program, the RISE After School Program fees will be reduced. Therefore, it is important for families to apply for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program right away. Here is the link to apply <https://family.titank12.com/income-form/new?identifier=3JD2ZE>

***Another incentive to apply is that HELUS receives funding for every application that is submitted for our school, regardless of your income and even if you do not qualify.***

## **Class Attendance This Week**

Carr-Knudson - **9/21, 9/22**

Christensen - **Better luck next week.**

Crawford - **9/19, 9/22, 9/23**

Hambro - **9/21, 9/22**

Lafayette/Sanders - **9/19, 9/22**

O'Hara - **9/23**

Sinclair - **Better luck next week.**

Trifa - **Better luck next week.**

## **School Attendance & Why It Is So Important!**

**Your job as a parent is to see that your child is on time and in school every day.** As it states in the HELUS Handbook, 3 tardies will equal an absence unless the tardy is cleared through a doctor's/dentist's note presented at the time of tardy. Whether your child's absence is excused or unexcused, the school loses the funding for that student for the day. Did you know that for each student that is absent HELUS loses about \$85 per day, whether the absence is excused or not. That is called ADA (Average Daily Attendance) and it is how all public schools are funded in the state of California.

Please remember that good student attendance is very important and is the foundation for a great education! Good attendance fosters good citizenship, increased learning and happier students.

Students who miss school miss valuable classroom lessons and fall behind their classmates. Please plan vacations and schedule appointments on non-school days or afterschool. If your child has an appointment during school, please have your child attend school in the morning before the appointment. He or she will receive attendance credit for being present. Each day a student is not at school, school funding is decreased. **Your child's job is learning at school.**

**Please note: You must provide the office a reason for your child's absence within 1 week; after that it will be marked as unexcused.**

Teachers fly their flag outside of their classroom door each day that they have perfect attendance. Our classes will be competing for the best attendance each week (TK/K vs 1st grade, 2nd grade vs 3rd grade, 4th grade vs 5th grade, and 6th grade vs 7/8th grade). The winner gets to keep the attendance trophy in their class until the other class beats them.

***Please refer to our Handbook (pg 12-13) at [www.helus.org](http://www.helus.org) for more details on attendance, excusing absences, and tardy/lates.***

## **Our Best Attendance Winners for This Week Are:**

TK/K vs 1st grade - Mrs. Hambro (TK/K)

2nd grade vs 3rd grade - Mrs. Carr (2nd grade)

4th grade vs 5th grade - Mr. Crawford (5th grade)

6th grade vs 7/8th grade - Mrs. LaFayette/Mr. Sanders (7/8th grade)

**Congratulations to you all! You will be sporting the Attendance Trophy all next week!!**

Car traffic through HELUS is heavy at Drop-off in the morning and Pick-up time in the afternoon. To help make the process safer and smoother for all involved, please make sure you are legally parked when you drop off or pick-up your child. In particular, please pull over next to the island curb to drop off upper grade students (4th-8th), and lower grade students get dropped off at the top of the hill in designated spots near the district office. Please do not block the right-of-way, driveways, bus stop zones, or parking lot exits, and do not park on the sidewalks. It is important that traffic be able to continue to move freely. Students should use extra caution when crossing the parking lot/driveway at the school. Thank you for your help in following these guidelines. Most importantly, please be patient. We appreciate your cooperation!

### **COVID - 19 Positive Case or Exposure: What to expect**

If HELUS has a positive COVID case on campus the following will happen. A general informational notification will be sent school wide to all families. A separate isolate or quarantine notification will be sent to those in close contact to the positive person with a timeline and instructions on what to do. Students in isolation or quarantine may request a short term independent study contract to continue student learning. Students may return to school after the isolation, quarantine period, or negative test clearance.

**The following links are very useful in directing you on what to do if you are a close contact or become COVID positive yourself:**

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidisolation/>  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidquarantine/>

### **RISE AfterSchool Program**

Register now for our 2022-2023 afterschool program. Students will have opportunities to get help with homework, participate in fitness, sports and enrichment programs, and a snack is provided! For more information and to register visit [www.riseafterschool.com](http://www.riseafterschool.com) or email [helus@riseed.org](mailto:helus@riseed.org).

### **Helus PTA News!**

PTA needs your help! We have lots of exciting activities and events planned for our students and school, but we can't make it happen with volunteers and donations. Visit our sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/HELUSPTA> to sign up for donations of items and time. Thank you for helping make memories for our kids!

Join our Facebook group to stay up to date with PTA happenings.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/heluspta>

Visit [heluspta.cheddarup.com](http://heluspta.cheddarup.com) to sign up for memberships, buy spirit wear, purchase a punch card and sign up for other PTA activities

Fall Middle School Dance is tonight from 5-8pm. All students attending the dance must have a signed permission slip.

Popcornopolis Fall Fundraiser will start at the end of next week. Keep an eye out for the information to be sent home with your child and get ready to help raise much needed funds for the school!

### **PTA Upcoming Events:**

September 23rd - Middle School Fall Dance

September 30 - Popcornopolis Fall fundraiser Starts (More details coming soon!)

October 17th-21st - BOO Pops

October 28th - Fall Festival

## **Planning Ahead...**

October 6th - Lifetouch Picture Retake Day

October 10th - Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 11th - Board Meeting in-person in room 8 and via Zoom 6:30pm.

October 31st - Happy Halloween!