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Tuscany Heights Growlin' Good News

Tuscany Heights Elementary
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The End We Had in Mind

Looking back at a GRRRRREAT year, the Tuscany Heights PTA wants to say a BIG thank you to all our members and community for helping our Tigers grow and Reach New Heights.

From enhancing our children's education through fun and enriching programs, teaching our kids to be healthy and active Tigers, to seeing our kids leading in so many areas and leaving their mark at Tuscany, we have put first things first and this is the end we had in mind at the beginning of the year!

Looking forward to summer we hope that our families will take some time to sharpen the saw together and come back strong and ready for another fantastic year together.

We are already being proactive and planning for our next year, and we would love for you to join in. Whether you would like to join the T.H.E. PTA Board or find out about other opportunities to volunteer at school or home, we have a place for you. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to visit about opportunities.

-Alana Harris, T.H.E. PTA President

April PTA Meeting

I think it is 'FAIR' to say that all our Tuscany Volunteers had a fabulous time at our carnival themed PTA meeting!



We were able to celebrate our fabulous parent volunteers as well as the amazing student volunteer. Each student received a carnival themed certificate thanking them for their contributions to Tuscany Heights.

And of course we did all of this while enjoying hot dogs, popcorn, popsicles and lots and lots of cotton candy!



We also took time out of this busy schedule to elect the officers for our 2016-2017 PTA Board!

-Susan Getter

2016-2017 THE PTA OFFICERS

At the General PTA meeting on April 5th, T.H.E. PTA members elected our 2016-2017 officers.

Please welcome our new officers.

President – Mandy Howland

1st VP – Alana Harris

2nd VP – Ways and Means – Jennifer Smith

3rd VP – Programs – Susan Getter

4th VP – Volunteers – Erin Underwood

5th VP – Communications – Jenni Hover

Secretary – Sarah Nackos

Treasurer – Laura Wagner

Parliamentarian – Tina Guerrero

Used Book Sale



The Used Book Sale collection was very successful this year! We collected over 4,000 books and brought in a profit of \$1730 for THE which was \$230 more than the goal we set!

A special thanks to assistant Used Book Sale chair, Darla Mastrovich, for hours of sorting and counting.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for the setup and sale at Blossom.

- Ashley Wilkens

PTA Board Positions

With the election of our new PTA officers, we are filling PTA board chair positions for 2016-2017. The following chair positions are currently available:

**Welcome Back Assistant
Used Book Sale
PVSA Assistant
Arts in Education
Bulletin Board/Display Case
Partners in PTA
Membership**

If you would like more information or have any questions about any of the volunteer opportunities please don't hesitate to ask.

Mandy Howland, our incoming president, or I would be happy to visit with you.

Alana Harris, PTA President
president@tuscanheightspta.org

Thanks for helping T.H.E. PTA be named to the 2015 President's List for Texas PTA!

As a member of T.H.E. PTA, not only do you belong to the largest child advocacy organization in the state of Texas, but you also belong to one of the most successful PTAs in the state!



It's our wonderful members and volunteers that make this possible. Haven't joined? It's not too late! Visit www.joinpta.org today!

STAFF APPRECIATION

The Staff Appreciation Committee has been busy making this a fun Spring for our Tuscany Heights teachers and staff!

In April we had a Popcorn Bar with Sonic Ice and sodas. We popped fresh popcorn in the teacher's lounge during lunch periods and had lots of toppings like several kinds of chocolate candies, marshmallows, peanuts and a variety of seasonings.

Teacher Appreciation Week was celebrated May 2nd through May 6th. We had a week full of lunches, treats, gratitude, and appreciation for our hardworking and amazing staff!

We got the students involved by offering suggestions on ways to show their teachers how much they are appreciated...from filling in "My Favorite Thing About..." sheets, to helping replenish school supplies, bringing in a treat/favorite drink, and even helping the teachers find ways to enjoy their "free time".



Our students really made the week special for our Tuscany Heights staff. The PTA filled the teacher's mailboxes with goodies each day (Sharpie pens, mints, Lifesavers, bottles of water with powdered drink mixes attached, and antibacterial hand sanitizers) and also provided lunch on three days (Freebirds burrito bag lunches, Corner Bakery salads and bread and Corner Bakery sandwich bag lunches).

Our administration provided a fun Mexican-themed lunch and Room Rep's got involved by providing a "teacher's choice" lunch on Friday. Our awesome students and volunteers helped to make it a great week for everyone!

We will close out the 2015-16 school year with a quick breakfast of tacos and juice on June 3rd, the teachers' last day.

The Staff Appreciation Committee wishes everyone a wonderful summer and we are looking forward to spoiling our Tuscany Heights teachers and staff again in 2016-17!

-Kelly Evans



Bike Rodeo

Tuscany Heights had their annual Bike Rodeo on March 3rd.

Volunteers and students came together to make this another successful event presented by the Tuscany Heights PTA.

Officer Keogh, SAPD Safety Officer, provided bike riding safety information prior to the rodeo and on the day of the Rodeo checked each student's bike for safety and encouraged them along with our volunteers.

They completed four different skills tests: Maneuvering, Steering, Balance and Figure 8. After completing the course, each student received a Bike Rodeo Spirit Stick.

Fifth grade safety patrol leaders also helped in running score sheets to the judge's table and helping the children to the course.

There were over 300 participants this year with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place being awarded trophies.

Tuscany Heights was also represented at the San Antonio City Wide Bike Rodeo recently with Lexi Tippie (1st grade) placing 1st and Zack Hudson (1st grade) placing 4th.

Way to go Tigers!

-David Diharce

Support T.H.E. While You Shop!

Start every Amazon shopping session from [this link](#) and T.H.E. PTA earns referral fees of 4% - 15% from purchases you normally make from [Amazon!](#) Over \$450 earned so far!



[CLICK HERE](#) to get started!



Lexi Tippie and Zack Hudson



Library News

Thank you to all of our wonderful students, staff, parents and PTA volunteers that helped make the 2015-2016 school year a success.

This year the library was able to provide guest speakers, author visits, reading incentives and a variety of programs thanks to our generous PTA.

I would also like to recognize the marvelous volunteers that have dedicated many hours to staffing book fairs, shelving books and preparing supplies for student lessons and makerspaces.

The library is able to provide a high level of service for our students and Tuscany families thanks to the dedication of our staff and community volunteers.

Summer reading information (including Bluebonnet and Battle reading lists) are available on the Tuscany Heights Library webpage. This year's site includes book suggestions for students and parents.

[http://neisd.libguides.com/
welcome_tuscany_heights_library](http://neisd.libguides.com/welcome_tuscany_heights_library)

Have a great summer,
READ, READ, READ!
-Mrs. Johnson



Tigers Make A Difference!

On May 18th, an awards ceremony was held to recognize 78 THE students who volunteered their time and talents for the betterment of our community. From serving as our school's safety patrols to helping



at their churches to volunteering at local elder care facilities, our volunteers have done it all. In addition to individual activities, the PTA coordinated group activities including campus clean-up, wrapping donated toys for our Sister School, and making cards for our armed forces. Collectively, THE students served over 5,000 hours this year, with award service ranging from a minimum of 10 hours to over 100 hours of service.

The famous primate researcher, Jane Goodall, said, *“What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”*

Thank you to all the THE students who have decided to make a positive difference in our community by volunteering!



For additional information on THE Community Service and the President's Volunteer Service Award, go to the THE PTA website at tuscanyheightspta.org.

-Denise Jones

Community Service Awardees

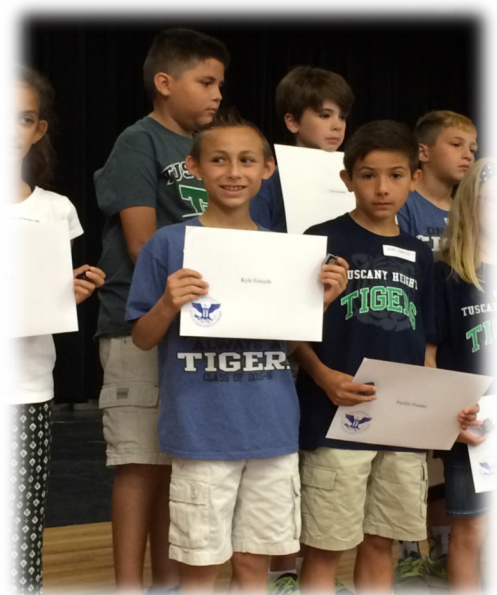
Luciana Andrade
Trevor Bordelon
Helayna Carnes
Giancarlo Chevez
Colin Dahmer
Nathaniel Farmer
Gerardo Fernandez
Clare Fitzmaurice
Payton Floyd
Madison Holliday
Ainsley Howland
Asher Howland
Sofia Miranda
Makenna Spanley

Bronze President's Volunteer Service Award

Ahil Salim Ali
Jacy Chapman
Zachary Drexler
Shreya Fifadara
Kyle Forsyth
Jayden Franke
Erin Harris
Megan Harris
Kayla Hunt
Grant Lilly
Hayley Mandel
Myla Thomas
Samantha Wagner
Faye Westphall
Jude Wilkens
Renee Wilson
Robyn Wilson

Silver President's Volunteer Service Award

Caden Barr
Kennady Carlton
Nicholas DeLuca
Jackson Harris
Steven Manley
Shariq Maredia
Anthony Passarelli
Preston Saiz
Liv Schram



Gold President's Volunteer Service Award

Eshal Ali
Rayya Ali
Raamiz Badarpura
Jaxson Bartolini
Marcus Bissen
Alyssa Cappuccio
Joaquin Cavazos
Denise Cole
Alex Easley
Daniel Fernandez
Caroline Foshee
Drew Harris
Alexandra Holeman
Erin Jones
Maddox Jordan
Luke Lepaska
Caroline Lilly
Paige Lilly

Troy Martinez
David Mastrovich
Subhan Mohammed
Megan Murrah
Ana Outon
Eshal Qazi
Iraj Qazi
Ava Roth
Ava Schaner
Dorian Sifuentez
Kristen Silvasy
Andrea Trejo
Nicholas Trejo
John Turi IV
Shaniel Walibhai
Ellie Waters
Abbey Wilkens
Katelyn Wnuk



“What Does Think Win-Win Mean?”
By Paula Ortiz, Mrs. Schons’ 3rd grade class
April PTA Covey Writing Contest Winner

Think Win-Win means when all people win and feel good about their decision that was made.

For example, when I was with my friend she wanted to play soccer, and I wanted to play with my dolls. So we were really mad at each other. We stayed mad about 10 minutes. We wasted our time for 10 minutes of playing.

I thought about that. Then, I thought of Think Win-Win.

So I asked my friend if she wanted to play half of the time soccer and the other half of the time with my dolls. My friend said, “Okay, that’s fine.”

So we were both winners. That is an example of Think Win-Win. Think Win-Win means cooperate, compromise, everyone is a winner! Everyone gets what they want, and a lot more things.

That is Think Win-Win!



Watch D.O.G.S - A Year in Review, With More Growth Ahead...

“I did not realize what an impact fathers could have on the school grounds. The look on my daughter's face and her discussion when she came home from school was a true blessing. I hope more fathers sign up because the kids really appreciate us being there.”

-Tuscany Heights Watch D.O.G.

Thanks to our school’s leadership and outstanding PTA support, the 2015-2016 year of the innovative Tuscany Heights Elementary Watch D.O.G.S. program was a resounding success! By the end of the current school year, over 150 loyal fathers and father-figures will have volunteered for over 2,000 hours of combined Watch D.O.G.S. service, providing security and a fatherly presence in the hallways, classrooms, and playgrounds.

In addition to the traditional “DOG duty”, our fathers and father-figures also assisted during the PTA Bike Rodeo event, supported Tusky the Mascot in his multiple endeavors, and supported the T.H.E. Run for the Heights event.

Informational briefings for the next school year will be held in August and September (Meet the Teacher, PTA meetings, etc). During these events, you’ll be able to ask questions, order your official Watch D.O.G.S. t-shirt, and register and pick your day to be a “Hero of the Hallway.”

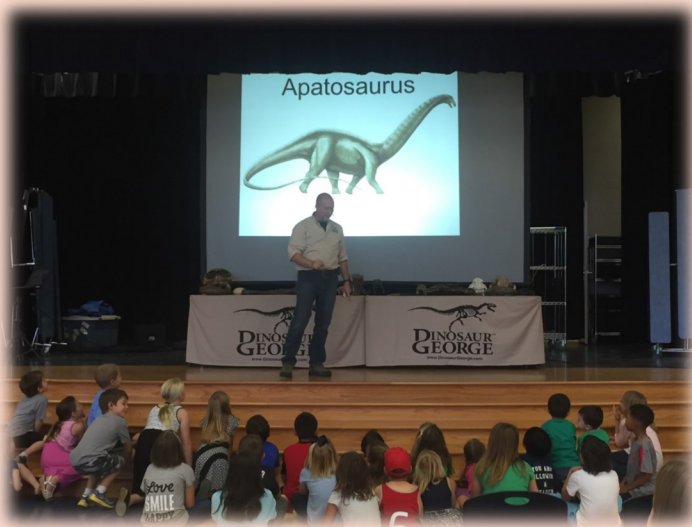
For more information, please go to www.tuscanyheightspta.org/watch-dogs1.html

May PTA Meeting

The Tuscany Heights students eyes were filled with wonder and excitement as they watched Dinosaur George and all of the dinosaur fossils he brought with him at the May PTA meeting!

He brought fossils large and small and taught the children interesting facts about the dinosaur times.

The students had a blast!



-Susan Getter

Healthy Lifestyles

Thank you to all the parents who came to run/walk laps with their children during Tiger Tracks!

We hope you enjoyed spending time with your Tiger(s) and helping them earn PE incentives.

In addition to individual incentives, the class in each grade that had the most participation earned new recess equipment!

Each winning class got 2 new basketballs and 2 four-square balls!

Kinder- Shelby, First- Hunt,
Second- Pantuso/Fontenot, Third- Schons,
Fourth- Imken, Fifth- Blacker

Thanks to all for a fun and healthy day on the Tuscany Field!



“Synergize”

By Karsten Cheatham, Mrs. Schmid’s Class
May PTA Covey Writing Contest Winner

Synergize means 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 or more people working together.

Here’s an example: A kid is building a tower. He wants to make it taller, but he’s not tall enough. So a taller boy comes. He helps make it taller.

Synergize is one of the Seven Habits.

I synergize by working together using teamwork and helping others.

Synergizing is a good way of helping out.

Don’t just be a bystander.

Go out and be free to help out other men, women, and boys and girls.

5th Grade Tigers Class of 2016

Once a Tiger, Always a Tiger

This year's 5th grade class will graduate the first set of Tigers who began their elementary years as kindergarteners when Tuscan Heights opened in 2010. This group of students has been proactive in creating and implementing many traditions here at Tuscan. From writing the school song, becoming a Lighthouse school, to our annual *Run for the Heights*, these 5th graders have been involved in many aspects of making Tuscan the school it is today. Since these Tigers will be the first to graduate to middle school having completed kinder



through 5th grade at Tuscan Heights, we were inspired to choose their class theme this year as, "Once a Tiger, Always a Tiger."

To celebrate their final year at Tuscan, students synergized and tailgated at the annual 5th Grade End of Year Pool Party on May 25th at Gold's Gym- Rogers Ranch. As each class entered the pool area, they were greeted by

Tusky the Tiger, the Bush Bulldog, the Tejada T-Wolf, and lots of cheering parents. The students ran through a class banner and began their tailgate with swimming, backyard games, and dancing with the DJ. With hotdogs, pizza, cotton candy, popcorn, and Flamingo Rey's snow cones, these students tailgated all day by the pool. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a fun and memorable day for our Tigers!

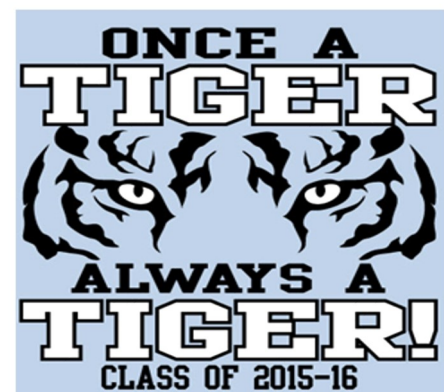
A special graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, June 2nd, to honor our fifth grade leaders one last time. These students were honored individually and for their leadership in various clubs and activities. At the ceremony, the class presented the school a piece of artwork that was inspired and led by artist Monica Torres. This collaborative art project forms a colorful silhouette of a tiger using every student's signature and will be displayed for years to come in the school's entry way.



-Mindy Waters

Congratulations T.H.E. Class
of 2016!

Thank you for your
leadership and beginning
with the end in the mind. As
you continue on to middle
school, may you remember



Thank you for being THE LIGHT THAT LEADS!



A huge thank you to everyone who donated Greenbacks this 2015-2016 school year.

Because you chose to be a leader in your child's education, we raised over \$6,700.00, benefiting each student throughout the year.

Greenback donations helped fund Field trips, Arts in Education, Student Enrichment, Author Visits, Red Ribbon Week, Grandparent's Day, Veteran's Day, Field Day, Bike Rodeo, 5th Grade End of Year Celebration, Environmental Education, Watch D.O.G.S., and Much, Much More!

Without the generous support from you, our donors, many of the key non-budgeted items that enrich our students and school curriculum would not have been possible.

Thank you again for your support! Keep an eye out for the new Greenbacks campaign for 2016-2017 as we hop on board for another great year!

6th Annual Run for the Heights 5K Biggest and Best to Date



Ask any student at Tuscan Heights Elementary how many miles are in a 5K and he will probably tell you with great, wide, all-knowing eyes: 3-point-1-2! They know, not only because they are smart, but because many of them ran just that, with determination and speed, at the 6th Annual Run for the Heights, held on Saturday, February 27. It was the biggest and best **Run For The Heights** 5K, Kids' Run, and Health Expo to date!

Top finishers included Nadine Reasoner with a time of 21:32 and Ryan Garza, a student at Reagan High School and former Tuscan Heights Tiger, with a time of 16:58. Elementary student top finishers included: Madelyn Colville and Cole Foshee - Kindergarten, Josephine Alwine and Zach Hudson - First Grade, Aaliyah Divin and Kai McCullough – Second Grade, Haley Bock and William Johnson IV – Third Grade, Emma Colville and Hayden Scott - Fourth Grade, and Sevrine Porritt and Morgan Omstead – Fifth Grade.



Beautiful skies welcomed nearly fifteen hundred people and over forty businesses from the Stone Oak and greater San Antonio community to Tuscan Heights Elementary for the event. Sports performance expert, Jermaine Collier of JC Ultimate Training, donated his time helping lead Tusky the Tiger and participants in warm-up exercises. The Reagan High School JROTC and the Tuscan Heights Tiger Beat Choir helped kick off opening ceremonies and the singing of the National Anthem. FOX4/WOAI Meteorologist, Albert Flores, emceed the event.

Kids of all ages flashed giant smiles as they ran their hearts out through the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile Fun Run course. The 5K took runners and walkers, both experienced and first-time 5K'ers, through a challenging and beautiful course marked by rolling hills and picturesque views surrounding the neighborhoods of Summer Glen, Mountain Lodge, and Tuscany Heights.



Throughout the event, families and participants were entertained with fitness demonstrations, kid-friendly activities like face-painting and posing in superhero cut-outs, food samples from HEB, the Bagel Factory, and Flamingo Rey's, complimentary health screenings from North Central Baptist Hospital, and more.

Run for the Heights not only raises funds for the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA, a 501c3 non-profit organization, but helps promote health, wellness, and community-building. All proceeds from the event go to provide additional support for Tuscany Heights Elementary staff and students through classroom and technology supplies plus enrichment programs such as field trips, bike rode, and various T.H.E. PTA Presents programs throughout the year.

Visit our website at www.runfortheheights.tuscanyheightspta.org for 2016 sponsors, photos and full 5K results.



Thank you to everyone who came out to support, volunteer, and run! We look forward to seeing everyone next year at the **7th Annual Run For The Heights!!!**

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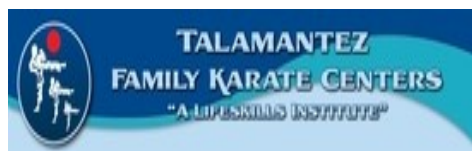
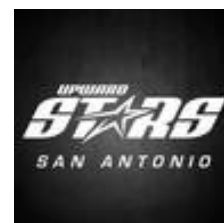
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