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Tuscany Heights Growlin' Good News

Tuscany Heights Elementary
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It's a new year at Tuscany Heights and we're diving in with new leadership roles and new adventures aplenty. The education of our children is not limited to just parents and teachers, but is the result of our entire community coming on board for the future of our children. What a way to *synergize* as we all join together to chart a great course for our students!

We began the year with the end in mind and are quickly noticing leaders surfacing at Tuscany Heights! In the first nine weeks we've seen students and their families step up and lead our campus as we all reach for new heights together.

Your donations and involvement are helping us chart the course for the students of Tuscany Heights by helping provide PTA-sponsored events and programs such as Bike Rodeo, Red Ribbon Week, author visits, and Field Day, just to start the year! Together we are growing healthy and happy Tigers.

We've got a great year planned for all of our students and I hope that you will find a way to connect with the campus and the community of Tuscany Heights. Watch D.O.G.S. are recruiting new members to be Heroes of the Hallways. It's not too late to sign up!

With so many great things planned we can't help but be excited about the course we are sailing together.

We want every volunteer to feel like they are an important part of our PTA. We hope that you will join our team in volunteering at home or on campus and see all of our Tigers lead, honor, and excel.

Please feel free to contact me to help you get connected with the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA and be a part of our crew.

Alana Harris
T.H.E. PTA President
tuscanyheightspta.org

STATE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

SUBMITTED BY HEIDI STAPLES

Our students, staff and parents have helped us gather information, pictures, and work samples to prove that we are meeting 100% of the standards that the Leader in Me Foundation requires for Light House Status! This is a huge celebration for our Tiger Family! Our faculty has worked tremendously hard to meet and document these standards this school year. Many of the leadership standards were already being done at Tuscany but gathering and organizing the evidence proved to be a challenge... a challenge that our amazing faculty accepted and conquered by October 1st!

We would like to thank our PTA for their support of our leadership initiatives. They have donated time and money to make our hallways beautiful and have been true lights on our pathway to Lighthouse. If you have not taken time to admire our beautiful leadership murals, please do so! The murals in the hallway leading to the gyms are completely finished and show the true tiger pride we have at Tuscany!

While we are celebrating our accomplishments, we are still looking ahead to our next step in the Light House process. We are scheduled for several informal and formal visits for the school district and from the Leader in Me Foundation. We will have an informal visit from the school district on Monday October 5 and the Leader in Me Foundation representatives will be here on November 18 for an informal visit and December 15th, 16th, and 17th for the formal and final visit!. The purpose of the visits is for the district and the Leader in Me Foundation to review and document the great leadership initiatives that Tuscany as adopted and implemented in the past 5 years. After the visits, the Leader in Me foundation will decide if we are a Lighthouse School. There are 158 Light House schools worldwide and we hope to join that elite club in 2016!

Thank you for your continued support in our Light House Journey!

Contact Heidi Staples at hstapl@neisd.net with questions or for more information.



**Tuscany Heights is
proud to be a
Leader in Me School**



WELCOME BACK TIGERS!

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER HARRON

Prior to opening the doors for another exciting school year, T.H.E. Tigers received a welcoming video message from their new teacher. What a great way to see their new teacher before stepping foot in the classroom.

Meet the Teacher Nights were held August 18th and 20th. Both nights were successful in giving students an opportunity to meet their teacher, drop off school supplies, and meet fellow classmates in preparation for the new school year.

There were opportunities from T.H.E. PTA & staff to purchase new spirit wear and agendas and pick up their car rider tags. Tusky was there adding excitement & high fives for all Tigers.

Parents were able to learn about the various volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and also receive an overview of their child's upcoming school year and grade level orientation.

It was a great kick-off to the 2015-2016 school year!

Don't forget
EVERY FRIDAY
is **Tiger Spirit Day** for all
staff, students and
volunteers!!!

Show your *tiger pride* with
our great spirit items for
this school year. There are
grade level contests for the
most classroom
participation.

We are now taking orders for
warm winter spirit
shirts! We are selling long
sleeve shirts and zip-up
hoodies. You can visit our
online spirit store at
www.TuscanyHeightsPTA.org
to order yours today.
The shirts will be available by
pre-order only and the
last day to order is
November 20th.



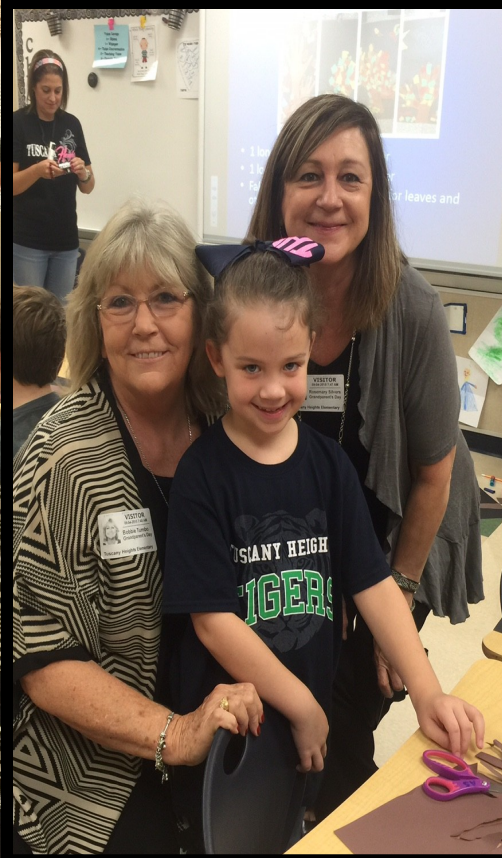
Yahoo/BooHoo Breakfast

Submitted by Alana Harris



T.H.E. PTA hosted a social gathering the first morning of school for the new Kindergarten parents. The PTA Hospitality Committee along with other PTA officers and staff welcomed our new Kinder Tiger parents. They were encouraged to meet other parents and discuss the excitement for what is to come as well as sadness that their little one is really growing up.

Mrs. Bailey presented the parents with a small anchor to help the parents feel close to their children as they became anchored at Tuscany. By the end of the breakfast several connections had been made between parents and PTA volunteers.



On Friday, September 4th, Tuscany Heights welcomed hundreds of grandparents for our 6th annual Grandparents Day. T.H.E. PTA hosted coffee in the library and then the Grandparents joined their students in their classroom for crafts, stories, creative writing, games, and lots of fun!!

STAFF APPRECIATION

SUBMITTED BY KELLY EVANS

The Staff Appreciation Committee has been busy getting our 2015-2016 school year off to a great start for our fantastic Tuscan Heights teachers and staff! In August, on the last Friday before school officially started for students, we provided a "Welcome Back" breakfast for our teachers. We offered lots of yummy breakfast foods, fun colored Sharpies, dry erase markers, and smelly markers to take with them and of course lots of wishes for another awesome school year.

In September we planned a fun "Nacho Bar" luncheon that everyone seemed to enjoy! We had some great decorations up in the teacher's lounge along with chicken and ground beef from Freebirds, tortilla chips and all the fixings for a Nacho Fiesta! In October we celebrated our fantastic custodial staff on National Custodian Day with a bag full of snacks, treats and a drink. We also celebrated our bus drivers, who get our students to school and home safe and sound every day, with a breakfast bag. We had a "Spooky Luncheon" on Friday October 30th to help our teachers get their Halloween weekend off to a great start!

In November we will be looking for volunteers to donate holiday desserts that we can send home with our staff to enjoy over Thanksgiving break. Please be on the lookout for a volunteer sign up email to help us show our teachers and staff how "Thankful" we truly are for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year. We will also have a volunteer opportunity available in December during our Staff Gift Wrapping Event, we can use all the help we can get on that day! Please let us know if you're interested in helping out or just watch your email in December for more details.

Would you like to learn more about your teachers? Favorite colors...favorite Candy...favorite restaurant...birthday...and much more? Then go to tuscanheightspta.org, click on "helpful links" in the top right corner and finally click on "These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things" and you will be on the "Faculty Favorites" page. Just find your teachers name and click on it...it will take you to his/her favorites page.

Don't forget to let your teachers and all of our wonderful Tuscan Heights staff know how much we appreciate them...kind words, thank you notes, and time spent volunteering all go a long way!

PTA Directory Art Contest Winners

SUBMITTED BY BETH DESTEFANO

Tiger artists really know how to LIGHT the way towards excellence!

Tuscany Heights students submitted over 110 entries with the theme, "Be the Light that LEADS" for the 2015-2016 student directory art contest. Our contest judges selected 9 of these drawings to be published in the directory.

Our top award for the outside cover was awarded to Mackenzie Bass, in Mr. Spicer's 4th grade class. All Participants earned a special art spirit stick and the selected winners received a trophy and special recognition during morning announcements on Friday, October 16th. Thank you for making our directory such a beautiful and SHINING piece of art!

Congratulations Tuscany Heights Directory Art Contest Winners!!!!



2015-2016 Directory Art Contest Winners

Kinder: Jake DeStefano, Mrs. Shelby

First Grade: Naomi Ghormley, Mrs. Hunt

Second Grade: Kai McCullough,
Mrs. Jackson

Third Grade: Maria Caceres, Mrs. Herrera

Fourth Grade: Ashley Woodburne,
Ms. Jayson

Fifth Grade: Ellie Waters,
Mrs. De La Garza

Cover: Mackenzie Bass, Mr. Spicer

Index Cover: Isabella Ramirez,
Ms. Imken

Special Education Cover: Makenzie
Shirley, Mrs. Blackmon

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!](#)

Click the logo below to get started!



THE PTA PRESENTS:
AUTHOR KIMBERLY WILLIS HOLT
Submitted by Jean Ann Johnson

Award winning author Kimberly Willis Holt visited the Tuscany Heights Library on Friday, October 2nd. Her program was perfect for K-5 students. Our K-3 students enjoyed learning about the writing process and even acted out scenes from Holt's popular picture book *The Adventures of Granny Clearwater and Little Critter*. Holt entertained students while encouraging them to "write about what you like".

In her 4th/5th grade presentation, Mrs. Holt shared how life experiences are often the inspiration for her stories. She said, "*I'm amazed how the tiniest moments grow into books*". She explained that her popular *Piper Reed* series is based on her experience growing up as a "Navy Brat" and traveling the world with her family. She encouraged Tuscany students to write daily and stressed that inspiration is all around us.

Mrs. Holt's visit has generated a renewed interest in her realistic fiction titles. Students continue to ask for her books; the most requested title is *My Louisiana Sky*. We are anxiously awaiting copies of *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town* and *Dear Hank Williams*.

The PTA sponsored author visit was a huge success!

Are you a proud member of T.H.E. PTA? It's not too late to join! Our current membership is at 346 members. We have already earned the Head Start and Golden Apple Award and are well on our way to earn the Early Bird Award as well.

By joining T.H.E. PTA, you not only support our school, but it allows you to be more involved and informed in matters concerning your child's education and well being. If you would like more info on becoming a member, visit our website or contact Caroline Cain at membership@tuscanyheightspta.org



PTA[®]
JOIN TODAY!

Many Faces - One Vision

September PTA Meeting and Leadership Rally

Submitted by Susan Getter



Reagan and Johnson High School Cheerleaders get Tuscany Heights families excited for the new school year!

We kicked off a new year at Tuscany Heights by getting our Tigers fired up with a Leadership Pep Rally to educate families about the Leader in Me program as well as Watch D.O.G.S.

Students received a flashlight keychain that read *"I Am the Light That Leads"* to help remind them throughout the year of our theme.

Families enjoyed eating from four different food trucks that were providing delicious food.

The cheerleaders from Johnson and Reagan High Schools danced and cheered together. The final score was a great evening of family fun and leadership education.

It was definitely a Win-Win!

Families enjoyed food truck service from local restaurants.





Box Tops for Education!

Submitted by Alyson Moyer

WAY TO SYNERGIZE, TIGERS!!! THE FALL COLLECTION FOR BOX TOPS IS IN AND WE RAISED \$2168.50! THAT IS 21,685 BOX TOPS THE TIGERS COLLECTED TOGETHER, WOW! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TUSCANY HEIGHTS! YOU KEPT MANY DEDICATED PTA VOLUNTEERS BUSY COUNTING BOX TOPS—WAY TO GO!

A BIG THANK YOU ALSO GOES OUT TO OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT BAHAMA BUCK'S STONE OAK, WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED ONE FREE SHAVED ICE TO EVERY STUDENT WHO TURNED IN 25 BOX TOPS. THEY ALSO GRACIOUSLY DONATED SNO BALLS FOR THE WINNING CLASS IN EACH GRADE LEVEL SO WE COULD HAVE A BLIZZARD IN OCTOBER, SO MUCH FUN! THE WINNING CLASSES IN EACH GRADE LEVEL WERE AS FOLLOWS:

KINDER - MRS. SHELBY'S CLASS (1345 BOX TOPS)
 1ST - MRS. RYAN'S CLASS (673 BOX TOPS)
 2ND - MRS. FONTENOT'S CLASS (1170 BOX TOPS)
 3RD - MRS. ANDERSON'S CLASS (944 BOX TOPS)
 4TH - MS. IMKEN'S CLASS (1367 BOX TOPS)
 5TH - MRS. BLACKLER'S CLASS (1044 BOX TOPS)

WE COULD NOT HAVE RAISED THIS MUCH MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL WITHOUT EACH AND EVERY PERSON WHO DONATED; TOGETHER WE ARE AMAZING! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF OUR INCREDIBLE SCHOOL! REMEMBER TO KEEP SAVING YOUR BOX TOPS. IN FEBRUARY, WE WILL HAVE OUR BOX TOP SHOP AGAIN. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN BEAT OUR FALL TOTAL IN THE SPRING; WE CAN DO IT IF WE SYNERGIZE!



Quinn M.,
Addison C. and
Jillian H. have a
"ball" at the
Blizzard Party!



October PTA General Meeting and Family Wellness Night

Submitted by Susan Getter

We had a great time at our October PTA Meeting where we learned more about Run for the Heights and Overall Wellness and Fitness! JC from JC Ultimate Training kicked it off with a very motivational speech about health and wellness. Then our Tigers and their families enthusiastically participated in learning jump rope techniques by the Jumping Dragons as well as fun exercises with JC Ultimate training.

We are also thankful to Fossil Creek Complete Care for being there and handing out info as well as free goodies. Each student who worked their body that night got a break for their brain with a Homework Pass. In addition, the top classes in each grade that had the most participants earned extra recess.

Kinder – Young
First – Borgeson
Second – Silvers
Third – Schons
Fourth - Forsyth
Fifth - Morrow

Overall, our 4th graders had the most participants for the night and earned the coveted THE Spirit Stick! We loved seeing our Tuscany families having a fun and healthy time together!





WATCH D.O.G.S

Join the Watch D.O.G.S. and become the "Hero of the Hallway". You will help with drop-off / pick-up, visit your child's classroom, have lunch with your child, play at recess, and WATCH the school for safety measures throughout the day. This is a GREAT way for fathers and father-figures to get involved at Tuscan Heights. There are many available days this school year for T.H.E. fathers to serve as a Watch D.O.G. If you have not been a Watch D.O.G. yet, now is the time to sign up! If you served as a Watch D.O.G. last year, please consider returning for another day!

If you have any questions, please contact
Lawrence Saiz at watchdogs@tuscanheightspta.org

For the safety of our students, NEISD requires all volunteers to submit a Volunteer Criminal History Record Check form before volunteering on any campus. You can access this form at the NEISD web site: <https://portal.neisd.net/vchrc/>. Please plan ahead and complete the form four weeks before your volunteer date. **Note: *If you applied to volunteer during previous school years (and were approved) you do not need to re-apply to volunteer for the current school year. The volunteer program will automatically resubmit your background check every 2 years.***

Virgil T. Blossom Scholarship ...for the Future of Our Children

Each year the North East Council of PTAs awards scholarships to recipients from each of the seven high schools in our district. The Virgil T. Blossom Scholarship is intended for graduating seniors who plan to study education as a profession. Recipients receive \$325 per semester for up to eight semesters, for a total of \$2,600. Many fine young people have been honored over the years, several of whom have returned to North East Independent School District (NEISD) as teachers and administrators in our schools.

Please consider making a contribution to this worthy fund. Your tax-deductible donation can be used to honor or remember someone who values education and support NEISD. What better way to honor a teacher, family member, or friend?

Visit the [Blossom Scholarship webpage](#) for more information including a [Blossom Scholarship Donation Form](#).

Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood By Shreya Fifadara (Ms. Imken's class)

I have to deal with this Covey trait every day. When I speak to people, I listen and then I explain my point of view. That is what I think is the original purpose of this trait. Most people have trouble with this, even adults, because they are not that patient. I think this trait is important because you can easily lose friends if you're not careful with both your actions and your words. When you speak, also be sure to explain yourself the right way or people might misunderstand you and take what you say the wrong way. This habit can be used in many different ways, you can use it to listen then speak, to explain yourself, or even find the right way to say things to the person you are talking to. That is why it is extremely important to use this habit in everyday life

Have you stopped to look at our fabulous new murals that decorate the halls outside the cafeteria? Artists Suzanne Paquette and Halie Koehler have done a beautiful job representing the Lighthouse goals of Tuscany Heights with their creative and artistic expression.

We hope these murals are a reminder to follow the seven habits and be a leader inside and out of the school. They also incorporate
TIGER SPIRIT!

Just another example of how T.H.E. PTA uses their funds to better and beautify our awesome school, as well as support from *amazing* volunteers in our Tiger community.



Artist Suzanne Paquette paints the "I'll Be Your Lighthouse" Mural outside the cafeteria.

The "Balance Feels Best" mural by Halie Koehler that covers the wall near the gyms.



Be The Light That Leads!

Tuscany Heights 6th Annual

GREENBACK Fundraiser

Help RAISE \$10,000

To support our school!

During the 2014-2015 school year, your Tuscany Heights PTA spent approximately **\$97.00 per student** to provide the programs, resources, and educational opportunities you know and love. Without the generous support from you, our donors, through Greenback Donations, many of the key non-budgeted items that enrich our students and school curriculum would not be possible.

Some of the programs funded by your donation this year will include:

Field Trips	Arts in Education	Student Enrichment
Author Visits	Red Ribbon Week	Grandparent's Day
Veteran's Day	Field Day	Bike Rodeo
5 th Grade EOY Celebration	Environmental Education	Watch D.O.G.S.
Much, Much More		

Be Proactive and be a leader in your child's education. Donate today.

DONATION	LEVELS
\$200 and Above	TIGER
\$150 - \$199	PLATINUM
\$100 - \$149	GOLD
\$50 - \$99	SILVER
\$25 - \$49	BRONZE

Donations may be made online at tuscanyheightspta.org with a credit card, cash or check payable to *Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA.*

Double your Greenback donation with a donation from your company's Matching Gift Program!

Contact your Human Resources Department for a Matching Gift form and program details.

Greenback Donations have been well underway since Welcome Back Night. A huge thank you to everyone who "Began With The End In Mind" and generously donated. We have met the first goal of \$2,500.00 and our students celebrated with a dance party in the classrooms. We are now working on the next goal of \$7,500.00 and **we are almost there!!** If we reach this goal, our students will get to wear their pajamas to school. When we reach \$10,000.00, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. McCurry, and Tusky will lighten the mood with a silly string fight. If you have not made your 100% tax deductible Greenback Donation yet, Put First Things First, and do it today! Let's **Synergize** and work together to do better for our children!



T.H.E. RUN FOR THE HEIGHTS

Saturday, February 27, 2016

5K Run / Walk, Kid's Fun Run & Health Fair
#RunLikeATiger

Do you own a business or work for a company that might be interested in sponsoring this year's event? For Sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jennifer Bissen at (214) 529-9524 or runfortheheights@tuscanyheightspta.org

JOIN US FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL *RUN FOR THE HEIGHTS*

Are you looking to start off 2016 with some health, fitness, wellness and FUN??? We will have it all and so much more at the **6th Annual Run for the Heights, 5K Run/Walk, Kids' Fun Run, & Health Fair**, held at Tuscany Heights Elementary, on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

Our event will kick off with pre-race warmups with JC Ultimate Training, followed by our opening ceremony and then kids of all ages sprinting their way through the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile Fun Run. All Fun Run participants will earn a prize. The chip-timed 5K is next with runners and walkers weaving their way through the challenging and hilly course around Tuscany Heights Elementary school. Using the latest timing technology from Split Second Productions, runners will be able to view their finish time as they cross the finish line. Top runners will receive medals and gift certificates from iRun, Sports Authority, YMCA, and Bricks 4 Kidz.

After the races, participants can refuel at our HEB post-race food & drink tent. Next, visit over 30 local businesses at the free Sponsor Expo & Health Fair to receive valuable wellness information, get health screenings, and sample nutritional products. Free health screenings are offered by North Central Baptist Hospital: blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and BMI. There will be plenty of kid-friendly activities from our sponsors including Lego play tables, sports activities and creative arts. You can also watch a Fitness Demo by Jumping Dragons, Victory Martial Arts, and JC Ultimate.

Run for the Heights raises funds for the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA, a 501(c) 3, while helping to promote health and wellness in the community. Volunteers from HEB, the Tuscany choir, Tuscany WatchDOGS, Tuscany staff & parents along with many other community business partners and area school student leader groups help to make this event possible. See our website for past event photos, 2015 race results, and a list of our generous sponsors at <http://runfortheheights.tuscanyheightspta.org>.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT ...

FEBRUARY 27, 2016



RUNFORTHEHEIGHTS.TUSCANYHEIGHTSPTA.ORG

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

TUSCANY HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY P.T.A.



#RUNLIKEATIGER



BE THE LIGHT THAT LEADS

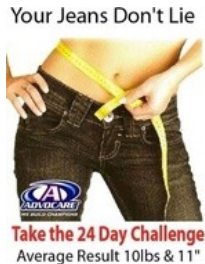
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