Upcoming Events

April 2
Open Registration for New Students

April 3 @ 6:30pm
PTA General Meeting
2012-2013 Officer Elections
2nd Grade

April 6
No School

April 12
Spring Individual Pictures

April 13-15
NEISD Used Book Sale
Littleton Gym at Blossom

April 24-25
STAAR Test 3rd & 4th grade

April 26
STAAR Test 5th grade

April 27
No School

May 1 @ 6:30pm
PTA General Meeting
1st Grade Reading Restaurant

May 4
Dave "Travelin" Davlin

May 14-18
Aloha Book Fair

May 18
All Library Books Due

May 25
Fifth Grade Pool Party

*party details on page 6*

Tuscany Heights Elementary
(210)407-8200
25001 Wilderness Oak
San Antonio, TX 78260

2nd Annual
Run For The Heights
A Success!

Submitted by Denise Jones
Article continued on page 2
On Saturday, March 3, over 900 people participated in the 2nd Annual Run for the Heights, 5K Run/Walk, Kids' Fun Run, & Health Fair, held at Tuscany Heights Elementary School.

San Antonio’s own News Anchor and Reporter from WOAI, Delaine Mathieu, emceed the event. She started the morning by joining the crowd in some pre-race warm-ups, led by Velocity Sports Performance, a Silver Sponsor. Before the runners hit the course, the Tuscany Heights Choir sang the National Anthem.

The Kids’ Fun Run was the first event with over 200 kids participating. All finishers received a Tusky commemorative pin, provided by Condor Creations, Silver Sponsor. The chip-timed 5K was next with over 550 runners completing the challenging and hilly course along Wilderness Oak. The top 3 overall males and females received medals and gift certificates from Platinum Sponsor, Dick’s Sporting Goods, and Gold Sponsor, Run On! In addition, these top runners received a Three Month Family Membership for the Mays YMCA. The first place winning time was 16:56 by Ariel Galvan, followed by Richard Hernandez in second place, and Marx Munoz in third place. The top overall female award went to former Olympian, Liza Galvan, with a winning time of 17:58. Nadine Reasoner followed Liza in second place and Dara Niemi in third. Also, Dick’s Sporting Goods provided gift certificates to the top male and female in each five year age category ranging from age 10 and under to age 70 and older. The top three males and females in each 5 year age group received medals as well. In addition, there was a special award for the top boy and girl in each grade, K-5th, provided by Gold Sponsor, Mays Family YMCA. For more race results, go to 

www.tuscanyheightspta.org/runfortheheights/
Following the races, participants had the opportunity to learn about products and services of the event sponsors at the Sponsor Expo and Health Fair. Tuscany Heights thanks all of their generous sponsors!

**Platinum Sponsors**: Dick’s Sporting Goods, Jorge Guel, DDS, City Base Dental Care, David Kiolbassa with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, and Stone Oak Vision Source.

**Gold Sponsors**: A-1 Freeman Moving, Adam Wilson Custom Homes, Advanced Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology Center, Dr. Mac and Grey Canyon Medicine, H-E-B, Helen Thompson Media & Marketing, David Ison & Sons Insurance, Kaiser Medical Management (KMM), Mays Family YMCA, North Central Baptist Hospital, Orange Leaf, Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union, Run On!, Turner Construction, and Victory Martial Arts.

**Silver Sponsors**: Condor Creations, Koko Fit Club, The Little Gym, Pediatric Orthopedics at Stone Oak, Swiss Just Products, Therapy Links, and Velocity Sports Performance.

KMM coordinated the community health fair with numerous healthcare vendors who provided free screenings and health information. One of the key healthcare providers and Gold Sponsor, North Central Baptist, offered free BP, BMI, glucose, and cholesterol screenings.

Crowds were entertained by fitness demonstrations given by the Jumping Dragons, Acrobatic Gymnastics of San Antonio (AGSA), and Gold Sponsor, Victory Martial Arts’ Team Legacy. As an added bonus, the Johnson High School Cheer Team cheered on runners and Y100 FM radio broadcast its country music on the 5K course. A variety of healthy beverages and snacks were available post-race and were provided by Gold Sponsors, H-E-B and North Central Baptist, as well as The Bagel Factory, Starbucks and Jamba Juice.

Other popular celebrities on site included Tusky, the school mascot; The H-E-B Buddy; Sparky from the Bexar Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department; and Truman from Kidsville. Special thanks to Kohl’s and H-E-B for their Community Volunteers!

After the event, one participant commented, “What a wonderful event for our community! It was so great to see all the runners and walkers lining the street; so many parents running with their kids; young and old alike sharing in the day!” Run for the Heights again met its goals of promoting a positive and healthy lifestyle, building unity within our community, and raising needed funds for the PTA. All proceeds benefit the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA, a 501(c)3, which provides programs for the students and staff throughout the year.

To see more of this event, look at our event photos on-line at:

www.tuscanyheightspta.org/runfortheheights/

Thanks to everyone who supported the 2nd Annual Run For The Heights!
Third Grade Night
"At the Movies"

It was a fun night "At the Movies" presented by the third graders in February. The students performed classic favorites from the silver screen. The evening started off with The Adams Family - snap, snap. Then we moved to The Muppets Movie with a rendition of "Rainbow Connection". The cafeteria rocked with Shrek's "I'm a Believer". "The Greatest Show on the Earth" had a fun beat and cool moves. A number of parents were caught also singing the catchy tunes!

Mr. Brown and Mrs. Neibel continue to do great work with the children and the performances just keep getting more amazing! Thank you both for all you do for the children at Tuscany Heights!

Spurs Night

On Saturday, February 4th, over 200 Tuscany Heights' students, staff, and their families, participated in Spurs Night, a Run for the Heights 5K Rally! The Tuscany Tigers started the evening sitting at courtside watching the San Antonio Spurs warm-up. At half-time, the Tigers strutted across the court with smiles and waves to a sold out stadium as the emcee announced THE's upcoming Run for the Heights. After an exciting Spurs' victory against the Oklahoma Thunder, each Tiger got to shoot a free throw on the court. Tusky even made a basket! It was a fun-filled night for all our Tigers and the victorious Spurs!
Hey Tigers!! Are you looking for some fun this Spring? Why not visit the beautiful Sumatran Tiger at the San Antonio Zoo? Habitat destruction is a threat to the Sumatran Tiger. Through our Environmental efforts with the PTA at Tuscany Heights, this year we have helped to support this cause by "adopting" the tiger at the zoo. Our school is featured on the board at the front of the zoo as a proud supporter. So go out and visit our "Tusky" and remember to help save your planet for humans and animals for years to come.

The Eco Club has big plans for Earth Week coming up in April. Look for more information to come on the fun activities we'll do to help preserve our planet!

ONE WORLD
challenge
2011 - 2012

TAPPED OUT!
protecting and conserving our water resources

Congratulations to Noelle Trost!!! Her artwork was chosen as the winner in the PTA District wide "One World Challenge"! This competition was for all students to present their best effort in communicating ideas to conserve water for our planet. Great Job Noelle and to all of the participants in the "One World Challenge"!

Honorable mentions go to Emma Reep, Sara Ealy, Rachel Rafferty, Lina Giovenella, and Elizabeth Heine. Your entries were inspiring! Please continue to think about your world when you use water and other resources and always recycle!

Go Green Tigers!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE COOLEST PARTY OF THE YEAR......

5TH GRADE GRADUATION POOL PARTY
GOLD'S GYM AT ROGERS RANCH (FORMALLY SPECTRUM)
FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2012
9:00 - 2:00
*PLAN AHEAD FOR ANY PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS, AS STUDENTS MUST RIDE SCHOOL BUS BOTH TO AND FROM PARTY*

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News from the Library
submitted by Sue Kuentz, Librarian

Our library has been enriched with the beautiful murals painted by SUZANNE PAQUETTE LINDBLAD. Suzanne began painting our technology mural in January and has just completed all 5 murals throughout the library. She is now working on her mural in our rotunda. Suzanne has been so kind and informative to all the students and staff who were given a wonderful opportunity to see her in action. She has also offered her services in the classrooms by teaching various art lessons to all grade levels. We love you Suzanne and will cherish your art forever! You have certainly brought forth the love of learning through the ancient word, the new world, Texas, and technology. I invite all of you to visit your child's library next time you're up at Tuscany Heights!

Upcoming dates from our Tiger Library:
May 10- 4th grade Battle of the Books in the Cafeteria
May 11 - 2nd grade Fairytale Bowl in the Cafeteria
May 14 - 18 Aloha Book Fair
May 18 - 3rd Grade Battle of the Books in the Cafeteria
May 18 - all students’ library books are due
Authors in the House Thanks to PTA

We had three wonderful authors share their talents, tips, and stories with all of our children in the library this year. We were all inspired to read and write our own ideas down after hearing their entertaining performances. Candace Fleming visited us in December, Kate Klise visited us in February, and storyteller, musician, author - Lucas Miller sang his science songs to us in March! These authors inspire the students, share their tips on finding ideas, writing, and finally publishing your work. I know your children left with enthusiasm and confidence they might not have had before. Thank you PTA for supporting reading and writing in a fun way! Stay tuned to next year’s visiting authors!

Fitness Facts submitted by Mrs. Burges

We are “springing into fitness” out in the PE department! Since our last newsletter, we have been working on golf and soccer. We are always impressed with the skill level of the boys and girls here at Tuscany. We will be involved in our track & field unit in the month of April, so dust off those running shoes and get ready to sprint.

Our fourth and fifth grade track meet will be held on Wednesday, May 9th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Heroes Stadium. There will be 50 fourth graders and 50 fifth graders chosen to participate in this event. Students qualify based upon their times and scores. The running events will include the 4x100 relay, 100 meter run, 200 meter run, and the 800 meter run. The field events include the softball throw, Frisbee throw, obstacle course, and the running long jump. Permissions slips will be coming home at the end of the month for those students who qualify. We would love to take everyone, but the district limits us as to how many students we can take. Come out and cheer for those boys and girls who do get selected!

Your son or daughter should have brought home their GoKids! Challenge card and slap wristband. The GoKids! Challenge is something that every elementary student in the city of San Antonio has been asked to do. We would love to see all of our students complete their cards. The challenge is for the student to move or be active for at least 60 minutes every day. We know our kids are in great shape, so this should not be much of a challenge for them. It also challenges students to drink lots of water. If they wear their bracelet in to a Valero Corner store and show it to the person at the register, they will be given a FREE 24 oz. bottle of water. They can go every day! What a deal!

This challenge lasts until April 21st. On April 22nd there will be a fun Family Field Day from 12 – 3 p.m. The location of this event has been changed to the Alamodome. There will be entertainment, field day events, and a Fitness Fair. Everything is free! We hope you will go and take advantage of this fun event.

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank our 2nd graders for their wonderful PTA performance. You were awesome! We had fun singing and doing routines at the “Fiesta Follies”. Thanks again for all your hard work!
**Staff Appreciation**

Tuscany Heights Elementary will recognize our Teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 7-11, 2012. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this special week or can set aside a few hours to donate to any of the activities we have planned please join us in the PTA room (223) Thursday, April 5th at 10am.

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**The Spotlight On**

Tuscany Heights Elementary

Tuscany Heights PTA won NEISD’s “Spotlight On” award in recognition of their new grade level writing contest. Before each PTA meeting, the students are provided with a topic and the children submit poems or short paragraphs based on the theme. The winning student presents his or her poem or paragraph as the opening message for the PTA meeting. It is wonderful to see our talented children participate in the meeting. As an added bonus, *The Invitation Chicks* provides small prizes for the winning student and his or her teacher!

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**2012-2013 PTA Slate of Officers**

as proposed by the Nominating Committee for the April 3rd Election

President - Mindy Waters
1st Vice President - Jennifer Easley
2nd Vice President Ways & Means - Lawrence P. Saiz
3rd Vice President Programs - Lacey Granato
4th Vice President Volunteers - Donna Oyler
5th Vice President Communications - Michelle Kaiman
Secretary - Denise Cunov
Treasurer - Mindy Donofrio

www.tuscanyheightspta.org
DIETICIAN'S DIARY

Submitted by Katie Mahoney, M.S., R.D., L.D.
Nutrition Education/Wellness Coordinator

Spring Cleaning for Your Kitchen!

With spring and its warmer weather upon us, you might be thinking about doing some spring cleaning in and around your house. Have you ever thought about spring cleaning your kitchen to make it healthier? What do you have in your pantry and fridge? Are they full of healthy foods and snacks with only a few treats or are they stocked with mostly treats and sweets? Think about the following questions and whether or not you need to make healthy changes by doing some spring cleaning in your kitchen.

1. What kind of foods do you have?
   - Stock your kitchen with these healthy foods: canned or dry beans, fresh or canned fruits and veggies, string cheese, brown rice, whole wheat pasta, yogurt, peanut butter, whole grain cereal or cereal bars, low fat milk, graham crackers, nuts, whole grain breads and tortillas, lean meats (chicken, turkey, fish)
   - Hide or limit access to these not-so-healthy snacks: cookies, candy, ice cream, potato chips, pastries, frozen snack items

2. What kind of beverages do you have?
   - Healthy drinks: low-fat or skim milk, water, 100% fruit juice (if proper portions are used)
   - High-sugar drinks: full-sugar sodas, sports drinks, juice drinks, energy drinks, bottled teas, Vitamin Water

3. How do you store foods?
   - To promote healthy eating: Make the healthy choice the easy choice by storing healthy foods front and center in the pantry or fridge, put unhealthy foods in hard to reach places or hide them and reserve them to be used only as a special treat, pre-portion healthy snacks into baggies to promote healthy snacking and portion control.

Orbit Earth

The gym was full of excitement on February 23rd when Trinity Science Solutions brought the Orbit Earth exhibit to Tuscany Heights. The huge inflatable Earth was hard to miss.

The students learned about the phases of the moon. As they walked true to scale moon around the Earth, a beam of light representing the sun showed how shadows are cast on the moon and Earth creating eclipses. The program also demonstrated the rotation of the Earth and how by its tilting, seasons are caused.

The upper grades got to demonstrate the orbits of the other planets, and how the moon’s gravity pulls on the oceans resulting in high and low tides.

The fifth grade teachers said the program paralleled what they were studying in science. This hands on, interactive exhibit really enhanced the curriculum.
Jawin’ with Jennifer

Tiger Families,

Here we are again on the home stretch! We have our first round of STAAR testing under our belt and lots of fun activities remaining including parties, field trips and performances. Tuscany Heights is still a happy and nurturing place to be!

Our students and staff are enjoying the fruits of our PTA fundraising efforts. Since we returned from winter break, our PTA has sponsored visits from Dance of Asian America, Trinity Science Solutions Orbit Earth, Author Kate Klise and Storyteller/Author Lucas Miller. We purchased a table for our school at the NEISD Starlight Gala. Tuscany Heights PTA is currently funding the murals being painting in our rotunda. YOUR support and contributions have made all of this possible.

Have you considered getting more involved next year? If you would like to take on a PTA committee chair position, there are many openings available. Your input and assistance will only make Tuscany an even greater place to be!!! A committee chair interest flyer will go out soon after the 4/3 PTA General Meeting. Please either return the flyer through backpack mail or shoot me or the newly elected President an email to share your talents, interests, and preferences. In the meantime, be thinking about how you want to make a difference!

Jennifer Easley - PTA President
president@tuscanyheightspta.org

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BAILEY BANTER

Parents,

As we embark into a new phase of testing, I want to let you know how proud we are of our staff and students. The teachers have worked hard to prepare curriculum based activities/assignments and prepared the students for what lies ahead in the curriculum. The students have worked so hard and I know they will and have put their best efforts into doing well. Again, I am extremely proud of the commitment from our staff and students.

We are enjoying the sprinkle of spring weather and that means the year is moving toward the end. As we begin registering new students and preparing our current students for next year, please know that we are all collaborating to make class placement decisions that will be in the best interest of your child(ren). If you do not have your email in our system, please share that info with us. This will ensure that you are getting the weekly eBlasts.

As always, I am truly grateful to be part of the Tuscany Heights Family. I am so appreciative of the talent we have here. The staff and students never cease to amaze me, from Leader in Me Leaders, Young Masters, Reflections, to the District Spelling Bee. Our Tiger Family rises to the top!

Thank you,
Tara Bailey