

Tuscany Heights Elementary

April 23rd - April 26th

April 27th: HOLIDAY-NO SCHOOL

Parents,

Please be aware that we have 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade STAAR Testing this week! We will have a "Closed Campus" on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to respect our students by creating a quiet, secure learning (testing) environment. Thank you for honoring this request!

Due to testing, we will have the following schedule for specials:

April 24th and 25th:

8:45-9:35 5th Grade

9:35-10:25 Kinder

10:25- 11:15 1st Grade

11:50-12:40 2nd Grade

1:10- 1:50 4th Grade

1:50-2:30 3rd Grade

April 26th:

8:45-9:35 3rd Grade

9:35-10:25 1st Grade

10:25- 11:15 4th Grade

11:50-12:40 2nd Grade

12:40-1:30 Kinder

1:35-2:25 5th Grade

If you have a student testing, please find some helpful testing reminders below.

*Thank you,
Tara Bailey*

STAAR

April 24th

3rd and 4th Grade Math STAAR

April 25th

3rd and 4th Grade Reading STAAR

April 26th

5th Grade Science STAAR

STAAR testing will be on April 24th and 25th for all 3rd and 4th graders, and April 25th all 5th grade students will test. We would like to make you aware of a significant change in the timing of this year's state testing. The STAAR test will be a **timed test**, unlike the TAKS from previous years. Beginning around 8:15, every child will have **4 hours** to complete the test, and at the end of the 4 hour time block, all tests will be picked up. Please help us communicate with the students how important it will be to use their time wisely!

With testing days fast approaching, here are some other things to consider:

- Cell phones will not be allowed in the testing rooms. If your child brings a cell phone to school, it will be taken up, labeled, and given to an administrator.
- Have your child get a good night's sleep before test day.
- Eat a good breakfast the day of testing. Our students will be testing straight through a four hour time period. Around 12:15 or 12:30, testing will be over and our 4th and 5th graders will go to lunch. This lunch time is a little later than normal for some classes.
- Children will be allowed to take water and bathroom breaks. Unfortunately, any breaks taken in the four hour window will result in less testing time, so we have been encouraging students to use their time wisely.
- In order for our students to get the most out of our 4 hour time block, we are not having our normal snack break on testing days. It is important the students get a great breakfast and have lots of healthy food for post-test!
- Have students pack a lunch or plan to eat a sack lunch at school the day of testing. Also, students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to have in the back of the classroom in case they get thirsty. Water bottles are not allowed on student desks.

The teachers and students have worked so hard this year! STAAR is great opportunity for our bright students to show what they know! Thank you for all of your support at home preparing our students for the testing days. We are so proud of our Tuscany Tigers!

Cell phone and Electronic Games

We have noticed a large number of students using their cell phones and/or electronic devices at school. Please see the section below from the NEISD Student/Parent Handbook. We understand the safety that cell phones provide for our students when traveling to/from school, but we will adhere to the policies below during the instructional day and/or school-related events.

“During the instructional day, or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities, on or off school property, during school hours, a cell phone/telecommunication device that is not being used as a technology resource for approved academic purposes, and/or the principal or his/her designee has not given permission to use the cell phone/telecommunication device, the device must remain **turned off and not visible during the school day. The use of cell phones/camera phones/cameras/telecommunication device is strictly prohibited at all times in locker rooms or restroom areas or any other area where personal privacy is an expectation at any time** while at school or at school-related or school-sponsored events.”

“Consequences

District employees shall confiscate any cell phone/telecommunication device or wireless communication device that is not being used for appropriate educational purposes or is a distraction to the educational environment, such as, an auditory alert during the instructional day and/or school related activities. Confiscated cell phones/telecommunication devices will be given to a campus administrator. The campus administrator will notify a parent/guardian to arrange for a face to face conference to discuss the misuse/violation that has occurred and the consequence for the violation. At the conference the cell phone/telecommunication device will be returned to the parent/guardian. In certain cases an exception may apply to this practice, ie. the device is considered evidence, the device is confiscated until the investigation is completed. Students misusing a cell phone/telecommunication device, and/or refusing to surrender their phone to a District employee due a violation of the District’s cell phone rules and expectations shall be subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct that will range from a warning up to an assignment to an Alternative Educational Program in cases of serious and/or persistent misbehavior.”

Upcoming Events:

Calendar:

<i>April 24th</i>	<i>3rd and 4th Grade Math STAAR Test</i>
<i>April 25th</i>	<i>3rd and 4th Grade Reading STAAR Test</i>
<i>April 26th</i>	<i>5th Grade Science STAAR Test</i>
<i>April 27th</i>	<i>No School: Battle of the Flowers</i>
<i>May 1st</i>	<i>PTA General Meeting- 1st Grade Reading Restaurant</i>
<i>May 4th</i>	<i>PTA Presents: Dave “Travelin’” Davlin (8:15 & 9:15)</i>

May 10th 4th Grade Battle of the Books in the Cafeteria 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.
May 11th 2nd Grade Fairytale Bowl in the Cafeteria 8:30-9:30 a.m.
May 14-18th Aloha Book Fair
May 16th and 17th Eat for a Cause at MOOYAH's
May 18th 3rd Grade Battle of the Books 1:20-2:20 pm

May 25th 5th Grade End of the Year Party:
***All volunteers and visitors MUST be wearing a RAPTOR Badge in order to attend. You can stop by or call the school in advance to arrange for your badge pick-up. This is to ensure that all attendants are safe to be around our children. Thank you for your support!

PTA News to Remember

Join T.H.E. PTA Executive Board for 2012-2013: We still have committee chair positions open for the upcoming school year and need your help to keep our PTA effective and productive. These positions are still open: ADEPT; Bulletin Board; Watch DOGS; Directory Data/Tributes; Eat for a Cause; Field Day; Campus Beautification; Hospitality; and Newsletter. No experience necessary-we just need volunteers who are willing and eager to reach new heights at Tuscany! Please e-mail Mindy Waters 1stvp@tuscanyheightspta.org. Thank you!

ATTENTION 5th Grade Parents: Honoring All Student Volunteers!!! It is not too late to register for the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards! This Award is given to children (of any age) for participating in non-paid service hours! Maybe your child is in Patrols, Newspaper Club, Broadcasting, has tutored younger children, volunteered at your religious organization?? As long as they have not received payment and they are volunteering their time, they are eligible for this wonderful award! The hours for this award started May 1st, 2011 and end April 30th, 2012!!! Our WONDERFUL PE staff and other faculty mentors retain attendance records and are willing to verify hours of service! However, please do not wait for the last minute to gather all of your hours, you only need 50 hours to be recognized!!

In order to apply for the PVSA through T.H.E., simply go to T.H.E. PTA website (www.tuscanyheightspta.org) and look for President's Volunteer Service Award under the Events heading. The award for T.H.E. is for children 14 & younger earning 50 hours of volunteer time. The submission deadline is April 30th. An honor reception will follow on May 17th at 7:15 am in T.H.E. Library. If you have questions, please contact our PVSA Chairman, Gwenn Reep, at gsreep@gmail.com.