

# *Tuscany Heights Elementary*

*December 23<sup>rd</sup> - January 6<sup>th</sup>*

Parents,

*We are so grateful for the wonderful volunteers we have here at Tuscany Heights Elementary. Given the horrific incident that occurred in CT, we realize that it takes a community to provide the safest environment for which our students will thrive. I appreciate the calls and emails that I have received to share your gratitude and concerns for our school. A special “Thank You” goes out to our WatchDOGS for walking the perimeter multiple times to ensure safety these last few days.*

*Your children have been designing snowflakes to send to CT. It is happening all across the nation to build a winter wonderland for the Sandy Hook Elementary children. We would love to send even more! The thought of our children’s love being spread throughout the hallways of Sandy Hook warms my heart. Thank you for your help!*

*I recently nominated a group of individuals for Superintendent’s Awards for devoting great efforts to our school. Please see below for a small note, but visit [www.neisd.net](http://www.neisd.net), community link, superintendent’s awards for more details.*

*\*Mindy Waters, Jennifer Easley, Mindy Donofrio, Lawrence Saiz—The Tech Trek Team that helped organize and foster the fundraiser for student technology.*

*\* Doug and Suzanne Opersteny, The WatchDOGS Team Leaders, organizing and leading this successful program for our campus.*

*\*Karen Wooster— For spending countless hours of her time in our school library.*

*\*Manuel Marquez—A grandfather that is dedicated to the safety of our children every morning and afternoon, so he helps with our crosswalks daily.*

*\*Johnny Melendez— A dad that is dedicated to the safety of our children during cafeteria time. He monitors and helps our children for lunch daily. He also responded to an emergency situation last year when a child was choking.*

*We love our families here at Tuscany Heights Elementary!*

*Thank you,  
Tara Bailey*

## Upcoming Events

January 7 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Presents Matthew McElligot
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Morning ONLY ---Class & Club Pictures
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Afternoon Only --Club Pictures
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Awards Assembly
	Written Spelling Bee for 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Run for the Heights 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual SPURS Night
	Oral Spelling Bee
January 21 <sup>st</sup>	No School--Student & Staff Holiday
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Conversation Hearts: Go on SALE
February 4 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ronald McDonald Hearts
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	PTA General Mtg
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Happy Valentine's Day
	No Parties
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Student Holiday/ Professional Development for Staff
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Presents Mark Rothstein (Jump Rope)
February 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> , & 28 <sup>th</sup>	EARLY RELEASE DAYS
	Students Dismiss at 12:40pm

## Helpful Information

### Welcome New Staff

Angel Alcocer- Data Processor

Marian Riddles- Clinic Assistant

Hector Fernandez- Special Education Teacher

Jessica Weber- Special Education Assistant

### School Choice

School choice forms should be here soon.

The window for returning school choice forms will be

January 7<sup>th</sup> - February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## *Leader in Me*

*We will host another Leader in Me Night on January 29<sup>th</sup> ---Football Themed Night!*

## *Run for the Heights*

*We are getting excited as our team of volunteers start planning for the big event, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope you will run with us! See the "PTA News to Remember" section below for more details.*

## *Watch D.O.G.S.*

A Tuscan Heights Watch DOGS dad recently stated: ***"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."***

Dads, uncles, granddads, step-dads—Tuscan Heights needs you to continue making an impact this spring semester!

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is an innovative program launched at Tuscan Heights this year which has enabled fathers and father-figures to be a positive male role model and to provide an extra set of eyes and ears--and the results have been astounding.

If you have not been a Watch DOG yet, now is the time to sign up! If you have already served as a Watch DOG this year, please consider returning for another day!

Simply contact the Watch D.O.G.S. coordinators at [watchdogs@tuscanheightspta.org](mailto:watchdogs@tuscanheightspta.org) and request information on how to sign up for your day of service. You will be able to view a presentation about the program, ask questions, order your official Watch D.O.G.S. t-shirt, then allow you to register and pick your day to be the "Hero of the Hallway." **Please note that for the safety of our children and staff, you must complete the NEISD Criminal Background Check (a.k.a. "DPS Clearance") in order to volunteer.**

Your PTA Watch DOGS coordinators, Doug and Suzanne Opersteny, are ready to serve! They may be contacted at [watchdogs@tuscanheightspta.org](mailto:watchdogs@tuscanheightspta.org), or call them at [\(210\) 381-2632](tel:(210)381-2632).

## *PTA News to Remember*

**Snowflakes for Sandy Hook Elementary School-due by Tuesday morning, 1/8/13:** The Connecticut PTSA has met with the PTA and community leaders in Newtown and Sandy Hook Elementary to offer their assistance at this very difficult time, and decided to spearhead a simple, yet very meaningful, project for Sandy Hook students. Students all over are asked to create snowflakes to help the students of Sandy Hook have a winter wonderland at their new school. Please be creative and make a snowflake with your child over the winter break. We hope this activity will provide meaningful and supportive conversation with your own kids and allow them an opportunity to reach out and help other students so far away. Many Tuscany kids have been working on these snowflakes at school as well, but we encourage your family to make a special snowflake together. Get creative-no two snowflakes are alike! We will have collection boxes in the front hallway of the school on Monday, Jan. 7th, and Tuesday, Jan. 8th. All snowflakes will be mailed Tuesday morning to arrive in CT by January 12. Thank you for supporting Sandy Hook!

**THE PTA Presents....Author Matthew McElligott, Monday, 1/7/13:** Author and illustrator, Matthew McElligott, will be visiting our campus on January 7th and sharing his expert skills in reading, writing, and illustrating. Please contact our Library chair, Karen Wooster, [library@tuscanheightspta.org](mailto:library@tuscanheightspta.org), for more info.

**Start training January 7th for Run for the Heights:** Join a neighborhood running/walking group to get ready for the 3rd Annual Run for the Heights, 5K Run/Walk, Kids' Fun Run & Health Fair, scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2013. Groups will begin training the week of January 7th through race week. All ages and abilities welcome. E-mail Shelley Berke at [berkeshelley@yahoo.com](mailto:berkeshelley@yahoo.com) or visit our website at [runfortheheights.tuscanheightspta.org](http://runfortheheights.tuscanheightspta.org).

**3rd Annual Run for the Heights 5K Run/Walk, Kids' Fun Run & Health Fair Saturday, February 23, 2013:** Mark your calendars for another fun and exciting morning of health and wellness. Events begin at 8:00 a.m. Come for the race and stay for the fun at the Health Fair, Sponsor Expo, & Fitness Demonstrations. There is something for all ages at Run for the Heights! To learn more and to register now, go to <http://runfortheheights.tuscanheightspta.org/>. All proceeds benefit the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA, a 501(c)3.

**SAVE THE DATE- Tuscany Heights Night at the Spurs-January 18:** Come join Tusky and your Tuscany Tiger friends on Friday, January 18th, at the AT&T Center to promote Run for the Heights and watch the Spurs game. Students will have special opportunities to have a pre-game courtside experience, walk on the court during halftime, and shoot a basket after the game. You don't want to miss this fun evening! Forms will be sent home the week of January 7th. Go Tigers Go!

