

Tuscany Heights Elementary

February 20th - February 24th

Monday, February 20th--- Student Holiday---NO SCHOOL

Parents,

We had a rainy day on Friday, February 17th. Please know that I appreciate your patience as we worked diligently to get your children safely to the appropriate car. With that said, it was still a bit chaotic. We are working to streamline a plan in the event it is raining during dismissal time (which will happen). Please note that your child's normal means of transportation will remain the same on a rainy day UNLESS you request a change of transportation for that particular day. Student safety is a priority for me and my campus as I am sure you understand. Friday posed some confusion with all the rain, cars, and parents coming in and out of the school to take their children; therefore, we will be working as a campus to implement a more effective and efficient dismissal plan.

*Thank you,
Tara Bailey*

Upcoming Events:

Author Katie Klise Visits: Friday, February 24th

We are "Dying to Meet You" Kate Klise! Ever since we read your Texas Bluebonnet nominated book *Dying to Meet You (43 Old Cemetery Road #1)* we just can't get enough of your stories! You have literally written books for all ages (picture books, chapter books, and nonfiction books)

Our young students laughed so hard when reading *Little Rabbit and the Meanest Mother on Earth!* Our older students cannot wait to get their hands on *Till Death Do Us Bark!* Many of her books have won several awards. Please visit her at <http://www.kateandsarahklise.com/>.

Kate shows young children how a simple idea can become a book, and how a homemade book is always the perfect gift to make for the holidays. When presenting to older students (grades 3-6), Kate focuses on the writing process: where she gets her ideas, how she writes her rough drafts, why the art of rewriting is

so critical, and—yes. Kate explains the classic elements of storytelling, including the importance of sending characters on journeys.

To take a closer look at her books, please visit the Tuscany Heights Library.

Leader in Me (Lighthouse School) Night: Tuesday, February 28th 6:30pm

You are invited to join Tuscany Heights in a first annual "Leader in Me" event! We have a long range goal to become a Leader in Me/ Lighthouse School. With your help, we are building student leaders. Come one, come all....

We are excited to introduce a new leadership model for our students at Tuscany Heights as we become a "Lighthouse" school, leading the way for others to follow. The Leadership model that we are teaching is based on Stephen Covey's book, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. We use a children's version of the book, The 7 Habits of Happy Kids, to teach the 7 Habits, which are: 1) Be Proactive, 2) Begin with the End in Mind, 3) Put First Things First, 4) Think Win Win, 5) Seek 1st to Understand, and then to be Understood, 6) Synergize, and 7) Sharpen the Saw. This leadership model is a bit of a paradigm shift for many of us, and it may be for you, too. The premise is that all children are leaders – not just a few. A child may be a leader in a number of different ways. One might be a leader in scholastic achievement, one might be a leader in good behavior, and one might be a leader in compassion toward others. Each child will be encouraged to find his or her areas of **strength** and be a leader in the class in that area. As a faculty and staff, we will be looking for ways to give meaningful jobs to students so that they can develop their natural leadership abilities. From our curriculum, we learn that **a leader is someone who makes good choices, has a plan for their life, gets along well with others, and uses their talents and strengths to solve problems.**

The old leadership model that many of us grew up with is one in which there is one leader who is in control of the classroom. The teacher performed that role, and everyone else did what the teacher said to do. In the **Leader in Me** model, every child is given a leadership role in the classroom and is encouraged to practice the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People every day. We encourage you to come to our Parent Night to learn more about the 7 Habits, and how your children are using them to become our next generation of leaders.

If your child is not a leader for this event, we still encourage you and your child to come and participate. You can help us find the strengths and join us in our efforts to support your child in leadership roles. This process is a 3 year plan for Tuscany Heights, and we hope that all of our students will become leaders that everyone can learn from, even myself.

KINDER ROUND-UP Date: Wednesday, March 7th 8:00 a.m.

Bring your 2012-2013 Kinder student to Tuscany Heights! We will meet in the cafeteria first where the students will be greeted by volunteers to work with them on a special craft while all parents are invited to meet the Kinder Teachers. All parents will meet in the library with all of the T.H.E. Kinder teachers and hear all the fun Kindergarten information. This will not be the time to register, but a great way to get to know the staff and the Kinder expectations.

Registration will be March 26th!
Pre-K registration will begin the first week of August!

Environmental Awareness Contest: Wednesday, March 9th Deadline

Similar to the recent Reflections contest, our Northeast Council of PTA's is offering an environmental awareness "One World Challenge." If your student is interested in this activity, please see the attached student entry form. There are informational/guideline documents located in the front office as well as student entry forms. All students may enter into the "visual" category, and 3rd-5th grade may enter into additional categories if desired.

Please take note of the deadline of submission. All projects will be due to our school by Friday, March 9th.

Calendar:

February 20th President's Day (Student Holiday/Teacher Staff Development)

February 23rd PTA Orbit Earth

February 24th Author Visit: Katie Klise

February 28th Leader in Me Night

March 3rd Run for the Heights (See PTA News section below for details)

March 9th Author Visit: Lucas Miller

March 12th-16th Spring Break

March 23rd Report Cards

March 26th 5th Grade Math STAAR Test

March 27th 4th Grade Writing Day 1 Test; 5th Grade Reading STAAR Test

March 28th 4th Grade Writing Day 2 Test

April 12th Spring Individual Pictures

April 24th 3rd and 4th Grade Math STAAR Test

April 25th 3rd and 4th Grade Reading STAAR Test

April 26th 5th Grade Science STAAR Test

PTA News to Remember

Run for the Heights, 5K Run/Walk, Kids' Fun Run, & Health Fair, Saturday, March 3, 2012!!!

The PTA wants to thank all of the students who participated in the class contest to register the most participants for Run for the Heights. Congratulations to Mrs. Cervenka's Kindergarten Class, who won Phase I of the contest, and Miss Johnson's 5th grade class, who won Phase II. Both these classes will enjoy a party at Lifetime Fitness with rock climbing, games and food! Thanks to everyone for bringing in over 450 registrations for the contest!

If you haven't registered yet for Run for the Heights, register by February 15th to receive early bird registration rates, a race T-shirt and Goodie Bag! 5K prices increase on 2/16. Go to www.tuscanyheightspta.org/runfortheheights to register on-line or download a registration form.

Box Tops Contest Success! We have had another very successful Box Tops Contest. Our goal was to raise \$1500 and we brought in \$1951! A BIG Tusky thank you to everyone who participated. Whether you brought in 10 or 100 Box Tops, they all add up! Congratulations to our class winners: Mrs. Borgeson: 903, Mrs. Lunsford: 878, Mrs. Branch: 862. These three classes have won extra recess for an entire week. They will also get a special visit from Tusky on Valentine's Day. He will bring each student a bag of goodies and chocolates and flowers for the teacher. He might even ask her for a dance! Again, many thanks for supporting our PTA with this fundraiser and a BIG thank you to the volunteers who helped us count. Keep clipping!

PTA Officer Interest Survey: It's time to begin the process of filling the Tuscany Heights PTA Officer positions for the 2011-2012 school year. If you are interested in serving in one of the officer positions making you a member of PTA Board, please read and complete the attached *Tuscany Heights PTA Officer Interest Survey 2011-12* form. Committee chair positions will be filled after the April 3rd election.

5th Grade What-a-year! Wednesdays: ATTENTION FIFTH GRADERS!!! Be Sure to wear your Graduation t-shirts every Wednesday on "What-a-year! Wednesdays" through the end of the school year. Show your senior Tiger pride!

Used Book Sale - We will begin collecting books soon for the NEISD Used Book Sale PTA Fundraiser. Last year, we collected 6,000 and came in second for the most books collected. We'd love to get 1st place this year and raise the most money for our school programs! We will have more information regarding this event soon.



**Tuscany Heights PTA
Officer Interest Survey
2011-2012 School Year**

It's time to begin the process of filling the Tuscany Heights PTA Officer positions for the 2011-2012 school year. The nominating committee is charged with presenting the general membership with their officer recommendations at the April 3rd PTA meeting.

If you are interested in serving in one of the officer positions, please complete the form below and email it to Maria Hubard ad.v@me.com or return it to the front office in a sealed envelope labeled "PTA OFFICER NOMINATION" by Friday, March 2nd. If you have prior volunteer experience that you feel is pertinent to the office you are seeking, please feel free to include it with your form. The Committee Chair will contact each person selected and ask for their acceptance before names are officially submitted.

Name _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Email _____

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| _____ President | _____ 3 rd VP Programs | _____ Secretary |
| _____ 1 st VP Aide | _____ 4 th VP Volunteers | _____ Treasurer |
| _____ 2 nd VP Ways & Means | _____ 5 th VP Communications | |

The President will APPOINT the Parliamentarian and Historian after the election in April. Please indicate if you are interested in either appointment.

_____ Parliamentarian _____ Historian

Each position is briefly described on the following page. If you have questions regarding any of the officer positions, you may speak directly to the person currently holding that position at your school. Questions? Contact Maria Hubard at ad.v@me.com.



Tuscany Heights PTA Officer Descriptions

President – Presides at regular and executive board meetings. Acts as a representative for the Tuscany Heights PTA at the council, district, state and national level. Coordinates work of board members and many “unassigned” duties.

1st Vice President – Aide – Assists the President, officers and committee chairman. Oversees the preparation for Meet the Teacher night activities at the beginning of the school year.

2nd Vice President – Ways & Means– Organizes and/or oversees all fundraisers, serves on disbursement and budget committee. Also, researches and supports fundraisers that directly benefit the school.

3rd Vice President – Programs - Arranges all program speakers and/or activities for regular meetings. Assists with all program related activities at school including T.H.E. PTA Presents.

4th Vice President – Volunteers –Sets up system to collect volunteer information, maintains lists, and organizes volunteers for school activities and workrooms. Assists committee chairs in managing their volunteer requests. Submits volunteer hours to district offices. Recognizes outstanding volunteers.

5th Vice President –Communications - Oversee all PTA communications including newsletter, website and Welcome Home submissions.

Secretary – Records the minutes of the regular and executive board meetings. Makes reminder calls to executive committee members.

Treasurer – Keeps an accurate and complete account of money received and spent, writes checks, balances the checkbook, prepares monthly financial states and fills out tax forms.

Parliamentarian – Knows parliamentary procedure, familiar with our bylaws and the *Robert’s Rules of Order*, advises President on questions of parliamentary law. Reviews and updates local PTA’s bylaws, standing rules and committee chair’s duty listing as necessary. Coordinates the formation of a nominating committee.

Historian – Collects and preserves all articles, awards and mementos into a book. Takes photos at school and PTA events. Distributes photos in a timely manner to all who have an appropriate use for them.



ONE WORLD challenge

2011 – 2012

TAPPED OUT! PROTECTING AND CONSERVING OUR WATER RESOURCES

Visual Solution

- Primary** (Pre-K - 2nd Grade)
- Intermediate** (3rd Grade – 5th Grade)
- Middle/Junior** (6th Grade – 8th Grade)
- Senior** (9th Grade – 12th Grade)

Essay Solution

- Intermediate** (3rd Grade – 5th Grade)
- Middle/Junior** (6th Grade – 8th Grade)
- Senior** (9th Grade – 12th Grade)

Title of work (required) _____

Resources used for research _____

Please type or print legibly (black ink preferred)

All information required. Information will not be shared with outside parties.

Name of Student _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____ City, ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I affirm that this is my own creative work. I understand if my work advances to the State level, the entry will not be returned and could be used by Texas PTA partners for promotional purposes. PTA includes the National, State, Area, Council, and Local PTA/PTSA. I grant PTA permission to use my works for commercial or noncommercial use, including but not limited to public presentation of the work and reproduction of the work in print, electronic, and multimedia formats. PTA may continue to use my work as long as it has access to the original or a copy. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged works. I understand that I must participate in the One World Challenge through a PTA/PTSA in good standing. I understand that the submission of my entry into the One World Challenge constitutes acceptance of the above conditions.

Student Signature

Parent Signature (Required if student is under 18 years)

To be completed by your Local PTA	
Name of Local PTA (no abbreviations) _____	
City _____	Council PTA (if applicable) _____
Local PTA Contact Name _____	
Phone _____	Email _____



ONE WORLD challenge

2011 – 2012

TAPPED OUT! PROTECTING AND CONSERVING OUR WATER RESOURCES

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Audio Video

Intermediate (3rd Grade – 5th Grade) **Middle/Junior** (6th Grade – 8th Grade) **Senior** (9th Grade – 12th Grade)

Title of work (required) _____

Music used (title, composer, performer) _____

Please type or print legibly (black ink preferred)

All information required. Information will not be shared with outside parties.

Single Student Group Additional students listed on a separate form (staple to first form)

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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Name of Student _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____ City, ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Student Signature _____ Parent Signature _____
(Required if student is under 18 years)

Name of 2nd Student _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____ City, ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Student Signature _____ Parent Signature _____
(Required if student is under 18 years)

Name of 3rd Student _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____ City, ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Student Signature _____ Parent Signature _____
(Required if student is under 18 years)

To be completed by your Local PTA	
Name of Local PTA (no abbreviations) _____	
City _____	Council PTA (if applicable) _____
Local PTA Contact Name _____	
Phone _____	Email _____