

Tuscany Heights Elementary

March 12th - March 23rd

Parents,

We hope that you enjoy this week off with your family!

*Thank you,
Tara Bailey*

Upcoming Events:

**March 27th and 28th
STAAR Testing for 4th and 5th Grades**

A Note to Parents about STAAR

Parents,

STAAR testing will be on March 27th and 28th for 4th and 5th graders. 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. 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!

NCLB Report Cards (Campus Report Cards):

The 2010-2011 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Report Cards for State, District, and campus-levels have now been made available by the Texas Education Agency. If you would like to view it, please see one of the bulleted options the district has made accessible:

- Direct links to the State, District, and campus report cards are posted on our website located at http://www.neisd.net/neisinfo/NCLB/NCLB_2010_2011.htm.
- On the NEISD homepage, you will find a button labeled No Child Left Behind (NCLB) that is also connected to the above link (the button can be found in the lower left-hand corner of our homepage).
- Hard copies of report cards are available for viewing by parents/guardians and the general public at the information desk on the 1st floor of the NEEC building.
- Parents/guardians of all students will be notified about the availability of the report cards through a District Wide Parent Link Rapid Communication System Message to be announced on Sunday, March 4, 2012.

Calendar:

March 23rd Report Cards

March 27th 5th Grade Math STAAR Test

4th Grade Writing Day 1 Test;

March 28th 5th Grade Reading STAAR Test

4th Grade Writing Day 2 Test

April 2nd Open Registration for New Kinder-5th Grade Students

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

5th Grade Party Planning Kick-Off Meeting: We will be having an **informational meeting on Thursday March 22, 2012 at 9am in the PTA Room** (upstairs, end of the fifth grade hallway, next to GT room) for all parents who are interested in helping out

this year with the 5th Grade Party. The Date and the Place Are Set! (May 25, 2012 at Spectrum Rogers Ranch) All We Need is YOU to help make this a Great Event!

If you have any questions, please contact Fifth Grade Activities PTA Chair, Jill Dorn, at 5thgradeactivities@tuscanheightspta.org.

WANTED: YOUR USED BOOKS!!! The Tuscan Heights PTA Used Books Sale Committee will be collecting used books **from Monday, 3/5 through Friday, 3/23**. Donated books should be in good condition and DVDs should have covers. We do not accept VHS tapes of any kind, games, puzzles, coloring books, chick-fil-a books, encyclopedias, NEISD books, library books and magazines.

Collections bins will be located near bus drop off and the front entry. Bags with donated books should be labeled with Student Name, Teacher Name & # of books. Pre-printed labels will be sent out in a flyer the week of 3/5.

We will be having class contests! The top 3 classes will be awarded a Popsicle party with extra recess! Not only do the winning teachers get to wear jeans for a week, but they get money to spend on their classrooms! The 1st place class will receive \$50, 2nd place \$30 and 3rd place \$20.

If you have any questions, please contact PTA Used Book Sale Chair, Elizabeth Longenecker, at booksale@tuscanheightspta.org.