

May 2012

Volume 2, Issue 7

# TUSCANY HEIGHTS GROWLIN' GOOD NEWS

## Upcoming Events

### May 30

*End Of Year Parties*

PreK (am) 9:20am

PreK (pm) 1:15pm

Kinder 1:30-2:30pm

1st grade 12:15-1:15pm

2nd grade 9:00-10:00am

3rd grade 1:00-2:00pm

4th grade 11:00am-12:00pm

5th grade Ceremony at 8:15am

### August 21

*Meet the Teacher/Orientation*

**5-6pm** First Grade

**6-7pm** Third Grade

**7-8pm** Fifth Grade

### August 23

*Meet the Teacher/Orientation*

**5-6pm** Kindergarten

**6-7pm** Second Grade

**7-8pm** Fourth Grade

### August 27

First Day of School

Yahoo/Boohoo Breakfast

### September 4 @ 6:30pm

PTA General Meeting

### September 7

Grandparents Day

### September 17

WatchDOGS Pizza Night

### September 18

Volunteer Coffee Orientation

*Tuscany Heights Elementary  
(210)407-8200*

*25001 Wilderness Oak  
San Antonio, TX 78260*

## TRAVELIN' DAVLIN DAZZLES TIGERS

Submitted by Becky Westlund

Tuscany Heights students and faculty got a special treat Friday, May 4th. T.H.E. PTA Presents brought Dave "Travelin" Davlin in for an entertaining and inspiring assembly. The program started off with Dave showing off his amazing basketball skills. He performed all sorts of dribbling, spinning, and juggling tricks. He even juggled two basketballs and an apple, feeding the apple to a lucky student at the same time. In one part of the program, he had another student hold two spinning basket balls, while he spun a third on the student's head. The crowd went wild!

In 1990, Dave made it into the Guinness Book of World Records for spinning 12 basketballs on his body. He told the students that the book only told about this one achievement. It did not tell about the hundreds of times he failed. He wanted them to know how important it is to practice, not give up, and believe in yourself. He talked about making good choices, and always striving to do your best.

Tuscany Heights is a wonderful school, and we are so lucky to have programs like this that energize and emphasize our good habits through amazement and laughter.

If you would like to know more about Dave Davlin, or watch some of his thrilling basketball stunts, visit his website at [davedavlin.com](http://davedavlin.com)



[www.tuscanyheightspta.org](http://www.tuscanyheightspta.org)

## OUR AMAZING TIGER AUTHORS

The PTA introduced a new writing contest this past year. Before each meeting, the performing grade level is given a prompt and asked to write a short paragraph or a poem based on the given topic. The spring semester PTA contests showcased our first, second and third graders. Tuscany Heights has great writers! It has been a joy to see these talented children read their entries on the morning announcements and at the PTA meetings.

Thank you to all the teachers that participated in this new program. We hope you have had fun with the contests. A special thank you to all the wonderful PTA parents who volunteered to be our judges each month! The feedback has been great and the PTA is very proud to promote writing creativity among our students.

### SECOND GRADE

We kicked off spring in April with a winning poem by Angelia Sterrett from Ms. Branch's second grade class.

#### Spring Poem

by Angelia Sterrett

*I like spring because the  
air flows through my hair.  
And the flowers bloom  
in the green grass.  
The leaves on the trees look nice.  
And the sun is so bright  
in the sky it shines.  
And the birds singing  
such a pretty tune.*

### FIRST GRADE

First grader Cameron Anderson from Mrs. Lunsford's class shared just how great our Tuscany Heights teachers are at our May meeting.

#### Tuscany Heights Teachers are the Best

By Cameron Anderson

Because they are so helpful and awesome, they are just delightful and really good to me and my classmates. They go infinity and beyond and I just love Tuscany Heights teachers. They just incredibly rock the whole entire school. They plan fun and cool activities like math, science, recess, and some other things like Spanish, art, and music, and then we go home. It makes me miss my teachers. I want to be at school all the time.

### THIRD GRADE

Representing third grade at our February meeting was contest winner Zaarah Azad from Ms. Herrera's class.

#### Friendship at Tuscany Heights

by Zaarah Azad

A good friend is  
someone who is nice to you  
when you cry.

A good friend is  
someone who misses  
you when you are away.

A good friend is  
someone who respects when  
people treat you badly.

A good friend is  
always there when  
you feel very lonely.

A good friend is someone who  
helps you when you're  
having trouble with  
friends.

This is a friend that  
you will find at  
Tuscany Heights.

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.®

The PTA would like to thank Kimbree Camp and The Invitation Chicks for providing great prizes for the student winners and their teachers this year. It has been wonderful to recognize their efforts in this way.

Thank you, Kimbree!



[www.tuscanyheightspta.org](http://www.tuscanyheightspta.org)

# Tuscany Heights, Stayin' Green

The Tigers at Tuscany Heights Elementary had an amazing Earth Week! The week began with the student body participating in a "Trash Free" lunch. The top classes received extra recess time. Can you believe that two classes were completely trash free? A shout out to Ms. Potter and Ms. Forsyth's classes.

The other class winners were:

**Kindergarten: Ms. Young**

**1st:Ms. Schmidt**

**2nd:Ms. Pantuso**

**3rd:Ms. Balcar, Ms. Herrera, Ms. Kramer**

**4th:Ms. Potter and Ms. Forsyth.**

**Special recognition for Ms Potter's class with 14!!! cloth napkins!**

**5th:Ms. Johnson**

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In honor of Earth Week, the Tuscany Heights PTA purchased and had planted a new tree for the campus. A warm thank you to Matt Romo with M.R. Landscape for planting the tree for us! The founding Eco Club at Tuscany Heights completed many tasks during the week, helping to make Tuscany green. Stickers were placed on all light switches and water sources throughout the school as a reminder to students and faculty to conserve our resources. Eco Club promoted environmental awareness during the Tuscany 5K run while recycling all plastic bottles for the event. The club is actively promoting our EcoRewards recycling and paper retriever programs throughout the school and community.



**Stay Green Tigers!**





## First Grade's Second Annual Reading Restaurant A Huge Success!

Submitted by Lacey Granato



The first graders served up appetizers of "biography poems", sides of "squiggle books", and for the entree, each class presented their very own published book. The meals finished with dessert of a "pocketful of poetry". Each class had a special theme for their very own "read-ery".

Helms Hacienda Cafe was decorated in Spanish style, luminaries, papel picado, and paper lanterns decorated the entrance. The inside was transformed where the tables had different colored tablecloths with tea lights, colorful bowls and mini donkeys. The students wore colorful beads, girls had flowers in their hair and boys wore sombreros.

Mrs. Schmid's class was turned into Odessa's Opah Greek Cafe for the night! The restaurant setting gave patrons the feeling of being at hillside cafe in Santorini, Greece. The classroom was decorated with blue and white table cloths, student-made greek crafts, as well as a slide show of pictures from Greece (courtesy of Mrs. Herrera) and Greek music. The students dressed in a traditional folk dance outfit and served their parents many hand-crafted writings on a silver platter!!

Daigle's Cajun Cafe!

Our class proudly wore purple, green, and gold with Mardi Gras masks and beads. Students got the feel of New Orleans as they walked into the room!

Mrs. Sirotiak's Flower Power Cafe!

Take a trip back in time and visit the Flower Power Cafe! Our students were dressed in tie-dye shirts with funky sunglasses. Our room was transformed into a restaurant full of peace signs and bright colors! Our waiters had a blast serving up their All About Mom poems, Squiggle Book, Poetry Pocket and even their very own published book called "Tail Tales!"

Reading Rainforest Cafe (Lunsford)

The kids wore all black and were decorated with wild animal print tails, visors, necklaces, and bracelets. The room was a virtual jungle, with hanging vines (coin-stamped chains where the kids had to calculate the total value, which was written on a tropical flower that hung from the vine), and colorful parrots that were an addition practice color-by number activity.

Borgeson's Magic Time Machine

Borgeson's class dreamed about traveling in time and prepared by decorating with clocks and hour glasses. We had our magic potions on our table ready to greet our parents dressed as characters from books, movies, fairytales, and the future.

And lastly- our class was sportin' it in Fedowitz's Sports Grill. Our room paid homage to some of the major team sports- baseball, football, soccer. The children dressed in either a sport they love/played or black and white like umpires! We had fun showing off our superstar work!

Parents tipped their students with great big hugs and enthusiastic "great job" cheers! What a wonderful way to finish our year in first grade! Thank you, fabulous first grade teachers and students for the hard work in your cafes!

# News from the Library

submitted by Sue Kuentz, Librarian

My how time flies! Here's some great news from the Tuscany Heights Library:

We celebrated reading in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades through our Fairy Tale Bowl for 2nd grade, our 3rd grade Battle of the Books, and our 4th Grade Battle of the Books. Our Fairy Tale Bowl consisted of reading 10 different fairytale/folk tale books that were preselected by Mrs. Kuentz. The 2nd grade teachers did a marvelous job teaching about this genre, comparing and contrasting various versions of these tales, and teaching the basics about the elements of this genre (setting, characters, plot, ending). We culminated with our Fairy Tale Bowl in which all the 2nd graders were given a chance to dress up as their favorite character. Each class had 4 representatives who used our buzzer system to answer questions about these books! They were all amazing! Mrs. Branch's class won the Bowl and received a class trophy along with 4 medals. All of the participants received a certificate and a ribbon - truly a magical day!

Congratulations to TEAM HUNT for winning our 3rd grade Battle of the Books. All eight of the 3rd grade representatives had really studied and had comprehended each of the 12 titles they were given to read over the year! The winning team also received medals, a class trophy, and all participants received ribbons.



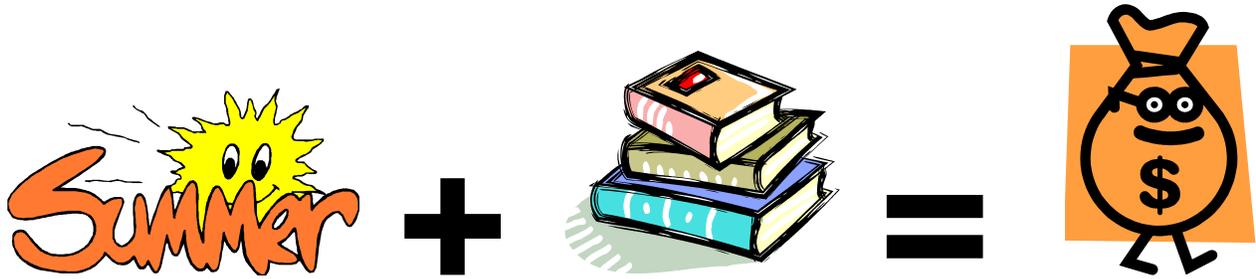
Congratulations to TEAM DRAKE for winning our 4th grade Battle of the Books. Team Drake went on to the District Battle of the Books which was held at Encino Park Elementary on Thursday, May 19th. Team Drake made us all proud - they did their best, answered many questions, were fantastic team players! Hardy Oak actually won the overall District Battle but Team Drake represented Tuscany so well!

Team Drake consisted of: Team Captain Braden Watkins, Olivia McNeel, Bianca Castillo, Allison Lamm (alternate)

E-Book News - You WILL be able to download E-Books and audio books this summer on your computers and other devices to keep that reading up. Go to NEISD website and click on "Library" to find out more information

Our Hawaiian Luau Book Fair was a HUGE success thanks to all of our wonderful parents who volunteered to help, along with Mrs. Davis' husband and other recruits that helped to set up and close down the library. I definitely couldn't have run this book fair without the expertise and organization of our Library chairperson, Karen Wooster - she really made this fair happen! Mrs. Guess, one of our wonderful substitutes, was there almost every day - she had even brought over many of our Hawaiian decorations! Our own PTA allowed us to use the TIKI Men that will be used for the 5th grade party. Everyone was amazing! Hopefully, everyone was able to stock up for fun summer reading!





## IT PAYS TO READ DURING THE SUMMER!

Visit these websites and find out how!

You could earn *spending money, prizes and free books* for reading during the summer!

(Check the Tuscany Heights page for all the links as well)

**San Antonio Public Library:** <http://guides.mysapl.org/summerreading2012>

Get a Clue...at the Library – read 15 books and receive a certificate and a free book!

Check out story times and events all during the summer at Brook Hollow Branch Library and others around town.

**HEBuddy Summer Reading Club:** <http://www.heb.com/static/pdfs/h-e-buddy-summer-reading-club.pdf>

Read 10 books and receive a HEBuddy t-shirt plus other prizes.

**Barnes and Noble:** <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading/>

Read 8 books to get a book free! This program is for kids 12 and under.

**Half Price Books:** <http://www.hpb.com/community/fyb/started/>

Read 300 minutes each summer month. At the end of each month, turn in your HPB reading log to receive a \$5 gift card.

**San Antonio Children's Museum:** <http://www.sakids.org/read.aspx>

Read and earn tickets to mine gems, money to spend in the gift shop and free tickets to visit the museum.

**Whataburger:** <http://www.whataburgersummerreading.com/>

Sign up, read and earn free food from Whataburger.

**Chuck E Cheese's:** [http://www.chuckecheese.com/promotions/pdf/CECRewardCal\\_READING\\_2012.pdf](http://www.chuckecheese.com/promotions/pdf/CECRewardCal_READING_2012.pdf)

Log your reading minutes on this 2 week chart to receive free tokens at Chuck E Cheese's.

**Pizza Hut:** <http://bookitprogram.com/SummerBreak/default.html>

Read for a chance to win a *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* prize package. Lots of great summer literacy ideas on this site!

**Scholastic:** <http://www.scholastic.com/summerreading/index.htm>

Break a World Record! Go to the Scholastic site to log in what you read and contribute to "Read for the Record"!



## Tuscany's Summer Reading Challenge

Reading over the summer keeps your brain active! We want to encourage you to do just that, READ. Our community offers wonderful programs and incentives to keep you reading. Tuscany Height's Summer Reading Challenge supports these efforts and invites you to participate in as many programs you can. Please keep track of the programs you participate in on the orange form that came home with your child and return to the Library the first week of school. For every program that you complete, your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to the Fall Book Fair and other prizes.

Bonus: all students who turn in this form will also receive a free paperback book for being an active summer reader. Happy Reading!



# ***Fiesta Finds Tuscany Heights***

## ***First Grade***

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, our festively attired first graders paraded homemade floats around the entire school amid cheers from classmates, teachers, staff and families!



## ***Second Grade***

submitted by Erin Kirwin

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Tuscany Heights 2<sup>nd</sup> graders showed us they really know how to have fun with Fiesta in their Spring music and dance program. For weeks, the kids learned songs and choreographed steps during gym and music classes. When they finally hit the stage, the result was a colorful, flawless, and festive celebration of music and dance. With songs like, "Guacamole - Take A Chip and Dip" our talented 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Tigers showed us, they can really move and grove!



# NEISD Annual Track & Field Meet

May 9, 2012



Tuscany Heights Elementary Participants  
in the  
4x100 Relay Race  
(pictured left)



## PLEDGE THANKS

Thank you to the following boy scouts for leading the pledges for our PTA meetings this spring. You did a great job!

**February**

Bear Scouts  
Pack 9

**April**

Tuscany Heights Wolves  
Den 9  
Pack 89

**May**

Cub Scouts  
Den 3  
Pack 89  
Tigers

A special thank you to the scout leaders and parents for supporting our Tuscany Heights PTA!





## DIETICIAN'S DIARY

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

### Stay Healthy This Summer!

Summer is almost here and as the weather gets warmer, the desire to stay inside (and out of the heat) gets stronger. However, staying inside too much can cause you and your family to develop unhealthy habits. During the school year, most of us have a daily routine that we follow. The summer months are typically not as regimented. Here are some tips to help you ensure that your summer will be healthy and enjoyable!

- **Drink Water!** It is very easy to turn to soft drinks or other refreshing drinks during the hot summer months, but most of those drinks are loaded with calories and sugar. Drink calorie-free, guilt-free water to stay hydrated.
- **Watch Your Weight.** The lack of a daily routine, which can lead to more frequent trips to the drive-through, can lead to weight gain. Try to plan ahead and pack a healthy lunch to take with you.
- **Road Trips.** Planning a road trip? Make it a healthy one by doing your homework on the healthier food options at popular restaurants and fast food joints that you'll run into along the way.
- **Develop an Eating and Snack Schedule.** Keeping you and your kids on an eating schedule will help cut down hunger and mindless eating between meals.
- **Take Advantage of the Season!** The summer months are the perfect time to try new fruits and veggies. Refreshing watermelon, sweet strawberries, and crisp carrots are just a few of the choices to help you stay cool in the sweltering heat.
- **Re-think Your Vacation.** It might be too late to re-think your vacation this year, but if it's not, consider taking an "active" vacation. Take a vacation that encourages physical activities like hiking, swimming, walking, or cycling.
- **Limit Screen Time.** It's hot outside. There's nothing to do. Why not watch TV? Some screen time is okay, but TV watching, video game playing, and time spent on the computer should take up no more than two hours per day, total.

### **EPI Packs are Back!**

Save time and money by ordering Pre-Packaged School Supply Kits for the 2012 - 2013 school year.

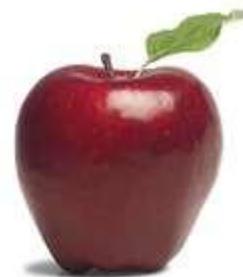
Kits include all items on the NEISD School Supply Lists. Order by June 1 to receive a 5% discount off the regular prices.

Go to [www.epipacks.com](http://www.epipacks.com)

Enter School Code TUS005

Supply packs will be placed in your child's classroom for "Meet the Teacher" Night.

### *Thank You*



Thank you to all of our amazing Tuscany Heights teachers and to the parents and students who helped to make their week so special.



# Jawin' with Jennifer

Tiger Families,

As we wrap up year two at Tuscany Heights, we are no longer a "new" elementary school. Tuscany Heights has traditions, memories, awards, and our second awesome principal! As fun as it was to be the new kid on the block, I believe the old saying is true that "With Age Come Wisdom". We know who we are...and we like it:)

Once again a huge thank you to all of the parents, teachers and other volunteers who have pitched in this year. As we move forward with Leader in Me, we will continue to not only celebrate the hours given by our grownup supporters but to develop our children as leaders and encourage them to "pitch in" in places we didn't think possible. While it has been a joy to see Tuscany grow into such a happy place for our children, I can't wait to see what it will be like in years to come. We have set a great foundation and have talented and committed grownups and students supporting our school all the way.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer. Before the start of 2012-13, be sure to check out the PTA website, [www.tuscanyheightspta.org](http://www.tuscanyheightspta.org). Once again, you will be able to get a great start on the 2012-13 school year by joining the PTA, making a greenback donation, entering your school directory information, buying your spirit items and more online. Eblast reminders will be sent out ahead of time so no need to worry.

Best of luck to our new PTA President, Mindy Waters. Our school is truly blessed to have such a positive and committed volunteer stepping up to lead our Parent Teacher Association. If you haven't had a chance to meet Mindy, she would love to meet you so be sure to take a moment to introduce yourself.

Here's to a many more great years at Tuscany!

Jennifer Easley - PTA President  
[president@tuscanyheightspta.org](mailto:president@tuscanyheightspta.org)

## BAILEY BANTER

Dear Parents and Families,

Wow, what a year! To better state that phrase- what a SPECTACULAR year! The students have accomplished and learned so much this school year. They've developed many skills and are ready to move forward. I am so proud of them! Also, your children have brought joy and happiness to our school and I feel fortunate to be their principal. They have all touched my life in a variety of ways: welcoming me, letters, smiles, hugs, visits, performances, spirit, and eagerness to learn. The list could go on! It has been great joining the Tuscany Tiger Family. Not only has it been a pleasure getting to know your children, but also you as parents. Having parental support and open lines of communication is key to a successful school year, so thank you.

Thank you for all that you have done to make this year so fulfilling and memorable. Because I am still getting to know many of you, I do anxiously await August! Although, summer comes first!

Please enjoy the final days of school and the upcoming summer with your families! I wish everyone safe travels and much relaxation. Again, thank you for a wonderful year. Have an incredible summer and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall!



Tara Bailey

