2014 was full of wonderful accomplishments for our Tiger family! Our fun fall semester brought us a bully-free Red Ribbon Week, a “wheely” fun Bike Rodeo, and no Texas weather could keep us from having a fun-filled Field Day. None of this would have been possible without T.H.E. best volunteers supporting T.H.E. best students. Treats for our Troops and our Angel Tree for East Terrell Hills gave our Tigers a chance to give back to these communities right here in San Antonio. We are proud to watch our kids lead, honor, and excel every day!

Now our Tigers are ready to pounce on 2015, setting new goals and resolutions. We hope that one of your goals as a family will be to support our school and our major fundraiser, Run for the Heights, on February 28! Whether you’re focused on the finish line or having a Fun Run with your family we’ll all Begin with the End in Mind to make it a great event for the whole community. Come enjoy the health fair, visit our sponsor booths, and participate in fitness demonstrations. We’ll all finish as winners as we synergize to help Tuscany Heights!

If you’ve been waiting to settle in to the new school year before getting involved, or maybe you’re new to our campus, wait no longer! PTA could still use your help! We’re a fun, supportive group who love making a difference for our students. If you would like more information or have any questions about volunteer opportunities please don’t hesitate to ask. I’d be happy to visit with you.

Alana Harris
T.H.E. PTA President
tuscanyheightspta.org

www.tuscanyheightspta.org
**We Love Our Tiger Teachers!!!**

"It takes a big heart to help shape little minds."

Each month, the PTA at Tuscany Heights stops to thank and spoil these big hearts. The staff at our school deserves so much gratitude, so we plan an activity to express our love. In October, a “spookatacular” luncheon was planned full of sandwiches that was indeed a wickedly awesome fun time! In November, styrofoam cups were given to each teacher to help them out as a thanksgiving wish to have to wash one less dish! December was the month we wrapped our hearts away, as we wrapped over 230 gifts in one day! Tape, paper and bows were everywhere, but we did this because we truly care!!!

In January, we had our annual "SOUP"er bowl luncheon that included the staff’s favorite soups and salads in which we celebrated the super bowl by displaying our favorite team jerseys. There were a lot of disappointment Cowboy fans and perhaps a few deflated footballs as decor at this luncheon!

This past week we had a “chocolapolooza” where we had brownies, cookies, candy, fudge bars... Anything to show our staff how sweet we think they are! Our staff at Tuscany Heights is truly the best and we feel it is our obligation to honor them as much as we can. To our THE staff... We thank you with all of our hearts. You deserve the best and we will strive to be the best for you!

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."
- William Arthur Ward

If you are interested in helping or would like more information on Staff Appreciation, please contact staffappreciation@tuscanyheightspta.org.

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**Tiger Bike Rodeo**

In October, our Tigers showed off their bicycle skills in our annual Bike Rodeo. To get things started, the students participated in a bike safety session and demonstrated the needed safety equipment when riding bicycles. Then participating students showcased riding and agility skills in and out of cones and a figure eight. All participants earned a spirit stick and trophies for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places in each grade level. The top boy & girl winners from each grade advanced to the City Bike Rodeo. Our wonderful staff even got out there to show off their skills.

Way to Ride, Tigers!!!!
Veterans Day Parade

On November 11th, THE gave thanks for the 24 million Americans who strengthen our nation with their example of service and sacrifice. Over 75 Veterans attended the annual ceremony and were drawn from many generations and from many backgrounds.

The Veterans and family members were first treated to breakfast in the cafeteria, and then participated in a parade lined by our Tuscany Heights students who braved the cold and blustery November morning.

THE Veterans Day event organizers Doug and Suzanne Opersteny stated “Whether it’s peacetime or wartime, it’s always important to teach our students that Veterans Day means more than just a chance to escape the classroom to attend an assembly. Patriotism is a value that must be taught and modeled for our young students. Enabling them to see firsthand the large number of Veterans in the Tuscany Heights family gives this sentiment an even deeper meaning in our school. This builds the foundation for your young students to be proud and contributing citizens of our country.”
EAT FOR A CAUSE

IN DECEMBER, TUSCANY FAMILIES CAME OUT TO CORNER BAKERY TO EAT FOR A CAUSE. TIGERS CAME TOGETHER OVER A MEAL WHILE EARNING FUNDS FOR OUR PTA PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION TO THE GREAT FOOD AND FRIENDS, OUR OWN TIGER BEAT CHOIR CELEBRATED THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS. IT WAS A GREAT WAY TO END THE FIRST SEMESTER AND START THE HOLIDAY SEASON!! THANK YOU TO BOTH CORNER BAKERY AND OUR TIGER FAMILIES WHO HELPED TO SUPPORT OUR TIGERS!!

TIGER BOOK CLUB is a great way to share your child’s birthday, teacher appreciation or birthday, and other special occasions at Tuscany Heights. Donation forms will go home around your child’s birthday to purchase a book for the library. You may include a picture and special message that will be placed in the front cover of the book. Your child will be the first to check out the book and once returned it can be shared with all Tuscany Tiger Readers!!

Don’t forget EVERY FRIDAY is Tiger Spirit Day for all staff, students and volunteers!! Show your tiger pride with our great spirit items for this school year. There are grade level contests for the most classroom participation. If you haven’t yet purchased your spirit items, you may do so on the PTA website or contact our Spirit Team @ spirititems@tuscanyheightspta.org

GO TIGERS!!!!!!
Tigers “PAWS” for a Dogs Gone Wild Book Fair

In October, Tuscany Heights students took a “PAWS” for extra reading with the Fall Book Fair! Our library was transformed into a new book wonderland full of dog books and other student favorites. Our Tiger families, shopped at the Book Fair for books, posters, and those crazy, fun erasers! All proceeds from the Book Fair go towards our T.H.E. library. Funds were used to purchase 18 Samsung Chrome books, new Battle and Bluebonnet books, reading incentives, bookmarks and genre labels to better organize our shelves. Thank you for making our library an even better resource for our Tigers!!

Be a Hero of the Hallway!!

Join the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students) by volunteering one day a year at school. You will help with drop-off / pick-up, visit your child's classroom, have lunch with your child, play at recess, and WATCH the school for safety measures throughout the day. This is a GREAT way for fathers and father-figures to get involved at Tuscany Heights. We had a great turnout for our Donuts with Dads and filled over 50 Watch D.O.G.S. positions for the spring semester! If you have not been a Watch D.O.G. yet, now is the time to sign up!

For more information or to sign up please contact watchdogs@tuscanyheightspta.org
Reflections Art Contest

Art is not what you see, but what you make others see.
Edgar Degas (1834- 1917)

As every year, our PTA Program, Reflections, has been taking place since the beginning of the school year, the deadline to submit the entries was October 20th. Our theme for 2014-2015 school year is: THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE IF...

This year we had a total number of twelve entries in the categories of Film Production, Literature, Visual Arts and Photography.

T.H.E. PTA is proud to announce our students who have been recognized with the Award of Merit and Honorable Mention by our Council PTA:

In the Category of Literature-Intermediate: Award of Merit for Aman Maredia (4th grade, Ms. Morris) with “How to Make the World a Better Place”

In the Category of Visual Arts Primary: Honorable Mention for Addison Cervenka (2nd grade, Mrs. Branch) with “An Ocean of Recycling”

In the Category of Film Intermediate: Award of Merit to José Caceres (5th grade, Mrs. Hesles) with “Happiness in a Box”

All of the submitted entries were phenomenal and portrayed our students’ creativity to a maximum level.

This type of program which promotes art among our students is a great way to develop their creative skills which are proven to have long term benefits in their academics and adult life. According to the article The Importance of Art in Child Development by Grace Hwang Lynch, some of these benefits that kids have for being exposed to art expressions are: better development of motor skills, language development, decision making, visual learning, inventiveness, cultural awareness and an improved academic performance.

Finally, a BIG Thank You to all the parents and teachers for supporting and encouraging our students to participate in our arts program. Certainly, by doing this, you are promoting a better understanding of the world to our kids, and, of course, without their help this would never be possible.
THE 4th Annual Field Day

Field Day 2014 started with an arctic blast! We planned to enjoy the day of activities outdoors, but Mother Nature had different plans. We quickly worked together and brought everything inside the gyms so our THE students could enjoy the day. Kudos to our PE teachers, Mrs. Fields and Mrs. Burges, for another successful and fun event. The kids had a blast participating in an obstacle course, practicing their aim with a rope tossing game, and fishing to name a few. As always, the highlight was a bounce house and inflatable obstacle course provided by our THE PTA. We would like to give a BIG thank you to all of the parents and Watch DOGS who came out to help this event run smoothly. We couldn't do it without your support!

Partners in Education (Sister School)

Over the last few months, our Tigers have been graciously giving to East Terrell Hills Elementary. Our gift giving tree donated gifts to 58 families for Christmas. Our students also participated in the 2nd Annual Me 2 U Book Collection at the winter class parties. Over 200 books were delivered in January to grateful and eager readers giving approximately 20-30 new books per grade level. Lastly, the Lost & Found items left as of winter break were donated to East Terrell Hills. The items went to their family specialist and social worker to be distributed to families and students in need.

We are very grateful to all Tuscany Tigers who made a difference in the lives of others during the holiday season.
December PTA General Meeting

Our December meeting was held on Tuesday, December 2 with our fifth grade performance of “Surfin’ Santa”. The Cub Scouts of Pack 9 led us in a flag ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance. We are always glad to have our Scouts demonstrate their pride in their country and community while serving at Tuscany Heights Elementary. Lucky Thread sponsored our PTA writing contest with the writing prompt of “What Covey habit has influenced me the most and why?” Juliana Davidson from Mr. Rodriguez’s 5th grade class shared her winning essay and received a gift from Lucky Thread. Our Fifth Grade Activities chairs, Mandy Howland and Erin Kirwan gave an update on all the things in the works for our fabulous fifth graders. The winning fifth grade t-shirt design was from Cassie Westlund in Ms. Sweeney’s class.

T.H.E. PTA was proud to present the Texas Honorary Life Membership Award to four individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare of children and youth in our community. Marie Agudelo, Lawrence Saiz, Sonja Morris, and Jennifer Bissen were the 2014 recipients of the Texas Honorary Life Membership for Tuscany Heights Elementary. Also honored that evening was our principal, Tara Bailey. Mrs. Bailey was presented with the National PTA Lifetime Achievement award, the highest honor from the nation’s largest child advocacy organization—to the person who daily lives out his or her commitment to children. What a fitting honor to show our appreciation to these dedicated educators and parents who are helping our Tigers to lead, honor, and excel.

What Covey habit has influenced me the most, and why?

By Juliana Davidson

The Covey habits inspire us every day. They help us, the T.H.E. Tigers, to lead, honor, and excel. These habits lead us to make good choices and help us to choose a healthy and happy lifestyle. All seven habits inspire me greatly, but the habit that influenced me the most is habit number seven, Sharpen the Saw. With all the things happening around us, sometimes we can forget what’s really important.

People get so caught up in life that they forget to brush their teeth, take a shower, or even just going outside to get some fresh air. When you sharpen the saw your life will be more organized. Sharpening the saw helps you take care of yourself. Balancing your life out will make you feel so much better. Sometimes you need to get back on track and take a break for a while. Out of all of the seven habits, sharpening the saw is the habit that helps me most. All the Covey habits will make your life great, and I encourage you to use them in your life.
February PTA General Meeting

On February 3, our Tuscany Heights families came together for a great time at our Pawsitive Dog Leadership night. Our Watch D.O.G.S. grilled hot dogs, and student leaders were teaching the 7 habits in a dog-gone good way with classroom activities, serving dinner, answering questions, and collecting donations for a local animal shelter.

When the PTA meeting began we were happy to welcome the Cub Scouts from Pack 89 as they performed the flag ceremony and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to the Scouts and their adult leaders for a great example of community service to our school.

This month’s writing contest prompt went to our third graders and was “I am the BOSS of me! Which Covey trait will help make this statement true for the New Year and help you succeed in the new semester at T.H.E.?” Shreya Fifadara from Mrs. Ryan’s 3rd grade class shared her winning entry with us. We appreciate Lucky Thread for sponsoring our writing contest and providing prizes for our winning student and her teacher.

February also gave us the opportunity to present certificates and pins to our volunteers who earned the President’s Volunteer Service Award for 2013-2014 from NEISD and North East Council of PTAs. These individuals were recognized at the district’s Outstanding Volunteer Awards Meeting in November. Jennifer Easley was a gold recipient with 500 or more volunteer hours. Mindy Waters, Alana Harris, Jennifer Bissen, Jennifer Smith, Donna Oyler, and Mindy Donofrio received the silver award for volunteer hours ranging between 250 and 499 hours.

Check upcoming eblasts for more information about the PVSA criteria for our Tuscany Heights students. Deadline for hours to be recorded is April 17 and the PVSA reception will be held May 20 here at THE. We look forward to honoring many of our Tigers for exceptional community service!

“I am the BOSS of me! Which Covey trait will help make this statement true for the New Year and help you succeed in the new semester at T.H.E.? ”
By Shreya Fifadara

I am the BOSS of me! My goal for the new semester is to finish and improve in all of my school work and homework. The Covey trait that will help me is to put first things first. It will help me because if I put my work first, then I will finish what I need to AND have time to play. The other reason why I picked the Covey trait put first things first is because it doesn’t just help me with school, it also helps me with other things, too, like to control myself and think before I talk. And that is why I decided to put first things first.
THE PTA Presents...
Author Visit with Lisa Wheeler

Lisa Wheeler visited Tuscany Kindergarteners, 1st graders and 2nd graders on Monday, February 9th.

Mrs. Wheeler shared her writing secrets and even helped Kindergarteners and 1st Graders create invisible toolboxes that they stuffed full of author’s tools. Everyone had a great time digging in their tool boxes and learning how to write stories.

In her 2nd grade presentation, using her woolly mammoth puppet named Non-Fiction, Mrs. Wheeler shared her passion for woolly mammoths and the research involved in writing her non-fiction title, Mammoth’s on the Move. She even brought a real woolly mammoth tooth!

Her program showed students how research can also be necessary when writing fiction and she shared her most popular book, Dino Hockey. Mrs. Wheeler’s presentations inspired Tuscany kids to read and write!
Lighting the Way to Leadership

Tuscany Heights 5th Annual GREENBACK Fundraiser

A Greenback Donation is a tax deductible contribution to the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA. 100% of your donation will fund many beneficial and educational PTA programs planned for your children during the 2013-2014 school year, including:

- Field Trips
- Red Ribbon Week
- Grandparents Day
- Field Day
- Staff Appreciation
- Bike Rodeo
- Student Enrichment
- Arts in Education
- Author Visits
- 5th Grade End of Year Celebration

Donations may be made online at tuscanyheightspta.org with a credit card, cash or check payable to Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA.

Double your Greenback donation with a donation from your company’s Matching Gift Program! Contact your Human Resources Department for a Matching Gift form and program details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation Levels</th>
<th>Tuscany Heights PTA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$150</td>
<td>Tiger</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>$75</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
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$10,000 GREENBACK GOAL ACHIEVED!!

Thank you for generously supporting your PTA!!

TREATS for TROOPS

After a fun night of trick or treating, Tuscany Tigers brought in extra candy for our “TREATS for TROOPS” collection. Candy donated by Tuscany Heights’ students was donated to the Center for the Intrepid and the Fisher House, both located here in San Antonio. The Center for the Intrepid, a world-class state-of-the-art physical rehabilitation center at Brooke Army Medical Center, serves military personnel who have been catastrophically disabled in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and veterans severely injured in other operations. The Fisher House, located at the Lackland Air Force Base, provides housing to families of military personnel who are hospitalized for an illness, disease or injury. Way to go Tigers!
JOIN PTA!

Are you a proud member of T.H.E. PTA? It's not too late to join! Our current membership is at 350 members. Your membership contributions helped us earn the Head Start, Early Bird and Golden Apple Awards. We were also awarded the MARS award (Men Are Really Super) by having more than 50 men members. By joining T.H.E. PTA, you not only support our school, but it allows you to be more involved and informed in matters concerning your child's education and well being. If you would like more info on becoming a member, visit our website or contact Caroline Cain at membership@tuscanheightspta.org

Volunteers

Calling all Volunteers!!! Are you interested in helping out at Tuscany Heights? Our TIGERS need YOU and there is plenty to do!!! Email volunteers@tuscanheightspta.org to get started.

T.H.E. Night with the SPURS

A big thank you to all of our families, students, and staff who attended the 5th Annual Run for the Heights Night with the Spurs in January! Tuscany Heights had over 350 people attend this evening. We hope your family had fun and enjoyed the experience! Our Tiger Beat Choir certainly made us all smile with their rendition of "Happy." Way to go Tiger Beat Choir, Mrs. Rivera, and Mrs. Neibel!
Come out with your family and friends for a morning of health and wellness at the 5th Annual Run for the Heights, a 5K Run/Walk, Kids’ Fun Run, and Health Fair & Sponsor Expo, to be held at 8:00 am Saturday, February 28, at Tuscany Heights Elementary.

Register on-line or download a registration form at: http://runfortheheights.tuscanyheightspta.org/. Don’t forget to get your family, friends, and neighbors to register as well.

Run for the Heights offers something for everyone. Check out the exciting event schedule!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 am</td>
<td>Pre Race Warms Up with JC Ultimate Training &amp; Reagan HS Track Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony with emcee, Vinnie Vinzetta, KENS 5 Sports Anchor &amp; Reporter, Johnson HS JROTC &amp; Tuscany Heights Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:05 am</td>
<td>Kids’ Super Hero Fun Run (3/4 mile loop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Chip-timed 5K Run/Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>Awards Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 10:30 am</td>
<td>Sponsor Expo, Health Fair &amp; Fitness Demonstrations</td>
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</table>

All elementary age kids will receive a participation award for the Fun Run. In addition, there will be awards for top participants of all ages, including medals, Dick’s Sporting Goods and iRun gift certificates, YMCA Youth Sports Registrations, and Young Chef Cooking classes.

Following the races, enjoy the Sponsor Expo and Health Fair where you can learn about the products and services of area businesses, with many free screenings, samples, and product giveaways. North Central Baptist will be checking Blood Pressure, Body Mass Index, Glucose, and Cholesterol. You can also learn about various types of fitness by watching the demonstrations by the Jumping Dragons, Victory Martial Arts & JC Ultimate Training. See the website for more exciting details!

Begin 2015 with the end in mind and register today for the 5th Annual Run for the Heights! All proceeds benefit the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA, a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Once again this year's event is sponsored by the City of San Antonio's Mayor Fitness Council. Way to Go!!!

Come dressed as your favorite Super Hero to run the Fun Run or 5K. There will be a special award for those in costume!!
SAVE THE DATE
02-28-15

TIGERS, BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

5K ~ FUN RUN ~ HEALTH FAIR

Sponsor Expo ~ Fitness Demos

www.tuscanyheightspta.org
**5th Annual Run For The Heights Race Registration Contest Results**

Our class and student level race registration contests are over. Drum roll please!!!!! The top 2 classes bringing in the most registrations were Mrs. Cowan (4th) and Mrs. Young (K). These classes will celebrate with an afterschool brick building party sponsored by Bricks 4 Kidz in March. More details will come home soon.

Overall our THE students brought in a total of 563 registrations!!! There were incentives earned at the student and class level. See below for winning class rewards. It’s not too late to sign up and win a reward...we still need to get 350 T.H.E. students to register for the 5K or Fun Run and complete the 28 Day Activity Challenge in order for Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. McCurry to run the Fun Run dressed as a SUPER HERO!! Come on now, who doesn’t want to see that??? Keep those registrations coming!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># Registrations</th>
<th>Class Reward</th>
<th>Winning Classes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10 Minutes Extra Recess</td>
<td>Cowan, Young, Morris, Cue, Cervenka, Hunt, Fonger, Spicer, Quintini, Herrera, Shelby, Lunsford, Ryan, Schmid, Drake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>50 Yard Tusky Dash</td>
<td>Cowan, Young, Morris, Cue, Cervenka, Hunt, Fonger, Spicer, Quintini, Herrera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Bounce House during PE Class</td>
<td>Cowan, Young, Morris, Cue, Cervenka, Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 2 Classes</td>
<td>Brick Building Party with Bricks 4 Kidz</td>
<td>1st place - Morris (41) 2nd place - Young (33)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were also several THE students earning rewards for bringing in certain number of registrations. We had approx. 80 students earn a spirit stick for at least 3 registrations and over 15 students earning extra tech time in class with 5 or more registrations. Our top registration “selling” students with at least 8 registrations will be awarded a special lunch on Friday, Feb 27 in the library with Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. McCurry & Tusky!! Thank you to all of our Tigers for Beginning with the End in Mind and helping to reach our goals!
Special thanks to all our generous sponsors who support Run for the Heights!

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**

![Dick's Sporting Goods]

![A-1 Freeman Moving Group]

![bricks4Kidz]

**GOLD SPONSORS**

![Dr. Patricia Coor's Allergy]

![North Central Baptist Hospital]

![Lisa Sinn Real Estate]

![EMERALD HOMES]

![Stonewall Vision Source]

![H-E-B]

![Kumon Math & Reading Center]

![San Martin Orthodontics]

![Children's Hospital of San Antonio]

![Fossil Creek Complete Care]

**SILVER SPONSORS**

![Welcome Home]

![RBFCU]

![RBC CU]

![Rainbow Play Systems, Inc.]

![School of Rock San Antonio]

![Good-Life Health Mart Pharmacy]

![Your Jeans Don't Lie]

![Speech & Language Center]

![MedFirst Primary Care]