

# Tuscany Heights Elementary

March 26<sup>th</sup>– March 30<sup>th</sup>

Parents,

Please be aware that we have 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade STAAR Testing this week! We will have a “Closed Campus” on Tuesday and Wednesday to respect our students by creating a quiet, secure learning (testing) environment. Thank you for honoring this request!

Due to testing, we will have the following schedule for specials:

8:45–9:35	3rd Grade
9:35–10:25	Kinder
10:25– 11:15	1st Grade
11:50–12:40	2nd Grade
1:10– 1:50	4th Grade
1:50–2:30	5th Grade

If you have a student testing, please find some helpful testing reminders below.

Thank you,  
Tara Bailey

## Upcoming Events:

March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
STAAR Testing for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Parents,

STAAR testing will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Beginning around 8:15, 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 as made accessible:

- Direct links to the State, District, and campus report cards are posted on our website located at [http://www.neisd.net/neisdinfo/NCLB/NCLB\\_2010\\_2011.htm](http://www.neisd.net/neisdinfo/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:**

<b>March 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math STAAR Test 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Day 1 Test;</b>
<b>March 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading STAAR Test 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Day 2 Test</b>
<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Open Registration for New Kinder–5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students</b>
<b>April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Spring Individual Pictures</b>
<b>April 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math STAAR Test</b>
<b>April 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading STAAR Test</b>
<b>April 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science STAAR Test</b>

## **PTA News to Remember**

### **STILL COLLECTING USED BOOKS!!!**

The PTA Used Books Sale Committee **has extended the collection deadline for used books to Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**. Knock out your spring cleaning and donate those unused books around your house. 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. If you have any questions, please contact PTA Used Book Sale Chair, Elizabeth Longenecker, at [booksale@tuscanheightspta.org](mailto:booksale@tuscanheightspta.org).

### **Honoring All Student Volunteers!!!**

The Presidential Volunteer Service Award is an opportunity for Americans to receive recognition for being dedicated volunteers! Our Tuscan Heights students can be recognized for their patrol hours, broadcasting time, or any other unpaid service they

provided from 5/1/2011 through 4/30/2012. In order to apply for the PVSA through T.H.E., simply go to PVSA page on T.H.E. PTA website (<http://www.tuscanyheightspta.org/presidential-volunteer-service-award.html> ). The award for T.H.E. is for children 14 & younger earning 50 hours of volunteer time. An honor reception will be held on May 17th at 7:15 am. Should you have any questions, please contact Gwenn Reep at [pvsa@tuscanyheightspta.org](mailto:pvsa@tuscanyheightspta.org).

### **2012-13 PTA Officers Slate**

The 2012 PTA Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate for the 2012-13 PTA Officers. These officers will be voted on at the upcoming PTA general meeting on Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:30 pm.

President: Mindy Waters

1st Vice President: Jennifer Easley

2nd Vice President - Ways and Means: Lawrence P. Saiz

3rd Vice President- Programs: Lacey Granato

4th Vice President - Volunteers : Donna Oyler

5th Vice President - Communications: Michelle Kaiman

Secretary: Denise Cunov

Treasurer: Mindy Donofrio

The President will appoint the Parliamentarian and Historian after the election in April.