

June 2015

Volume 5, Issue 4

TUSCANY HEIGHTS GROWLIN' GOOD NEWS

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2015 Run For The Heights
Sponsors & Photos

Tuscany Heights Elementary
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San Antonio, TX 78260

Get Ready to Sharpen the Saw

As we count down the days until a fun and relaxing summer, we can look back and say that we really reached new heights at Tuscany this year - a successful year because of YOU! From enhancing our children's education through fun and enriching programs, teaching our kids to be healthy and active Tigers, seeing our kids leading in so many areas and leaving their mark at Tuscany, we have put first things first and this is the end we had in mind at the beginning of the year!

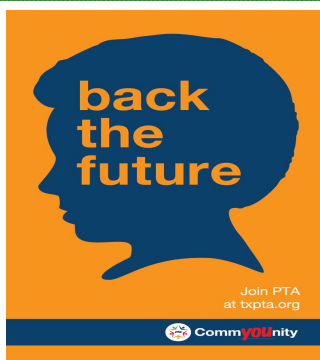
We are already being proactive and planning for our next year, and we would love to have your input. Whether you would like to join the T.H.E. PTA Board or find out about other opportunities to volunteer at school or home, we have a place for you. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to visit about opportunities.

This summer take time to sharpen the saw and enjoy quality time spent with your family. Stay active, have fun, and get ready to reach new heights in 2015-2016!

Alana Harris
T.H.E. PTA President



www.tuscanyheightspta.org



Strong Finish for Our Staff

The Staff Appreciation Committee has been busy during these final 9 weeks of the 2014/2015 school year! In April, following the completion of the STAAR testing, we provided the teachers with a Sonic Ice/Soda and Popcorn bar. Alana Harris brought in her popcorn popper from home and donated all the popcorn so we could give our hard working teachers some freshly popped popcorn. They had plenty of seasonings and fun toppings to choose from as well as everyone's favorite...Sonic ice and sodas. It was a great way to wind down from that very long and busy week.

During the week of May 4th -8th we celebrated Staff Appreciation Week! We had lots of fun activities planned for our staff. Our wonderful Tuscany Heights teachers who have all made a "mark" on our students were spoiled with sharpies, dry erase markers, highlighters, notepads, sodas, sweet treats, lotions, soaps, and plenty of summertime goodies! PTA filled the staff mail boxes with Reese's peanut butter cups, lip balm, bags of chips and packs of gum, and shaved ice was provided by Flamingo Rey's on Friday in the teachers' lounge. Staff was also treated to lunch each day that week...sub sandwiches, Corner Bakery salads, and Freebirds were all provided by our PTA, administration provided a great lunch from Luciano's, and Friday all of our wonderful Room Reps delivered lunch to our staff.

All in all, we think everyone had a fun week and felt very much appreciated! To wrap up the year, breakfast tacos were served for teachers on their last day before they head off to enjoy summer break!

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

Eat For A Cause

Our final Eat For A Cause event was held at Bahama Bucks as we showed our support for our sister school, East Terrell Hills. Thank you to all the Tiger families who came out for this great cause!!

Sam Houston and Abraham Lincoln visited the Tuscany Heights Library on Wednesday, May 27th. Award-winning teacher Bill Perryman, founder of History in Person Theater, portrayed these famous leaders to a packed house. Mr. Perryman's dynamic presentation allowed 4th and 5th grade students to experience Texas and American history through the eyes of these great men. We look forward to inviting Mr. Perryman to visit the Tuscany Library again in the 2015-2016 school year. For more information on Mr. Perryman's presentations and tour guide services, visit <http://www.historyinperson.us/index.html>.



Tigers Serving the Community

T.H.E. PTA honored 25 students on May 20th by giving them the Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) for their outstanding volunteer service and civic participation from May 2014 to April 2015. Students were invited to a breakfast reception to receive their award. All students that recorded 10 hours of volunteer service earned a "community service" spirit stick. Students aged 5-10 years old that recorded 26 or more hours and students aged 11-13 years old that recorded 50 or more hours received their official Presidential Volunteer Service Award pin. You can start serving now for hours to be counted next year. All hours worked must be logged on the [PVSA website](http://www.tuscanyheightspta.org/pvsa).

Use the following link to get instructions regarding logging hours on the website.

www.tuscanyheightspta.org/presidential-volunteer-service-award



Thank You to our Heroes of the Hallway!!

Our wonderful Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) were honored on May 27th with a breakfast with their child sponsored by THE PTA. This is just a small token of our appreciation for their hard work this school year. We had 167 father-figures on campus this year to help with drop-off / pick-up, in the classroom, cafeteria, library, front office, as well as recess and P.E. We are lucky to have such great men WATCHing our school for safety measures throughout the day and offering additional support and all of those great high-fives!!

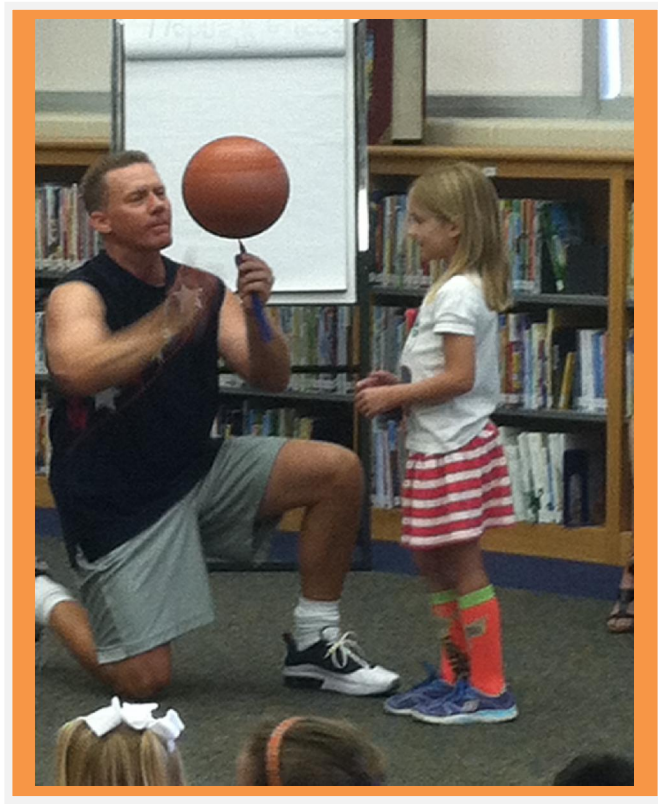
For more information for the 2015-2016 school year visit <http://www.tuscanyheightspta.org/watch-dogs.html>, or contact watchdogs@tuscanyheightspta.org.



THE PTA Presents....

Tuscany Heights students got a special treat Tuesday, May 19th. THE PTA Presents brought Dave "Travlin" 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 basketballs, while he spun a third on the student's head. The crowd really enjoyed it!

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.



Healthy Lifestyles

Thank you to all the parents who came to run/walk laps with their children during Tiger Tracks!

We hope you enjoyed spending time with your Tiger(s) and helping them earn PE incentives. In addition to individual incentives, the class in each grade that had the most participation earned new recess equipment! The following classes are now enjoying new items such as soccer balls, hula hoops, basketballs, and jump ropes.

Thanks to all for a fun and healthy day on the Tuscany field!

Winning Classes

Kinder – Shelby, First – Lunsford, Second – Pantuso

Third – Anderson, Fourth – Luna, Fifth – Blackler



PTA April General Meeting & Inspirational Writing Contest

On April 14, our meeting began by welcoming Girl Scout Troop 306 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.

We heard a report from our Run for the Heights chairperson, Jennifer Bissen, about our successful 5th annual run. We are already looking forward to an exciting 6th annual 5k and Fun Run on Feb. 27, 2016!

Following the report we held our annual T.H.E. PTA officer elections with the following PTA members elected: President – Alana Harris, 1st VP – Mandy Howland, 2nd VP Ways and Means – Tina Guererro, 3rd VP Programs – Susan Getter, 4th VP Volunteers – Erin Underwood, 5th VP Communications – Leigh Ellis, Secretary – Jennifer Smith, and Treasurer – Amanda Foshee

Our second graders, under the direction of Mrs. Niebel and Mrs. Rivera, gave a great musical all about Dr. Suess and his wonderful works. They really synergized for an awesome performance!

This month's Covey writing contest prompt went to our second graders and was **"Seek First to Understand and then be Understood"**. Quentin Moyer from Mrs. Davis' class shared her winning entry with us. We appreciate Flamingo Rey's for sponsoring our writing contest and providing prizes for our winning student and her teacher.

"Seek First to Understand and then be Understood"

By Quentin Moyer, Mrs. Davis' 2nd grade class

I think that "Seek first to understand and then be understood" is a Covey trait we really don't use very often. Here are ways that I try to use it. I listen to my mom and dad. I try hard to understand what they are telling me and understand why they are telling me these things. I also listen to my little sisters when they are telling me about their problems. I try to help and understand them so I can help fix their problems. I also listen to my friends and family and teachers. I'm a good listener and that helps me to try and understand. If I try to understand first, people seem to listen to what I say and try to understand me, too.



PTA May General Meeting & Inspirational Writing Contest

On May 5, our Tuscany Heights families came together to celebrate our dedicated PTA volunteers. Brownie Troop 776 performed the flag ceremony and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. We are always glad to have this group lead us in serving their community and school.

Tuscany Heights' Storytelling Club, sponsored by Mrs. Sue Kuentz, had the audience on the edge of their seats as they shared some wonderful tales and honored our T.H.E. PTA volunteers. We really were overflowing with gratitude to our volunteers and our student performers and enjoyed a chocolate fountain to celebrate them all!

This month's writing contest prompt went to our first graders and was "Let's think win-win. Our volunteers are special. Tell about a time that you helped someone else and how it made you feel."

Our fabulous first graders shared their winning entries with us. We appreciate Mrs. Johnson and Scholastic Books for sponsoring our writing contest and providing prizes for our winning students - gift certificates to the book fair!

Writing Contest Winners

"Let's think win-win. Our volunteers are special. Tell about a time that you helped someone else and how it made you feel."

Alisha Musa, Mrs. Helms' class

Volunteers are helpful. The Watch D.O.G.S. help keep you safe. You should like moms that are volunteers because on Fiesta float day all the moms showed us how to make paper plate maracas. They show us how to make lots of stuff. See, they're so helpful and they are awesome! They also take time off their day. There is also a helper. She is in high school. She helps the teacher. She is doing a great job. She helps the students that need help.



Marie Albanese, Mrs. Borgeson's class

When I was walking down the street with a basketful of fruit I saw a poor stranger with no food. So I gave him a handful of fruit. I gave him fruit at 12:30. He was holding a "need food" sign. I helped him because if I didn't help him he would starve to death. I felt so nice to help him.

Emily Schammel, Mrs. Hunt's class

One day my brother and sister were fighting and I said that let's have a good day. Stop fighting and get along, and then it helped. It made me feel happy. I love my brother and sister and I do not want them to fight. Because it is more fun when we get along.

Anara Getter, Ms. Jayson's class

One morning I woke up and I was about to eat a chocolate chip waffle and my sister woke up and she wanted chocolate chip waffles and I wanted them cold. My sister wanted them hot, and if you want them hot you have to cook it in the toaster and I helped my sister cook them and that made me feel really good.

Grant Lilly, Mrs. Lunsford's class

Helping others is a think win-win situation. One time I helped an old lady when I was at a popcorn booth and even when a customer was walking up. This was a think win-win situation because it is hard for old people to get over speed bumps. It was good that I helped her over the speed bumps so she wouldn't fall down and that made me feel amazing because I like helping people.

Taline Bakr, Mrs. Schmid's class

At Tuscany Heights volunteers help me to have lots of nacho chips and lots of nacho cheese. I love nachos. They are so good. Yum! I wish I can eat some. Volunteers are Watch D.O.G.S. They are dads, sometimes moms. Watch D.O.G.S. take their day off from work. Instead of relaxing at home they come to Tuscany Heights. When I helped someone is when I was at the playground. I saw someone with no friends so I came to say do you want to be friends. She said ok, so we became friends.



13th Annual NEISD Council of PTAs Used Book Sale

Tuscany Heights participated in the NEISD Council of PTAs Used Book Sale again this year. During March Tiger families donated over 3,000 books. Each student who donated received a Dr. Seuss-themed spirit stick. The top 20 students also received a gift certificate to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair in May.

Those students were Connor and William McCabe, Cade and Chad Pantuso, Faye Westphall, Jillian Wonder, Austin Bennett, Casidy Westlund, Ceile Tuohy, Erin and Megan Harris, Drew Harris, Cameron Hill, Skyy Cakmak, Erin Jones, Mae Weirbach, Marcus Bissen, Emilee Cox, and Clint Motl.

The Used Book Sale was held at the Littleton Gym, April 10- 12. Over 100,000 books, DVDs, and CDs were on sale. Tuscany Heights parents volunteered approximately 20 hours of their time to help with the event. In the end, Tuscany brought home \$1,000 as our share of the profits.

Thank you to our students and families who participated in the donating, sorting, counting, and selling of all those books!

BOOKS, BOOKS, & BOOKS

Thank you to all of our wonderful students, staff, parents, and volunteers that helped make our May Scholastic Book Fair a huge success!

We appreciate everyone who shopped to support summer reading while raising funds for the Tuscany Heights library. We will use these funds to support library projects for the 2015-2016 school year.

I would also like to recognize the exceptional volunteers that helped with this spring's fair. These dedicated volunteers spent many hours setting up the fair, assisting students with book selection, running the cash registers and packing up all of the unsold items at the end of the week. We couldn't make it without them!

Summer Reading information is available on the Tuscany Heights Library Page. Make sure to explore the Summer Reading Guide, 2015 Summer Reading Programs and the Bluebonnet Reading list for next school year.

http://neisd.libguides.com/welcome_tuscany_heights_library

Have a great summer, and READ, READ, READ!

Mrs. Johnson, THE Librarian

We are Overflowing with Gratitude for THE Volunteers

Tuscany Heights volunteers and their families were treated to a chocolate fountain with many dessert fixings at the May 5th PTA general meeting. This token of appreciation was just a drop in the bucket compared to the tremendous difference these volunteers made to our students and to our school. These volunteers helped warm up a chilly Run for the Heights, sweeten up our teacher's days by lightening their load, cheer on our campus at events throughout the year and much more. Tuscany Heights would not be the same without our awesome volunteers!

As we wrap up 2014-15, we are also busy planning for 2015-16. We know we have the sweetest volunteers, but we are always looking for more willing volunteers. We have many great opportunities on the PTA Board, in the library, lunchroom, workroom, classrooms, on field trips and with special events, such as Run For The Heights, held throughout the year.

If you have any questions or would like to get started volunteering at THE, please contact us at volunteer@tuscanheightspta.org. Once you are on the master volunteer eblast list, you will be in the loop for all campus wide volunteer opportunities. We would love to hear from you!

THE Staff honored all of the great volunteers at a brunch in May. Volunteers were able to visit with staff and fellow parents. Mrs. Bailey welcomed everyone and recognized the top 10 volunteers followed by extremely heartfelt THE Honor Choir performances. This was just a small token of the school's appreciation for all you do. Tuscany Heights is a better place for our students because of you!!

Finally, Erin Underwood will be taking over as VP-Volunteers in 2015-16. She is excited to take on this role and will do a great job of keeping our volunteers organized, informed and energized. Our volunteers are in great hands.

Jennifer Easley
VP-Volunteers



LIGHTHOUSE UPDATE - DEVELOP YOUR LEADER OVER THE SUMMER & KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR AWESOME MURALS

The Tuscany Heights Lighthouse team has made great strides in the 2014-15 school year! The team's goals are for our Tuscany students to live the 7 habits, to become strong, confident leaders, and for our school to achieve Lighthouse status in the 2015-16 school year. The Leader in Me Lighthouse School title is awarded by Franklin Covey to honor the attainment of a well-rounded leadership model. Lighthouse Schools serve as models of leadership and mentors to other schools. It is sort of like getting your black belt in leadership.

Visit the new [Tuscany Heights "Leader in Me"](#) webpage! As a parent, you can continue developing your child's leadership skills over the summer. Please visit the [Tuscany Heights Leader in Me webpage](#) for some great ideas. You will find links to ["The Leader in Me" website](#), ["The Leader in Me" student schoolyard](#), ["The Leader in Me" parent resources](#) and [Books that Reinforce the 7 Habits](#). From this webpage, you can also complete ["The Leader in Me" Family Questionnaire](#) to provide feedback from your family about The Leader in Me at Tuscany Heights. This feedback will be used so that we may better help your child implement the 7 habits into his or her daily life. Parents and teachers can also nominate a student for leadership recognition by filling out the [Student Leadership Nomination Form](#). Students may be recognized for achievements and service both inside and outside of school.





We hope you have noticed the Lighthouse mural going up outside the cafeteria. We know the students have by the many comments and wide-eyed, happy faces.

Artist Suzanne Paquette has been working hard to provide our students with a permanent reminder of our Lighthouse goal with her creative and artistic expression. Using 2014-15 PTA disbursements funds, we plan to have parent volunteers and professional artists painting our campus over the next few months. They will be focusing on providing leadership reminders and stimulating art work to further enhance the warmth and beauty of our great school. We can't wait for you to see the finished product!

Need Something To Do Over The Summer???? How about create THE EXCLUSIVE #hashtag for our 6th Annual Run For The Heights in 2016.

Contest Details:

#Come up with a hashtag to be used on all Run for the Heights t-shirts, advertising and social media.

#Entries will be judged anonymously and revealed on morning announcements the week of 9/8/15.

#Winning student will be featured on the THE Run for the Heights FB page and website. ***Parent must sign NEISD media release to ALLOW student's name and photo to be posted***

#Winner will also receive 2 FREE 2016 Run for the Heights registrations + access to the TUSCANY VIP tent at the event!!

#All students K-5 are eligible, one entry per student.

**Flyer will be attached to the eblasts and can be found on THE PTA website.
Put on your thinking caps now!!!**

2014-2015 PTA Disbursement Report

The 2014 - 2015 PTA Disbursement Committee consists of staff members, PTA members, and the Principal. This committee's responsibility is to gather input from students, staff, and parents about how to spend this year's excess PTA funds. With the priorities of safety, instruction, and wellness in mind, the committee presented the following items at T.H.E. PTA May General Meeting to be purchased:

Special Ed – Office/Classroom Supplies - \$ 327.32
Library – Microphone - \$1,100.00
Music – Black Belt Recorder Intro Pack & Portable Sound System - \$ 850.00
PE – Rain Ponchos / Hooks (Safety Patrol) & Equipment - \$ 1,500.00
Grade Level Curriculum \$3,106.67 (\$517.78 per grade level)
Hallway & Bulletin Board Lighthouse Murals - \$7,800

It was also voted at the Special General PTA Meeting held on Wed 5/27/15 that any remaining budget excess for 2014-2015 would be added the Lighthouse Mural fund.

Thank you to our membership for approving these items for our next school year!

THE PTA 2015-2016 Board of Officers

President

Alana Harris

1st Vice President

Mandy Howland

2nd Vice President, Ways & Means

Tina Guerrero

3rd Vice President, Programs

Susan Getter

4th Vice President, Volunteers

Erin Underwood

5th Vice President, Communications

Leigh Ellis

Secretary

Jennifer Smith

Treasurer

Amanda Foshee

Get connected with T.H.E. PTA and join the 2015-16 Executive Board

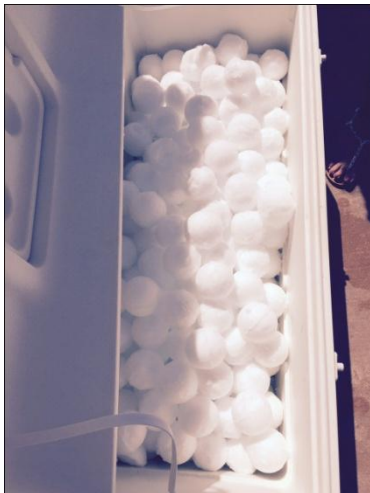
We are looking for volunteers to serve on T.H.E. PTA Board next year for the following open positions: Cafeteria and Legislative Action. As always, we need volunteers for various events throughout the year like Bike Rodeo, Veterans Day, Field Day, and Run for the Heights. There are opportunities for everyone, so please contact Alana Harris, president@tuscanheightspta.org if you are interested in helping or serving in a chair position.



5th Grade Tigers Class of 2015 Leave Their Mark

Over 150 Tigers left their mark at Gold's Gym Roger's Ranch June 1, celebrating the past years of learning, leadership, and unique experiences they had together at Tuscany Heights. The 5th grade class of 2015 marked the milestone Hawaiian-style with a luau – themed pool party. In a spring marked by heavy rain, Mother Nature beamed nothing but sun on the students. They were greeted at the pool by parents waving balloons and clicking noisemakers. Kids tossed beach balls, slid fearlessly down a curling slide, snacked on snow cones poolside, danced to the year's biggest hits, and even tossed snowballs - yes, snow balls - in the water!

Students Cruz Kirwan and Luke Brenner said the party was awesome. "I give the party a 10", said Kirwan.



The 5th grade class chose the theme, *Leave Your Mark*, to represent the 2015 class. A special graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, June 4 to honor these fantastic fifth graders one last time. Upon graduation, they will gift the school artwork consisting of tiles "marked" with each student's fingerprints in a unique Tiger inspired design.

Thank you, 5th grade teachers for shaping the 2015 class, and, thank you parents, for your help in making their year memorable!

Congratulations T.H.E. Class of 2015, we can't wait to see how each of you *Leave Your Mark* in middle school and beyond!





5th Annual Run For The Heights Braves the Winter Weather

The 5th Annual **Run for the Heights, 5K Run/Walk, Kids' Fun Run, & Health Fair**, held at Tuscany Heights Elementary, on Saturday, February 28, 2015 proved to be the most challenging event to date. Runners and walkers from all over San Antonio came out to brave the hilly course in the 30 degrees cold, wet, and windy weather. Despite the weather challenges, the community participated in a fun and exciting morning of health and wellness!

Overall, the event included over 850 registrations, 40+ business and community partners and 150+ volunteers. Returning emcee, Vinnie Vinzetta, KENS5 Sports Anchor, kicked off the event with the Opening Ceremony performed by the Johnson High School JROTC and Tuscany Heights Tiger Beat Choir singing the National Anthem. First up was the Fun Run as kids of all ages sprinted their way through the ¾ mile course. All Fun Run participants earned a spirit stick for their accomplishment. The chip-timed 5K was next with runners and walkers weaving their way through the challenging and hilly course. Using the latest timing technology from Race Redemption, runners were able to view their race results on big screen monitors within minutes of crossing the finish line. Our top finishers were Jenny Breuer with a time of 19:50 and Eric Salinas, who finished with a time of 18:26. The top 3 overall males/females received medals and gift certificates from iRun and Dick's Sporting Goods. Additional medals and awards went to the top 3 males/females in each 5 year age category, 10 and under to 70+. Finally, there were special awards for the top girl and boy in grades K-5, which included medals and gift certificates from the Mays YMCA and Young Chef's Academy. Congratulations to all the Fun Run and 5K Finishers!

After the races, participants warmed up inside by visiting the Sponsor Expo & Health Fair to receive valuable health information, get health screenings, and sample nutritional products. HEB and The Bagel Factory provided post-race food and drinks for all participants. Free health screenings for BP, Glucose, and Cholesterol were offered by North Central Baptist Hospital; BMI by the Mays YMCA; and physical therapy techniques by Promotional Physical Therapy. There were plenty of kid friendly activities provided by event sponsors, including Lego activities by Bricks 4 Kidz, creative arts by Primrose Preschools, face painting by Lisa Sinn Realty, plus hula hoops and jump roping from Let's Go San Antonio. Finally, various types of fitness were demonstrated for the crowds by JC Ultimate Training and Victory Martial Arts.

One of the event participants commented, "To all who coordinated today's event – GREAT JOB!!! So glad we made it this year and we will be back!!! Well done. ☺"

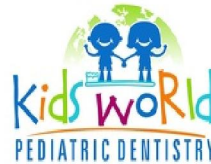
Run for the Heights not only raised funds for the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA, a 501(c) 3, but helped promote health and wellness in the community. Volunteers included community partners from HEB and Kohl's plus several local school groups such as Tuscany Heights WatchDOGS, Staff & Parents, Johnson HS Drill Team, Johnson HS PALS, Johnson HS AVID, Johnson HS Student Council, MacArthur HS PALS, Reagan HS National Honor Society, Reagan HS Track Team, Reagan HS Cheer, Tejada MS National Junior Honor Society, and Tejada MS PALS. These volunteers, students and many other student leaders from Tuscany Heights helped to create a spirit of pride and community. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the 5th Annual Run for the Heights! See our website for event photos, race results, and a list of our generous sponsors at <http://runfortheheights.tuscanyheightspta.org>



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



The Scott House Group
at Morgan Stanley

SILVER SPONSORS



