

November 2012
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TUSCANY HEIGHTS GROWLIN' GOOD NEWS

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Welcome Back Tuscany Tigers!!



Welcome back Tuscany Tigers for another GRRRRREAT school year!! We are definitely beginning with the end in mind! We are so excited to see old and new Tiger faces around campus. The 2012-2013 school year has kicked off to an awesome start and it will only get better as the year goes on. Students and teachers are getting adjusted to their new routines and the PTA has been busy working on lots of fun and educational activities for this year. We started off the school year with the official ribbon cutting of the rotunda paintings completed by Suzanne Paquette Linblad. These paintings not only showcase our tigers but the Covey Traits. They are absolutely beautiful!!

T.H.E. Tigers Love Our Staff!!!

Staff Appreciation kicked off the 2012 - 2013 year welcoming the staff back with a breakfast the Friday before school started. In September, we had a pizza luncheon for all staff. We have a great committee and would love anyone interested to join us as we get ready for the upcoming fall events. Here is what we are looking forward to planning in the next few months. We will host a "Spooktacular Luncheon" on October 29th, organize and distribute donated pies to the staff on November 16th (tentative) and do complimentary gift wrapping for the staff on December 14th (tentative). If you are interested in helping out the Staff Appreciation Committee please contact staffappreciation@tuscanheightspta.org.

New Tiger Paws Around T.H.E. Campus

Please welcome our newest Tiger Additions to Tuscan Heights for the 2012-2013 school year!!



Mrs. Kelly Grams has joined the 5th grade team! Mrs. Grams has lived in San Antonio since 1992 but originally from Houston. She graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and recently finished her Masters Degree from UTSA. She is married with 3 children in college. In her time away from T.H.E. she enjoys football. and fishing.



Ms. Nicole McNatt has joined the Specialized Support team! Ms. McNatt has lived in San Antonio all of her life and was a 12 year student of NEISD. She graduated from Churchill High School and Texas State University. She is so excited to be teaching in the same district that taught her!!



Ms. Nicole McNish "Ms. Mac" has joined the Specialized Support team! Ms. Mac has lived in San Antonio for 11 years. She graduated from the University of North Carolina Greensboro and is currently working on her Masters Degree in Counseling. She has a 6 year old daughter attending THE this year. In her spare time, Ms. Mac enjoys working out, teaching kickboxing, listening to music and watching movies.



Meet the Teacher Night / Orientation

Tiger families and staff kicked off the 2012-2013 school year with Meet the Teacher Night and Orientation. Meet the teacher night at Tuscan Heights is a fun, exciting evening for parents, students and staff. The bulletin boards are done, and the hallways are noisier. Excitement is in the air as the kids come to school to meet their teachers, buy spirit wear, agendas, and learn about the many opportunities to volunteer this year at Tuscan Heights, and we can't forget those car tags! Each grade level gave an overview to parents about the upcoming year before hustling down to their rooms to meet their new Tigers.





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@tuscanheightspta.org There will also be **NEW** winter spirit items available beginning Nov 5.

GO TIGERS!!!!!!



THE PTA PRESENTS... YAHOO/BOOHOO

The PTA hosted a social gathering the first morning of school for the Kindergarten parents. About 40 new kinder parents attended to meet other parents and discuss the excitement for what is to come as well as sadness that their little one is really growing up. Mrs. Bailey presented a nice poem called "Thoughts at the Bottom of the Beanstalk" which was a cute perspective for helping parents practice saying goodbye and cheering on their little ones.



Tiger Family Fun Night!!!

The first general PTA meeting of 2012-2013 was held on September 4, presented as Family Fun Night. Thank you to the Cub Scout Pack 9 for the opening flag ceremony. To get us back in the school spirit, Brooke Lester, a 5th Grader in Ms. Johle's class, read her fun, original rendition of "Twas the Night Before 5th Grade." The PTA invited local food trucks to come and serve barbecue, pizza, sushi, and even ice cream. There were activities for the kids like hula hooping and jump ropes. Our AMAZING Tiger families came out to support T.H.E. even in the heat and blazing sun for another great evening in support of the PTA and our Tuscany Tigers!!!!



ROARIN' TIGER GRANDPARENTS!!!!

Hundreds of Tiger Grandparents showed up to the school on Friday, September 7. The PTA hosted coffee in the library and then the Grandparents joined their students in their classroom for art projects, to hear stories, creative writing, games, and lots of fun!! To honor their grandparents, the children made cards and necklaces as well. We are so proud to have so many family members supporting the Tuscany Tigers!!!



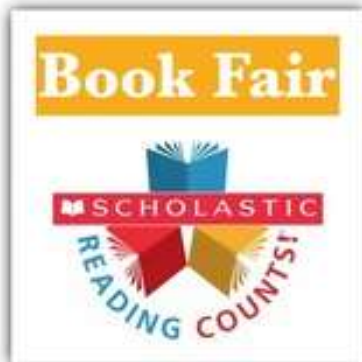
Say Hello to the Tuscany Heights D.O.G.S. "Dads Of Great Students"

Join the Watch DOGS and become the "Hero of the Hallway" 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. Our 1st annual program kicked off this year with a *Dads & Kids Pizza Night* with 200 attendees and over 100 men signed up. In fact, the entire fall semester is booked -- every day has at least one "Hero of the Hallway"!!! For more information or to sign up please contact watchdogs@tuscanyheightspta.org.



Eat For a Cause: Mooyah's

Tuscany Heights Tigers partnered up with Mooyah's to raise money benefiting THE PTA and Tuscany Tigers!!! Our Tiger families came out to show their support for our school in addition to giving mom and dad a night off in the kitchen. We raised over \$500 in additional funds to support THE PTA. Thank you everyone who supported our Eat For a Cause event and help in continuing to provide fun and educational activities for our Tigers!!



Our Fall Scholastic Book Fair was an "All - Star SUCCESS"!!

Our Tiger Families & Staff bought roughly 3,800 books and other items to raise over \$5,000 in cash profit for the Tuscany Heights Library. The library earned 100 new FREE books and the cash profits are being used to buy technology upgrades, apps, and educational websites subscriptions. We exceeded our total sales from last year and look forward to the next Book Fair in the Spring. Way to go Tiger Readers!!!



Books by Kate Messner:

Sea Monster's First Day
Over and Under the Snow
Marty McGuire
Capture the Flag
Eye of the Storm
Sugar and Ice
The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z



THE PTA Presents...Author Visit Kate Messner



Author Kate Messner visited Texas for the first time this week! She met with the 3rd, 4th & 5th grade students on Monday October 1. Kate shared with the students how her love of reading lead to her career in writing. She also shared how research plays an important role in any type of writing you do. The students really enjoyed what she had to say as much as they enjoy reading her books!!!



THE PTA Presents...

DINOSAUR GEORGE

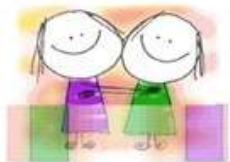
Dinosaurs came to meet our Tigers!!!

On Monday September 24, Tuscany Heights got to take a journey back in time to when dinosaurs walked on the ground where we live today. T.H.E. PTA Presents hosted the History Channel's Dinosaur George. Students got to learn about dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals. They got to see a collection of their bones including mammoth teeth, various claws, and several raptor skulls.

Dinosaur George and his assistant, Jurassic Chip, taught the students all kinds of interesting facts like the difference between herbivore, carnivore, and omnivore, and how you can examine teeth to find out what these animals ate. This exciting and humorous presentation kept the kid's attention, and sparked many questions. Dinosaur George said his favorite part of these assemblies is seeing the eagerness to learn in students eyes. For more information about Dinosaur George and his programs, please visit his website at Dinosaurgeorge.com. "[My boys] talked and laughed about the dinosaur guy for a week. I love that the school had a lesson that all age groups could enjoy and learn a lesson from." - Christina Camacho mother of Kason, Aiden, and Luis.



Our Sister School East Terrell Hills Elementary



Sister School is an alliance between East Terrell Hills Elementary and Tuscany Heights Elementary. T.H.E. assists with volunteering, mentoring and collections for shoes, school supplies, car seats, winter coats and holiday toy drives. If you would like more information on supporting our Sister School please contact sisterschool@tuscanyheightspta.org.



THE FABULOUS FOURTH

GRADE SPOTLIGHT

Meet T.H.E. 4th Grade Team

(from left to right): Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Forsyth, Ms. Mac, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Drake, Ms. Valdez (Montoya), Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Cowan



This year 4th grade is the largest class size in the building with 8 teachers and an assistant. Transitioning to 4th grade can be a bit of an adjustment. In addition to math and reading this year, our 4th graders will be on a writing journey. They will learn how to write stories (narrative papers) as well as informational pieces (expository papers). They will be exploring their senses and exploding moments in their lives that will be exciting for anyone who reads their work. 4th graders are ready to get involved in so much more than they have in the past. This year they can join many more clubs like Robotics Club, Newspaper Club, Choir, and Environmental Club. This year, they will also be able to participate in the district wide track and field competition at Heroes Stadium! What an exciting year our 4th graders are in for!

The October PTA General Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 2. Thank you to the Girl Scout Troup 956 for opening our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. If your troop would like to participate in a future meeting please contact programs@tuscanyheightspta.org. Madison Collins (in Mrs. Morris' 4th grade class) kicked off the evening of our Fabulous Fourth Graders, reading her message titled "Fourth Grade is Fantastic!"

Following the PTA meeting, the 4th grade students put on a musical performance with sports in mind. Dressed up in their favorite jerseys or sports team shirt, they sang a wonderful rendition of Take Me Out To The Ballgame! T.H.E. students took the Tuscany Sports Pledge followed by the parents saying the Tuscany Parents Pledge to show support of their Tigers.





Parent participation won recess equipment!!!

Continuing with the sports theme, the 4th grade classes battled it out on the volleyball courts. Students and parents from each class played against another class. There were approximately 300 participants with nearly half of them being parents!!! The winning class with the most parent participation was awarded \$50 of recess equipment from the PTA...and the winner was Ms. Morris' class. Congratulations on the recess equipment and t-shirts!!! Thank you everyone who came out to support our Fabulous Fourth Grade Tigers!!!!



THE PTA Presents... BIKE RODEO

The Bike Rodeo is a fun bicycle safety and agility competition. All participants receive a Tuscany Heights Bike Rodeo patch or spirit stick. Trophies were awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place boy and girl winners of each grade level. First place trophies were awarded to one boy and girl in the training wheels category. The boy and girl winners from each grade level will receive an official invitation to the City Wide Bike Rodeo in the spring.



And the Bike Rodeo winners are...

	Boys	Girls
Training Wheels	Chase Martin	Ava Castillo
Kindergarten		
First Place	Ethan Taylor	Cambria Kirwan
Second Place	Edgar Montemayor	Caroline Grace
Third Place	Aiden Sanchez	Makayla Shirley
First Grade		
First Place	Connor McCabe	Alexandra Holeman
Second Place	Nathan Cofries Nunuez	Julianna Hover
Third Place	Marcelo Sotoma Martinez	Kristian Murrieta
Second Grade		
First Place	Chase Sadler	Lauren Bates
Second Place	Lucas Trevino	Ana Vines
Third Place	Alec Murrieta	Alex Easley
Third Grade		
First Place	Marcelo Jimenez	Ainsley Holeman
Second Place	Chase Castillo	Mae Wierbach
Third Place	Chac Salinas	Emmy Purser
Fourth Grade		
First Place	Paxton Brice	Kari Sanchez
Second Place	Matteo Zuzek	Olivia Wildemann
Third Place	Coby Taylor	Gina Yu
Fifth Grade		
First Place	Daniel Marynak	Kyleigh Nikkels
Second Place	Jared Anderson	Joselynn Falcon
Third Place	Josh Teplitz	Brooke Lester
Teacher		Mrs. Potter

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@tuscanyheightspta.org to get started.





All About Greenback

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 2012-2013 school year, including:

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

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.

<i>Donation Levels</i>	
\$150	Tiger
\$100	Partner
\$75	Gold
\$50	Silver
\$25	Bronze

The Greenback goal for 2012-2013 is \$8,500. So far to date the PTA has received \$6,339 in Greenback Donations. We have met 75% of our goal so far this year!

Thank you for generously supporting your PTA!!



Thank you for sending in those BOX TOPS!!!! Each box top is 10¢ to Tuscany and they add up fast. So far you have raised over \$2,700 in additional funds to help support your TIGERS!! The winning class for the fall fundraiser was Mrs. Sirotiak's class in 1st Grade!!!! They will get a dance-off party with Mr. Rafajko! Keep clipping those Box Tops!





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The Tuscany Heights PTA currently has 366 members. Our goal for 2012-2013 is to have at least one member of EVERY Tiger Family and 100% staff join the PTA!! If you haven't yet joined the PTA visit our website or email membership@tuscanyheightspta.org



Minutes from Mindy

The cooler fall air is finally here, and I am finally enjoying our new school and family routines. I hope your family is feeling more settled enjoying new teachers, new friends, and new routines as well. Our tigers are definitely ready to earn their stripes this year.

If you have not had a chance to get connected with Tuscany and T.H.E. PTA, it is not too late. Our website, tuscanyheightspta.org, has a wealth of information to keep you connected to school and PTA programs, plus you can join PTA, give a tax-deductible Greenback donation, and purchase spirit items on our website.

We began the year with the end in mind, knowing that all the educational, enriching, and healthy events and programs we have planned will continue to nurture and educate our children into well-rounded students. We started the year with our first Family Fun Night and PTA meeting, which was a huge success and provided an opportunity for families and staff to come together and eat dinner from one of the four food trucks. We conducted the meeting outside on the cafeteria patio while families ate and kids stayed active jump roping, hula hooping, and playing with friends. Our newest program, Watch D.O.G.S., has given dads and

father-figures an opportunity to volunteer on campus and become a "Hero of the Hallway". There are still dates available, so sign up on our website. It is a great program that allows dads to serve in many roles on our campus. With entertaining visits from Dinosaur George and Author Kate Messner to another fun and safe Bike Rodeo, your PTA is continuing to plan and implement programs and events that benefit all students.

Stay proactive and get connected with PTA and Tuscany Heights this year. Your T.H.E. PTA Board is here to serve you and your children. We are looking forward to another exciting, enriching, and educational year!

Go Tigers! Let's earn our stripes this year!

Mindy Waters
T.H.E. PTA President



T.H.E. PTA Inspirational Writing Contests

THE PTA holds grade level writing contests before each PTA meeting in support of our children's creativity and writing success. For September, the fourth graders were given the topic of "Fantastic Fourth Grade" and we were amazed to see such great talent! Our winning student was Madison Collins from Mrs. Morris' fourth grade class. Madison read her essay to open our October PTA meeting. Great job, Madison!

Thank you to *The Invitation Chicks* for providing both Madison and Mrs. Morris a small token of our appreciation for their efforts.

In December, the fifth graders will focus on the Covey trait "Put First Things First". Come see our winning student writer at the December PTA meeting!

Fantastic Fourth Grade by Madison Collins

Wake up students of Tuscany Heights, Madison speaking. I have a few cool things to tell you about my school and fourth grade. Well, why don't we start then? First, I'll start with Math. I think that Math is a terrific, fun thing to do. We've got to do stuff that you can't do in other grades. Like multiplication sundaes. Where we fight to learn multiplication and get rewarded with a yummy and creamy dessert. Second, how about we talk about Science. I really like Science. I like it because there is more experiments and cool equipment. Also our teacher is really nice. Third, I get to go to the library. The cool thing about library is you get to check out three books! I bet no other grade can do that. Fourth, I like to play the fun games in PE. I enjoy the cool games in PE because they help me get physical education and it is really fun. Also I really appreciate the things that my PE teacher taught me. Finally, I absolutely love my teacher, Mrs. Morris. She is a nice, friendly, loving, and caring woman. She is the best thing that ever happened to me, in fact, this school is the best thing that ever happened to me. I also cannot wait to accomplish fourth grade and advance to fifth. I can't wait to start the new year at Tuscany Heights!



T.H.E. RUN FOR THE HEIGHTS **Saturday, February 23, 2013**

5K Run / Walk Kid's Fun Run & Health Fair
Tigers Think Win-Win!!!

Join us for the 3rd Annual Run for the Heights

For Sponsorship opportunities, please contact Denise Jones at [\(210\)870-0706](tel:(210)870-0706) or Maria Hubbard at [\(210\)867-3834](tel:(210)867-3834).

Please visit the website

www.runfortheheights.tuscanheightspta.org



www.tuscanheightspta.org