



# Tiger Newsletter

March, 2025



## A Message From Principal Evans

*Hello John Still Students and Families-*

*March is coming in with a bang! So many events, this a month full of learning, celebration, and community engagement, and we're excited to share all that's happening!*

*We begin by recognizing Women's History Month, celebrating the achievements and contributions of women throughout history. Our students will have opportunities to learn about inspiring leaders and changemakers through classroom activities and discussions.*

*We are all starting Ramadan in many households and we acknowledge and support our students and families observing this sacred month of fasting, reflection, and community. Blessing to you! If your child needs any accommodations during the school day, please reach out to us—we are here to support them!*

*March also brings Literacy Week, where we will highlight the joy of reading through special events, book-themed activities and guest readers. We*

## March School Events

March 3 - 7

Read Across John Still Week  
Literacy Night Event, March 5th

March 7 - 14

Parent Teacher Conferences - Minimum Day for Elementary Grades

March 8

Community Tree Planting Day at John Still

March 10 - 14

Scholastic Book Fair This Week

March 25

School Site Council & ELAC Meetings

March 27

Arrive Alive Assembly - Middle School

March 28

Principal's Coffee Chat  
Middle School Report Cards  
Middle School Minimum Day

activities, and guest readers. We encourage families to engage in reading at home and share the love of stories with their children.

We'll also be celebrating Arbor Week, focusing on environmental awareness and the importance of trees in our community. Stay tuned for school-wide activities that promote sustainability and appreciation for nature!

On March 9th, Daylight Savings Time begins, so don't forget to set your clocks forward! This shift in time can impact sleep schedules, so we encourage everyone to adjust their routines accordingly and help our students continue getting to school on time!

Later in the month, we honor César Chávez Day on March 31st, recognizing his legacy of leadership and advocacy for workers' rights and social justice. Students will have the chance to learn more about his impact through classroom conversations and projects.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education. We look forward to a month filled with learning, growth, and meaningful celebrations.

And of course, Happy St. Patty's Day!

**Joanna Evans**  
**Principal**  
**John Still TK-8**

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# In the Spotlight



## **PTO Update: Exciting Progress for the John Still TK-8 Parent Teacher Organization!**

We're excited to update you on the John Still TK-8 Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)! Our dedicated steering committee has been hard at work creating the structures necessary for a successful PTO launch later this spring. The PTO will focus on fundraising and activities to enhance our school culture and environment.

Great news—we are now officially registered with the California Secretary of State! This allows us to move forward with filing for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, opening up new opportunities for support.

A big thank you to our steering committee members for their valuable contributions and hard work in getting the PTO off the ground.

Have questions or want to get involved? Contact Katie Burns at [katherine-burns@scusd.edu](mailto:katherine-burns@scusd.edu).

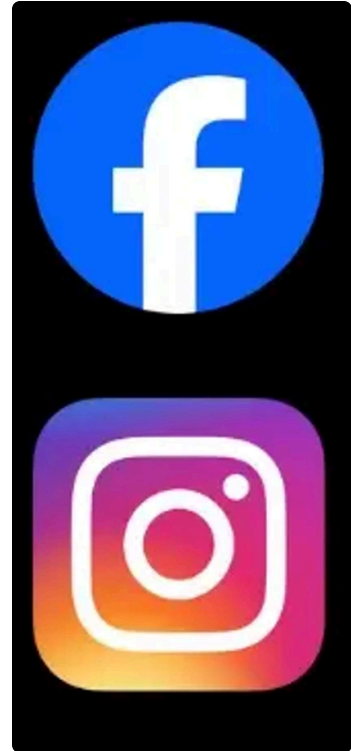
## Check Us Out on Social Media!

We heard you!

John Still TK-8 is now on Facebook and Instagram.

While Parent Square remains our official platform for important announcements and updates, you can now follow us on social media for extra stories, event highlights, and celebrations of our amazing students and staff.

You can find our **[Facebook page here](#)**, and our **[Instagram page here](#)**.





## Help Us Reach Our Goal: Annual District Survey

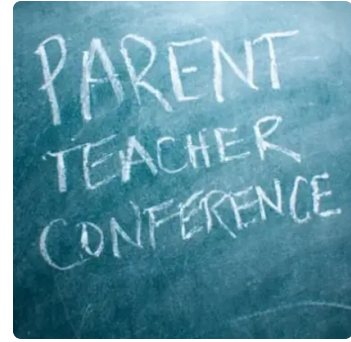
We need your voice! As part of the district's annual data collection process, the **School Climate Survey** is now open, and we have a goal to gather survey responses from at least **70% of our families**. Your feedback is crucial as it helps us plan and improve the school experience for all students. The data collected from this survey will guide efforts to enhance school culture, safety, connectedness, and social-emotional learning.

The survey is open through **Friday, March 21, 2025**, and is available for all parents and caregivers to complete. It should take no longer than **10 minutes** to finish—just 10 minutes of your time can make a big difference for our school! The survey is available online in **English** and the five district threshold languages. You can find the Family Survey and access it in multiple languages through this link: **[School Climate Surveys](#)**.

If we hit our 70% response rate, we'll celebrate with an **Otter Pop party** for students—let's make it happen! The survey results also play an important role in supporting the district's priorities, including actions related to the **LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan)** and the **California School Dashboard**. Your input is vital for our continued progress. Look out for the survey link via ParentSquare, email, social media, and other communication channels. Thank you for helping us meet our goal!

## Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are an important opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and support their academic growth. At John Still Elementary (TK-6), we value this time to discuss progress, celebrate achievements, and identify ways to work together for your child's success.



Spring conferences will take place on **Friday, March 7, and March 10–14**. During these dates, **elementary students will follow a minimum day schedule**. If you attended a conference in the fall, you may not need to meet again this spring. However, we encourage all parents to check with their child's teacher to determine if a conference is needed.

To schedule an appointment, please contact your child's teacher directly. We appreciate your partnership in supporting our students!



### Farewell to Miss Ciara - Wishing Her the Best!

We say a heartfelt farewell to Miss Ciara as she embarks on a new opportunity at Kennedy High School, where she will have a full-time position. While we are sad to see her go, we are excited for this next chapter in her career!

Miss Ciara has been an integral part of our West Campus office and a dedicated team member in our after-school program. Every day, she managed phone calls, greeted campus visitors, kept records organized, and assisted staff and students—all with her ever-present smile. She brought warmth, efficiency, and kindness to our school, and her presence will truly be missed.

We thank Miss Ciara for all she has done for John Still and wish her the very best at Kennedy High School!

# John Still TK-8 February Highlights





## Celebrating Black History Month at John Still

February was a month filled with meaningful events and celebrations in honor of Black History Month at John Still. We kicked off the month with **Black Parent Involvement Day**, where parents gathered for brunch, conversation, and valuable discussions on how to best support our students. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to connect, share experiences, and visit classrooms to see the learning taking place.

Another highlight was **Black Professionals Day**, where local business owners and community leaders visited our 6th-8th graders during their lunch period. These professionals shared insights into their career paths and served as powerful role models for our students, showing them the possibilities for their futures.

The **Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center** hosted a **Black History Commemoration Night** to celebrate art, poetry, and history, inviting students and their families to participate in an evening of creativity and reflection.

To close out the month, we had the honor of hosting **Karega Bailey**, a nationally renowned Peace Advocate and founder of SOL Affirmations. On the last day of February, Karega led a powerful rally for our 6th-8th graders. He inspired students with his message of empowerment and peace, while also giving away roses and other special swag. Additionally, students performed as famous Black Americans, bringing history to life in an unforgettable way.

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the **Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center** for their continued support in making these impactful events possible. It was a month of learning, inspiration, and celebration, and we look forward to more opportunities to honor Black history with our students and community.

## Looking Ahead: The Month of March



## Ramadan: A Time for Reflection and Spiritual Growth

Ramadan is one of the holiest months for Muslims, observed through fasting, prayer, and acts of charity. Muslims fast from dawn until sunset to commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, focusing on self-control, gratitude, and compassion. The month is a time for spiritual growth, with increased devotion through prayer, Qur'anic recitation, and reflection. Muslims also avoid negative actions like gossip and arguing, aiming to improve both spiritually and morally.

Throughout Ramadan, Muslims gather for special prayers and social events, including the nightly Taraweeh prayers and community iftar dinners. Many mosques host food drives and charity events to help those in need. The month concludes with Lailat al-Qadr, the Night of Power, believed to be when the Qur'an was revealed, followed by the celebration of Eid ul-Fitr, a joyful occasion marked by prayer, feasts, and community gatherings.

Source: [ing.org](https://www.ing.org)

## Womens History Month

Women's History Month had its beginnings in 1981 when Congress passed a law designating the week starting March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." Over the next few years, Congress continued to recognize this week, and in 1987, after a petition from the National Women's History Project, it became a month-long celebration. Since 1995, each U.S. president has issued proclamations honoring March as Women's History Month, celebrating the significant contributions of women throughout American history.

Throughout this month, we reflect on the many achievements women have made across all areas of society, from politics and science to the arts and education. Women's History Month not only highlights their past accomplishments but also inspires future generations to continue to break barriers and make lasting impacts in their communities.

Source: [womenshistorymonth.gov](https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov)

## March Literacy Events at John Still: A Month of Reading Fun!

March is a month dedicated to celebrating literacy at John Still, and we're excited to kick things off with Read Across John Still Week from March 3-7! Each day will feature a fun theme to encourage reading and make it a memorable week for our students. Here's a look at the special events:

- **Monday, 3/3:** Wear a shirt I can read – Whether it's a favorite book quote or fun wordplay, show off your reading spirit!
- **Tuesday, 3/4:** Bring a blanket and read – Get cozy and enjoy a good book.
- **Wednesday, 3/5:** Dress like a book character – Come dressed as your favorite literary character!
- **Thursday, 3/6:** Twin Day – Pair up with a buddy and read together.
- **Friday, 3/7:** Guest readers on campus – Special classroom read-aloud sessions with guest readers.

We are also hosting a **Literacy Night** on **Wednesday, 3/5**, from **4:30-6:00 PM** in the elementary (west campus) cafeteria. This family-friendly event will feature activities that celebrate reading and provide fun ways to engage with books.

After Read Across John Still Week, we'll kick off the **Spring Scholastic Book Fair** on **Monday, 3/10**, at the west campus library. Students can buy books during lunch, and the book fair will also be open several evenings. More information on book fair hours will be shared through Parent Square and on the John Still TK-8 website. We hope to see you there for all these exciting literacy celebrations!





## Tree Planting Event, Saturday 3/8/25

Join us on **Saturday, March 8, 2025**, from **9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** for a special community event at John Still as we celebrate **Arbor Week!** We're partnering with the **Meadow View Urban Tree Project** and many other community organizations and elected officials to plant dozens of trees across our campus. This is a wonderful opportunity to help beautify our school while contributing to the environment. These trees will play an important role in enhancing our campus ecosystem for years to come.

In addition to tree planting, there will be plenty of **family-friendly activities**, including arts and crafts, so bring the whole family! Whether you're planting a tree or enjoying the activities, this event is a great way to get involved and make a lasting impact on our school's environment. We're excited to work together to create a greener, more beautiful campus for our students and the entire community. We hope to see you there!



## March is National Nutrition Month: Celebrating Our School Meals Program

March is National Nutrition Month, and we want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work and dedication of **SCUSD's Central Kitchen** and our John Still **Nutrition Services Staff** to provide nutritious meals for our students every day.

Whether it's a healthy breakfast to kick off the day or a nutritious lunch to keep energy levels high, our SCUSD team plays a key role in supporting students' physical and mental health.

Did you know that **school meals** have a huge impact on student success? Research shows that participating in school breakfast and lunch programs leads to improved **attendance, behavior, and academic performance**, as well as **decreased tardiness**. Breakfast, in particular, is crucial for getting students off to a great start!

In the photos above, twice-monthly visits from Central Kitchen's **Breakfast Food Truck** are a fun and convenient way to ensure that our middle school students have access to a healthy breakfast before class.

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## Honoring Cesar Chavez Day: March 31st

On **March 31st**, we celebrate **Cesar Chavez Day**, a day to honor the legacy of a remarkable leader who fought for justice, equality, and dignity for all Americans. Cesar Chavez's motto, "**Si se puede!**" ("Yes, it can be done!"), continues to inspire people worldwide and embodies the vision he carried throughout his life. His dedication to social justice and workers' rights led him to become a powerful figure in the movement for farm workers' rights, and his impact is still felt today.

Cesar Chavez's life and work have been recognized in countless ways. Since his passing, schools, parks, streets, libraries, and even ships have been named in his honor. His birthday, **March 31st**, is an official holiday in 10 states, and in 1994, President Bill Clinton posthumously awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

As a man of humble beginnings with an extraordinary vision, Cesar's fight for equality and justice remains just as important today as it was during his lifetime. Let us all take a moment on this day to reflect on his contributions and continue to live out his values of justice, equality, and empowerment.

Source: Chavez Foundation

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latest updates and  
information.**