



Tiger Newsletter

February, 2025



A Message From Principal Evans

Hello John Still Students and Families,

Can you believe it's already February? Happy belated Lunar New Year and Happy Black History Month! We've got some fun things lined up this month as we close out January.

We are very proud of our girls' and boys' basketball teams that just finished out strong seasons, with both teams making it to the playoffs. Well done Tigers!

We have some cool events planned for February, including Black Parent Involvement Day which I am hoping to see many of you here for on the 18th and Black Professionals Day for our East Campus students on the 21st. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Finally, I want to remind everyone that SCUSD is a safe haven district "committed to the education and well-being of all students no matter their immigration status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, ability, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status or beliefs". We will continue to focus on these efforts in support of educating children.

Thanks so much for your continued support. We couldn't do it without our amazing school community. Stay warm, stay safe, and let's make February another great month!

Joanna Evans
Principal
John Still TK-8

February School Events

February 3

ELPAC Testing Begins this Month

February 4 & 5

Pizza Guys Fundraiser 🍕

February 10

President Lincoln's Birthday - School Holiday

February 11 - 14

Kindness Week ❤️

February 17

Presidents Day - School Holiday

February 18

Black Parent Involvement Day

February 19

Black History Commemoration Night

February 21

Black Professionals Day, Middle School Campus

February 25-26

Dental Health Assembly and Screening

February 28

Principal's Coffee Chat
Black History Rally, Middle School Campus

John Still TK-8 Celebrates Black History Month



February is Black History Month—a time to honor the remarkable contributions of African Americans to our society and recognize their resilience in the face of adversity.

This month offers an opportunity for learning, reflection, and celebration. National institutions like the Library of Congress and Smithsonian provide educational programs and resources at blackhistorymonth.gov.

Families are encouraged to engage in meaningful conversations, explore stories of influential Black leaders, and celebrate the rich cultural heritage that has shaped our nation. Together, we can foster greater understanding, respect, and appreciation for these important contributions.



Honor Black History Month with Us: Exciting Events Ahead!

We are excited to announce a series of events at John Still TK-8 in partnership with the Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center and other community organizations as we celebrate Black History Month throughout February. These meaningful events provide wonderful opportunities for students, families, and the broader community to learn, reflect, and participate.

Here's what you can look forward to:

Black Parent Involvement Day – February 18

This day is dedicated to encouraging and celebrating the engagement of parents in their children's education. Keep an eye on Parent Square for details on how to get involved.

Black History Commemoration Night – February 19

We hope to see everyone for an evening event honoring Black history and culture. The night will feature a variety of activities for students and their families, and will celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history.

Black Professionals Day – February 21

Students in grades 6 - 8 will have the chance to meet and interact with Black professionals from various fields. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about career paths and hear inspiring stories.

Middle School Black History Month Rally – February 28

We will wrap up the month with an energetic and engaging rally at the end of the school day for our middle school students. The rally will feature a guest speaker who will engage students with discussions about Black poetry, music, and art, celebrating the rich cultural contributions of the Black community.

Stay tuned to Parent Square for more announcements and updates about these events. We encourage everyone to participate, connect, and celebrate this important month together.

Thank you for your support as we honor and commemorate Black history at John Still TK-8.



Also in February....

IMPORTANT: ELPAC Testing Begins February

3rd

The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) is an important opportunity for students whose primary language is not English to demonstrate their progress in learning English. This state-required assessment helps us better support students on their path to English proficiency.

John Still has 145 English Learner (EL) students scheduled for assessment, with results available through Infinite Campus by the end of the school year.

Why Is ELPAC Important?

The ELPAC measures your child's growth in English language skills and helps us provide targeted support to meet their learning needs.

Help Us Help Your Child Succeed

Here's how you can support your child during this important assessment:

- **Encourage a Positive Mindset:** Remind your child that their teacher and you are here to support them every step of the way. Encourage them to give their best effort.
- **Explore Helpful Resources:** Visit the [Starting Smarter website](#) to:
 - Understand Student Score Reports
 - Review sample questions
 - Access learning resources

We look forward to helping every student reach their fullest potential.

Kindness Week Begins February

11th

Kindness doesn't have to be grand to be meaningful. Simple, everyday acts can create a ripple effect, building stronger, more compassionate communities. [The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation](#) shares these practical tips to help make kindness part of daily life:

Start Small: Encourage small acts like giving compliments, holding doors open, or offering help. These simple gestures make a big impact.

Be a Role Model: Show kindness through your words and actions. Children learn by watching adults.

Spread the Joy: Share stories of kindness you experience as a family to inspire others.

Champion Kindness: Support policies in schools, workplaces, and your community that promote and reward kindness.



By choosing kindness every day, we help create a world where compassion is the norm—not the exception. Let's work together to nurture this positive change.



January Highlights at John Still TK-8

John Still's Libraries Are at the Heart of Our School!

At John Still, our libraries are much more than just a place to check out books—they are vibrant, welcoming spaces where students come together to read, learn, and grow. Whether it's Ms. Yoneda at the middle school or Ms. Favela at the elementary campus, our libraries are the heart of our reading community.

Our libraries are open all day, serving as a hub for knowledge, creativity, and community. John Still students are part of a vibrant reading community, and we are so grateful for our libraries and the amazing librarians who make these spaces come alive!



Elementary Library: A World of Exploration

Our elementary students are fortunate to visit the library regularly, where they can immerse themselves in a world of books and participate in enriching activities. In addition to selecting books from a collection of over 7,000 titles, Ms. Favela leads a variety of learning activities, including social-emotional lessons, read-alouds, and activities that celebrate cultural traditions and important histories. After choosing their books, students find quiet spots to read, with Ms. Seixas' fifth graders even creating a cozy reading pod to enjoy their books together.



Middle School Library: Research, Reading, and Creativity

The middle school library is a busy space where students can gather resources for research projects, enjoy quiet reading time, and get expert advice from Ms. Yoneda. She is always ready to help students find books on any topic and supports them in their academic and personal reading journeys. As an added bonus, Ms. Yoneda hosts arts and crafts sessions on Monday afternoons, where this month students are learning the art of sewing!



Exciting News: Lunchtime Book Club for 1st through 5th Grade Students!

We're pleased to announce that the John Still Student Support Center has started a new lunchtime book club for students in grades 1-5 on the west campus!

This fun and engaging club will meet in the library during lunch recess, providing a great opportunity for students to connect over books, share stories, and develop a love for reading.

We look forward to seeing many students join in the fun!



Celebrating the 100th Day of School

On January 29th, John Still TK-8 celebrated the 100th day of school! This fun tradition marks a significant milestone in the school year, where students and staff reflect on what they've accomplished and look forward to the rest of the year.

Many schools across the country celebrate the 100th day as a way to teach students about numbers and the passage of time, often with activities involving counting or using 100 items.

Ms. Landrum's class fully embraced the spirit of the day. Both Ms. Landrum and Ms. Pattie dressed as if they were 100 years old, and their fun costumes brought lots of smiles to the classroom.

The 100th day is a time to celebrate all we've achieved as a school community and look ahead to the exciting learning yet to come. Here's to more days of growth and fun at John Still TK-8!



John Still Leads the District in Attendance!

We are happy to report that John Still TK-8 achieved a 2% increase in student attendance for the month of December, making us the district leader!

This accomplishment reflects the hard work and commitment of our students, families, and staff in ensuring regular attendance. We would also like to give special recognition to Miss Ciara and Miss Kelsey, our front office staff members, who manage attendance reporting each day.

To celebrate our success, we were awarded the Attendance Belt, which we will proudly display on our campus until the next monthly winner is announced. Additionally, we had a special visit from SCUSD's mascot, Crispin, on January 29, who came to congratulate our students and celebrate their efforts.

Thank you to all of our families for supporting student attendance—every day truly counts, and together, we will continue to achieve great things!



Eighth Grade Students Prepare for High School and Beyond!

John Still eighth-grade students are preparing for an exciting milestone—high school! Under the thoughtful guidance of school counselor Janet Spilman, students have been exploring their options and selecting the high schools that best fit their interests and goals for next year.

In January, students welcomed special visitors from John F. Kennedy High School. The counseling staff, along with student representatives from JFK’s Learning Academy Programs, shared insights into the many academic and extracurricular opportunities available. Students learned about programs such as the Criminal Justice Academy, the Marine Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), the Marching Band, and Engineering, and Advanced Placement pathways.

These visits are designed to help students make informed decisions about their future while exposing them to a variety of fields and passions. With so many exciting choices, John Still’s eighth graders are well on their way to finding their perfect high school fit and paving the way for bright futures ahead.

Support Our School & Show Your Spirit

30%
of sales goes to
**JOHN STILL
TK-8**

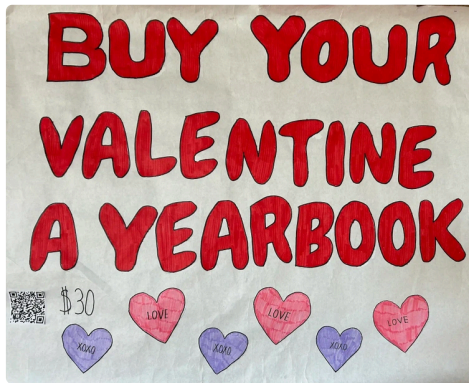
**Pizza Guys
PIZZA
FUNDRAISER**
EST. 1986

TIGERS
THURSDAY
February 4, 2025
WEDNESDAY
February 5, 2025
10AM - 10PM

www.pizzaguys.com
7800 Greenhaven Dr., Ste. 2
Sacramento, CA
(916) 429-1111

Support our Pizza Guys Fundraiser!

add information here. include a link to the flyer
extra flyers in the east and west school offices



**Pre-Order Your Yearbook By
March 31st!**

\$30 add details

Yearbooks can be ordered on this
website:

[https://store.shopyearbook.com/jsk8-
yearbook](https://store.shopyearbook.com/jsk8-yearbook)



**Spring into School Spirit with John
Still Spirit Wear!**

Spring is just around the corner—what
better way to show your school pride
than by sporting some John Still spirit
wear? Stop by the front office to pick up
your tees for \$15 and hoodies for \$25,
available for purchase with cash. Get
yours today and wear it with pride as we
celebrate another great season at John
Still!

**Visit our website for the
latest updates and
information. ❤️**

John Still TK-8 Website