



# Tiger Newsletter

January, 2025



## A Message From Principal Evans

**Hello John Still Students and Families,**

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a healthy and restful holiday season. It was such a joy to spend time with so many of you in December at our various celebrations and events. If you didn't make it to Breakfast with Santa, the Winter Concert, or the West Christmas Program this year, hopefully we'll see you in 2025!

We're thrilled to announce that this year we've begun exploring the creation of a PTA or PTO here at John Still. This is an important step toward growing a strong partnership between families and our school community. We invite all parents and caregivers interested to join our start-up meetings as they happen. Your voice, input, and decision-making are necessary in helping create this team together. Keep an eye on our website and Parent Square for updates and meeting announcements.

As we start this new year, we are excited to continue partnering with you to support your children in their academic and personal growth. Let's make January a great start to 2025!

Joanna Evans  
Principal  
John Still TK-8

## January School Events

January 17

Middle School Quarter 2 Report Cards  
Middle School Minimum Day

January 20

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - School Holiday

January 24

Middle School Awards Assembly

January 27

NED Show Assembly for Grades 1-6

January 31

Principal's Coffee Chat

# December Recap: A Month of Festive Fun and Exciting Activities at John Still TK-8



## Winter Concert Performances

The holiday season at John Still TK-8 kicked off with a Winter Concert performance featuring our talented band and orchestra members. From beginners to more seasoned musicians, students filled the air with a festive mix of songs, including many holiday favorites that brought joy to the school community.

A special thank you to Ms. Kachagin, our dedicated middle school music teacher, for working with students to develop their musical skills and prepare for the performance. We also extend our thanks to Ms. Galvan and Mr. Kastanis for joining as special performers.

We are so proud of our students for showcasing their hard work and talent. The winter concert was a heartwarming reminder of the spirit of the season and the incredible achievements of our John Still Tigers!



## John Still Families Celebrate the Season at Breakfast with Santa

Despite the rainy and windy weather, John Still families showed up in full force for our annual *Breakfast with Santa* event, hosted by the Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center. It was a festive morning filled with holiday cheer as students and their families came together to celebrate the season.

Attendees were treated to a delicious breakfast, followed by a variety of exciting activities for all ages. From face painting and writing letters to Santa to taking on the marshmallow challenge and decorating cookies, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

A special thank you to SCUSD Board Trustee Rhodes, who joined us as Santa for the event! His warm presence and jolly spirit brought extra holiday magic to the morning, as families had the chance to take photos and share their holiday wishes.

A huge thank you to the Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center for making this event possible and to all of the families who braved the weather to join in the festivities. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday season at John Still TK-8!





### John Still TK-8 Hosts Site Visit with State Senator Angelique Ashby's Team

We are excited to share that John Still TK-8 recently hosted a site visit from State Senator Angelique Ashby's team. This visit highlighted the strong partnership between the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) and our school, focusing on support for our students' mental health and well-being.

The visit specifically showcased the collaborative work of SCOE Mental Health Clinicians Amanda Jaynes and Veronique Gonzalez, along with our Student Support Center and Admin Team. Their teamwork plays a crucial role in providing mental health services and creating a positive, supportive environment at John Still TK-8.

This visit was a great reminder of the power of collaboration in strengthening our school community. Thank you to everyone who contributes to making our campus a place where students thrive!



### Starbucks "Elves" Deliver Holiday Gifts to John Still Students

On December 18th, the team from our local **Starbucks at Freeport and Meadowview** made a special visit to John Still TK-8 to spread holiday cheer. The Starbucks team delivered gifts to over 100 of our students in special education, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten, bringing smiles and excitement throughout the campus.

Earlier in the holiday season, students created wish lists, and thanks to the generous coordination and contributions from Starbucks staff and customers, their wishes were granted. The moment of delivery was filled with joy as students eagerly awaited their gifts. On the count of "1-2-3-go!", they tore into their presents, filling the room with delighted voices and beaming faces.

We are incredibly grateful to our local Starbucks for their ongoing and generous support of our school community. Their kindness made this holiday season extra special for our students, and we are thankful for their continued partnership in making John Still TK-8 a place where students are celebrated and supported.



## Fifth Graders Create Santa Catchers to Celebrate the Holiday Season

In the spirit of creativity and holiday cheer, Ms. Lynch's fifth-grade students completed a special project in December: crafting their very own *Santa Catchers*! This fun and imaginative activity was designed to celebrate the season while encouraging students to use their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Each student created a unique, three-dimensional model of a "Santa Catcher"—a whimsical device designed to catch Santa Claus as he visits on Christmas Eve. Students used a variety of materials to bring their ideas to life.

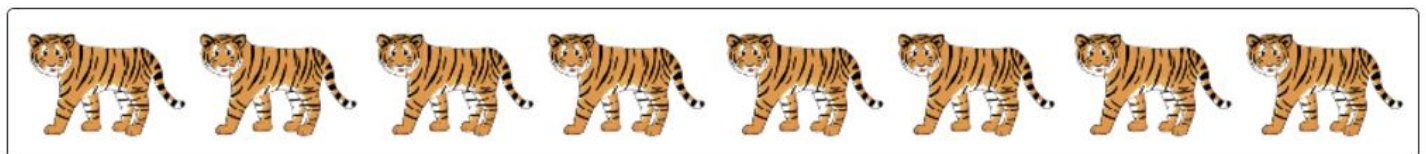
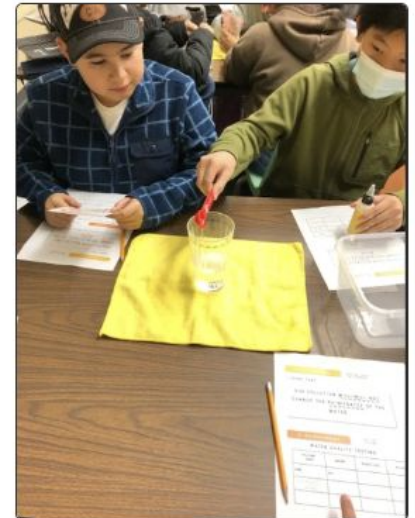
This hands-on activity was a fun and engaging way to celebrate the holiday season, while also fostering teamwork, problem-solving, and presentation skills. Ms. Lynch and her students ended the year on a high note, full of holiday spirit and a sense of accomplishment.

## Sixth Grade Students Explore Science with the Sacramento Zoo's ZooMobile

John Still 6th grade students recently had an exciting, hands-on learning experience when the **Sacramento Zoo's ZooMobile** visited their classroom!

The ZooMobile program brings interactive science lessons directly to students, using live animal ambassadors and engaging activities to explore key concepts.

During the visit, students not only observed live animals but also experimented with water quality to better understand the science behind ecosystems. Through fun, educational games and hands-on experiments, students learned about the importance of water quality.



# Looking Ahead: January 2025



## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 20, 2025

Each year, on the third Monday of January, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a holiday that honors the life and legacy of one of the most influential figures in American history. Dr. King was a civil rights leader who dedicated his life to fighting racial injustice, inequality, and segregation through peaceful protest and inspiring speeches. His famous *"I Have a Dream"* speech, delivered during the 1963 March on Washington, became a defining moment in the struggle for civil rights in the United States.

Dr. King's leadership and commitment to nonviolence helped spark monumental changes in American society, including the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, both of which outlawed discrimination based on race and protected voting rights for African Americans.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, first celebrated as a national holiday in 1983, serves as a reminder of Dr. King's work and the ongoing efforts needed to build a more just and equal society. It is a day for reflection, education, and action. Many people across the country take this day to engage in community service, a tradition that honors Dr. King's commitment to service and equality for all.

*Photo Credit: TheKingCenter.org*



## Lunar New Year - January 29, 2025

Lunar New Year marks the arrival of spring and the start of a new year on the lunisolar calendar. Celebrated widely in China, South Korea, Vietnam, and other countries with significant overseas Chinese communities, it is a time for families to reunite and celebrate together.

In China, the holiday is known as the Spring Festival, a 15-day celebration filled with traditions. Homes are decorated with red paper cuttings and couplets, and families clean their houses to welcome good fortune. The highlight of the celebration is the Lunar New Year's Eve reunion dinner, featuring symbolic dishes like whole fish, which represents abundance. The festival ends with the Lantern Festival, where families enjoy *tangyuan* (sweet rice balls) and children carry lanterns through the streets.

In 2025, the Chinese zodiac designates the year as the Snake, symbolizing wisdom and transformation. It's also important to note that Lunar New Year traditions may vary across cultures, and not all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders observe the Chinese zodiac.

As we embrace the new year, we wish everyone a year full of prosperity, happiness, and new beginnings.

*Source: Asia.SI.edu*

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Visit our website for the latest updates  
and information.

[John Still TK-8 Website](#)

