

Tiger Newsletter - May, 2025

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Tiger Newsletter

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A Message From Principal Evans

Hello John Still Families,

As we enter the final full month of the school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our growth, and commitment to one another. May is a time of celebration, reflection, and continued learning—and we have so much to be proud of at this time. Students have worked and learned so much! Please honor their work by attending Open House and celebrate their teachers and our school staff by sending a note of thanks or small treat during Teacher/Staff Appreciation week May 5-9.

Students in 3rd – 8th grades will be taking state testing this month. Please help them in doing their best by ensuring they are at school daily during their testing dates, that they are well rested in order to concentrate, and that they are here for breakfast or eat something at home before they arrive to help them stay focused!

Also as the year winds down we will have our final library visits, Coffee Chat, and ROARS assembly. Please take note of all

May School Events

May 5 - 9

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

May 6

SSC/ELAC Meeting at 2:30PM

May 9

Middle School Progress Notices Sent Home

May 10

Cesar Chavez Leadership Conference at U.C. Davis

May 12 - 16

Wellness Week

May 12 - 21

State Testing, Dates Vary by Grade Level

May 14

Open House 5:00PM - 7:00PM

May 21

Spring Concert 6:00PM

May 22

Library Art Showcase 4:30PM - 6:30PM

the additional upcoming events taking place this month! It's a very busy and exciting time of year as will be the first two weeks of June.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Open House. Hot dog meals will be available to the first 200 attendees, and the Kona Ice Truck will be here as well! Hoping you can make it!

Joanna Evans
Principal
John Still TK-8

May 26
Memorial Day Holiday - No School

May 29
Dental Screening Event

May 30
Principal's Coffee Chat, 8:15AM

In the Spotlight

CAASPP Testing Season: Key Info for Parents

There are many ways to measure your child's learning. Your child's teacher uses report card grades, classroom work, teacher observations, and end-of-year statewide test results to get a complete picture of your child's learning. Each year, students participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Your child will take the following tests, depending on their grade level or instructional program:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts and math, required tests in grades 3–8 and 11
- California Science Test (CAST), a required test in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school

This year, SCUSD will give the summative assessments in person. The test is divided into the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), the Performance Task (PT), and for our 5th and 8th graders the California Science Test (CAST). Our school's testing schedule is posted below.

	ELA CAT	ELA PT	Math CAT	Math PT	CAST
3rd Grade	May 15	May 16	May 20	May 21	
4th Grade	May 13	May 14	May 20	May 21	
5th Grade	May 12	May 13-14	May 15	May 16	May 19
7th Grade	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	
8th Grade	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 12
6th Grade	May 15	May 16	May 20	May 21	



Save the Date: John Still TK-8 Open House

Mark your calendars! Join us for our
**Open House on Wednesday evening,
May 14, 2025 at John Still TK-8.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Meet our amazing teachers and school administrators
- Visit your child's classroom and see what they've been learning
- Enjoy student work proudly displayed throughout the school
- Connect with our school community during this special springtime event

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating our students' hard work together!

Kona Ice is Coming to Our Open House!

The Sacramento **Kona Ice** truck will be on campus during our **May 14th Open House at John Still TK-8.**



Treat your family to a refreshing shaved ice and support our school at the same time. A portion of all proceeds will be donated back to John Still TK-8 as part of a school fundraiser.

Kona Ice brings tropical fun on wheels, with vibrant flavors and a cool experience you won't want to miss. See you there!



Spring Beautification at John Still TK-8

Campus beautification is in full bloom this spring at John Still TK-8! From planting flowers and shrubs to pulling weeds and painting murals, it's been a true team effort to make both our East and West campus sites more welcoming and vibrant.

One of our most special projects has been personalized rock painting. Our elementary students got creative by decorating rocks in our school colors, each featuring unique and meaningful designs. These colorful rocks have been proudly placed in the West Campus flower beds, adding a personal touch and a splash of school spirit.

This springtime effort is a shining example of our school community coming together to create a more beautiful and inspiring environment for everyone. Thank you to all the students, staff, and volunteers who have helped make it happen!

John Still TK-8 April Highlights



STEM Night Sparks Curiosity and Creativity

We had fun-filled evening of hands-on learning and discovery at our recent STEM Night at John Still TK-8! A big thank you goes out to our amazing teachers on the organizing committee who made this event a success.

STEM Night was filled with engaging activities that encouraged students to explore the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math in fun and interactive ways. Students collaborated to build pasta towers, worked on developing their coding skills, explored patterns and problem-solving with tangrams, and experimented with solar beads and sound. One of the highlights was working with mixtures to observe chemical reactions.

It was an evening filled with curiosity, creativity, and lots of learning. Events like STEM Night show how exciting education can be, and we are grateful to everyone who participated and supported this memorable experience.



A Journey Through History: Sojourner Truth Museum Visits John Still TK-8

Students in grades 3-6 at John Still TK-8 recently had a unique opportunity to experience history up close with a visit from the **Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum**. This traveling museum brought an immersive learning experience just steps from their classrooms, allowing students to engage with important historical artifacts, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of African American history and contributions.

Through interactive exhibits, students explored key historical events and learned about the lasting impact of Black leaders, artists, and changemakers. They also had the chance to listen to jazz, discover Black history's influence on music and dance, and even try their hand at playing the drums!

The museum is named in honor of **Sojourner Truth**, a former slave who became a powerful advocate for abolition, women's rights, and economic justice. Today, the Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum continues her legacy by educating communities on African American history, life, and culture.

We are grateful to the museum for bringing this enriching experience to our students, fostering curiosity, cultural awareness, and a deeper appreciation for history.



Chemistry Magic Show Wows Students on Our West Campus

Last month, students at our **West Campus** were treated to a thrilling and educational experience, thanks to a special visit from the **UC Davis Chemistry Department**. The **Chemistry Magic Show** brought science to life through a series of exciting demonstrations that captivated students and staff alike.

From colorful bursts to glowing reactions, the sights and sounds of chemistry in action left everyone amazed! One crowd favorite was the **Balloon Reaction** demonstration, where balloons filled with special gases created a loud and exciting pop as part of a controlled science experiment. Another highlight was the **Gummy Bear Reaction**, where students observed a vivid chemical change that demonstrated the energy stored in everyday items. The show also featured a dramatic **Flash Reaction**, using a safe combination of materials to illustrate how quickly certain elements can interact in a lab setting.

We appreciate the UC Davis Chemistry Department for bringing this unforgettable science experience to our students. Events like the Chemistry Magic Show spark curiosity, make learning exciting, and show students just how amazing science can be!



School Spirit Shines at Spring Sports Rally

The Friday before spring break was full of energy and excitement on the John Still TK-8 Middle School campus, as students and staff came together to celebrate at our Spring Sports Rally!

The rally was a terrific opportunity to recognize and cheer on our hardworking spring sports athletes and their dedicated coaches. From start to finish, the event was filled with school spirit, pride, and celebration of teamwork and perseverance. It was a joyful way to head into spring break, and we're so proud of our student-athletes for their commitment and accomplishments this season. Go Tigers!

Looking Ahead: The Month of May

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week Begins May 5th

May 5 - 9 marks Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, a special time to recognize and celebrate the hard work, dedication, and care our teachers and staff show every day. This week, we honor the incredible contributions they make to our students' growth and success, both inside and outside the classroom.



Our educators and support staff go above and beyond to create a positive and supportive learning environment for every student. Whether it's providing academic guidance, emotional support, or fostering a safe and inclusive space, their commitment plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our children.

We encourage all families to join us in showing appreciation during this week. A simple thank you, a note of encouragement, or small gesture of kindness can make a big difference. Let's work together to make this a memorable week for all the wonderful teachers and staff who make our school community thrive!



Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Each May, we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, recognizing the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of AAPI communities in the United States. This national observance began in 1990, and May was chosen for two key reasons: it marks the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 —an achievement made possible in large part by Chinese immigrant labor.

AAPI Heritage Month is a time to honor the diverse experiences, perspectives, and accomplishments of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across U.S. history. Educators nationwide use this opportunity to introduce students to the influence of AAPI individuals through lessons in social studies, literature, and the arts.

Source: **[AsianPacificHeritage.gov](https://asianpacificheritage.gov)**



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a nationwide observance founded by Mental Health America in 1949 to spotlight the importance of mental wellbeing. It serves as a time to educate communities, reduce stigma, and promote support for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. Each year, people across the country come together to advocate for greater awareness, understanding, and access to mental health care.

Supporting mental health awareness helps create a more compassionate and informed society. When we talk openly about mental health, we encourage early intervention, reduce feelings of isolation, and foster empathy. Mental Health Awareness Month focuses on educating the public about mental health conditions, encouraging conversations, and promoting access to support services such as counseling, support groups, and crisis hotlines.

Families can take part by learning more about mental health, practicing self-care routines, and modeling open, supportive conversations at home. By working together, we help create a stronger, healthier community where everyone feels seen, supported, and empowered to seek help when needed.

Source: [TheNationalCouncil.org](https://www.thenationalcouncil.org)

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

John Still TK-8 Website

Check Us Out on Social Media!



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](#).