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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Jan. 30, 2026

To Staff and Our Twin Rivers Families,

Imagine you're in a kindergarten classroom. Students sit with their teacher, identifying letters, sounds, and words. To the casual observer, it looks like a routine lesson, but it's not. It's a meaningful moment of discovery—one of many happening across our classrooms right now. These are the moments that have captured our attention this week as our K-2 students began Reading Screener assessments.

This work aligns with Senate Bill 114, which mandates that school districts use approved assessments to help identify K-2 students who may need extra support in learning to read. Providing support early helps students overcome challenges before they turn into bigger barriers. By identifying early signs of reading difficulties, including dyslexia, teachers can respond thoughtfully and intentionally, provide targeted support, and monitor progress over time.

While Reading Screener focuses on our youngest learners, teachers across the district are using assessments to monitor growth and guide instruction at all grade levels. Beginning in February, English learners will demonstrate their learning through the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC), which continue through May. Students in grades 5, 7, and 9 will participate in the state's physical fitness measure (FitnessGram), and students across the district will complete district benchmarks in English language arts, math, science, and social science ahead of state testing in the spring. Taken together, these opportunities give teachers a clearer picture of where students are and help guide thoughtful decisions about instruction, support, and next steps—so learning continues in meaningful ways.

As always, families play an essential role in supporting student learning. When students are well-rested and supported at home, they are ready to engage fully in the school day. If you have any questions about key assessment dates, I encourage you to reach out to your school administration.

Black History Month

In Twin Rivers, Black history isn't found only in the pages of a textbook—it is a living, breathing narrative that our students interact with every day. This February, we are moving beyond dates and names to explore Black history as an ongoing story of innovation, leadership, and creativity. We want our students to see themselves not just as observers of history, but as the next chapter. To bring this to life, we are thrilled to host the **Black Lit Series**, featuring two powerhouse local authors. **On Feb. 2**, we welcome **Crystel Patterson**, creator of the "Inspired to Be" book series, an award-winning collection of six empowering stories.

On Feb. 17, Jazmine Williams will join us to share her journey. In 2020, she wrote her first book, "Hungry for a Snack," to help her nonverbal 1-year-old daughter communicate her needs.

We invite you to join us at the District Office from 6 to 8 p.m. on these dates to meet these local authors. [View the flyer for more details.](#)

#TRUSD Proud Alert!

A huge shoutout to our TR students who were featured speakers at the 2026 North Sacramento/Del Paso Heights Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event on Jan. 19 at Grant Union High School. **Ace Hightower** (Grant) and **Jaxson Johnson** (Highlands) shared thoughtful and insightful reflections that reminded everyone why student perspectives matter. They represented our district with incredible poise and heart.

Around TR!

Schools and all District offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 9 and Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of Presidents' Day holidays. [Click here to view our student calendar of important 2025-26 school year dates.](#)

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified