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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

Jan. 12, 2024

To Staff and the Twin Rivers School Community,

I write to you today with conflicted emotions. I'm thrilled to have our students and staff back from Winter Break, but I'm also deeply saddened that we tragically lost one of our students during that time. Ten-year-old Keith Frierson was fatally shot Dec. 30, 2023. KJ, as he was affectionately known, attended Strauch Elementary. My heart aches for his family and loved ones.

My heart also aches for KJ's classmates and teachers who are having a difficult time. Our Crisis Intervention Team—counselors and chaplains—have been at Strauch visiting classrooms, answering questions and concerns, and talking with students in groups and individually as they grieve and express their feelings about this senseless tragedy. Additional supports were also provided at Woodridge as many students in the Woodridge school community also knew KJ and his family. I can't thank the team enough for taking such good care of our Strauch students and staff as they work through their feelings of shock, sadness and confusion.

Our sincere condolences to the family and all who knew and loved KJ. It will take time to heal, but we will get through this together.

Around TR!

- Today, we held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Castori Universal Transitional Kindergarten (UTK) facility, which includes two buildings, four classrooms, an outdoor play area and shade structure. Castori UTK is among the new facilities/venues unveiled throughout the district since the 2022 school year. Others include: Woodridge UTK, Rio Linda High School Baseball/Softball Complex, Foothill High School Aquatic Complex, Highlands High School Sports Complex and the Grant Union High School Sports Complex. Still under construction—the Foothill High School Baseball/Softball Complex and the Grant Union High School Baseball/Softball Complex.

- On Monday, Jan. 15, TRUSD and other community investment leaders will be honored during a special program before the start of the [2024 North Sacramento/Del Paso Heights Martin Luther King Jr. March](#). Following the program, TR students, staff, families and community members will participate in the march which begins at Grant Union High School. I hope you can join us.
- Thank you to our Facilities and Maintenance and Operations teams for all the work they did over the break. Some of their projects completed include: Dry Creek Elementary security fencing, Smythe 7-8 HVAC, Strauch and Woodlake Elementary fire alarms, Adult Education exterior paint and rain gutters, and Madison Elementary HVAC (with the exception of the administration building).

A reminder—our schools and the district office are closed Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez".

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