**Principal Message**

May21, 2021

Happy Friday Judah Families:

Serving our remarkable students, regardless of the circumstances is what drives Theodore Judah Elementary. The experience of pandemic schooling forced us to shift towards reimagined learning model in which technology was no longer a supplementary resource, but instead a core tool to ensure student success. As a result of the pandemic, every student at Judah was asked to connect to the internet. Using technology has allowed our students to access tools they need to develop 21st-Century skills. Technology in the home has also helped many of our parents develop 21st-century skills to support their student’s success. We have had a much greater turn out of student engagement then we all anticipated. Much of the classroom data being studied has shown learning gains in all areas. Teachers now have access with tools such as GoGuardian allowing them to monitor student online activity during instruction. This will allow us to keep students safe too.

There have been many benefits of the technology environment that will most likely continue in our teaching practices. Primary among them are opportunities for students and teachers to collaborate on common documents and assessments, and for teachers to enhance curriculum beyond the textbook and other traditional materials. In addition, instant assessment tools such as the current I Ready assessment that will be administered in all grades over the next few weeks will provide teachers and students with data reflecting their learning gains throughout the school year.

Equally important, has been the increased efforts of our PTA stakeholders maintaining connection among families. The impact of the pandemic has impeded on our annual events and community building throughout the year, but the efforts of our PTA working diligently to provide opportunities to engage and raise funds for the sustainability of our ARTS ALIVE Programs has been tireless. I am so proud to be part of a community that puts the needs of our children first. Thank you for not giving up on us!

As we strategically plan for the future, we forecast an increase in the use of technology as an effective learning, teaching and communications tool. While we intend to be fully in-person when we return to traditional school in 2021-22, we also intend to continue to leverage the high-tech skills we developed this past year. We also intend to be purposeful in our planning so that we may provide opportunities to fill in the gaps while also providing enrichment. Our Alive and Kindness Programs will be up and running and our students will fill the halls, classrooms and playgrounds with pride. We will continue to be mindful of the social emotional needs of our children while using strategies we have begun to implement with our partnership with Stanford Harmony.

We continue to remain happy and humble and couldn’t have navigated this year without your continued support. We remain Judah Strong!

Have a great weekend everyone.

Respectfully,

Troy Holding

Proud Principal