



The Bear Essentials

Theodore Judah Elementary Newsletter
January, 2018

A MESSAGE FROM Mr. Holding

Dear Theodore Judah Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back from winter break. I hope you all made some great memories with family and friends. I was so thrilled to be able to go back to Boston to spend time with my family and friends for the holidays. This school year is moving along quickly and when the rare pause emerges I am deeply thankful for the collective talent and energy of our students and staff. I am also thankful for the enduring and essential contributions of our parents and our community. Our school is uncommon in its breadth of interests and range of talents and for its mirroring of the complex blend of culture, background, and experiences that are increasingly the hallmarks of both local and global communities. Theodore Judah continues to be a tremendous place to work and learn.

As we begin the New Year and continue to earn the right to call ourselves a great school, I am personally grateful and elated to continue this journey with you as your Principal. Over the last five months, I have had a chance to meet many of you, and look forward to continue building a strong relationship with all of you. As we enter the second half of the school year, I want to let you know that our staff will continue to have conversations around having a growth mindset, both for themselves and all students. We believe that every person in this building should always be growing and learning. Despite obstacles that may arise, we must always believe in our ability to rise above challenges and come out stronger on the other end.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- January 8, 2018 back from break
- January 12th: Community Tour
- January 15th: No school/MLK Day
- January 16-30 Registration for neighborhood Kindergarten only

Theodore Judah Spirit Days

Show your school spirit every Friday by wearing the following:

- Your favorite TJ shirt ("Bear Wear")
- Blue or Gold (our school colors)
- Bear Wear order forms will be coming out soon!

Kindergarten and TK registration

Registration for Kindergarten begins for neighborhood children from January 16-30th. Applications will be accepted from 9:00am-1:00pm in the front office. Early Kindergarten applications will also be accepted but note that the enrollment is done in a lottery format for Early Kindergarten classes.

GATE TESTING

To ensure equity among students, all 1st and 3rd grade students in SCUSD will be screened for **possible** GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) services identification. The assessment will be administered in all 1st and 3rd grade classroom between January 16th and February 16th, 2018. More information will come from classroom teacher on testing date.

School Safety: Arrival and Dismissal

There have been several concerns raised regarding the consistency and cooperation during our drop-off/pick-up times in the morning and afternoons.

- First and foremost, we **must respect** our neighbors and **not block or park** in any of their driveways.
- Please adhere to the signage and not park your cars in undesignated areas. There is a possibility that you will be ticketed from the traffic department. It also slows the process down in the morning and creates unwarranted chaos.
- Please move your car all the way forward in the drop-off area as to leave room for others. We are trying to make this a seamless process.
- Have your child ready to depart from vehicle when you arrive.
- The red zones are not a parking spots.
- Refrain from doing U-turns in front of the school during this time. It creates an unsafe environment.
- Be sure to cross at the cross-walk as this would be the safest route to get from one side of street to the other.
- Children are not allowed to play with balls, Frisbees, etc. in front of the school. Too many times they have ended up on the street. This is not safe. Please talk with your children.
- Any child that is not participating in our afterschool programs, clubs, or enrichment activities should not be on campus after dismissal. They are not being supervised and this becomes a safety concern.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we want to maintain a safe school environment.

Contact Information Changes



PLEASE NOTE THE
NEW ADDRESS &
PHONE NUMBER

Your contact information is very important to us in case of an emergency. If any information should change, please notify the school office so that we can update the information in our system.

PTA Funded Enrichment Programs

Students are attending Science Alive, Garden, Music and Art classes as part of the many enrichments that Judah offers at your neighborhood school. Check out all the great artwork on our hallway bulletin boards throughout our campus. These programs are fully sponsored by all the hard work and efforts of our school PTA. We appreciate all that you do!

January's Citizenship Theme: Empathy

This student can put themselves in your place and understand how you feel. If you are in a bad mood they'll give you space and cheer you up. They look for ways to make everyone feel like they belong.

Daily Attendance is Important

One of the basic foundations for success in school is regular school attendance.

Additionally, teaching our children that regular attendance to school is important helps send the message that education is important. It also teaches the importance of keeping one's responsibilities. Our monthly attendance goal is 97%.

To that end, please be sure to stay home only when truly ill, or due to a real family need. See the attendance section in our school handbook for additional guidance. Remember to schedule appointments outside of the school day when possible, or to return to school when finished. Minimize early dismissals. Family vacations are not excused absences. Thanks to everyone for supporting daily attendance!