

The Bear Essentials

Theodore Judah Elementary Newsletter
 March, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM Mr. Holding

The Seventh Inning Stretch

Ah, Spring! As the weather warms, a great many rites and rituals are performed; removing the cover of the bar-b-que, to sharpening the lawnmower blades, or shopping for a new bathing suit. One of the great rites of spring is the opening of the new baseball season. Kids starting with T-ball and Little League, along with Major League players, head out to newly groomed fields to play. Baseball is part of a yearly renewal and optimism; even Charlie Brown feels in spring that his team will, this year, win game. Baseball itself is filled with ritual and tradition. One of them is the “Seventh Inning Stretch” that occurs in the middle of the seventh inning. Everyone stands stretches and sings “Sweet Caroline”, for those Red Sox fans, before settling in to watch the climax and conclusion of the game. Even during the most competitive or high stakes game, the stretch gives a moment of breath before the final intensity.

The school year has its own seventh inning stretch...Parent Teacher Conference in March and Spring Break in April, state testing in May. Like the baseball stretch, spring break gives us a time to let go of the stresses of the school days; release energy, relax, or reset the mind by doing something different for a week. The difficulty of this, however, is students tend to focus on the upcoming break and letting down *before* the stretch. In many small ways, students, particularly our 4th-6th graders, begin to focus on spring rather than their studies. It is a most common trend to see students who have had successful grades early in the year, let down, and have a great difficulty in finishing the school year strong. Then, instead of the intensity being renewed after the break, focus is lost as the end of the year comes into view. Imagine what happens to the baseball team that loses the focus at the time of the stretch.

There are many things that parents and students can do at this time to maintain their intensity on school. Parents and students should make sure that they wear appropriate clothing to school. Students should keep to established routines, like doing homework at the same time/place each day. Breaking successful routines will contribute to the letdown.

So, head into spring with re-dedication and optimism. Then let’s take a stretch and use it and come back ready to play ball.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 3/20-3/27 P/T Conferences
- 4/6-4/10 Spring Break
- 4/27-5/15 State Testing (3-6)

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!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Beginning March 20th- 27th students will be on a minimum day schedule due to P/T conferences. Teachers will be reaching out to families to set up times and dates with those in need of a conference.

Primary dismissal: 12:35PM
 Intermediate dismissal: 12:40Pm

Arrival/Dismissal

Student safety is important. At Judah, you can help by following the procedures for drop off and pick-up. Recently Traffic Enforcement was on campus ticketing those who are not adhering to the signs and making u-turns in the school zone. PLEASE do your part!

- NO Supervision on campus until 7:45 am
- The front left of the school in the morning allows for a few parking spots. The right of the entrance is a drop-off area only! Have your children ready to exit when you arrive so that others may pull in behind you.
- Please pull your car all the way forward. There is plenty of sidewalk.
- The street is not a drop off area. It is not safe
- The staff parking lot is for staff parking only and this is absolutely not a drop off area.
- Students need to come through the pedestrian gate and walk along the path.
- Please don't make u-turns where children are present. This is not safe.
- Don't get mad or angry if you are told to move your car. This is in the best interest of the school and the safety of our children.
- Please be on time to pick up your children from school. They will not be supervised after dismissal.
- **Children that do not attend in one of our after-school programs or on campus participating in an enrichment activities t are required to leave campus and return home safely.**

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated

Character Counts

The goal of character education at Theodore Judah Elementary is to develop socially responsible citizens as evidenced by kind, respectful, responsible, and safe student behaviors, so they can be the best learners each and every day. We call this the "**Principal High-Five**". As a school community, we focus on five school-wide expectations, educate the students about kindness through our "Kindness Program", promote and celebrate positive student behaviors and deliver a strong anti-bullying message through education and ongoing development of a safe and respectful learning environment. We try and use a lot of our

supports through the PBIS and Love and Logic model. It is always our goal to provide opportunities for every student to be recognized for making good choices throughout the school day.

Over the next few weeks, both teachers and myself, will be meeting with each grade level individually in order to review, remind and reset. This in-house field-trip we give us all an opportunity to revisit the school wide expectations and behaviors. We will be visiting different areas of the school to discuss the expectations here at Judah. Please help support at home as well.

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.

March's Citizenship Theme: Adaptable

Students will learn to look at problems as challenges rather than obstacles.

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