



# The Bear Essentials

Theodore Judah Elementary Newsletter  
August/September 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM Mr. Holding

Dear Theodore Judah Families,

Welcome back everyone! We are glad you are here, and a special welcome to our new Judah families. As the new principal of Theodore Judah Elementary, it my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year at Judah. We are all excited to have students back in our classrooms and hallways filling them with positive energy and enthusiasm for learning. Staff worked diligently to get our campus ready. I would also like to thank all families who turned out for our annual work days to clean up campus, and to those families who volunteered on specific summer projects. We are ready for the year!

I am pleased to present our strong instructional team. The teachers put in many hours over the summer to prepare for instruction and for a strong start to the year. Please also join me in welcoming Mr. Cunningham, our new fifth grade teacher in room 21, Ms. Miller our new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher in room 10 and Ms. Bealer-Wynton our new first grade teacher in room 8. Please go to our school website under the welcome tab for a complete listing of staff along with email links.

Last spring, we administered the Smarter Balanced Assessments, which are part of the state-wide "CAASPP" assessment system. Our students continue to do well, and staff and I will continue to analyze data to inform instruction and to identify opportunities for continuous improvement for all students.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in your neighborhood school. We hope to see all families at Back to School Night. It takes a team for children to be successful. Parent involvement is key. Together, we make this school a special place for children to learn and grow.

Once again welcome back!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Holding  
Principal

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 🐾 August 31<sup>st</sup> - First Day of School!
- 🐾 September 4<sup>th</sup> – No School/Labor Day
- 🐾 September 14<sup>th</sup> - Back to School Night (5:30-6:30 PM)
- 🐾 Note: The August newsletter is the only month a hard copy goes home. All other newsletters will be posted on our school website at [www.theodorejudah elementary.org](http://www.theodorejudah elementary.org)  
Many teachers also send it out via the class e-mail group and the room parent network, so be sure to share your email with your child's teacher!

## 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!

## Getting back into the "swing" of things...

The last days of summer vacation have gone, and now it is time to get back into good daily routines. Please support your child(ren) with his/her transition by guaranteeing a good night sleep. Also, all students are eligible to eat breakfast at school for free. Breakfast service begins at 7:45 AM in our cafeteria. Information about the school breakfast and lunch program can be found on our school website

## Back to School Night

### Safety is our Priority

To ensure adequate supervision of our students, please be sure that your child **does not enter campus prior to 7:45 AM, or stay longer than 15 minutes after dismissal. There is no scheduled adult supervision before 7:45AM, or after 2:27 PM (M, T, W, F) and 1:27 PM on Thursdays.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Many of our children walk to school, or ride a bike. Please help us teach and remind our students about the following safety tips:

#### For Walkers:

- Walk with a friend, or group, when possible
- Use the main crosswalks in the front and back of school
- Avoid Shortcuts- walk only in designated areas.
- If approached by a stranger or car, run in the other direction and tell an adult immediately.
- Never go to into a stranger's car or home.
- Trust your feelings - if something makes you feel uncomfortable, take an alternate route.

#### Bike Riders:

- Always wear** a helmet
- Walk your bike on campus, and in cross walks
- Park at the bike racks and **lock** your bike.

#### Parent Drivers:

- Take time to legally park your car.
- Do Not park and/or drop your child off in the red zone or in the middle of the street
- Do Not make U-turns in the front of the school or in the middle of the street
- Be a good neighbor. Do not park in neighbor's drive ways, or move their trash cans
- Drive like your children go to school here, because they do! Please represent our community well.

### First Day Packets

All students received a first day packet that contained important information for the year. Please ensure that we receive the following by September 8<sup>th</sup>:

- Emergency card
- Lunch application- even if you think your family may not qualify.

On Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, we will host our annual Back to School Night Event from 5:30-6:30 PM. This is an opportunity to meet staff and to become familiar with our campus and with your child's teacher. You will also be informed about what your child will be learning, their daily schedule, and class routines and expectations.

Teachers will be making their presentations twice. The first presentation will take place from 5:30 - 5:55 PM. The second will take place from 6:00 - 6:30 PM. We look forward to seeing all of our Judah families. Your knowledge of your child's classroom and expectations for the year is a cornerstone of their success.

### September's Citizenship Theme:

#### Preparedness

This month we recognize the importance of coming to school prepared. This means homework is complete, books are ready, pencils in hand and materials organized. This is a key life skill. Students exhibiting this behavior will be given a certificate by their classroom teacher.

### 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!