

BEAR TRACKS



THE THEODORE JUDAH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER

Events At a Glance

- 1/16 Mixer Hosted by PTA - Thursday, 6:00pm
- 1/20 NO SCHOOL - Holiday
- 1/24 Family Dance Night, 6:00pm

Things coming up...

Black History Month
 Multi Cultural Fair
 Talent Show
 916 Ink Program
 Gala Auction and Dinner

Gala Auction Night

SAVE THE DATE -- April 25th

Mark your calendar for a fun evening of dinner, drinks, auction (silent and live), and live music! The annual off-site gala is FRIDAY, April 25th from 7-11pm at the Turn Verein (3349 J St). Information on how to pre-order tickets and donate items to the auction will be coming out soon. Want to help on this flagship event? Contact Donna Dowson at donna@d3x.com.

Please note the change in date and location.

January 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10 <i>Kinder/Open Enrollment Visitation 8:00am-1:00pm</i>	11
13	14	15	16 <i>PTA General Membership Mixer 6:00pm</i>	17	18
20 <i>Martin Luther King</i>	21	22	23	24 <i>Family Dance Night 6-8pm</i>	25
27	28	29	30	31	

THEODORE JUDAH NEWS

PTA Sponsored Events and Programs

PTA Hosted Mixer

Hi TJ Parents, Friends and Teachers!

We have had such an amazing start to the school year and want to share what we have in store for 2014 with all of you! So instead of a regular general PTA meeting, we are starting off the new year with a PTA mixer, what's more fun than a "PTA Party!" Come out and meet your neighbors, parents of classmates and keep building on this community we know and love at TJ!

Heavy appetizers will be served for the parents and child care (and pizza) will be provided by KidzArt/Early Engineers for children 5 and up.

Please feel free to pass the invite along to friends, neighbors and prospective parents.

See you soon,
Deana Carrillo, President

Drama Club

Dear TJ Thespians and Drama Fans

Theodore Judah's New Drama Club is off to a successful start. Members have had a ton of fun doing wacky warm up exercises, impromptu performances, and lots of improv practice. Students have reenacted their favorite scenes from holiday movies, acted without speaking and raced to create

letters using their whole bodies (and lots of team work)! We have also talked about the importance of performance in our everyday lives and the value of listening in order to become a better performer. The kids are given "homework" assignments

every class which are fun and thought provoking, and asked to report back for the next class. There are still open spots remaining if anyone is interested in joining.

We meet every other Thursday from 2:15 - 4:00pm. Please contact Jenny Haskin at jennyhaskin@ymail.com if you have any questions or are interested in becoming a part of this new and exciting group!



Family Dance Night

Friday, January 24th is Family Dance Night once again and we are Wiggin' Out to dance.

Dig in that Halloween box and pull out those wigs because this year's Family Dance Night has turned into a Wig Wearing Dance Party. Wigs are encouraged but not required. Please join Theodore Judah families on Friday the 24th in the auditorium from 6pm-8pm for a night of dancing, pizza, treats, and fun! DJ Jack is in the house!

All ages are welcome but all children must be accompanied by an adult! Don't forget to wear that wig and your dancing shoes! If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions about the event, please contact Yolanda Milliken at millifamily@comcast.net.



A Note From Miss Holly

Hello Theodore Judah Families!

Thank you to everyone who attended last month's Winter Faire event at Kit Carson Middle School. I was thrilled with the students' performances!

I'd like to extend a special "Thank You" to our sound engineer, Scott Palmer; our classroom liaisons, Yolanda Milliken, Laura Pearson, and Coach K; our event committee, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Waldron, and Loren Shimanek; and all of the teachers and Mrs. Celeste for their work during and leading up to the performance.

Here's to a great new year filled with music and learning!

Miss Holly

THEODORE JUDAH NEWS

PTA Sponsored Events and Programs



Introduce your child to the wonderful and whimsical world of creative writing!

916 Ink will be a new after school program at Theodore Judah this spring to write with a group of thirty students (3rd-6th grade) for an hour and 45 minutes for eleven weeks. Students will write poetry, fiction, and other creative works to be published in a beautiful and professionally designed anthology of the class' writing. Your child will be invited to read their work at a fabulous book release party after the program is over. Your student will strengthen his or her writing and reading skills, have fun, and become a published author! 916 Ink is a non-profit literacy organization dedicated to promoting literacy by empowering youth in the Sacramento region to engage in literary arts. Learn more about them at www.916ink.org.

WHEN: Thursdays, February 13th - May 1st from 2:15-4:00pm

COST: \$225, or two payments of \$112.50

WHO: Students in grades 3rd-6th

Parent letters and registration forms will be sent home with your child during the second week of January. Please turn in payment and completed registration forms to the front office to reserve your space by February 6th. Registration is first come, first served.

If you have any questions, please contact Educational Programs Coordinator, Brett Stults at 916-607-2824 or at brett.916ink@gmail.com

Taste & Toast

The Taste and Toast was a fabulous inaugural event.

This was a beautiful day that included lunch, craft brews, wine, and family fun for our community to enjoy. Thank you Josh Hurley, Compton's Market (Sunil and Pam Hans), Sacramento Artists Council and all of our wonderful volunteers that made it happen. We raised over \$4,000 for our PTA sponsored programs. Please be sure to thank Sunil and Pam Hans the next time you are in Compton's Market!

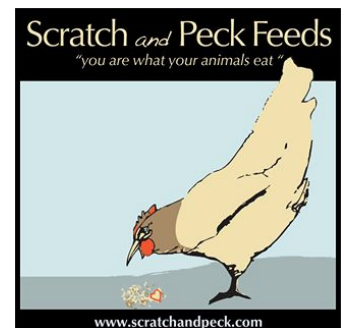
Garden and Science Alive!

We survived the freeze and our greenhouses are full of lush lettuce, broccoli and beet plants. Surprisingly, for winter, our garden is still producing. You may notice some plastic containers around the garden..... we are learning about greenhouse effect. Students are recording the weather, (not that there is much to record) and soon enough they will be testing our soil. We all know that the students love the garden but the talk of the town is the "Chicken Palace".

The chicks we adopted in October have grown and are back on campus. The chicken's names are Cocoa, Oreo and Popcorn. Their breeds are Auricana, Barred Rock, and Light Brahma. This addition to Science Alive will help to develop student's compassion for animals and a sense of responsibility, and educate students on the role they play in our ecosystem. Classes will spend some time with the chickens in the garden, get to know them, learn about their needs and play a part in taking care of them. Each class will be responsible for a week of chicken care: cleaning their coop, keeping water and food full and collecting eggs of course! Please talk to your students about the responsibility we have to keep these animals safe and happy. We will all work together to make this work, this is a special opportunity that is rare in the public school system.

I want to especially thank Torrey Stoddard who built our "Chicken Palace" and amazingly made it look as if it's been there forever. Scratch and Peck Chicken feed was our sponsor for the chicken coop. The

owner generously donated \$500.00 to get us started in our venture. We also need to thank Mrs. Celeste for taking this risk for our students. This decision has been a long process and we trust that all will see this is a great learning opportunity. The students at Judah continue to have experiences that I find amazing for a public school in Sacramento City Unified School District. We have such an amazing team of parents, teachers and administrators that make these experiences possible for our students. Hope you enjoy visiting with the chickens!!!!!!



THEODORE JUDAH NEWS

Some Updates on Events

Nature Bowl

TJ Nature Bowl Team Sprouts

A group of 3rd-6th graders have been selected to be on the TJ Nature Bowl Team. Nature Bowl challenges students to learn through active participation in science-based activities and then apply the concepts learned to current issues in the Central Valley. TJ team members will meet weekly on Friday's after class time starting in January and continuing through March. Twelve team members (6 from 3rd/4th grade and 6 from the 5th/6th grade) will be selected to represent TJ against schools from throughout Northern California in a biological science competition ("Nature Bowl") sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Nature Bowl semi-final is currently scheduled for April 3rd at Nimbus Hatchery. Please feel free to email Wendy Bogdan (kwenbogdan@comcast.net) or Yvonne West (Yvonne@westerickson.net) with questions about Nature Bowl at TJ. An overview of the program

2014-2015 School Year

We want you! PTA Board seats are available!

The PTA is actively seeking excited parents to serve on the 2014-2015 PTA Board. If you are interested in helping shape TJ's school programs, raising funds, and improving and sustaining our activities please email Paige Schulte (Parliamentarian and Nominating Committee Chair)- paigetjpta@gmail.com.

Positions include:

- Parliamentarian
- President
- Vice President
- Auditor
- Treasurer
- Treasurer Assistant
- Fundraising Chair
- Room Parent Coordinator
- Event Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Marketing and PR Coordinator
- Secretary
- Historian
- Communications

Jog-A-Thon a Success!

Jog-a-Thon surpasses prior fundraiser!

Congratulations to our amazing children and families for collecting an outstanding amount of pledges of over \$15,600.00!! Every class did an excellent job raising pledges for our school, especially Mrs. Ly's Kindergarten class who brought in over \$2,100.00. They will be receiving a pizza party this month!

Individual prizes were distributed to children including: Jack Fresia, Simon McBride, Caden Darmstandler, Olivia DiGregorio, Jude Keeshan, John Guro, Penelope Lockwood, and Jasmine Trillo. Family prizes were distributed to Lilly and Laura Barrett, Luke and Cole VanPatter, Lucia and Sebastian Fernandez Garcia, and Emma and Owen Peabody.

A BIG thank you to Compton's and Starbuck's for their donations, as well as Rich Hanna for taking time to bring his clock, timer, and expertise of how to run a large group of children. Thank you to Tracy Croft assisting in the First Aid station. I want to especially thank so many parents that were involved in making this a success: Cortenie Garis, Julie Reily, Jill Stockton, Kristen Simoes, Laura Barrett, Lamaia Hoffmann, Jeanmarie Kopple, Marcia Czajkowski, Danielle Seperas, Jessica Barnes, Kasie Wilson, Susan Loomis, our Theodore friends, Coach Ducray, John Gardiner for an outstanding job doing the emcee, and Ian Gardiner for music assistance.

If your child brought in \$50.00 or more in pledges, they have earned a Jog-a-thon t-shirt and will be coming home with it soon!

Santa Adventure & Holiday Boutique

Santa's Visit to Judah!

Thanks to all of you who supported the first "Santa's East Sac Adventure" at Judah this year! It was well attended and those gingerbread houses were SO popular! We hope that all the wishes Santa heard came true this season. The event raised about \$2,600 for PTA funded programs, and most of importantly it was a great holiday event for the community. We are looking forward to adjusting and improving next year- please send any feedback or interest in volunteering this event next year to Paige Schulte, paigetjpta@gmail.com.