



School Performance Planning Update

Robert J. Tait Elementary

Year 1 of a Three Year Cycle

2015-2016

School Context:

Robert J. Tait Elementary School is located at the northeast end of Richmond. It is a small community bordered by business, industry and the north arm of the Fraser River. The catchment area includes a mixture of single-family dwellings and multifamily townhouse complexes.

- There are 258 students enrolled at Tait from 143 families in the community. Eight birth countries are represented and about 64% of Tait families speak a first language other than English with 40% of Tait students being ELL. 14% of these families speak Chinese/Cantonese, 13% speak Punjabi/Hindi, and 12% Tagalog/Philippine. In total we have 17 different languages spoken here at Tait Elementary.
- The Tait Staff includes 10 FTE classroom teachers and 3.30 FTE support teachers, 5.67 educational assistants, an area counselor (.3), a district speech and language pathologist (.3), an educational psychologist, a school nurse, 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant, 1 custodian and one part time custodian, and 3 noon-hour supervisors.
- Tait is a fully integrated school with a strong support team for our special needs students. The school also offers services in Learning Assistance, English as a Second Language and an outstanding music/band program.
- The school is organized using a philosophy of multi-age grouping, and all but one class has multi-age combinations. It is a facility with 15 regular classrooms, a computer lab, a library, a multipurpose room, another small open area and a gym.
- The Tait PAC is a vibrant supportive group, with very strong fund-raising abilities, which meets monthly to help support school goals and programs.

Strengths

- The students are hard working, friendly, cooperative, and have great empathy towards one another
- We have a supportive PAC who are truly partners with the school
- Currently we have the human and monetary resources to fulfill our goals
- The school has a definite "community" feel to it. Parents are nurturing and attend our community events. The ethnicity of the community is one of its greatest strengths (celebrating Eid/Diwali, Vaisakhi, Chinese New Year, Hanukkah as well as Christmas and Easter).

Challenges

- Continuing to meet the needs of our diverse learners with ever shrinking resources
- Our parent community is supportive and nurturing, but we would like to see them more actively engaged in the school.

MISSION STATEMENT: Our commitment is to provide the best possible learning opportunities for each individual within a safe and caring community.

Members of School Planning Council: (must include both names and signatures)

Parent: Leah Silver *L. Silver*

Parent: Christine Neufeld *C. Neufeld*

Teacher: Nichole Kusch *N. Kusch*

Principal: Mark McCallum *M. McCallum*

Date of submission by SPC: May 19th, 2015

Goal: Science

To develop and inspire student curiosity, understanding, and skills through scientific inquiry.

Rationale:

Broadly speaking Science is interested in answering questions and acquiring knowledge concerning the universe so it really applies to everything and anything around us. Children are naturally curious. A Science topic allows us to further develop inquiry-based learning with our students. We want to create an atmosphere of engagement for our whole learning community. As a staff we feel that having a Science goal is the best way both develop our skills and understanding in delivering the new B.C. Curriculum. The topic of Science integrates so well with other subjects such as Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Fine Arts as well as the Core Competencies. We feel that a Science goal is the vehicle that can move us forward over the next several years.

Evidence:

- As a Staff we plan to incorporate qualitative forms of assessment to help us understand how we are reaching our goals.
- We will be adding specific questions to next year's Satisfaction Survey to garner input from our grade 4 and 7 students.
- We plan to initiate a Tait Science Narrative to self-assess the achievement of our goal to share stories of engagement.
- Our students will develop Science portfolios showing their learning and progress.
- Professional Development Days and Staff Meetings will be opportunities for our staff to discuss our goal and the progress we are making.
- Regular feedback from our parent group will greatly benefit us in reaching our goal.

Actions Taken to Address the Goal:

- Invite District Science Consultant to our first Pro-D day to help plan and develop further ideas to reach our goal.
- Host “Science Night” at the School.
- Invite guest scientists from the community to our school to meet and share with our students.
- Continue with our Tait Gardening program.
- Use Technology (ipads, laptops, computers) to help develop scientific inquiry.
- Use this opportunity to further enhance our science equipment such as magnifying glasses, microscopes, and science kits.
- Introduce a “Scientist of the Day” program so that different students have the opportunity to be a science leader once during the year.
- Plan more “science-based” field trip and experiences for our students.
- Incorporate more hands-on science related learning opportunities for our students.
- Make more meaningful cross-curricular connections with what we are learning in Science.
- Create Science Portfolios so that students may take pride and ownership of their learning.

Communication Plan:

- Use of the school website and newsletters to share science related activities and learning.
- Students will take simple experiments/activities home to share and complete with family members.
- School Sharing Assemblies will provide opportunities for students/classes to share their projects and classroom learning.
- A Tait Science Night to invite parents and the community into the school.
- Participation in the District Science Jam.
- Report Cards Conferences will be used to highlight science learning.
- A School Science Blog will be developed to share aspects of our school goal.
- Use our morning announcements to share science related news.