

# TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter # 2

October 21st, 2020.

Telephone: 604-668-6444

Student Absences: 604-668-6444

Website address: [tait.sd38.bc.ca](http://tait.sd38.bc.ca)

Email: [tait@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:tait@sd38.bc.ca)



Principal: Mr. Rusty Mason

Admin. Assistant: Ms. L. Evdokimoff

Area Superintendent: Ms. C. Brautigam

## From the Office

### Registration for New Kindergarten Students

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2016, turning 5 in 2021. These children will begin kindergarten in September, 2021. Online registration opens on November 1, 2020. Please visit our website <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten> for more information about our online registration process, required documents, important dates and FAQs.



Families are encouraged to register any time during the Priority 1 registration period (November – January) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications received any time during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions by February 5, 2021.

Instead of in person information evenings this year, we have posted short videos that provide our new parents with information about the registration process, English Language Learner (ELL) assessments, and District Program Options – Early French Immersion and Montessori. These videos are available in English and Mandarin. Please view the videos at <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten>.

Finally, there will be a Kindergarten Information Evening for parents of students with additional support needs on ZOOM held on November 17 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. A link to the Zoom meeting will be posted on the Kindergarten Registration website closer to the meeting date <http://www.sd38.bc.ca/kindergarten>

Thank you and please share this information with your friends and family who have Kindergarten aged children!



### Parking Lot Before School

As you know, our parking lot can be a busy place before and after school. We ask that parents use the drop off lane to let students out of their car in the morning. Students should get out of their car using the doors on the passenger side (right side) of their car, so they don't step out into traffic. We also ask parents not to park in the drop off lane and go to the classroom with their child. When cars are parked in the drop off lane, the parking lot becomes

congested very quickly and an unsafe situation is created for students and parents walking to school. Please stop in the drop off lane, let your child out of your car, then drive out of the parking lot so the traffic keeps moving in a safe manner.

Parents, please do not park in the Tait School Parking Lot before 8:30am. Parking spaces in our parking lot are limited and we need to make sure the Tait Staff have a parking space, so they are ready to work with your child at 8:45am.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

## Students Arriving Late to School in the Morning



This year, due to Covid19, it is more important than ever for your child to arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:40am. When children arrive, they will be greeted by a staff member, who is checking to make sure students are healthy and safe to come into the school, and who is also reminding the students of the arrival procedures which include washing their hands. If your child is consistently arriving late in the morning, your child's levels of worry and stress increase because they are entering their classroom late and they need to catch up on what they have missed. Being late also impacts the learning for others in the classroom, because the teacher needs to interrupt learning to make sure the student who is late checks into the classroom safely. Being on time is an important habit in life, particularly as children mature and become adolescents and young adults. The habits your child learns now will shape how they behave in the future.

If your child is often late, try a new routine: packing their backpacks the night before school; making lunch the night before school; or getting up 15 minutes earlier in the morning.

## Health and Safety Practices



Thank-you to parents, students and staff for your dedication and focus to keep everyone at Tait healthy and safe. We are following our Health Protocols very carefully at Tait.

When students arrive at school they are being welcomed and screened by staff to make sure they are healthy.

Handwashing - Many times each day, handwashing is worked into our routines:

- when students arrive
- after using the washroom, when going outside
- when coming back inside
- before eating
- after eating
- when moving from another location in the school back into their own classroom
- when going home for the day

Cohorts - The formation of our Cohorts in the school also keep us safe. A cohort consists of two classes. Students can get together with students from the other class in their cohort, but cannot come into close contact inside the school with any other classes. This helps us limit the number of contacts students and staff have in the school.

Masks - Many students, and all staff, wear masks each day. Most of our oldest students feel comfortable wearing a mask inside the school. For our younger students, it is a little more challenging to wear a mask, however many do wear a mask for parts of each day. Staff wear masks inside the school throughout the day, and all staff wear a mask if they cannot maintain a distance of 6 feet with another person.

Mandatory Daily Health Declaration - All families and all staff are required to follow the direction of the Mandatory Daily Health Declaration. If a student or staff member are ill, they must stay home. If an individual has any of the symptoms of Covid19, we advise them to seek an assessment from a Health Care Provider. If any individual has a constant fever, they must be seen by a Health Care Provider and should not come back to school until they are cleared of symptoms of Covid19 by the Health Care Provider. Please see the Mandatory Daily Health Declaration on the next page for symptoms of Covid19 and protocols to follow.

# Mandatory Daily Health Declaration Process for Staff and Students



Ask yourself the following:

<b>1. Key Symptoms of Illness:</b>	<i>Do you have any of the following <u>NEW Key Symptoms of Illness</u>?</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Chills</li><li>• Cough or worsening of chronic cough</li><li>• Shortness of breath</li><li>• Diarrhea</li><li>• Nausea and vomiting</li><li>• Loss of sense of smell or taste</li></ul>
<b>2. International Travel:</b>	<i>Have you returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?</i>
<b>3. Confirmed Contact:</b>	<i>Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?</i>

Answering YES to any of the questions will prevent the staff/student from entering the school or worksite effective immediately.

What if you answered YES?

**Question 1:**

- If you answered "YES" to one of the symptoms included under NEW Key Symptoms of Illness (**excluding fever**), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.
- If you answered "YES" to two or more of the symptoms included under NEW Key Symptoms of Illness **or you have a fever**, seek a health assessment.
- A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.
- If your symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition and are not unusual for you (i.e. the symptoms are not **NEW** for you), you may return to school/work or continue to be at school/work. No assessment or note is required from a health care provider.

**Question 2:** If you answered YES to question 2, you will need to stay home to self-isolate based on the Quarantine Act.

**Question 3:** If you answered YES to question 3, you will need to stay home to self-isolate based on the advice of the Public Health Authority.

## DRESS FOR THE COLD AND WET WEATHER:

It is important that students are dressed for the weather. During these colder damp days, students need to have a proper jacket, footwear (to keep their feet dry), and perhaps a hat and gloves. If they dress appropriately for the weather, they can enjoy playing outside. Please remind your child to check the weather when getting up in the morning and getting ready for school.

To follow Covid19 Health and Safety Protocols from our Coastal Health Authority, all students will be going outside for every recess and lunch - rain or shine. If your child is not well enough to go outside during our break times, they are also not well enough to be attending school and should stay home until they are feeling better.



## Does Your Child Get Enough Sleep?



**Is your child sleeping enough each night to be ready for a day of school? Here's what the experts say.**

- Sleep is an essential building block for your child's mental and physical health
- Experts estimate that sleep problems affect 25 to 50 percent of children and 40 percent of adolescents.
- Through a combination of sleep hygiene, age-appropriate routines, and close attention to any sleep disorders, you can help your child get the rest they need to grow up strong and healthy.

### **Why is Sleep Important for Children?**

Sleep plays a crucial role in the development of young minds. In addition to having an effect on happiness, research shows that sleep impacts alertness and attention, cognitive performance, mood, resiliency, vocabulary acquisition, and learning and memory. Sleep also has important effects on growth.

### **What Happens When Children Don't Get Enough Sleep?**

Children short on sleep can be grumpy or hyperactive, with effects on behavior that mimic ADHD. Sleepiness can also affect your child's ability to pay attention with ramifications for their performance in school.

Experts believe up to half of children do not get enough sleep. This lack of sleep may have a correlation to problems with a child's immune system (they can't fight off bacterial infections and viruses as effectively as children who get a proper amount of sleep), as well as anxiety and depression. There is also emerging evidence that poor sleep in childhood may carry future cardiovascular risks in the form of obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure.

### **Tips on How to Make Sure Your Child Gets a Full Night's Sleep**

Sleep needs change as your child grows older, but whether you're dealing with a 5-year-old or a stubborn teenager, research shows that a consistent bedtime routine is helpful for making sure your child gets enough sleep. Whatever routines you choose, try to do the same ones every night in the same order so your child knows what to expect.

### **A typical bedtime routine might include:**

- Turning off computers, iPads, TVs and other bright lights at least 1 hour before going to bed. Blue light from devices stimulates brain function when a child should be calming their mind
- Remove devices from a child's room at night, charge them in another room
- Putting on pajamas and brushing teeth
- Reading a light book, singing a lullaby, or taking a bath

### Keep these tips in mind:

- arrange a balanced schedule throughout the week
- keep a regular bed time



- make the bedroom a no-screen zone, even during the day
- provide a healthy diet
- set the temperature in the room to slightly cooler than the daytime
- keep the bedroom quiet
- avoid caffeine, large meals and sugary treats in the evening

## **SNOW DAYS - WHAT TO EXPECT:**

Snow days cause inconvenience for all of us. Closing schools is a difficult decision for the school district – trying to weigh the safety of all with the repercussions for working families. To help assist families, we would like to outline what you can expect from us on a snow day. The following things will happen:



Schools will be OPEN unless conditions reach civic emergency proportions. **Radio announcements will only announce those schools that are CLOSED.** Most of the schools listed will be private schools. Listen to radio: CKNW 980AM; NEWS 1130AM; CBC 690AM; QM 103.5FM or watch on television: CBC; Global; CTV.

As well, you can get information other ways:

- the district's website
- all elementary schools' websites will have a scrolling message along the top as necessary (i.e. on days which are questionable due to weather). The message will include a link back to the district's website containing detailed information.
- the snow closure hotline, (604) 295-4304, which will provide a recorded message indicating if schools are open or closed
- Twitter at RichmondSD38

### **Please do not phone the school. The administration will be too busy planning the day and will not be able to answer the phone.**

- ❖ It may not be a regular school day as many students and teachers may be absent. If children do come to school, we will ensure that the children are cared for and are safe. Many alternate activities may be planned so that students who are absent will not miss any work.
- ❖ School will remain open until 2:45pm and in the event that we have to close early, students will not be sent home without contacting parents first.

#### **You have some choices:**

1. Students are not required to attend school on a snow day if you feel that their safety or your own safety may be at risk (you may keep them home).
2. Make plans in advance for what you and your family will do on a snow day.
3. Children who come to school may be taking part in alternate activities.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the school before a snow day.

## **Our Resource Team**

There are a number of people who make up our Resource Team. They include our school-based team:

Ms. J. Jakovac – ELL/Resource Teacher Divisions 9 & 10

Ms. A. Preston – ELL/Resource Teacher Divisions 7 & 8

Ms. J. Becker – ELL/Resource Teacher Divisions 5 & 6

Ms. A. Buttner – ELL/Resource Teacher Divisions 3 & 4

Ms. S. Bains – ELL/Resource Teacher Divisions 1 & 2

Each of these teachers works specifically with classroom teachers to support children learning English and children needing some assistance learning in different subject areas. They help in the development of IEPs (Individual Learning Plan) for children with special learning needs. These excellent teachers work with children in the classroom and/or in one of our Resource rooms. Our Resource Team is part of a School Based Team that meets weekly. The School Based Team meets to talk about individual students and their

needs. When the School Based Team meets to discuss an individual student, the team is comprised of a classroom teacher, Mrs. S. Haylett, our school Counselor and Ms. S. Blackmore, our Speech and Language Teacher. Mr. Mason also attends these weekly meetings. Parents who have concerns about their child's learning are asked to speak first with the classroom teacher who might then consult with the Learning Resource Teacher and the rest of the Resource Team.

## Around the School

### GRADE 6/7 COED VOLLEYBALL



*Our Grade 6/7 students are beginning an intramural season of volleyball with Ms. Kenakin and Ms. Jakovac. These two awesome teachers did not want the students to miss out on some form of this sport. We can't play teams from other schools, as is done in a normal school year, but we can learn skills and play some fun games between our own players. All volleyball games and practices are held at lunch.*

### Remembrance Day Assembly



On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11am, we will have a Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly. We cannot hold a large formal assembly in the gym, but we can have classes perform individually in the gym and Zoom the assembly to classrooms and parents. Stay tuned for more information on which classes will be performing and the Zoom MeetingID and Passcode. Poppies will be distributed to students on November 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope that your family can make a donation to the Poppy Fund. Money raised in the Poppy Fund helps to aid Canadian Veterans and the programs that assist our Canadian Veteran Heroes.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Dates to Remember

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Friday Oct. 23          | ProD Day – no school for students  |
| • Thursday Oct. 29        | Communicating Student Learning Meeting for parents in Divisions 1,2,4,7,8,9 and 10 |
| • Friday Oct. 30          | Hallowe'en Costume Day at Tait   |
| • Friday Nov. 6           | Hold and Secure Safety Drill   |
| • Tuesday Nov. 10         | Remembrance Assembly – 11:00am   |
| • Wednesday Nov. 11       | Remembrance Day Holiday  |
| • Wednesday Nov. 13       | Lockdown Safety Drill – 11:00am  |
| • Tuesday Nov. 17         | Photo Retake Day   |
| • Tuesday Nov. 17         | PAC Meeting on Zoom  |
| • Monday Nov. 23          | ProD Day – no school for students  |
| • Monday Nov. 30          | Lockdown Safety Drill  |
| • December 21 – January 1 | Winter Break (school is closed)  |
| • Monday January 4        | School Re-opens: Start of Term 2   |