

# TAIT TIGER TALES



January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Newsletter # 7

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## A CHILLY Start to the New Year!

It was so nice to see everyone come through the doors after the Winter Break to start this new calendar year. After two weeks back things are beginning to "heat up" in the classes and around the school as students become more and more engaged in their second term learning. Outside however, is a different story. We've continued to deal with these unusually cold temperatures and the ice that covers most of our playground. I must say that I am very proud of the way our students are maintaining safety precautions as they venture out at recess and lunch. There was only one day this week (Monday) when I felt it was best to keep the kids inside during the break due to the ice and potential for slipping, but since then we have been able to clear more of our walkways and get out to enjoy the cold, yet sunny days. We even have been able to have our outside DPA walking around the school instead of around our track.

These Tait kids are true Canadian T.I.G.E.R.S.

Mr. McCallum

## A Letter from Board Chair D. Tablotney

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to express sincere thanks to our students, staff and parent community for continuing to ensure that the Richmond School District is one of the highest performing and most respected school districts in the province. Together we have gone through some difficult times, especially as we have had to consider the closure of schools due to declining enrollment. Our school closure process was designed to inform and engage, and we are truly grateful to all of you who came out to our open houses, accessed information on our Let's Talk SD38 website, and attended other public meetings of the Board. We believe that we now have a community that is well informed about the issues facing our school district, in particular the impact of declining enrollment and the need to seismically upgrade our schools, and that is passionate about supporting public education.

We thank you again for your engagement, and ask that you lend your voice to ensure that students in Richmond continue to receive the highest quality education in facilities that are safe, well maintained and appropriate for their learning.

*Debbie Tablotney, Chair  
Board of Education (Richmond)*

## Our New Year's "Early to School" Resolution

Our School goal/resolution for the New Year is to have every Tait student arrive at school each day by 8:40 in order to have enough time to properly prepare for the school day. I have asked the students to do their part by getting to bed early and getting a good night's sleep, getting up on time in the morning and having a nutritious breakfast and by getting themselves organized to leave for school. **Parents, I am asking that you do your part by ensuring your child gets to school prior to 8:40 each day.** Showing up on time to school each day benefits students' academic performance and future professional habits. Students who arrive at school early have an advantage over classmates who arrive after class has begun. Consistent unexcused tardiness can mean short-term penalties and lifelong consequences.

## Welcome Shenzhen Students!

Today we welcomed 28 students from Fuyong Middle School in Shenzhen, China. These, mostly grade 7 students, will be guests at our school until January 31<sup>st</sup>. Like groups we have taken in previous years, this relationship benefits both our students and the visiting students. Mr. Sean Corcoran, a new Richmond teacher, will be teaching the students who will occupy room 12, an empty classroom in the school. Mr. Corcoran has spent the last year and a half teaching in China as part of our District International program.

# Ready Set Learn 2017



### MORNING EVENTS 9:30 -11:00

WILL PERFORMS ON:

#### January 11

GRAUER  
4440 Blundell Rd.

#### January 18

FERRIS  
7520  
Sunnymede Cr.

#### January 25

GEN. CURRIE  
8220 General  
Currie Rd.

#### February 1

ERRINGTON  
9831 Herbert Rd

#### February 8

TOMSETT  
9671 Odlin Rd.

#### March 1

THOMPSON  
6211 Forsythe Cr.

### AFTERNOON EVENTS 1:00 -2:30

WILL PERFORMS ON:

#### January 11

HAMILTON  
5180 Smith Dr.

#### January 18

KINGSWOOD  
11511 King Rd.

#### January 25

COOK  
8600 Cook Rd.

#### February 1

STEVES  
10111 Fourth Ave.

#### February 8

DIEFENBAKER  
4511 Hermitage Dr.

#### March 1

MITCHELL  
12091 Cambie Rd.



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# Ready Set Learn 2017

**COME TO A FREE CONCERT WITH WILL STROET AND JOIN US  
FOR SOME FUN ACTIVITIES!**

You and your pre-school aged child are invited.  
Events take place January-March and are free!

**WE HAVE ACTIVITY STATIONS PLANNED!**

This year we will highlight Aboriginal culture.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

Contact Information: **Marie Thom,**  
Early Learning Teacher Consultant 604-668-6000 EXT 3270

## **Tait Staff Update**

As a staff and community we would like to welcome back Mr. Brian Wilms who has been off on a leave since last June. Mr. Wilms will continue his teaching in Division 1. We would also like to welcome our newest staff member, Ms. Manpreet Kaur. Ms. Kaur is beginning her career as an Educational Assistant after successfully completing our District EA program. Welcome to Tait!

## **Parent Information for 2017-18**

**Transfer applications** started January 9<sup>th</sup> and will end on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> - if your grade 7 child lives in another catchment other than Tait (with the exception of Mitchell Elem.) and you would like he/she to attend Cambie next year then you will have to complete a transfer form. Please contact the office for more information. The catchment school must sign the form before delivery to the requested school.

A **Student Survey Regarding Expected Attendance** for next year will be sent home this month. Planning for the 2017-18 school year is already underway and a critical part of the planning process is knowing the number of students who will be attending in September. Parents please complete these forms and return to the office as soon as possible.

**2017-18 Registrations for Grade K – 12** students continue at the board office until June 16<sup>th</sup> – which is the deadline to be guaranteed a spot in your catchment school for 2017-18, provided there is space. If you know of any parents who are new to the district or have kindergarten-aged children starting next year, please remind them to complete this process as soon as possible.

**District Program Options** application deadlines are:

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – Early French Immersion Gr K-1 – Montessori Gr K-4

Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – Late French Immersion Gr 6

Grade 7 parents please check school website or school bulletin board for the Secondary School Program Planning Nights coming up.

### **Cambie Secondary School Info Night – Thursday, January 26th**

6:30pm	Grade 7 Parent Info Meeting
7:00pm	Open House and Pathway Program Parent Meeting

## **Important Dates**

### **JANUARY 2017**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Division 8 & 9 in-class Field Trip - O.W.L.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am Dismissal – PRO-D in the pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Subway Day Parent Info and Open House Cambie High
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Division 3 & 4 Science World Field Trip
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Chinese New Year
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Visiting Students from China last day at Tait

### **FEBRUARY 2017**

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chocolate Fundraiser Kick off Assembly
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Hip Hop Dance program begins
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Pizza Day
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Family Day Holiday
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6:00pm – Tait’s Hip Hop Dance Presentation at Cambie Secondary School</b>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Div. 2/7/9 Field Trip – Children’s Art Festival
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	PAC Hot Dog Day
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Instructional Day – PRO-D
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Div. 5 Field Trip - RAG

### **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

Our next PAC meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 26th<sup>st</sup> at 8:50am** in our Multi-Purpose room. We encourage any interested TAIT parents to attend. ***A reminder that Food Day orders need to be placed the week before the next Food Day. We cannot always guarantee there will be food for students who hand in their orders late or arrive with cash on that day. Also parents please remember to send your children a recess snack every day, even on Food Day.*** There are many students who don’t have any snack on PAC Food Days.

*Christine Neufeld: PAC Chairperson  
Keiko Siddle: PAC Food Day Coordinator*

*Kleanza Bennett: PAC Treasurer  
Sukh Dhillon: PAC Secretary*

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY NEWS

### ***What is "social responsibility"?***

At TAIT Elementary School we use the word TIGERS to remind students how we expect them to behave at school, at home, and in the community.

**TIGERS** stands for:

*Thoughtful  
Inclusive  
Generous  
Eco-Friendly  
Respectful  
Safe*

### **Family Teams this Month**

Each of our Family Teams activities over the next six months will focus on one of our T.I.G.E.R.S words. This month our activity will highlight the importance of being thoughtful in one's life. How do we best prepare and be mindful of setting personal goals, being active in our own learning and reaching our potential?

### ***Introduction to Feelings and Empathy***

Students are learning that everyone has feelings, and that all feelings are okay. Our students will learn to figure out how others are feeling by noticing their facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice. Students will learn that **empathy** is the ability to: **notice** how others feel, **care** about how others feel, and **say/do something helpful**. Our primary students will be learning that being a **bucket filler** (doing green behaviour) is the way to show care for others, and **bucket dipping** (doing red/yellow behaviour) is when we hurt others with our words or body. Intermediate students will be discussing the role of the bystander, and learning to stand up for those who need help by showing empathy.

*Conversations for home: Ask your child to tell you how they know what others are feeling, how they could make someone feel better, and what they are doing to be kind to others at school, home, and in your community.*

### ***Controlling Anger and Frustration***

Students are learning that anger or frustration is one emotion that can cause them to do red behaviour. We teach students that, **"It is okay to feel angry, but it is NOT okay to hurt others, things, or yourself."** Students will discuss times when their anger is triggered, what anger feels like in their body, what things they feel like doing when they are angry, and how acting in anger can hurt other's feelings. All students will learn calm down strategies to manage their anger, such as: square breathing, counting slowly to 10, and walking away. Students will learn to replace angry thoughts with helpful thoughts such as: "I can calm down", "It's not a big deal", and "I can handle this." Primary students will learn about the **Frustration Triangle**, which helps them to name, tame, and reframe their anger. Intermediate students will learn about **Anger Mountain**, and create their own self-regulation plan that includes: triggers, unhelpful and helpful thoughts, and ways to calm down. All students will learn that they can't solve problems well when they are angry. Anger management helps students be more socially responsible at school and at home.

*Conversations for home: Ask your child what they have learned about their anger, and how to manage it. Ask your child to show you some of the calm down strategies they have learned. Help your child to use the calm down strategies at home when you notice they are upset.*