

TAIT TIGER TALES

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Newsletter # 5

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Lots of Things Changing in Our School and District



In the 24 years I have been an educator in the Richmond School District this has got to be the year with the most changes to the way we teach, communicate and keep ourselves organized. It's an exciting time as we embark on sweeping changes to the ways we provide instruction, assess and report on our student's learning, institute positive changes to many of the ways we do things and upgrade many of the programs we use in our schools. I'm just so thankful that our construction from last year is complete so we as a staff can focus this year on learning all we need to know to keep up with the changes. I am so proud of the way our staff have responded to all this positive change. One of the biggest changes we are undergoing is of course regarding the new B.C. Curriculum. Developing ways of enhancing the learning for each student based on their individual strengths, emphasizing inquiry and creating accessible learning environments are some of the ways we want to provide opportunity for students to develop to their potential. All of our communication systems have received a long overdue upgrade and we continue to emphasize technology in our teaching and learning. We have also upgraded all of the programs we use to do our accounting, administration and student records, and all of the procedures we use to ensure health & safety, emergency procedures, and field trip protocol. And finally, over the next year we will be implementing a new system for parents to make payments and purchases online and the Framework for Enhanced Student Learning will replace the previous school performance plans with a more narrative-based way of reporting on our school's shared vision.

Mr. McCallum

The Book Fair is Coming!

Attention All Tait Bookaneers!



Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is November 28th-December 2nd!

The Book Fair is open before and after school and during your child's weekly library block.

How the Book Fair helps Tait: Proceeds from the sale support our school library.

Parents can purchase books for classroom teachers. (Class Wish Lists are on display at the Fair.)

Note: If you are a parent who would like to help, please see Mrs. Becker.

Looking forward to seeing there!

Thanks

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Our next PAC meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 1stst at 8:50am** in our Multi-Purpose room. We encourage ANY interested Tait parents to attend. Thank you to Keiko Siddle and all of our fantastic Food Day Volunteers. Not only does this raise important funds that benefits our school and students, but it's very YUMMY! **A reminder that Food Day orders need to be placed the week before the next Food Day. We cannot always guarantee there will food for students who hand in their orders late or arrive with cash on that day.**

Thank you to Sukh Dhillon for being our go-to Early Warning parent who helps make sure your children arrive safely at school.

Remember: Every Tait parent is a member of PAC. How can you help benefit your child's school?

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

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

Important Dates



NOVEMBER 2016

Monday 28th to Dec. 2nd
Wednesday 30th

Scholastic Book Fair – Open Area
K registrations end at school for 17/18 year
Parents must register at Board Office

DECEMBER 2016

Thursday 1st
Monday 5th
Thursday 8th
Monday 12th
Wednesday 14th
Thursday 15th
Friday 16th

Kindergarten Hearing & Vision Testing
Non-Instructional Day - Pro-D Day
PAC Pizza Day
Band Concert at 11:30 in the gym
Winter Concert Evening Performance 6:30 in the gym
Report Cards Sent Home (Please note the date change)
Last day before the Winter Break

JANUARY 2017

Tuesday 3rd
Thursday 12th
Friday 20th
Thursday 26th

First day back after the Break (Note: it is a TUESDAY)
PAC Hot Lunch Day
11:15 Dismissal Day (Pro-D in the afternoon)
PAC Meeting

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



Introduction to Feelings and Empathy

Students will be 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.



Winter Concerts at Tait

Our teachers and students are busily preparing for you an evening of music to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. We invite you to come to the school gym on **Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30pm** to hear these beautiful voices.

On **Monday, December 12th at 11:30am** our Divisions 1, 2, and 3 Bands will be performing songs they have been practicing. Come and see how far they have progressed.



Help us Keep You Up to Date - Email

At the beginning of the year we sent home a Student Verification/Information Form where most of you included your primary, and sometimes a secondary, email address. If your email has changed, or if you did not include an email address at that time, please send us an email to: tait@sd38.bc.ca and include your name and email, your child's name and division. Thank you!