

TAIT TIGER TALES



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Newsletter #1

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We Are Up and Running!

Welcome back everyone to what has been a very productive, successful, but interesting start to the new school year. After the British Columbia Teachers Federation won a Supreme Court decision last year and contract language was restored to limit class size and class composition, school districts across the province have been scrambling to hire teachers to fill new positions and ensure the contract language is met. For us here at Tait it means that in June we had an extra division added and then late last week we found out that we have had another division added. So, we have gone from 9 divisions last year to 11 this year. This is very good news as our class sizes are significantly lower from Kindergarten to grade 7. I want to thank our Staff for their diligence and care in creating our classes for the year. We were also able to honor all requests for student placement that were submitted by the parents who followed the established procedure in June.

The challenge is, that at this time, there are two divisions where we have not yet been able to hire full-time teachers as of yet. In the interim, Teachers On Call will be welcoming the students in those two classes. Our new full-year grade 1/2 class is temporarily in the capable hands of Ms. Sarah Wong and our Grade 3/4 class is in the capable hands of Mr. David Lee. This 3/4 class will require a full-time temporary teacher until Ms. Mander returns from her maternity leave in January.

Welcome to Tait !



We would like to welcome new staff to our school who will be with us on a continuing basis: Ms. Shannon Deacon comes to us from the West Vancouver School District where she gained considerable experience as a Kindergarten teacher, she will be teaching our Division 11 straight grade Kindergarten. Ms. Annie Bell has been with Richmond since last year when she proved herself in temporary assignments at other schools in the district. She will be teaching our Division 8 grade 1/2 class. Ms. Simi Bains, a former grade 6/7 teacher here, returns to Tait in a new role as a Resource Teacher. We also welcome some new Educational Assistants to our school: Mr. Zeph Chan, Ms. Denis Jurisova who are new this year and Ms. Christina Lee who started with us late last year. Other new members of our Tait Team include Mr. Brian Little, noon hour supervisor; Speech and Language Pathologist, Ms. Vivian Sue; Educational Psychologist, Ms. Hannah Kirkham and Hearing Resource Teacher, Ms. Sue Betts. Also, Tait has "Connections Kids" before and after school care in Room 12. Please talk to the caregivers in Room 12 if you are interested in registering your child.

Important Information for Parents

Next week important information will be going home with your child regarding student verification, school and agenda fees and other critical communication. Please ensure that you complete any forms and pay fees in a timely manner. This greatly helps us be as organized as we can here at the school. Information regarding the new KEV Online Payment System will also be sent home. Information regarding the PAC hot lunch program and dates will be sent home soon.



Medical Alerts and Life Threatening Allergies

If your child has a severe allergy or condition that requires an Epi-pen or an Inhaler an up-to-date device AND the proper documentation must be sent to the school. Please contact the office for more information.

How You Can Help

Yesterday students moved into their new classes for the year and getting off to a positive start in their new learning environment is crucial. Please talk with your child about how they can be positive in their new class.

Please ensure your child gets to bed early every evening, starts their day with a nutritious breakfast and brings a healthy snack and lunch that will sustain them throughout the day.

Arriving on time is a very important part of the school day. Our doors open at 8:30am every morning allowing students vital time to get settled in the classrooms, socialize with their classmates and begin their morning routines. Getting off to a good start each day sets the tone for the rest of a student's day. Arriving late has the opposite effect and can have an adverse effect for a student. Please ensure your child is at school by 8:40am each day at the latest.

We are asking parents to refrain from dropping lunches off during the day as it was becoming very disruptive to the teaching and learning taking place in the school, and with so many people entering the school at odd times, it raises a security risk. Thank you for understanding that the education, safety, and well-being of our students (your children) is most important.

Early Warning

Any parents interested in helping out with Early Warning every morning around 8:50am for 15 minutes, please contact Ms. Evdokimoff at the office - 604-668-6444. The job consists of calling home all the unknown absences that day and marking down the late students who are coming in the front door.

Looking Ahead – The 2017/2018 School Year



Wednesday, September 20 th	Individual Photo Day
Thursday, September 21 st	Terry Fox Assembly and Run 9:00am – Note Time Change
Friday, September 22 nd	Non-Instructional Day – Professional Development
Thursday, September 28 th	Hot Lunch Day - Pizza
Tuesday, October 3 rd	1:00pm Dismissal Day – Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 6 th	Grade 6 Immunizations - 9:00am
	Vancouver Theatre Sports 1:30pm
Monday, October 9 th	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
Thursday, October 19 th	Shake Out Earthquake Drill - 10:30am
Friday, October 20 th	Non-Instructional Day – Professional Development
Thursday, October 26 th	Family Photo Night – Times TBA
Thursday, November 9 th	Photo Retakes
Thursday, November 10 th	Remembrance Day Assembly - 10:30am
Monday, November 13 th	Remembrance Day – School Closed
Friday, November 24 th	Non-Instructional Day – Professional Development
Dec. 12 – 15	Hip Hop Practices
Friday, December 15 th	Report Cards Go Home
December 19 & 20	Hip Hop Classes Continue
Wednesday, December 20 th	Hip Hop Holiday Event at Cambie - 6:00pm
Friday, December 22 nd	Last school day before Winter Break
Tuesday, January 8 th	First day back after Winter Break – classes resume
Friday, January 26 th	Non-Instructional Day – Professional Development
	Grade 6/7 Babysitting Course
Monday, February 12 th	B.C. Family Day – School Closed
Friday, February 23 rd	Non-Instructional Day – Professional Development
Tuesday, March 13 th	1:00pm Dismissal – Open House/Student-led Conferences
Thursday, March 15 th	Last school day before Spring Break
	Report Cards Home
Tuesday, April 3 rd	First day back after Spring Break
Thursday, April 12 th	Grade 6 and K Immunizations - 9:00am
	Rainbow Dance Company - 1:30pm
Friday, April 20 th	TC02 Presentation Grade 6/7 - 10:20am
Sunday, April 22 nd	EARTH DAY
Friday, April 27 th	Non-Instructional Day – Professional Development
Friday, May 18 th	Non-Instructional Day – Professional Development
Monday, May 21 st	Victoria Day – School Closed
May 29 th – June 1 st	Grade 6's at Camp Kawkawa
Friday, June 8 th	Fit & Fun Day – 1:30pm Dismissal
Thursday, June 14 th	Tait's Got Talent - 1:00–3:00pm
Friday, June 22 nd	Grade 7 Grad Assembly, Luncheon and Dance
Thursday, June 28 th	Recognition Assembly
	3:00pm Students Dismissed for the year
	Report Cards Go Home