

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #8

May 3rd, 2021.

Telephone: 604-668-6444
Student Absences: 604-668-6444
Website address: tait.sd38.bc.ca
Email: tait@sd38.bc.ca



Principal: Mr. Rusty Mason
Admin. Assistant: Ms. M. McAuley
Area Superintendent: Ms. C. Brautigam

From the Office

PARENT INPUT FOR CLASS ORGANIZATION AND STUDENT PLACEMENT 2021-22

June is the month when the school staff spends considerable time discussing possible classroom placements of students for the next school year. Although we do not finalize classes until the first week in September, we do a great amount of preliminary thinking in June. There are many factors that are important considerations in these discussions:

Parent Input:

If you have information about your child that you would like us to consider when placing them into a class (based on the factors listed below), please take this opportunity to submit this information to Mr. Mason **in writing (email or letter) by Friday, May 28th at 4:00 p.m.**



Tell us about your child and consider the following factors

- student learning styles and strengths
- degree of independence in work habits
- social and personal characteristics
- important friendships (more than one, if possible)
- age and physical maturity
- previous year's placement
- special learning needs
- when they have been the youngest or the oldest in a combined classroom. Please note: Over their 8 years in elementary, a student should experience a variety of settings, sometimes as the older grade in a class and other times the younger grade in a class.



This information will be shared with teachers during the meetings that will be held to make up class lists. **It will not be possible to consider information or requests submitted by parents in September once classes have been established.**

Please **do not request specific teachers** – at this time we do not know which teachers will be teaching which grades next year.

Please note: We do our best to form the best learning environments for all students.

Parental requests are considered but not guaranteed.

Although we do have preliminary discussions, the class organization is subject to change in the first week in September depending on the enrollment numbers confirmed in the first week of school.

We Are Planning For September 2021

Kindergarten Registrations. If you have a child turning five in 2021, please register them at the Board Office right away for Kindergarten. We are now into the Priority 2 Round of registration. Any students living in the Tait neighbourhood can still apply for a place at Tait Elementary, but as we move further towards next September space could become very limited and chances of having a place at our school decrease. If you have a neighbour with a Kindergarten aged child, please encourage them to register now.



Covid19 Health Protocols and Sickness



We can work together to minimize the number of students and staff who are ill if we remember some very simple guidelines and strategies.

- If you believe your child is coming down with a cold or the flu, keep them home until they have recovered. Your child will recover more quickly and we will not have others in the school also becoming ill.*
- DO NOT send students to school who have a constant cough or runny nose, who have a fever, or who have vomited in the last 24 hours.*

Children who come to school sick will be sent home. Parents will be contacted by the school office to come to the school to pick up their child.

Hand Washing

• Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly, especially before eating, after using the washroom, and after blowing their nose. At the school, we will continue to have children wash their hands multiple times each day.

Mask Wearing

• Recently, the Provincial Health Authority issued a change in expectations for wearing masks inside the building for students in grades 4 to 7. All students are asked to wear a mask inside the school. This change is in effect until at least April 19th. Students in grades kindergarten to 3 are encouraged to wear masks but it is not mandated that they do so. All staff are required to wear masks in the building except when they are sitting at their desk or their work station.

Get the Proper Amount of Sleep and Rest

• Have your child go to sleep at a time that gives them at least 10 hours of sleep. When our bodies are tired and 'run down' we are far more susceptible to illness.



Please follow the Mandatory Daily Health Declaration each day (see the end of this newsletter)

Thank-you for your help to keep everyone at Tait Elementary safe and healthy.

Student Absences

If your child will be absent from school, please call the school directly at 604-668-6444 to speak to our office staff or leave a message. Please do not rely on an email to your child's classroom teacher telling them about your child's absence. Classroom teachers may not have the chance to access their email before school, and may mark your child as absent with an unknown reason as to why they are missing from school. If classroom teachers enter a child as absent without a reason, our office staff will make a phone call home to parents to find out the whereabouts of a child. This procedure can be aggravating for parents, and takes valuable time from our office staff that could be better used.



Thank-you for your understanding. Please call 604-668-6444 if your child will be absent from school.

Parking Lot and Surrounding Neighborhood



Parents, please help us make the parking lot and streets near the school safe for all members of our school community during student pick-up at the end of the day. If you are picking up your child at the end of the school day, please keep these thoughts in mind:

- stop and wait for your child only in the drop-off/pick-up area: do not leave your car unattended
- if you need to go into the school, use available parking spaces or park in the neighbourhood
- do not double-park your car in the driveway entering the school parking lot
- drive slowly in the parking lot and when exiting the parking lot
- in the neighborhood, please do not block the driveways of our neighbors

Around the School

PICTURE DAY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH, 2021 IS CLASS PICTURE DAY AT ROBERT J. TAIT. EACH CLASS WILL HAVE THEIR CLASS PICTURE TAKEN. SMILE!



End of the Year Events



Many parents may be wondering if we will be still planning to hold many of our special End of the Year Events, such as: Fit and Fun Day; the Service and Recognition Assembly; and the Grade 7 Farewell Assembly. The matter of fact answer to this question is, we do not know.

As you know, we have not been able to have any in person assemblies this year. Under the direction of the Province of British Columbia, the Ministry of Health and our local Health Authority, we cannot have any in person gatherings at this time. With a recent increase of Covid19 cases in the Lower Mainland and the Province of British Columbia, we must adhere to the directives of these authorities to keep all members of the school and their families safe and healthy. We will await further direction as we move into the month of June, and keep students and parents updated about these special events. Thank-you for your understanding in this matter.

Professional Development Day: Friday, May 21st

On Friday May 21st, there is a Professional Development Day at Tait Elementary. Students at Robert J. Tait will not be in session on this day. Teachers at Tait and in all schools in Richmond will be meeting virtually to learn together and bring some amazing new ideas to your child's classroom. School will resume on Tuesday, May 25th, 2021, after the Victoria Day Holiday.



PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Updates



The Robert J. Tait Parent Advisory Council is always looking for parent volunteers to help the PAC support students at Tait School. If you have an idea for the Tait P.A.C. please come to the next meeting. All Tait parents are part of the Tait PAC. We encourage you to come to our PAC Meetings to find out more about the school.

PAC Annual General Meeting is Wednesday, May 19th at 7pm on Zoom. At this meeting we will elect the Tait PAC Executive for the 2021/2022 school year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Wednesday, May 19 th | - Class Photo Day |
| Friday, May 21 st | - Professional Development Day / No School for Students |
| Monday, May 24 th | - Victoria Day Holiday |
| Wednesday June 2 nd | - Welcome to Kindergarten for 2021/2022 Kindergartens |
| Friday June 18 th | - Fit and Fun Day (To be Determined) |
| Friday June 25 th | - Grade 7 Farewell (To be Determined) |
| Tuesday, June 29 th | - Last Day of School for Students |
| Wednesday, June 30 th | - School Administrative Day: School Office is Open |

Mandatory Daily Health Declaration Process for Staff and Students

KEY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (above 38°C) • Chills • Cough • Difficulty Breathing • Loss of sense of smell or taste 	<p>If yes to 1 or more of these symptoms: Stay home and get a health assessment.</p> <p>Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.</p>
OTHER SYMPTOMS	WHAT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sore throat • Loss of appetite • Headache • Body aches • Extreme fatigue or tiredness • Nausea and vomiting • Diarrhea 	<p>If yes to 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better.</p> <p>If yes to 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home for 24 hours.</p> <p>If symptoms don't get better or get worse, get a health assessment; contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.</p>
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	WHAT TO DO
<p>Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?</p>	<p>If yes: All students and staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival under both provincial and federal orders.</p> <p>This includes students who are attending school from abroad. Students from outside of Canada should plan to arrive in Canada at least two weeks before they are scheduled to attend school to adhere to the self-quarantine orders. Additional information is available at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/travel/self-quarantine.</p>
CLOSE CONTACT	WHAT TO DO
<p>Have you been contacted by public health and notified that you are a close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?</p>	<p>If yes: Please follow the instructions provided by Public Health. You can call 8-1-1 anytime to get advice about how you are feeling and what to do next. Pay attention to how you are feeling. If it becomes harder to breathe, you can't drink anything or feel much worse, seek urgent medical care at an urgent care clinic or emergency department.</p>

Check your symptoms with the [K-12 Health Check](#). If you have any questions, or the symptoms get worse, contact your healthcare provider, or call 8-1-1. For more information on COVID-19, please go to www.bccdc.ca. If you develop severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing (e.g. struggling to breathe or speaking in single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.