

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #4

December 1st, 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. L. Rutsch
Area Superintendent: Ms. C. Brautigam

From the Office

Communicating Student Learning (Reporting)

On Thursday, December 16th, term one reports will come home for students in Divisions 4 and 5.



The reports will be a snapshot of the progress a child has made in their learning this term. No one piece of paper can ever capture who a child is, but their e-Portfolios, workbooks, projects, and journals speak volumes as to who they are as a student. It is this work that is the true communication of a child's learning, along with conversations with their teacher.

With the Ministry making a shift by refreshing our curriculum, there is also a shift in reporting. The Ministry of Education makes the following recommendations in order for us to move forward successfully with the new curriculum:

- *Shift from "reporting" to "communicating student learning"*
- *Support meaningful communication between teachers, parents, and learners*
- *Report on core competencies and key areas of learning*
- *Focus on learning competencies (skills) not on the content (topics)*
- *Enable ongoing communication (with provincial guidelines and supports)*
- *Use clear performance and proficiency-based language when communicating student learning and progress*

The essence of these recommendations is: there is a shift in how schools communicate student learning towards meaningful descriptions / collections / and demonstrations of student learning.

Some information about report cards to help you talk with your child:

1. Teachers assess a child's progress based on the widely held expectations for children of that age.
2. It is important to remember that children are all learning and progressing at their own rate. Some children may learn more quickly or easily than others. Some children take a longer time to learn. Teachers need to report on a child's current development. Both parents and teachers need to celebrate each child's progress and growth in learning.
3. When you and your child look at their student report, it is important to celebrate growth and improvement and to talk about areas for improvement in Term 2.



Please remember, Divisions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will not receive report cards in December as these classes are part of the Richmond School Districts Innovation Grant Study on Communicating Student Learning using Student Online Portfolios. Parents of students in Divisions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9 can view their child's progress on a continual basis by looking at their e-Portfolio. Students in these divisions receive continual Formative and Summative Assessment throughout the year which can be viewed at any time by students, parents and teachers in the e-Portfolio.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER:

It is important that students are dressed for the weather. During these colder damp days, students need to have a proper jacket, footwear, a hat and perhaps gloves. If they dress appropriately for the weather, they can enjoy playing outside. We will continue as a school to go outside on days that include rain and snow.





SNOW DAYS - WHAT TO EXPECT:

Snow days cause an 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 these 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 Richmond School District website
- all elementary school 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. In the event we must 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 their safety or your own safety may be at risk, you may keep them home.
2. Plan 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.



Covid19 and Flu and Cold Season

Covid19 continues and it is also flu and cold season. Staff and students are being reminded to wash their hands regularly, keep distance and to use the Mandatory Daily Health Declaration every morning before coming to school.

If a staff member or your child is ill, they should not come to school. Please see the Mandatory Daily Health Declaration at the end of this newsletter for a list of symptoms of Covid19



Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be absent from school at any time, please phone the **Tait Office at (604-668-6444)** to report your child's absence or leave a message. In your voicemail leave your child's name, their division or teacher's name and the reason for their absence. Parents of children who are unaccounted for at the start of the school day will be contacted to determine their child's whereabouts. We may follow up with a phone call to find out if their absence is due to an illness.

If you send an email to your child's teacher to let them know your child will be absent, you still need to call the school office to report your child's absence. Some mornings are very busy in your child's classroom and teachers do not always have a chance to look at their morning email before entering student attendance. If a student is marked absent by the teacher and is unaccounted for, someone from the office will call home to find the whereabouts of a child.

IF YOUR CONTACT NUMBER CHANGES, PLEASE LET THE SCHOOL OFFICE KNOW.

Registration for New Kindergarten Students

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2017, turning 5 in 2022. These children will begin kindergarten in September, 2022. Online registration opened November 1, 2021. Please visit the Richmond School District website at <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 1st – January 28th) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications completed by parents and received by Central Registration any time during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions via emails by February 4, 2022. There will be a Kindergarten Information Evening for parents of students with diverse needs who may need additional support, to be held on ZOOM on November 17. A link to the Zoom meeting will be posted soon. As per district policy, a student will normally attend the school located in their catchment area in which their parents or legal guardians reside unless there is no physical, resource or program space available. This provision may need to be applied more frequently, potentially resulting in more students needing placement outside their catchment school. Please share this information with your friends and family who have Kindergarten aged children!



Parking Lot Before School

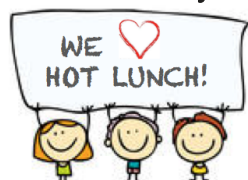
As you know, our parking lot can be a busy place before and after school. We ask that parents use the drop off lane to let students out of their car in the morning. Students should get out of their car using the doors on the passenger side (right side) of their car, so they don't step out into traffic. We also ask parents not to park in the 'drop off only' lane and go into the school with their child. When cars are parked in the 'drop off only' 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 8:40am.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Around the School

Hot Lunch Day – Thursday Dec. 2nd



Our next Hot Lunch Day will be from Taco Lui. Our December Hot Lunch Day is on Thursday, December 2nd. Hot Lunch days are a break from the usual routine of making lunches for your child(ren) and proceeds from the Hot Lunch are used by our school PAC to support the students at RJ Tait.

Burrr Day – Thursday Dec. 16th



It will be Burrr Day at RJ Tait on Thursday December 16th. On Burrr Day students and staff are encouraged to dress a little warmer, perhaps in their favorite holiday sweater, as we lower the temperature in the building by 2 degrees Celsius. The purpose of Burr Day is to highlight the importance of reducing energy use to help the environment, and that we can simply dress a little warmer and still be comfortable.

RJ Tait Holiday Food Drive



The Holiday Food Drive will take place at RJ Tait from Wednesday, December 1st to Tuesday, December 14th. We are asking for your help to support Richmond families that are less fortunate. If you are able to help, please see the lists of items below to let you know what you could donate. Send your donations with your child to their classroom between December 1st and 14th. Our Student Leadership Team will be collecting items each morning from classrooms and passing the items on to the Richmond Food Bank.

You can also consider making a cash donation. The Food Bank can stretch the buying power of a dollar further than the average shopper. They use cash donations to purchase items they do not have a large supply.

Food Items you Could Donate (not an exhaustive list)

Granola bars, Crackers, Cookies, Cans of food, Dried foods (pasta, beans), Soup (canned or dried), Cereal



Winter Concert

Due to Covid19 Health and Safety Restrictions, we are unable to hold a Winter Concert for our community. We hope to have an in-person Winter Concert next year. We enjoy our gatherings with parents in attendance and can't wait for the time to get together again.

Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)



The Parent Advisory Council's mandate is to facilitate and promote effective communication between home and school and to foster parent participation in educational activities and decision-making. Every parent or guardian of a student at Tait Elementary is a member of the Tait PAC and is encouraged to become involved.

The next **P.A.C. meeting** will be held virtually on Zoom on **Monday, January 17th from 6:30p.m. – 8:00p.m.** A Zoom Meeting Link will be sent out the week prior to the set meeting date.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dates to Remember

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| • Dec. 1 st – Dec. 14 th | RJ Tait Holiday Food Drive |
| • Thursday Dec. 2 nd | Hot Lunch Day – Taco Lui |
| • Thursday Dec. 16 th | Burrr Day: Eco-Wise Wear a Sweater Day |
| • Thursday Dec. 16 th | Report Cards Home for Divisions 4 and 5 only |
| • Friday Dec. 17 | Last Day of Classes before Winter Break |
| • December 20 – January 3 | Winter Break (school is closed) |
| • Tuesday January 4 | School Re-opens: Start of Term 2 |
| • Friday, Jan. 21 st | Kindergarten Hearing Screening Day |
| • Monday, Jan. 31 st | ProD Day |
| • Friday, Feb. 18 th | ProD Day |
| • Monday, Feb. 21 st | Family Day Holiday |
| • Friday, Feb. 25 th | Dufflebag Theatre Presentation |
| • March 14 th -25 th | Spring Break |

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
Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	<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
Have you been contacted by public health and notified that you are a close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	<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.