

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #3

November 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



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 opens today, 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!



Please remember to drive slowly when you are near the school and watch for children walking and crossing the street.

Students Arriving Late to School in the Morning



This year, due to Covid19, it is more important than ever for your child to arrive at school between 8:40am and 8:45am. When children arrive, they will be greeted by a staff member, who is checking to make sure students are healthy and safe to come into the school, and who is also reminding the students of the arrival procedures which include washing their hands. If your child is consistently arriving late in the morning, your child's levels of worry and stress increase because they are entering their classroom late and they need to catch up on what they have missed. Being late also impacts the learning for others in the classroom, because the teacher needs to interrupt instruction to make sure the student who is late checks into the classroom safely. Being on time is an important habit in life, particularly as children mature and become adolescents and young adults. The habits your child learns now will shape how they behave in the future.

If your child is often late, try a new routine: packing their backpacks the night before school; making lunch the night before school; or getting up 15 minutes earlier in the morning.

DRESS FOR THE COLD AND WET WEATHER:

It is important that students are dressed for the weather. During these colder, damp days, students need to have a proper jacket, footwear (boots or waterproof shoes), and perhaps a hat and gloves. If they dress appropriately for the weather, they can enjoy playing outside. Please remind your child to check the weather when getting up in the morning and they are getting ready for school. To follow Covid19 Health and Safety Protocols from our Coastal Health Authority, all students will be going outside for every recess and lunch - rain or shine. If your child is not well enough to go outside during our break times, they are also not well enough to be attending school and should stay home until they are feeling better. **If your child is dressed for the weather, they will stay warm and dry.**



It is a fact that children and adults have less chance of catching a cold or virus when they are outside with room to distance from others and there is fresh air, as opposed to inside in an enclosed space with less air flow.

Health and Safety Practices



We are following our Health and Safety Protocols very carefully at Tait.

When students arrive at school they are being welcomed and screened by staff to make sure they are healthy.

Handwashing – Students and staff handwash many times each day, including:

- when they arrive to school
- when going outside for breaks
- when coming back inside from breaks
- after using the washroom
- before eating
- after eating
- when moving from another location in the school back into their own classroom
- when going home for the day

Masks are to be worn by all students and staff inside the school.

Mandatory Daily Health Declaration – All families and all staff are required to follow the direction of the Mandatory Daily Health Declaration. If a student or staff member are ill, they must stay home. (see below)

If an individual has any of the symptoms of Covid19 (fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, or a loss of smell) they must stay home and we advise them to seek an assessment from a Health Care Provider. **Do not send your child to school if they have any of the symptoms listed above.**

If you child has any other symptoms of illness, including runny nose, sneezing, tiredness etc... please strongly consider keeping your child home. Students and staff should not come to school if they are feeling unwell. If students appear to be unwell at school, we will call parents to come and pick up their ill child. Thank-you for your support in being available to pick up your child if they are unwell. Please see the Mandatory Daily Health Declaration on below for symptoms of Covid19 and protocols to follow.

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)ChillsCoughDifficulty BreathingLoss 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 throatLoss of appetiteHeadacheBody achesExtreme fatigue or tirednessNausea and vomitingDiarrhea	<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.

SNOW DAYS - WHAT TO EXPECT:

Snow days cause inconvenience for everyone. Not all snow days result in a school closure, however, should weather conditions create unsafe situations for students and staff to make it to school, the Superintendent of schools will officially declare schools closed. This decision will be displayed on the school district website by 6:30 am at the latest.



To help assist families, we would like to outline where you can find information about school closures in Richmond Schools on a snow day.

Television And Radio

TV and Radio will only announce Schools that are CLOSED

Listen to radio: CKNW 980AM; NEWS 1130AM; CBC 690AM; QM 103.5FM or watch on television: CBC; Global; CTV.

Richmond School District Website: www.sd38.bc.ca

On the RSD Home page, will be clear details if schools are closed

RSD Snow Closure Hotline

(604) 295-4304, which will provide a recorded message indicating if schools are closed

Twitter at RichmondSD38

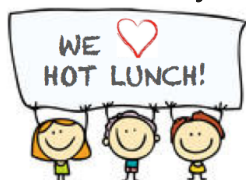
Around the School

Remembrance Day Assembly

On Wednesday, November 10th, at 11am, we will have a Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly. At this time our Health Protocols state we cannot hold a whole school assembly in the gym, but we can have classes perform individually in the gym. In the coming week, please watch your email for information on a link to view our Remembrance Day Assembly on Microsoft Teams. Poppies will be distributed to students on November 10th. We hope that your family can make a donation to the Poppy Fund. Money raised in the Poppy Fund helps to aid Canadian Veterans and the programs that assist our Canadian Veteran Heroes.



Hot Lunch Day – Thursday Nov. 18th



Our next Hot Lunch Day will be from Pizza Hut on Thursday, November 18th. 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. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon from the PAC on how to order your child's Pizza Hot Lunch meal.

PRO-D DAY – Monday November 22nd



Monday, November 22nd, is a Professional-Development Day. Students will not come to school on this day. The Tait staff will be working together on our new school focus in Numeracy and on our Earthquake Evacuation Plan.

Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.) Meeting



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, November 29th from 6:30p.m. – 8:00p.m.** A Zoom Meeting Link will be sent out the week prior to the set meeting date.

October 25th, 2021 PAC Meeting Minutes

R.J. Tait Elementary School Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Call to Order–Welcome and Introductions

Adopt September 28th, 2021 Minutes – Wynne and Sukh

Reports

- Administrator's Report Rusty Mason

- Library Book Draw – Ms. Becker has requested some money from PAC for this year's book draw. In the past PAC has donated around \$300 and motion was passed to do the same for this school year.

- School Focus – Previous school focus was Social Responsibility and the new focus will be Numeracy. Will be focusing on: 1. How can we improve our students' basic number sense and mental math strategy? 2. How can we help students have a "growth mindset" towards math?

- Upcoming Dates

- October 27th – Fire Drill at 11:40am
- November 1st – Photo Retake.
- November 11th - Remembrance Day – School Closed.
- November 22nd – Pro-D Day.
- November 26th – Lockdown Safety Drill
- October 29th – Halloween at Tait
- November 10th – Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 12th – Fire Drill at 11:40am
- November 23rd – How Raven Stole the Sun Performance

Old Business

- Mabel's Labels – this fundraiser is posted on our PAC website (www.taitpac.ca)
- MunchaLunch – www.taitpac.ca

Discussion Items

- Staff Wish List - \$100 for each teacher, \$50 for support staff.

Mr. Mason to put together a Staff Wishlist and see what items are a priority.

- Equator Coffee/Gift Cards – Have orders in by mid-November and delivery of items in December. Next hot lunch day is November 18th (Pizza). Last food day (Subway) went very well and ran smoothly. Will look at getting food from more places to give the kids some variety. (Taco Luis, Fujiya, White Spot, A&W)

Financials

- \$5867.96 (Chequing Account)
- \$7221.72 (Gaming Account)

Next Meeting November 29th, 2021 at 6:30pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dates to Remember

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|---------------------------|---|
| • Monday Nov. 8 | Grade 6 and 7 Immunizations |
| • Wednesday Nov. 10 | Remembrance Assembly – 11:00am |
| • Thursday Nov. 11 | Remembrance Day Holiday |
| • Friday Nov. 12 | Fire Drill – 11:40am |
| • Monday Nov. 22 | ProD Day – no school for students |
| • Friday Nov. 26 | Lockdown Safety Drill |
| • Monday Nov. 29 | PAC Meeting – 6:30pm on Zoom |
| • 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 |