

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter # 5

January 10th, 2022.

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

Registration for Next Year - 2022-23

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/childcare> 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 21st) 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.

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!

Notice of Intent to Attend Forms For the 2022/2023 School Year

Parents, please complete and return to RJ Tait School the "Notice of Intent to Attend Form" for the 2022-23 School Year. This form will be given out to students to bring home to you this week. Please ensure your current address is entered on the form as this information is very important. **This form tells us your intention for your child to attend our school next school year in September 2022.**

This is the first step in beginning to plan for the size of our classes next school year. The Notice of Intent to Attend Form should be completed and sent back to the school by Friday, January 21st, 2022.

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.



The Winter months always have the highest number of student and staff absences, primarily due to illness. We can work together to minimize the number of students and staff who are ill if we remember some very simple guidelines and strategies.

• DO NOT send students to school who have any symptoms of illness, including cough, congestion or a runny nose. If your child has had a fever, or has vomited in the last 24 hours, please keep them home for a full day when they have not had a fever or vomited. If a student or staff member has a fever, it is recommended they seek medical advice from a Health Practitioner before returning to school.

• Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly, especially before eating, after using the washroom, and after blowing their nose.

• 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.



Thank-you for your help to keep everyone at RJ Tait Elementary healthy through the Winter months.

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 had 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.

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 everyone, 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 unsafe or emergency proportions. **Radio announcements will only announce those schools that are CLOSED.** Most of these will be private schools. Listen to radio: CBC 690AM; CHMJ 730AM; CKNW 980AM; NEWS 1130AM; 1470AM; 1600AM; QM 103.5FM or watch on television: CBC; Global; CTV; CityTV.

As well, you can get information other ways:

- the Richmond School District website (www.sd38.bc.ca), look under the ‘OUR DISTRICT’ tab at the top of the Home Page, then click on the EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES heading.
- 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 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 that we have to 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. Make plans 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.

Around the School

Professional Development Days at Tait



On Professional Development Days, students do not attend school. Staff at British Columbia schools use ProD Days to learn new instructional strategies and curriculum. Educators apply what they learn during ProD Days to their instructional practice in the classroom, so they can help your child learn better. Thank-you for supporting these learning days for educators.

Upcoming ProD Day: Monday January 31st, 2022.

PAC News

The Robert J. Tait Parent Advisory Council is always looking for school fundraising ideas. 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 and how you can help support the learning and well-being of all students.

The next PAC meeting will be held on:

Monday, January 17th, 2022 at 6:30pm on Zoom.

(The Zoom Meeting ID and Password will be sent to parents next week)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dates to Remember

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Thursday Jan. 13 th | Cambie High School Virtual Presentation to Grade 7 students |
| • Monday Jan. 17 th | PAC Meeting @6:30pm on Zoom |
| • Tuesday Jan. 18 th | Cambie Grade 7 Virtual Parent Meeting 7:00pm |
| • Friday Jan. 21 st | Kindergarten Hearing Testing by V.C.H. |
| • Monday Jan. 31 st | ProD Day – No School for Students |
| • Wednesday Feb. 16 th | Early Dismissal for Students @1:45pm for Parent Conferences |
| • Friday Feb. 18 th | ProD Day – No School for Students |
| • Monday Feb. 21 st | Family Day Holiday |
| • Wednesday Feb. 23 rd | Pink Shirt Day |
| • Wednesday March 9 th | Early Dismissal for Students @1:45pm for Parent Conferences |
| • March 14 th – 25 th | Spring Break |
| • Monday March 28 th | First Day of Term 3 |
| • Friday April 15 th | Good Friday Holiday |
| • Monday April 18 th | Easter Monday Holiday |
| • Friday May 20 th | ProD Day – no school for students |
| • Monday May 23 rd | Victoria Day Holiday |
| • Friday May 27 th | Welcome to Kindergarten Afternoon for new Kindergarten students |
| • Friday June 17 th | Fit and Fun Day |
| • Friday June 24 th | Grade 7 Farewell Assembly |
| • Wednesday June 29 th | Recognition and Appreciation Assembly |
| • Wednesday June 29 th | Last Day of this school year for students |

Mandatory Daily Health Declaration Process for Staff and Students



Ask yourself the following:

1. Key Symptoms of Illness:	<i>Do you have any of the following NEW Key Symptoms of Illness?</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Chills • Cough or worsening of chronic cough • Shortness of breath • Diarrhea • Nausea and vomiting • Loss of sense of smell or taste
2. International Travel:	<i>Have you returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?</i>
3. Confirmed Contact:	<i>Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?</i>

Answering YES to any of the questions will prevent the staff/student from entering the school or worksite effective immediately.

What if you answered YES?

Question 1:

- If you answered “YES” to **one** of the **symptoms** included under **NEW Key Symptoms of Illness** (excluding **fever**), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a **health assessment**.
- If you answered “YES” to **two or more** of the **symptoms** included under **NEW Key Symptoms of Illness** or **you have a fever**, seek a **health assessment**.
- A **health assessment** includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. **If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.**
- If your symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition and are not unusual for you (i.e. the symptoms are not **NEW** for you), you may return to school/work or continue to be at school/work. No assessment or note is required from a health care provider.

Question 2: If you answered YES to question 2, you will need to stay home to self-isolate based on the *Quarantine Act*.

Question 3: If you answered YES to question 3, you will need to stay home to self-isolate based on the advice of the Public Health Authority.