

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #9

May 17th, 2022.

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Principal: Mr. Rusty Mason

Admin. Assistant: Ms. L. Rutsch

Area Superintendent: Ms. C. Brautigam

From the Office

PARENT INPUT FOR CLASS ORGANIZATION AND STUDENT PLACEMENT 2022-23

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 27th 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.

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 K to 7. All students now have a choice to wear a mask inside the school.

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.

Around the School

PICTURE DAY- WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH, 2022 IS CLASS PICTURE DAY AT ROBERT J. TAIT. EACH CLASS WILL HAVE THEIR CLASS PICTURE TAKEN. SMILE!



Professional Development Day: Friday, May 20th

On Friday May 20th, 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 to learn together and bring some amazing new ideas to your child's classroom. School will resume on Tuesday, May 24th, 2022, after the Victoria Day Holiday.



End of the Year Events



Many parents may be wondering if we are 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 answer to this question is YES! Under current Health and Safety Protocols, we believe we will be able to host each of these events. If Health and Safety Protocols change, we will need to make adjustments, but for now, we anticipate we will be able to host these very important events.

- Fit and Fun Day (Friday, June 17th) – Will be held outside on the school field. This day will be weather permitting. Parents are invited.
- Grade 7 Farewell (Friday, June 24th at 10:45am) – Will be held in the school gym. **Only Grade 7 Parents are invited.** To keep numbers safe, we cannot welcome family friends or anyone outside of the immediate family (only mom, dad, siblings).
- Service and Recognition Assembly (Wednesday, June 29th) – Will be held in the school gym. Parents are invited.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Updates

Our last Parents Advisory Council (PAC) meeting is May 30th, 2022 at 6:30PM. This meeting is our Annual General Meeting, where we choose our 2022/23 RJ Tait PAC Executive.



RJ Tait PAC Annual General Meeting is Monday, May 30th

We are looking for parents to join the executive team for the 2022/2023 school year. Without a functioning executive team, there will be no hot lunches or fundraisers to support our teachers and kids. Please consider joining the PAC exec team whether you are new or old to the school.

Please email tait-pac@googlegroups.com if you are interested in joining. If you want to share the position with someone else, then that's great too!!

The positions that we need parents to volunteer are:

1. **Chairperson** – to assume primary responsibility for coordinating the functioning of the R.J. Tait PAC, prepare Agendas and chair meeting
2. **Vice-Chairperson/Co-Chairperson** – to work with the chairperson, encourage parent participation and take on any special projects as needed
3. **Secretary** – to record and post the minutes of the PAC meetings and answer all correspondence
4. **Treasurer** – to be responsible for all PAC funds and present a monthly financial statement at each PAC meeting
5. **RDPA Representative(s)** – to attend the Richmond District Parents' Association meetings, representing the R.J. Tait PAC and report RDPA news back to PAC
6. **Food Day Coordinator** – to coordinate special food events at the school such as hot dog days, pizza days, fit and fun day, and be responsible for ordering supplies and counting money
7. **IT/MunchaLunch Coordinator** - to keep the Tait Website (www.taitpac.ca) up to date and maintain the MunchaLunch website for our hot lunch orders.

Body Science Presentations for Parents and Students (June 2nd and 7th)

PAC is hosting **Body Science** at Tait Elementary School. The workshop will be led by sexual health experts who share age-appropriate information that empowers kids to make smart decisions about their sexual health as they grow up. There will be a zoom meeting for ALL parents on June 2nd 6:30-8:30pm to discuss and answer ANY questions that parents may have about the session with the kids. The zoom link will be sent closer to the date. The in-person workshop for the kids will be on June 7th.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 16-20	- Scholastic Book Fair at RJ Tait
Wednesday, May 18 th	- Class Photo Day
Thursday, May 19 th	- Grade 6/7 Students at Camp Kawkawa
Friday, May 20 th	- Professional Development Day / No School for Students
Monday, May 23 rd	- Victoria Day Holiday - all schools are closed
Thursday, May 26 th	- Dufflebag Theatre Visits RJ Tait
Friday, May 27 th	- Welcome to Kindergarten @1:15pm
Monday, May 30 th	- PAC Annual General Meeting @6:30 on Zoom
Thursday, June 2 nd	- Body Science Parent Presentation on Zoom
Tuesday, June 7 th	- Body Science Student Presentations
Friday June 17 th	- Fit and Fun Day
Friday June 24 th	- Grade 7 Farewell @10:45am
Wednesday, June 29 th	- Last Day of School for Students
Thursday, June 30 th	- School Administrative Day: School Office is Open

Daily Health Check and What to Do When Sick

Daily Health Check

Everyone going into to school must complete a daily health check, including staff, visitors, and students. A daily health check means checking yourself or your child for new symptoms of illness, including symptoms of COVID-19.

Symptoms of illness (including COVID-19) include things like:

- Fever or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Body aches
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting

If you are sick or feel unwell, stay at home. This is important to stop the spread of illness, including COVID-19, in schools.

You can attend school if:

- Your symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies), OR
- You have existing symptoms that have improved to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities,

AND you are not required to self-isolate, or your self-isolation period is over (based on a positive COVID-19 test result, if taken).

What to Do When Sick

If you have mild symptoms of COVID-19, you usually don't need a test. Mild symptoms are symptoms that can be managed at home. Most people don't need testing for COVID-19.

Stay home and away from others (as much as possible) until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities and you no longer have a fever. You should also avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings such as long term care facilities and gatherings, for another 5 days after ending isolation.

If you have a Rapid Antigen Test at home, use it when you have symptoms. How long you should stay home depends on your test result. Find out more about [Rapid Antigen Test results](#).

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need a test.

If you are unsure about your symptoms, you can use the [Self-Assessment Tool](#), contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

Testing may be recommended for some people who may be more likely to get severe disease. See BCCDC for information on [who testing is recommended for](#).