

# TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #1

September 16th, 2022

Telephone: 604-668-6444  
Student Absence: 604-668-6444  
Website address: tait.sd38.bc.ca  
School email: tait@sd38.bc.ca



Principal: Mr. Rusty Mason  
Admin. Assistant: Ms. Liz Rutsch  
Area Superintendent: Ms. J. Macmillan

## Important Notice: Please Translate

Information Importante: Faire traduire s'il-vous-plait

這是重要的通告，希請人譯讀。

ਇਹ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਹੈ; ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਾਓ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸ਼ਿਸ਼ੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੜ੍ਹਾਓ।

Welcome back to a new school year at Tait Elementary.

We are so happy to be in the school together!

We are looking forward to a great year.

We are happy to welcome the following new staff members:

Ms. Denisa Jurisova – Educational Assistant.

Ms. Jurisova is returning to Tait Elementary. We are excited about her return!

Ms. Jennifer Wijaya – Gr. 1/2 Classroom Teacher

Farewell to the following former Tait Staff: Mr. Harvi Mehat who was an Educational Assistant. Mr. Mehat is moving to Mitchell Elementary. We wish him the best in his new school.

## School Organization

We have completed our classroom organization and students have been in their new classes for only a few days. The staff have spent many hours to ensure that the students were placed in classrooms that would be most beneficial for their unique learning needs. Tait staff and students are excited to start the new school year together.

## Tait Teaching Staff 2022-23

Mr. R. Mason	Principal
Mr. B. Wilms	Div. 1 Intermediate Teacher
Ms. A. Su	Div. 2 Intermediate Teacher
Mr. T Imagawa	Div. 3 Intermediate Teacher
Mrs. P. Glinias	Div. 4 Intermediate Teacher
Mrs. L. Zawada	Div. 5 Primary Teacher
Ms. B. Mander	Div. 6 Primary Teacher
Ms. G. Young	Div. 7 Primary Teacher
Ms. J. Wijaya	Div. 8 Primary Teacher
Ms. M. Webber	Div. 9 Primary Teacher
Ms. L. Kenakin	Div. 10 Primary Teacher
Ms. S. Bains	Learning Resource / ELL Teacher
Ms. J. Becker	Teacher-Librarian / Prep Teacher
Ms. A. Buttner	Learning Resource / ELL Teacher
Ms. J. Jakovac	Learning Resource / ELL Teacher
Ms. A. Preston	Learning Resource / ELL / Prep Teacher
Mr. Z. Chan	Educational Assistant
Ms. L. Chen	Educational Assistant
Ms. A. Ho	Educational Assistant
Ms. E. Jones	Educational Assistant
Ms. D. Jurisova	Educational Assistant
Ms. C. Lee	Educational Assistant
Ms. K. Saglova	Educational Assistant
Ms. F. Zhang	Educational Assistant



Mrs. L. Elliott	Band Teacher
Ms. S. Haylett	Counsellor
Ms. S. Blackmore	Speech and Language Pathologist
Mr. T. O'Toole	Hearing Resource Teacher
Ms. I. Elmenbbawi	SWIS (Settlement Worker in School)
Ms. J. Novakowski	District Teacher Consultant
Ms. P. Both	District Inclusion Support Team
Ms. P. Wong	Educational Psychologist

### **Tait School Support Staff**

Ms. L. Rutsch	Administrative Assistant
Ms. N. Miida	Noon Hour Supervisor
Ms. A. Nouredin	Noon Hour Supervisor
Ms. D. West	Noon Hour Supervisor
Mr. C. Fernando	Custodian
Ms. K. Chow	Public Health Nurse

## **Messages 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 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.

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR CONTACT NUMBERS UPDATED at the office.**

### **Parking Lot**

Please use the DROP OFF area to let your children out of your car. **THIS IS THE RIGHT LANE OF OUR PARKING LOT, DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.**



- Please do not park and leave your car in the Drop Off lane of our Parking Lot. If you drive to the school and then want to accompany your child to their classroom, we ask that you park in empty parking spaces in the school lot or you find a parking spot in the neighbourhood. Please help us to reduce congestion in our busy parking lot and keep students and visitors safe.

With school starting up, it is important to remind both drivers and pedestrians to keep traffic safety in mind and remain alert during their commutes. Here are some tips for drivers, pedestrians and parents from ICBC to make travelling to and from school safe for everyone.

#### **Drivers**

- Stick to the Speed Limit

A 30 km/h speed limit is in effect in school zones from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every school day, unless otherwise posted. In playground zones, a 30 km/h speed limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk.

- Scan Crosswalks and Intersections from Left to Right. As you approach the school watch for pedestrians waiting to cross, especially during school hours.

- Leave your phone alone. Distraction is the leading factor for drivers in crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists.
- Notice if other drivers are slowing down or stopping. If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding to a pedestrian, so proceed with caution and be prepared to stop.
- Give yourself enough stopping distance. You need more time to stop when you're driving fast. At a slower speed, motorists have better chance to react when children or others are crossing the road. This could be the difference that saves a life.
- Watch for School Buses. When their lights are flashing, vehicles approaching from both directions must stop.

### Pedestrians

- Cross Only at Marked or Controlled Crosswalks. Do not jaywalk or cross when it isn't your turn. Look both ways before crossing the street. Ensure it is safe to cross from both directions of traffic before setting foot on the crosswalk. Make eye contact with drivers approaching the crosswalk. Be certain they see you and that they've committed to slowing down to a stop.
- Double-Check lights and signals are working at controlled crosswalks. Make sure that the flashing traffic lights are operational and haven't timed out before crossing.

### Parents

- In the school parking lot, let your child enter and exit your car on the side closest to the sidewalk. It's safest to drop off and pick up as close to the sidewalk as possible.

## Early Dismissal From Class

Parents wishing to take their child from the school before the end of the regular school day are requested to send a note to the teacher so they know you will be picking up your child before regular dismissal time. When a parent arrives at the school to take their child out of class, we ask that they come into the school and check-in at the School Office.



## Health and Safety Protocols and School Schedule Changes

Our main focus this year, besides student learning, is to keep all students and staff safe and healthy. Our Health and Safety Protocols for Covid19 were very successful last year. We continue the following Safety Protocols this year:

- Mask Wearing for students and staff is welcome and the choice of each individual
- Hand Washing throughout the school day (upon arrival, when changing locations in the school, after using the washroom, before and after eating, before and after break times, before going home for the day)
- Recess and lunch play breaks are outside rain or shine
- Daily Cleaning and Disinfecting of common surfaces



## Lunch Time



Each weekday, lunch starts at 12:00pm and ends at 12:52pm. Students eat in their classrooms from 12:00pm to 12:20pm, then go outside until the 12:52pm bell. Afternoon classes begin at 12:55pm.

All students are to remain on the school grounds during lunchtime, unless a parent informs the office that their child may go home for lunch.

If you are dropping off a lunch for your child, lunches can be dropped off on the round table in the hallway outside the office.

**PLEASE HAVE LUNCHES AT SCHOOL BY 11:55 a.m. Please do not disturb classes by delivering lunches to the classrooms. You can leave your child's lunch on the round table outside the office, please label your child's lunch. Thank you.**



## School Timetable

### **PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILDREN ARRIVE AT SCHOOL ON TIME!**

#### **School Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

**Note:** The first bell rings at 8:40 a.m. Students are expected to be in their classroom at 8:40am and at their desks for attendance at 8:45am. **Part of being Socially Responsible is caring for others. When students are late, they disturb the teacher and students who have started on time.**

**Recess:** Monday – Friday 9:55 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.

**Lunch:** Monday – Friday 12:00 p.m. – 12:52 p.m.

**Dismissal:** Monday – Friday - 2:45 p.m.

**Thank-you for noting the arrival time in the morning at 8:40am.** It is important that students are in class before 8:45am so they do not miss the start of daily instruction. If your child arrives later than 8:45am, their classroom door may be closed.

**Entrance to the school after 8:45am should be done through the Main Entrance at the front of the school.**

## **Student Cell Phones and Electronic Musical Devices**

We acknowledge that many of our older students have personal cell phones. However, in order to respect the learning environment within the school and classrooms, students are to ensure that all phones are turned off from 8:40 am to 2:45 pm. If there is an emergency situation, or a student needs to call parents during the school day, staff will gladly assist them.



With regards to all personal electronic devices, please note if they are reported lost, damaged or stolen (as has happened, unfortunately) the school cannot be held responsible. We thank you for your support in this area.

# **STUDENT SUPPLIES**



## **Basic School Supplies for Elementary Students**

The Board of School Trustees has approved the Schools Supplies Service Program for 2022-23.

The cost to each student for their school supplies for the entire school year is \$30.

The School Board continues to offer this service as a cost saving support to families, and as a way of standardizing basic supplies for classroom use. Exercise books, duotangs, papers, pencils, pens, crayons, felts, pencil crayons, rulers, erasers, glue, paint and more are supplied in quantities appropriate to each grade level. Individual teachers may ask for other items. Information on how families can pay for school supplies and student planners will be sent home soon: payment is to be made online through SchoolCashOnline.

## **Student Agendas – All Divisions**



As part of the personal planning curriculum students in Divisions 1-10 are expected to use a daily agenda. In order to provide uniformity for all classes the school provides agendas at a cost of \$6. We hope that you take advantage of this excellent organizational tool.

# **Student and Family Affordability Fund**

Recently, the provincial government announced a new, one time [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#). This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs such as school and course fees, workbooks, specialty supplies, field trips and other school-related charges and costs. The additional funding will also be used to support school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students.

At this time, we are requesting that families reach out to Mr. Mason if you are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

# **UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS**

## **Day of Mourning for Queen Elizabeth II – School is Closed on Sept. 19th**

All schools in British Columbia will be closed on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> for a day of mourning for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. School will resume for all students on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **PRO-D DAY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD**

Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, is a Professional-Development Day for teachers. Students do not come to school on this day. The RJ Tait staff take time on Professional Development Days to learn new things that will make them even better professionals who can help your children.



## **Terry Fox Run to Cure Cancer – Thurs. Sept. 22nd**

The TERRY FOX RUN at Tait will take place on Thursday, September 22nd at 1:15 p.m. Parents can join us! Please consider sending a Toonie or more donation with your child for The Terry Fox Foundation, so that Tait can do its part to help find a cure for cancer. Students have already begun donating. Our goal is to raise \$600 for the Canadian Cancer Foundation. We can do it together, Tait Family!

## **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Friday, Sept. 30th**



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day takes place on September 30. A reminder that this is a commemorative day that honors the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not. Schools will be closed on this day. We encourage you to wear an Orange Shirt on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Wearing orange is a symbol of our sadness of the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem, experienced by Indigenous children over generations. **School will be closed in observance of this day.**

# **IMPORTANT FORMS**

## **Student Verification Forms**

Please ask your children for their Student Verification Form that will be sent home with them next week. This form should be reviewed by parents to make sure that all student information, including contact numbers and medical information is correct. **Please return the Student Verification Form to school by Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

## **Media Release Form**

\*\*Please return the Media Release / Email Consent form that will be sent home next week. You must tick the 'Yes' to receive school district emails. If we don't hear from you, or you choose 'No', then you will not receive the school emails and newsletters. **The Media Release Form should be returned to school by Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters will be written for the last Friday of every month.  
We will be putting them on our website along with other school information. Check it out!



**Website address: [tait.sd38.bc.ca](http://tait.sd38.bc.ca)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** This year, in an effort to be environmentally conscious, we will be implementing electronic newsletters for families. Tait Elementary newsletters will be sent to parent email addresses. If you choose to not receive electronic newsletters, please remember to watch for the latest newsletters on our website.



**\*\* Please make sure to add [rmason@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:rmason@sd38.bc.ca) to your contacts list, so that emails go to your inbox and not your junk mail!**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Dates to Remember

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| • Monday Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>   | School Closed – Day of Mourning for Queen Elizabeth II    |
| • Thursday Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Terry Fox Run (PM)  |
| • Friday Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>   | ProD Day – no school for students                         |
| • Thursday Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup> | Orange Shirt Day at RJ Tait                               |
| • Friday Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>   | School Closed - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation |
| • Monday Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>    | Thanksgiving Holiday                                      |
| • Friday Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>     | Provincial ProD Day – no school for students              |
| • Monday Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>    | Hallowe'en at Tait  |