

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #4

December 12th, 2022.

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Student Absences: 604-668-6444
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Principal: Mr. Rusty Mason
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From the Office

Communicating Student Learning (Reporting)

On Thursday, December 15th, term one reports will come home for all students.

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 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 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 and 'next steps' in Term 2.



DRESS FOR THE WEATHER:

It is important that students are dressed for the weather. During these cold and 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.



Cold and Flu Season

Cold and Flu Season is definitely here. We have had a high number of student absences over the past month due to colds and the flu. We appreciate the efforts of parents to keep children home if they are not feeling well so that other members of our school community do not become ill.

Registration for New Kindergarten Students

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registrations for children born in 2018, turning 5 in 2023. Parents can register their children now for kindergarten starting in September, 2023. Online registration opened November 1, 2022. 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 27th) for the best chance of 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 3, 2023.

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.



SNOW DAYS - WHAT TO EXPECT:

Snow days cause an inconvenience for all of us. Closing schools is a difficult decision for the school district, as we try 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.
- 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.



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.



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

Burrr Day – Wednesday Dec. 14th



It will be Burrr Day at RJ Tait on Wednesday December 14th. 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 Burrr 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 is underway through to this Wednesday, December 14th. If you have made a donation of food or money already, we thank you for helping Richmond families in need.

We are asking for your help to support Richmond families that are less fortunate. If you can help, please see the list of items below to let you know what you could donate. Send your donations with your child to their classroom by this Wednesday, December 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 in 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

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 23rd 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 |
| • Wednesday Dec. 14 th | Burr Day: Eco-Wise Wear a Sweater Day |
| • Thursday Dec. 15 th | Report Cards Home for all Divisions |
| • Friday Dec. 16 th | Pajama Day |
| • Friday Dec. 16 th | Last Day of Classes before Winter Break |
| • December 19 – January 2 | Winter Break (school is closed) |
| • Tuesday January 3 | School Re-opens: Start of Term 2 |
| • Tuesday, Jan. 10 th | Kindergarten Hearing Screening Day |
| • Monday, Jan 23 rd | PAC Meeting on Zoom @ 6:30pm |
| • Friday, Jan. 27 th | Last Day for Kindergarten 2023/24 Round 1 Registration |
| • Monday, Jan. 30 th | ProD Day |
| • Friday, Feb. 17 th | ProD Day |
| • Monday, Feb. 20 th | Family Day Holiday |
| • March 13 th -24 th | Spring Break |