

# TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #6

February 3rd, 2023

Telephone: 604-668-6444  
Student Absences: 604-668-6444  
Website address: [tait.sd38.bc.ca](http://tait.sd38.bc.ca)  
Email: [tait@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:tait@sd38.bc.ca)



Principal: Mr. Rusty Mason  
Admin. Assistant: Ms. L. Rutsch  
Area Superintendent: Ms. J. Macmillan  
Trustee: Ms. H. Larson

## From the Office

### We Are Planning For September 2023

#### Kindergarten Registrations.



If you have a child turning five in 2023, please register them for Kindergarten at the Board Office as soon as possible. The school District is now into the Priority 2 Round of Registration. Students registered in the Priority 2 Round are accepted to their neighborhood school only after Priority 1 Round students have been accepted and if there is space in the school. If you know someone living in the Tait catchment with a Kindergarten aged child, please encourage them to register now.

#### School Transfer Application from February 6<sup>th</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>

The School Transfer Round 1 opens on Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If you plan to register your child at a school that is not your neighborhood catchment school, you must do so from February 6<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> for the best chance of getting into that school. Registering for a transfer during this time period does not guarantee you a spot. Decisions on acceptance to a school as a transfer applicant are based upon a variety of factors, including reason for a transfer and available space in that school. For students moving from Grade 7 to 8 and wishing for a transfer to a non-catchment high school, this is the period of time for your best chance of being successful for transfer approval. Decisions on Transfer Applications will be made by Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



### Being on Time for School Shows Caring for your Classmates and Teacher!

**We require students to arrive at school on time between 8:40 and 8:45am.**

At the start of each school day, there are many tasks for students and teachers to complete:

- Teachers and students checking in to make sure the student is feeling well
- Students hanging up a jacket and backpack
- Students washing their hands to start the day
- Students handing in homework
- Teachers checking student planners
- Teachers collecting notices
- Students starting morning learning activities

If your child arrives late (after 8:45), their class will already be started. Students arriving late will need to do all the same tasks before they are permitted to take their seat and start the day. Some of these tasks require teacher assistance - as a result the teacher will need to stop instruction and support the late student. When this occurs, instruction for all other students is halted and this affects the learning of all students in the class.



We need all students at school by 8:40 a.m. so they can take care of all the necessary tasks before they start the day. Parents, we ask for your help in this matter. Do your best to leave your home earlier. Arriving on time is an important part of developing social responsibility. Please help your children develop this important skill. The school office will keep track of students arriving late over the next month. Thank-you for your help.

# Covid19 and Flu and Cold Season



Covid19 continues and it is also flu and cold season. Staff and students are being reminded to assess if they are feeling well each morning before coming to school. If a student or staff member is not feeling well, they should stay home so they get better and they do not make others sick at school. Please do not send your child to school if they are feeling unwell.

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 all stay home when we are not feeling well.

Thank-you for your help to keep everyone at 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 the chance to access their email before school, and they may mark your child as absent with an unknown reason for why they are missing from school. If a classroom teacher enters a child as absent without a reason, our office staff makes a phone call home to parents to find out the whereabouts of a child. This procedure can cause worry or aggravation 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.

## Around the School

### Upcoming Professional Development Day - Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>



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. Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Development Day at Tait Elementary.

### Family Day Holiday Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> is the Family Day Holiday. All schools in Richmond and throughout the Province of British Columbia will be closed. School will resume on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.



### Pink Shirt Day February 22<sup>nd</sup> - "Say No to Bullying"

All of our students, staff and parents are encouraged to wear PINK on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> as a stand against bullying. In classes, we will talk about the importance of "Pink Shirt Day". Building a caring community is our best defense against teasing and bullying.



Caring starts with empathy - recognizing how someone is feeling and connecting with them to let them know that you see and understand how they feel.

# Parent Teacher Conferences



On Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, all students will be dismissed from school at 12:00pm (noon) for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Please mark this date in your calendar. Your child's teacher will connect with you in the coming weeks to let you know how to sign up for a Parent Teacher Conference time.

# Electronic Devices Can Affect A Child's Sleeping Patterns

Children need a good night's sleep. How a child sleeps through the night affects their mood, energy level and behaviour, along with their overall health. Pediatricians recommend at least 10 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night for a school-aged child. At night, their body and brain need to rest and recover to get ready for the next day. Unfortunately, at school, we see many of our students coming to school tired and not at their peak level for the learning they will do throughout a day. When we ask the students why they are tired, many times they say it is because they were on their electronic devices, watching TV or playing video games late into the evening. Researchers are telling us this problem has some serious consequences to a child's development and learning. DID YOU KNOW...

**KIDS' BEDROOMS NO DEVICE ZONE DID YOU KNOW???**

**79% DEVICES IN TEEN BEDROOMS**  
79 % of teenagers and 75 % of parents have their mobile devices in their bedrooms  
[https://www.commonssensemedia.org/sites/default/files/uploaded/research/census\\_researchreport.pdf](https://www.commonssensemedia.org/sites/default/files/uploaded/research/census_researchreport.pdf)

**SLEEP DEPRIVATION 80%**  
80 % of teens admit to using their device in bed when they were supposed to be sleeping and waking up to respond to messages causing further sleep disruption  
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/analysis-teens-are-sleeping-less-why-smartphones>

**9-11 PM BLUE LIGHT**  
When on a device between 9-11 pm, the blue light emitted from the screen causes a significant decrease in melatonin, the body's hormone that controls sleep-wake cycles  
<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/08/17082201344.htm>

**SLEEP RESEARCH 90%**  
Over 90% of research studies indicate that decreased and interrupted sleep, due to increased screen time, has negative effects on academic performance as well as physical and mental health  
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/analysis-teens-are-sleeping-less-why-smartphones>

**DIGI-KNOW 38**  
Meet Digiknow, our SD38 tech mascot who loves it when students demonstrate responsible use of technology  
Information to help SD38 students and parents navigate their way through our new digital world

# Robert J. Tait PAC News

The Robert J. Tait Parent Advisory Council is always looking for parent volunteers to help the PAC support students at Tait School. 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.

## **2023/2024 PAC Executives:**

Next year we will have a few positions on the PAC Executive that need filling. This includes Munchalunch Coordinator, Hot lunch Coordinator, Secretary and PAC Chair. If you are interested in any of these roles for our next school year, please email [tait-pac@googlegroups.com](mailto:tait-pac@googlegroups.com). Without parent volunteers, there will be no hot lunch days, Movie Nights, or assisted funding with school activities and supplies. A strong PAC helps build a strong school and community so please consider signing up yourself or with a friend.

## **Movie Night (DC League of Super-Pets):**

The kids had a blast at our first movie night so we are excited to announce that **Movie Night #2 will be held on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. We promise the pizza slices will be bigger! This is a great night for the whole school to get together and to have fun. Parents are welcome to watch the movie, but we also encourage you to take some time to meet and talk with other parents in the 'Under the Flags' area outside the gym.

TIME: Doors open at 5:30PM, Movie will start at 6:00PM

- ♣ Please purchase your movie ticket(s) through Munchalunch (<https://munchalunch.com/login>) for your children ONLY
- ♣ Parents do not need a ticket but must accompany their child at the movie night
- ♣ Each ticket includes a kid's size popcorn and a juice box.
- ♣ Please follow these steps to order your tickets and pizza by Feb 8th:

1. Login to Munchalunch
2. Click "Movie Night Tickets" on the top
3. Choose your quantity of tickets (for children only) and click "add to cart"
4. Choose your quantity of cheese or pepperoni pizza slices (you can order as many slices as you want for your family) and then click "add to cart"
5. Select the child you want your orders to go under (please order everything under 1 child)
6. Click "done" and then click "pay" as your final step

- ♣ There will also be more snacks, popcorn, pizza, candy, drinks to purchase at the movie, so please bring CASH
- ♣ Tickets through Munchalunch are \$3 and will be \$5 at the door

## **Donate to Tait Elementary:**

If you want to donate to our school, please click on the link and follow these instructions:

LINK TO DONATE:

<https://richmondsd38.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/27280/125/false/true>

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Select the amount or enter the desired amount.
2. Select Tait Elementary on the "Fund Destination" drop down menu.
3. Tribute Information (optional)
4. IMPORTANT: Under message, please enter "TAIT PAC Donation"

Please note that if you donate \$20 or more, Richmond School District will provide tax receipts.

**The next PAC meeting will be held on:**

**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm on Zoom.**

(The Zoom Meeting ID and Password will be sent to parents by email in the week before our meeting)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> Movie Night at Tait
- Tuesday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day at Tait
- Thursday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> PAC Meeting @6:30pm on Zoom
- Friday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> ProD Day – No School for Students
- Monday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Family Day Holiday
- Wednesday Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> Pink Shirt Day
- Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal @ 12:00pm for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Thursday Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> Student Reports Go Home
- Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term 2 before Spring Break
- March 13<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Spring Break
- Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> First Day of Term 3
- Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Holiday
- Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> Easter Monday Holiday