

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #1

September 12th, 2023

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. Sally Ruan
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 ਖੋਲ੍ਹ ਕੇ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਲਈ ਅਨੁਰੋਧ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

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 thrilled to welcome the following new staff members:

Ms. Sally Ruan – Senior Administrative Assistant

Ms. Helen Larkin – Educational Assistant

Ms. Lindsay Avendano – Classroom Teacher in Division 6

Ms. Jennette Leithman – School Counsellor

Farewell to the following former Tait Staff:

Mrs. Sandra Haylett: School Counsellor - moving to work in other Richmond Schools

Ms. Liz Rutsch: Senior Administrative Assistant – now Senior Administrative Assistant at Cambie Secondary.

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 2023-24

Mr. R. Mason	Principal
Mr. B. Wilms	Div. 1 Intermediate Teacher
Ms. B. Koh	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 (Mon. to Wed.)
Ms. L. Avendano	Div. 6 Primary Teacher (Thurs. & Fri.)
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 Teacher
Ms. S. Vasquez	Prep Teacher / Learning Resource
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. H. Larkin	Educational Assistant



Ms. K. Saglova	Educational Assistant
Ms. F. Zhang	Educational Assistant
Mrs. L. Elliott	Band Teacher
Ms. J. Leithman	School Counsellor
Ms. S. Blackmore	Speech and Language Pathologist
Mr. T. O'Toole	Hearing Resource Teacher
Ms. A. Elshafi	SWIS (Settlement Worker in School)
Ms. B. Adams	District Teacher Consultant
Ms. P. Both	District Inclusion Support Team
Ms. P. Wong	Educational Psychologist

Tait School Support Staff

Ms. S. Ruan	Senior Administrative Assistant
Ms. D. Buckol	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, please leave your child's name, 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.

Driving in Neighbourhood School Zones

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 a 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.

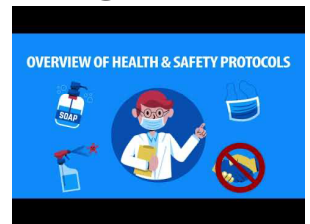
Early Dismissal From Class

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 successful in the past two years. We continue the following Safety Protocols this year:



- 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
- If a student is ill, they should stay home
- If a student is appearing ill at school, a parent will be notified and asked to pick up their child
- Daily Cleaning and Disinfecting of common surfaces at the end of each day in preparation for the next day
- Mask Wearing for students and staff is welcome and the choice of each individual

Lunch Time



Each weekday, lunch starts at 11:50am and ends at 12:42pm. Students eat in their classrooms from 11:50am to 12:10pm, then go outside until the 12:42pm bell. Afternoon classes begin at 12:45pm.

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 11:45 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 10:10 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

Lunch: Monday – Friday 11:50 a.m. – 12:42 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 the following: if personal electronic devices 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 2023-24.

The cost to each student for their school supplies for the entire school year is \$33.

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. Call Mr. Mason at 604-668-6444 or email at: rmason@sd38.bc.ca

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Terry Fox Run to Cure Cancer – Thurs. Sept. 21st



The TERRY FOX RUN at Tait will take place on Thursday, September 21st 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. Our goal is to raise \$600 for the Canadian Cancer Foundation. We can do it together, Tait Family!

PRO-D DAY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd

Friday, September 23rd, is a Professional-Development Day for teachers. Students do not come to school on this day. All Richmond School District Staff will be attending a Conference focused on Indigenous Learning. Dr. Dustin Louie will be leading a staff session on “Decolonizing education by integrating Indigenous world views and perspectives into our learning organization”.



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.

Orange Shirt Day at Tait

Orange Shirt Day is a commemorative day that honors the survivors of Residential Schools and remembers the children who passed and never made it home to their families.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Saturday, Sept. 30th



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place each year on September 30th. As this day falls on a Saturday, schools will be closed in observance of this day on Monday, October 2nd.

We encourage everyone to wear an Orange Shirt on September 30th. Wearing orange is a symbol of our sadness of the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem, experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

IMPORTANT FORMS

Student Verification Forms

Please ask your children for their Student Verification Form that will be sent home with them on Thursday this 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 your child's teacher by Thursday, September 28th, 2023.**

Media Release Form

****Please return the Media Release / Email Consent form that will be sent home this Thursday this 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 your child's teacher by Thursday, September 28th, 2023.**

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

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 to your contacts list, so that emails go to your inbox and not your junk mail!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dates to Remember

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| • Thursday Sept. 21 st | Terry Fox Run (PM) |
| • Friday Sept. 22 nd | ProD Day – no school for students |
| • Friday Sept. 29 th | Orange Shirt Day at RJ Tait |
| • Saturday Sept. 30 th | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation |
| • Monday Oct. 2 nd | School Closed in Observance of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation |
| • Wednesday Oct. 4 th | Early Dismissal @ 11:50am for Parent Teacher Conferences |
| • Monday Oct. 9 th | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| • Friday Oct. 20 th | Provincial ProD Day – no school for students |