

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #1

September 6th, 2024

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. M. Naser

Important Notice: Please Translate

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

這是重要的通告，希請人譯讀。

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

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. Meena Sandhu – Educational Assistant

Ms. Mylene Soriano – Educational Assistant

Ms. Amy Higgins – Classroom Teacher in Division 6

Ms. Julia Wilson – Prep Relief and Learning Assistance Teacher

Farewell to the following former Tait Staff:

Mrs. Lori Zawada – Retirement (we hope to see her in the school as a Teacher on Call once in a while)

School Organization

We have completed our classroom organization and students have been in their new classes for one day. 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 2024-25

Mr. R. Mason
Mr. B. Wilms
Ms. A. Su
Mr. T. Imagawa
Mrs. P. Glinias
Ms. G. Young
Ms. A. Higgins
Ms. S. Vasquez
Ms. J. Wijaya
Ms. M. Webber
Ms. L. Kenakin
Ms. S. Bains
Ms. J. Becker
Ms. A. Buttner
Ms. J. Jakovac
Ms. A. Preston
Ms. J. Wilson
Mr. Z. Chan
Ms. A. Ho
Ms. A. Kang
Ms. E. Jones
Ms. D. Jurisova
Ms. C. Lee

Principal
Div. 1 Intermediate Teacher
Div. 2 Intermediate Teacher
Div. 3 Intermediate Teacher
Div. 4 Intermediate Teacher
Div. 5 Primary / Intermediate Teacher
Div. 6 Primary Teacher
Div. 7 Primary Teacher
Div. 8 Primary Teacher
Div. 9 Primary Teacher
Div. 10 Primary Teacher
Learning Resource / ELL Teacher
Teacher-Librarian / Prep Teacher
Learning Resource / ELL Teacher
Learning Resource / ELL Teacher
Learning Resource / ELL Teacher
Prep Teacher / Learning Assistance
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant



Ms. K. Saglova	Educational Assistant
Ms. M. Sandhu	Educational Assistant
Ms. M. Soriano	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. J. Lalonde	District Inclusion Support Team
Ms. M. Chan	Educational Psychologist

Tait School Support Staff

Ms. S. Ruan	Senior Administrative Assistant
Ms. A. Sierecki	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 were successful in the past three 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. Please do not call or text your child on their phone during the school day.



With regards to all personal electronic devices, please note the following: if personal electronic devices are reported lost, damaged or stolen (as has unfortunately happened in the past) 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 2024-25. 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 students to bring other items not covered by our School Supplies Service Program. 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. Students will receive their agenda in the first few days of school, and the school will ask for an agenda payment in the second half of September.

Student and Family Affordability Fund

Recently, the provincial government announced the renewal of the [*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 Student and Family Affordability Fund 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. 26th



The TERRY FOX RUN at Tait will take place on Thursday, September 26th 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 20th

Friday, September 20th, is a Professional-Development Day for teachers. Students do not come to school on this day. The Tait School Staff will be meeting on this day to learn and plan together.



Orange Shirt Day at Tait – Friday Sept. 27th

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



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



The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation takes place each year on September 30th. Schools will be closed in observance of this day on Monday, September 30th, 2024.

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

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, newsletters will be sent home electronically, by email, to 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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| • Monday Sept. 9 th | Hot Lunch Ordering open on Munchalunch |
| • Tuesday Sept. 17 th | Individual Student Photo Day |
| • Friday Sept. 20 th | ProD Day – no school for students |
| • Monday Sept. 23 rd | Fire Safety Drill #1 @ 11:35am |
| • Monday Sept. 23 rd | PAC Meeting at Tait @ 6:00pm |
| • Thursday Sept. 26 th | Terry Fox Run @ 1:15pm |
| • Friday Sept. 27 th | Orange Shirt Day at RJ Tait |
| • Monday Sept. 30 th | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school is closed) |
| • Tuesday Oct. 1 st | First Hot Lunch Day |
| • Wednesday Oct. 9 th | Early Dismissal @ 11:50am for Parent Teacher Conferences |
| • Monday Oct. 14 th | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| • Friday Oct. 25 th | Provincial ProD Day – no school for students |