

TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #4

December 3rd, 2024.

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Principal: Mr. R. Mason
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From the Office

Student Learning Updates (Reporting)

On Thursday, December 19th, term one Student Learning Updates (progress reports) will be released to families in digital version on the MyEd online platform. We are making a full transition to digital Student Learning Updates from paper Student Learning Updates. If a parent/guardian requires a paper copy of a Student Learning Update, please contact the school office.



Student Learning Updates are a snapshot of the progress your child has made in their learning this term. A Student Learning Update cannot completely capture who your child is, so take time to look at your child's workbooks, projects, and journals – these artifacts speak volumes as to who your child is as a student. It is your child's work that is the true communication of their 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 more on a student developing the Learning Competencies (reading, writing, critical and creative thinking skills), and less on the learning the content (topics).
- Enable ongoing communication (with provincial guidelines and supports)
- Use clear proficiency-based language when communicating student learning and progress. Teachers providing Descriptive Feedback to students and parents, noting what the student can do and what their Next Steps (goals) are.

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 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.



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.

Registration for New Kindergarten Students

Richmond School District 38 is excited to welcome kindergarten registrations for children born in 2020, turning 5 in 2025. Parents can register their children now for kindergarten starting in September 2025. Online registration kindergarten opened on November 1, 2024. 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, 2024 – January 17th, 2025) 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 7th, 2025.

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.

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 and staff 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.



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 schools that are CLOSED.** Most of these schools will be private schools. Listen to radio: CKNW 980AM; NEWS 1130AM; CBC 690AM; QM 103.5FM or watch on television: CBC; Global; CTV.

You can also get information in 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
- School Messenger Text (parents need to be signed up to receive School Messenger Texts)

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.



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

RJ Tait Holiday Food Drive



The RJ Tait Holiday Food Drive began on Tuesday, November 26th and will continue to Thursday, December 12th. Please consider donating food or money to the Richmond Food Bank to help 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 Thursday, December 12th. 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



Kindergarten Hearing Testing – Thursday, December 5th

Clinicians from Vancouver Coastal Health will be coming to Tait Elementary this Thursday, December 5th at 9am to conduct Hearing Screening Tests for all Kindergarten students. Information on each child's hearing will be shared with parents and Tait Elementary.



Tait Tiger Clothing

Tait Tiger Clothing will be delivered to the school the week of December 16th-20th. Complete orders will be delivered to students the same week before Winter Break.

Brrrr Day / Ugly Sweater Day – Thursday, Dec. 12th

It will be Brrrr Day at Tait Elementary on Thursday, Dec. 12th. We will lower the normal temperature in the building by 2 degrees Celsius on this day to raise awareness to conserving energy and finding alternative 'green' ways to keep warm in the winter. All students are encouraged to show their commitment to conservation by wearing a sweater or sweatshirt/hoodie on this day. Students can make the day even more fun by wearing an 'Ugly' sweater.



Last Day of Term 1 – Pajama Day



The last day of school before the Winter Break will be Friday, December 20th. To celebrate the end of the 1st term and to foster school spirit, it will be Pajama Day on Friday, December 20th. Students and staff are encouraged to show their school spirit by coming to school in their pajamas, showing off their best 'bedhead' and bringing all the extras like their favorite blanket or stuffy.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dates to Remember

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| • Nov. 26 th – Dec. 12 th | RJ Tait Holiday Food Drive |
| • Thursday Dec. 5 th | Kindergarten Hearing Screening |
| • Monday Dec. 9 th | Gr. 5 Late French Immersion Presentation |
| • Tuesday Dec. 10 th | Gr. 6 Immunizations |
| • Thursday, Dec. 12 th | Burr Day (dress warm) |
| • Thursday, Dec. 12 th | Winter Sing-along |
| • Tuesday, Dec. 17 th | Skating for Div's 2, 3, 5, 7 |
| • Thursday, Dec. 19 th | Student Progress Reports on MyEd for all Divisions |
| • Thursday, Dec. 19 th | Winter Concert @ 6pm (doors open at 5:30pm) |
| • Friday Dec. 20 th | Pajama Day at Tait |
| • Friday Dec. 20 th | Last Day of Classes before Winter Break |
| • December 23 – January 3 | Winter Break (school is closed) |
| • Monday, Jan. 6 th | School Re-opens: Start of Term 2 |
| • Wednesday, Jan. 15 th | Dancers of Damelahamid visit Tait @ 1pm |
| • Friday, Jan. 17 th | Last Day for Kindergarten 2024/25 Round 1 Registration |
| • Monday, Jan. 27 th | ProD Day |
| • Friday, Jan. 31 st | Dufflebag Theatre visits Tait @ 1:15pm |
| • Friday, Feb. 14 th | ProD Day |
| • Monday, Feb. 17 th | Family Day Holiday |
| • Wednesday, Feb. 19 th | Early Dismissal Day @ 11:50am for Parent Conferences |
| • Wednesday, Feb. 26 th | Pink Shirt Day |
| • March 17 th -28 th | Spring Break |
| • Monday Mar. 31 st | First Day of Term 2 |
| • Friday, April 18 th | Good Friday Holiday |
| • Monday, April 21 st | Easter Monday Holiday |