

# TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter #6

February 3rd, 2025

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. S. Ruan  
Area Superintendent: Ms. M. Naser  
Trustee: Ms. Alice Wong

## From the Office

### We Are Planning For September 2025

#### Kindergarten Registrations.



If you have a child turning five in 2025, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>

The School Transfer Round 1 opens on Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. If you plan to register your child at a school that is not your neighborhood catchment school, you must do so from February 3<sup>rd</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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



## 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.

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



## Arriving at School on Time – an important life skill!

Unfortunately, there are some Tait students that regularly arrive late in the mornings.

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....

- When your child is just **5 minutes late every day** for the start of his/her class this equates to: = five min/day or 25 min/week

- Which would = 100 min/month
- and = 1000 min/school year
- that in total is = to **3 1/2 school days missed/year!**

- Disruption to the rest of the class for the time it takes while your child gets settled and caught up:

= 15 min/day = 75 min/week = 300 min/month = 3,000 min/year  
that is total is = to **9 1/2 school days interrupted in a year!**

If your child is 'missing' and not just late, we would want all of our time concentrated on finding your child. If there is a child who is habitually late, the focus and energy of our staff is diluted because we must now try to locate two students instead of one.

Please be considerate of others and ensure that your child is not late for school without a good reason. The warning bell rings at 8:40 a.m. and students should plan to arrive at school no later than 8:40 a.m.

## Flu and Cold Season Continues



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.



# Around the School

## Basketball Teams

Basketball season has started, and our Grade 6/7 Boys Team is practicing and starting to play games. The students are looking forward to a fun and competitive season, playing games against other local elementary schools.

This year, we have Intramural Basketball at lunch for Grade 4 and 5 Girls and Boys and for Grade 6 and 7 Girls. These students will get a chance to learn new basketball skills and play some games.

Thank-you to our volunteer coaches who are committing many hours of their own time to coach our players: Mr. Imagawa, who is coaching the boys team; and Mr. Mason, who is organizing, coaching and reffing the Grade 4/5 Intramural League team.

## Upcoming Professional Development Day - Friday, February 14<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 14<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Development Day in all Richmond Schools.

## Family Day Holiday Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

Monday, February 17<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 18<sup>th</sup>.



## Pink Shirt Day February 26<sup>th</sup> - "Say No to Bullying"

All of our students, staff and parents are encouraged to wear PINK on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</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. When you are showing empathy, you are recognizing how someone is feeling and connecting with them to let them know that you see and understand how they feel.

# 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.common SenseMedia.org/sites/default/files/uploads/research/census\\_researchreport.pdf](https://www.common SenseMedia.org/sites/default/files/uploads/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/2017/08/17/2017081708220144.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.

### Golden Samosa Fundraiser

An order form has been sent home with students and also sent to parents by email for you to make an order for delicious samosas from Golden Samosa. Orders need to be returned with payment to your child's classroom teacher by Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Golden Samosa Orders Due to School
- Friday Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> ProD Day – No School for Students
- Monday Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> Family Day Holiday
- Wednesday Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal at 11:50am for Parent Teacher Conferences
- Wednesday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Pink Shirt Day at Tait
- Thursday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Golden Samosa Pickup
- Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> Grade 7 Basketball Tournament at Cambie Secondary
- Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> Last Day of School before Spring Break
- March 17<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Spring Break
- Mondayday March 31<sup>st</sup> First Day Back After Spring Break