

HomestayNews

October 2021 • Is it Halloween Time Already?



School has started and we hope your student is settling in well. There were still a few students that went through the 14-day quarantine mid-September due to their late arrivals, but we are excited for them to now be at school.

We are hoping that with more guidance around bussing and field trips expected in the coming weeks that we will be able to run our Halloween themed PlayLand excursion, but there may be a quick turnaround in terms of students signing up. Space will be limited.

Homestay Orientation Zoom Sessions - All are Welcome!

We strongly encourage everyone to join us for a Homestay Zoom Orientation Session.

This school year, much like last, is full of changes and new information that is important for every one.

Homestay Orientation and Information Session

Oct 16, 2021 10:00 AM Vancouver

Link: <https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/65580333936>

Meeting ID: 655 8033 3936

Passcode: Welcome!

Conversation Starter Topic:

What did you get in trouble for when you were young?

Covid-19 Exposure Letters

Here is the latest information provided by [Fraser Health Authority](#) regarding [Exposure Letters](#):

If an individual tests positive and contact tracers determine they may have been infectious while they were attending school:

Parents, caregivers and staff will be notified by Fraser Health if their child is determined to be a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person.

PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU RECEIVE NOTIFICATION

Students and staff determined by Fraser Health as **close contacts** may be asked to self-isolate or self-monitor.

Individuals who are not close contacts are not at increased risk, so don't need to take any additional actions beyond continuing to follow general public health recommendations.

If there are multiple cases that are confirmed clusters or outbreaks, the whole school community will be notified, and the case will be posted to the Fraser Health School Exposure website.

School notifications to the broader school community, such as letters or exposure notices on regional health authority websites, will be used when public health deems them necessary to support contact tracing or outbreak management.

Parent Connect

If you have your own children who attend / have attended a Delta School District school, then you are likely familiar with Parent Connect.

With international students, Parent Connect works a little differently.

Contact information of homestay parents is listed on Parent Connect. You, the homestay parent, are the first point of contact for the school. If your student needs to be picked up or has not arrived at school, you will be the first person the school contacts. The same is true in the unfortunate event of a natural disaster.

Parent Connect is **not to be used** for looking up student information by host parents. Schedules, courses, and grades are for the students, their District Administrators (Ms. Claire George or Mr. Dean Eichorn), or their natural parents. It is a legal privacy issue. Only natural parents can access this private information about their children. If homestay parents try to access Parent Connect for international students, complications arise, including the need to reset the account.

If you need any information about your homestay student, please contact us. We are happy to help.

Daily Health Check and Staying Home if You are Sick

In verbally completing the daily health check form each morning, students feeling sick must stay home from school.

If symptoms match Covid-19 related symptoms, it is recommended to check the [HealthLink BC](#) website and follow their guidance based on the advice of the self-assessment.

Don't forget to encourage your student to use the K-12 Health Check App. It guides them through any symptoms they may have. You can download and use it yourself too!



Student Wellness

Now that students have been in Canada for a few weeks and started school, the “Honeymoon” phase of culture shock may be wearing off. It is important to remember that every person experiences and reacts to culture shock differently.

The following are some tips to help students minimize negative psychological impacts of culture shock:

- Encourage them to keep active for physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and interacting with Canadian students
- Be patient with them as they are learning about a new culture and school life
- Help them to ensure that relaxation is an activity in their daily life
- Encourage them to eat right. Fast food 5 nights a week is not a great idea
- Let them know that yourself and our International Student Programs Team are here to answer any of their questions

Covid-19 Exposure Letters

In the event that yourself, family members in your home, or your international student receive testing requests, or self-isolation notices related to the COVID-19 virus, we kindly ask you to contact your homestay coordinator. We would like to have this information to ensure we can provide the correct care and follow up to both you and your student. It also allows us to nip possible rumours in the bud.

Halloween Safety

Here are a few tips to share with your student, apart from the normal precautions, if they are planning to dress-up for Halloween. They should:

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of costume masks, which can obstruct their vision. **But wear a face covering for health reasons whenever possible!**
- Carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- Make sure their costume is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Travelling with your student?

Contact [Brent](#) so we can get the documentation and permission in place before your trip!

Please let us know about day trips outside of the Lower Mainland as well.

Sleepovers

If your student asks you if they can go on a sleepover:

- Speak with the adult in the other house and ensure that the plan for the evening is reasonable and that there will be an appropriate curfew and adult supervision.
- Treat the situation as you would for your own child.
- Contact your Homestay Coordinator if you are not comfortable or unsure of the situation.

Hair Dye Damage

Having a unique hair style and / or colour is trendy with many students. The do-it-yourself dyes that students can purchase at many different shops can create permanent stains and cause damage to your bathroom.

Please speak with your student about hair dye. If they wish to dye their hair, that is their decision. We want to ensure that they do not accidentally damage your bathroom in the process.

School Forms:

Any forms for school sports, activities, or Delta Recreation Centres need to be signed by their custodian in Canada. In many cases that is Karen Symonds, the Program Director. **Host Parents cannot sign these forms.** Please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator for direction on signing forms.

Useful Tip Regarding Doctor, Clinic or Hospital Visits

International students should bring their passport and study permit whenever they go to the doctor or hospital as it may give them preferential rates.

Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF)

The Vancouver International Film Festival is one of the biggest film festivals in the world. It runs from October 1st to October 11th, 2021.

There are over 110 feature films, more than 75 shorts, talks and conferences planned for the event. Many of them will also be available through streaming services for those who choose not to attend in person. The information is available [online](#).



Fall Equinox

Fall (autumnal) Equinox occurred on September 22nd this year. After the autumnal equinox, the Sun begins to rise later and nightfall comes sooner. This ends with the December Solstice, when days start to grow longer and nights shorter.

For some of your students who are from countries closer to the equator, this coming swing in sunrise and sunset times as well as shortened daylight hours (turning the clocks back) may come as a surprise. This may result in some temporary confusion with students communicating with their parents as some countries don't change their clocks at all, and others will change on different dates than in Canada.

Bonfires and Beach Parties

Now that students are settling into life throughout Delta, they will begin to learn more about the things Canadian kids do to hang out. We encourage students to participate and acclimate themselves to Canadian life, but certain activities we repeatedly instruct them to stay away from.



If you received our newsletters last fall and this past spring, you will see that this is a reoccurring topic.

Bonfires and beach parties are situations we want our students to avoid.

Burning / making fires on the beach is prohibited and against the law. The exceptions are the limited fire pits at Centennial Beach but even they close at dusk when the rest of the park closes.

Beach parties can involve drinking and drug use. Even with our students not participating in such actions, they can be lumped in with those who are if there is police involvement.

We always wish for our students to have both a fun and safe experience during their time in Delta.

Students and Sports

Many of our students are showing an early interest in team sports at school and in the community. That is fantastic! Please forward any and all waivers or parental permission forms for sports or other activities to your homestay coordinator. Karen Symonds, the director, is the custodian for many of our students and will need to sign those forms. For certain higher risk sports and activities, it will even need to be the student's natural parents back at home.

Eco-Friendly Tip - Slippers!

Following the trend of last month's suggestion of blankets and area rugs to keep your students warm and your energy bill down, slippers for your student's feet can also be of assistance.

Good (and warm) pairs of slippers are on sale at Costco all over the Lower Mainland. Your student will likely have their own fashion choice when it comes to them, but introducing the idea and suggestions on where to buy them will help.

Delta Ice Hawks

The Delta Ice Hawks are a local Junior B team. They play their home games at Ladner Leisure Centre. It is not the NHL or Roger's Arena, but it can still be an exciting event for your student. The best part is that students get in for free!



Their home schedule can be found [here](#).

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Our dedicated team of Homestay Coordinators are here to support you. Feel free to reach out to them.

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