

Homestay News

April 2022 • Cherry Blossoms are Back!



We hope every one had a good March Break. Spring is upon us now and some of the true beauty of Delta and the Lower Mainland is blossoming. Cherry Blossom trees are a sight to behold. Please email top notch viewing locations (and pictures!) and we will repost that information on our Facebook Page.

Homestay coordinators are currently organizing September placements. Please reach out if you have any recent updates to your Homestay Family Profile (pictures, changes in the family, email addresses, etc.).

Summer Placements

March's newsletter mentioned the return of our summer programming. It is the first time since the summer of 2019 that we have been able to have a stand alone summer camp.

If you are interested in hosting 1 or 2 students for one or both of our 3-week sessions, or for September, please reach out to Brent. There are programs in both north and south ends.

Students aged 10+ / Homestay Fee = \$750

Arrival and Departure Dates

Program 1: July 3rd - July 23rd

Program 2: August 7th - August 27th

Conversation Starter Topic:

What goal do you hope to accomplish this spring?

Curfew - Spring Fever

As we head towards the Spring, here are some reminders regarding student curfews as well as the areas where kids tend to find 'trouble' after dark.

Weeknight Curfew (Sunday night through Thursday night)

It is important to remember that this is a 'school program' and therefore school needs to be a priority for students. Recommended curfew during the week should be 9pm or 9:30pm and certainly no later than 10pm.

Weekend Curfew (Friday and Saturday night and holidays)

Curfew guidelines are as follows -

Grades 8 & 9: 10:00PM - 10:30PM

Grades 10 & 11: 11:00PM

Grade 12: Midnight

We respect the right of host families to make their own curfew arrangements. That being said, under no circumstances should students have a curfew of after midnight. As a program, we have a responsibility to our students and their parents to ensure they return safe and sound and make good decisions.

MORE OVER THE PAGE ➔

Curfew Continued

As students stay out later, they may find themselves either be in a position to make poor decisions or a position where their safety is increasingly in jeopardy (transit stops running, they may be in the company of other students who make poor decisions themselves, etc.).

Trouble Spots

Delta police have provided us with a list of spots where they often find 'trouble' after dark. Please go through this list with your students and remind them that these are areas they must avoid.

- Downtown Vancouver after dark

Ladner:

- Hawthorne Elementary
- Towers (2 locations in wooded area, actual tower and beach)
- Wellington Point (in gravel municipal yard)
- Memorial Park
- Mountain View Park
- Ladner Elementary

Tsawwassen:

- Fred Gingell Park (down to beach)
- English Bluff Elementary
- Cliff Drive Elementary
- Pebble Hill Elementray
- Boundary Bay Elementary (wooded area to the East of school as well on the beach in that same area off the access path)
- Deifenbaker Park (wooded area)
- Dennison Park

North Delta:

- Cory Drive Park
- McDonalds (70th / 120th St)
- Delsom Estates (Sunstone Park)
- Delview Park
- Annieville Park
- Down by the river off of River Rd east of Centre St.
- Other areas that are difficult for police to access

Please feel free to show your students this article. Karen Symonds and Brent Gibson are more than happy to be the 'bad guys' on this - if it keeps one student from being sent home early or from encountering a dangerous situation, we are more than happy to be the bearers of bad news!

Karen: 604-396-6862

Karen's Email

Brent: 604-319-0493

Brent's Email

Student Wellness - The Cultural Iceberg

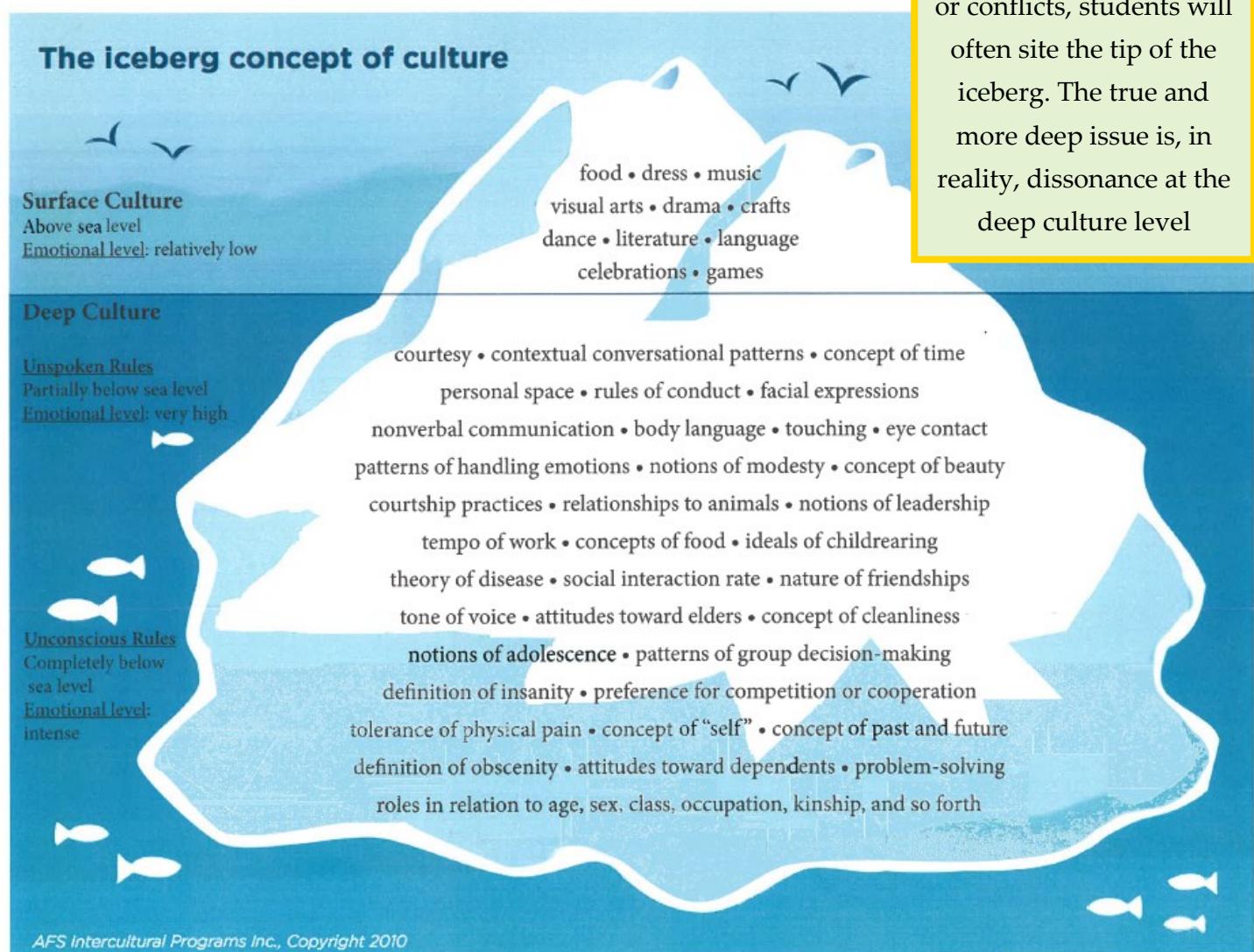
The idea around an iceberg being a good visual representation of culture dates back to 1976 and Edward T. Hall. He suggested that culture was similar to an iceberg. He proposed that culture has two components and that only about 10% of culture (external or surface culture) is easily visible; the majority, or 90%, of culture (internal or deep culture) is hidden below the surface.¹

Culture is similar in that people at first just see a small portion of a person's culture based on things such as clothing, appearance, speech, grooming, greeting rituals, music, arts, or dances. However, these observations comprise just a fraction of a person's culture. Just like with a physical iceberg, a cultural iceberg contains essential characteristics beneath the surface.²

April is right around the time when many of our February arrival students are through the, "Honeymoon" phase of Culture Shock. Now some of the things underneath the surface from their own culture may start to clash with life here. Understanding where that is coming from and communicating openly with your student is the key. We are always here to assist when requested.

1: https://adeaconsmusing.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/151015.ucc_culture.iceberg.pdf

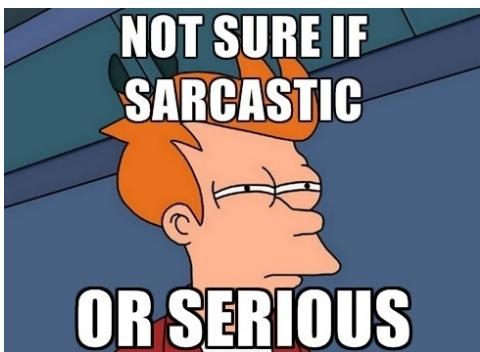
2: <https://www.lynclf.com/blog/the-cultural-iceberg-explained/>



A Reminder About Sarcasm

There has been a shift in student demographics leading to a study base with a generally higher level of English than student cohorts in previous years. That being said, they are still not native English speakers and have grown up in another country. For most, this is their first experience in Canada and Canadian culture.

It is still important to remember that both language and cultural factors influence understanding of and reaction to sarcasm.



Well intentioned and playful sarcasm may be misunderstood or even be confused as an insult by students.

If you get a “funny” reaction to something sarcastic you said, it would be a good idea to get clarification on what was understood / comprehended by your student.

Click here for a list of family day trips that you can enjoy with your homestay student.

You can team up with other homestay families to take turns for a more economical / fuel efficient approach.
We are always happy to hear about activities and trips that host parents enjoy with their students.

Travelling with your student outside of the Lower Mainland?

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

Please let us know early about travel plans. There are special Covid-19 and travel visa considerations when travelling abroad (including the US where most students will require an ESTA even for day trips) with your international student.

If you are planning a day trip, please let us know. The same documentation is not required but because Karen Symonds, the Program Director, is the custodian for the majority of our students, we do need to know where they are travelling to.

It allows us to stay in the loop and be ready to assist if the need arises.

Activities in April and May

In the first week of March Break, we enjoyed two different activities with students. On the Tuesday, 95 students got to go experience a Vancouver Canucks game and see them defeat the New Jersey Devils. On the Thursday, 55 students experienced paintball adventure games for the first time. It was cold and rainy and a perfect representation of a spring day in the Lower Mainland!

The remaining activities we have planned this school year will take place in April and May.

On April 24th we will take a day trip to Victoria. There are already many students signed up, but we can try to make room for a few more if there are still students wanting to join us.

On May 28th, we have planned a trip to [WildPlay](#) in Maple Ridge. Ax throwing will not be on the list of activities we will attempt at WildPlay!

We are currently working on a date for a second activity more related to sightseeing. A day trip to Granville Island, FlyOver Canada and time downtown at Canada Place is being organized. Details will be emailed to students and posted on their Google Classrooms.

For both activities, students will have a homestay form that they need to share with you, get your signature on, and return to their International Coordinators.

Students Registering for Covid-19 Booster Shots

Students have begun reaching out with questions about getting their [Covid-19 Booster Shot \(3rd Dose\)](#). For some of them, they will require it to be counted as fully vaccinated when they return to their home country.

Even with having the BC Vaccine Card, students who were vaccinated abroad have not been receiving the email invitations to register for their booster dose. They will need to call the number below to book an appointment.

Appointments are available for those who received their 2nd dose at least 6 months ago.

1-833-838-2323

Homestay Referral Gift Card

We are still actively recruiting more homestay families. If you refer a family who completes the application process and is able to host a student, you will receive a \$100 referral incentive gift card. Need is still greatest in Ladner and Tsawwassen but North Delta families are also more than welcome!

Karen Symonds – Delta School District International Programs Director

Office: 604-952-5372 • **Cell: 604-396-6862** • **KSymonds@GoDelta.ca**

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

Teri Gallant (Ladner) • Ph: 604-952-5399 • **TGallant@GoDelta.ca**

Gillian Patrick (Tsawwassen) • Ph: 604-952-5385 • **GPatrick@GoDelta.ca**

Michele Ramsden (Sequam, Burnsview, and feeder schools) • Ph: 604-952-5352 • **MRamsden@GoDelta.ca**

Tania Hope (North Delta, Delview, Sands and feeder schools) • Ph: 604-952-5396 • **THope@GoDelta.ca**

Brent Gibson - Homestay Manager International Programs

Office: 604-952-5075 • **Cell: 604-319-0493**

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Budget Friendly Gardening Experiment

Getting out in the garden with your student was mentioned in March's Newsletter. Here is a nice (and cheap) garden experiment your student can take on.

It is attempting to grow some peppers (also referred to as paprika). The next time you cut up a green, yellow, orange, or red pepper from the grocery store, set some seeds aside.

Use an empty plastic container that other fruit (typically strawberries and cherry tomatoes) come in to make a miniature green house.



After filling it with some soil, 6 or 8 of the seeds from the pepper, and a good amount of water, set it in a warm and sunny place for the process to start. Once the seeds germinate and sprout up about 4 - 6 inches, they can be transplanted to small planters or the garden. Good luck!

