



HomestayNews

January 2023 • Happy New Year!



Happy New Year from Delta School District International Programs and wishing you productive start to 2023! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and some lovely memories were created for both you and your homestay student.

School is back in the swing of things and the end of the semester is quickly approaching. Please continue to encourage your student to stay on top of their school work and for them to reach out to us if they need help.

Homestay Student Pre-Arrival Zooms

We implore all families welcoming a student this February to tune into one of our two scheduled Homestay Pre-Arrival Zoom sessions.

January 21st at 11:00AM and January 30th at 6:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/3688017545>

Meeting ID: 368 801 7545

Passcode: Delta

Even if you have attended previously, please make the time as there is new and up to date information.

My Student (or me) Tested Positive for Covid

Do not go to school (or work) until you have no fever and are ready to resume daily activities. [Isolating from others is recommended by the CDC.](#)

Continuing to follow good health practices to keep yourself and others safe is strongly encouraged.- [BC Guide for those with Covid Symptoms](#)

September Arrivals (yes, September!)

Students coming for September 2023 will arrive starting August 26th. Please be available for airport pick up and welcoming your new student at the end of August.

January Departures

We have around 160 students in homestay who will be ending their study abroad experience at the end of January. We hope their experience at school and in Delta was a positive one. You are a big reason why students choose Delta.

Ahead of their departure, please go over their bedroom with them. This ensures they have not forgotten to pack anything but also serves as a check for damages.

If there is any significant damage to the room, please discuss it with the student and include your Homestay Coordinator and Brent Gibson right away. Working through and resolving damages before students depart is highly preferred. If you took pictures upon their arrival, they can serve as proof of the damage. Continue to make use of the damage forms on our [website](#). They are there to assist you and make uncomfortable situations easier for everyone.

If you have not received the confirmed departure details from your Homestay Coordinator, please reach out to them right away.

Trees for Tomorrow

Trees for Tomorrow is a City program that invites Delta homeowners to request one or two trees to be planted on municipal property, immediately adjacent to the side and/or in front of your property. Residents get to choose the tree(s), and as long as the chosen tree is a suitable fit for the property, Delta will purchase and plant it for you! We need all participants to commit to watering the new trees after planting as this is an essential part of the program's success.

How the Community can Help Grow our Urban Forest – Trees for Tomorrow

Help us grow Delta's urban forest and sign up for the City of Delta's FREE Trees for Tomorrow program. You choose the tree(s), we plant them where they will be safe and thrive, and you water them for three years until they are established.

How Does Trees for Tomorrow Work?

1. Choose a tree or trees that you would like planted from the [list of eligible trees](#).
2. Complete the [Trees for Tomorrow application form](#).
3. Mail, fax, scan and email, or drop off the application form as noted on the form.
4. Delta staff will ensure the site is suitable for the tree(s) you've chosen and you will be called if there are any concerns

5. Delta staff will contact BC One Call and confirm there are no utility conflicts.
6. Delta staff will plant the tree, stabilize it and provide additional soil as required.
7. You will water and care for the tree(s) as directed and let Delta know if any concerns arise.

For more information, please email treesfortomorrow@delta.ca or call the City's Engineering Department at 604-946-3260.



February ISP Activity - Snowshoeing and Snow Tubing at Mount Seymour

On February 16th, we will be going back to Mount Seymour. It will be for the entire day and involve snowshoeing and snow tubing.

Sign-up starts on January 9th at around 3:30PM. The new students arriving in February have had information about this activity sent to them. Their agencies were sent details regarding this trip, and the upcoming March trip to Banff back in December. If you have a student coming in February, please encourage them to contact Brent Gibson if they want to sign up for February's ISP Activity.



Students need to dress warm and pack a lunch. Food will be available for purchase but amount and quality are unknown. It took quite some time last year for the food to be served.

It should be an exciting day trip for all who can join! There will be a permission slip they will bring home that will require homestay signature just like for other activities.

Room Cleanup

If you have a student departing at the end of the month, it is a good idea to see about any clothes they do not want to take home with them. It connects to the idea of having students clean their room together with you before they leave.

You can assist them in moving the bed and dresser to see if they have dropped anything. It also serves as a good time for you to check on the overall cleanliness of the room. Students should not be leaving a mess for you to clean up.

Clothes or school materials they do not want to bring home can be recycled and / or donated.

Local Return-It centres now take textiles. I am not sure if they pay for them like they do with cans however.

If you have another student coming at the beginning of February, this "pre-clean" with your departing student helps in the process of getting the room ready for February.

Budgeting with Homestay - Home

The colder days of January are a perfect time to do some crock-pot cooking. Cheaper meats and veggies stew very well in the crock pot. Personally, I use it to cook cheap pork shoulders and then turn them into [pulled pork](#). It is an activity that the family can do together as you can create your own sauces!

Travel

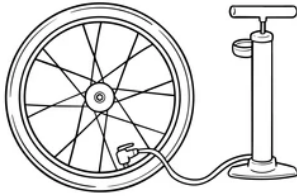
Contact [Brent](#) so we can get the documentation and permission in place before your trip!

Please let us know early about travel plans. There are travel visa considerations when travelling abroad with your international student. These include trips to the US where students may require an ESTA, Tourist Visa, or other paperwork. We will also prepare a travel letter to the US, 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 outside of the Lower Mainland. It allows us to stay in the loop and be ready to assist if the need arises.

Fixing Small Bike Issues at Delta Rec Centres

There are bike pumps and simple tools conveniently located outside the Recreation Centres around Delta. They are there for bicyclists to use in order to make minor repairs / adjustments to their bikes.



If your student is using a bicycle during their stay in Delta, and a helmet, this is a good spot they can go to pump up the tires or adjust the seat.

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.

Student Souvenirs

Students leaving at the end of the month may have neglected purchasing souvenirs / gifts for family until now.



Encourage them to buy some small souvenirs for both themselves and their friends and family back home. It is something they may regret not having done once they are back at home.

Homestay Handbook

We are updating our Homestay Handbook as the current version contains some outdated information and language. We will have it back online as soon as the updates are completed. If you have any questions that you would usually refer to the handbook for, please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator.

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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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