

HomestayNews

March 2023 • Welcome to Spring.. maybe



March break is just around the corner. The February arrival students should be settled in by now. We encourage homestay families to take some time this month to really connect with their students. February arrivals may need some more TLC than our September arrival students.

Marie's Hair Services (North Delta)

Here is another local business run by one of our homestay parents. More information can be found on our Resources Page on the [Homestay Family Website](#).

If you are looking for salon services or advice on hair dye clean up tips and / or any issues around concerns of skin, scalp, or hygiene conditions, please reach out to Marie. She has 37 years of industry experience.

Marie Shepherd: 604-910-2978 / amarie04@telus.net

If you run a local small business and would like us to add it to the website and advertise for you here, please reach out to [Brent](#) with the details.

International Students Sharing Their Experiences

Last month, a group of international students were able to share their experiences with the Public Board Meeting. Here is a [Link](#) with more information.

Conversation Starter Topic:

Which event of the past would you like to have seen or witnessed in person?

Summer Plans and Summer Storage Fees

If your student is here to graduate and they are already speaking of summer plans, please ask them to contact us. There are summer school plans they need to take into account.

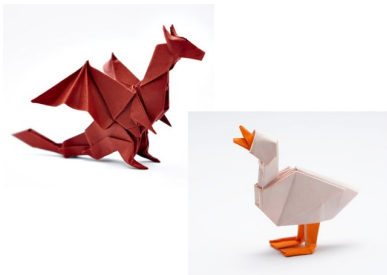
The summer storage fee is \$50 per month to be paid directly to the host family. Students are to pack their room up and work together with you on the best location to store the boxes / bins.

Medical Options

Being able to get in to see a doctor in person is a common issue for many people in our community these days. It is no different for our international students. They have been provided with information on how the medical system works in Canada but the slow speed of things will frustrate some, and their parents at home. Virtual options to start are a great alternative for common illnesses / discomforts. [Guardme](#) is the medical coverage all students have and offer a virtual component. [Medimap.ca](#) is good for seeing wait times at local clinics and virtual appointments. [Virtualclinics.ca](#) charges a \$50 fee to those without MSP but tends to have more frequently available doctors.

Volunteer Opportunity

This information was kindly shared by one of our homestay parents.



The Ladner Elementary PAC is hoping to put together an origami night on Friday, April 14th, 2023. They have a few volunteers already but would love to have a few more who could help the kids do origami.

If your student (or yourself) is interested in helping out, please email the Ladner El PAC secretary, [Leane Novkovic](mailto:Leane.Novkovic@ladner.ca)

Here is some additional information from Leanne, ""At the event, we plan to set up several tables with different origami instructions. We are hoping you can help people if they are having difficulties folding the design. If your English isn't strong, that's ok! If you see someone having trouble you can ask them if they want help and then show them how to fold the step they are on.

We also might set up a projector to do live demonstrations of folding. We might have the elementary kids or parents do this though. We aren't sure.

Let me know if you are still interested and can come on that day.

Also if you have an origami design you really like to make that is simple, please let me know!"

March Break - Tips from We Love Delta



The We Love Delta website has a great set of [day trips](#) in Delta. Follow the link above to their website. We also proudly promote them with a direct link from our [new website](#). It does not replace the Homestay Family Website. It is for everyone to visit.

Delta Discovery Centre

The Delta Discovery Centre is located in Ladner. It is close to the school board office. It is a very interesting place for students, and adults, to learn about Delta's past, present, and future.



Visit their [website](#) to learn more and take a virtual tour.

Whistler Trip Reminders

Planning is well underway for the trip to Whistler's Schools on Snow program. If your student is on the trip, you will have received the Homestay Acknowledgement slip to read and sign. It is an early drop off. We appreciate your help in getting them there and ready to go. It will be a special experience for many of our students.



WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

Remind them about appropriate clothing for the day and to pack a lunch and snacks. They can bring a card to pay for food, but options and availability are unknown. There may be no food available. It is essential they bring their own.

More information will be going out via email over the coming weeks. Please continue to remind students to continuously check their @deltalearns.ca email addresses. That is how they will receive information from Brent about activities and other events.

April ISP Activity - Day Trip to Victoria, BC

We will again be taking our annual day trip to Victoria. It will be on Sunday, April 23rd. Sign-up details will go out to students either later this month or in early April.



It will be a simple day of sightseeing downtown. We are hoping for nice spring weather!

Activities Information

There has been a few requests on where homestay families can find the dates and information for all activities for the school year. Here is the link to our [Activities Page](#). Hope that helps with your planning / helping your student be up to date on plans.

Budgeting with Homestay - Beans and Lentils

Beans and lentils are great additions to "bulk" up meals. Stews, chilis, burritos, and a wide variety of other meals will become more filling! Instagram has a great array of budget conscious meal posts. I used it to learn how to make "Tuna-burger" patties in the air fryer. One can of tuna, one egg, and a bit of shredded cheese makes 4 patties.

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.

Homestay Family Best Practices

As a follow up to our Pre-Arrival Zoom sessions, [ISP - Connecting Delta to the World](#) is our closed Delta School District Homestay Family Facebook Group. It is different than our public one.

It is just for Delta School District homestay families. It is a great place to share ideas and best practices.

When you first visit the site, you will have to ask to be accepted. If it has been a week and no reply has come your way, please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator.

Homestay Referral Gift Card

We are 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.

Hot Chocolate Festival

Running from January 14th to February 14th, the Greater Vancouver Hot Chocolate Festival is a great reason to go check out a new café, have something delicious to drink, and take some pictures. Click on the image for website information.



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.

Karen Symonds – Delta School District International Programs Director

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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 (Seaquam, Burnsvew, 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

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