

HomestayNews

May 2023 • Spring Finally Sprung!



Two months left to go in the school year. We hope you enjoy these remaining weeks with your student. If you have any questions or concerns about their departure, please reach out. Planning a dinner or activity all together before they depart is a lovely idea.

Curfew

With the weather getting better and the days getting longer, students will want to be out later with their friends (and saying their friends can stay out later than them). Curfew is what you set as a homestay parent. Our main guidelines are there is no reason for a general weekend curfew to be after midnight and without an organized and communicated plan in place, there is no reason to be downtown after dark.

Hospital Visits

If you have to visit the hospital with your student and they want a name for the student records, please use either their natural parents' names or their custodian's name. For the majority of our students, that is the Program Director, Karen Symonds. You will also need to use our address for hospital registration documents:

4585 Harvest Drive, Delta BC, V4K 5B4

Those with private custodians will have their name and contact information. They should also have their private custodian meet them at the hospital in case any paperwork needs signing.

Conversation Starter Topic:

Which of your personality traits would you like to change?

Reminder - Student Departures



Students must return to the care of their natural parents on or before June 30th.

This means their flight home must depart Canada on June 30th at the latest.

Their parents can come and meet them here, or even plan to meet them in a third location, but that also must happen before July 1st.

They are not able to stay in our Homestay Program beyond that. Liability and insurance reasons prevent them from being able to, "hang out" for a week or two into July, or even a day or two.

Please confirm their departure ticket date and time with them. Also please confirm with them that they have sufficient luggage space for all their belongings and use our [Departure Checklist](#). If there are any significant changes to the flight or their plan after completing the program, please let us know.

Nice Weather and Parties

Now that the weather is becoming constantly nice, students will be wanting to be out longer and possibly finding themselves in situations where they can make bad decisions. It is something we remind students and host parents of near the end of a student's stay in Canada.

We want to see them successful and following the program rules right until the end. We want their last few months in your home to be one of happiness, not one where you are worrying about where they are and who they are with.

Parties are a good thing and we encourage students to go when invited. That being said, they know what they are not allowed to do (consume alcohol or drugs, have sex, fight) and to be very mindful when at parties and seeing other students drinking or using drugs. Pictures of our students online holding a beer bottle is enough to get them sent home.

Back in our [April 2022 Homestay Newsletter](#), we outlined specific "trouble" spots that were noted to us by Delta Police. Please let your student know these are places to avoid if parties are happening there.

The following column has a review of the known spots where students can find themselves in situations that can get them in trouble or lead to poor decision making.

Downtown Vancouver after dark

Ladner:

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

Tsawwassen:

- Fred Gingell Park (down to beach)
- English Bluff, Cliff Drive, and Pebble Hill Elementary
- 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 and Dennison Park

North Delta:

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

If you believe your student has been drinking or doing drugs, it is essential you reach out to us right away. It is very hard to take action after the fact.

Budgeting with Homestay - Potlucks

Now is a great time of year to suggest a potluck with your student. They only have a few weeks of school left. A potluck with a few of their friends would mean one dish / meal can be shared with others who bring their own dishes. It is much more economical to make more of one thing than to buy new ingredients for multiple dishes.

Hosting in September

If you are hosting this coming September, your Homestay Coordinator should already be in contact with you about potential placements. If you are wanting to host in September but have yet to hear from your Homestay Coordinator, please reach out to them so they can include you in their planning.

New students have been instructed to arrive the weekend of August 26th and 27th. This is because they will have an orientation at their school and with their International Coordinator at the school some time during that last week of August. They are also invited and encouraged to participate in our sightseeing daytrip outing on September 1st.

Returning students have been instructed to return no earlier than September 1st.

Travel

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

Please let us know early about travel plans.

Driving to the US requires an [ESTA](#) and [I-94 form](#). Not all nationalities can visit the US freely. We will 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 when 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.

Summer Programs

July will see both Academic Summer School programming as well as our [3-week Summer ELL programs](#).



The first 3-week program runs from July 4th to 21st (with students arriving on the 2nd or 3rd and departing on the 22nd or 23rd). Academic Summer School runs from July 4th to August 3rd.

In August, we are running another 3-week Summer ELL program from August 7th to 25th (with students arriving on the 5th or 6th and departing on the 26th if they are not staying to continue on into the school year).

Please send [Brent Gibson](#) an email if you are interested in hosting for some or all of these summer programs. The list of students signed up for summer programs continues to grow. There will also be a few adult chaperones with the student groups looking for a homestay placement. They would be placed on their own and without any of their students. If you are interested in hosting an adult chaperone for the 3 weeks, please let Brent know.

If you have already emailed him with your interest in hosting, he has your name on the list and will be reaching out. No harm in a friendly reminder though!

Homestay Family Recruitment

We are honoured that so many students want to choose Delta School District for their international experience. For us to help make their choice become a reality, we need more homestay families for September.

If you have friends or neighbours that you feel can provide a positive experience for our students, please recommend our program to them.

Remuneration is going up to \$1,100 a month in September and we still have referral bonuses for current homestay parents recommending new families to our program.

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.

Ladner May Days

May 26th, 27th, and 28th are the dates for Ladner May Days this year. The parade will be at noon on the 28th.



It is a family friendly atmosphere and something that might make for a fun and affordable day out with your student and your family. Click on the image for more details.

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

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 (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

Brent Gibson - Homestay Manager International Programs

Office: 604-952-5075 ♦ Cell: 604-319-0493

BGibson@GoDelta.ca

