

HomestayNews

June 2023 • Getting Ready to Say Goodbye



We have made it to June! There are only a few short weeks left until the majority of students return home as their program with Delta School District concludes. From me, Brent, thank you very much for all of the time, energy, and dedication you have put into hosting students this school year. I have shared messages of gratitude from our Homestay team below.

Gillian: My warm thanks for your diligence and care, your patience, the compassion you've expressed towards students, and your willingness to step up on short notice. Along the way, I trust you've also had some fun. :)

Michele: Thank you to my families, not for hosting, but for welcoming our international children into your home, and caring for them as if they were your own.

Tania: I am grateful for you opening your home, your time, your caring and kindness heart to support a youth from afar!

Teri: I thank you all for your commitment, perseverance and kindness. You're making the world a better place.

Karen Symonds, Program Director: I am so grateful for all of the texts, pictures and stories I get from host families who are doing wonderful things with their students and building strong connections and indelible memories of their time in Canada.

Lisa Porter Photography

If you wish to have some lovely pictures taken before your student returns home, one of our homestay families may be able to help. See the full details on the following page.

Conversation Starter Topic:

Which historical time period would you most like to visit?

Packing and Preparing for Departure

If your student is packing up to go home on or before June 30th, either for good or with plans to return, it would be a great time to go over the condition of the room and ensure they have enough luggage space for their belongings.

Doing that together can minimize uncomfortable situations regarding damages after a student has left. If there are damages, contact Brent or your Homestay Coordinator immediately. Damage claims will not be possible in July.

For returning students, they will need to pack up their rooms. Hang on to any delivery boxes (Amazon) as they will come in handy at the end of the month. Storage fee is \$50 per month.

Ahead of your student's departure, we encourage you to find a special way to give them a nice send-off. It does not need to be a night out at a fancy restaurant. An evening of doing something they enjoy, or trying something "Super Canadian" or "Totally Delta" that they have not experienced yet would be wonderful.

We always welcome pictures and examples of unique activities homestay families enjoy with their students.

Lisa Porter Photography

If you wish to have some lovely pictures taken before your student returns home, one of our homestay families may be able to help.

Lisa Porter runs her own photography business and is offering interested homestay families mini sessions with the full gallery of images to download.

International student and homestay special June & September 2023

People from the same home with international students. 20 minute session. Includes an online gallery - All high resolution images to download

Cost: \$125

Please visit her [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#) for examples of her work.

Insurance Changes

Starting July 1st, we are switching over to a new insurance provider for short-term student insurance and top-up insurance for students with us for the full school year and longer. There is a letter with details about the new provider, Study Insured, attached to this Homestay Newsletter email.

They will be joining us and leading a brief information session for host parents later this summer. More information to come on dates and times of the information sessions.

Graduating Students

Congratulations and applause to this year's group of international students in our Homestay Program and graduating from a Delta School District Secondary School this June. They have accomplished a great life goal and undoubtedly have made their families at home very proud of them. Good luck graduates!

Akari Ishige	Selna Iwasa
Ami Tran	Victoria Berbel
David Brandon Forat	Maldonado
Edoardo Lange	Alice Nguyen
Giacomo Andrea	Anh Dao
Ongaro Herrero	Ayu Hisadomi
Irene Sanchez	Catarina Alencar
Pascual	Guerra Figueiredo
Jason Zhai	Eric Kim
Joe Zhou	Gu Gu
Julia Almeida Dias	Liam Bui
Geraldo	Lisa Dai
Katy Tomida	Mikeala Li
Lea Fujimoto	Shunya Takahashi
Leonardo My	Silvia Isabel
Matilde Galigani	Castaneda Martin
Ngoc Gia Nghi Doan	Sungmin Sohn
Pimmada Nisaisom	Tom Ahn

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. Please do not give them permission to do so.

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. Most of the placements are complete but there is always the possibility if last minute moves being required or new students signing up.

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.

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.

Connecting with September Arrivals



If you have a student placed with you for September, reaching out early to connect and start forming that bond is a good idea.

Forming a bond early can help everyone have a smooth arrival and transition come September. Students and their parents are usually very keen to make contact early.

If you need assistance connecting or with language constraints, please reach out.

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

