

HomestayNews

October 2023 • Halloween is a Special Time for International Students



Halloween is not celebrated the same way around the globe. It is not even celebrated the same way across Canada!

Encourage your student to experience the safe and responsible aspects of Halloween in your neighbourhood. Trick-or-treating is great but they should have a costume for that. No one enjoys the teenager in a Zorro mask at their door on Halloween. If there are special Halloween activities in your neighbourhood, please let us know so we can share the information online.

ISP Activities and the Associated Costs

Now that monthly activities are underway, we wanted to quickly outline the posted costs. In addition to the ticket prices (which we sometimes get good rates on) we have to pay for bussing - extremely expensive, staff, staff overtime, etc.. We organize most of these activities for events students typically can't easily access / are not permitted to access on their own.

Travel with Wayne

One of our long-time homestay parents has thoughtfully created day tour / activity packages for our international students. Students have seen the ads and if they are looking for weekend activities, please encourage them to [reach out for more information](#).

Conversation Starter Topic:

Who would you like to trade places with for a month?

Code of Conduct

In September, students all met afterschool with members of our staff. It was our Rules Meeting. Either Claire, Dean, or Jim emailed you a copy of the Code of Conduct and Homestay Expectations students reviewed with us as a group. They also reviewed it with Multicultural staff in their native language if they are from Brazil, China, Japan, Korea, Spain, or Vietnam. After reviewing the documents and addressing questions, students signed them and returned them to us.

It is fair that 4 weeks from now students may not remember everything they went over and signed. If they are not sure if they are permitted to do certain things, please have them reach out to us. Students communicating openly with their homestay parents about things is wonderful. It is always nice to see that. Encourage them to be comfortable in reaching out to us as well.

If you feel that your student is not abiding by this code of conduct, you are also encouraged to reach out to your Homestay Coordinator.

With Halloween approaching, we want the messaging to be clear and consistent. Going to parties is permitted and actually a good thing / part of being a teenager in Delta. Knowing when to leave a party and knowing to not be associated with any drugs, alcohol, illegal activities, etc. is vital for international students.

Delta ISP November Activities - Post-Secondary Fair

We have two activities in November

On November 9th, 2023, we are having our Post-Secondary Fair. It is for students who are here on a path to graduate in BC. They have already received information from Brent about the Post-Secondary Fair. Schools from around BC and Canada will be coming for an afternoon fair. It will run from around 3:00PM to 6:00PM.

Post-Secondary Fair - Mandatory for Graduating Students

It is at South Delta Secondary School but all graduation path students in Delta are required to attend. Buses will be organized to transport students from the other six Secondary Schools.

More information on the transportation planning and Post-Secondary School list will be shared with students and posted on their International Coordinator's Google Classroom.

Delta ISP November Activities— Canucks Game

On November 28th, we will be going to a Vancouver Canucks game.



Posters are going out soon to International Coordinators at school and students will be receiving sign-up details soon. It will be a late return after the game. Students will need to be picked up by a host parent. Once they sign up for the game, they can assist you in working out some carpooling.

Food Ideas

Please feel free to share your recipe and cost saving food ideas on our [Facebook Page](#) and in our [private Homestay Family Facebook Group](#). Ideas for economical, non-sandwich, lunches would be great! It has been a common question so far this year. There should be some great prices on turkeys and hams next week. Makes for a lot of leftovers for lunches, sandwiches, and quick dinners.

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 if staying in Canada, 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.

Study Insured

When you visit the [Study Insured website linked to our Delta School District website](#), you are presented with numerous forms on the left-hand side of the page.

The Claim Form - Medical is something we are working with Study Insured on. The reimbursement section only provides the option of cheque or bank transfer (to a Canadian bank). For students here for less than a full school year, this could present challenges.

We will update you once there is a revision to the form to assist our short-term students.

Host parents should not be paying for doctor visits. A 100% reimbursement cannot be guaranteed.

MSP for Full Year Students

Students enrolled with Delta School District for the full school year, or longer, will be on MSP once they have been BC Residents for 3 consecutive calendar months (not 90 days).

Most students arrived here in August. That means their MSP coverage will start from November 1st. Students who arrived on September 1st or later will have to wait until December 1st for their MSP to be active.

Students might need to see a doctor before they receive their BC Services Card. If they need their Personal Health Number (PHN), please have them reach out to one of our staff members. We can share it directly with them.

These students still have Study Insured Insurance. It will act as their “top-up” insurance once their MSP is active.

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.

Homestay Handbook

We have uploaded a working version of our [Homestay Handbook](#). We are continuing to make adjustments and edits to it. Please review it on our website and reach out to your Homestay Coordinator if you have any questions.

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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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