



# HomestayNews

January 2024 • Welcome to 2024!

**W**ishing everyone a wonderful start to 2024. Hopefully the new year brings new experiences and new memories for both homestay parents and Delta School District International students! We hope everyone enjoyed the Winter Holiday and 2 weeks away from the classroom.

## *Departing Students*

If you have a student leaving at the end of the month, please go over their room with them prior to the departure day. It can allow you to assist them in packing preparation (some will need to go and buy an additional suitcase) as well as checking the room for damages. It is easiest to resolve any small damage issues before students return home. Additionally, please confirm the flight date and time with your student and allow enough time to get them to the airport, checked in, and through to security.

## *Dark Days - Helmets and Lights*

We are past the winter solstice (Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>), but it is still getting dark early. Students have been seen out on their bikes and skateboards without helmets or any sort of reflective lights or clothing. Please remind them they must wear a helmet and have reflective gear. It is smart and can help to keep them safe.

Additionally, students must wear a helmet when they go skiing, snowboarding, and ice skating.

**Conversation Starter Topic:  
What is your favourite quotation?**

## **Homestay Family Zoom Sessions**

Whether you are hosting a full year student or preparing to welcome one in early February, it is important you attend one of our two Homestay Zoom Sessions in January.

There have been issues this winter with medical decisions, hospital visits, and medical insurance claims. This is a great time to get ahead of the game on those topics and other important topics all homestay parents need to be aware of.

**January 25th @ 6:00PM**

**Homestay Zoom Meeting #1**

[https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/3688017545?  
omn=64311507689](https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/3688017545?omn=64311507689)

Meeting ID: 368 801 7545

Passcode: Delta

**January 28th @ 10:00AM**

**Homestay Zoom Meeting #2**

[https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/3688017545?  
omn=63465085673](https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/3688017545?omn=63465085673)

Meeting ID: 368 801 7545

Passcode: Delta

## Delta ISP January Activity - Vancouver Canucks Game

Quick reminder that we have 2 more activities this month. With the enormous interest in the Whistler Schools on Snow Program, we were luckily able to get a second date. We will go back to Whistler on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The next night, the 18<sup>th</sup>, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canucks game International Programs is going to.

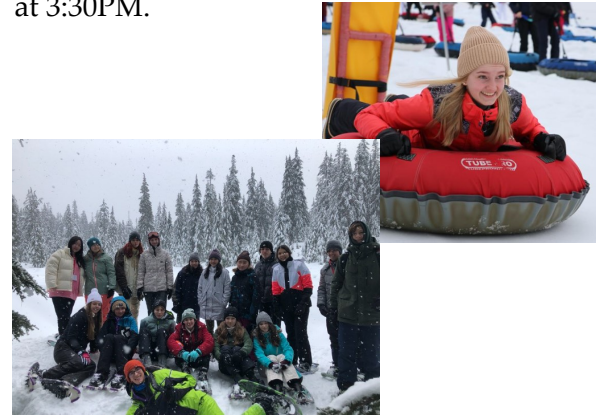


Both lists are currently full. If your student is on one or both of those lists, they will need to be showing you the Homestay Acknowledgement slip that appears at the bottom of their sign-up form.

We had too many absences from school the day after our December trip to Whistler. Students have been informed that there is an expectation of them to attend school on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Staying home from school because you are tired from the ski trip that you missed school for the day before is not acceptable. The same is true the day after getting home late from a Canucks game. Please remind your student of this expectation if they are on one of the trips later this month.

## Delta ISP February Activity - Mt. Seymour

Next month, we will return to Mt. Seymour for another day of snowshoeing and snowtubing. The students have enjoyed it in years past and we hope for a lot of snow again this year. Sign-up starts on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30PM.



If you are welcoming a new student into your home (February start), we shared the details of the trip with students, parents, and agents at the end of November 2023. If interested, they were advised to reach out to Brent. Your new student may already be on the list. Please remind them of the appropriate clothing they will need to wear and to bring a lunch. There is a cafeteria, but it gets very busy and very slow at lunch time.

## Travel

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

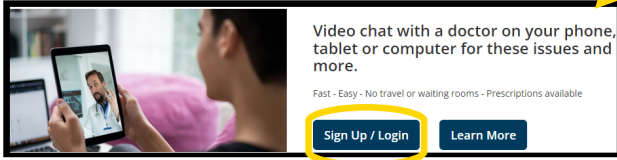
Please let us know early about travel plans. Driving to the US requires an [ESTA](#) and [I-94 form](#). Not all nationalities can visit the US freely. We will prepare a travel letter to the US, even for day trips, with your international student.

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 / Maple Virtual Health Updates

All students should make their profile for the Maple Virtual Health Site before they are feeling sick. It will assist in smoother use of the site once an illness sets in.

Click Here



Please have your new February student, or current full year student, set up their account within the first week of February. They will need to use their personal email address for it. It is also the perfect reason for them to go out and get a local number right away. Email and a local phone number are both required for two-step verification when setting up the online account.

## 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.

## ER Wait Times

Going to the Emergency Room is never fun. For many students, "Going to the hospital," or, "Needing to see a doctor," is a normal thing in their home country. It means going to a small clinic and waiting for a minimal amount of time. It is very different here, unfortunately.

We have been working with students to help them understand the Canadian medical system a bit better and the reasons why we want to avoid going to the ER if at all possible.

They have access to virtual health and we are still working with Study Insured to get them to provide an accurate list of local clinics that will direct bill when our students visit.

Wait times can be found [HERE](#)

Fraser Health provides useful [guidelines for when one should and shouldn't go to the ER.](#)

### 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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