

HomestayNews

February 2024 • Welcome New Students!



January saw first semester students depart and February welcomes new second semester students. If you just welcomed a new student, please help them in hitting the ground running as it was a quick turnaround from plane to school!

Conversation Starter Topic:

How is Valentine's Day Celebrated in _____?

July Departures

You will see this reminder a few times in future newsletters. Students must depart our Homestay Program by June 30th at the latest. If your student is discussing their flight home with you and it is July 1st or later, please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator. Students staying for summer school do not have to depart by June 30th.

Study Insured - Reimbursements

When short term students visit a clinic or any student receives a prescription, they typically have to pay first and then submit a reimbursement claim with Study Insured. Cashing the reimbursement cheques have been a huge issue for students without a Canadian Bank Account. If your student is making a claim and does not have a bank account, please reach out to [Brent](#). He can provide details on how to get the reimbursement wired to an overseas bank account. Study Insured informed us they will cover all the wire transfer fees.

Welcoming New Delta School District ISP Staff to the Team

This winter has brought us one retirement, two new staff members, and one staff member returning from maternity leave.

Gillian Patrick, Homestay Coordinator for South Delta, retired earlier this month. We will all miss her calm demeanor and meticulous organization. Please join us in wishing Gillian a lovely retirement.

Laura Liu has returned from maternity leave and is back in the saddle as our Chinese Cultural and Support staff member. If you have a Chinese speaking student and need some help or have some questions, Laura is here to help. She is introducing herself to our Chinese speaking students this year and re-introducing herself to some of our long-term students from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

We are very pleased to welcome Rosalia (Lia) Reginato as our new Receptionist and Brizeida Hall as our new Homestay Coordinator for Sands Secondary and North Delta Secondary. Lia is happy to help when you call in or visit the office with questions and Brizeida is looking forward to meeting homestay families and students connected to Sands and North Delta. Tania Hope has moved to take on the role of South Delta Homestay Coordinator and Michele Ramsden will be adding Delview Secondary Homestay families to her role.

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.

Delta ISP March Break February Activity - Banff

March Break will again have a Delta School District International Programs trip to Banff and the Rocky Mountains.



Information about the trip has been posted on our [main website](#) and on the students' Google Classrooms. Sign-up is February 13th at 3:30PM and space will be limited. Unfortunately, we are only able to take one bus to Banff.

The Cultural Iceberg

Here is the Cultural Iceberg image that Karen described during our 2 Homestay Zoom sessions in January. Take a moment to review it as it is a great visual for all the cultural differences we do not see, or we routinely forget about. It can also be found in the Homestay Handbook.



Study Insured Tele-health

Please lend a helping hand to your student as we work through them [registering for their online Tele-Health Account](#). Students will be making an ID to then be able to log on easily and request a doctor's appointment online when they hurt themselves or feel sick. The tele-health doctors are able to provide X-ray requisitions and prescriptions.

Offer guidance for your student as they navigate the website to enter their information and receiving the 2-step verification. They should use their personal email address (not their @deltalearns.ca email address) so they can access medical information at any time in the future. They also need a local number. This is another reason they need to have a working local number. Once they have created and verified their account, they can log on easily and get a virtual doctor's appointment when needed.

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.

NDFC Spring Soccer

North Delta Football Club (soccer) has spring training and leagues starting soon. They are welcoming a small number of international students.



If your student is keen on soccer and hoping to play while they are here, please visit the [NDFC website](#) and reach out to the [administrator](#). Let them know it is a Delta School District International student who is interested. Homestay families would be the point of contact (emails about game changes, field closures, etc.) but waivers would still need to go to natural parents.

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.

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

Tania Hope (Tsawwassen) ♦ Ph: 604-952-5385 ♦ THope@GoDelta.ca

Michele Ramsden (Burnsview, Delview, Seaquam and feeder schools) ♦ Ph: 604-952-5352 ♦ MRamsden@GoDelta.ca

Brizeida Hall (North Delta, Sands and feeder schools) ♦ Ph: 604-952-5396 ♦ BHall@GoDelta.ca

Brent Gibson - Homestay Manager International Programs

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

BGibson@GoDelta.ca

