

HomestayNews

March 2024 • March Break Ideas



March break is quickly approaching. New students will be hitting some of the troughs of culture shock (different for everyone). A great idea heading into March Break is to outline the plan with your students in advance. Even if you are working everyday, having a discussion with them can help them with their plans for the free time.

Please share any March Break activity ideas with your Homestay Coordinator. We love to share good ideas within the community.

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. Please discuss summer school plans with your student if they are a multi-year student returning in September 2024.

Rules Meetings

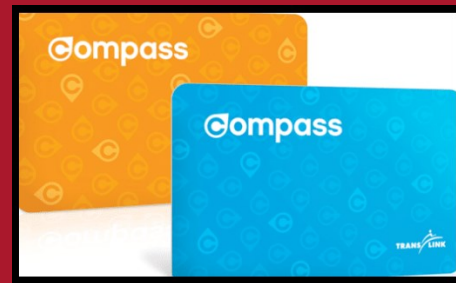
February arrival students have now all had their online registration and in person rules meetings. All students are aware of program rules and the requirement to have a working local cell phone number. They know to ask for permission (not tell) when they wish to go out with friends, and to be in contact with you about where they are, who they are with, and what they are doing.

Conversation Starter Topic:

Have you ever had an experience that led you to believe in angels or ghosts?

Compass Card Reloading Issues

Compass Card and Translink have recently made some changes to their online accounts. No longer will international credit cards be able to reload one's Compass Card via the website.



Students can still purchase their Compass Cards at London Drugs and create an online account to monitor their card balance. They cannot preload it with money or buy a monthly pass using an international credit card online.

Students will need to visit a skytrain station or a Compass Vending Machine (CVM) to reload their cards, buy a monthly pass, etc.

Here is a [LINK](#) to the Compass Card website showing different locations around the Lower Mainland where students can access those CVMs. The image above is also hyperlinked.

Delta Hot Chocolate Festival



Here is a great, and tasty, way to support the local community. Delta's Hot Chocolate Festival is underway and runs until March 23rd. Click on the image to visit their website and see the various participating locations and food and drink options.

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 Activities - Banff and Cancelled Mt. Seymour

Sign-up for our trip to Banff is complete. It was once again highly competitive thing to join. We took names for the first ten minutes of sign-up, assigned each one a number, and had a lottery to fill the spots on the trip.

We also had to cancel Mt. Seymour snowshoeing and snowtubing trip. We have been able to replace it with a trip to the Sea-to-Sky Gondola in Squamish on March 26th. Students from the Mt. Seymour trip have been sent this information, but please ask your student if they are interested.

Delta ISP April Activity - Victoria, BC Daytrip

On Sunday, April 21st, Delta ISP staff and students will take a day trip to Victoria BC.



Bus pick up and drop off will be from the School Board Office (south end students) and Burnsvew Secondary (north end students) as it usually is. We will catch the 9:00AM ferry over to Victoria and the 5:00PM ferry back.

We will not have unlimited space on this trip, but there will be more room than the previous trips. Sign-up for the Victoria Day Trip started on March 3rd, but there is plenty of space still available.

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.

Vancouver Whitecaps Tickets

One of our homestay parents has season's tickets (4 of them together) to the Vancouver Whitecaps and there are some dates which she cannot go and is offering to sell them to Delta School District International Student Programs homestay families.

Location: Section 230, Row N, Seats 1,2,3,4.

\$34 per ticket.



These dates are available:

- March 30th at 7:30pm
- Sept 7th at 7:30pm
- Sept 28th at 7:30pm
- Oct 2nd at 7:30pm
- Oct 5th at 4:30pm

If you are interested, please contact [Brent](#).

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

