

HomestayNews

April 2024 • Spring!



Now that we are finally into spring and hopefully a nice stretch of weather, students will want to enjoy being outside more. It is getting dark later and flowers are in bloom all over the Lower Mainland. Remind them they need to have a working local cell phone number and discuss their plans for the evening with you. It is also a wonderful, and smart, idea for them to leave their friend's cell number with you as well. It is perfect if their phone's battery dies or if the phone is misplaced.

Fifth Time is the Charm?



We have added a new award finalist crest to our email signatures. We have been nominated again for a Star Award for Excellence in International Programs.

Maybe this year is the year we are the winner! Homestay families play a major role in the experience students have in Delta. Thank you again for providing such a wonderful experience for so many students that choose Delta as their study abroad destination.

We are very proud of the nomination as it reflects all the dedication and hard work of everyone in supporting our international students.

Conversation Starter Topic:

What flowers bloom in Spring at home?

Hosting in the Summer

Delta School District International Programs is running 2 3-week Summer ELL Programs again this summer. In July (7/2 - 7/19), they will be run out of Delta Secondary School and Burnsvie Secondary School. In August (8/6 - 8/23), they will be run out of Delta Manor Education Centre and Burnsvie Secondary School. It is two weeks of regular school days, with the third week being class in the morning and activities with our staff in the afternoon.

Students will (should) be arriving a day before the programs start. They stay for the 3 weeks and then depart the Saturday after the program concludes.

Hosting a summer student comes with remembering their language (and possibly age) will be lower and many are here just for the 3 weeks. Students require their own room, 3 meals a day, family time, and some care with language issues.

We will likely have a range of students again this summer, with some older ones and some younger ones. Remuneration for the 3 weeks is \$850 per student.

Many host parents indicated their summer interest on the Google Form their Homestay Coordinator shared. Those responses are noted. If you did not complete the Google Form, please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator and have them send you the link again. The Form also has questions / information about hosting in September.

Prom, Red Carpet Activities, Graduation Parties, Etc..

It is that time of year again when graduation planning and parties are being discussed. The social media ads for Dry Grad ticket sales in North Delta have already been posted.

A reminder here about international students and graduation events: (a district-wide policy)

- No international students are allowed to attend grad camping trips.
- Students graduating in Delta are permitted to attend all the other graduation events.
> If you are not sure whether or not your student is officially graduating here, please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator.
- Grade 12 International students not graduating in Delta are permitted to go to the dinner/dance, but not the Dry Grad event that runs through the night. They are also not permitted to join valedictory/commencement.

I hope that helps clear a few things up. Students will be receiving the same messaging via their International Coordinator's Google Classroom.

Vancouver / English Bay

With the weather improving and the sun setting later, students will be more apt to adventure further and push boundaries. Students are allowed to visit downtown Vancouver and English Bay. It is important to remember that downtown beaches become young adult party spots in good weather. Students need to be leaving the area before dark, ideally back in Delta by dark.

It is good practice to have them share the names of who they are going out with (don't go alone) and also the cell numbers of those friends. It is very useful when someone's cell phone dies or gets misplaced. They need to be able to contact you and receive / reply to calls and messages from you.

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.

Issues at Home

From both a homestay parent and student perspective, there have been too many occurrences this year where we are not informed of issues at the home until they have piled up and “exploded” into something more serious than they needed to be.

Please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator if you need support. Our staff are here to support both you and the student and to help with that relationship when it needs some help.

If your student is late for curfew, remind them when it is. If they are late a second time, let us know. Let us know if you are struggling in any way or there is something the student does that “wears on you.” It might be cultural. It might be the individual. It might be something that can’t be overcome.

July Departures

This reminder is here again as it is important for homestay families. 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.

Delta ISP May Activity - WildPlay

We will visit WildPlay in Maple Ridge on Saturday, May 11th. Sign-up for the activity has been open for a few weeks but there are still some spots available if your student has not signed up but would like to join.



Have them email [Brent](#) asap if they want to join the WildPlay trip. There is a waiver that needs to go to their natural parents.

Celiac Homes

We currently have a young man from German who is affected by Celiac Disease wishing to study in Delta this coming September. Through the wonderful (and quick) help of the Canadian Celiac Association British Columbia, we were able to find him a homestay placement.

We have Celiac students apply to our program each year. The ability to know of, and provide them, with homestay placements is crucial. If you, or a family you know, are able to support a Celiac student, please reach out your Homestay Coordinator. The special diet also comes with an additional \$200 per month in homestay remuneration.

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. [Here is a link on how to sign-up.](#)

Offer guidance for your student as they navigate the website to enter their information and receive 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 cell phone number. Once they have created and verified their account, they can log on easily and get a virtual doctor's appointment when needed.

Visiting the Home



For many homestay families, you have a new Homestay Coordinator. We had a retirement this past winter, a new hire, and shifting of coverage regions. It is important your new (or current) Homestay Coordinator gets to know you and your family. Please try to find some time to meet with them in person when they reach out. It is also a good time to reconnect and share changes to your home with your Homestay Coordinator. The more connected they are to you, the better they are able to make lasting student placements.

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.

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

