

HomestayNews

May 2024 • Go Canucks Go!



Only about 8 weeks left in the school year. For many of our students, it is also their final 8 weeks in Canada. Now would be a great time to connect with your student to see what “reasonable” things they have in their bucket list. There might be good opportunities for you to help them experience those, or set up a plan with their friends to share a couple experiences between homestay families.

Study Insured 48-Hour Notice

If you take your student to the hospital, or if they have a medical situation arise, please assist them in notifying Study Insured within 48 hours of the visit. It allows Study Insured to create a case number, which can help processing once the bill arrives from Fraser Health. Call their toll free number on the [website](#) to connect with an agent and open the case number.

July Departures

Another quick reminder that students must depart our Homestay Program by June 30th at the latest, unless they are in our summer programming. Hopefully everyone is aware of their students’ travel plans / flight plans. Please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator if you are unsure when your student will be departing.

Conversation Starter Topic:

Which of your personality traits would you like to change?

Nice Weather, Parties, and Beach Fires

With the longer days, nicer weather, and the end of their experience in Canada approaching, students are more likely to push boundaries, curfews, and rules they have been following all spring. We want them to have the opportunity to safely enjoy their last two months in Delta with their friends. We also want to ensure their safety, and your sanity!

We previously shared a list of known trouble spots we received from the Delta Police. It is available in our Newsletter Archive on our [Homestay website](#).

We have guidelines for curfew based on grade level. Each student is different and each homestay family is also different in how they run their house. Students are informed of this and how their curfew may be different than their friends’. They are not permitted to go to concerts or sporting events downtown at night without an adult 25 years old +.

Beach fires are illegal, except in the designated areas at the beaches during park hours of operation (dawn to dusk typically). It is a minimum \$175 fine if you make or light a fire in a public place. Bonfires are illegal. Delta Police can issue additional fines.

Bathroom Cleaning Plans

Our email with the April Newsletter included a handout for [bathroom cleaning](#). We had lovely replies to it. We wanted to share one of those tips below as it has some additional useful suggestions when it comes to students, chores, and cleaning.

Background: two teenage boys in one washroom - it was not being cleaned. They discussed a plan that would work to ensure moving forward it would be taken care of.

Host parent made an accountability calendar for the two of them. On it is who is responsible each week for the bathroom cleaning. They also included a schedule for bed sheet washing as it was another point of yuck!

Both the boys know that if it is their week to clean the bathroom, it must be done by Friday or they are at home for the weekend until it is completed. They also know that if it is their week for bedsheets to be washed, it must be done by Sunday or they are home after school every day until they are washed.

Any number of inexpensive, large calendars will help to create a visual. They can be purchased for \$5 or less. Hang it on the wall in a common place, such as outside the shared bathroom used by the students.

Room Spring Cleaning

May is a great time to check your student's room with them and see if it needs a spring clean.



Simple tasks can be shown to, and completed by, your students. These would include:

- Dusting the ceilings
- Washing / cleaning the windows
- Pulling the bed out to clean under and behind it
- Getting rid of any marks on the walls with a magic eraser

If there has been a lot of shopping since they arrived, now would also be a good time for students to plan what they will be taking home in their luggage, what they might want to ship home, and what they are OK with getting rid of.

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. Program staff are here to support both you and our 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.

Fun, Low Cost Activities

Spring weather brings out the opportunity for some fun, low cost (some are free!) things to do in and around the Lower Mainland. There are tulip festivals underway in the Fraser Valley.

Outdoor pools in Vancouver are planning to open on the May long weekend. There is always bicycling around Stanley Park or more local trails.

The Grouse Grind will also be open sometime in May for those wanting to take on that challenge!

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 have a young man from German who is affected by Celiac Disease coming to study in Delta in 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 and are familiar with the precautions that need to be taken, 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.

Food

Food is always a hot topic. Many times it is about students eating way too much food, not eating enough, ordering too much delivery, or eating in their rooms. Students should not be eating in their rooms!

Frequently, parents and students are concerned about both variety and time. Eating dinner together with your student is very important and something we hope is a source of entertainment and joy for everyone. We understand it can't happen every night, but 4 times a week is a reasonable goal.

Variety in lunches is another topic we are hearing about this year. A sandwich EVERYDAY is not ideal. Leftovers can be a good option. Also, a Sunday activity together to prep some lunch meals can be a nice way to spend some time together. Instagram is a great source of cost effective meal prep ideas.

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.

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.

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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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