

# HomestayNews

October 2024 • Halloween Time!



**W**ith it already being October, all the Halloween themed items and activities are coming out. For many students, this will be a totally new concept (or at least the way some Canadians take it to excess). Encourage your student to enjoy the Halloween experience. If they want to Trick-or-Treat, they need to be in costume. There is nothing people dislike more than teenagers at their door without costumes.

October is also a great time to go to a pumpkin patch with your student. We do not go there as a program activity.

## *Helmets!*

Please remind and enforce with your student that helmets are mandatory if they are going to ride a bike, scooter, rollerblades, skateboard, etc..

We have been lucky so far with a few accidents involving students on bicycles NOT wearing their helmets. These could have been far worse.

If you are receiving pushback on this or see that your instructions are not being adhered to, please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator right away. It is the law in Canada and we will remind them of that and the need to wear one.

## Conversation Starter Topic:

**What do you dream your life will be like in 10 years?**

## Conversations Vs. Text Messages

Whenever possible, please have a conversation with your student instead of sending text messages.

It is very important for continuing to build on your relationship and for understanding each other's tone. The tone and / or intention of text messages can be easily misinterpreted - both host parents texting students and also homestay parents misreading the tone of their student's text messages (do remember they are texting in a second language).

When your student is at home, please speak with them in person so they can see your tone and intentions clearly. If understanding is a concern, a text to follow-up to reaffirm what was discussed face to face is a good idea. Then the tone of the message is already understood from having spoken together.

We want our students out of their rooms and interacting as much as possible. In reality, we understand that a teenager hanging out in their room at times is totally common. Drawing them out for conversations with you instead of sending those by text message is a good way to encourage more time outside of their bedrooms.

## *N Drivers*

As our students develop friendships with local students, there will be situations where their friends offer them rides and drive them around. Our students are permitted to go with an N driver, but a reminder that the rule for N drivers is that they are only permitted ONE passenger in the car. Students cannot get a ride from another student just with an L. Our students cannot pursue a driver's licence during their time in Delta.



## *Delta ISP November Activity #1 - Post Secondary Fair*

### **November will again see two International Student activities**

The Post-Secondary Fair is for students who are here to graduate in BC, and likely carry on to a Canadian or American university.

It is a mandatory event for those Graduation Path students and takes place on November 7<sup>th</sup>, from 3:30PM to around 6:30PM at South Delta Secondary School.

Busing will be arranged for the students at our other 6 Secondary Schools.

Other students, here for half a school year or one school year, are welcome to come if they are interested in learning more about post-secondary options in Canada.

There will be 15 Post-Secondary Institutions from around Canada at the event.

## *Delta ISP November Activity #2 - Vancouver Canucks Game*

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be going to see the Vancouver Canucks take on the New York Islanders. We will travel together by school bus. Like with the other activities, it will be first come, first served. Sign up for the Vancouver Canucks game starts on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM.



Now is also a good time for a quick reminder that students **CANNOT** go to sporting events or concerts outside of Delta that end in the evening without an approved adult aged 25 or older.

### **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.

## Danger Zones - Review

We have shared these locations before, but now that students have settled in and are developing friendship groups, both international and local, it is a good time for a refresher.

Follow the [LINK](#) (see Page 2) to previous Newsletters that describe these danger zones in detail.

Your student should be asking you if they can go out in the evening. They need to provide you with the standard; who are they going out with, what is that person's cell phone number, where are they going, what time will they be home, etc.. This will be something that some students will need reminders of as it was not part of their daily routine prior to coming to Delta. All of those questions are "normal" in Canadian homes and it all comes from a place of caring.

## 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.

## Study Insured - Maple Virtual Health Mass Sign-up

We are still working on a date when students will meet at school and have a mass sign up session for their virtual health care accounts.

The goal is to have it this month, before the weather turns bad and cold and flu season starts.

It will likely be on a Collaboration Day (Wednesday) and Brent will send a mass email reminder to students and homestay parents to bring their Study Insured paperwork with them that day.

The paperwork is what they received during Registration at the School Board Office back in August.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:TGallant@GoDelta.ca)

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

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

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

**Brent Gibson - Homestay Manager International Programs**

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

