

HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR STUDENTS

Living in a Canadian homestay allows students to gain an understanding of Canadian celebrations and traditions. Students are encouraged to share in their host and extended family celebrations. If you aren't sure if your student is comfortable, ask how they feel and provide an opportunity for them to share different cultural traditions with your family. Small things like baking, shopping, going for walks, and participating in community events are much appreciated by your students. Please check out some of the Holiday Activities for families below. We would love for our students to enjoy the best of the holidays so do appreciate your careful attention when considering requests to attend events. Please do not hesitate to ask them for as many details as you need in order to ensure they have a safe plan approved by you.

ILLUMINATE Maple Ridge - Nov. 24 to Jan. 5, Downtown Maple Ridge

Enjoy an evening walk with the family in Memorial Peace Park and take the Candy Cane Tour around Maple Ridge Town Centre and take in the beautiful sights and sounds of the ILLUMINATE Maple Ridge holiday magic. [Click here for more details.](#)

Public Skating and Stick & Puck - Planet Ice Maple Ridge

Public skating time is available weekly with skate and helmet rentals available. Admission is priced by age. Stick & Puck times are also available and registration is available online (must bring own gear). [Click here for more details.](#)

CPKC Holiday Train - Dec. 17 at 7pm, Port Haney Station

The CPKC Holiday Train will stop at Port Haney with bright light displays and free performances by Tyler Shaw and Kiesza in support of local food banks. This is a free event, though it is encouraged to bring shelf-stable food or monetary donations. [Click here for more details.](#)

Glow Christmas Carnival, Glow Gardens - Nov. 23 to Dec. 30, 6690 216 St Langley

Incredible light displays, craft corner, scavenger hunt, local vendors market, live performances, food trucks, play zones, and the return of the Glow-comotive train ride! Tickets for purchase online (parking & attractions included with ticket). [Click here for more details.](#)

Fly Over Canada "Soar with Santa" - Nov. 16 to Jan. 7 at Canada Place, Vancouver

Soar with Santa across Canada and the North Pole in an original cinematic ride experience. Tickets range in price per date and age of guest and it is recommended that you book online well ahead of your preferred date and time slot. [Click here for more details.](#)

Canyon Lights at Capilano Suspension Bridge - Now to Jan. 21, Capilano

Cross the glowing suspension bridge, with the canyon and Capilano River illuminated with lights below. Journey above the forest floor between the eight tallest Christmas trees in the world on Treetops Adventure. Pricing varies by age and tickets must be purchased in advance online. [Click here for more details.](#)

The Peak of Christmas at Grouse Mountain - Nov. 24 - Dec. 25, Grouse Mountain
 Vancouver's North Pole! Christmas Light Walk, Santa, reindeer, huge outdoor skating pond, Christmas movies, crafts, and more! Breakfast buffet with Santa available to book. A variety of other activities including skiing, snowboarding, tubing, and snowshoeing are also available at Grouse. Equipment rentals are available. Purchase your passes online before you go.
[Click here for more details.](#)

Lights by the Lake at Harrison - Nov. 18 to Jan. 8
 Enchanting custom-built holiday displays transform the Harrison lakefront into a magical world of lights highlighting local wildlife and the elusive Sasquatch. Stroll along Harrison's promenade and delight in the warm glow of Christmas lights and charming winter window paintings. This is a free event. [Click here for more details.](#)

Lights at Lafarge - Nov. 24 - February, 1299 Pinetree Way Coquitlam
 Coquitlam's free, outdoor lights display will be returning this winter! Visitors can expect an exciting evening with two entertainment hubs, dazzling light displays that encircle the 1.2 km Lafarge Lake loop, food trucks, buskers, roving entertainers, family crafts and more. The perfect end to a day of gift shopping at Coquitlam Centre! [Click here for more details.](#)



Neighbourhood Light Tour

Gather your family, friends or neighbours and walk or drive around local neighbourhoods to scout out the best holiday lights and decorations! Spread the joy by leaving a surprise "prize" on the doorstep of the house with your favourite display, such as a Holiday card and/or small Starbucks gift card

Holiday Baking

Search for some new recipes or use your family favourites to bake up a storm! Decorating cookies is a great way to get everyone involved. You can even host your own bake-off or gingerbread house decorating competition with your student(s) and household!



Spread Cheer and Volunteer!

Whether it's for an event, organization, or for a neighbour in need there are many ways to volunteer this holiday season. Past students have volunteered with the Salvation Army, food bank, The Act Theater, and gathered donations for local hampers. Even shoveling snow (should it come) in your neighbourhood can be more helpful than you know! You can check out the [City of Maple Ridge site](#) or have students visit their counsellors at school for ideas before the break.

DIY Ornaments

There are so many holiday crafts to explore: from painting glass or wooden ornaments, crocheting, felting, and wreath making - the options are endless! Everyone can get involved in some type of crafting with holiday tunes or a classic holiday movie playing in the background.

Movie Night with Hot Cocoa Bar

Clear your kitchen island and set up a build-your-own-hot-cocoa station with all the fixings! Settle in to watch your family's favourite holiday movies while sipping your custom hot chocolate drinks. YUM!