



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY • 2024



Cayetana (Spain) and Friederike (Germany) with their host mom at the Lafarge Lake light display.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

To all of our host families - thank you for a wonderful 2023 and best wishes for 2024! We appreciate all that you do to make sure our international students feel welcome and at home in our country. 🇨🇦

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

Jan. 24 - Non-Instructional Day
(No Classes)

Jan. 27-29 - Semester 1 Student Departures

Feb. 1 - First Day of Classes for New Elementary Students

Feb. 1-4 - Semester 2 Student Arrivals

Feb. 5 - New Student Orientation
(New Secondary Students)

Feb. 6 - School Orientation & First Day of Classes for New Secondary Students

Feb. 19 - BC Family Day
(No Classes)

Feb. 20 - Non-Instructional Day
(No Classes)



Mar. 18 - Apr. 1 - Spring Break & Easter Long Weekend
(No Classes)



Giorgia (Italy) and Marta (Spain) at The ACT Theatre in the heart of Maple Ridge.

SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

We are back to offering 2-3 week programs for students who want a taste of what the Canadian experience is like. Students have a balanced schedule of school days and excursions on weekdays with time to spend with their homestays on the weekend. We have groups coming in March and Summer 2024 and will add more groups as demand grows. 2 students are typically placed per home for these programs. **If you are interested in hosting short-term students please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator!**



Florian (Germany) being picked up at YVR by his host mom.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





Mao (Japan) and Marla (Germany) visited Bowen Island with their host family, including their host pet!

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Students enter our program both to study and to immerse themselves in our community and culture. We encourage students to find activities outside of class to get involved in. If you find your student needs ideas or support to find local activities they enjoy, they can visit their school Liaison to start and view the bulletin boards at school. These boards often have sign-up sheets for after school clubs such as chess or board games, outdoor clubs, sports teams, community volunteer programs, study groups/tutoring, music or open-mic events. It could be a one-time event which leads to new friendships and more opportunity!

Engagement with your student is a vital part of the homestay family role. Small positive interactions go a long way when it comes to building a relationship and making them feel welcome and included in your home.

Students want to experience day-to-day life with their host family. At home, you could suggest a family activity such as an evening walk, movie night, checking out one of many parks/trails in your area, cooking together, or a game night. Include them in daily routines such as meal clean-up and running errands together. Efforts to include and engage your students are greatly appreciated and make all the difference to their Canadian experience!



COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES

Our International Department is committed to providing support to the homestay parents and students in our program. We believe in clear, open, and consistent communication. In most cases, minor conflict between a student and host family member can be worked out with a solution that is of mutual benefit. If the issue persists despite your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact your homestay coordinator for support in a timely manner. They can act as a mediator and help build or improve the relationship. We appreciate your efforts to approach conflict in a calm manner, as teens can test boundaries from time to time.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Students are expected to attend all classes.

It is important to inform the school if a student will be absent or late. Students must speak with their liaison and teachers to complete all work missed while they were away.

If students are unavoidably late or absent, the following procedures apply:

- Students who arrive to school late are required to sign in at the office.
- Students who leave the school during the school day must sign out at the office. Confirmation (note or phone call) from a host parent granting permission is required.
- If illness causes a student to miss school, **the host parent should notify the school (email/portal/phone call) before 8:30am.** Our office can not log absences, only schools.
- Students who participate in extra-curricular events should notify the school before the event of their absence.

Excessive unexcused absences and/or late arrivals will result in school-based intervention. If absences persist, students may be placed on an International Education Performance Contract.

HOMESTAY COORDINATORS

YUKI FREAD

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PMSS, THSS

SACHIKO TAKAHASHI

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MRSS, ATE, DJE, EME, HPE

YURI KIMURA

CASUAL 778-846-6231
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TRAVEL

There are many layers to the travel permission process for students in our custodial care. Our program Travel policies can be found [here](#). Please contact your homestay coordinator if you have any questions.



If your family plans to travel with an overnight stay, whether it is local or not, please be in touch with your homestay coordinator as soon as possible. If your student(s) will not be travelling with you, alternate arrangements will have to be made with the help of your homestay coordinator. Students are not permitted to stay overnight anywhere without the supervision of an approved adult over the age of 25.

HOST FILE UPDATES

Good news! Criminal Record Checks will now only need to be updated every 4 years rather than every 2 years.

Please advise your Homestay Coordinator of any changes to your family or home including pets, family members moving in/out, large renovations, dietary restrictions/accommodations, contact information updates etc. We appreciate you disclosing any frequent visitors to the home, such as a partners who do not live in the home permanently, so there are no surprises to students and/or parents.



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DC ADVENTURE TOURS

We will open second semester field trip bookings on February 6 to give new students joining our program in the New Year a chance to book. An email will be sent to students to let them know when registration is open. Remaining field trips include 1-Day Whistler Skiing, 4-Day Rocky Mountain excursion, 1-Day Victoria sightseeing, whale watching and more! These trips sell out quickly, so please encourage your students to check their emails weekly for updates. Interested students can view trips online [here](#) and use the link to sign up once registration is open.



Holiday Lights Tour field trip, December 2023.



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PITT MEADOWS**
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