



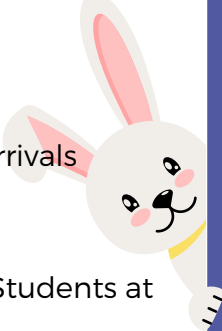
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

NEWSLETTER • MARCH • 2024

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

- Mar. 7 - 14** - Report cards issued
(Date varies per school)
- Mar. 10** - Spring Short-Term Program
Students Arrive
- Mar. 17** - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 18 - 28** - Spring Break
(No Classes)
- Mar. 19 - 22** - Rocky Mountains 4 Day Tour
(optional field trip)
- Mar. 24** - Spring Short-Term Program
Students Depart
- Mar. 26** - Victoria 1 Day Sightseeing Tour
(optional field trip)
- Mar. 29** - Good Friday
(No Classes)
- Mar. 30 - 31** - New Student Arrivals
- Apr. 1** - Easter Monday
(No Classes)
- Apr. 2** - Orientation for New Students at
Riverside Centre
- Apr. 22** - Earth Day



THANK YOU!

To all of our host families - thank you for your continuing support of our district homestay program and international students. Your efforts in making their stay in Canada the best it can be is greatly appreciated!



Jacinta (Chile) with her host family on Gabriola Island.

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 or can refer someone please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator!



New students at our February 2024 orientation posing with the Westview Wildcat!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





Winter 2024 short-term group from Korea checking out all that Thomas Haney Secondary offers.

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.

HOST FILE UPDATES

Good news! Criminal Record Checks will now 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, dietary restrictions/accommodations, large renovations, contact information updates etc. We appreciate you disclosing any frequent visitors to the home, such as close family members or partners who do not live in the home permanently, so there are no surprises to students and/or parents.

HOMESTAY COORDINATORS

YUKI FREAD

SUN-THURS 604-353-8823
yuki_fread@sd42.ca
PMSS, THSS

SACHIKO TAKAHASHI

TUES-SAT 604-880-6338
sachiko_takahashi@sd42.ca
WSS, FVE, HA, MRE

MEGUMI FORBES-KING

TUES-SAT 604-516-9531
megumi_forbes-king@sd42.ca
GSS, SRT, AL, ARE, BME

CECILIA JEONG

SUN-THURS 604-349-9951
cecilia_jeong@sd42.ca
MRSS, ATE, DJE, EME, HPE

YURI KIMURA

CASUAL 778-846-6231
yuri_kimura@sd42.ca



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.



New students with program coordinator Paula at Canada Place as part of our February orientation & Vancouver tour.

TRAVEL

There are layers to the travel permission process for students in our custodial care. Our program Travel policies can be found [here](#).

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. Please contact your homestay coordinator if you have any questions.



Finja (Germany) with her host family who went to cheer her on at her volleyball game!

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, including household tasks such as helping with dinner and running errands.

We have included some fun family activity ideas on the next page of this newsletter. Efforts to include and engage your students are greatly appreciated and make all the difference to their Canadian experience!



**MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS**
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

MARCH 2024

Family Activities

Although not required, students always appreciate extra outings or activities with their host families. It is a good way to bond and show them something they may not be able to experience otherwise. Although some of activities will need to be budgeted for, many of the ideas below are free or low-cost.

Here are a few ideas for some family fun:

- Explore the outdoors! Enjoy a walk, hike, bike ride, or picnic. Find the best parks [here](#). The [Lower Falls trail](#) at Golden Ears park is always a favourite, and Cliff Park near Garibaldi Secondary has awesome trails and photo ops.
- [Museum of Surrey](#) is featuring their “Everything is Still Awesome” exhibit and showcasing some awesome LEGO creations until March 31. Admission is free!
- Game night at home - choose your favourite games to play together while enjoying some snacks. Perhaps a friend or neighbour would like to share (or trade) some board games with your family to change things up!
- Cook or bake together! Try [homemade pizza](#), cupcake decorating, or find a new recipe or two to try out.
- Have a crafting day at home - choose 1-2 crafts to try out together! Browse online for some ideas such as paint-by-numbers, ceramics painting, or a birdhouse kit for the yard. You can get supplies from the dollar store or Michael's (check online for coupons!)
- Spend some quiet time together at the [Maple Ridge](#) or [Pitt Meadows library](#).
- Have a picnic and/or play field games together such as frisbee, soccer, badminton at your local park. Find the best parks [here](#).
- Check out [Osprey Village](#) in Pitt Meadows! Do some window shopping, grab a coffee or ice cream, and take a walk along the Fraser River and Pitt Meadows airport trail.
- Try out a new restaurant together, or show off your favourite local spot.
- Hunt for seashells and other treasures along Crescent Beach in South Surrey -- nothing beats the fresh ocean air! See the amazing views from the trails or with your toes in the sand.
- Public ice skating at [Planet Ice](#)
- Catch a movie at [Cineplex](#), [Hollywood 3 Cinema](#), or settle in at home to a movie marathon.
- [XSCAPE](#) Arcade inside the Cineplex in Langley has recently added new games!
- Take a drive along the Sea-to-Sky for amazing views. You can stop at the [Gondola](#) or make your way to Whistler to explore the village!
- Check out a local driving range to practice your golf swing. [Eaglequest](#) in Coquitlam even has a Toptracer range!

Congratulations
to the winners of our
Family Game Night
basket raffle from the
WSS catchment!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

