



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

NEWSLETTER • MAY • 2024



Students at Roger's Pass on their way home from the 4-day Rocky Mountains Tour.

CHANGES TO FEES

We are happy to announce an upcoming increase in monthly host fees from \$1050 per month to \$1150 per month, per student! The increase will be effective starting July 1, 2024.

SUMMER LEARNING

Summer Learning academic courses will begin on July 3 at Thomas Haney Secondary. Classes are from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a 30 minute lunch break. The last day of courses will be July 24. Only secondary students who are enrolled in a Summer Learning course are permitted to extend their stay in Canada past June 30. For more Summer Learning information, please visit this [link to the SD42 site](#).

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

May 15 - Non-Instructional Day
(No Classes)

May 20 - Victoria Day
(No Classes)

June 8 - Whale Watching & Steveston Village Tour
(Optional Field Trip)

June 25 - Last day of school

June 26 - Schools close for the Summer

June 29 - Final Report Cards Issued

June 26 - Schools Closed for Summer

June 25-28 - Student Departures
**Unless Attending Summer Learning*

July 1 - Canada Day

July 3-24 - Summer Learning

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2 - Expected 2024-2025 Student Arrivals

Sept. 3-4 - New Student Orientation & First Day of Classes
(Details to Come)



HOST FAMILY REFERRALS

Our homestay family referral program is still in effect! If you have friends, relatives, neighbours, or coworkers living within our district who would make a good host family, please refer them to us through your homestay coordinator. We will be offering several short-term programs in the 2024-2025 school year. These are a good opportunity for anyone curious about hosting international students to begin on a smaller scale, or for anyone who would like to host but has limited availability. Once we successfully onboard the referred family and place a student, you will receive a \$100 PC gift certificate as a thank you!

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Short-term group from Mexico, Spring Break 2024.

REPORT CARDS

End of year final report cards will be issued online by schools on June 29.

Our office forwards these reports to the students' agents and their natural parents. Students who have questions or concerns regarding report cards

after the last day of school should contact our office via email at ie_reception@sd42.ca for assistance



HOST FILE UPDATES

Good news! Criminal Record Checks will now need to be updated every 4 years rather than every 3 years.

Please advise your Homestay Coordinator of any changes to your family or home including pets, family members moving in/out, dietary restrictions or accommodations, large renovations, and contact information. If you have a more recent family photo for your profile please send it by email to your Homestay Coordinator. 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.

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.

HEALTHY EATING

Providing 3 healthy meals a day for your student is one of the most important responsibilities of a host family. Fueling our bodies with the right food will help keep them healthy and strong, both physically and mentally! Meal prepping is a great way to ensure everyone eats a healthy meal when time and budget are tight. You can make it a weekly family activity to spend a few hours together preparing meals to keep on hand. [Budgetbytes.com](https://www.budgetbytes.com) offers a wide



variety of nutritious meal-prep recipes at a low cost. They are delicious, easy to make, and low cost! I recommend trying the quick and simple [Ground Turkey Stir Fry](#) (and it's under \$2 per serving)!

DEPARTURES

Students ending their program in June must depart by or on June 30th. Alternate arrangements or requests to stay beyond June 30th will not be accommodated. Only students enrolled in a July academic course will be permitted to extend their stay over the summer. If your student shares new or different departure dates with you, please email our office at intedtravel@sd42.ca as soon as possible.

For students 16 and under, please assist them to check in and stay with them at YVR until they are through security. For students 17 and older, we recommend parking in the "Cell Phone Waiting" lot after dropping them off at YVR. Please remain in contact with them via text/phone to confirm they have successfully made it through security before returning home.

HOMESTAY COORDINATORS

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YURI KIMURA

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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 last page of this newsletter. Efforts to include and engage your students are greatly appreciated and make all the difference to their Canadian experience!

THANK YOU!

To all of our host families - thank you for your continuing support of our district homestay program and international students. It has been another great year and we could not do it without you! Your efforts in making their stay in Canada the best it can be is greatly appreciated.



**MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS**
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

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MAY 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. 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.
- 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!
- Explore local art during the [Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Art Studio Tour](#) (May 11-12)
- [FlyOver Canada](#) is now soaring over the Canadian Rockies, and Iceland too!
- [Haney Farmers' Market](#) is open for the season every Saturday with local vendors, food trucks, arts, and free performances.
- Head to the [Pitt Meadows Food Truck Spot](#) - discover different trucks each week with a variety of meal and snack options!
- Check out the [Vancouver Aquarium](#)
- Cook or bake together! Try homemade pizza, cupcake decorating, or find a new recipe or two to try out.
- Catch a movie at [Cineplex](#), [Hollywood 3 Cinema](#), or settle in at home to a movie marathon!
- [Twilight Drive-In](#) theatre in Langley is open for another season of outdoor movies.
- Check out [Science World](#)'s "Earth Matters" exhibition.
- Try out a new restaurant together, or show off your favourite local spot.
- 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!
- Breathe in the fresh air by the ocean at Belcarra Pier, Crescent Beach, Lighthouse Park...
- [The Rec Room](#) at Brentwood Mall has arcade games, ping pong, food, and more! Minors accompanied by their guardian are welcome until 10 pm.
- Check out a local driving range to practice your golf swing. [Eaglequest](#) in Coquitlam even has a Toptracer range!
- [WildPlay](#) adventure courses in Maple Ridge to get some energy 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!)

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