



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

## SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER • 2024

### THANK YOU!

To all of our host families - thank you for a great start to the 2024-2025 school year! We appreciate all that you do to make sure our international students feel welcome and at home in our country.



Some of our new students at the Stanley Park Totems during the Vancouver Tour, September 2024.

### COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

- Nov. 11** - Remembrance Day (No Classes)
- Nov. 12** - Non-Instructional Day (No Classes)
- Nov. 14** - Virtual Homestay Info Session 7pm
- Nov. 17** - Canucks Game  
(Optional Field Trip)
- Dec. 20** - Whistler 1 Day Ski Tour  
(Optional Field Trip)
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 3** - Winter Break
- Dec. 30** - Mount Seymour Tubing & Capilano Suspension Bridge  
(Optional Field Trip)
- Jan. 25-26** - Semester 1 student departures
- Feb. 1-2** - Semester 2 student arrivals



### REPORT CARDS

International students will be receiving a progress form at school the week of October 21st. Students will take this form to their classroom teachers for feedback and our office will collect these back from the school Liaison the following week for review. These mid-term reports will help us identify any areas of concern or opportunity so we can set a plan for improvement with students as needed before official term reports are issued in December. Term 1 report cards will be issued December 5th - 12th depending on the school. These reports will be forwarded to agents and the students' natural parents.

**Host parents do not attend students conferences, as the mid-term reports are collected in lieu.** It is recommended that

host parents review the report card in December to help monitor attendance and work habits. We want our students to have the best education experience possible, so if there is room for improvement, it is helpful if you are aware. If you suspect your student is struggling at school or is not attending regularly, please get in touch with your homestay coordinator.



WSS student Lola R.V. (Spain) submitted this photo and won our first field trip photo contest of the year! All entries are available to view on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





SRT student Kantaro (Japan) celebrating host sister's birthday with his lovely homestay family!



## STUDENT SAFETY

As the weather turns and it becomes dark earlier, we would appreciate your help in reminding students of pedestrian safety. Please encourage the use of reflective gear/gadgets -- we included one in orientation bags this year. Cellphone flashlights can be used if they do not have anything reflective on-hand, and wearing headphones while walking should be avoided. Helmets should be worn when on a bike, scooter, etc. Students should pre-plan their routes and be aware of their surroundings. Please offer rides to your students if you are able when conditions are less safe.

## HOMESTAY COORDINATORS

### MEGUMI FORBES-KING

TUES-SAT 604-516-9531  
megumi\_forbes-king@sd42.ca  
SRT, THSS

### CECILIA JEONG

SUN-THURS 604-349-9951  
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MRSS

### JOY JIN

SUN-THURS 604-353-8823  
joy\_jin@sd42.ca  
GSS, PMSS

### SACHIKO TAKAHASHI

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### YURI KIMURA

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## HOMESTAY UPDATES

1.) Our homestay family referral program is still in effect! If you know of someone living within our district who would make a good host family, please refer them to us through your Homestay Coordinator or [online here](#). Once we onboard the referred family successfully and place a student, you will receive a \$100 PC gift certificate as a thank you!

2.) Do you know of anyone considering hosting international students? We will be hosting a virtual information session on Thursday, November 14 at 7pm via Zoom! This is a great opportunity to learn more about our homestay program and be able to ask questions. Anyone interested can register by emailing us at [ie\\_reception@sd42.ca](mailto:ie_reception@sd42.ca).

3.) We are offering short-term programs this school year. These are a great 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. If you or someone you know may be interest please reach out to your Homestay Coordinator.

4.) The BC Ministry of Education's K-12 Homestay Guidelines have been updated. Please take a moment to review them on our website [here](#).



Conrad (Germany) and Myoungjun (S. Korea) enjoying some Fall fun at the pumpkin patch with their amazing host family!



## 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 the school which the student attends.
- 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.

## PARENT PORTAL

Host parents are connected to the parent portal automatically to stay informed about upcoming school events. For school field trips (*different than the optional trips offered to international students*) you will need to confirm your student would like to attend via the portal. This will trigger a notification to our department to authorize the trip as the legal custodian. Your email in the portal must match what we have on file. If payment is required for the field trip, students should pay at school directly (cash preferred). To access your parent portal account, click [here](#).

## ROLE OF AN AGENT

Agents are paid consultants based in Canada or abroad who help to arrange aspects of an international student's education or travel. International students and their families sometimes hire agents to help place the student in an international student program.

International student agents should:

- Provide support to international student programs, homestay program providers, and international students and their families, particularly in regard to communicating with the parent/guardian.
- Be familiar with the B.C. K-12 International Student Homestay Guidelines and the best practices expectations of the homestay sector in British Columbia.
- Help students understand and abide by all rules and guidelines established by the homestay program.



Agents should communicate with our program staff directly and should not be in contact with homestay families. Please contact your Homestay Coordinator if you have any questions.



Lynn Canyon Park field trip, September 2024

## HEALTH RESOURCES

Cold and flu season is back! We ask that you remind students of the importance of proper hand hygiene and sneeze/cough etiquette as needed. Students should not attend school if they are feeling unwell or have symptoms of illness. Absences must be reported to the school by the host parent.

International students who have an MSP number (BC services card) are eligible to receive a flu shot at any pharmacy, and the grade 6 and 9 immunizations administered by public health nurses at school should they choose to do so. Prior vaccination records will need to be sent to Fraser Health to confirm they are eligible for the grade 6 and 9 immunizations. Questions regarding immunizations can be directed to your homestay coordinator.



**Links to Fraser Health Resources:**

[Healthy Back-to-School Guide](#)

[School Health: Find answers to FAQs](#)

## TRAVEL

There are many layers to the travel permission process for students in our custodial care. Please review our program Travel policies 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, it is mandatory that you inform our office.** Please be in touch as soon as possible as alternate arrangements will have to be planned for with the help of your Homestay Coordinator if your student(s) will not be travelling with you. Students in our custodial care are not permitted to stay overnight anywhere, including their homestay, without the supervision of a program approved adult over the age of 25.

Students returning home due to their program ending in December or January must promptly send their return flight information to [intedtravel@sd42.ca](mailto:intedtravel@sd42.ca). Transportation to/from the airport should be arranged well ahead during this busy time of year.



## MEDICAL INSURANCE

International students are insured through StudyInsured, which allows us to provide better service and additional support to students and host families when dealing with medical issues. More information and helpful print-outs for Study Insured can be found online [here](#).

StudyInsured's online Virtual Health service connects students with doctors who can support them online with services available in multiple languages. 24 hour multilingual support is available through their INTREPID24/7 service. **For any medical needs that may arise, such as clinic or hospital visits, your first call should always be to their toll-free 24/7 medical help line: 1-866-883-9787.**

Students can also access free professional counselling and mental health assistance by phone at **1-833-646-1524**. Calls are completely private and will not be shared with our program, schools, parents, or the insurance company.

Full year students are registered for MSP after a 90 day wait period. An MSP number and BC Services Card will be provided to the student. It is very important that the student and/or host family do NOT change the mailing address for MSP. This could happen when taking the student to the hospital or doctor and they ask to confirm the student's address. Changing the address will cause invoices to be delivered to your home. Our office address should remain on file: 20575 Thorne Avenue, V2X 9A6.

If you have questions regarding insurance coverage, please reach out to your homestay coordinator or contact our office for assistance.

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## RECIPE FEATURE

This month we are featuring a classic childhood favourite from Brazil called “Cachorro Quente” -- Brazilian Hot Dogs!

*This recipe is for 10 hot dogs.*

### **Ingredients:**

- 10 Hot Dogs (any brand)
- 10 Hot dog buns (toasting them optional)
- Minced Garlic (2-3 cloves or as preferred)
- 1-2 Green Peppers
- 1/2 Large Yellow Onion
- 2 Tbsp Unsalted Butter
- Marina Sauce (1/2 jar or about 1.5 cups)
- 1/2 Cup Water

### **Topping Suggestions:**

- Parmesan Cheese
- Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, etc.
- “Batata Palha” Potato Sticks, or crushed potato chips

### **Directions:**

- 1.) Slit hot dogs vertically
- 2.) Heat a medium or large saucepan over medium heat and melt the butter
- 3.) Chop the onion and bell peppers into strips and add to the saucepan. Sauté until soft
- 4.) Add garlic and cook until fragrant
- 5.) Add marinara sauce & water, stir to combine
- 6.) Submerge the hot dogs and bring to a simmer. Let hot dogs cook through (7-10 minutes)
- 7.) Transfer the hot dogs to the buns, scooping sauce and veggies as desired. Top with suggested toppings and enjoy!



MRSS students Vu Quoc Khanh (Vietnam) and Unai (Spain) cooking dishes from their home countries to share with their extended host family!

## MEALS AT HOME & SCHOOL

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!

Students should eat breakfast at home before school, or bring a travel-friendly breakfast to school to eat before class.

**We strongly discourage students from taking advantage of the breakfast incentive programs at schools as these are intended to support vulnerable families who do not have funding allocated for meals.** Please contact your Homestay Coordinator should you have any questions regarding meals.

We suggest asking your student what their favourite healthy snacks are or taking them grocery shopping with you to find some items you can all enjoy.

Click [here](#) for valuable information on healthy eating and tips on family nutrition from the Government of Canada!



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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

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