



# INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS**

NEWSLETTER • JANUARY • 2025



MRSS students Ose (Germany) and Elena (Spain) with their host siblings at Lafarge Lake.

## COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

**Jan. 25-26** - Semester 1 Student Departures

**Jan. 28** - Non-Instructional Day

*(No Classes)*

**Feb. 1-2** - Semester 2 Student Arrivals

**Feb. 3** - New Secondary Student  
Orientation at Riverside Centre

**Feb. 3** - First Day of Classes for New  
Elementary Students

**Feb. 4** - School Orientation & First Day of  
Classes for New Secondary Students

**Feb. 4** - Field Trip Registration Opens

**Feb. 13** - Whistler 1 Day Ski Tour

*(Optional Field Trip)*

**Feb. 14** - Non-Instructional Day

*(No Classes)*

**Feb. 17** - BC Family Day

*(No Classes)*

**Mar. 17-20** - Rocky Mountains 4 Day Tour

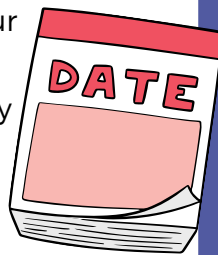
*(Optional Field Trip)*

**March 28** - Victoria 1 Day Sightseeing Tour

*(Optional Field Trip)*

**Mar. 15-30** - Spring Break

*(Schools Closed)*



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

To all of our host families - thank you for a wonderful 2024 and best wishes for 2025! We appreciate all that you do to make sure our international students feel welcome and at home in our country. 🇨🇦



Vancouver Canucks hockey game, November 2024.

## SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

We offer 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 with time to spend with their homestays on the weekend.

We have groups coming in January, March and Summer 2025 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!

**FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**





MRSS International Student Holiday Party, December 2024.

## 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!



## HOST FILE UPDATES

Criminal Record Checks are now online and free of cost for our program! You will receive instructions and a link from your Homestay Coordinator when it is time for you to renew. Record Checks will now only 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, 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.

## 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 needs to excuse the absence by notifying 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.

## HOMESTAY COORDINATORS

### CECILIA JEONG

SUN-THURS 604-349-9951  
cecilia\_jeong@sd42.ca  
MRSS

### JOY JIN

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

### SACHIKO TAKAHASHI

TUES-SAT 604-880-6338  
sachiko\_takahashi@sd42.ca  
WSS

### YURI KIMURA

TUES-SAT 778-846-6231  
yuri\_kimura@sd42.ca  
SRT, THSS

### MICHELLE DU

CASUAL 604-516-9531  
michelle\_du@sd42.ca



Nayaphat (Thailand) and Maira (Brazil) with their host siblings.

## DC ADVENTURE TOURS

We will open second semester field trip bookings at 9:00am on February 4th 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 registration is open and how to access the bookings. Remaining field trips for the year include the 1 Day Whistler Ski Tour, 4 Day Rocky Mountain excursion, 1 Day Victoria sightseeing tour, Sewell's Sea Safari 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.

## 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.

Please contact [intedtravel@sd42.ca](mailto:intedtravel@sd42.ca) promptly to inform us of any flight details you may become aware of that differ from those confirmed with you via email from our office. Transportation to/from the airport should be arranged well ahead during this busy time of year.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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 and come to a resolution. You can also access our [Health & Wellness Guidelines and resources here](#) to help you support your student(s) through the challenges of acculturation stress, homesickness, and other mental health concerns. We appreciate your efforts to approach conflict in a calm manner, as teens can test boundaries from time to time.



## MEDICAL INSURANCE

Please contact your Homestay Coordinator if your student has been injured or unusually ill. It is important to communicate this with our office so we can assist or follow up as needed.

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.

## RECIPE FEATURE

This month's recipe is a French Canadian classic -- Hot Chicken Sandwiches! This simple and inexpensive dish is often served with fries or mashed potatoes.



*\*\* Of course you can make this dish with home cooked chicken & sauce, but we will keep this version effortless and store-bought!*

### Ingredients:

- Rotisserie chicken, pulled or chopped
- Sandwich bread (white bread is traditionally used, but you can substitute for your favourite type or try butter croissants)
- Package or can of Brown Sauce (found in gravy aisle) St. Hubert brand is best but you can also find ClubHouse brand
- Canned or frozen sweet peas
- Butter (Optional)
- White onion, garlic, and/or shredded cheese are optional add-ins



### Directions:

1. Make the brown sauce per the package instructions.
2. Shred, pull, or chop the rotisserie chicken and heat the meat.
3. Heat your peas until soft. You can add onions or garlic if you would like.
4. Place bread on a plate and butter (optional), then add a layer of chicken and sauce. Create a second layer like this and add peas on top. Add cheese if you desire.
5. Eat with a fork and knife and enjoy!



**MAPLE RIDGE  
PITT MEADOWS**  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM