



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

NEWSLETTER • MARCH • 2025



New secondary students for Semester 2 exploring Gastown as part of their orientation tour.

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

Mar. 17-28 - Spring Break

(No Classes)

Mar. 17-20 - Rocky Mountains 4 Day Tour

(optional field trip)

Mar. 26 - Victoria 1 Day Sightseeing Tour

(optional field trip)

Mar. 31 - Orientation for New April Students
at Riverside Centre

Apr. 18 - Good Friday

(No Classes)

Apr. 21 - Easter Monday

(No Classes)

Apr. 25 - Sea to Sky Gondola & Climbing

(optional field trip)



CHILDREN'S DAY FESTIVAL

The CEED Centre Society will be hosting a free Children's Day Festival on May 3, 2025 at the CEED Centre Neighbourhood House. The Festival will celebrate Japanese Canadian culture with traditional crafts and family oriented activities, like Koi Nobori streamer making, Japanese calligraphy, and origami. On this day they will also inaugurate a permanent exhibit called "Remembering the Lost Legacy of the Japanese Canadian Farming Community in Maple Ridge". More info can be found [here](#).

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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!



MRSS goodbye party for students who left this January.

HOST FILE UPDATES

Please advise your Homestay Coordinator of any changes to your family or home including pets, family members moving in/out, dietary restrictions/accommodations, large renovation plans, 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.

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. Once we successfully onboard the referred family and place a student, you will receive a \$100 PC gift certificate as a thank you!





Taisei Japanese High School Principal and teacher with some of their students studying in SD42 and HSCs Yuri and Sachiko.

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!



TAISEI HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

On Feb. 21st, Taisei Japanese High School Principal Makoto Adachi and English Teacher Takuto Hayashi toured three of our secondary schools where some of their students are studying. On Feb. 22nd, they conducted an English test and interviews with Japanese Taisei students to gather information about their study abroad experience. Taisei High School also invited homestay families for a sushi and pizza lunch as an expression of thanks for hosting their students. Thank you to the homestay families who made time to meet the Principal and English teacher and join in the thank you lunch!

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Students are expected to attend all classes. This includes attending TA and open blocks at Thomas Haney. 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.

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.



Carlotta (Spain) and Giulia (Italy) in Squamish with their host mom and sibling.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards for secondary student are to be issued the last week of February or first 2 weeks on March (school dependent). These reports are forwarded to the students' agents and natural parents. It is recommended that host parents review report cards 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. There may also be something positive your student would like to share with you.

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.



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



We have international students from

27

countries studying with us in SD42 this year!



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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 featured recipe is a favourite side dish from Sweden -- Swedish Hasselback Potatoes!



Serve with your favourite protein, BBQ, roasted or steamed veggies, and more!

Ingredients:

- 6 large Yukon Gold or Russet potatoes
- Olive oil or bacon grease
- Garlic (4-6 cloves or 2 tbsp. crushed)
- 1 sprig of Rosemary
- Salt & pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F.
2. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Pour bacon grease or oil on the baking sheet (enough to cover whole sheet) and spread the crushed garlic cloves and rosemary on the sheet pan.
3. Use a sharp knife to cut across the potatoes on the short edge to create 1/16" to 1/8" sections. Do not cut through the potato, but cut two-thirds the way down, leaving at least a 1/2 inch solid base at the bottom.
4. Roll the cut potatoes around on the baking sheet to cover them with the oil mixture. Set them cut-side-up and sprinkle each potato generously with salt and pepper, making sure to get inside the potato slices.
5. Roast in the oven for 30 minutes. Use tongs to squeeze the base of each potato to open up the folds. Use a pastry brush to brush the herb-infused pan oils over the top of each potato and in between the folds.
6. Roast in the oven for another 30 minutes, until the largest potato is fork-tender.



**MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS**
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM