

NEW WEST INTERNATIONAL

newsletter

| Volume 02

Tis the Season for FUN!

The winter break is such a wonderful opportunity to make memories and explore. We also know that for some students the winter break can feel long. So if your student (or you and your family) are looking for some ideas, below are a few of our favourites.



- 1.) Playground of the Gods (SFU)
- 2.) Vancouver Christmas Market
- 3.) The PNE Winter Fair
- 4.) Van Dusen Festival of Lights
- 5.) Burnaby Village Museum



- 6.) The Canyon Lights at The Capilano Suspension Bridge
- 7.) Grouse Mountain

- 8.) Gingerbread Lane (Hyatt Regency)
- 9.) Robson Square Ice Skating

- 10.) Festival of Trees (Vancouver Fairmont)

- 11.) Snowflake Spectacular
(Dec 15 in Uptown, New West)

- 12.) Light Up the Night Family Skate
(Dec 23, Moody Park)

- 13.) Lights at Lafarge

- 14.) The Shipyards Skate Plaza (N. Vancouver)

- 15.) Christmas at Canada Place



AUTUMN AND WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

PUMPKIN CARVING

We hosted our first Pumpkin Carving Event for our International Students at NWSS with 23 teams participating! Everyone had a fabulous time and we were delighted with the creativity of our students.



WHISTLER TRIP

A group of our international students went to Whistler for the weekend! They explored the beautiful nature and learnt about Squamish and Lil'wat First Nation culture. A trip up the Sea-to-Sky Gondola and a walk in the lighted forest in Vallea Lumina were also highlights of the trip.



Student Medical

Seeing a doctor through mobileDOCTOR
-It only applies to the one semester students, and the full year students at their first three months upon arrival
-Visit www.guard.me/mobiledoctor to sign up and see a doctor virtually

Seeing a doctor through Maple (MSP holders)
-It only applies to the full year students who have received MSP card and they can make an appointment on Maple to see a doctor virtually

Seeing a doctor in a public walk-in medical clinic, urgent care, or hospital emergency
-One semester students may need to pay first and keep the receipt. Student can come to International Office with the receipt and the Financial Manager can assist the student with submitting the claim
-Full year student may present their MSP card to see a doctor



Student Travel

New Westminster Schools takes student safety seriously.

-Students may take day trips with their friends to any cities within Greater Vancouver area.

-Students cannot travel independently outside of Greater Vancouver area or overnight without adult supervision and program approval. If students plan to travel, they must be accompanied by an adult member of their host family, natural family, or an approved adult supervisor and they must be 25 years or older with written permission from the natural parent(s). Student must submit a Travel Request Form to International Office to process and wait for approval before proceeding.

-When the student is returning directly to their home country during school breaks, they don't need to submit the Travel Request Form.

-Most students will require a USA Visitor's Visa to enter the United States of America. If traveling to the States, be sure to find out about visa requirements well in advance of departure.





HOMESTAY HIGHLIGHTS



An Inspiring story we would like to share:

Our international student Lucia from Italy is staying with our international program for the full year and she has made great connections with her host family Nikki and Gene who have been hosting for many years. In late November, Nikki and Gene decided to secretly invite Lucia's best friend who studies at a high school in Comox Valley to take a ferry to Vancouver, and show up as a surprise at their home. Lucia has had a blast on her birthday exploring Vancouver and joining local events with her best friend and her host family. What an amazing and unforgettable experience for her, her friend, and her host family! The story has also highlighted our day!

Words from our Homestay Family Nikki and Gene:

'Nikki and I have loved the opportunity to open our home to host international students. We have found that they enrich our lives as much as we enrich theirs. The student's parents have entrusted us on giving them the Canadian experience, which we relish. Our philosophy is to treat them like our own children, (as we'd expect the same if we sent our children overseas to study). This year, an opportunity presented itself, as our current student has a dear friend from her home town living/studying in the Comox Valley. And I'll like to publicly thank both student programs for facilitating (quietly), the surprise birthday present we organized for our student, who was overjoyed at being re-united with her friend for a weekend.'

We've loved showing off New West, Vancouver, British Columbia and Washington to our student, but it's experiences like that will stay with them longer.'



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