

For immediate release

April 22 2025

International student homestay host families needed

COMOX, VALLEY B.C. – Comox Valley Schools' International Student Program (ISP) is seeking host families for the upcoming school year. This cultural exchange initiative continues to thrive, bringing international students from over 24 countries to the Comox Valley this past year alone. Additionally, the ISP has provided more than 30 local students with enriching opportunities to study abroad in countries such as Japan, Thailand, Spain, Germany, and France.

Hosting an international student offers families a culturally rewarding experience, supported by dedicated ISP staff who work to ensure the journey is positive and fulfilling for everyone involved. The program welcomes all kinds of households, including families with school-aged children, couples without children, and empty nesters looking to share their home and community.

"Being a host family is a unique opportunity to foster meaningful connections, learn about diverse cultures firsthand, and positively impact a young person's life," said Youn Hee Edmonds, Homestay Supervisor of ISP. "We encourage members of the Comox Valley community to open their homes to international students, helping make our district even more vibrant and inclusive."

Host families receive ongoing support from the ISP team, as well as a generous monthly tax-free honorarium, which has recently increased by 7.5% to \$1075, to offset the costs associated with hosting.

Those interested in becoming a host family are invited to contact Youn Hee Edmonds at Younhee.edmonds@sd71.bc.ca or Krista Oliphant at Krista.oliphant@sd71.bc.ca for additional information and to apply.

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