



MEDIA RELEASE

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SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 22 WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Students will join high school and elementary programs from Andorra to Vietnam, and many countries in between.

"Not sure where Andorra is?", asks Tracy Godfrey, International Principal. "That is the beauty of the international program being right here in District #22. We learn more about our world all the time from our students, their families, and our agents. We really do *welcome the world* to our excellent education programs, the beauty of our outdoor scenery and activities, and work with over 200 District families to support our students. Our homestay families truly are their 'home away from home'".

Homestay families receive a stipend of \$900/month (as of September 2022), but as Homestay Coordinators Danielle Wycott and Fatima Nunes explain, the financial gesture is not the reason to get into the program.

"Truly, it is the friendships and bonds between families around the world that make the homestay program so dynamic. We know of families who, 15 years after their student moves away, are still in touch, attend graduation ceremonies and weddings, and then watch their students as they raise their own children."

"It's not always easy", says Nunes, "but that's the job of the coordinator - to work with our students and families to find that balance between their needs and wants, to help all parties look at some issues from an intercultural perspective, and ensure that we can all still enjoy the experience of learning together in this wonderful region." Many homestay families bring their students with them on their family trips - whether to southern BC camping or to extended trips to visit family in the Lower Mainland or on the Island.

Godfrey says that adding a student to your family makes for a dynamic and exciting program right here in our own backyard, and that her entire team is "keen to meet our 2022-23 group of students!".

For more information, contact:

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