

BRING THE WORLD HOME.

When you host an international student
you may be surprised by how your family will grow.



In January, the NSISP launched a provincial campaign to bring further awareness to the program across the province. “*Bring the World Home*” ([promotional video link](#)) focused on the benefits of hosting an international student in your home. The campaign ran on Twitter, Facebook, and resulted in an interview on local television ([link to video](#)). To date, response to the campaign has been positive and with growth in our homestay program the NSISP can continue to welcome more international students to Nova Scotia while maintaining the same quality of homestay we have always offered. More information on hosting can be found [here](#).

Host Family Testimonials...

The idea of hosting an international student was new to our family at first. After some discussions with my daughter and husband about the benefits of providing a home to an international student, we excitedly decided to jump in with both feet. Zeynep arrived at the end of August. We were all still in summer mode when Zeynep arrived so she got to join in with us on camping trips and the routines of starting to prepare for the upcoming school year. Zeynep quickly fit into our hectic life. She welcomed life at the campground, made new friends and participated in our family events.

Before we knew it, we were back at the grindstone with school, work and extracurricular activities. Zeynep fit in as if she had been here forever. She started her new school, became a member of the student council and found her way in the community; becoming involved in things of interest to her, as well as making friends along the way. Zeynep has decided to participate in the program again next year. We had initially planned on an adventure for our family for a year; however we could not imagine Zeynep coming back to Nova Scotia and staying anywhere else but with us. Thank you for the experience this has brought to our family.

Nicole Boudreau and Family



We truly feel that we hit the student jackpot.

Participating in the NSISP program has been a wonderful, heartwarming, amazing experience. It has also been fascinating to watch his English improve and his vocabulary grow

from those first initial Facebook messages in broken English, to holding and understanding entire conversations, and swelling with pride at these accomplishments as his Canadian ‘mom’. We know our time with Andre will be drawing to a close soon and it will be a difficult goodbye for all of us, but we are confident that we will remain in touch long after his departure and are already planning a trip to Brazil someday. We can’t wait to see what the future holds for Andre and can truly say that he has a special place in our hearts ... he’s our Andre.

The Reddick Family



Celebrating Christmas & New Year's—Student Perspectives

About the Holidays, on x-mas eve we went to almost everybodys house to give them their presents, and also, we had a party in Isabells house, Peggys mom, it was funny because when we got there the fire alarm was on biping haha and then me and Emma helped Peggy and Isabell to make the food and all stuff, Isabell was messing up one thing or other and we were laughing i really enjoyed that haha then we ate and i think we went home i cant actually remember.. on xtmass day, we woke up to breakfast Scott and Corey came here to have that with us, and we opened the gifts, it was awesome i loved my gifts, and i think they liked what we bought to them by the evening we went to Melissas house to have the big x-tmas supper, it was fun too i liked the family thing because it reminded me of my family. Well, about new years i didn't spend with them, i was in Rafaelas house, but i also enjoyed that, we ate bbq, danced etc, and we stayed up till 7am haha and today, i think you saw the video but yeah, i ran in the water and almost died freezing haha ~ Lais (Brazil)



Happy New Year ! I send you what I've done during my holiday. I've spend most of time with my family and the kids. On Christmas they woke me up at 5am to open the gifts, it was a lot of fun for us to open all of them together. I've never seen so many gifts before, that was amazing for me. Yesterday I've gone to a little new year party with other international students. I had fun too ! I think I'm more closer with the family since the beginning of the holidays and I enjoyed to spend so many time with Josh and Mitchell. See ya soon !



- Justine (Belgium)

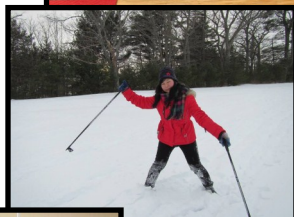
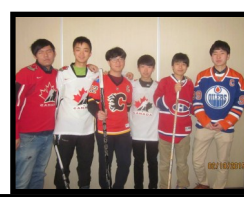
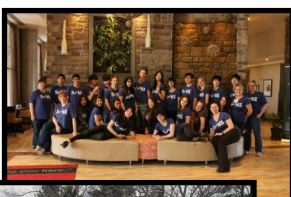
SAYING GOOD-BYE

Hi Jillian. It's difficult to explain all my satisfaction and happiness to have met a person like you. I want to thank you for everything you did for me. You were an amazing person to me in these past months. You don't care about your students because it's your job, but because you love them. And that's what makes you a great person. When I was sad, you were there, comforting me and supporting me. Every time I looked into your eyes, I saw hope, I saw someone I could always rely on. I can't forget you. Thanks for everything, I'll miss you a lot, I hope I can see you again someday. Vinny (Brazil)



SAYING HELLO

All seven regional school boards welcomed new students to Nova Scotia for second semester. Here is a selection of photos taken from their orientations.



Student Ambassador Testimonial

Being the Student Ambassador for Sackville High school has taught me many things. I have learned many interesting things about the international students on a personal level, but I have also learned things about their countries. For example; my buddy Janet's favourite part of a hockey game is watching the Zamboni clean the ice. In Janet's home country China, she celebrates Christmas with her family by walking around the city looking at pretty decorations. In Spain, Albert and his family celebrate the tradition of "El Tio." This is a decorated log or tree trunk which they give sweets and candies during the days up to Christmas and then on Christmas day they beat El Tio with sticks until he gives them candies to have and share with their family. Sarah's favourite tea is Vita Plus from the Philippines. Not only have I learned things about these amazing people, I have learned a little more about myself through this experience. I am now confident in myself, so that I may go up to someone new and introduce myself to them and make them feel welcomed and like they belong. I have gained so much from being friends with all of these unique and special people, who were so brave to come here all alone, miles away from their home and families. They came to learn how to speak English and how things work in our culture, but I hope they learn so much more. I hope they learn little random things about the friends they make here like I have learned about them. But most importantly I hope that they learn that no matter how far away they travel, and no matter the distance between us they will always have a friend in me. **Madeline Mitchell, Grade 12, Sackville High School**

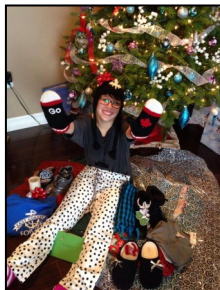


Passport Challenges

This year the NSISP introduced "passports" to the international students. The passport size booklet has ideas on ways for students to enjoy their times in Nova Scotia. Each month the NSISP issues a photo challenge to the international students and the top photo wins a prize. Photos are on the NSISP Facebook page.

December Challenge

Challenge: Take a photo next to your home stay families Christmas Tree. The student who submits the nicest photo on this page by February 2 will win the prize. Prize: \$50 gift card to Cineplex.



Winner: Lena Gerner, Germany



Winner: Deniz Celikkaya, Turkey

January Challenge

Challenge: Take a photo doing a winter activity. The student who posts the most photos on this page of winter activities by February 9 will win the prize. Prize: \$50 gift card to Tim Hortons



Winner: Laura Guevara, Colombia

February Student Challenge

Challenge: take a photo of your favourite Canadian food(s). Get creative, think lobster, donair poutine! Student who posts the best picture receives a East Coast Lifestyle hoodie. Contests ends March 10. Watch our Facebook page for the winner!