



15 September 2021

Metchosin Muse Submission

Local Host Families Help Complete a Global Education

by Dawn Boshcoff, Host Family/Volunteer Coordinator, Pearson College UWC

This summer I was delighted to accept a new part-time position at Pearson College UWC as the incoming Host Family and Volunteer Program Coordinator. Connecting more local families, other volunteers and regional partners with our remarkable students from up to 160 countries is my mandate and one of the most important parts of our overall approach to global education at Pearson.

[Host Families](#) are volunteers who host our students in their homes during scheduled breaks and for short respites during the school year. For nearly 50 years, many Metchosin residents and families from around the Greater Victoria region have welcomed Pearson students aged 16-19 from across Canada and around the world.

But last year, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically limited these opportunities for students to experience life with a West Coast Canadian family. As B.C. looks ahead to steadily-increasing rates of vaccination, we look forward to safely and prudently re-activating a robust Host Family Program.

Homestays through the Host Family Program provide much needed respite from student studies for an overnight, a weekend or a short period of time during one of the breaks throughout the school year. In return, Pearson homestay families are given a unique opportunity to develop close relationships with these exceptional youth, learn more about their respective cultures and to further enhance their family's lives and experiences and sharing our Canadian culture in a family residential setting.

As many Host Families have told us over the years, the rewards of offering short stays to students can last a lifetime through an ongoing relationship with a young person who may become a positive changemaker in Canada or on the other side of the Earth.

We would love for your household to consider offering your hospitality to one of our students, while embracing them as part of your extended family. To learn more about how to provide a volunteer homestay, please email me at dboshcoff@pearsoncollege.ca. If you would like more information about the Host Family Program and other volunteer opportunities, please check our website at <https://www.pearsoncollege.ca/get-involved/>.

We are privileged to learn, work, and live on the traditional territory of the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation. [Pearson College UWC](#) was founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College (UWC) of

the Pacific in 1974 as unique -year pre-university school for up to 200 students from across Canada and around the world chosen solely on their promise and potential and demonstrated commitment to actively engage in creating a better world. Students are from up to 160 countries worldwide to attend Pearson or one of 17 other United World Colleges worldwide.