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The ELI Weekly

The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, January 29th, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the fall term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend. We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet and head to the different sites. Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 4pm on Thursday, January 27th. There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

Mill Creek Horse Farm— Help groom, pet, and feed retired horses from 8:15am-12noon. Meet at Norman Garage.

Emeritus— Play games and talk with elderly people of Gainesville from 1:45-4pm. Meet at the Cabana Beach club house.

St. Francis House—Help with projects inside and outside the homeless shelter from 8:40am-1pm. Meet at Norman Garage. Wear work clothes!

Angel Food Ministries— Come assist in collecting, packaging and distributing food for homeless

shelters. from 8-11:30am. Meet at Norman Garage and wear clothes that can get dirty.

If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Ximena in the CIP Office, Room 318.

Have a great day, everyone!

Notes from the Office

- **ELI T-Shirts**-Don't forget, we have the ELI T-Shirts for sale in the ELI main office, \$10 each, sizes S, M, L, X-L, 2X, cash only, exact change, sold from 8:30am-1:30pm.
- **Class Attendance**-Remember, your attendance is very, very important. Your teachers are taking note of both your absences and your tardies in every class every day. Don't forget that 3 tardies equals one absence.
- **Student Mailbox**-Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time. There is mail for some returning students already. Also, if you had your official TOEFL scores sent here to the ELI, they are in the box now.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to Tampa to **Busch Gardens!** This is a van trip. **Transportation:** PLEASE reserve your spot on a van by signing up and paying \$20 in the CIP Office on Wednesday, January 26th between 9:20-1:30. (Cash only, exact change, non-refundable.)

Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 28-Feb 3:

Students:

January 30: Reyner Martinez Rodriguez

February 2: Fahad Al Wadhadi

February 2: Wen Zhao Chen

February 2: Minjeong Hwang

February 2: Chang-Sheng Lee

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Some of my classmates don't use deodorant and the classroom smells strong sometimes. Is it okay if I tell them?

A: No, but it's okay if I do here. Folks, this is always something of a problem for us, given the multicultural nature of the ELI and the fact that deodorant use isn't common in some countries, while it's very common or even basically socially required in others. Here in the US, we do have people who actively protest and get quite angry when people indicate that they might benefit from the use of deodorant, but even a great majority of us do use it, too. If you come from a culture that doesn't use it, please be aware that you probably smell pretty strong to your classmates and maybe even some of your teachers. If you are aware and you don't want to do anything about it, that's your right, of course, but people are probably talking about it. Now, with all that having been said, I would also tell you that if you have a very, very good

friend who might come from a non-deodorant culture and who has a very strong aroma, and you think that people are in fact talking about them without their knowledge, then it's probably okay to go ahead *in extreme private* to let them know.

Q: Why are the teachers really strict with punctuality?

A: Well, first and foremost, they are all required by official ELI policy to be strict with both punctuality and attendance. Also, it's a very strong cultural point of view for us. To Americans, it's rude and arrogant to be late—it indicates that you think that your own time is more valuable than everyone else's. In the classroom in particular, it's difficult to get things going for all the students if all the students aren't there.

Grammar

Q: What does "he was disappeared by the government" mean? Why not say "he disappeared"?

A: This passive use of "disappear" was coined in the 1980s by magicians to refer to the act of *making* something disappear. So, the meaning is, "The government made him disappear." It's not common usage, but if it's used in the passive this way, it's probably going to be understood.

Q: What does "would that" mean here, "Would that it were so easy."?

A: The same thing as "I wish".

Q: Why can we say, "Be it" together? Like, "Be it black or white..."

A: It's an older form that means, "Whether or not it is, it doesn't matter."

Quote of the Week

Me fail English? That impossible!
—Ralph Wiggum

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