Paintball!
Come out and have some fun!

This Saturday, January 19th, we are going to play Paintball!

Paintball is a popular game in the U.S. People are armed with “guns” and shoot paint at their “enemies” in a wooded setting.

When: Saturday, January 19th. Meet at the Norman garage at 12:00 pm. We will return mid-afternoon.

How: The cost is $20 for equipment and 200 paintballs. You may purchase 500 paintballs for $35.

This is a carpool trip. Please sign up on the activities board by Thursday at 3pm. We need 20 people to get our own field!

So come and play!

Notes from the Office

- Immunizations-Don't forget; we must have proof of your immunizations for you to be allowed to attend classes. The deadline this semester is Tuesday, January 22nd. We often have quite a few students who are very surprised to be pulled out of classes at this particular time for this particular reason. Don’t be one of them!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be holding our first Volunteer Day of the semester. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week’s Weekly.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from January 11-24:

Students:
January 13: Sung-Jin Kang
January 13: Carolina Velásquez
January 16: Ricardo Morgado
January 22: Mariana Villasmil

Staff:
None this week!

Happy Birthday to one and all!

ELI Countries Represented

The following is a list of ELI Countries represented by our students, listed by the country or area you put down when you signed in:

Brazil                Japan
Burkina Faso          Korea
Chile                 Kuwait
China                 Panama
Colombia              Peru
Congo                 Saudi Arabia
Ecuador               Taiwan
France                Thailand
Germany               Turkey
Haiti                 Ukraine
Honduras              United States
Iran                  Venezuela
Iraq                  Vietnam

Manners and Culture

We could use some questions, everyone! Teachers, it’s a great idea to have students write down a few as a small project; and
students, if you have anything that you would like to ask about, don’t be shy! Just write down your questions and give them to your teacher, or just walk into the ELI Main Office, 315, and place it in my mailbox—the teacher box marked ALLEN. Meanwhile, recently, several students have inquired about tipping rules. So, we’re running our traditional beginning-of-the-semester column on tipping:

When do you tip? Well, most often, you tip for services received. The origin of the word "tip" is something that is not 100% certain, but the most common story is that it comes from the acronym To Insure Prompt Service. There are many situations where tipping is expected, but there are some that you might think require tipping that don’t. The following is a pretty good indicator—though not a totally exhaustive list—of when and where and how much you should tip:

Hairdressers and Nail Sculptors: 15 to 20% of the total bill

Hotels: Bellhops, $1 per bag; $5 minimum total; Concierge, $5 to $10 for special services; Maids, for long stays, $1 per person per night, at the end of stay; Room Service, 15% of total-sometimes this amount or even more is already added in bill (check!)

Parking: Valet parking at a hotel or restaurant, $2. Note that many people now tip both dropping off and picking up.

Pizza Delivery: $1 per pizza

Restaurants: 15 to 20% of the total bill; more if the service was particularly memorable or if you have many special requests which are promptly and cheerfully honored. Tipping in restaurants is particularly important here in the US; servers in restaurants have a minimum wage of only $2.13 an hour—less than 40% of the national minimum wage.

Taxis: $1 minimum, 15% on fares over $8. Drivers in large cities expect 20%.

Additionally, in some places, there will be people who help you outside with your purchases (as in the grocery store). With a particularly helpful person or a particularly large order, you may offer a tip of a dollar or two—but if you see a sign inside the store (once again, as in many grocery stores), that employees are not allowed to accept tips, don’t offer. Another note to remember about tipping is that when you are part of a large party in a restaurant and you are splitting the bill, make sure that you calculate and include the tip in the amount you contribute to the total amount paid; this is a common error which often shortchanges the service person. Some restaurants nowadays automatically include a 15% gratuity in the bill for large groups.

Quote of the Week

The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers.

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr