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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Paintball

Have fun but be safe!

This Saturday, February 16th, we are going to play **Paintball!** Come play a game of paintball on a team with your ELI friends at First Strike Paintball in Newberry, Florida!

When: Saturday, February 16th from 12pm to 5pm

Where: First Strike Paintball in Newberry, Florida. We will meet at Norman Garage at 12pm and return around 5pm.

Cost: The cost of paintball will be \$17 for 200 paintballs or \$30 for 500 paintballs. You can pay in cash or with a credit card. This will cover the rental fee for your gun and safety equipment, use of the field, and 200 paint bullets. Bring extra money if you want more paintballs.

What to Wear: You should wear clothes that can get dirty with long sleeves, long pants, and closed toed shoes. Dark colored clothing is best so that you are more camouflaged. Also, you should wear tennis shoes since we will be in the woods. It might be hot, so BRING WATER!

IMPORTANT: Students under 18 should see Nate to pick up a waiver which their parents will need to sign before the trip. Please sign up on the Activities Board by Thursday, February 14th at 4:30pm.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to watch a **UF basketball game!** Details about the activity will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

CIP Activities

The CIP Office has organized a lot of activities for this week!

Emeritus Mardi Gras Night: Do you like to play Poker? Blackjack? Bingo? Visit our favorite nursing home and play cards with the elderly on Mardi Gras Night (Tuesday, February 12th, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm)! Meet at Norman Garage at 6:00pm or at Emeritus at 6:30pm (if walking).

Valentine's Day Conversation Partner Social: Do you have a conversation partner but haven't met them yet? Why not invite them on Wednesday, February 13th at 7pm to Coffee Talk? It's the perfect way to celebrate Valentine's Day with your new platonic friend.

Project Makeover: Help make schools a better place to study by volunteering. Come volunteer with the ELI and help paint Idylwild Elementary for Alachua County's elementary school children. We're going to volunteer on two different days so please sign up on the activities board by Wednesday, February 20th and please,

please, please, be on time or they may not let us participate!

When: Friday, February 22nd, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. We will meet at Norman Garage at 5:30pm.

When: Saturday, February 23rd, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. LAs will pick up students.

Project Downtown: In case you didn't know, the ELI is volunteering every weekend by helping feed the homeless. If you're interested in joining in, please see Chris in Norman 318.

Notes from the Office

New ELI Students on F-1 Visas:

You entered the U.S. on an I-20 for initial attendance. Now that you are here and registered in classes, you need to receive a new I-20 that shows continued attendance. Please come to the main office to pick up your new I-20. If you do not get the new I-20, you could have problems reentering the U.S.

Class Attendance: Your teachers are inputting your missed classes every week. They're also taking note of every time you speak something other than English. These things are preventing you from getting the scholarship and more importantly from really learning English.

Immunization: If you got a green note from Emily to get your immunizations done, please get them done. You won't be allowed in class

until you do. Every day that you procrastinate is another day of absences.

Change of address: If you changed your address, please let the office know.

Student Mailbox: Don't forget to check the student mailbox in the main office from time to time.

Emails: Remember to check your emails daily. You are receiving messages from your teachers, your LAs, your conversation partners, and the office. Check the junk folder, too!

Observations: You may notice visitors in your classes. Don't worry; they're just there to observe your teacher. They're studying to be ESL teachers so they're learning good methods from your instructors before they get into a classroom.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from February 11 to February 17:

Students:

February 12: Fahad Alqhtani
February 13: Humod Alnojeidi
February 13: Fahad Albarrak
February 14: Abdulaziz Rasheed
February 15: Eunyong Park
February 16: Hassan Bujaloof
February 16: Mohammad Alrashidi

Staff:
February 16: Larissa Scott

Happy Birthday, you sweet people!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the origin of Mardi Gras? Why don't the Americans celebrate Carnival?

A: We do. Mardi Gras carries the same origins as Carnival. In New Orleans, we have our largest version, but there are a lot of cities around the US with similar celebrations. It follows Catholic tradition of partying and eating in the days before Lent, which is essentially a period of giving up excesses and addictions. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday".

Grammar

Q: What is the difference between just and only?

A: They can both be used to mean *merely*. They can both be used for objects or verbs.

Correct: It was just a chocolate.
Correct: It was only a chocolate.
Correct: I only eat chocolate.
Correct: I just eat chocolate.

Only can be used to limit the subject of the sentence but *just* can't.

Correct: Only ELI students can go.
Incorrect: Just ELI students can go.

Just can be used to modify negative verbs but *only* can't.

Correct: I just don't understand.
Incorrect: I only don't understand.

Q: Why is while followed by driving in the sentence below?

Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.

A: It's a reduced adverb clause. *While* usually uses a progressive (Verb-ing) in a generalization, so it's reduced from "While one is driving". You may have also seen the following:

Reduced: Fasten seat belt while seated.

Long version: Drivers must fasten their seat belt while they are seated (sitting).

Quote of the Week

I like nonsense -- it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope...and that enables you to laugh at all of life's realities.

Stanislaw J. Lem



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