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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!

We are holding our first **Volunteer Weekend** of the spring term. This is your chance to help the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment.

Cost: Free! Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity.

When: Saturday & Sunday, January 16th & 17th. See below for meeting times.

Ronald McDonald House: Make door decorations and do arts and crafts for the families living at Ronald McDonald House. Meet at Norman Garage Saturday at 2pm.

Mill Creek Horse Farm: Clean up and work on projects around the farm then interact with the retired horses who live there. An LA will pick you up from your house Saturday at 9am.

Haile's Angel Pet Rescue: Set-up and help at an adoption fair, walk dogs, and play with the animals. An LA will pick you up from your house Saturday at 11am.

United Way Reading Pals: Sort books in an assembly line to help United Way give books to Gainesville kids in need. An LA will pick you up from your house Saturday at 1pm.

Project Downtown Gainesville: Join the Islamic Center and help feed the homeless in downtown Gainesville. Meet at Norman Garage Saturday 12:30pm.

Forage Farm: Help plant seeds and plants, harvest, and clean up the area at a local Gainesville farm! An LA will pick you up from your house Sunday at 9am.

Remember to sign up for the activity of your choice by Thursday, January 21st at 4pm and arrive for your activity **ON TIME!** Please don't sign up for an activity if it is already full. If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Greg in the CIP Office, Matherly 211.

The Next Trip

Next Saturday, January 30th, will be the **Gator Basketball Game vs West Virginia**. Details will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Afternoon Activities

Join us for the following activities this week from 7-10 pm every afternoon:

Tuesday	Lollipop on 34 th Street Soccer on Norman Field
Wednesday	Smoothie Talk at Tropical Smoothie on Archer Road
Thursday	Volleyball at Lexington Crossing
Friday	Café Friday at Starbucks in Butler Plaza

Notes from the Office

Parking: Very important! If you drive to the ELI, you need to purchase a parking decal to park on the UF campus. You'll need to get a letter from the office staff in 223 Matherly to purchase a Park and Ride decal.

Withdrawing from the ELI or one course: Students who withdraw from a course or from the ELI after the drop/add deadline will not be able to receive a refund or credit for their courses. Their transcript will have a grade of W (withdraw) by the deadlines published in the Student Guide.

Feeling Sick? If you get sick, you should send your teachers an email from home or talk to them when you get back. If you are going to be out for **5 or more days**, please call the office and let us know.

Student Mailbox: Please come to the office from time to time and check the mailbox for any mail that you may have. If you are waiting for something and do not see it, however, you may assume that it has not come yet, and you do not need to ask in the office.

Libraries: UF has great libraries and you have full access to them, if you need to study. If you want to check out books, you'll need to pay your tuition, get a Gator 1 ID, and get it activated at the Education Library in Norman Hall. You can check out a maximum of 5 books for a week.

Office Etiquette

The ELI Main office is very busy this time of year. Here are some tips to get the best service possible in the office:

- Please arrive, at the latest, 2 minutes early for your appointment. If you are late, you will not be helped, because the person after you will be helped. Remember, it is rude to be late, especially to a meeting *you* requested. Also, have your class schedule in mind when making appointments.
- Please wait in line. You will be helped, even if it takes a little while.
- Please respect everyone. This means being courteous and being on time.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 18 to January 24:

Students:

January 18: Rashed Alzharani
January 19: Othman Alkandari
January 19: Ali Almutairy
January 20: Abdelaziz Diab
January 21: Johan Parra Gruber
January 23: Zixuan Wang
January 24: Mansour Aldaihani
January 24: Ahmed Alvahva

Staff:

January 24: Lynne Clark

Happy Birthday, one and all!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why are the teachers really strict with punctuality?

A: First of all, the official ELI policy requires that the teachers be strict. In the classroom, it's hard to start class if all the students aren't there and we want to make sure we're using the time effectively. Also, being late and making people wait is considered very rude in American culture.

Q: Every UF classroom has a sign that says "Please no eating or drinking in classrooms". Does that include water?

A: You are allowed to have water bottles with a cap in the classroom.

Q: Why are teachers so strict with the use of cellphones in class, even if they were used as a dictionary?

A: We are strict because we want you to focus on learning English. Studies show that students don't learn if they're not focused. Plus, let's be honest; we know you're not always checking the dictionary but rather Facebook or a text message.

Grammar

Q: What's the difference between "schools" and "school's"? What does the apostrophe mean?

A: Apostrophes are used for two things: to show possession and to replace missing letters or numbers. You should not use the

apostrophe for plurals. "Schools" means more than one school. "School's" means something belongs to the school. Look at the sentences below.

- The schools I attended were all good.
- The school's mascot is the gator.
- The school opened in the '90s.
- Incorrect: The school's in Alachua County got more funding this year.

Words of the Week

Each week, there will be one or two new words here. The words in this section come from TOEFL, AWL, and GRE lists of the most common academic vocabulary. To improve your vocabulary, try to use the words in your writing and your speaking. The words are also used in this *Weekly*. Can you find them?

focus (noun) – a main point of attention

focus (verb) – to pay attention to something

policy (noun) – a plan, procedure, or course of action

Quote of the Week

Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

Benjamin Lee Whorf



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