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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Busch Gardens

Theme Park Fun!

Busch Gardens is a theme park in Tampa. It is famous for its roller coasters and its wild animals. Among the roller coasters is "Sheikra", which has two 90 degree angle drops making it the first coaster of its kind in the Americas and only the third in the world. This is one of the most popular trips of the semester; don't miss out - buy your bus pass early!

For more information visit their website at www.buschgardens.com

When: Saturday, February 13th. We will meet at the Norman Hall garage at 9:00am. The park will be open until 7:00pm, so we will probably return to Gainesville around 9:00-9:30. We will go rain or shine.

Transportation: This is a bus trip so you must purchase a pass from the CIP. Only a few bus passes are left, but if you or your friends have a car you can drive there yourself.

Cost: To ride the bus, go to Matherly 211 between 9:00am and 12:30pm Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday to reserve your spot with \$20 exact change in cash and your Gator 1 card. The bus passes do not include the price of admission to Busch Gardens. Busch Gardens admission tickets for Florida residents are \$99. **Bring your Gator 1 card or Florida driver's license to prove that you are a Florida resident.** Also bring money for food and souvenirs.

You can buy your admission ticket to Busch Gardens now and use it as many times as you want until December 31, 2016.

IRS Tax Forms

All international students are required to file a tax form in the United States. You are required to file this form even if you have no income. The deadline to file if you have no income is June 15. The deadline to file if you have income from any source other than bank interest (like an on-campus job), is April 15. You can find the form you need to complete and the directions on how to complete it at:

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8843.pdf>

You can also find many answers to your questions on the UF International Center tax page:

<http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/iss/Taxes.html?menuId=1&smId=5>

The links above are also on the ELI Facebook page.

In 9 and 10, you need to include the name, address, and telephone number of the academic institution that you attended in 2015. You'll find that information on the back of this *Weekly*. The name of the director of the ELI is Megan Forbes.

You can also always make an appointment to speak with Emily or Daryl if you have questions.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going to the **Outdoor Laser Tag**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

CIP Update

Talent Show: The 4th Annual ELI Talent Show will be held on Friday, March 25th! You can show off your amazing abilities by performing a song, dance, fashion show, poetry reading, or any other talent (as long as it is safe and family friendly).

The sign-up list will be posted on the CIP activity board by Wednesday this week. The deadline to sign-up is February 24th.

Monday Mixer: Beginning February 15th, the location for the Monday Mixer afternoon activity is moving to the Reitz Union game room.

Notes from the Office

New ELI Students on F-1 Visas: If you're a new student and you haven't received an active I-20, please stop by the office.

Immunization: If you got a note from the office to get your immunizations done, please get them done. You won't be allowed in class until you do. Every day that you wait is another day of absences.

Notes from your Teachers

Do you feel lost in class? Maybe your teacher is talking too fast or the explanation is unclear. Talk to your teachers. We're here to help you. Talk to the other students. If they understand, they can help you understand it, too. Here are some phrases to use:

- Could you speak a little slower?
- Could you repeat that?
- Could you explain that again?
- Could you explain this to me after class?

Do you feel homesick? Are you missing class because you feel lonely and you miss your family? This is normal. The best thing to do is talk to your teachers, talk to your classmates, and talk to your roommates. Friends can help the loneliness go away. Here are some more tips:

- Commit to doing at least one CIP activity per week, every week
- Go to an open-air farmers' market on Wednesday or Saturday
- Sign up for story hour with your children at the public library
- Join a free exercise class at the public library <http://www.aclib.us/>

Class Attendance: Your teachers are inputting your missed classes every week. We'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.

Birthdays

The following are ELI birthdays from February 8 to February 14:

Students:

February 10: Abdulaziz Alajmi
February 10: Ali Alharbi
February 10: Suvina Inthaso
February 11: Ksenia Basariya
February 12: Badreyah Alqallaf

Staff:

None this week!

Happy Birthday, wonderful people!

Manners and Culture

Q: What is the origin of Mardi Gras? Why don't 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".

Q: What do Americans do for Valentine's Day?

A: Many people go out to eat for Valentine's Day. However, the restaurants will be very busy and many have special menus that are much more expensive. Some people go to the movies or have dinner at home. Small children exchange little cards and candy at school.

Grammar

Q: What are the correct uses for semicolon?

A: Semicolons are used to connect two related independent clauses in the same place where a period could go. You should not use it to separate an independent and dependent clause. Here are some examples.

- I usually wear a coat in the winter; I've only worn a coat once this year.
- I thought it would be very cold in January; however, it wasn't cold.
- Incorrect: If the weather gets cold; I will have to wear a coat.

Word of the Week

Fill in the blanks and look for the word in this *Weekly!*

prevent (____) - _____

Word forms: prevention, preventable

Collocates: disease, injury, violence, crime

Quote of the Week

If there is a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, you must be the one to write it.

Toni Morrison



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