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The ELI Weekly

*The Weekly Newsletter of
the English Language Institute
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Islands of Adventure *Theme Park Fun*

This Saturday, May 30th the ELI is headed to Islands of Adventure Theme Park at the Universal Studios Orlando Resort. Islands of Adventure is a wonderful world of fantasy with many different thrilling rides and attractions.

When: Saturday, May 30th. Meet at the Norman Hall Garage at 9am.. We will return to Gainesville around 11pm.

What to Bring: Money for food, walking shoes, sunscreen, and a passion for roller coasters!

Want to go? Get your tickets online or at the gate. Transportation passes are \$18 from Sonja in the main office on Wednesday May 27 or Thursday May 28 from 8:00 am to 1:30 am.

You must pay in cash, exact change only, and the money is non-refundable. Islands of Adventure ticket are \$49.00 + tax.

***** We have **12 seats** on the vans, so get your ticket right away! If we do not sell enough tickets, the trip will be **CANCELLED!*******

Notes from the Office

- **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.
- **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.
- **Rec Centers**—There is occasionally some confusion as to what recreational facilities ELI students may use. ELI students can use the pools, Lake Wauburg, Florida Gym, O'Connell Center weight rooms, and other outdoor fields and courts by showing their Gator-1 card. ELI students must purchase a recreation membership at the faculty, staff and affiliate rate in order to have access to the Student Recreation & Fitness Center, Southwest Recreation Center and the Broward Outdoor Recreation Center. Recreation memberships may be purchased at the southwest rec center.

CIP Blog

The ELI Cultural Immersion Program (CIP) is now in the blogosphere! To find out about ELI afternoon and weekend activities, including last minute updates, visit our blog at <http://cipupdates.blogspot.com/>.

You can also give us feedback on our activities, send us photos that you would like to share with everyone in the ELI, or even send us information about your own activities. We cannot guarantee that we will post everyone's information, but if we can, we will.

Thank you for helping us to make the CIP the best it can be!

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be going **Tubing on the Ichetucknee River**. 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 May 29-June 4:

Students:

May 30: Lazare Traore Nignan

Staff:

None this week!

Manners and Culture

Q: Why doesn't the ELI use whiteboards instead of chalkboards? There are so many advantages—and they don't cause allergies.

A: I agree. I hate chalk dust—it makes me sneeze, too.

Really, there are several very good reasons. The main one is that we probably aren't going to make any major changes to our facilities for a while. There has been a bit of uncertainty for a few years about whether or not the ELI will be able to keep its space in Norman Hall. One thing that we are changing in the (hopefully!) not-too-distant future is new carpeting. But overall, things like whiteboards represent a major capital investment. Chalk is a lot less of an investment for now!

Q: Can I say "hello" to everyone I meet? In my country, we don't do this.

A: We don't do it in a lot of the US, but it is very common in the Southern US in particular. Gainesville is definitely in the Southern US! Though you probably will say "hi" or "hey" rather than "hello"—we rarely use "hello" except in formal situations or in answering the telephone.

Q: When someone invites you to an American house what is the best way to be polite with the hosts?

A: By showing up on time. Also, you may bring a small gift, such as chocolate, flowers, or (if you know your hosts drink) wine. This part is not required, however. It's appreciated, but not expected.

Q: Can you tell me how to greet people in a group of different ages in the US?

A: "Hi."

We don't make age distinctions in English the way that some languages do.

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.

Grammar

Q: How do I answer tag questions? That is, if someone says, "It's hot, isn't it?" do I answer with a positive or a negative if it is hot?

A: A common point of confusion! You agree with the original statement. So, in the case you gave, the answer would be "Yes."

Q: How can I use "say", "tell", and "speak"?

A: Say something (to someone), tell someone (something), tell the truth, tell a story, speak to someone, and speak a language.

Quote of the Week

When you cannot get a compliment any other way, pay yourself one.

--Mark Twain

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