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The ELI Weekly

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Volunteer Day

Help others while helping yourself!

This Saturday, January 26th, we are holding our first **Volunteer Day** of the spring term. This is your chance to help out the community while practicing your English in a real-life environment. Below is a description of the volunteer activities going on this weekend.

We will meet at different times. Students, language assistants, teachers, and staff will meet and head to the different sites.

Please sign up on the Activities Board for your choice of activity by 5pm on Thursday, January 24th.

There is no cost to volunteer. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. You should bring water to each volunteering activity

Great Air Potato Roundup— Volunteer at Gainesville's Great Air Potato Roundup event! We will meet at Norman Garage at 8:40am and carpool to the JJ Finley School and search for air potatoes. Dress to be outdoors and bring gloves and a bucket if you have one! Afterwards, you can attend the celebration festival with food, live entertainment, and guest speakers!

North Florida Rehab Center— Come and play Bingo and talk with senior citizens. This is a great way to practice your English and have a wonderful time!! We will meet at the NRN Garage at 1:45pm and return around 3pm.

Gainesville Pet Rescue-- Help clean up the backyard at Gainesville Pet Rescue, a local animal shelter. We will meet at Norman Garage at 8:30am. Remember to wear old clothes, a hat, sunglasses, and bring water to drink! Afterwards we can play with the animals and then go out to lunch together!

Habitat for Humanity— Come help Habitat for Humanity sell donated goods, clothes, and furniture to raise money to build houses for people in need at the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store! Sign up to volunteer from 11:45am to 2pm or from 1:45pm to 4pm. We will meet at Norman Garage at the start of your shift.

If you have any questions about any of the activities, see Chanelle in the CIP Office, Room 318.

Have a great day, everyone!

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.

The Next Trip

Next weekend, we will be here in Gainesville for the **Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in next week's *Weekly*.

Conversation Partners

In case you're wondering, Sonia is working on getting Conversation Partners for everyone who asked for one. You will be receiving your Conversation Partner this week or next in your Listening/Speaking or Grammar for Writing class. If you are a part-time student and would like

to have a Conversation Partner, please see Sonia in Room 318.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of January 25-31:

Students:

January 28: Abulaziz AlAlqahtani

January 30: Hatim Al-Ghamedi

Staff:

January 30: Rebekah Jackson

Manners and Culture

Folks, this is all I've currently got from students, and then we're out of questions! Teachers?

Q: Why don't US people use the water in the restroom?

A: I'm honestly not sure what you mean. Are you asking why we don't flush or wash our hands? In both

cases, we should. Not everyone does, but they should.

If you're asking why we don't drink the water in the bathroom, well, speaking as a fairly typical American, I think most of us would find that kind of disgusting.

Q: When is the next special holiday in the US?

A: Valentine's Day. On February 14th, we celebrate the very concept of Love. We give cards with hearts on them, flowers, and chocolate to the people we love, and many couples go out for special romantic evenings.

Grammar

Q: I'm confused. I studied all the grammar rules but sometimes I cannot use them in writing.

A: You're right. Sometimes you can't. There's this little thing called "context" that can totally change everything. My favorite way of illustrating this is to use the title of one of our Grammar 60 books: Communicate What You Mean. That is to say, sometimes the grammar of a situation is perfectly correct, but the meaning of the sentence doesn't work. A really crazy example would be something like this: you can put a noun in the subject position of a sentence and an object pronoun in the object position of a sentence which has a transitive verb, according to the rules of grammar. But if you say, "Broccoli eats him," even though the grammar is correct, the meaning is nonsense or just plain silly.

Quote of the Week

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it.

--Robin Williams

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