

Highlights

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- Birthdays
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The ELI Weekly

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Wall Climbing at Lake Wauburg *More outdoor fun!*

This Saturday, February 27th, come join the ELI as we climb the 53 foot wall at the Lake Wauburg South Shore. It's a fun and exciting outdoor sport.

You don't want to climb? That's ok! You can play softball, horseshoes or soccer. There's canoeing, hiking, and a large area for having a picnic with your language assistants and friends!

When: We will meet at the Norman Garage at 11am.

What to wear/bring: Wear closed-toed shoes! Bring water, sun block, and a picnic lunch.

Cost: FREE. Bring your UF ID.

Notes from the Office

- **Spring Break and I-20s** Spring Break is a week and a half away! If you plan to leave the US *at all* during the break—even on a cruise or a day trip to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or the Bahamas—please remember to come to the office to have your I-20 signed so that you won't have trouble getting back into the country!

- **ELI T-Shirts**--Don't forget, everyone (students, teachers, and staff alike!), we are selling ELI T-Shirts for only \$10 (exact change only). To purchase yours, just see Sonja in the main office any day before 1:30pm. Get yours today!

The Next Trip

For the next two weekends, there will be no scheduled activities due to Spring Break. Our next activity, the following weekend, on March 20th, will be our Welcome Picnic for the new B-Term students. Details about the trip will be on the Activities Board and in that week's *Weekly*.

Birthdays

The following are ELI Birthdays for the week of February 26-March 4:

Students:
March 2: Noghely Diaz
March 3: Cesar Pena

Staff:
March 1: Sierra Meador

Happy Birthday one and all!

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 a essentially a period of giving up excesses and addictions. Mardi Gras literally means "Fat Tuesday".

Q: Is there a time when Americans leave the home with no help from the parents? When?

A: It's a common misconception that parents somehow throw their kids out automatically at 18 and tell them to sink or swim. It's very much a matter of individual families. In the US, independence in all forms is a cornerstone of our culture, but that doesn't mean that all support is just automatically cut off at some magical point or age. Heck, I'm 46 and my parents STILL help me out sometimes just because they want to! Some families are more connected

than others, but our personal identity is also very important to us.

Q: Why does the girl's family pay for the wedding?

A: Tradition. Weddings in the US still have more older forms of etiquette attached to them than there are with most any other social function.

Grammar

Q: Can I omit the auxiliary verb (do, does, did) in a wh- question?

A: No. If there is no form of “to be” or some other auxiliary or modal, you need it. That being said, there are dialects of American English that do sometimes omit it, but in the standard use, it’s necessary.

Q: What does the future perfect express?

A: That one action will be completed before a fixed point or another action in the future.

Q: What's the difference between “too many” and “so many”?

A: “Too” is an expression that means there is an excess beyond what is tolerable. It’s generally considered a

negative expression. “So” in this context means “very”. It just means that there is more than expected, but it’s still on the good side of the line of tolerance. This usage of “so” is only conversational, and it should never be used in formal writing.

Quote of the Week

Whenever evil befalls us, we ought to ask ourselves, after the first suffering, how we can turn it into good. So shall we take occasion, from one bitter root, to raise perhaps many flowers.

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