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November 9, 2016 (Week 5)

CIES Nole News
The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies

Veteran's Day Holiday
CIES and FSU are closed on Friday

This Friday is a national holiday known as Veteran’s Day. It is celebrated on November 11th (11/11). It is a day when we celebrate all the soldiers who have fought in wars and battle for the United States. This is a time to remember those who have died, but it is a particularly important holiday to remember those Americans alive today who have fought and served in the nation’s armed forces.

We will all have a holiday on Friday, but it is important to know the reason behind this holiday and why Americans take a day off of work and school.

World War I happened a hundred years ago, and it was a major war when many millions of people died. The war ended when a peace treaty was signed on November 11, 1918 (98 years ago). This holiday became known as Armistice Day. Other countries celebrate this holiday as well, and in America we call the holiday “Veteran’s Day.” Unlike other countries, Americans honor soldiers who have died as well as those who are still alive today. (Memorial Day in May is a day when we especially remember those who have died.)

All over the country people will be having special events to honor those who have served in wars. Many restaurants will also offer special discounts and free meals to those who have served in the military. Despite our many differences, Veteran's Day is an example of a time where people in the United States can come together and be thankful for our country’s history.

Special CIES Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is one of the most important American holidays. CIES will have a 3-day Thanksgiving holiday from Wednesday November 23 until Friday November 25.

On Monday November 21, we will have a Thanksgiving feast during lunch. CIES will provide a delicious lunch full of traditional Thanksgiving food. This is a great opportunity to take pictures and to try some new and exciting American foods.

Jingle Bell Run!

The very exciting Jingle Bell Run will be happening on Saturday December 3rd. This is a day where many thousands of people from all over Tallahassee run (or walk) in a race to celebrate the holiday season and to be around their friends and neighbors. See the sign-up at the front desk or ask Jen Dickinson if you have questions. For many of you who are leaving, this would be a great opportunity to say goodbye to your CIES friends and teachers!

Happy Birthday!

Victoria Davis (November 13)

Writing Competition Ahead!

The famous CIES Voices writing competition will be held at the end of the session. Any CIES student (no matter what group or level) can participate! All students who submit a polished essay or writing sample will have their work published in CIES Voices and made available online. Anyone anywhere in the world can read your writing! The winners of the competition will be recognized by Dr. Kennell at the end of the session, and the 1st place winner will have his or her name engraved on a plaque which will remain here at CIES forever. Although you can submit a longer essay from class, you can also submit a journal, a paragraph, or even a short poem. Your writing should be submitted to your composition teacher by the end of the month (Monday, November 28th). You may also submit your writing to Andrew Wilson: acwilson@fsu.edu. We look forward to what you all have to say!

Culture Question

Question: Why don’t American students dress formally to go to class?

This is a very good observation. There are several answers to this question. Since most of the students at FSU are from Florida, they are used to wearing shorts and loose-fitting clothing in hot weather. (Warm weather clothes are more casual than cold weather clothes.) Secondly, many FSU students live on campus, so they might go from bed to class without bothering to look fashionable. Lastly, there are many students who do not have a lot of extra money for clothes, so they don’t try to wear expensive and fashionable clothing. There are some universities in the US that are quite fashionable, but FSU probably wouldn’t fall into that category.
Language Question

Question: What does “e.g.” and “etc.” mean when I read them in a passage?

These words are commonly used abbreviations. They come from Latin.

e.g. is short for the Latin phrase exempli gratia. It means for example. It can be used when you are trying to give examples of something to help define it. When you read this word, you can either say ‘e.g.’ or you can also say ‘for example.’

Sample sentence: It is a bad idea to eat junk food (e.g., French fries, potato chips, and soda).

You never start a sentence with ‘e.g.’, and you often times use it at the start of words in parentheses at the end of a sentence.

Etc. is pronounced et cetera. You use this at the end of a list when multiple similar things are included.

Sample sentence: In order be healthy and lose weight, you must eat less junk food, exercise more, eat at restaurants less, spend more time at the gym, etc.

Quote of the Week

Where there is unity there is always victory.

- Publilius Syrus

Center for Intensive English Studies
634 West Call Street
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1127
Phone: (850) 644-4797
Fax: (850) 644-7417
Email: cies@admin.fsu.edu
www.cies.fsu.edu
www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU
Nole News Editor: Andrew Wilson