One of the truly special places here in north Florida is Wakulla Springs. This area is home to a geological springs, which is a place where water from below the ground comes up to the surface of the ground. The water is very clean and stays a very pleasant temperature through much of the year. These springs are at the heart of the Wakulla Springs State Park. In addition to water activities in the springs (swimming, canoeing, and diving), there are many other activities. There are nature trails where you can hike, bicycle trails, and even trails where you can ride a horse!

CIES has a tradition of going to Wakulla Springs every spring and/or summer. We will be going to Wakulla Springs this Friday, May 29th. We will meet in front of CIES at 1:00pm, shortly after the end of class on Friday. Transportation will be provided to Wakulla Springs. Please bring a towel, sunscreen, sunglasses and snacks (or money for snacks) in case you get hungry.

This is a beautiful area and everyone should make a point to visit this fantastic park!

CIES Voices – Next Week

The deadline for submissions is next TUESDAY JUNE 2nd. Talk with your composition teacher and think about what you want to submit. It doesn’t matter how long or short it is. It doesn’t have to be perfect. You can submit your writing to your composition teacher, or you can email it directly to Andrew Wilson (acwilson@fsu.edu). This is a great way to share your work and win a prize!!

Fun at Wakulla Springs

Visiting Wakulla Springs State Park

If you ever have a question and you’re not quite sure who to turn to, Claire Sipple will be there to help you. She makes a point of meeting nearly everyone that comes into CIES, and she probably knew your name shortly after you arrived here. Claire was born in Michigan but moved to Florida when she was growing up. She came to Tallahassee to attend FSU in 2007, and she’s never left. She studied international affairs at FSU, and she started working for the FSU Center for Global Engagement four years ago. She came to CIES only last June, but she has become a very important part of CIES in that short time. Claire is involved in many activities outside of work. She is a singer / songwriter who plays the guitar and sings in a band called “Sun Lights Up.” Furthermore, she’s been very involved in starting up a new church community called “Incarnation Tallahassee.” This is a church that serves people in downtown Tallahassee. One of the things which makes Claire very happy is contra dancing. This is a type of folk dance where couples dance in a line and take turns dancing with others. This is a traditional American dance, and there are several dance nights every month in Tallahassee. If you’d like to try an awesome new dance, ask Claire about joining her at contra dancing!

Happy Birthday

Asma Alfaleh (May 27)
Abdullah Alsharif (May 28)

Culture Question

Question: What kind of salutation do you use to end an email? Does it always have to be "sincerely"? What about "yours truly," "warm regards," "best," and even just "thanks"?

A: The most important thing to remember is to include at least some salutation at the end of an email. When you are writing a professor, a businessman, or any person who you are not familiar with, a closing salutation is important. ‘Sincerely’ and ‘Regards’ are probably the most common. ‘Regards’ is used more often in British English, but it is still perfectly acceptable in the US. ‘Warm regards’ would be used with someone (perhaps a colleague) whom you have a close rapport with. ‘Best’ or ‘Thanks’ could also be used with someone you know. These salutations are often found at the end of shorter emails or requests (in the case of ‘thanks’). As your mother always told you, it is important to be polite!