Florida is perhaps most famous for its beaches. We are all lucky to live in a state that has many wonderful beaches and outdoor activities. One of the closest beaches to Tallahassee is found on St. George Island (SGI). We will be heading to SGI this Friday after classes. Since there will be listening and speaking classes on Friday morning, we will not leave for the trip until 12:30. St. George Island is about a two-hour drive from Tallahassee. Although Tallahassee is extremely hot, the beach is a little cooler because of a breeze from the ocean. The water temperature will be perfect – the water is not too cold, but it will still cool you off.

If you have plan to go on Friday, please be punctual! Since we are going later in the day, we probably won’t be getting back to Tallahassee until after dark (10pm). The sun is not as bright during the late afternoon, but it still important to bring sunscreen so you don’t get a sunburn. You may also want to bring something to snack on as well as money for dinner.

Be sure to take plenty of pictures – this may be one of the last opportunities you have to hang out with many of your CIES friends.

Fun on the Island
Friday’s trip to SGI

CIES Nole News
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July 22, 2015 (Week 6)

Important Reminders!!

• If you are a student who is sponsored (receives government financial support), check your financial support letter for the expiration date. Your letters have to be up-to-date before the first day of class (August 24). If these letters are not up-to-date, your schedule will be blocked and you cannot attend classes. We strongly encourage that you get these letters updated soon, so you don’t have to worry about it when you return from vacation. Don’t procrastinate – the sooner, the better. Each day you miss counts towards your attendance!

• If you pay your own tuition at CIES (not government sponsored), please remember that tuition is due on August 24th, the first day of class. Please start gathering and organizing your finances now so you can be prepared to meet this financial deadline.

Important Reminders!!

Finals & Evals

These next two weeks are extremely important at CIES. We have final exams in all of our classes, so it is essential that you all plan to attend classes these days.

Thursday July 23:  Composition Writing

Monday July 27:  Reading Final

Tuesday July 28:  Listening Final

Wednesday July 29:  Speaking Final

Thursday July 30:  Grammar Final

Also, do not forget to complete an evaluation of your teacher! These must be done this week. Most of your teachers will give you time in class to complete these, but if you are absent and unable to do these in class, please use the scan codes found in the classroom or on myCIES and complete the evaluation online. They only take a few minutes!

Planning Ahead –
International Dinner

July 30th is our last day of class, and many of you are eager to return home or go travelling during the August break. However, everyone should try to attend the International Dinner on Friday July 31st at 6pm. This dinner is a long tradition at CIES. It is the last opportunity for many of us to say goodbye to each other. We will honor students with certificates and announce the winners of the writing competition. Go ahead and put this event on your calendar! Our theme this year will be a Hawaiian luau, so there will be a lot of fun clothes and festive decorations! 😊
Happy Birthday

Rebecca Turk (July 22)
Jezica Cristina de Sa Sousa (July 27)

Flags, Flags, Flags!!

CIES will be participating in this fall’s homecoming celebration. Although this won’t be until October and November, we want to start planning soon. If you are going home for the break, please bring flags from your home country back with you. We will use these flags to celebrate the homecoming parade. Large flags might be great for the parade, and smaller ones might be good for you or your friends to wave.

Culture Question

Question: Is it rude to use my phone in a restaurant or in the car?

A: Generally speaking, yes. If you go to a restaurant, you will likely see many people texting on their phone. People might look at you funny if you’re at an upscale restaurant, but in most casual restaurants no one will notice. However, it is considered rude to talk on your phone in a restaurant! It is natural for a person who is talking on a phone to speak louder and more clearly. This makes it easier for the person on the other end of the phone to understand you. However, it also makes it easier for everyone seated near you at the restaurant to notice. If you absolutely must take a call in a restaurant, you should step outside the restaurant or in the lobby for the duration of the call.

Language Question

Question: Is it possible to use ‘they’ and ‘their’ as singulars?

Answer: This is a question where there is a lot of disagreement. As you all know, ‘they’ is a plural pronoun and ‘their’ is a plural possessive adjective. It is easy to understand the meanings:

Plural Pronoun:
My parents are coming to dinner. They are very excited to meet you.

Plural Possessive Adjective:
My sisters made this cake. Their cakes are always extremely delicious.

However, what do we do about singulars? Singular pronouns are he/she and singular possessive adjectives are his/her. What if we do not know the gender of a person?

In extremely formal English you can use the pronoun ‘one.’ However, in modern English this is almost never used.

What do you think about this sentence?
Please ask the next guest to remove their shoes.

If you use this in spoken English, no one would correct you – most English speakers would probably say the same thing and probably wouldn’t notice. However, the above sentence is technically incorrect. Since ‘guest’ is singular, we would need a singular adjective. There are two ways to solve this problem. We can replace ‘their’ with ‘his or her’. This makes the sentence correct:

Please ask the next guest to remove his or her shoes.

However, this sounds a bit formal and silly for most native English speakers. The best advice is simple: If you can rewrite the sentence as plural, then you should. You often use plurals when making generalizations. This would be a great way to write the sentence:

Please ask any remaining guests to remove their shoes.

Try changing these sentences to make them correct (using the space below):

(1) Each teacher should clean their classrooms at the end of the day.
(2) I’m not sure which student I have an appointment with next. Whoever it is, they will have to wait until I finish.