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CIES Nole News

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Easter Everywhere

A festive holiday for Americans

Easter in the United States is celebrated in both religious and **secular** ways. In many

communities, the Christian aspect of the holiday, which includes many prayers and church services, is combined with visits from the Easter Bunny, hunts for painted Easter eggs, and baskets for children containing chocolate bunnies, eggs, and small toys. Easter parades are also common. The Springtime Tallahassee Parade and Jubilee draw thousands of visitors to the downtown area every year. For most Christians, Easter is the most important holiday during the year. (It is even more important than Christmas!) In many other English-speaking countries, both the Friday before Easter and the Monday after Easter are holidays. Easter is not a government holiday in the US, so (unfortunately) there will not be a holiday.

April Activities

Camping at St. Joseph's Peninsula

This weekend (**April 8 – April 9**) will be our camping trip to St. Joseph Peninsula State Park. This is a beautiful park located on a **peninsula** about 2 ½ hours from Tallahassee. Since this is an overnight trip, please pay special attention to the supplies you will need to bring for the trip.

Trip to SGI

Since we do not have class on **Friday April 14**, we will be making a trip to St. George Island. We will be leaving in the morning, and we'll spend the day on the beach enjoying the sun and sand. We will also have a delicious seafood lunch together. Please pay attention to Facebook and the announcements in class for more information about this trip coming up soon!

President's Ice Cream Social

John Thrasher is the president of Florida State University. He is a very busy man, but he makes time to be involved with the students at FSU. Every spring there is an event where the president serves ice cream to FSU students. In addition to ice cream and other snacks, you'll find music, games, and many FSU students having fun. This event will be on **Wednesday April 19 in the afternoon**. The event lasts for several hours, and most students will go with their speaking or listening class to the event.

International Dinner

On **Friday April 21**, we have a very important event. The international dinner is a time for us to all get together and say goodbye to one another. This dinner is a **potluck**, and people bring food from many different parts of the world! In addition to food and music, we will say a special goodbye to those students and teachers who are leaving. Dr. Kennell will also recognize the winners of the CIES Voices writing competition.

Announcements

* There will be 10 days between the end of Spring II session and the start of Summer I session. Many of you may wish to travel during this time. If you decide to return to your home country or visit another country during the break, please let Lacey in the office know so she can sign your I-20.

** Many of you have **siblings**, cousins, or friends who will be graduating from high school in the next few months. When you see or talk to them, tell them about CIES and encourage them to take our classes starting in the Fall. Fall is the most exciting time of year at FSU, and we want to have students from all over the world come share in the fun.

Tips for Springtime

Stay Clean & Drink water

In a few weeks, the weather will become very warm in Tallahassee. Since many of you spend a lot of time outdoors, we



encourage all of our students to shower regularly. Even though you may smell good in the morning, you might not smell as fresh in listening class. One way to solve this problem is to bathe or shower regularly! Another important habit is to drink plenty of water – your body loses water when you sweat, so drinking lots of fluid will keep you healthy.

April Birthdays

Happy birthday (or belated birthday) to these April superstars!

Vicky Golen (April 4)

Calyn Stringer (April 5)

Chuanxi 'Marco' Zhang (April 13)

Nafissatou Maiga (April 17)

Faouzou Minoungou (April 24)

CIES Voices

Remember that we will hold our CIES writing competition this month! This is a great way for you to share what you have written with others. The top two entries will receive a certificate and be recognized by Dr. Kennell. The winner will also get his/her name on a plaque in the lobby. This is a great chance for you to express yourself and publish your work on the internet! Please submit your writing to your composition teacher or Andrew Wilson (acwilson@fsu.edu) before **April 18**.

Culture Question

*Question: Why do restaurants in America give free **refills**?*

Answer: This is a great question with a variety of answers. The first answer is cultural, Americans are used to eating large amounts of food and this often goes with large amounts of liquid.

A better answer to this question involves economics. Restaurants buy sodas and beverages in large **quantities**, so it doesn't cost them much money to give more soda. Drinks that are more expensive to make (café lattes, cappuccinos, beer, and wine) are not offered with refills. In most sit-down restaurants and fast-food restaurants, you can get refills on coffee. However, in most coffee shops, you cannot. The reason for this is that in most restaurants, you do not stay for a long period of time. At coffee shops, people tend to stay for a while and free refills would only encourage people to stay even longer. Whatever the reason, we hope you enjoy the free refills here in the United States!

Language Question

Question: Can I use a word like "and" at the beginning of a sentence or paragraph?

Answer: You should try not to use FANBOYS at the beginning of a sentence. FANBOYS is another word for the coordinating conjunctions **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, and so**. Although people will start sentences with these words often in spoken English, in written English this should be avoided. Use a **conjunctive adverb** such as **also, however, or therefore** instead.

Sentence 1: And you should ask your teachers if you have any questions.

Although sentence 1 would be fine in spoken English, it would be less appropriate in written English because you are starting the sentence with a coordinating conjunction.

A better way to write Sentence 1:

Additionally, you should ask your teachers if you have any questions.

Practice writing each of the following sentences using conjunctive adverbs.

But, she gave the remaining pieces to her friend.

Or you could choose not to go to the event.

Quote of the Month

The willingness to experiment with change may be the most essential ingredient to success at anything.

-Pat Summitt

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This issue's vocabulary:

secular (adjective) – not religious

peninsula (noun) – a strip of land with water on three sides

potluck (noun) – a meal where everyone brings a dish to eat

siblings (noun) – brothers and sisters

refill (noun/verb) – putting more liquid into a glass after it becomes empty

quantity (noun) – the amount of something

conjunctive adverb – an adverb used to start a sentence (or clause) that is a transition connecting ideas