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CIES Nole News

The Weekly Publication for the FSU Center for Intensive English Studies



Volume 5, Issue 3



Giving Thanks

Celebrating an American holiday

Every year on the 4th Thursday in November, Americans celebrate Thanksgiving. This is a unique American

holiday, and it is a holiday that Americans take very seriously. It is one of two times of the year (the other being Christmas) that Americans make a point to travel to be with their family members. The earliest Thanksgiving happened around 400 years ago when early settlers to North America gave thanks for being able to survive on the new American continent. Over the years, Americans have made many important Thanksgiving traditions. Here are a few things to know about Thanksgiving:

(1) Since tens of millions of Americans try to spend the holiday with their family, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday after Thanksgiving are two of the busiest travel days in the entire year. If you are traveling on those days, **please be careful when driving due to the heavy traffic.**

(2) There are certain foods associated with Thanksgiving. These foods include turkey, stuffing or dressing (made from cornbread), cranberries, and pumpkin or sweet potato pie. Families spend hours preparing these foods, and you will all get a chance to try these Thanksgiving favorites at the **International Dinner on Friday December 4th!**

(3) **Transportation in Tallahassee is limited during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.** If you plan on using the busses to travel around town, please check the schedule to make sure it is operating. Most stores (including grocery stores) are closed Thursday.

(4) The day after Thanksgiving is called Black Friday. Read about this holiday in the culture question on the next page.

Writing Competition Ahead!

The famous **CIES Voices** writing competition will be held next week. 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 win several great FSU souvenirs, 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 topic, a paragraph, or even a short poem. Your essays should be no more than 600 words, and they should be submitted to your writing teacher by the end of November (next **Monday, November 30th**). You may also submit your writing to Andrew Wilson: acwilson@fsu.edu. We look forward to what you all have to say!

Jingle Bell Run

Please don't forget about the Jingle Bell Run on Saturday December 5th. 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 signup 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!



Getting to know Ryan Flemming

Everyone here at CIES knows Mr. Ryan, and he has had the joy to teach many hundreds of students here. He is one of the teachers who has been here the longest, and without him, CIES wouldn't be the place that it is today. Ryan is actually a Tallahassee native. He has three **siblings**, and he went to high school not far from FSU campus. Two of his siblings are fraternal twins, and all three of them have successful careers here. Growing up, Ryan was a fan of music, and he even played the guitar in a small rock band. In his neighborhood, he and his friends would play roller hockey, which is a fun and sometimes painful hobby. (It is basically like ice hockey but on roller skates.) He first came to FSU in 2003, but his major was in computer **information technology** not education. He did a lot of his training at a computer help desk where he would help people with any computer problem or question they had. Here at CIES, he is one of the guys who knows the most about computers, and he is in charge of our computer lab and helps with the



classroom technology. When he graduated college, he actually thought about becoming a lawyer. He worked with

the Florida Supreme court in the law library; even though he enjoyed the job, he thought

that it was “way too quiet and boring.” By **coincidence**, there was a former CIES teacher whose husband played bass guitar with Ryan; she introduced him to teaching English to international students and working at CIES. Ryan decided to study multilingual education, and he came here to CIES in 2007. Back then CIES was much smaller – there were only 10 teachers and 50 students. Over the last eight years Ryan has taught every course at CIES, and his favorite things to teach have been grammar and pronunciation skills. He wrote many of the textbooks that we use here. In 2012, he married his wife Rachel. They took a honeymoon to the mountains, which he says is a somewhat unusual place to **honeymoon**. We are all very excited for Ryan because he and his wife will be having a baby in just a couple of months! If you have Ryan as a teacher next session, you’ll have to be sure to ask him to show you baby pictures.

Notes from the Office

* If you are a non-scholarship student who pays tuition, please start planning your Spring session payments now. You cannot attend classes in January until all of your tuition is paid.

** If you are transferring to another school or institution next semester, please see Peggy in the office.

*** If you are going home for the winter holiday and returning in January, please see

Lacey to have her sign your I-20 **during the first week of December**.

**** If you have an expired financial guarantee, you should have received a letter from Michelle. Make sure you update this information, or you will not be able to attend classes when Spring session begins. Please see Michelle if you have any questions.

Happy Birthday to you

Sultan Alhudaif (November 13)
Victoria Davis (November 13)
Fadia Shuaib (November 23)

Culture Question

Question: What is Black Friday and how does it get its name?

Answer: Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year. If you are brave enough to travel to a mall or shopping center this day, you will find many thousands of people. Although the crowds are heavy, it is also a day to get very good discounts and sales at many stores. Stores like Walmart and Target also have excellent bargains.

Black Friday gets its name from a business term. When businesses calculate the amount of money they have, they use two terms. “In the red” means that business has spent more money than it has earned. “In the black” means that a business has

earned more money than it has spent. For most stores in the US, Black Friday is the day where they have officially earned enough money to cover their expenses for the year. For example, a store that sells an average of \$5000 a day worth of **merchandise** may sell up to \$100,000 on Black Friday!

For those of you looking to buy gifts for your family before returning home, please put **Monday November 30th** on your calendar! This is a day called ‘**Cyber Monday**’, and it is the one day of the year to get the best prices on online websites and for many electronic/technological goods. This is a great time to save some money, but remember it is for one day only!

Quote of the Week

A bit of fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses.

- Chinese proverb



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This week’s vocabulary:

polished (adjective) – something that is ready to be showed to others and free from errors or mistakes

plaque (noun) – something that is hung on the wall and features the names of people who did great things

sibling (noun) – brother or sister

information technology (noun) – a major in college where you learn about helping people who have computer problems

coincidence (noun) – something that happens by chance or luck

honeymoon (noun) – a trip taken by a couple after they get married

merchandise (noun) – products or items sold in a retail store (clothes, jewelry, electronics, furniture, etc.)