



ECI Newsletter

Winter 2013 Issue

HOLIDAY EDITION



A NOTE FROM ECI PRESIDENT

*Dear Students, Faculty, Staff,
Host Families, Partners, and Friends*

As we are approaching the Holiday Season, I would like to take the opportunity to thank every one of you for being a part of ECI Program-supporting its Goals and Mission as

well as contributing to the vision and achievements towards quality education and social and community service.

We, at ECI, are delighted to teach and serve some of the best young people from all over the world and to work with the best host families from the community as well as with the best partners from all over the world. ECI's mission would not be possible to sustain without all of your contributions and support. Let the Holidays remind us of the importance of giving love, respect and understanding to all people. Let the holidays remind us that only with hard work and humbleness can we achieve our dreams and goals.

I extend my personal gratitude to the incredibly capable and hardworking Faculty and Staff from both the Oklahoma City and Dallas campuses; for the opportunity to meet and have in the Program the most remarkably smart and respectful students; for the opportunity to work with the best-hearted host families who have been giving opportunities to our students to experience the American culture and lifestyle, and to the most professional partners who have given support to the students and ECI throughout the year. May all of your wishes be fulfilled, and may you have the most wonderful time throughout the Holidays and the New 2014 Year!

Olga Aceska

DIVERSIFIED CAMPUS IN DALLAS



Dallas Campus becomes diversified!

ECI Dallas Campus, for its Winter Session, welcomed students from the following countries: Angola, China, Colombia, Congo, Libya, Oman, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam.

**Students, Faculty and Staff of
ECI Dallas Campus
Wish all of you**

“HAPPY HOLIDAYS!”



STUDYING AT ECI IN DALLAS



ECI Dallas Campus Students, Advanced Level ESL 302 with the instructor, Jason Schneider, decided to have the class in ECI's backyard since the weather was so beautiful.

BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING

Are you a shopaholic? Is your money burning a hole in your pocket? If so, your day is quickly approaching! It is an American tradition to gather in long lines in front of stores the day after Thanksgiving to shop for deeply discounted items. Many people go and wrangle their way through large unruly crowds, and wait in checkout lines for hours just to buy gifts on their Christmas shopping lists. However, many people go out to brave the crowds to get the lowest prices on items they need or want for themselves. If you want to take part in this popular after Thanksgiving tradition, there are a few things you need to know. First you need to have a game plan.



You need to know what items you desperately want to buy, which stores are selling these items, and what prices these items are being sold for. Once you have decided what you want to buy, then you must decide which store has the best price for this item. Many shoppers get in line early. Getting in line early could mean getting in line 2 or 3 days in advance, the night before, or around 2:00 or 3:00 am in the morning on Black Friday. After you finally enter the store, the lines begin again at the checkout counter. If you are going to go shopping on Black Friday, make a plan that includes your most desired purchases and go to that store first because you may not be able to shop at the other stores on your list until late in the day. You need to also plan for very crowded parking lots and very busy city streets. Most importantly, remember it is just shopping, it isn't life or death. Be patient and have fun.

IELTS TESTING

Many ECI students plan to gain college admission with a valid IELTS score. The IELTS tests the 4 language skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing.

Speaking Section

The speaking portion of the exam is a one-on-one interview and contains two sections. The first section requires the test taker to respond to personal questions about himself/herself. The second section requires the test taker to respond to a specific topic. The entire speaking test takes between 10 and 15 minutes to complete and is recorded.

Listening Section

The Listening portion of the exam is divided into 4 segments and takes 30 minutes to complete. The listening section requires students to listen to conversations between

two people, multiple people, and individual people giving lectures or announcements. Being a sharp listener is important for the exam because all listening portions are played only once.

Reading Section

The reading section of the test requires sixty minutes and includes three lengthy, authentic reading passages. The reading exam tests for understanding of main ideas, specific information, details, logical arguments, and the ability to identify the author's opinion, purpose, and attitude. Since the reading portion of the test uses authentic material, it is essential that students spend time reading outside of the classroom. Daily reading of magazines, newspapers, online articles, or just a book from the library would greatly improve a student's ability to score well on the reading section.

Writing Section

The writing portion of the test takes 60 minutes. There are 2 sections to the test. In the first section the test taker must write about a graph, table, diagram, or chart. In this section test takers must write a minimum of 150 words. The second writing section requires the test taker to write a minimum of 250 words in response to a point of view, argument, or problem.

General Information

The IELTS exam is a comprehensive exam that gauges the students overall language ability. Therefore, if you take the IELTS it will give you a good picture of your overall language ability and help you assess your strengths and weakness. At ECI we encourage all students to take the IELTS several times during their course of study. It would be good for students to take the IELTS in levels 104, 203 or 204 and 303 or 304. Each time a student takes the test he or she can see his or her progression in the language and adjust his or her learning according to the results. Students should not expect to take the IELTS once and receive the score that they desire in order to enter the university of their choice. If you wish to take the IELTS, please speak to Nima Rezakhani or Rosanna Jaydari. These are the program directors who will assist you

in enrolling for the test. Good luck to all future test takers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

****AHMED ABDOH****

6.0 IELTS SCORE



HOLIDAY VACATION SCHEDULE

VACATION! NO SCHOOL!

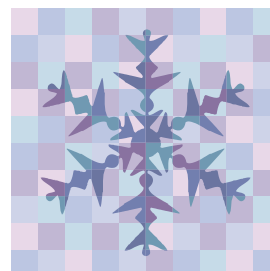
THANKSGIVING BREAK

27-29

WINTER BREAK

**DECEMBER 19-JANUARY 3
(JANUARY 6TH FIRST DAY OF
CLASS)**

**HAVE A GREAT TIME ON YOUR
HOLIDAY VACATIONS!**



THE HISTORY & TRADITIONS OF THANKSGIVING

Pilgrims. The Mayflower. Cape Cod. Squanto. Plymouth Colony. Teaching. Learning. Corn. You thought Thanksgiving was about eating and eating and turkey and pies and potatoes and shopping and shopping. Actually Thanksgiving dates back to the very beginning of the United States before we were truly the United States of America. One day one hundred and two brave English citizens began sailing from England to their new land in North America on a ship named the Mayflower and accidentally landed near Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Unfortunately, they were not properly prepared for their new life in their new land. Life was very hard for them. They did not know how to survive in their new home, nor did they have the proper clothing, or enough food and supplies. Sadly, about half of the Pilgrims who initially arrived on Cape Cod died from disease or malnutrition. Fortunately, a Pawtuxet Indian named Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to catch fish, extract sap from trees, and grow corn. Without Squanto's help, all of the Pilgrims might have perished. The Pilgrims decided to celebrate their new friendship with their Indian friends by having a three day feast. Fifty-three pilgrims and ninety Wampanoag Indians attended the three day feast. At their feast, the Pilgrims and Indians probably ate deer, turkey, lobster, swan, duck, goose, shellfish, pumpkin, corn, and stuffing. As students, all of you are like the Pilgrims. You have crossed thousands of miles of land and oceans to come and experience this new world. Thankfully, you did not have to suffer through the harsh conditions like the Pilgrims. If you would like to learn more about Thanksgiving, go to www.history.com and type in Thanksgiving in the search bar. On this site they have many videos that you can watch for free about the history and traditions of Thanksgiving.

FOOD IDIOMS

Idioms are groups of words that have unique meanings as groups, but if defined by the individual words in the group, the separate words would not provide an appropriate definition. There are thousands of idioms. Here are a few food idioms in preparation for Thanksgiving. Have fun learning and using them.

Piece of cake-something that is very, very easy

Quit cold turkey-to abruptly give up an addiction or habit.

Bring home the bacon-to earn money.

Two peas in a pod- two very similar people

Have your cake and eat it too-to have something both ways.

Not my cup of tea-not a person's choice or preference.

Don't be a sucker-Don't be a person who is easily tricked or fooled.

That's small potatoes-a small amount; something insignificant.

Don't be a chicken-Don't be afraid.

That person is a rotten egg-A bad person.

Sam and Beth are cousins. They are talking on the phone about their Thanksgiving Day dinner with their family.

Scene: Talking on the phone one week before Thanksgiving

Sam: "Wow! This Thanksgiving is going to be interesting because all of our aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws will be at our grandparents house for Thanksgiving dinner."

Beth: "Yeah! I don't really like to be around a lot of people. It's **not my cup of tea**. I like to be alone."

Sam: "Come on! You really enjoy the food that they cook and bring for the Thanksgiving Day feast. It is absolutely delicious. You only get food like that once a year."

Beth: "I know. You're right. **I can't have my cake and eat it too**. I have to put up with all of our crazy relatives if I want to eat the amazingly delicious food."

Sam: "What about Uncle Mark and Aunt Nancy? They always bring big boxes of

Godiva chocolate for everyone.”

Beth: “Yeah! You know they have to **bring home a lot of bacon** to afford all that expensive chocolate.”

Sam: “Oh! I forgot! What about Aunt Sarah and Uncle Matthew. They always give everyone a \$100 dollar gift card to the Apple Store.”

Beth: “Yeah! Their gift cards make Uncle Mark’s and Aunt Nancy’s gifts **seem like small potatoes!**”

Scene: At the Thanksgiving Day feast at their grandparent’s house.

Sam: “Oh look! There are our cousins Jennifer and Rachael. They are sitting in front of the TV, playing the PS3, and listening to music. That is all they ever do when they come over for Thanksgiving. How can they be so alike and live so far away from each other?”

Beth: “It’s because they are **two peas in a pod!** They are exactly alike. Hey! Didn’t you use to play PS3 for 6 hours a day?”

Sam: “Yeah, I did. But, I **quit cold turkey** because I was failing all my classes in high school, so my parents told me if I want to get a car, I had to quit playing PS3 and get good grades. So I just quit in one day.”

Cousin Frank: “Hey Beth! The little cousins already ate all of the apple and pumpkin pies.

Beth: Really? That is what I wanted to eat most of all!”

Sam: “**Don’t be a sucker!** He is just telling you that to make you crazy.”

Beth: “Cousin Frank is such a **rotten egg!** He is always making trouble!”

Sam: “You know cousin Frank loves to torment you. I dare you to unscrew the salt shaker and pass it to him when we sit down to eat Thanksgiving dinner.”

Beth: “I can’t. I’m not brave enough.”

Sam: “Come on! **Don’t be a chicken! It’s a piece of cake.** It is so easy and simple to just unscrew the salt shaker and pass it to him.

Beth: Well, I’ll think about it. I just want to do my best to enjoy myself this Thanksgiving Day!”

Sam: “Me too! I’m glad that we get to see each other once a year and enjoy all of this family drama together.

AROUND THE WORLD

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN VENEZUELA

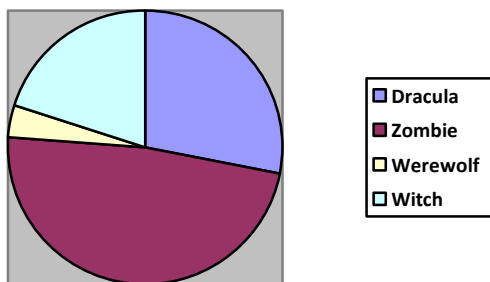
Written by: Ivanna Kiad-bay (OKC Campus Student)

As a predominantly Catholic country, Christmas festivities in Venezuela celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. The religious celebrations for Christmas begins on December 16th with mass services that churches hold in the early morning, and these masses are celebrated every day until the 24th. On December 24th, Venezuelans celebrate Christmas Eve enjoying a huge traditional dinner with family and attending the midnight mass. Some of the dishes that commonly can be found in the Christmas Eve dinner are “Hallacas” which is a meal made of flour, chicken, or beef wrapped in plantain leaves, “Pan de jamon” which is a long loaf of bread filled with raisins and cooked ham and “Dulce de lechoza” which is a dessert made of brown sugar and green papaya. Although many homes put up a Christmas tree, the most authentic Venezuelan custom is to display a nativity scene. On December 25th, children awake to find their gifts around the nativity scene or the Christmas tree which traditionally are brought by baby Jesus to the Venezuelan children instead of Santa Claus. Furthermore, music plays an important role in the celebrations. “Gaita” music, which is a type of folk music, is one of the traditional Christmas genres and it is played on several instruments including the “Cuatro”(a guitar with four strings) a “Tambora” (a Venezuelan drum), the “Furro” (a type of drum but it has a stick coming up through the middle of the skin drum) and the “Charrasca” (a ribbed tube that you rub a stick up and down). Another type of music in Venezuela is called “Aguinaldos y Parrandas”, where the song are like carols. Christmas, is above all, the main holiday during which Venezuelan families get together and rejoice in a harmonious balance of solemnity and gaiety.

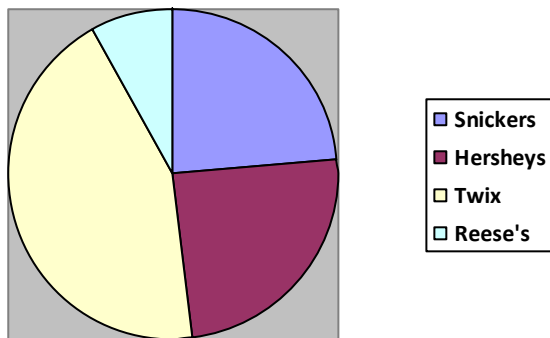
HOLIDAY STUDENT SURVEY

Some students and a few staff members took a survey to identify their holiday preferences and wishes.

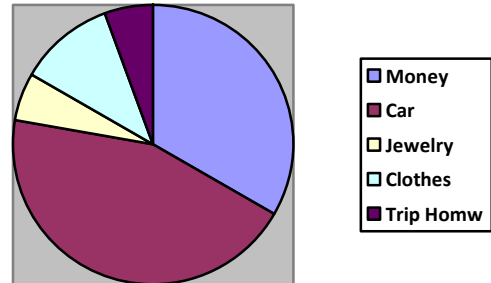
For Halloween, students were asked to identify which monster they are most afraid of. Here are the results.



Students were asked to identify their favorite candy. This is the candy they would most like to receive if they went trick or treating for Halloween.

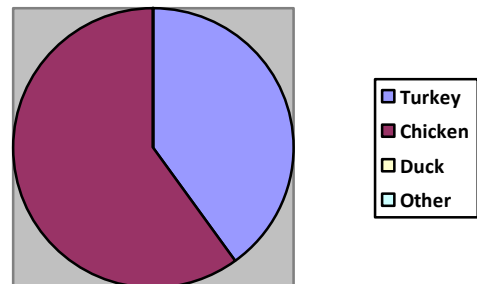


If students were to receive gifts for a holiday present, they would most like to receive cars or money.

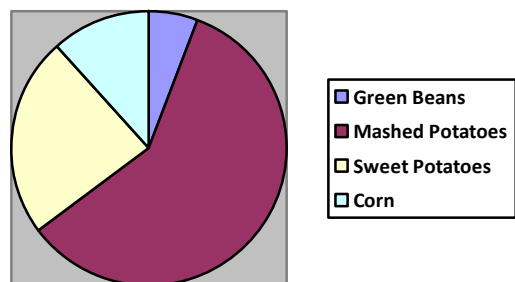


If we had a student planned Thanksgiving Dinner at ECI, this is the menu we would follow.

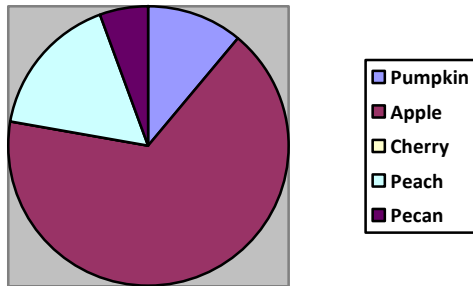
Meat: Students prefer chicken.



Side Dishes: Students prefer mashed potatoes.



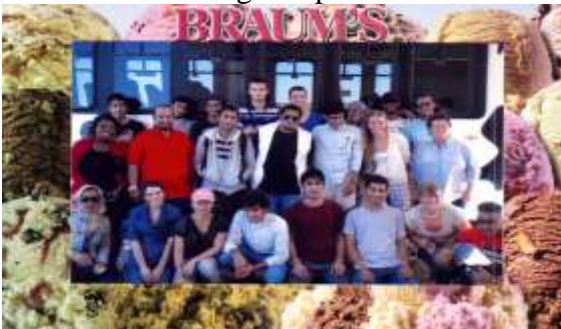
Pies: Students prefer apple pies.



Have fun looking at and discussing these graphs. Do you agree with your classmates who completed this survey? Which items would you choose?

STUDENT EVENTS

The Oklahoma City students have enjoyed two interesting and informative field trips in the past two months. The first field trip was a personal tour of the Braum's Ice Cream Factory in Tuttle, Oklahoma. The students walked through an upper level viewing area in the Braum's ice-cream factory and viewed the workers making the products Braum's is so famous for: ice cream, milk, and other dairy products. The students also got to view product production in the bakery factory where Braum's bakes its own cookies, bread, and ice cream cones. Did you know that Braum's is one of the few companies in the world that makes ice cream cones? They also bake 50,000 cookies a day and own 14,000 cows. The second trip included a tour of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. The students really liked looking at the rodeo display, the Native American clothing, Native American beadwork, and the western town. They also really enjoyed walking around the outside gardens of the museum and taking this photo.



WELCOME TO ECI

We are always delighted to see new students on the ECI campuses. This session we have many new students. Thank you for choosing to learn English with us.

Abrar Alharbi-Saudi Arabia
 Mohammed Alharbi-Saudi Arabia
 Ghannam –Saudi Arabia
 Ahmed Aldawsari-Saudi Arabia
 Predrag-Montenegro
 Nickola Gavrilovic-Serbia
 Ivanna Kiad-bay -Venezuela
 Santiago Gomez-Columbia
 Francisco Whetstone-Nicaragua
 Ly Huynh
 Van Nguyen
 Hoe Chu
 Meshal Alnefai
 Saleh Alyami
 Mohammed Alsaab
 Fahad Alamri
 Omar Albar
 Sun Yiling
 Hong Yanchang
 Ying Zhouyi
 Qing Woyu
 Guo Zeyu

WE HAVE THE BEST STUDENTS

YOU'RE OUTSTANDING!

STUDENT AWARDS

Honor Roll

Each session, students can receive awards for being exceptional students. Students who receive an A in both the morning and afternoon classes will be awarded with High Honors.

The Session 9, 10, & 11 High Honors Students

Thao Le
Alena Mochaleva
Irina Basina
Majdah Fageeh
Omkaltum El-Emmari
Yuxin Jiang
Liu Kun

Students who receive the grades of one B and one A will be awarded with Honors:

The Session 9, 10, & 11 Honors Students

Ahmed Aldawsari
Ahmed Abdoh
Mohammed Alharbi
Abrar Alharbi
Mohammed Shehab
Habacuc Apolinario
Hassan Alfaraj
Zhang Zhengtong
Turaya Salama

Attendance Awards

Excellence in education is shown not only through grades but also through attendance. Showing up to class every day, working diligently, and trying to do your best is another quality of an outstanding student. So we also honor these hard working students.

Two awards are given for attendance. One award is given for Perfect Attendance. This means the student never missed class.

The Session 9, 10, & 11 Perfect Attendance Students

Youmei You
Liu Kun
Irina Basina
Predrag Mijatovic
Abrar Alharbi
Mohammed Alharbi
Ahmed Aldawsari
Ivan Marcelo
Ghannam Alshammari
Syadur Rahman

The other attendance award is Outstanding Attendance. This award is given to student who had 3 or fewer absences.

The Session 9, 10, & 11 Outstanding Attendance Students

Yuxin Jiang
Habacuc Apolinario
Omkaltum El-Emmari
Hassan Alfaraj
Turaya Salama
Zhang Zhengtong

**GIVE THESE HARDWORKING
STUDENTS A HAND FOR THEIR
EXCEPTIONALISM!**

“Education: Being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't. It's knowing where to go to find out what you need to know; and it's knowing how to use the information once you get it.”

*William A. Feather (1889-1981)
American publisher and author.*

Students and Host Families

24 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Remember, you can call anytime you need us. We are here to help!

Oklahoma City: (405) 810-8314

Dallas: (972) 239-8555

Toll-Free: (888) 446-5437

Email: eci@ionet.net

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