ESL Picnic a Success Despite Weather

On Tuesday, July 20th, ESL students enjoyed barbeque grilled burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw, and various other picnic treats—all indoors!

It is very rare that an ESL picnic will be rained out, but this was the case at last week’s picnic, an event that was already rescheduled from the previous week due to the possibility of inclement weather.

As ESL staff scrambled to find a new location for the picnic and make arrangements with the caterer, many students began to wonder whether there would be a picnic after all.

Luckily, it takes more than a little rain to keep ESL students from having a good time!

Gathered in the Laverty Lounge of Krieger Hall, students, faculty, staff and family members made good use of the small conference room and enjoyed a buffet spread of American picnic classics while chatting and making new friends in other classes.

Faculty and staff enjoyed the opportunity to get to know this year’s program participants, learning all about their new experiences in the US, meeting their families, and hearing about what life is like in other parts of the world.

One highlight was seeing three lucky students win this year’s door prizes! Awarded were gift certificates to Barnes & Noble bookstore, Chipotle, and Niwana restaurant. The winners—Soo Jung Hur, Jhih-Jia Yan, and Katherine Bonil—were all smiles.

As the picnic was winding down, it was uncertain what would become of the most important picnic activity—making s’mores! When the rain stopped, guests gathered outside to set up a small portable fire on the Krieger lower quad. With twigs in hand, students learned how to assemble their own s’mores. Although messy, the gooey campfire treats were a big success!
ESL Picnic a Success cont’d. by Valeria Costadoni

After the picnic, many guests took home leftover food and commented on what a great time they had and how happy they were that the event was not canceled due to rain.

Photos from this and all other ESL events can be found in the photo galleries of the ESL website. Go to www.ciedu.jhu.edu/esl and click on ‘News, Events, & Photos.’

It was a real pleasure seeing everyone who came out to the picnic and we look forward to seeing you at not only the last few ESL events, but at future picnics as well!

A big thank you to all who attended from us at ESL!

Lunch Conversations by Vanessa Verdine

During this summer’s program, Wednesdays from noon to 1:00pm are designated Lunch Conversation time.

We have met two wonderful lunch conversation groups so far, and the last one is coming up this week.

The conversations are always fun and relaxed. Students discuss any topic that piques curiosity: from what there is to do in Baltimore, to cultural similarities and differences, to collegiate life for many students. Candid responses and honest curiosity always help feed our conversations. These times set aside to simply chat are not only enjoyable, but they are also valuable for learning English.

“Many students say ... there is never enough time to just practice talking.”

Many students say that no matter what language they are learning, there is never enough time to just practice talking. Textbooks are helpful for learning, but having an actual conversation outside the classroom is what will really boost mastery of the language.

Join us for our last conversation group of the summer! All skill levels are welcome and students are encouraged to invite friends and classmates.

We provide cookies, tea, and other treats, but you are welcome to bring your own lunch.

See you tomorrow at noon!

A Day at the Ballpark by Valeria Costadoni

This past Saturday, ESL students and staff endured the summer heat and downtown crowds and headed over to Camden Yards at the Inner Harbor to see the Baltimore Orioles play the Minnesota Twins.

Students also enjoyed typical game fare such as hot dogs, popcorn, and peanuts.

Although the game ended in a crushing defeat against the Twins, many were happy to get a taste of American sports culture and learn about the rules of baseball from our expert instructors. The always popular “Kiss Cam” provided many laughs for spectators during the seventh inning stretch.

With 15 ESL students joining us, it was the largest group our program has ever taken to an Orioles game.

Congratulations new baseball fans!