

# ESL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER  
2009



## A Warm Welcome from ESL

The theme for the 2009 Johns Hopkins Intensive English Language Program is **Fit In. Stand Out.** Isn't that what we all have wanted since we started school, a very long, or for some of you, not so long ago? Every little six-year old lets go of mom's hand with fear on that first day of school. Who will talk to me? Will anyone play with me? Will I be smart enough?

Those fears return for the non-native English speakers who go to school or work in an English speaking country, whether they are six or sixty. The questions may be a little different, but the fears are the same: What if I don't understand when someone talks to me? What if they don't understand me? How will anyone see how much I really do know?

Hopkins IELP helps you reduce the fear and build confidence. By working intensively on your reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, you can speak when spoken to. By improving your TOEFL scores, you can get into the school or get the job you want. By analyzing films and American culture, you can better understand the often confusing people who surround you. By joining the activities – the picnic, sailing, outdoor movies, and baseball game – you can feel like you fit in to this new world.

We in Hopkins IELP want you to fit in and stand out. We are very happy you are here.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Palmer".

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**July 3**

No classes in observance of  
Independence Day

**July 7**

ESL Picnic 6-8 pm  
\$5 per person

**July 11**

Baseball Game 7:05 pm  
\$13 per person

**July 17**

Sailing on the Harbor  
\$25 per person

**July 24**

Sailing on the Harbor  
\$25 per person

**July 28**

Class photos on Krieger Quad

**July 31**

Certificate Ceremony  
11 am-1 pm



Students: If you would like to  
submit pictures or articles for  
the next newsletter, email  
[esl@jhu.edu](mailto:esl@jhu.edu) by

**July 13**

## Why is the Fourth of July Important?

Vanessa Kaori Verdine Over the past week and into the beginning of July, you may have noticed advertisements for Fourth of July sales, events, and so on. Classes are also not scheduled for July 3rd, encouraging students to attend those events. Those who are unfamiliar with American holidays may ask themselves, what is special about the fourth day of July?



Fireworks at Inner Harbor

In fact, that day is the American Independence day, a federal holiday. It is the main holiday of the summer, known for picnics, fireworks, parades, barbeques,

concerts, political speeches, and other patriotic activities. All these events celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776.

The adoption of the Declaration of Independence, which took place in the midst of the American Revolution, marked the separation of America from the Kingdom of Great Britain. Up until that point, America had been a colony of Great Britain, ruled over by the King and run by British officials. For this reason the Fourth of July is also known as Independence Day.

Because of the separation marked the formation of a new nation, there is a great deal of national pride surrounding this holiday. You may see the red, white and blue theme repeated anywhere and everywhere: parades floats, picnics, food platters, banners, and clothes are all common.

Since no class is taking place, why not go enjoy some of the vibrant celebrations, for example the fireworks in Inner Harbor or the Pier Party at the Aquarium?

Whatever suits your fancy, have a happy July 4th!



Remember to stop by the ESL office for your student orientation packets!

## An American Pastime

Valeria Costadoni From Baltimore to San Francisco, Florida to Washington, there are two words that hold a special place in every American heart — “Play ball!”



Nick Markakis at bat

For those not familiar with American culture, it may be difficult to understand the appeal of the nation’s pastime, but there is so much more to baseball than just a ball and a bat.

Baseball is a challenging and strategic sport with a highly complex set of rules, but the real attraction is simply being at the game. A true “spectator sport,” baseball attracts fans who devote

themselves to tracking player stats, following teams from stadium to stadium, and showing up at every game dressed in their team’s colors and “rooting for the home team.”

Baseball teams are so iconic in American culture because they become true ambassadors; representing their cities and states all over the world. While baseball is also a popular sport in other countries, such

as Cuba and Japan, there is nothing like being at Oriole Park on a sunny day with a hot dog and Coke in hand as you stand up for the seventh inning stretch.

If you’d like to experience this special pastime for yourself, be sure to sign up for the ESL baseball trip!

## Word Game: Sudoku

G	F			J	K	E		O	M	L	N	A	D	H	
D			B	O		A		I	C			E			J
M			A					H	E	D	B		O	I	P
	H	O	N	D	G		I		J		A	C			M
	O	B	C		D	J	L	K		M	P	G	H		F
I			L			G	F	D	O	A	H		M		
H	K					I	A		E	N	F		C		L
A	M			H	N	K	P						D	O	E
B	I	H	M					C	A	P	E				D
P		L		A	E	C		B	H						I
		F		P	H	M	O	J	N			L			A
C		N	J	K	I		B	F	G	O		H	E	M	
J			I	L	N		H		E	O	M	P	G		
	P	A	G		C	H	D	M				N			E
L			H			O	J		P		D	B			C
	N	D	K	G	M	P	E		L	C	B				J

Puzzle by websudoku.com

**Instructions:** Solve the 16x16 Sudoku so the letters A to P appear once in each row, column and 4x4 box.

English as a Second Language

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