

# School of Foreign Languages' Monthly Bulletin

January 2023



**What you  
will read  
in this  
month's  
issue:**

- Latest News of SOFL
- Training Session
- New Year
- Improve your Writing Skills
- Our Staff's Academic Activities
- SFOL on Social Media



**Block E**



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# Latest News of SOFL

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- **Track 2 Progress Test was conducted on 23.01.2023-24.01.2023**
  - **Spring Semester Proficiency Exam (IGUYET) was conducted on 30.01.2023**
  - **Track 2 Online Quiz 2 & Progress Test Appeal process was started on 30.01.2023. The appeal form remains open for 5 working days.**
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# New Year

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On the night of 31 December and the morning of 1 January, people in many countries all over the world will celebrate the beginning of a new year. How will they celebrate and how did this tradition begin?

'For last year's words belong to last year's language  
And next year's words await another voice.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.' – TS Eliot

## New year, old celebrations

There have been celebrations to mark the beginning of a new year for thousands of years. Sometimes these were simply an opportunity for people to eat, drink and have fun, but in some places the festivities were connected to the land or astronomical events. For example, in Egypt the beginning of the year coincided with when the River Nile flooded, and this normally happened when the star Sirius rose. The Persians and Phoenicians started their new year at the spring equinox (this is around 20 March when the Sun shines more or less directly on the equator and the length of the night and the day are almost the same).



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# New Year

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## The oldest celebration

The city of Babylon in ancient Mesopotamia was where the first New Year's celebrations were recorded about 4,000 years ago. The Babylonians held their celebrations on the first new moon after the spring equinox and called this festival Akitu (which comes from the word the Sumerians used for barley). Barley was cut in Mesopotamia in the spring, and during Akitu there was a different ritual on each of the 11 days that the celebration lasted. Statues of the gods were carried through the streets of the city, and in this way the Babylonians believed that their world had been cleaned to prepare for the new year and a new spring.



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# New Year

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## Traditions that live on

There are a number of strange and interesting New Year's traditions around the world. In Scotland, New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay and 'first footing' remains a popular custom with people visiting friends' and neighbours' houses just after midnight. The first person who visits your house should bring a gift as this will mean good luck. In Spain, it is the custom to eat 12 grapes as the bells sound for midnight on 31 December. One grape is eaten at each sound of the bell and each grape is supposed to bring good luck for each month of the year ahead. In Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela and some other Central and South American countries, people wear special underwear of different colours on New Year's Eve. Red is supposed to be good for bringing love in the new year, while yellow is supposed to bring money.



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# Our Staff's Academic Activities

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In SFOL, we support our instructors' academic endeavors.



## Webinars

**Webinars and events take place on a regular basis because the need for being up to date when it comes to teaching in the 21st century, makes seminars an inseparable part of professional development. For a detailed list of webinars on English language teaching, you can visit the following website:**  
**<https://webinars.eltngl.com>**

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# Improve your writing skills

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Writing is one of the most important skills English as a second language learners must master, particularly for students and working professionals. That's because unlike in speaking exercises, when you write you leave a lasting record of your language.

Mistakes in spelling, grammar and word choice are immediately evident. And while literacy skills are not a reflection of intelligence or knowledge, poor writing can cause a student to receive lower marks, even if they know a lot about the subject of the assignment. In a professional context, people may judge you as lazy or untrustworthy if you send poorly written emails full of mistakes.

They are also likely to assume your spoken ability in English is quite low, though this may or may not be the case. That's why it is important to improve writing skills in English before they prevent you from reaching your full potential at school or in the workplace.





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# Improve your writing skills

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Fortunately, the more often you write, the easier it will be to access the English you are looking for and express yourself accurately and fluently. Researchers know that if you are a strong writer in your first language, chances are you will also be a strong writer in English.

That's because strategy use transfers. However, you can always learn to be more strategic as a writer and improve your skills by signing up for a class.

A composition course, even one aimed at native speakers, will help you improve the way you react to different texts, organize your ideas and bring together vocabulary, grammar and tone to enhance your writing. Spelling and fluency, when it comes to the actual process of putting words on paper, can be improved by taking an online course.

Keep in mind that you can't learn how to write overnight. It's a process and the more you write and receive feedback on your written work, the stronger you will become.



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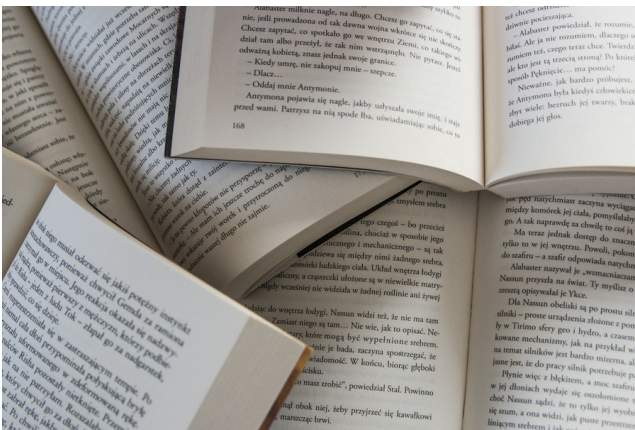
# Our Staff's Academic Activities

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**Yahya Kamal**

**Mohammad Mostafa**

**Seminar Certificate - Humanities and studies  
Kutahya Dumlupınar University**





31 JANUARY 2022

# STREET CHILDREN DAY

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN, RECOGNIZING THE  
HUMANITY, DIGNITY, AND DEFIANCE OF STREET-CONNECTED  
CHILDREN IN THE FACE OF UNIMAGINABLE HARDSHIPS.



İSTANBUL  
GELİŞİM  
UNIVERSITY





World Impact Ranking 2022  
Quality Education - (SDG4)

**16<sup>TH</sup> IN THE WORLD**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> IN TURKEY**



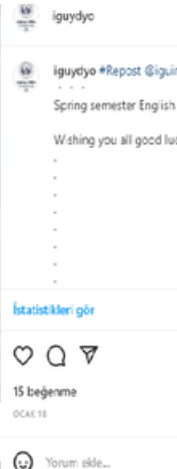
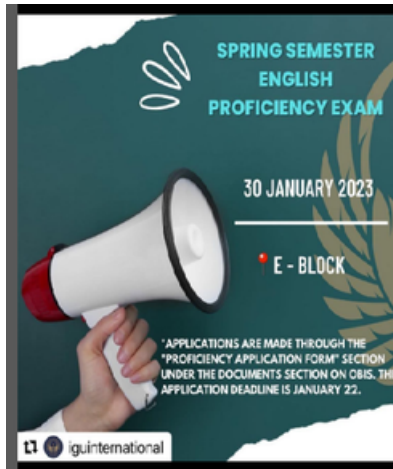
Ecological, Economic and Social Sustainability

**#THEGlobalImpact**

**Gelişim University ranks 1st in Turkey in 'The Impact Ranking 2022' where it rises higher ranks every year.**

# Our School On Social Media

As always, our school was very active on social media to announce important events or celebrate public or national and international holidays. Here, we will take a look at some of them without any explanation because sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words!

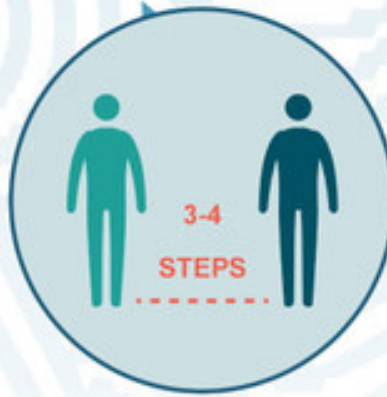




# PROTECTING FROM THE VIRUS IN OUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE WITH DISPOSABLE PAPER TISSUES DURING COUGHING AND SNEEZING. IF THERE IS NO TISSUE, USE THE INNER SIDE OF YOUR ELBOW.



AVOID CLOSE CONTACT SUCH AS HANDSHAKING AND HUGGING.



AVOID CROWDED PLACES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.



DO NOT TOUCH YOUR MOUTH, NOSE AND EYES WITH DIRTY HANDS.



WASH YOUR HANDS WITH WATER AND REGULAR SOAP FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.



USE HAND SANITIZER IF THERE IS NO WATER AND SOAP.