

22nd August 2018 | ISSUE1

Welcome back to 2018/2019



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 10 September - PTA#1
- 17 September - Parent Cafe #1
- 20 September - Teachers day event
- 8 October - PTA#2
- 8-12 October - Book week event
- 15-19 October - Half Term break
- 23 October - Teachers Only Day #1
- 5 November - Parent Cafe #2
- 19 November - PTA#3
- 28 November - Loy Krathong event (Assembly)
- 29 November - Kings Birthday event assembly
- 3 December - Parent Cafe #3
- 5 December - Rama IX Memorial Day Holiday
- 14 December - Christmas Festival (unless advised otherwise)
- 14 December - Last day of Term 1
- 15-7 December - End of year holidays
- 7 January, 2019 - Teachers Only Day #2
- 8 January, 2019 - First day of Term 2

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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

It is wonderful to see our students back for the 2018/2019 academic year. Over the two weeks before school began, teachers have been busy planning for the year ahead and seeing our students back makes this effort all worthwhile.

Since last year, we have put in place a number of new developments. Construction has completed on our walkway to the PY building, the outdoor foyer area and our upgraded EY playground. These additions are making an immediate impact on the school. Our new swimming pool is also under construction and will be complete by Christmas. We have also put in place a new security guard on the gate and a new parent ID card system.



On the academic side, we are rolling out new systems to track our progress against the NCE standards for mathematics and English. These involve both improved internal systems and new external tests to measure student progress year on year. We are also working towards our PYP authorisation visit in March, 2019 and continue to work towards full CIS accreditation in 2020/2021.

Staff have also been busy with new training and all staff received first aid and CPR training at Bangkok Hospital. Thai teachers have been involved with Thai language training at Anglo Singapore International School and ISAT's Thai teacher training event at Ayutthaya over the break as well. We have trainings planned for new staff in the PYP and further whole staff training in EAL coming up too.

Parent involvement continues to be something we look to build on. We are inviting two parent representatives onto the School Board and will be finalising those members over the next month. We are also looking for class representatives for each class to formalise our Parents and Teachers Association (PTA). We are continuing with our Parent Cafe programme to provide fun, interactive education seminars for our parents to learn about what we do. We also welcome parents to volunteer within the classroom too.

So, this is a big year for us and the continued support of our school community is tremendously valued.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School



Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, PYP Coordinator

What exactly do we mean by 'inquiry'? In the area of teaching and learning it means that students have opportunities to research, discover and find things out by experience. Therefore, we engage children in activities such as:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>Reading for information</p> |  <p>Observing closely</p> |  <p>Creating surveys</p> |
|  <p>Interviewing</p> |  <p>Googling</p> |  <p>Watching documentaries</p> |

When you visit our classrooms these are common inquiry activities you will see happening.

Early Years Update

Preschool class update - Settling In!

By Ms Charlotte Trufit, Preschool Teacher

Welcome to the year ahead. I am Ms. Charlotte the new Preschool teacher and I am working with Ms. Koy and Ms. Patty. The children have all begun to settle into class now. They have started to explore the different learning areas of the classroom and the resources.

The children also had their first Thai lesson with Ms. Doum, which they thoroughly enjoyed.



Early Years Update

K2 class update - Our First Week in K2!

By Ms Jane Sutton, K2 Teacher

K2 have had a great time exploring their new classroom and getting to know their new teachers. They have enjoyed singing with Mr Larry, playing 'tag' with Mr Ivan and learning Thai with Ms. Doum.

We look forward to a fantastic year of learning, fun and laughter!



Year 2 class update - Year 2 The Year Starts With Fun

By Mr John Kelly, Year 2 Teacher

Year 2 has started the school year with some exciting activities. The students were nervous coming to Mr. John's class, but very quickly have realised he is a friendly and kind teacher.

Over the past week, we have been painting our faces on balloons and writing stories about what we did during our holidays. In mathematics, we started the year by learning about shape, colour and number patterns and are now investigating what the digits in a number represent. Our Unit of Investigation (UOI) is about learning about how the choices we make affect the way in which we live. We also selected our ECA's and have completed our first week with them. Finally, Enjoy went to Bangkok to compete in a mathematics competition last weekend and did her best there. Well done to her!



Year 5 reflect on last year at UDIS!

By Mr John Eastham, Y5 Teacher



The PYP Learner Profile encourages students to reflect on their learning. Year 5 looked back on their experiences at UDIS last year and summarised their highlights in a poster. Here are a few examples. They are all displayed outside our classroom. Do come and look if you can!



MODERN LANGUAGES - THAI LANGUAGE

Thai start the new term

ต้อนรับวันเปิดเทอม

Sawat dee ka. This month celebrates mothers in Thailand so I wish every mother happiness and good health. In Thai class this year we have started with fun activities and the students are ready for learning. Over the past week, we have assessed their prior learning to work out what are their next steps to work on for Thai language and culture. The homework day for Thai is on Wednesdays and it would be great if parents could help your child with their homework on this day.



School board update

The school operates a school board which oversees how the school is operated and makes decisions on policy, fees and budgets. The parent volunteers role is to look out for the interests of parents on the school board so that the Board can consider the interests of parents when it makes decisions.

We are looking for parent representatives to join the UDIS Executive School Board. If you are interested in joining the School Board, please contact Dr. Lindsay at lindsay@udis.ac.th or please contact us through the School Office. If there are more nominations than vacancies, then parents will vote on the representatives.

PTA update

The purpose of the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) is a body for which the school can:

- Present important issues or initiatives to parents
- Consult with parents about programme changes
- Use to help the school make decisions where applicable
- Use to work with the school to help with events and community service

This year, we are looking to formalise our PTA with designated parent representatives for each class. We are looking for each class to choose 1-2 representatives to help communicate issues to the school and serve as regular participants on the PTA.

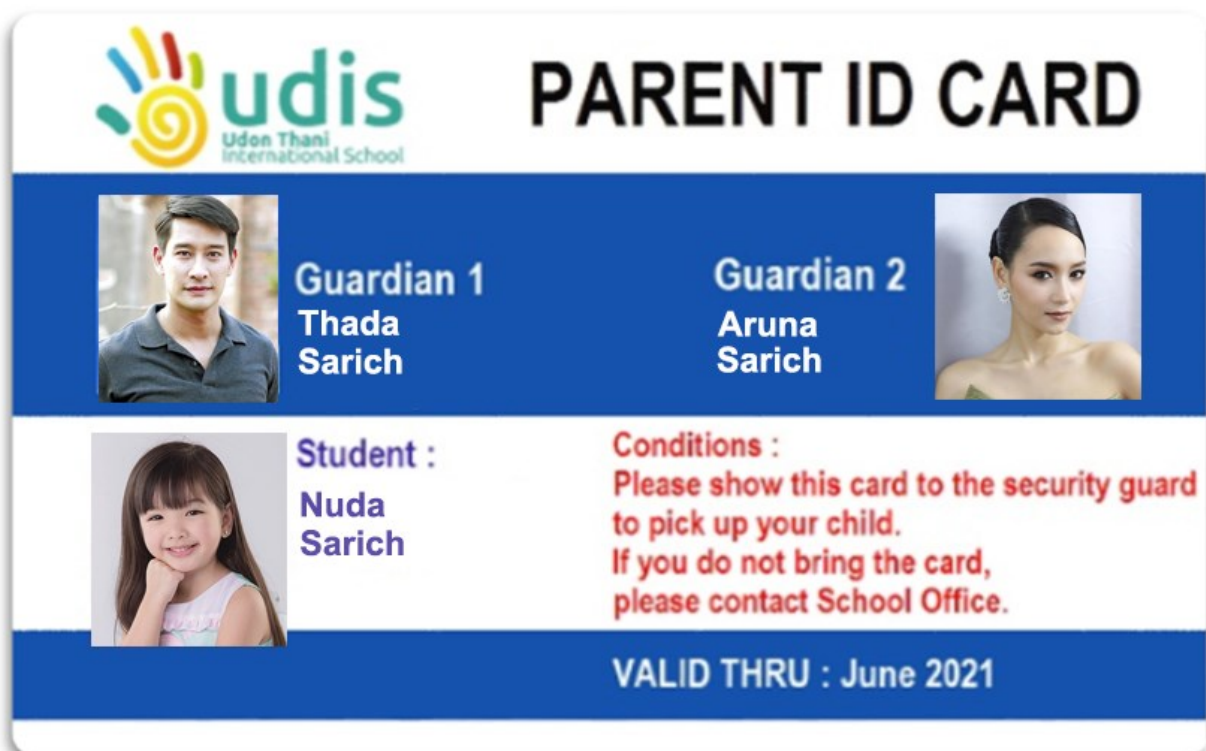
The first meeting of the PTA will be on Monday 10 September, 2018.



Health and Safety

By Mr John Kelly, Health and safety coordinator

Welcome back to a new school year. I have been appointed as the health and safety officer for this year. Our biggest focus this year will be the smooth and successful use of the visitor I.D. cards. Please ensure that whoever picks up your children in the afternoon has their I.D. card with them. This will show that they are entitled to take your children home each afternoon. These cards are designed for your children's safety in mind. Please ensure that each day you have your I.D. card with you!



House Update

UDIS has a House system comprising of five house teams. This is the third year that we implemented the house system at our school.

The current house point totals are:

| House team | Current points |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Red House Confucius | 8 |
| Blue House Martin Luther King | 8 |
| Black House Princess Diana | 15 |
| Green House Nelson Mandela | 8 |
| Yellow House Mother Teresa | 14 |



Parent cafe

Our Parent cafe for 2018/2019 will resume this year and the upcoming events are:

| Session | Date | Topic |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| #1 | 17/9/2018 | PYP Induction for Parents |
| #2 | 5/11/2018 | Reading with your child |
| #3 | 3/12/2018 | High quality learning at UDIS and what this looks like in our classrooms |

The next parent cafe is PYP induction with Ms. Cynthia.



Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Marketing visit Rotary Club of Beaverton and IB School in USA.



School Terms and Dates 2018/2019

UDIS operates three terms per school year as follows:

Term 1 (81 days)

School start: Tuesday 14 August, 2018
Half term break: 15-19 October, 2018 (1 week)
Finish: Friday 14 December, 2018

Term 2 (61 days)

Start: Monday 7 January, 2019
Half term break: 18-19 February, 2019 (2 days)
Finish: Thursday 4 April, 2019

Term 3 (40 days)

Start: Monday 22 April, 2019
Half term break: 20-21 May, 2019 (2 days)
Finish: Wednesday 19 June, 2019

Term 1 2019/2020

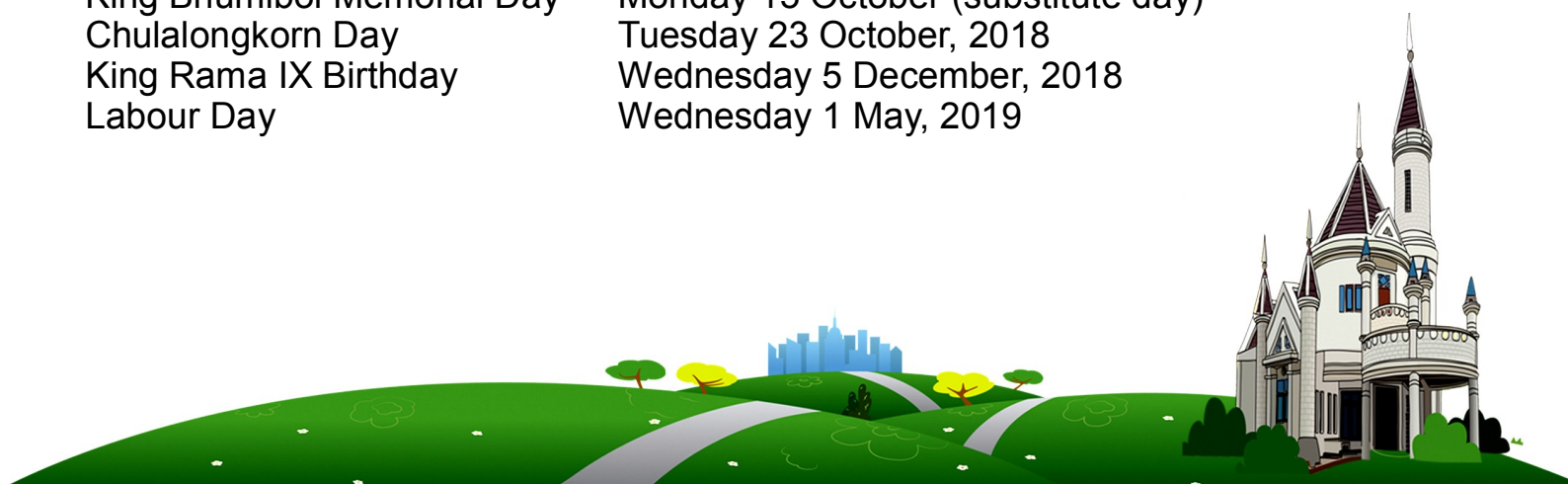
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

Teacher Only Days

Teacher only day #1: 23 October, 2018 (Monday is substitute holiday for staff)
Teacher only day #2: 7 January, 2019

Public holidays

Queens Birthday: Monday 13 August 2018 (substitute day)
King Bhumibol Memorial Day: Monday 15 October (substitute day)
Chulalongkorn Day: Tuesday 23 October, 2018
King Rama IX Birthday: Wednesday 5 December, 2018
Labour Day: Wednesday 1 May, 2019



Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

UDIS operates a Community Partnership Programme (CPP) with local businesses in the Udon Thani area who wish to support the school and its staff and students. Under the CPP, these businesses have offered discounts and benefits to staff and students who present their UDIS ID card.

Find out more on our website
(<http://www.udoninternational.com/en/general-information/cpp/>)

or contact the School Office for more information.

Contact us

Office hours: 8.00am - 4.30pm

School Number: 042 110 379 , 095 668 9636
(for all general enquiries)

Head of School: lindsay@udis.ac.th

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K2 teacher: jane@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: rachel@udis.ac.th

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Y3/4 teacher: mark@udis.ac.th

Y5 teacher: john.e@udis.ac.th

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