

6th September 2018 | ISSUE 2



### 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

## EY PICNIC

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## Message from the Head of School

*Dear Parents*

Over the past two weeks we have been talking about high quality learning which is an important focus for us this year. Our vision for high quality learning is:

At UDIS, high quality learning means learning which is goal focused, student initiated and led, where students are actively engaged, motivated and responsible for their learning and which involves critical thinking skills such as evaluation, synthesis and cognition within a teacher supported, active environment.

Our vision puts students at the centre of their own learning as they ask questions and seek answers to those questions through content they are interested in. This builds student engagement as they inquire into areas that have relevance to them. When students are learning about things that interest them, it is easy for our teachers to help weave in skills to support the students learning and to meet the expectations within our curriculum. For instance, a student might enjoy building robots. So, in class the student might design a robot for sale, work out how to describe the robot to a customer (a persuasive writing standard) and what performance figures it has (e.g. speed and acceleration calculations).

Through this process our learners have the chance to develop critical thinking skills as they evaluate different types of information and assess how well it answers their questions. The teacher plays an active part in this environment by helping to facilitate the learning, to connect learning to what students already know and to help the students answer the questions they have. So, in sum we believe this approach develops a healthy attitude towards learning for our students while preparing them for the modern and information rich world in which we now live.

Finally this week, we will be holding our first PTA meeting on Monday. We welcome parents to come along and learn how they can be involved in the school this year.

Best regards

*Dr Lindsay Stuart*

Head of School



## Inquiry corner

*By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator*

Here at UDIS we believe that children have a natural curiosity about everything. They want to touch, see, hear and enjoy everything around them. It is clear as we watch children that they have hundreds of questions buzzing through their busy minds.



Our work as teachers is to support the children in finding answers to the questions they have. We encourage them to speak what they are wondering about.

You will notice that we make time to get to know the children and to listen to their wonderings and questions. It is in this way that UDIS students feel motivated about learning and enjoy their time at school.

Questions are valued and children are encouraged to speak about what they are wondering about.

# Early Years Update

## K1 class update - OUTDOOR PLAY

By Ms Maria Panagos, K1 Teacher

Exploring the outside environment through sand play, water play, construction and games. We opened some new outdoor areas this week. The children enjoyed painting and roleplay in the dolls house. They also had great fun building in the construction area and playing bowls.



# Primary Years Update

## Year 1 class update - All In A Week's Work!

By Ms Rachel Bradley, Year 1 Teacher

What a busy week the children from Year 1 have had! In Maths, the children had some fun with 'hands on' activities. One of the favourites was a game where the children rolled 2 dice, counted the dots and circled the appropriate number in their book. The winner being the first one to circle all of their numbers.

In English the children enjoyed making up a story for the picture book, 'Oh Dear Me, I'm Late for Tea'. This was a great activity for developing vocabulary.

The children were also introduced to the initial sound 'g', this week. They drew their own pictures of things beginning with 'g', such as, garbage truck, girl, glasses and many more things that the children themselves suggested. The children also practiced writing the letter 'g'.

In UOI this week the children were learning about different body parts. This was reinforced by singing songs such as, 'One finger, one thumb keep moving' and 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes'. The children also had fun labelling parts of their body.

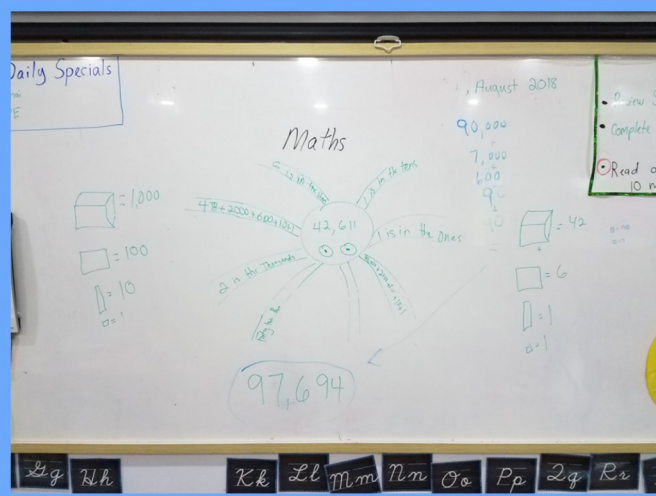
All in all, it was a busy but fun packed week.



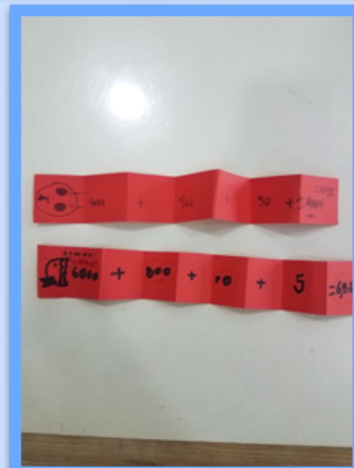
## Year 3/4 class update Who We Are (Body Systems and how the work)

By Mr Mark Abbadessa, Year 3/4 Teacher

In Year 3/4 we had a successful first month of school. For our first Unit of Inquiry, we are working within the theme 'Who We Are' with a central idea of looking at the effective interactions between human body systems and how they contribute to health and survival. The Lines of Inquiry that we are following are body systems and how they work (function), how body systems are interdependent (connection) and the impact of lifestyle choices on the body (responsibility). This month we have covered the skeletal and circulatory systems. The students researched both of these systems using resources from our school library as well as web-based resources. Then students began creating their Google Slides presentations on the Body Systems in groups which they will present to the class at the end of the unit. We will continue working on the remainder of the Body Systems over the coming weeks.



In Maths this first month we have covered a variety of different topics. We have also created different groups for Maths so the students have differentiated activities to cover each topic. We started off the school year by having different Maths Centers to teach the students about Fractions, Arrays and Problem Solving. This week we completed our unit on Place Values. The students took part in creating a Place Value Spider and Place Value Snake. Our next unit will focus on Addition and Subtraction using Mental Math.



## Year 6/7 class update - Cultural Identity

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Y6/7 Teacher

Welcome to Year 6/7. Here is our first photograph together.



Why were we all smiling so much that day?

Well, there are so many reasons. Firstly, we were glad to welcome Moriah, our new classmate from Idaho. Secondly, we realise that we are fortunate enough to have a large classroom with a beautiful view over green fields.

We've also been decorating the classroom with things such as family photographs so that we feel at home in there.

Our first unit of inquiry is about cultural identity and how it relates to our actions. We've learned that there is an outward show of culture through clothes, language, arts and such things. We are now finding out that we each have a cultural identity that we need to be able to discuss and feel proud about. We've interviewed teachers, read together and watched a documentary about the minority ethnic groups of Myanmar.

All of these activities involved us in using our literacy skills. Every day we've journalled about how our thinking on cultural issues is developing. We've extended our vocabulary with such words as - ethnicity, pride, minority, discrimination, tolerance and empathy. We've also found some wonderful books about people whose cultural values influenced their actions.

There's a really good buzz of enthusiasm in our classroom!

## MODERN LANGUAGES - CHINESE

As Chinese classes are held as afterschool ECAs time this term, students of different age groups but similar Chinese levels are learning together. Last year our focus was on speaking and listening, while this year students will learn to recognise the Chinese characters as well as using longer sentences to express themselves, through a variety of well-designed word card games. It was great to see them learn cooperation in team activities!

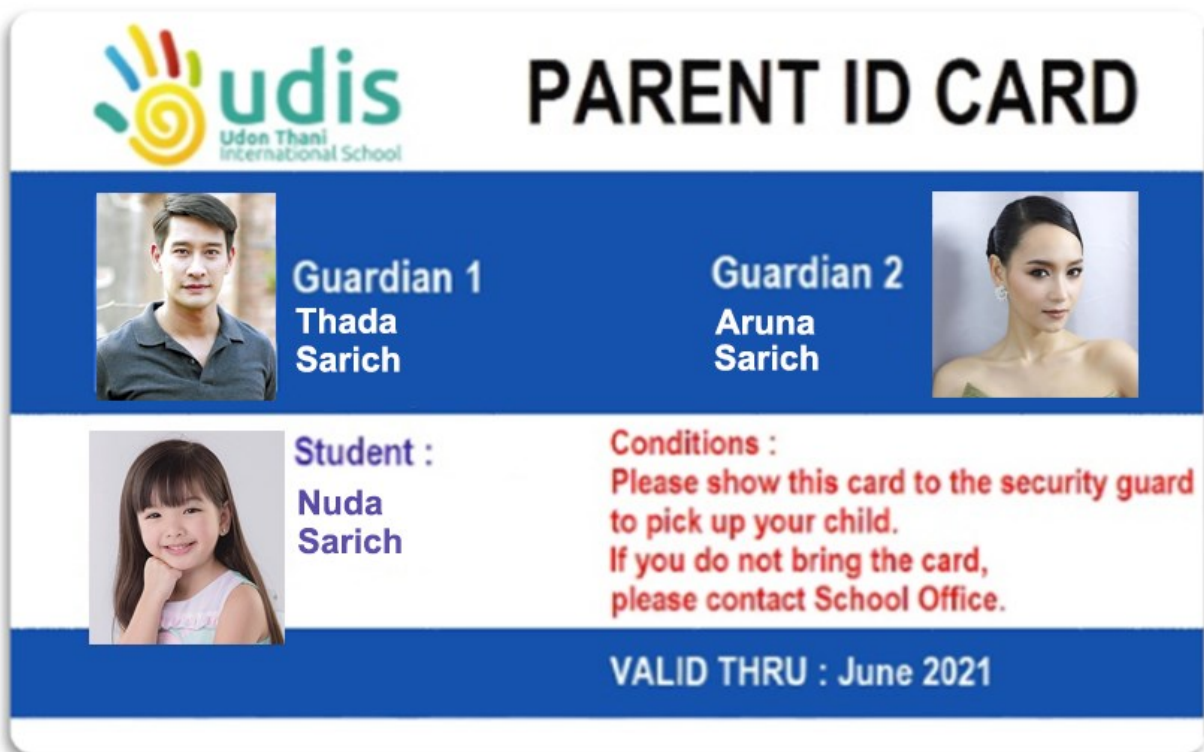


# Health and Safety

By Mr John Kelly, Health and safety coordinator

## ID Cards

Thank you to all the parents who are now arriving at the school with your identification cards. Please remember that if you forget your card all you need to do is visit the office and they will make the necessary arrangements so that you can collect your child. The goal of these cards, is that your child will be safe from the moment you send them to school, until the moment they are reunited with you at the end of the day. These "I.D." cards go a long way to making sure this happens every school day. Thank you for your support in this matter.





## 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	12
Blue House Martin Luther King	24
Black House Princess Diana	30
Green House Nelson Mandela	18
Yellow House Mother Teresa	26



## 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.**



## 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](mailto: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.



# Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Welcome to our new CPP member; Denta-Joy at UD Town



# 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**

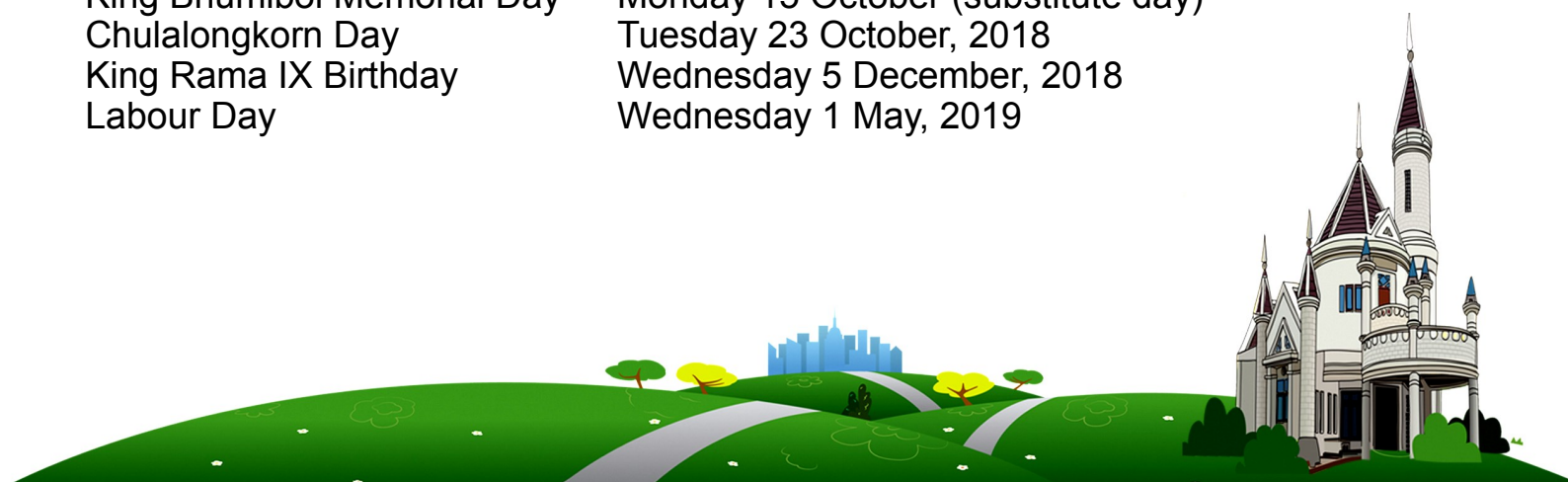
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019  
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)  
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019  
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

## **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**

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(for all general enquiries)

Head of School: [lindsay@udis.ac.th](mailto:lindsay@udis.ac.th)

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Head of Thai Teacher: [pornthip@udis.ac.th](mailto:pornthip@udis.ac.th)

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