

5th October 2018 | ISSUE4




Classes out and about in Udon Thani

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 8 October - PTA#2
- 8-12 October - Book week event
- 15-19 October - Half Term break
- 23 October - Teachers Only Day #1
- 2 November - Parents education morning
- 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

This is the last newsletter before we go on our first major holiday of the year. I can say that this is well timed as we have been busy with getting new staff and students settled in, working towards accreditation and organising events for this term. I can say we are all looking forward to the break and coming back to the busy second half of the term.



Last week, we had Olivia Petraglia, the EAL Coordinator from Vientiane International School, visit us as she prepares to put on EAL workshops for our staff. One of the recommendations from our CIS prep visit was the need for more training for our teachers in working with EAL students. Olivia will put on two workshops for our staff across two days in November which will develop some common language and technique across our staff. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity for some valuable whole school training.

This newsletter we also are announcing some staffing changes for the next half term. We are sad to see Mr Aui depart from his position as Registrar as he returns to Chiang Mai. Aui has been a valuable part of our team but we wish him the best for his new role. We are also saying goodbye to Ivan who is returning to Australia to reunite with his partner. Next half term we are welcoming Mr Terry, our new Arts Teacher, Mr Xavi, our new PSPE Teacher and Ms. Bee our new Registrar. You can find out more about these staff later in the newsletter.

We have a PTA meeting on Monday 8 October which we warmly invite all parents to attend. Otherwise, have a lovely break and we will see you back later this month.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

Inquiry corner

By **Ms Cynthia Thomas**, Curriculum Coordinator



Something to think about:

Do you remember when you were a student? The teacher asked us questions and we had to answer them.

Here at UDIS we have found that children have great questions, and so we encourage them to ask them confidently.

Our inquiry style teaching and learning is all about asking questions. Much of what we do with the children involves encouraging them to ask questions. If a child is able to ask questions it shows that they are engaged in thinking. As well as that, s/he truly wants to know the answer to that question and they will put efforts into researching an answer.

I have enjoyed listening to questions this week. Some have made me smile, others have truly amused me, still others have made me appreciate what intelligent young people we have here at UDIS! Let's honour these thoughtful questions and encourage children to keep wondering and exercising their inquiry muscles.

Staff changes after half term break

We have some staff changes to announce after our half term



We are sad to say farewell to Mr Aui our School Registrar. Mr Aui joined the school back in January, 2016 and he has provided excellent service at the school working as our registrar, taking care of visas and helping out with school admissions. We are very sorry to see him go but wish him all the best as he returns to his home province of Chiang Mai to take up a job at Chiang Mai university. All the best Mr Aui!!



We are also saying goodbye to Mr Ivan. Ivan has only been with us a short time but he has quickly become a respected part of our team. Unfortunately, Ivan is returning to Australia to be with his partner who has been unable to travel to Thailand as they had originally planned and who has been struggling with illness. We wish Ivan all the best on his return to Australia.

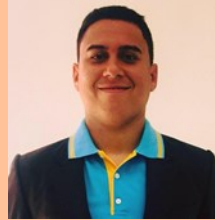
Staff changes after half term break

We are pleased to welcome the following staff who will take up positions after our half term break:



Ms. Wanassanan 'Bee' Nonting - Registrar

Bee is an Udon Thani native and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Udon Thani Rajabhat University. She is an experienced administrative professional with experience of office systems, communications, file maintenance, scheduling and visa management. Bee comes to us from working at the Udon Thani immigration department where she worked for over 6 years. Bee is also a talented baker and we hope to sample some of her creations at the school.



Mr. Ranouver 'Xavi' Pereira - PSPE Teacher

Xavi is a qualified teacher from Brazil and holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from the Federal University of Ceará. He is a professional physical education and swimming teacher who has over 6 years experience in Brazil, Thailand, the Philippines and Laos. Xavi is also a licensed football coach by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) with experience in youth football in Brazil with clubs like Cruzeiro Esporte Clube. He is also responsible for the Brazilian methodology of teaching football at the Cruzeiro Soccer School Asia which has branches in Thailand, Laos and the Philippines.

Xavi is a huge fan of football and sports culture around the world and is also passionate about music, films and literature.



Mr. Terry Renton - Arts Teacher

Terry is a qualified teacher from Australia with a Bachelor degree of Fine Arts and a Diploma of Education both from the University of New South Wales. He has over 20 years of teaching experience from working in leading schools in Australia, Indonesia and now Thailand. He has taught art, art and design, drama, drama studies, music production and recording to students from preschool to secondary students. Terry has experience with the International Baccalaureate with previous positions as an MYP arts teacher and was the Curriculum Development Advisor of the Lombok Learning Village which was an innovative, inquiry based school in Indonesia which he helped design and develop.

Terry is passionate about the arts, he loves learning and has a passion for creating things so he will certainly have his hands full with the blank canvas he will have at UDIS!

Early Years Update

K1 class update - Exploring aspects of Art

By Ms Maria Panagos, K1 Teacher



Inquireapod- I am curious about things.

This week we used shapes and printing to explore art as an expression in our work. Using a combination of color and shapes we made pictures of lions faces. Each picture displayed different expressions.



We experimented with paint through the medium of printing with paper rolls and enjoyed working together as a group.



Primary Years Update

Year 1 class update - Showcasing Our Talents!

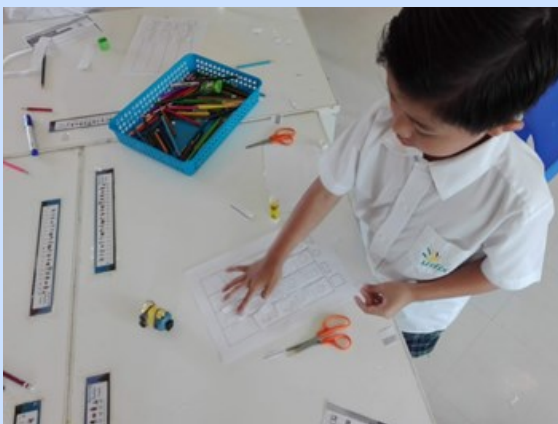
By Ms Rachel Bradley, Year 1 Teacher

The children have been working on the sound 't' this week. Activities to teach this sound included writing the letter, drawing objects beginning with 't' to put in our teapot pictures and reading the story of 'The Enormous Turnip'.



Assembly

The children have been busy practising for their assembly. The theme of the assembly is 'Independence'. In class we have discussed how we have become more independent as we have grown. The children drew pictures of actions they could now do independently, for example, brushing their teeth, dressing themselves etc. In the assembly, however we shall be exploring this concept further by demonstrating that independence also comes into play in making independent choices. To get this point across the children will perform 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'.



Year 3/4 class update

Who We Are- Exploring the Human Body Systems

By Mr Mark Abbadessa, Year 3/4 Teacher

In Year 3/4 we are beginning to wrap up our unit on the human body systems. Beginning this week, students will be presenting their Google Slides presentation on the human body system to their classmates. Over the course of the past 2 weeks, the students have had a chance to take part in some exciting activities. These activities were related to our unit of inquiry and have helped our students build additional knowledge on the human body systems that they have been learning about.

On the 21st of September, we had Dr. Gong and his wife come to UDIS to present an exciting presentation on different parts of the human body system. Dr. Gong was able to provide some real-life examples of a pig's liver, heart and brain. He even performed a dissection of a frog for our students so that they could see how the frog's body systems are connected and were similar to the human body system.



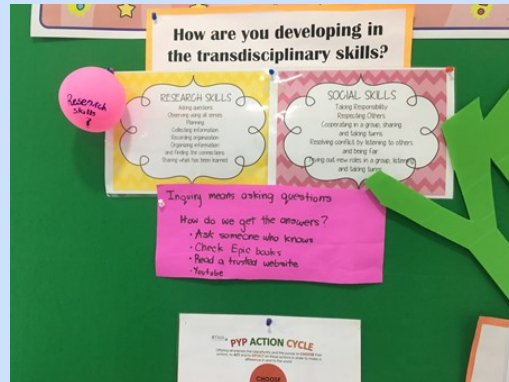
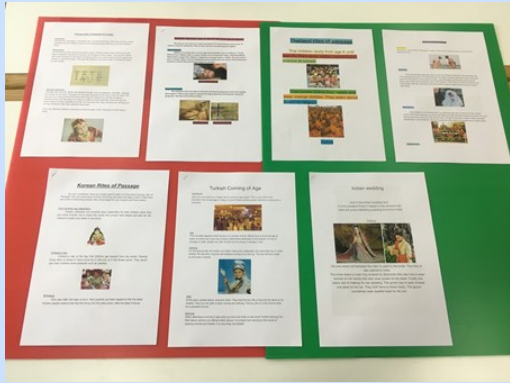
Last Friday, our students went on a field trip to two different locations to learn about some ways they can take better care of their bodies. One of the locations was Denta-Joy Clinic. At Denta-Joy, the students learned about the importance of good dental hygiene and how it can have a negative effect on the rest of the body if poor care is taken. The next location that we visited was 9D Sport Hotel. At this location the students were able to test out some exercise equipment and students were given a presentation how to use each piece of equipment correctly. Their personal trainers also taught our students about the importance of exercise and how it can have a positive impact on the body system. One exciting thing that took place at the 9D Sport Hotel was that the students had the opportunity to meet one of Thailand's national basketball players. Each student had a chance to take pictures with him, get an autograph from him and play one on one basketball against him. The students thoroughly enjoy this activity.



Year 6/7 class update - Cultural Identity

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Y6/7 Teacher

In our class we have been looking at how cultural background is reflected in people's actions. This is all part of understanding how we can make good connections with one another and develop good relationships. The attitudes we are developing are empathy and tolerance. It has been particularly interesting learning about the rites of passage of other cultures. We've seen that almost every culture has some kind of custom to welcome a baby into the community, another custom to mark the beginning of adulthood, a special celebration of marriage and another to mark the end of life.



All of this learning happened quite independently, it wasn't teacher led. We've been researching by reading and watching short documentaries. Towards the end of the week we wrote an information text to show what we've learned. This was useful practice in planning, drafting and editing our work. When it was printed with colour images it looked very professional!



As well as reading a non-fiction to research rites of passage, we've also been reading a very engaging narrative about a native American girl who was separated from her family and sent off to boarding school. The detailed account of how the girl 'lost her spirit' has really made a big impact on some of us. The heart of the story is the fact that there are occasions when culture is suppressed and actively stamped out. The story was upsetting and left us with much to talk about.

MODERN LANGUAGES ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

We have been learning to set goals and working towards what we need to do to achieve those goals. In EAL, students are encouraged to be confident and they participate in learning engagements that is related to what the mainstream class is doing but with more focus on increasing English Language Proficiency. For example, students are set into various stations like read a book to the teacher, read with a friend, phonics practice, vocabulary games, listening to stories and lots more. We have been focusing a lot on our reading skills lately and it is great to see that students are now enthusiastic about reading books at home.



Please read with them as much as you can at home. Some useful websites to consider:

Storyline Online

Into the Book: Teaching Reading Comprehension Strategies



Health and Safety

By Mr John Kelly, Health and safety coordinator

We have been practising our reaction time to an internal emergency here at school. What we do is create a “fake emergency” in a classroom and time how long it takes our nurse to attend the scene of the “accident.” Miss SomO was able to be present at “The Scene” in just under two minutes. So we know that we will have a fast reaction time to an emergency that may occur on the school grounds.



The current house point totals are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	37
Blue House Martin Luther King	51
Black House Princess Diana	75
Green House Nelson Mandela	82
Yellow House Mother Teresa	69



Parent cafe

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

Session	Date	Topic
#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 Reading with your child with Ms. Jane and Ms. Rachel.



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

At this meeting the school explained that the school's guiding statements help's the school make decisions and should guide any decisions the PTA makes too. The school explained the purpose of the PTA which is an important consultative and decision making body for the school.

The PTA is also a place where parents and teachers can come together to express their concerns and express suggestions for improving the school and a place where parents and teachers can get to know each other better. This year the PTA will help with input into the school's strategic plan and continuing campus development, preparation for PYP authorisation, development of parent volunteers within the school and support for school events like the Christmas festival and Songkran festival.

Miss Cynthia then talked about the attributes of the learner profile. The schools seeks to develop students who are Inquirers, Thinkers, Communicators, Risk-takers, Knowledgeable, Principled, Caring, Open-minded, Balanced and Reflective. These are important values the school seeks to instil within our students so we would like parents to also be aware of these.

The school received feedback from parents which included more information about school standards, issues with traffic, the school's music programme, computers and customer service linked to the rollout of the parent ID system and contacting of parents

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

The UDIS Marketing team, Rotary club of Makkang, Rotary Club of Huahin and the Rotary Club of Samutsongkarn made merit at five temples during the Kaowphunsa Season.



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

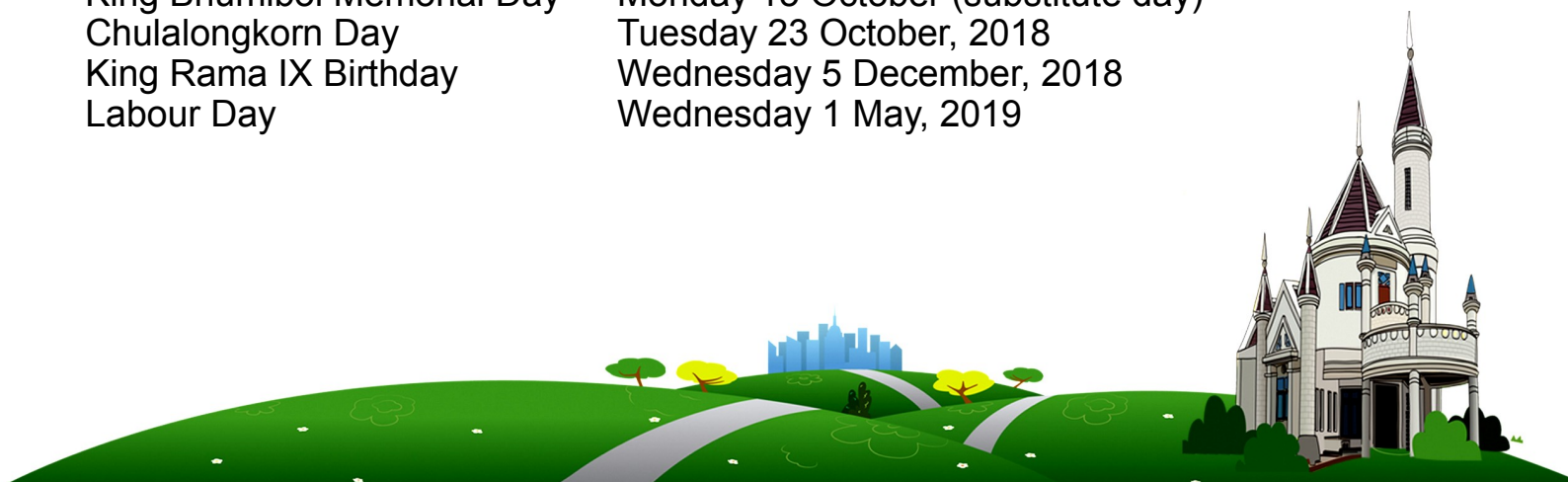
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

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





MESSAGE FROM ADMIN

Book Week!

For the finale of Book Week on Friday 12 October. Students can come dressed as their favourite book character. Students should also bring the book their character is based on or print out a cover of the book.

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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Head of Thai Teacher: pornthip@udis.ac.th

Preschool teacher: charlotte@udis.ac.th

K1 teacher: maria@udis.ac.th

K2 teacher: jane@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: rachel@udis.ac.th

Y2 teacher: john.k@udis.ac.th

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

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

Y6/7 teacher: cynthia@udis.ac.th

School Office Manager: siri@udis.ac.th

Admissions Manager: wannapa@udis.ac.th

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