

16 November 2018 | ISSUE 6



Student Success

Well done to Saoirse and Zen who received Gold and Silver medals at the Udon Thani regional school competitions.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 9 November - PTA#3
- 22 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

On Friday 2 November, the school had its first Board meeting of the year. The Board provides governance to the school and works with a variety of community, teaching and parent representatives to oversee the actions of the school. This year we have K. Ampuscha and K. Kasama as the parent representatives on the Board. Their role is to look out for the interests of parents on the school board so that the Board can consider these interests when it makes decisions. A summary of this meeting is available to parents later in this newsletter



Over the past two Saturdays, all teaching staff have been updating their training in EAL with dedicated training sessions hosted by Ms. Olivia from Vientiane International School. At these trainings, staff have learned about how to better accommodate EAL students within mainstream classes and have been learning a variety of techniques for EAL and non-EAL students. There has certainly been a lot for us to learn during these sessions which will help our students.

Next week, we have our Loy Krathong assembly on Thursday and parents are welcome to join this. We also have a PTA meeting on Monday which we hope you can join as well.

Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator

This week our teachers have been inquiring into inquiry. Yes, there are always new things for teachers to learn too. We want our teaching to be the best that it can be for our students, and so we have found that inquiry is the best way to teach and learn.



As you spend time with your children at home please set up mini inquiries with them. This means that when they show an interest in something you should encourage them to explain what they are thinking. Ask them what they want to know. They may ask things that you don't know the answers to. That is fine, just turn the question back to the child and then discuss how you could work together to find the answer.

The best way to find out is to speak to an expert. Then you might look for clips on Youtube. Reading a book is a good way to research, and there are blogs galore to read too. Just get creative and enjoy inquiring!

Early Years Update

K1 class update - Responsibility

By Ms Phibzia Siddiqui, , K1 Teacher

Over the past few weeks, we have been focusing on one of the key concepts 'Responsibility' during our Unit of Inquiry 'Who We Are'. In the PYP, it is believed that learning takes place best when it is connected to what is genuinely a component of the world around the student. In K1, students are learning to be good communicators when they communicate with each other to solve a conflict during play and learning time, they are becoming open-minded and caring when they recognise their responsibilities towards their own learning and actions.



Primary Years Update

Year 1 class update

By Ms Rachel Bradley, Year 1 Teacher

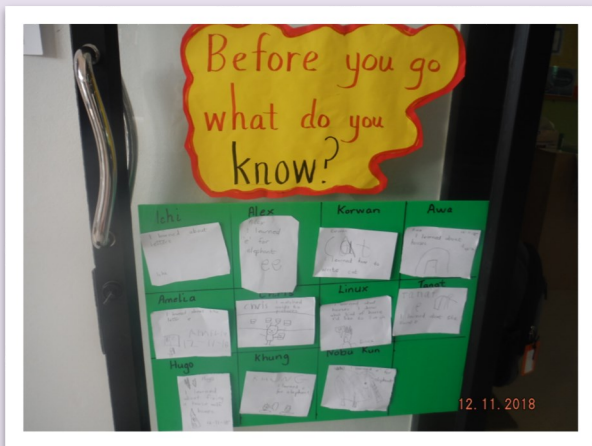
Homes reflect cultural influences and local conditions.

As part of their UOI the children are making their own houses from cardboard boxes. Apart from having fun, the children are collaborating beautifully to produce a communal house, with many features including an air conditioner.

As a class we have paired up with a Year 1 class in New York. The American children asked about homes in Thailand via a video. We are busy videotaping our responses and framing our own questions about homes in New York.

To consolidate our learning the children have to draw a picture about something they have learned during the day and place it on our 'Before you go, what do you know?' chart. This has proved to be a popular activity.

The letter of the week this week is 's'. After reading the book 'Funnybones', the children cut and pasted their own skeletons.



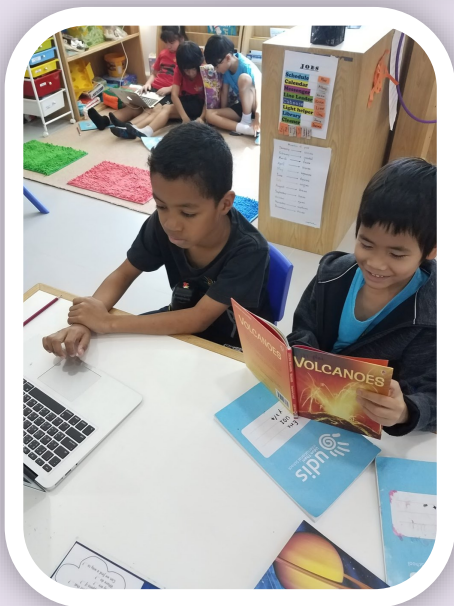
Primary Years Update

By Mr Mark Abbadessa, Year 3 teacher

Year 3/4 class update - Where We are in Place and Time

In Unit 2 the Year 3/4 students have begun to research and explore different forms of Natural Disasters that take place in and outside of Thailand. As part of this unit's Central Idea the students are focusing on how the community responds to these events in history and what actions have been taken in the past to help other members of the community that have been affected by these Natural Disasters. The main areas of focus in this unit are based on the concepts of causation, perspective and responsibility. In groups the student have begun to develop their ideas for how they would like to create their models which will represent their assigned Natural Disaster. The students have also been documenting their research in a Google Slides Presentation that they will share with the class at the end of Unit 2.

Two weeks ago our Year 3/4 students had the opportunity to share their knowledge on the "Rights of Children" at our school assembly. The students researched and learned about what rights they have as children both at home and in school. Each student selected one right to focus on and then created a posters to represent their idea of what this right looks like. These posters can be found displayed in our PY Assembly room.



Year 6/7 class update - Migration

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Y6/7 Teacher



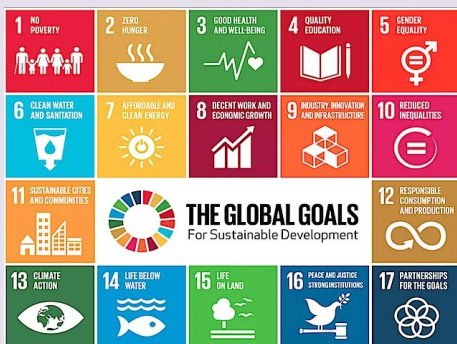
First of all, we are really happy to welcome three new students to our class Bua, Anfield, and Aum. Now, we have ten students in total.



After the half term break, we started to inquire into migration. That week, we had a captivating moment at the Clock Tower. The pupils learnt a lot about how it feels to be excluded from the community without being told what is going to happen in the future.



This week, we have been learning deeply about migration. We have read stories of Somalia, Guatemala, Yemen, Myanmar, and Colombia. We are also using Google Earth to find out where these places are in the world.



Lastly, we are talking about 17 the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We are inquiring into how we can achieve these goals and save our world by 2030.

Language and Culture

By Mr Terry Allan Renton, EAL Coordinator

Modern languages - English as an Additional Language (EAL)

In EAL learners have been constructing words, building sentences, forming questions and responding to the questions of their peers. We have been performing these tasks through playing games, responding to stimuli, reading books, and also through incorporating Art as a means to learn and practice language. The learners were particularly excited by making texture rubbings from leaves and then writing a haiku (poem) about nature on their pictures.



Health and Safety

By Mr John Kelly, Health and safety coordinator

Health and safety

The school is making improvements to how the children play on the basketball court. There will be places for football to be played and next to that other ball games. There will be a section for general play and an area for quiet sitting, reading and relaxing. In this way we hope that the children will stay safe when they are playing each lunchtime.



Administration – Message from the office

Term 2 invoices are due on Friday 30 November.

House Update

The current house point totals are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	77
Blue House Martin Luther King	80
Black House Princess Diana	144
Green House Nelson Mandela	138
Yellow House Mother Teresa	97



This is the third year that we implemented the house system at our school.

Parent cafe

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

Session	Date	Topic
#3	3/12/2018	High quality learning at UDIS and what this looks like in our classrooms

The next parent cafe is High Quality learning at UDIS with Mr John E.



School board update - Summary of meeting held on Friday 2 November

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.

On Friday 2 November, the school held its first Board meeting of the year. At this meeting, the Board inducted new members. The Board lineup for this year is:

Acting Chairman:	K. Siriphat Pukpo
Honorary member #1	K. Wicha Chanklom
Honorary member #2	Mr. Kurt Lunstrum
Parent representative	K. Ampuscha Chotnopparatpatara
Parent representative	K. Kasama Kraikutree
Teacher representative	Mr. Robert Langridge
School Director	K. Sineenard Charmart
Board member	Dr. Lindsay Stuart

At the meeting, the Head of School provided an overview of the School Report for 2017/2018. This discussed the growing enrolment of the school, school activities, accreditation process and the results of the CIS prep visit. The Board also confirmed changes to its Charter and agreed on the process of appraisal for the Head of School for this academic year. Lastly, the Board considered its development work for this year which included finding further qualified members to add to the School Board, looking at more meetings or subcommittees, developing a school technology plan, developing a school report for the community and preparing for our March PYP authorisation.

The next Board meeting is planned for Friday 15 February, 2019.



PTA update - Summary of meeting held on Monday 8 October

At this meeting, Ms. Cynthia presented ideas for how parents could reinforce the learner profile at home with a variety of materials. Mr. Rick spoke about digital citizenship at the school and presented tips on how parents could watch out for their child's behaviour on digital devices. Parents should supervise their child's use of the internet and make sure they know what material their child is accessing. Mr. John and Ms. Som-O then presented about hand, foot and mouth disease, RSV and what to look out for. Mr John also spoke about the preparedness drills the school conducts such as fire drills and medical emergency drills. We then spoke about our Christmas festival with ideas such as it being held at night, on the court or big field, and to celebrate Christmas festivals around the world being raised. Finally, we heard a few comments back from parents involving short term placements, admissions and provincial competitions.

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Welcome Thai Tune Coffee Bar to UDIS CPP
Location: Near Udon Wittaya school
Facebook: @wherederposhtel
Call: 088 214 2555



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

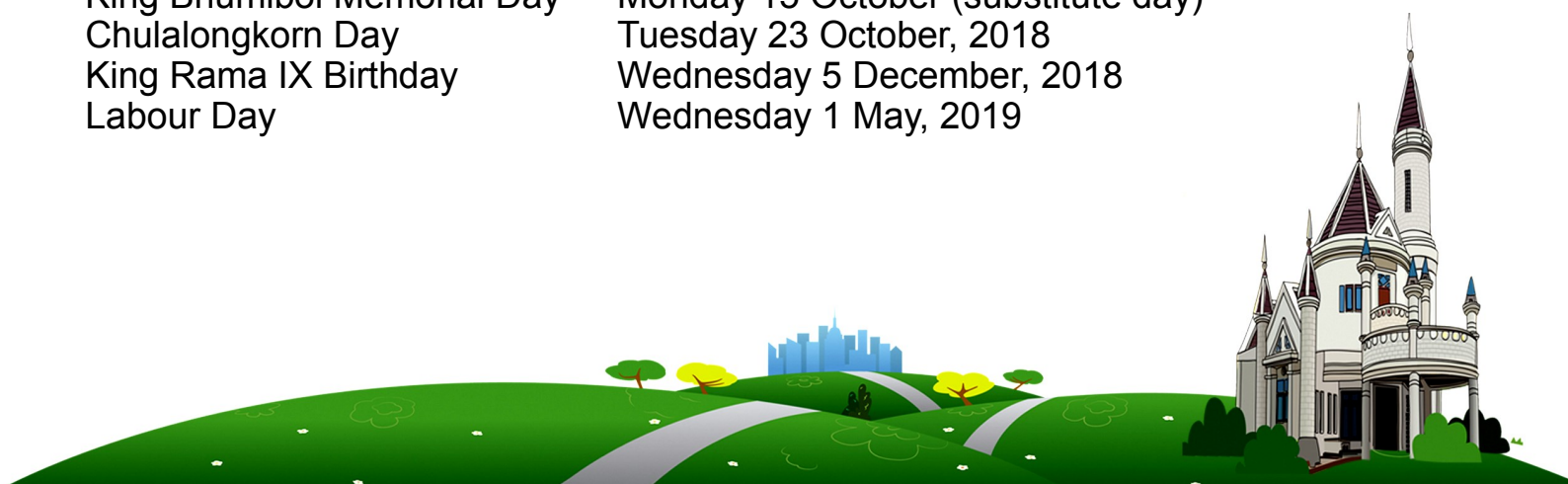
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

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)

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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

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