

30th November 2018 | ISSUE 7



Loy Krathong at SIDU

Loy Krathong photos
on page 14

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 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
- 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

We are coming towards the end of the term and we are busy preparing reports and our end of year festival for parents. Last week we celebrated Loy Krathong with our learners who learned more about this important festival and what it means for Thai people. This week, we held an assembly to recognise the late King of Thailand and the many things he accomplished.

We have two new staff who have joined the school. Mr. Jeff Erickson is our new EAL teacher. Jeff is an experienced EAL teacher from America that has taught in several countries around the world. We also welcome Ms. Snook who is joining as our Preschool Teaching Assistant. A big welcome to our new staff.

We will also have new staff members joining us soon as we will be splitting our Year 3/4 class. We will post more information about this in our next newsletter.

Finally, this week I had the chance to learn more about International Community School (ICS) from Mr Darren and Mr Luke. ICS is a Christian, American curriculum school that is opening a new campus down the road from us. They said that they chose Udon Thani because of its growing economy and to support the Christian missionary population in the area. They expect that more missionaries will come to the Northeast once their school is opened. We welcome ICS to Udon and it will be good to have another international school in the area and a choice for those looking for an American Christian based education.

Please look out for our final parent cafe of the year. This is held on Monday and will discuss high quality learning and assessment with Mr John. Our end of year event is then scheduled for Thursday 13 December from 6pm.



Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

Administration – Message from the office

Term 2 invoices are due on Friday 30 November.

Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, PYP Coordinator

Looking closely



Thinking deeply



Wondering



Watching



Perhaps when you think back to school you remember desks, books, tests and frustrating homework; and now when you try to recall some of the things you learned you simply cannot recall much important content.

Here at UDIS we engage the students in rich learning environments and involve them in the four activities shown above. When we are allowed some freedom to ask the questions that are important to us and to observe the world and question what we see, then real motivation to learn is provoked. Learning is not all about what happens in the classroom, it's just what we do every day.

Early Years Update

Preschool class update - Archaeologists: Inquire-apods

By Ms Charlotte Trufit, Preschool Teacher

This week the children acted as archeologists and dug up dinosaur fossils in the sand area outside. This was part of our maths lesson to encourage the children to select one to two items from a group. You could try this at home by asking questions like, "Can you give me two apples?" "Can you pass me one toy car?"



Early Years Update

K2 class update - 'Loy Krathong

By Ms Jane Sutton, K2 Teacher

K2 have had a busy few weeks!!
We enjoyed our school assembly all about Loy Krathong.
We made krathongs in our classroom ready to take home.



Our Unit of Inquiry is all about family.

Mr Xavi came into K2 to talk to us about families in Brazil.
Miss Jiang came into K2 talk to us about families in China.



Year 2 class update - Loy Kratong Festival

By Mr John Kelly, Y2 Teacher

We worked hard all week to be ready for our presentation about Loy Kratong. I am sure you will agree that the children's hard work was rewarded when they put on an impressive show during the assembly. Well done to all of the students!

In our Thai class this week we made our Kratongs. A big thank you to Licha's aunt for bringing in the eco-friendly kratong bases.

In mathematics, the students were learning how to look at graphs and gather information from them. We have been learning about the language of direction and some activities this week have seen us following instructions that have asked the students to move from one position to another in the class. We now know what clockwise and anticlockwise mean.

We are starting to join up our writing in class. It is so great to see the effort and work the children are putting into learning how to write with joined letters.



Year 5 - We have been playing a 'Find my Match' game in our UoI learning.

By Mr John Eastham, Y5 Teacher

In our training, over our last two Saturdays, teachers learned strategies to encourage children to speak more and further develop their spoken language skills. In this game, each child receives a question or fact or an answer card which they have to keep secret. They then have to try and find the match to their card by asking questions and talking to each other. The aim is for everyone to find their match as quickly as possible. This game is inclusive and involves everyone at the same time. It's great learning and fun too!



Can you work out the matches? Ask year 5 if there are any you are not sure of!

I am the world's first female space shuttle commander	invented scuba diving.
Will Martins ship is called?	Eileen collins
I sailed from Portugal to India	We are reading 'Wills First Battle" who is the author?
Jacques Cousteau	Cabin Boy
Gil Godard	The Distain
I know how to survive in the wild	Ann Daniels
Will Martin's job	Vasco Da Gama
I am a female arctic explorer	Bear Grylls

Our learners have are making some wonderful visual art in response to looking at the work of some historical important artists such as Keith Haring, Vassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, and Piet Mondrian. This allows the learners to experiment with materials, techniques and also to discover the working processes of other artists..



Health and Safety

I would like to remind parents about being courteous and mindful of where you might be stopping to drop off or pick up your children. There are many designated parking spaces if you intend staying for a period of time. However please do not stop in a place where you may be obstructing the flow of traffic either in the morning or afternoons. Last week I saw an instance where the place a car had stopped was blocking other parents from reversing out of the parking bays to leave the school. Thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter.

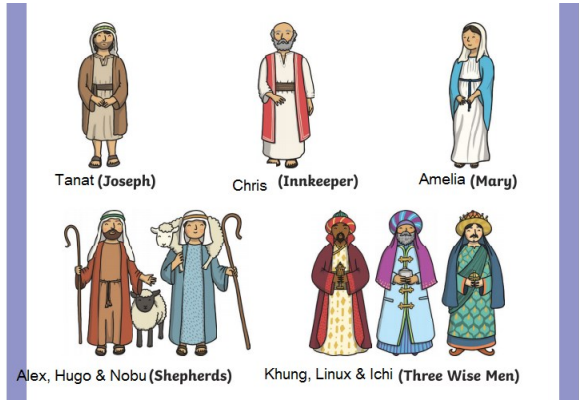


Christmas festival

It is with great joy that we announce our "Christmas around the World Festival" which will be held at UDIS on Thursday the 13th of December from 5.00 pm until 8.00 pm.

Our learners have been investigating various countries, cultures, and the way that each celebrates Christmas, and this is a celebration of what we have all learned, as well as a celebration for the upcoming holidays.

We invite all parents and members of our UDIS community to join us in this festive event. There will be stalls selling food and wares from different countries, there will be Christmas music from around the world, games, songs, poetry, and much more.

Class	Costume
Preschool	Donkeys - black sports shorts (uniform is fine) with black or brown t-shirt/jumper
K1	Santa costumes or wear a red top with green bottoms and a Santa hat
K2	Christmas clothes, anything red or green. Please wear a Christmas hat i.e. santa hat, elf hat, reindeer etc.
Year 1	<p>Nativity costume Awa and Korwan can dress up like angels. The rest of the class will dress up like the picture below.</p>  <p>The image shows six illustrations of Nativity figures. The top row features Joseph (Tanat), the Innkeeper (Chris), and Mary (Amelia). The bottom row features three Shepherds (Alex, Hugo, and Nobu) and three Wise Men (Khung, Linux, and Ichi).</p>
Year 2	Anything red white or green tinsel and sparkly hat
Year 3/4	Girls: Long Skirt with a Blouse top - any colour Boys: Long dress pants with a dress shirt - any colour
Year 5	Anything Christmas.....lots of tinsel/santa hats/scarves/tee shirts with christmas logos
Year 6/7	Colours of the Israeli flag - blue and white

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	151
Blue House Martin Luther King	173
Black House Princess Diana	238
Green House Nelson Mandela	216
Yellow House Mother Teresa	148



Parent cafe

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

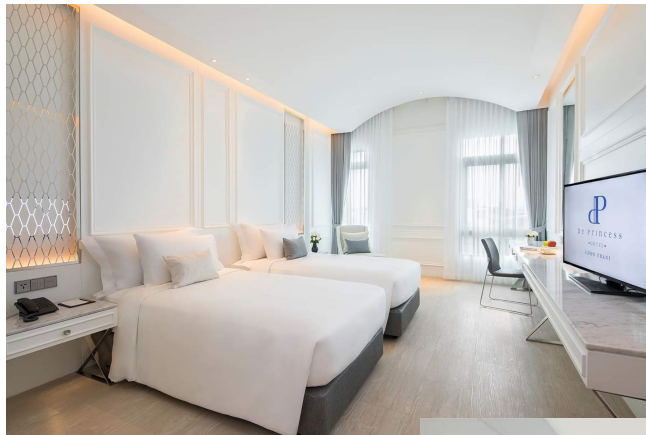
Session	Date	Topic
#3	3/12/2018	High quality learning at UDIS and what this looks like in our classrooms

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



Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

De Princess Hotel Udon Thani
New Luxury hotel in Udon Thani
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/deprincesshotelUD/>



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

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 19

At our last PTA meeting, the school suggested what additional clothing was acceptable for our learners as the weather is getting cold. The school informed parents about the end of term report cards and the conferences that would be held to discuss these with parents. These meetings will be held from 10-13 December. The school announced our Christmas event for 13 December from 5-8pm on the PE court and PY area. There will be class performances, booths to sell crafts, booths for games and booths for selling food. The school aims to raise funds for materials to donate for the Volun2Thai organisation. Parents were asked to volunteer to help at the food selling booths.

Loy Kratong Festival 2018



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

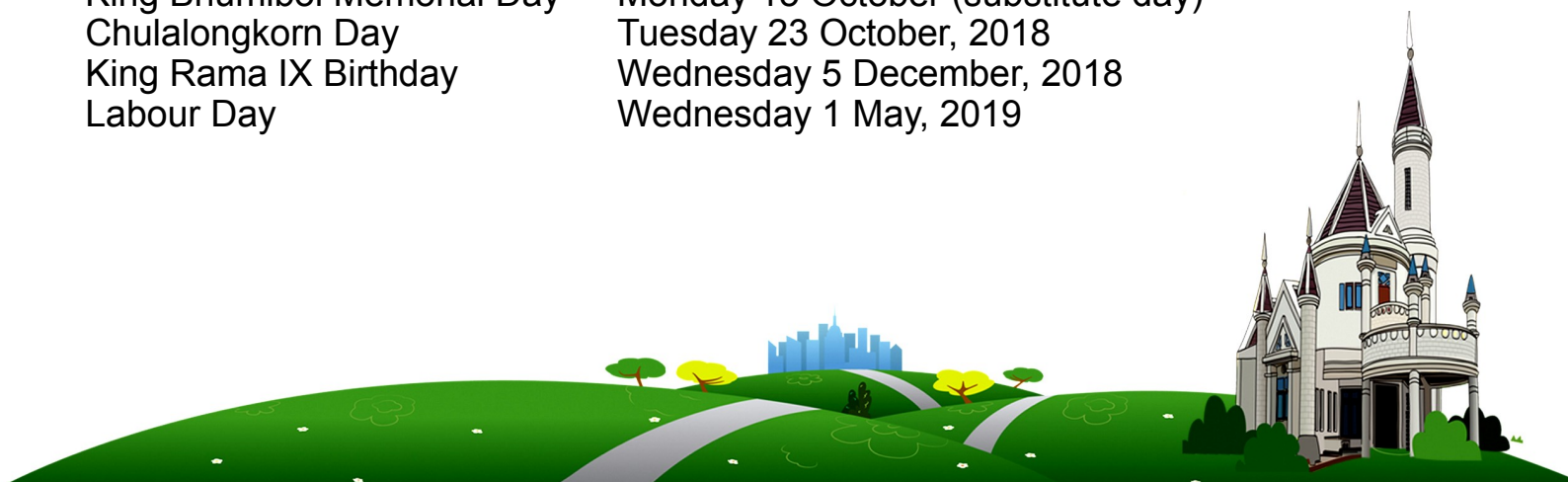
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

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

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

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