



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

14 December 2018 | ISSUE 8

Christmas at UDIS



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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

Christmas photos
In page 12-14



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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

It has been a busy term this year and as we come to the end of it, it's good to look back at some of the major developments this year.

For our learners, we have crossed 100 students which puts us close to our target this year of 106. It's been particularly pleasing to see the growth in our Year 6 class with this up to 10 learners now. Our learners have enjoyed a wonderful ECA programme this year with some wonderful sports and cultural activities. We also engaged in local competitions for the first time with students competing well and winning many competitions.



For our staff, we have bedded in a lot of new faces this year as we prepare for our IB visit in March. Back in November, we engaged in some wonderful EAL training for all our teachers and it was great to come to some common understandings in the teaching of EAL. We have also had other staff members out and about attending trainings in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Cambodia.

We've made some great progress with facilities this term. Over the break we renovated our PY foyer area and our connecting walkways and they have been wonderful additions to the school. The new swimming pool has made steady progress and we look forward to opening this in Term 2 as well. Over the Christmas break we are planning for further development that we hope to announce to you in Term 2.

Finally, in terms of our school programme. We have been very busy getting ready for our IB visit as we implement new policies and ensure existing policies are followed. We also began our external testing programme and we are looking forward to the results of these in Term 3.

So, it has been a wonderful term. We are all looking forward to what looks like a busy, and exciting, Term 2. In the meantime, it's time for a well earned break so please enjoy the holidays and be safe on the roads.

Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

Inquiry corner

By **Ms Cynthia Thomas**, Curriculum Coordinator

It has been great to see that our students really do enjoy learning. In recent days we have been preparing for our year end event. Each class is learning about a different country and the celebration it has at the end of the year. I've witnessed students engaged in their own inquiries on this. They have been reading, 'Googling', asking adults and sorting through classroom resources to find answers to their own questions about the celebrations happening in various countries this month. Clearly, each country has its own colourful celebration, but we found that all countries like to celebrate January first. It is wonderful to see the spirit of inquiry is truly alive in our community!



Early Years Update

K1 class update - Celebrating our EY picnic

By Ms Phibzia Siddiqui, , K1 Teacher

Last week in our K1 class, learners have been quite busy with their summative assessments which took place as part of the family picnic for Early Years. Our learners were very excited to show their portfolios at the picnic and enjoyed eating snacks together. Everyone had a lot of fun.

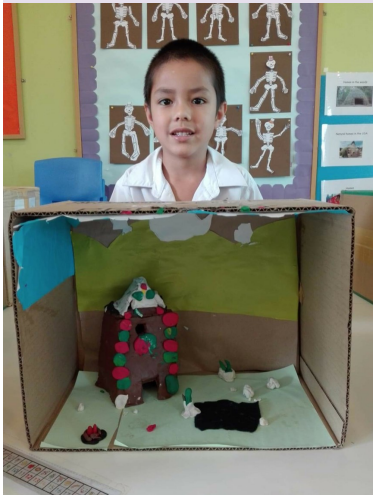


We enjoyed our end of year performance of the song Dominic the Italian donkey. We also sold decorative Christmas cards and Yoghurt with Muesli. The money raised will be used to support a local charity.

Primary Years Update

Year 1 class update - And So This IS Christmas!

By Ms Rachel Bradley, Year 1 Teacher

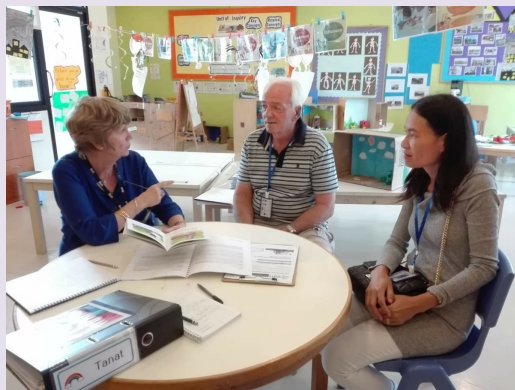


'And so this is Christmas and what have we done?' as John Lennon would say. Well we have actually done so much this week. We have completed our Adobe Clay Houses. The children had lots of fun doing this project, particularly adding the little extras to their houses.



Parent Interviews.

This week I had also met with parents to discuss their children's progress. It's so rewarding to show how much the children have progressed and share their learning journey with their parents.



Christmas

We have also been extremely busy practising our Christmas Play. There is certainly a lot of talent in this Year 1 class.



It was certainly worth all the practice. The children performed beautifully. What a fantastic night.

Primary Years Update

By Mr Mark Abbadessa, Year 3 teacher

Year 3/4 class update - *Where we are in place and time*

The learners have been enjoying these past few weeks and have taken part in many exciting activities. Our learners presented their models and Google Slide presentations on their assigned natural disasters to the class. We have come to the end of our unit on natural disasters, and how the community responds to these events, and we had 2 guest speakers and field trips relating to this topic. Dr. Lindsay presented to our class on his experience during the Christchurch earthquakes in New Zealand and we also had Mr. Jeff Nash from Rajabhat University as a guest speaker. He shared his engineering expertise with the students and presented on some of the engineering methods that are in use today to help reduce damage during natural disasters. For our field trip, we visited the Udon Thani Disaster Prevention Unit and Bangkok Hospital. Both organisations presented to our students on how they respond during natural disasters to help the community of Udon Thani.



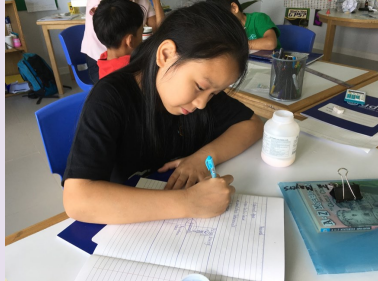
In preparation for our Christmas event, our learners have been learning about the country of Belgium and how Belgians celebrate Christmas. Our learners were especially fascinated to learn that Belgium uses three different languages in their country and is known for having the world's best chocolates. In honor of Belgium our Year 3/4 learners have been making chocolates to sell at our Christmas booth and learning a Belgian folk dance to perform at this event.



Year 6/7 class update - Hanukkah

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Y6/7 Teacher

Wow, it's the end of the year already! We've been together as Year 6 for about four months now and so many good things have happened. In August we were just a small group of seven. Now that Aum, Anfield and Bua have joined us we're up to ten. There is even talk of one or two more joining us. The more, the merrier!



This week Hanukkah is being celebrated in Jewish communities all over the world. In Year 6 we have learned about the history to the celebration and together we have created a short play that shows what it is all about. The interesting this is that the story relates to our two previous units of inquiry. Firstly, it's a story about cultural heritage. The Assyrian king wanted to force his beliefs on the Jewish people, but they resisted him and fought back. Since we've been learning about culture, we know that one person cannot force their beliefs on another. The Hanukkah story also relates to migration because the Assyrian king left his homeland to take over the Jewish homeland. How interesting it is that many aspects of knowledge overlap and intertwine!



Please come along to our end of year celebration and see our performance of the Hanukkah story. We'll also be selling decorative candle holders and stars. The money raised will be to support a local charity.

Language and Culture

By Mr Terry Allan Renton, EAL Coordinator

Modern languages - English as an Additional Language (EAL)

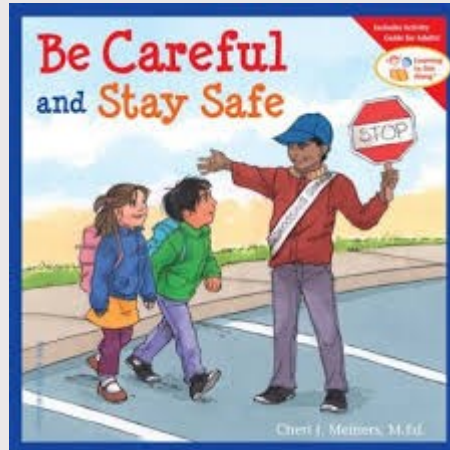
This week in EAL we have been integrating technology and ICT into our learning, which has been really interesting and quite fun for everybody. Through this approach to learning we are able to practice technological literacy while acquiring language, expanding vocabulary and exploring written sentence structure before hearing the correct pronunciation and practicing our spoken language.



Health and Safety

By Mr John Kelly, Health and safety coordinator

Health and safety



A Happy Christmas and a safe new year to you all. I have one thing to ask you to consider for next year. Please do come into the school to collect your children. Do not have them running to you sitting in the car in the afternoon at the school gate. This could lead to an accident. Thank you.

Administration – Message from the office

15 December 2018 - 7 January 2019 End of year holidays .

House Update

The current house point totals are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	179
Blue House Martin Luther King	213
Black House Princess Diana	276
Green House Nelson Mandela	250
Yellow House Mother Teresa	178



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
#4	14/1/2019	High quality learning with Mr John
#5	4/2/2019	Preparing for our verification visit with Ms. Cynthia
#6	11/3/2019	Student led conferences

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 19 November

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.

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Marketing Team joined Udon Thani Book Fair 2018



Merry Christmas

On stage



Merry Christmas Market



Merry Christmas

Costume



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

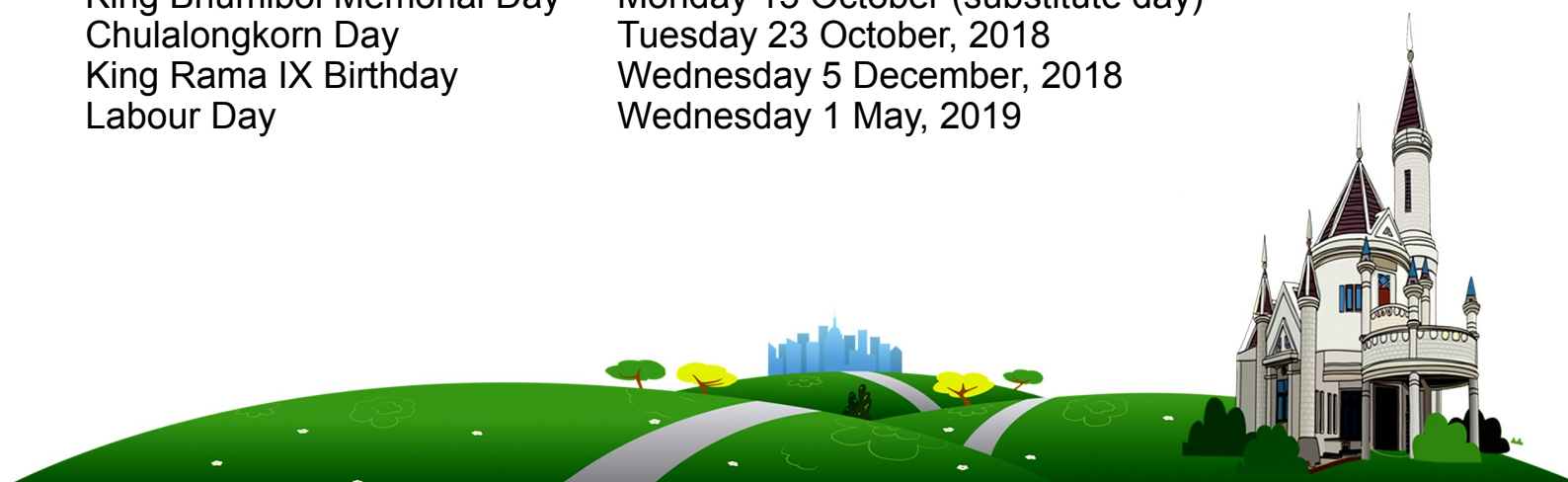
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

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

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