



# Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

31 January 2019 | ISSUE10

## Chinese New Year



### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 21 January PTA#4
- 31 January Chinese new year event (during assembly)
- 4 February Parents cafe #4
- 7 February Global play day event
- 15 February Sports day
- 18-19 February Half term break (Holiday)
- 25 February PTA#5
- 4-8 March International week
- 11 March Parents cafe #5
- 21-22 March PYP verification visit
- 25 March PTA#6
- 4 April Songkran festival event
- 4 April End of Term 2

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*Chinese New Year's photo in page 13*

## Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We are right into the swing of Term 1 now as we get to know many of the new faces around campus. This week, we celebrate our Chinese New Year which is an event that helps us understand more about Chinese culture. We are lucky that we have many of our own students who come from Chinese backgrounds who can help us understand more about the importance of the celebrations at this time of year for Chinese people.

This week we will also be making donations to Volun2Thai using all the money raised from our Christmas event. The Student Council, under the guidance of Mr Mark, has purchased school items that we hope will make a big difference to our local community.

Earlier this week, we also held an important meeting with our PTA about a 1 device to 1 student policy the school hopes to implement. This year we have pushed to bring about a 1 device to 2 student ratio but we hope to take this a step further next year with parents support. We believe that students from Year 3 and upwards should have access to their own device at school, much as like many of us had calculators back in the day. Devices are becoming more and more essential to the learning process and are a key tool for our students to use on a daily basis. We hope to have your support as we roll this initiative out for 2019/2020.

Have a great week and 新年快乐 (Happy Chinese New Year).

Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart  
Head of School



## Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator



**Our inquiry based curriculum involves the learners in exploring both knowledge and skills. Learners have opportunities to reflect upon the development of five particular skills: self management, thinking, communication, research and social skills. The photo shows students producing a news video. All of these skills are developed by working on this once a week. Week by week the teacher releases more and more responsibility for production of this news video to the learners. What a pleasure it is for adults to witness this, but what a greater pleasure it is for the learners who actually have a chance to be real news presenters!**

# Early Years Update

## K1 class update - Learn and grow in Kindergarten 1

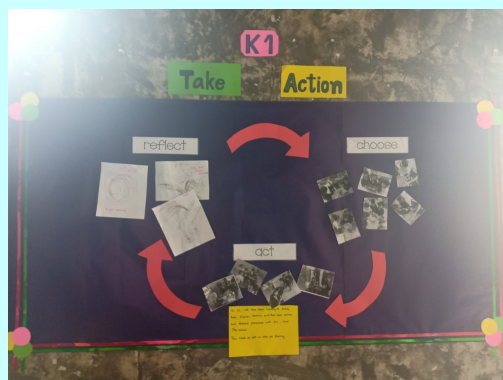
By Ms Phibzia Siddiqui, , K1 Teacher

Since our return from Term 1 break, student have been exploring different areas of learning which has been really successful. Students have settled quickly into new routines and are ready to take learning to the next level.

We have been focusing a lot on storytelling this month. Students have been involved with stories like 'Three Little Pigs', 'Jack and the beanstalk' and 'Little Red Riding Hood.' It is giving children an opportunity to express themselves through play.

In Mathematics, our focus this month is to explore measurement and measuring tools in many different ways. K1 students are picking up vocabulary like ' We are measuring' and 'Measuring tape'.

In our unit of inquiry, it is believed that ACTION is an integral part of any learning. Recently, in K1 we have been taking notes of actions taken within or outside the classroom. Please see our action board opposite our classroom to keep updated with all the great learning that's happening in our classroom. We also encourage parents to fill out any WOW moments from home that link to what has been learned at school or that shows the progress our students are making each day.



## Year 1 class update - Celebrations

By Ms Rachel Bradley, Year 1 Teacher

This term our UOI is about celebrations and festivals. We have had so much fun exploring this unit as this term lends itself to many celebrations such as Chinese New Year, Australia Day and Valentine's Day to name but a few. We have also had a few children having birthdays this month too. Consequently we have had our own birthday celebrations.

To find out more about Chinese New Year, we invited Miss Chen to talk to the children about this particular celebration. The students had many questions for Miss Chen, which made for a lively discussion. The children are also performing a dance for the Chinese New Year Assembly which will take place on Thursday.



## Year 1 class update - Celebrations

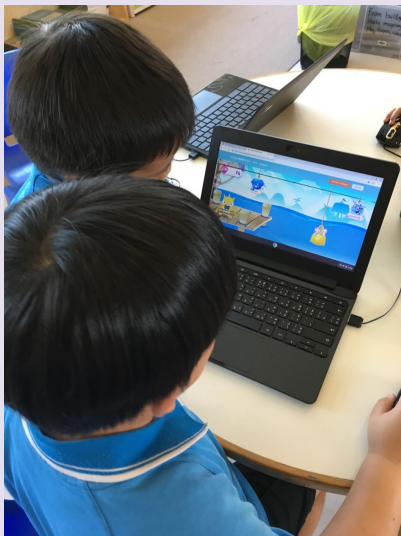
By Ms Rachel Bradley, Year 1 Teacher

### Special Visitor

We also had a special visitor this week. Nobu Kun's Mum came to talk to the class about Japanese celebrations. The children found this most interesting and particularly enjoyed making Samurai Helmets.



This term we are also focusing on using technology more in the classroom. We have been using it to enhance our learning in language and maths.



# Primary Years Update

## Year 3 class update - We Are Year 3!

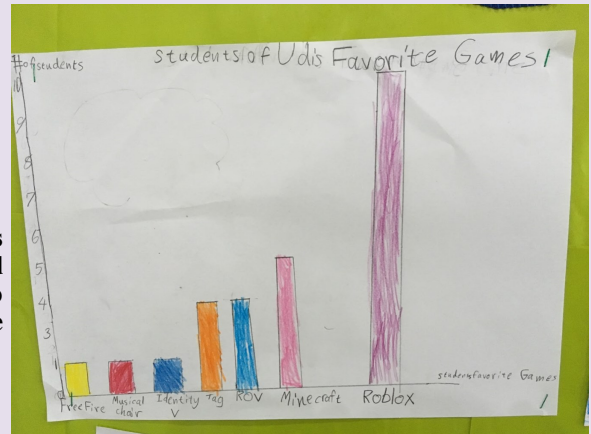
By Mr Nathan Aaron Rector Year 3 teacher

Year 3 has its very own classroom and teacher now, and everyone is ecstatic!



Thus far in Term 2, students have been investigating how a 12-hour and 24-hour clock work. Using manipulatives and drawing, students are discovering that telling time is not as simple as reading it from a digital device. Progress is being made and more is on the way.

Students have also completed a mini circle of inquiry in maths involving their classmates' favorite games. Year 3 students created a survey and polled many of their peers in other year groups to determine the most popular game on campus. Their results were then displayed graphically in bar charts.



In English, students continue to learn new spelling words with focus being on the suffixes -ful and -less. Additionally, students are deepening their understanding of adjectives by looking at comparatives and superlatives. Students have learned the features of recount text and have written a short recount text of their own. Lastly, they self-evaluated their own work to gauge whether their recount writing met various success criteria.



In UOI, students have been examining how the world works, especially in the world of structures. Since construction on the school swimming pool is ongoing, Year 3 ventured outside to inquire about the building materials and other architectural issues. Students were excited to answer the lines of inquiry.

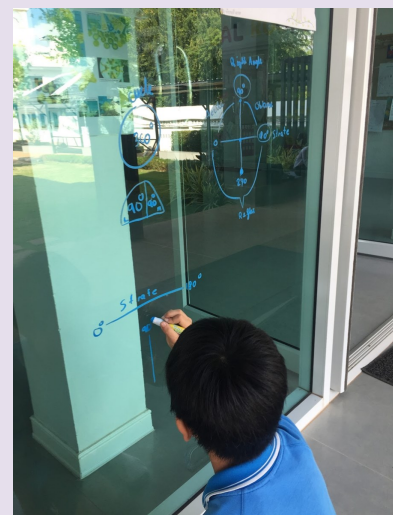
# Year 5 update - Angles, Factors and Graphing

By Mr John Eastham, Y5 Teacher

Since our return from Term 1 break, Year 5 learners discovered how to measure angles, describe them and make connections on how they help our mathematical thinking. Learners were able to discuss with their classmates what angles mean and complete an angle project to enhance their understanding of angles and degrees within a certain area.

Last week, Year 5 concentrated on factors and what they mean when dealing with multiplication and division. Learners were encouraged to find common patterns when given two numbers to compare. Learning number patterns develops strategies for higher order thinking. Finding factors, highest and lowest, gave a real life connection to the "why" we use multiplication and division to see numbers patterns.

This week in maths, learners will be using their own burning questions to show their data using various graphing visuals. Questions can vary from person to person and how they show their data will depend on the type of question they ask their classmates. This type of learning allows for deeper understanding of graphing and their engagement is higher since they can follow their own interests.



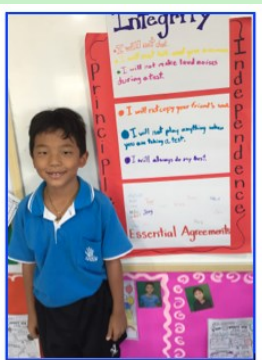
# Language and Culture

By Ms Julia Anjanette Jones Arnold, EAL Coordinator

## Modern languages - English as an Additional Language (EAL)



We have had a wonderful two weeks in EAL class! I am SO PROUD of my students for working so hard! We have been developing individualised spelling lists each week based on our phonetic skills. So far, we have covered 'a' and 'e'. Since students are partnering together to give spelling tests, we created our EAL Essential Agreements relating to Integrity, making sure that we are following these principles.



We began reading *Polar Bears Past Bedtime* which is the 12th book in the Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne. We completed a KWL chart on what we knew and wanted to know about polar bears and the Arctic.

Our awesome library at UDIS has many Magic Tree House books that are available to check out. Students are encouraged to check out these books and discover many new lands and adventures with the main characters, Jack and Annie.

If you read just one book a day to your child, they will have been read 1825 books by their 5th birthday.

Every Book Counts



We began using Class Dojo for incentives. For every ten Dojos that a student receives, they may trade these in for ONE HOUSE POINT!



## Health and Safety

*By Mr John Kelly, Health and safety coordinator*

### Health and safety



Hopefully you will start to notice more room in our car park.  
The staff parking is slowly migrating to the rear of the school.  
We will be adding a few other initiatives in  
the coming weeks to make your morning and afternoon visits smoother.  
As these initiatives are rolled out we ask  
for patience, support and understanding.  
Thank you.

# House Update

The current house point totals are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	31
Blue House Martin Luther King	21
Black House Princess Diana	11
Green House Nelson Mandela	21
Yellow House Mother Teresa	5



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
#5	4/2/2019	Preparing for our verification visit with Ms. Cynthia
#6	11/3/2019	Student led conferences

The next parent cafe is “Preparing for our verification visit” with Ms. Cynthia & Ms. Emmi

## 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.



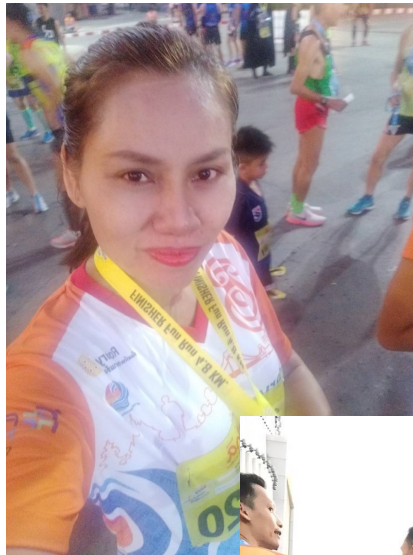
## PTA update - Summary of meeting held on Monday 21 January

The first item on the agenda was about moving to a 1:1 policy, Mr Richard presented information to parents about this proposal. Mr. Richard explained why students should have access to their own device in school (a 1:1 policy) and the benefits of learning this provided. The school presented the pros and cons of two options that could be used to rollout this policy. The first was a school provided 1:1 solution with the second being a bring your own device (BYOD) option. Parents were open to the idea and the school promised to present a more detailed proposal at an upcoming meeting. We also discussed the parking issues at present and what we are to alleviate the problem. This included promoting a 'stop, drop and roll' promotion for primary parents to drop their kids off at the front entrance only. Lastly, the school discussed the upcoming International Week and canvassed ideas from parents about this event. The next PTA meeting will be on 25 February 2019.



# Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

## UDIS joined Rotary Marathon 2019



2019  
Happy Chinese  
New Year  
Year of the pig



# 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**

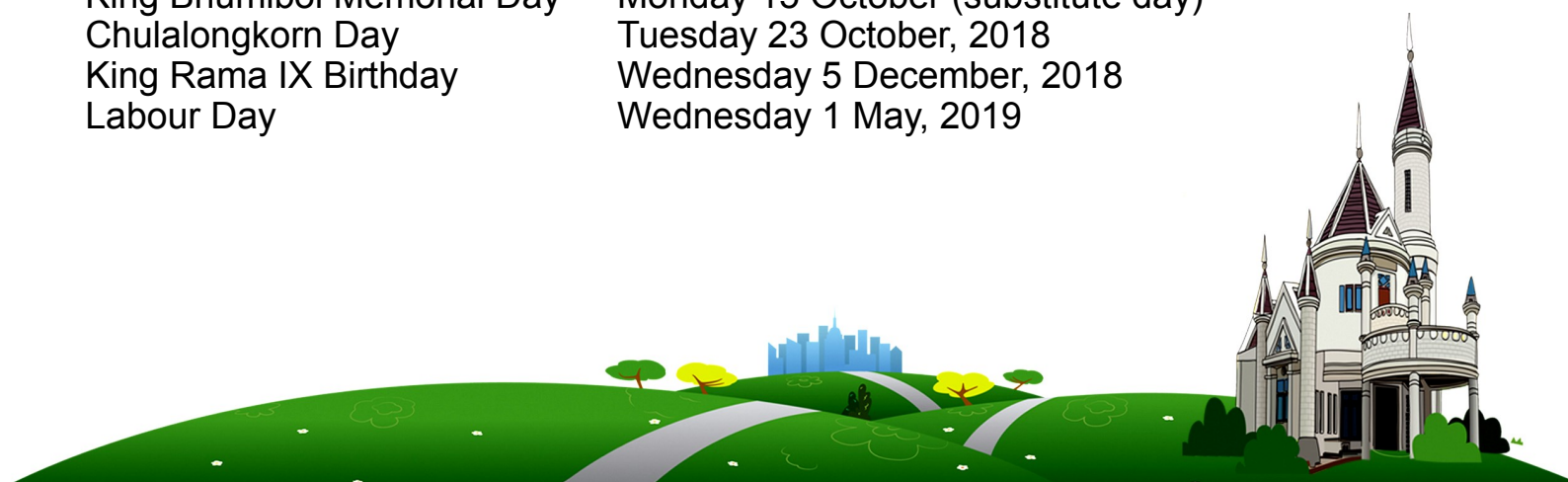
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019  
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)  
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019  
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

## **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**

School Number: 042 110 379 , 095 668 9636  
(for all general enquiries)

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

Deputy Principal: [john.e@udis.ac.th](mailto:john.e@udis.ac.th)

Teaching and Learning Coordinator: [emmi@udis.ac.th](mailto:emmi@udis.ac.th)

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

Preschool teacher: [charlotte@udis.ac.th](mailto:charlotte@udis.ac.th)

K1 teacher: [phibzia@udis.ac.th](mailto:phibzia@udis.ac.th)

K2 teacher: [jane@udis.ac.th](mailto:jane@udis.ac.th)

Y1 teacher: [rachel@udis.ac.th](mailto:rachel@udis.ac.th)

Y2 teacher: [john.k@udis.ac.th](mailto:john.k@udis.ac.th)

Y3/4 teacher: [mark@udis.ac.th](mailto:mark@udis.ac.th)

Y5 teacher: [john.e@udis.ac.th](mailto:john.e@udis.ac.th)

Y6/7 teacher: [cynthia@udis.ac.th](mailto:cynthia@udis.ac.th)

School Office Manager: [siri@udis.ac.th](mailto:siri@udis.ac.th)

Admissions Manager: [wannapa@udis.ac.th](mailto:wannapa@udis.ac.th)

Email suggestion box: [suggestions@udis.ac.th](mailto:suggestions@udis.ac.th)