



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

17th January 2019 | ISSUE 9



Welcome back!

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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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 2. It has been lovely to be back at school after the new year break and see so many returning and new faces this term. Over the break, our staff and contractors have been busy transforming our environment. Our swimming pool nears completion and should be in operation by the middle of February and contractors have been working to renovate and remodel our rear entrance. We also relocated our primary years playground to provide more access to shading and space for new development.

Next week, we have our first PTA meeting of the year. This will focus on discussing parking and our aim to move to a 1:1 computer policy. With more parents and learners, our parking lot is becoming more hectic so we would like to discuss solutions to this. Access to a computer or a tablet should be a natural tool for our learners which is why we would like all learners to have access to these for the 2019/2020 academic year. We hope to discuss why and how we could do this with parents at the PTA meeting. So, you are all welcome to join us on Monday 21 January.

We had a wonderful Christmas event and we managed to raise a lot of money for Volun2Thai. The event raised 20,550 baht which was a big increase on the 16,000 we raised last year. We will now use this money to purchase materials for Volun2Thai and to present those soon. Stay tuned!

Finally this week, we held a parent cafe on High Quality Learning (HQL) at UDIS. HQL is an important part of our guiding statements which particularly impacts on our teaching and learning. The statement is:

At UDIS, high quality learning means learning which is goal focused, student initiated and led, where students are actively engaged, motivated and responsible for their learning and which involves critical thinking skills such as evaluation, synthesis and cognition within a teacher supported, active environment.



Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, PYP Coordinator

At UDIS our students really do enjoy learning. They ask good questions, thoughtful questions, challenging questions and even some funny ones too. As teachers we value these questions and want to encourage students to continue asking. Questions are valued because they show that the student is involved. Bored students will not ask questions.

Student questions are often written and displayed on the wall for others to consider. It might be that another student knows the answer, or perhaps the questions relate to something others were wondering about. Either way, these questions spark discussion and learning.

A further purpose of students questions is to allow them to research the answer to their own question. Of course this would be with teacher guidance, but when students are involved in researching their own questions then they become engaged in really meaningful thinking and learning.



EAL Coordinator - Charlotte Trufit

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Charlotte is our EY Coordinator for the remainder of the school year. If you have any questions or concerns at all about our EY programme, Ms. Charlotte is ready to assist you.



Year 3 Teacher - Nathan Rector

As we have now split Year 3/4, we have appointed Nathan to take on the Year 3 class.

Nathan was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where it is usually freezing cold and snowy in winter and delightfully pleasant in other seasons. In Michigan, he was awarded a Master of Arts in Teaching with a Major in Elementary Education. Nathan has taught in the USA and Asia since 2007. During his time overseas, he has taught various grades of primary school and secondary school and worked with students and teachers from all over the world. Nathan is enthusiastic to teach Year 3 at UDIS.

Nathan considers himself a dynamic and skilful teacher who is a lover of sport and literature. In past schools, he has coached basketball and facilitated literature circles. Nathan believes that students must be actively involved and routinely reflect on their learning for it to take hold.



EAL Teacher - Anjanette Yarar

Anjanette is from the United States and earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Montevallo. She also possesses a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of West Alabama. During her 23 years in education, Anjanette has worked in numerous roles, including classroom teacher, EAL teacher and Coordinator, Counselor, and Director of Kindergarten. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Educational Leadership online at the British University in Dubai.

Anjanette is passionate about instilling confidence in her learners while developing their English language and leadership skills. She is positive, creative, and develops her lessons where each child is encouraged, motivated, and enjoys learning.



K2 Teaching Assistant - Sirikarn Lock

Sirikarn (Oil) joins us this term as our second Teaching Assistant in K2. Oil has a TEFL certificate and is studying for a Bachelors of English degree from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. She has taught young children as a tutor for many years and has travelled through over 20 countries. In her spare time she loves cooking Thai and international food.

Early Years Update

Preschool class update - Welcome back!

By Ms Charlotte Trufit, Preschool Teacher

This half term our Unit of Inquiry (UOI) is **How We Express Ourselves**.

The children really enjoyed our Tuning In sessions this week. We read the story 'Not a Box' by Antoinette Portis, and then we talked about what our 'not-a-box' could be. The children had some very imaginative and creative ideas!



Early Years Update

K2 class update - 'It's Not A Box!'

By Ms Jane Sutton, K2 Teacher

K2 have started their new UOI this week. Our central idea is **'Through play we express our feelings and ideas and come to new understandings.'**

This week we have been **'Tuning in'**. We have been playing with 'junk' that we found at home and thinking of different ways we can use it. We read the book **'Not A Box'** which gave us some ideas.



Year 2 class update -We Are Growing

By Mr John Kelly, Y2 Teacher

Exciting news our class grew by twenty five percent. We have welcomed three new student's to our class this week and it is great to have some new faces and ideas in our class. This term we will be learning about how we can take care of our environment and have already been looking at the environments that we live in each day. We want to investigate how humans dispose of rubbish and how we can reuse things so as not to pollute the earth's environment. We are learning what words such as: finite, infinite, resources, impact and of course environment mean.



Year 4- Advertisement and Media in Year 4

By Mr Mark Abbadessa, Y4 Teacher

In our Year 4 class the students have been learning and will continue to learn and focus on advertisement and media for the first half of term 2. The student will learn and explore how these two things influence people's minds to purchase products and how advertisements are used in the economy to make greater profits. They are also learning about the different forms of advertising such as (TV commercial, Radio Broadcasts, Social Media Advertisements, Billboards, etc.)

We have created a new bulletin board located outside of our classroom which reflects different forms of advertisement that the students were drawn to. We hope to organise a field trip in the coming weeks to visit Central Plaza to see how some of the shops use different advertising techniques to draw in more customers which lead to greater profits for their company.



Year 6/7 update - Government By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Y6/7 Teacher

Year 6/7 started in August with seven students. Now we have twelve! There is a very positive atmosphere in the class because we enjoy welcoming new students. This term, Missy has come from Lombok in Indonesia and Inn has joined us too.



This week we've started inquiring about the word 'government'. It is not an easy concept to grasp, and so we've spent time really looking into what this concept is all about. It is clear that a government system is normally divided up into departments. We've discussed what these might be and begun to plan a visit to some of the local government offices in Udon Thani.



Modern languages - Thai language in EY classroom with Ms.Tum

Welcome back to Term 2. We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and Happy Children's Day which are special Thai events that have all happened recently. We have begun this term with many new activities in Thai class. This year the Prime Minister gave Children's Day a theme and a slogan. Here is what was chosen for this year by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha: “ เด็ก เยาวชน จิตอาสา ร่วมพัฒนาชาติ”. This translates to: 'Youth, Volunteer Spirit, National Development. '



Health and Safety

Welcome back to a busier carpark. We have more students and therefore more cars than ever before. Please can everyone take care when parking and reversing in the car park. Please be mindful of your surroundings and think of others.

Very soon we will add a small carpark at the rear of the school which should help to alleviate some of the parking issues. Until it is ready care for your fellow parents and their children please by driving slowly and parking respectfully.



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	0
Blue House Martin Luther King	2
Black House Princess Diana	9
Green House Nelson Mandela	11
Yellow House Mother Teresa	2



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 & Ms. Emmi
#6	11/3/2019	Student led conferences with Ms. Emmi and Ms. Charlotte

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

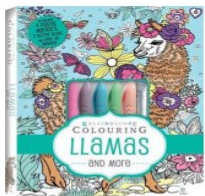


Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

New Year Promotion from Asia Books



15% OFF



KALEIDOSCOPE COLOURING: LLAMAS AND MORE

B335.75 ~~B396~~

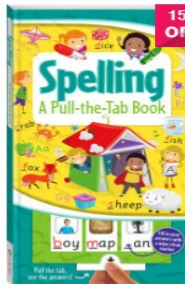
15% OFF



KALEIDOSCOPE COLOURING: MERMAIDS AND MORE

B335.75 ~~B396~~

15% OFF



PULL-THE-TAB: SPELLING

B212.50 ~~B260~~

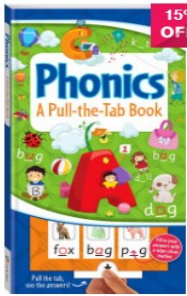
15% OFF



UNICORNS ARTIST PAD

B250.75 ~~B296~~

15% OFF



PULL-THE-TAB: PHONICS

B212.50 ~~B260~~

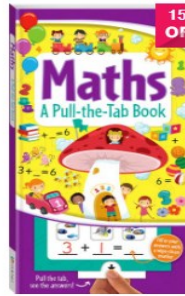
15% OFF



FIRST STEPS WRITE & WIPE: FIRST WORDS

B488.75 ~~B576~~

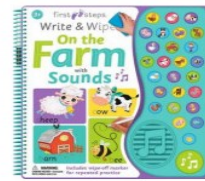
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PULL-THE-TAB: MATHS

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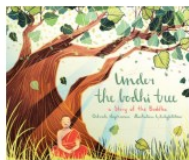
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FIRST STEPS WRITE & WIPE: ON THE FARM

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15% OFF

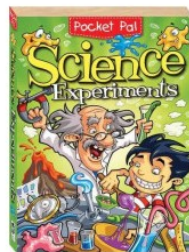


UNDER THE BODHI TREE: A STORY OF THE BUDDHA

By HOPKINSON, DEBORAH

B318.75 ~~B376~~

15% OFF



POCKET PAL: SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

B148.75 ~~B176~~

15% OFF



POCKET PAL: MAGIC TRICKS

B148.75 ~~B176~~

15% OFF



AIR AND SPACE ORIGAMI

By SZINGER & VINTS

B420.75 ~~B496~~

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 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.

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

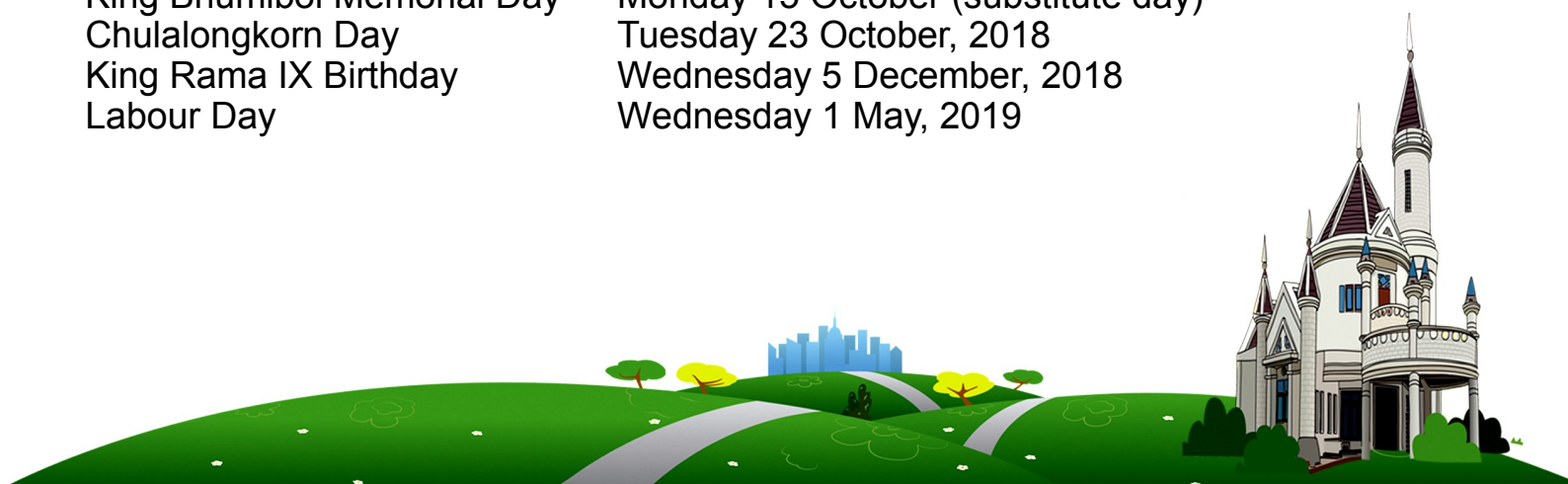
Management & Thai staff: Wednesday 31 July, 2019
New staff: Thursday 1 August, 2019 (2 days orientation)
Returning foreign staff: Monday 5 August, 2019
School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019

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



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
- 22 April Start of Term 3
- 29 April PTA#7
- 1 May Labour day (Holiday)
- 6 *May Coronation Day holiday (unconfirmed)*
- 13 May Parents cafe #6
- All May Healthy eating month
- 20-21 May Half term break (Holiday)
- 27 May PTA#8
- 10 June Parents cafe #7
- 19 June End of Term 3

- 13 August Start of Term 1 2019/2020



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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Teaching and Learning Coordinator: emmi@udis.ac.th

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 teacher: nathan@udis.ac.th

Y4 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

Email suggestion box: suggestions@udis.ac.th