



# Newsletter

## Udon Thani International School

24th June 2019 | ISSUE18



## Goodbye 2018/2019!

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

19 June            End of Term 3  
13 August        Start of Term 1 2019/2020



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**\*\*Graduation photos on page 19**

## Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

This has been our 5th year since we opened and I think we are finally seeing all of the hard work put into this school finally starting to pay off. This year, it has been a fantastic achievement to become authorised to teach the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and the first IB World School in the Northeast and the 12th overall in Thailand. This authorisation accredits the curriculum we use and provides a different model of education for those in the Northeast to have access to. This year we also announced our plans to extend into the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and ultimately all the way through to offering the IB Diploma for students as well. It is great to see UDIS thriving and doing so well.

Academically, our students performed very well on the GL external tests which show that our students can achieve to the same level as students in the UK. It has been great for us to roll these results out to parents as part of our end of year reports this week. The feedback I have heard from parents has been very positive as it provides some surety around how their children are performing.

Finally, at the end of each academic year we always say farewell to departing staff and students who are moving on to new adventures. Thank you for being a part of our school and we wish you all the best for your future. I hope that you will cherish the skills you learned at UDIS and have the chance to use those to make the world a better place to live.

So, truly a fantastic year for UDIS. I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing you back for the 2019/2020 academic year.

Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart

Head of School



## Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas

As the holidays approach parents always think of ways to occupy their children for several weeks. We believe that some of the best learning happens when children are ‘just playing’. Many valuable skills are learned as children explore, inquire and play. There are many online resources which describe the value of play and support parents with ideas on how to enrich playtime for their children. During the holidays it is important to enjoy reading and to do some meaningful number work, but above all try to keep it playful. Enjoy!

# The power of PLAY

Play is the rocket fuel for skills development – at home, in the community and at school. Read on to find out more...

**real play coalition**  
www.realplaycoalition.com

**COMMUNITY COUNTS!**

- In the UK, children living in deprived areas are nine times less likely than those living in affluent areas to have access to green space and places to play.
- Pavements, walls and bus stops in Belmont, West Philadelphia, USA, have had puzzles and games built into them, so kids and adults can engage together in ways that benefit communication, collaboration and the development of spatial skills.
- The High Court in Delhi, India, has observed that parks enable kids to learn key skills through play.
- Bristol City Council in the UK allows residential roads in the city to be closed and turned into traffic-free temporary Play Streets. Parents report 88% of kids playing out have improved social skills.

**PLAY STARTS AT HOME!**

- A study showed that children from disadvantaged backgrounds were, in some countries, more than 20% less likely to regularly play with building blocks than children from socio-economically advantaged homes.
- An Oxford University study of 301 families in East London, UK, found that kids who played with their parents, supported by a parenting app, had better concentration and determination and were able to make their own decisions.
- Researchers in South Africa found that children who play at home are a third more likely to have higher 'executive function' (fine management, organisation, focus, multi-tasking skills).
- A study found that adults in Jamaica who had received early childhood 'play intervention' earned 25% more than their peers who had not.

**SCHOOL'S IN!**

- A review of early-learning development standards across 37 countries found that only a third of countries had the concept of playful learning well integrated.
- A German study of kindergartens reported that children who learned through play were more advanced in reading, maths and social skills. It also found they were more creative.
- Research carried out for the UK government found that play-based learning improves the academic and emotional development of early years children.
- Australian researchers reported that young children studying at schools with a play-based curriculum had improved language and grammar skills.


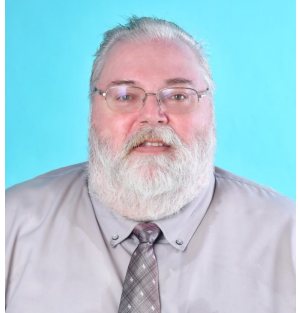



**Logos:** Sustainable Development Goals, National Geographic, UCL, IKEA, The LEGO Foundation

From 'Value of Play Report'. The Real Play Coalition.  
See also Facebook: Real Play Coalition

## Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

We are very pleased to announce our teaching lineup for the 2019/2020 academic year.

### Management staff

	<p><b>Head of School - Dr. Lindsay Stuart</b> Lindsay is an experienced school administrator with over 15 years experience working in education in Thailand. Lindsay hails from New Zealand, where he graduated from the University of Canterbury with Bachelor degrees in Arts and Science before completing a PhD in Information Systems. He also holds a Masters degree from Mahidol University in Thailand and a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Administration from Massey University in New Zealand. Lindsay has an excellent understanding of educational administration, learning and technology and uses that knowledge to guide and shape exciting learning programmes for the students of UDIS.</p>
	<p><b>Deputy Principal - John Eastham</b> John holds a Masters degree in International Education from Oxford Brookes University in the UK and has taught throughout the Primary age range (5 to 11) in the UK, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and most recently in Myanmar. John has worked in a variety of roles including Principal, curriculum leadership and class teaching. He is delighted to be at UDIS at a time when it is developing its membership of CIS, and has become an IB Primary Years World School, as this will ensure quality internationally based learning for all UDIS students.</p>
	<p><b>Teaching and Learning Coordinator - Emmi Hines</b> Emmi holds a Master's Degree in Administration of Education from Grand Canyon University. She also has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Purdue University and is TEFL and ESL certified from the USA. She has 12 years teaching experience in the USA, China and 3 years at our sister school, KPBS, in Khon Kaen. Her passion is helping her students become the best they can be through a variety of teaching techniques.</p>
	<p><b>Early Years Coordinator - Charlotte Elizabeth</b> Charlotte is from Wales in the United Kingdom and completed a Bachelor's degree in Primary Education with a specialism in Early Years Education from York St John University in North Yorkshire. She has always known that she wanted to work with children and her upbringing in the capital of Wales gave her opportunities to experience the benefits and beauty of multiculturalism. Charlotte loves to laugh, sing, and create and is always trying to bring a sparkle of magic and wonder into her teaching. She is also bringing her family to Thailand for the first time and is looking forward to learning about a new culture and finding time for her hobby of archery.</p>
	<p><b>PYP Coordinator - Cynthia Thomas</b> Cynthia is an experienced PYP educator who has worked in schools in Thailand, Turkey, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom. Cynthia holds a Bachelor of Education Honours Degree (Primary Years) from the University of Nottingham and a Masters Degree in International Education from Sunderland University. She has previously worked with a variety of primary levels in schools including UWC Thailand (Phuket International Academy) and Bilkent Laboratory &amp; International School which are both IB World Schools. Cynthia enjoys working to develop equality of educational activities with prior work with migrant communities in Phuket. She is also interested in mindfulness, Mathematics and the teaching of EAL.</p>

# Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

## Homeroom teachers

	<p><b>Preschool - Charlotte Elizabeth</b></p> <p>Charlotte is from Wales in the United Kingdom and completed a Bachelor's degree in Primary Education with a specialism in Early Years Education from York St John University in North Yorkshire. She has always known that she wanted to work with children and her upbringing in the capital of Wales gave her opportunities to experience the benefits and beauty of multiculturalism.</p> <p>Charlotte loves to laugh, sing, and create and is always trying to bring a sparkle of magic and wonder into her teaching. She is also bringing her family to Thailand for the first time and is looking forward to learning about a new culture and finding time for her hobby of archery.</p>
	<p><b>K1 - Phibzia Siddiqui</b></p> <p>Phibzia holds a Master's Degree in Education (TEFL) from the National University of Laos. She has also completed a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and an Advanced diploma in "Early Childhood Development" from ECD-Affiliated Edith Cowan University (Australia). She has 13 years of teaching experience around Asia and has training and experience in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). Phibzia comes to us from a teaching position at Vientiane International School.</p> <p>Phibzia has a passion and the energy for English language learning and teaching across all levels of students. She has been with the school for a number of years and brings an experienced, inquiry approach to our teaching in the Early Years.</p>
	<p><b>K2 - Jane Sutton</b></p> <p>Jane holds a Bachelor degree in Music and teaching from Ripon and York University in the UK. With thirteen years teaching experience in schools across the UK, Cambodia, Norway, China and Taiwan. Jane has considerable experience working with the 3-7 year-old age range as well as coordinating Sports, Music, Art and Phonics. She also holds TEFL certification.</p> <p>Jane is an energetic and caring teacher who takes great pride in her class. She firmly believes in teaching children how to think while building their confidence and allowing them to prosper.</p>
	<p><b>Year 1 - Rachel Bradley</b></p> <p>Rachel holds a Diploma in Primary Education from Notre Dame College of Education and a Bachelor of Educational Studies from Stirling University, Scotland, UK. Throughout her long and varied teaching career Rachel has taught in many countries including Australia, West Africa and the UK with classes taught from kindergarten all the way through to student teachers. In recent years, Rachel has also run her own successful private Tuition Centre in Australia.</p> <p>Rachel returns for a second year with our Year 1 class. Rachel is passionate about Early Education and knows full well the importance of laying solid foundations, if children are to become successful life long learners. Consequently, Rachel places great importance on establishing a safe, and happy environment in which children are unafraid to take risks and are motivated to learn. Rachel believes that children's learning is optimised when there is a strong partnership between the school and the parents, as such Rachel likes to encourage parent involvement in the classroom.</p>



# Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

## Homeroom teachers

	<p><b>Year 2 - John Kelly</b> John was born in Glasgow, Scotland, where it is usually cold wet and windy and lived there for the first 16 years of his life before immigrating to Australia with his family. In Western Australia he was awarded a Bachelor of Education at Curtin University. John has taught in Australia, England, Turkey, Thailand, Qatar and Kuwait over nearly three decades. During his time in these various countries he has taught all grades of primary school and worked with students and teachers from across the globe. John considers himself an open, creative, friendly and reliable teacher who is a keen advocate for the development of community within a school. In past schools, he has taken pride in being able to utilise parents in the development of students learning. John believes that students must be engaged, challenged and able to reflect independently and collaboratively about their learning.</p>
	<p><b>Year 3 - Kane Fawcett</b> Kane comes from New Zealand and he graduated from Victoria University of Wellington with a Bachelor of Science before completing his Post Graduate Diploma in Primary Education at Massey University. He has taught internationally in Nepal, Thailand and New Zealand. For the past 8 years, Kane has taught Years 2-6 in New Zealand and has experience in curriculum leadership, as an acting principal. Kane is looking forward to returning to Thailand with his wife, son and daughter. Kane believes that the best learning happens when it is authentic because it makes sense to children, and they want to learn. He is passionate about music and loves to play guitar and sing songs. He also has a love of science, mathematics, making movies, football and food. Kane is looking forward to applying his skills in inquiry based learning teaching the Primary Years Programme (PYP).</p>
	<p><b>Year 4 - Martin Yakabuski</b> Martin is excited to be joining the UDIS learning community. He is a passionate global educator, coach and trainer holding many years of experience that bridge all levels of learning, from primary to tertiary classrooms. He is a Canadian by birth, educated in his home country, obtaining a BA, BEd. and MEd. He is very familiar with the ASEAN region, teaching and supporting teachers with professional development in Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam. His passion is language development and literacy, as well as inquiry-based learning. Martin strives to create a thinking classroom that supports children's development in all domains of being, empowering them to thrive and flourish, becoming whole, participating citizens of their communities, country and the world. He believes that when engagement and the well-being of children is integral to a learning community, the joy and love of learning result.</p>

## Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

### Homeroom teachers

	<p><b>Year 5 - John Eastham</b> John holds a Masters degree in International Education from Oxford Brookes University in the UK and has taught throughout the Primary age range (5 to 11) in the UK, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and most recently in Myanmar. John has worked in a variety of roles including Principal, curriculum leadership and class teaching. He is delighted to be at UDIS at a time when it is developing its membership of CIS, and has become an IB Primary Years World School, as this will ensure quality internationally based learning for all UDIS students.</p>
	<p><b>Year 6 - Mark Abbadessa</b> Mark holds a Bachelor degree in Sociology and Elementary Education with a specialisation in Special Education from William Paterson University. He holds dual Highly Qualified Teaching Status Licenses from America and has received a Masters Degree in Literacy from the University of New England. He has attended additional postgraduate teaching courses at North Dakota State University. Mark has also received PYP and TEFL course certificates of completion. He has worked in both public and international schools settings in the USA and China and has taught children from 4-16 years old from a variety of different teaching roles throughout his 10 year teaching career. Mark enjoys teaching in an international school setting and continues to research new and innovative teaching strategies to use in creating motivational teaching activities to engage his students. He uses a vast variety of technology platforms during classroom lessons to capture the minds of his students and to also build real world technology skills needed in today's society and workforce.</p>
	<p><b>Year 7 - Cynthia Thomas</b> Cynthia is an experienced PYP educator who has worked in schools in Thailand, Turkey, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom. Cynthia holds a Bachelor of Education Honours Degree (Primary Years) from the University of Nottingham and a Masters Degree in International Education from Sunderland University. She has previously worked with a variety of primary levels in schools including UWC Thailand (Phuket International Academy) and Bilkent Laboratory &amp; International School which are both IB World Schools. Cynthia enjoys working to develop equality of educational activities with prior work with migrant communities in Phuket. She is also interested in mindfulness, Mathematics and the teaching of EAL.</p>

## Teacher lineup - 2019/2020


### Specialist teachers

	<p><b>EAL &amp; Learning Support - Anjanette Yerar</b> 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.</p>
	<p><b>Arts teacher - Terry Renton</b> Terry is a qualified teacher from Australia with a Bachelor degree of Fine Arts and a Diploma of Education both from the University of New South Wales. He has over 20 years of teaching experience from working in leading schools in Australia, Indonesia and now Thailand. He has taught art, art and design, drama, drama studies, music production and recording to students from preschool to secondary students. Terry has experience with the International Baccalaureate with previous positions as an MYP arts teacher and was the Curriculum Development Advisor of the Lombok Learning Village which was an innovative, inquiry based school in Indonesia which he helped design and develop. Terry is passionate about the arts, he loves learning and has a passion for creating things so he will certainly have his hands full with the blank canvas he has at UDIS!</p>
	<p><b>PSPE - Ranouver 'Xavi' Pereira</b> Xavi is a qualified teacher from Brazil and holds a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from the Federal University of Ceará. He is a professional physical education and swimming teacher who has over 6 years experience in Brazil, Thailand, the Philippines and Laos. Xavi is also a licensed football coach by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) with experience in youth football in Brazil with clubs like Cruzeiro Esporte Clube. He is also responsible for the Brazilian methodology of teaching football at the Cruzeiro Soccer School Asia which has branches in Thailand, Laos and the Philippines. Xavi is a huge fan of football and sports culture around the world and is also passionate about music, films and literature.</p>



## Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

### Specialist teachers

	<p><b>Thai Teacher - Hattaya Sirito</b> Hattaya (Doum) holds a Bachelor of Art in English from Udon Thani Rajabhat University in Udon Thani and a Graduate Diploma in Teaching from Santapol College. Doum has worked as a teaching assistant and classroom teacher for 7 years at Paramin School and Tumble Tots in Udon Thani. Doum enjoys reading, drawing, Thai dance and handicrafts.</p>
	<p><b>Thai Teacher - Sineenad Chamat</b> Sineenard (Nard) comes from Khon Kaen and holds a Bachelors Degree in Computer Education from Rajabhat Institute of Suan Dusit in Bangkok. She also holds a Masters of Education from Khon Kaen University. She has over 18 years of experience teaching a range of subjects in Thai schools including Thai language, social studies, Thai history and computing. Nard is a patient, hard working teacher who is always willing to learn new things and pass those onto her students.</p>
	<p><b>EAL/Library/Afterschool Chinese - Jiang Chen</b> Chen has a Bachelor of Arts from Ludong University in China and a Master of Arts in TESOL from the University of York in the United Kingdom. She has over 8 years experience teaching both Chinese and English to students in China from primary to university levels. Chen is familiar with teaching Chinese to both non-Chinese speakers and Chinese language speakers using art, music, pictures, videos and resources. She believes that the best way to teach Chinese is through speaking Chinese to the students. She enjoys traveling, photography, reading and swimming.</p>
	<p><b>ICT Coordinator, Technology Coordinator &amp; Librarian - Richard Slack</b> Richard holds a Bachelor of Science in Computing and a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education from Sunderland University. He has worked previously in schools in Thailand and Turkey teaching technology to students from different levels. Richard has a particular passion for IT which he used during a successful career in programming and systems management.</p>

# Early Years Update

## K1 class update - Till we meet again!

By Ms Phibzia, K1 teacher

Can you believe that the Kindergarten 1 year is rapidly drawing to an end? It seems like just yesterday we watched the children come tentatively through the door for the first time. They have grown so much in confidence and competence. We have learned so many things like sharing, becoming risk-takers, knowledgeable, thinkers, inquirers, communicators and more. I am proud of my children taking their next step in K2. Have a great summer!



## Year 1 class update - Farewell Year 1

*By Ms Rachel, Y1 Teacher*

It is with great pride and pleasure that I reflect on the progress and achievements of the Year 1 students. They began the year with great enthusiasm and interest and I am delighted to say they maintained those positive attitudes throughout the year.

Not only did the Year 1 students excel in their learning but they showed themselves to be extremely talented performers, putting on wonderful assemblies as well as performing a Chinese Dance for Chinese New Year and a traditional Isan Dance for the Songkran Assembly. Year 1 should be very proud of their progress and achievements this year.

Next week for their last performance, the Year 1 students shall perform 'The Ugly Duckling' song, which I have no doubt they will give a star performance once again.



## Year 3 class update - Farewell

By Mr Nathan, Year 3 teacher

It is with immense pleasure that Year 3 wish farewell to the academic year 2018-2019. Year 3 was a small in number, but massive in personality. Whether it was expressing themselves via dance or developing new role play ideas, Year 3 was enthusiastic and creative in their expression. It was a great year of learning in Maths, English and UOI. Additionally, Year 3 ventured outside on field trips and hosted numerous guests who shared their expertise. Altogether it was an outstanding year with students gaining confidence, improving their communication abilities and developing their thinking skills.

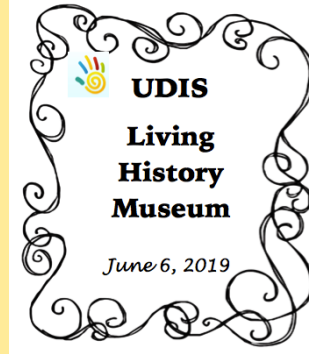


## Year 5 update - Overnight Camp at UDIS

By Mr John E., Years 5 teacher

Recently, Y5, together with Y6/7, participated in an overnight camp at UDIS. The children camped out on our hardcourt and were able to develop their abilities to be organised, be cooperative and improve their self management skills. For some, it was their first time camping. The children participated in a range of team building activities and the event is one that will be further developed next year.

	<p>The children chose their camping partners and put up their own tents.</p>		<p>We played some parachute games to develop team building skills.</p>
	<p>We sang campfire songs in the rain!</p>		<p>There was a mini disco and everyone joined in.</p>
	<p>We worked together on some problem solving activities.</p>		<p>Our tents were basic but comfortable.</p>



**Our EAL class participated in the UDIS Living History Museum on June 6th. Each student chose someone to research and presented their finished project portraying that person from history. There were projects focused around significant people in Thai History, national leaders, football players, film directors, and artists. Our Living History Museum incorporated all of the skills that we focus on in our EAL class - speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The students did an AMAZING job with this project!**



**READ! READ! READ!**

**It is so important that students read during the summer break. Research indicates that students who do not read during the summer lose significant reading skills as compared to those who read during their summer break. Students can read a variety of genres, including picture books, non-fiction books, comic books, menus, stories online, etc. The important thing is that a time is set aside daily for students to read in English.**

## Health and Safety- Car Parking

We have had many changes to the school this year around the school and I would like to thank you for your cooperation in following our recommendations to keep all of the children safe at school.

Next year as the school grows, there will be a new drop off and pick up system “ coming into operation. There will be more information sent in emails about the new procedures closer to the time of the new school year commencing. So keep an eye out for those!

I am sure there will be teething problems as we all learn how the new system will work. So again I am asking that we all drive slowly and take care of each other in the car park.

Have a great summer break and I look forward to seeing you all back again for a new school year in August.



## House Update

The current house point totals are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	43
Blue House Martin Luther King	47
Black House Princess Diana	51
Green House Nelson Mandela	52
Yellow House Mother Teresa	55



**Congratulations to the Yellow Team for winning our House Competition for Term 3! This was the first time Yellow had won the house competition before in our last 5 years. So what an accomplishment for them.**

## Parent Cafe

**There are no further PTA cafes this year. Thank you to all those who attended our Cafes this year and we hope you were able to gain something from these.**





# Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Welcome our New CPP “I can Read English school at Central Udon Thani”  
Discount for UDIS member for 20% of 1 year English Course



**I CAN READ**

ร่วมแสดง 'I CAN' POWER  
ส่งคลิปไอเดียสร้างสรรค์ในหัวข้อ

โตขึ้นอยากทำอะไรและ  
จะใช้ **พลังพิเศษ** ยังไง

พร้อมติด #ICanBeAHero  
เพื่อชิงรางวัล **English Camp** ที่ประเทศสิงคโปร์  
และทุนการศึกษารวมมากกว่า **200,000** บาท

**I CAN BE A HERO**

รายละเอียดการร่วมกิจกรรม  
**I CAN BE A HERO by I CAN READ**

เพื่อชิงรางวัลและ  
**English Camp ที่ประเทศสิงคโปร์**  
และทุนการศึกษามูลค่ารวมกว่า **230,000** บาท

**เกณฑ์การตัดสิน**

1. คะแนนความคิดสร้างสรรค์	20%
2. คะแนนความตั้งใจและทุ่มเท	20%
3. คะแนนความน่ารักและเป็นธรรมชาติ	20%
4. คะแนนความสามารถทางภาษาอังกฤษ	20%
5. คะแนนโหวตจากทางบ้าน	20%

(1 like = 1 คะแนน / 1 share = 2 คะแนน)

**หมายเหตุ :**  
- ขอสงวนสิทธิ์ไม่ตัดสินคลิปที่ไม่เปิดโพสต์เป็นสาธารณะ  
- เนื่องจากทางคณะกรรมการไม่สามารถเห็นคลิปของผู้แข่งขันได้  
- และกรณีที่เป็นปัญหาด้านเทคนิคของ Facebook  
- การตัดสินของกรรมการถือเป็นที่สุด

**วิธีการร่วมสนุก**

- อัปเดตชีวิตโอ ด้วยไอเดียของน้องๆ ในหัวข้อต่างๆ ความยาว 2-5 นาที โดยสามารถออกแบวิธีการนำเสนอแบบใดก็ได้
- ไม่จำกัดเทคนิคและรูปแบบการถ่ายทำ โดยน้องๆ สามารถตัดต่อได้ตามความเหมาะสม
- โฟสดีคลิปของเด็กๆ บน Facebook โดยตั้งคำโพสต์เป็นสาธารณะ พร้อมติด #ICANREAD และ #ICANBEAHERO อย่างสิ้น แท็กเรา I Can Read Thailand
- ร่วมส่งคลิปเข้ามาได้ถึงวันที่ 30 มิถุนายน 2562 เวลา 16.00 และประกาศผลน้องๆ ผู้เข้ารอบแรกจำนวน 16 คน ในวันที่ 2 กรกฎาคม 2562
- ไม่จำกัดว่า เด็กๆ จะเคยเรียนกับ I CAN READ หรือไม่ ทุกคนสามารถเข้าร่วมกิจกรรมได้
- ผู้ที่ผ่านเข้ารอบ 16 คน จะถูกคัดเลือกเหลือ 8 คน เพื่อเข้าร่วมกิจกรรม Workshop พร้อมถ่ายคลิปใหม่ เพื่อโพสต์ลงบน Facebook ของ I CAN READ เพื่อให้ทุกคนได้มีส่วนร่วมในการตัดสินผู้ชนะเลิศ

## School board update - Summary of meeting held on Friday 22 February

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 17 May, the school held its third Board meeting of the year. The Board line up 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 reported on school activities since the last Board meeting which covered the growing enrolment of the school, school activities, accreditation process and teaching activities. The Board learned that the school has gained authorisation in the Primary Years Programme and will become an official IB World School. The Board also reviewed the fee increase for 2019/2020 with no change in the fees for materials, catering fees and Year 4-7 tuition. There will be a 3% fee increase for tuition fees for students in Preschool to Year 3 levels. The Board also confirmed the switch to a 1:1 policy as a clear majority of parents were in favour of this. The Board also discussed the impact of the International Community School (ICS) that plans to open a campus in August, 2020. UDIS needs to ensure that parents understand the difference between the inquiry based, open-minded and international education of the school versus the Bible oriented view of ICS and its focus on Christianity as a central part of its education.

**The next Board meeting is planned for Friday 27 September, 2019.**

## PTA update - Summary of meeting held on Wednesday 5 June

On Wednesday 5 June we held a combined PTA and parent cafe as the final parents meeting of the 2018/2019 academic year. The first item discussed the schools achievement of becoming an IB world school which completes a major goal for the school. We are now working on our CIS accreditation and have asked parents to help us complete the CIS community survey.

Following this, the school presented information about the external reports that will be a part of the report for all students from Year 2 and upwards that completed them. These reports assess English and Mathematics from the National Curriculum of England and they can benchmark our students against students in the UK. Overall the performance of students at UDIS has been very good especially considering the EAL levels at the school and the relative newness to the school of many students. The results of the external tests are affected by a student's English level as a lower English level makes it harder for a student to understand the test and what they are being asked. Further, the longer students have been in the school, the better they have done on the tests. The external tests also showed that students who begin at Preschool or K1 level at UDIS are reaching the same level, on average, as their peers in the UK by the end of Year 2.

Next, the school confirmed the results of the 1:1 student to device survey. 83% of respondents were in favour of adopting the 1:1 programme from 35 responses. As such, we will be implementing this programme next year. All students from Year 3 and upwards will be expected to have a device that meets the minimum requirements. The school will be surveying parents before the end of the year for those who may wish to rent a device for August or not.

The school also explained that it is presenting a community report for 2017/2018. The report provides detailed information about the school and its operations. This includes the strategic objectives the school is working on.

Finally, we asked for any comments about the past year or other things to improve on. One parent asked about the menu and for consideration to ensure that is suitable for all age levels. A parent did ask about the school releasing the CAT4 aptitude tests to parents. The school will look into this but the parent reports of these are available to parents on request.

# Congratulations!



# School Terms and Dates 2018/2019

UDIS operates three terms per school year as follows:

## Term 3 (40 days)

Start: Monday 22 April, 2019  
Half term break: 20-21 May, 2019 (2 days)  
Finish: Wednesday 19 June, 2019

## Public holidays

Coronation Day Monday 6 May, 2019  
Queens birthday Monday 3 June

# School Terms and Dates 2019/2020

UDIS operates three terms per school year as follows:

## Term 1 (80 days)

School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019  
Half term break: 14-23 October, 2019 (1 week & 3 days)  
Finish: Friday 13 December, 2019

## Term 2 (61 days)

Start: Tuesday 7 January, 2020  
Half term break: 17-18 February, 2020 (2 days)  
Finish: Friday 3 April, 2020

## Term 3 (41 days)

Start: Monday 20 April, 2020  
Half term break: 18-19 May, 2020 (2 days)  
Finish: Friday 19 June, 2019

## Term 1 2020/2021

School start: Monday 10 August, 2020

## Teacher Only Days

Teacher only day #1 Wednesday 23 October, 2019 (Substitute from Tuesday)  
Teacher only day #2 Monday 6 January, 2020

## Public holidays

Queens Birthday Monday 12 August 2019  
King Bhumibol Memorial Day Monday 14 October, 2019  
Chulalongkorn Day Wednesday 23 October, 2019  
King Rama IX Birthday Thursday 5 December, 2019  
Makha Bucha Day Monday 9 March, 2020  
Labour Day Friday 1 May, 2020  
Visaka Bucha Day Thursday 7 May, 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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