



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

23th August 2019 | ISSUE1



Welcome back to UDIS

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

2 September	PTA#1
16 September	Parent Cafe #1
19 September	Teachers day event (Assembly, 2 periods)
30 September	PTA#2
October	Follow your passions month
14 October	King Bhumibol Memorial Day
14-23 October	Half Term break
23 October	Teachers Only Day #1
11 November	PTA#3
11 November	Loy Krathong event (Assembly)
25 November	Parent Cafe #2
4 December	Kings Birthday event assembly
5 December	Rama IX Memorial Day Holiday
13 December	Christmas Festival - unless advised otherwise
13 December	Last day of Term 1 (This is a full day)

IN THIS ISSUE :

Message from the Head of School	p2
Teacher lineup	p3
School strategy for 2019/2020	p9
Early Years Update	p10
Primary Years Update	p12
Modern languages	p15
Health and Safety & Inquiry corner	p16
House Update & Parent Café	p17
Community Partnership Programme (CPP)	p18
School board update & PTA update	p19
School Terms and Dates 2018/2019	p20

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Welcome back to UDIS for the 2019/2020 school year! It is great to see so many of our learners ready for the new academic year. This year, a central focus is the rollout of learner agency as part of the enhanced PYP coming in 2020. As such, all of our teaching staff sat down for a two day workshop with trainers from the PYP. It was a fantastic chance for us all to learn how we can use learner agency to meet the needs of our learners.

This week, we also held our start of the year EY and PY parents meetings. These meetings were a chance for us to outline the key initiatives we are working on this year. At the forefront, is our preparation for CIS and we will be busy working on this. Our rapid student growth is also precipitating the many construction projects around the school. We have made some changes to our parking lot to improve flow but we are also looking at bigger solutions too.

Later in this newsletter you will also find our strategic plan for 2019/2020. This is based on a five year plan we began in 2017. In this iteration, we have identified several key actions to meet our strategic aims. As you can see, many of the things we are working on are within this plan.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new staff into the school. It is always lovely to welcome new faces and ideas into the school. We are excited to have such talented and passionate staff working with us. You will find our full list of staff later in the newsletter.

It will be a busy year ahead, but we are glad we have such a supportive community coming along with us.


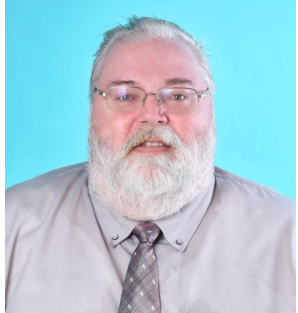



Best regards
Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School



Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

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

Management staff

	<p>Head of School - Dr. Lindsay Stuart 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>Deputy Principal - John Eastham 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>Teaching and Learning Coordinator - Emmi Hines 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>Early Years Coordinator - Charlotte Elizabeth 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>PYP Coordinator - Cynthia Thomas 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 & 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>Preschool - Charlotte Elizabeth</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>K1 - Phibzia Siddiqui</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>K2 - Jane Sutton</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>Year 1 - Rachel Bradley</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>Year 2 - John Kelly 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>Year 3 - Kane Fawcett 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>Year 4 (Cover) - Charlotte (Charlie) Ramsey Charlotte (Charlie) is from York in North Yorkshire, England. She completed her Primary Education degree at the University of Sunderland in the North East of England. Charlotte has taught in both primary and secondary schools including work in learning support settings. Charlotte is enthusiastic and passionate about teaching and learning. She has a love for drama and performance, especially musicals. Charlotte is fully committed to providing essential learning opportunities and strategies to all children. This will be Charlotte's first teaching position abroad and she is incredibly excited about joining the team and meeting our learners.</p>

Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

Homeroom teachers

	<p>Year 5 - John Eastham 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>Year 6 - Mark Abbadessa 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>Year 7 - Cynthia Thomas 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 & 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>EAL & Learning Support - Liza Magbanua Liza is a qualified teacher from the Philippines holding a Diploma in Teacher Education and a Bachelors degree from the Philippines' last ecological frontier, Palawan. She has also completed her 120-hour TEFL certification and her level 1 PYP training. Liza has worked in different roles including EAL teacher and Learning Support teacher at international schools in Bangkok including St Andrews International School (107 & Sathorn) and Rasami British International School. Liza has been working as an EAL teacher for more than ten years and she has also gained a lot of experience supporting children with learning difficulties especially in Mathematics. Liza has also helped organised school events such as the World Education Games and Tournament of Minds to give learners an opportunity to demonstrate their collaboration and problem-solving skills in creative ways.</p>
	<p>Arts teacher - Terry Renton 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>PSPE - Ranouver 'Xavi' Pereira 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>
	<p>ICT Coordinator, Technology Coordinator & Librarian - Richard Slack 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>

Teacher lineup - 2019/2020

Specialist teachers

	<p>Thai Teacher - Sineenad Chamat 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>Thai Teacher - Hattaya Sirito 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 handi-crafts.</p>
	<p>Thai teacher – Patthaya Deemuangkong Patthaya (Keb) holds a Bachelors Degree in English from Ramkhamhaeng University, a Graduate Diploma in Teaching from Santapol College and she is completing her Masters from Udon Thani Rajabhat. Keb is an experienced teacher who has over 10 years of teaching experience in schools around Udon Thani, as well as 3 years of experience at UDIS working closely with our homeroom teachers. Keb is an excellent, hardworking, fun and passionate staff member who cares deeply about her students learning.</p>
	<p>EAL/Library/Afterschool Chinese - Jiang Chen 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>

School strategy for 2019/2020

The UDIS strategic plan was developed with the input of the school's community. Each strand represents a key strategic intent that the school aims to achieve. All aspects of the plan are directly connected to the vision of the school which is for UDIS to inspire internationally-minded, balanced learners who thrive and become active, global citizens. The one page plan for 2019/2020 outlines the key goals and actions we wish to achieve this academic year.

STRATEGIC INTENTS 2019/2020

Community Development	School Growth	Staff Development	Learning Environment
<p>Create a mutually supportive community.</p> <p>Developing opportunities for community support including taking action from our UOIs.</p> <p>Providing opportunities for community education and interaction.</p> <p>Develop and participate in external competitions with local schools.</p> <p>To use our PTA parent representatives more in the running of the school.</p> 	<p>Build a student population that is supportive of the school's vision, mission and values.</p> <p>Develop our strategic planning in consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>Examine learner agency and how this can be applied to all facets of teaching and learning.</p> <p>Complete our construction and development projects.</p> <p>Communicate our school identity clearly to our community.</p> 	<p>Improve the professional development, wellbeing and morale of staff.</p> <p>Develop and implement our staff retention policies and practices.</p> <p>Continue to develop our knowledge and understanding of EAL across the school.</p> <p>Continue to develop our knowledge and understanding of differentiation across the school.</p> 	<p>Create an internationally focused, balanced programme where students progress</p> <p>Plan and implement teams to complete the reporting needed for our upcoming accreditation visit.</p> <p>Continue the rollout of high quality learning within our classrooms</p> <p>Move and develop our portfolios using electronic formats for all levels.</p> <p>Use all sources of data effectively within the school to improve teaching and learning.</p> <p>Rollout our 1 device to 1 learner policy from Year 3 upwards.</p> <p>Develop our science programme using content from the National Curriculum of England.</p> <p>Develop our technology programme.</p> <p>Review and develop our literacy (reading) programme.</p> <p>To continue to develop and implement our PSPE programme.</p>



The UDIS strategic plan was developed with the input of the school's community. Each strand represents a key strategic intent that the school aims to achieve. All aspects of the plan are directly connected to the vision of the school which is for UDIS to inspire internationally-minded, balanced learners who thrive and become active, global citizens. The one page plan for 2019/2020 outlines the key goals and actions we wish to achieve this academic year.

Early Years Update

Preschool class update - New routines

By Ms Charlotte, Preschool teacher

The children have been incredible at settling in this week and have had lots of fun making new friends and joining in our activities.



Early Years Update

K2 class update - Settling into K2!

By Ms Jane, K2 teacher

Welcome back to a new school year! We have had an amazing first week back. We have designed and developed the areas in our classroom and have started talking about our classroom agreements. We had fun making our role play area, we have a cafe, a veterinarian and a police station. We're looking forward to working in our new creative areas painting, creating models out of junk and making play dough. We're very excited about our year in K2!



Primary Years Update

Year 2 class update - A new year...

By Mr John K., Year2 teacher

Hello and welcome to a new school year. We all are ready for learning and new challenges. We have a new class member. Her name is Isabelle. She is from Bangkok. We have been telling Mr. John all about ourselves with many different writing and drawing activities. We wrote and drew about what we did over our holiday period and we're all glad to be back at school.

Last week we celebrated Awa's birthday with a birthday cake, candles and doughnuts. It was good to have a break from our school work. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AWA!!!** At our first assembly, we met the new staff of the school. Mr. John E. played some guessing games with us about teachers and their toys. Miss Emmi has a new tricycle! In our UOI, we will be finding out about why we should make good choices to help improve our lives.



Year 4 class update

By Charlotte (Charlie) Ramsey, Year 4 teacher

Year 4 got off to a great start. The children were busy setting up the classroom, developing routines and establishing our Learning Agreements. The photos give evidence of how the children are working together, showing teamwork and building community. They are proud and happy learners.



Primary Years Update

Year 6 update - Adapting to Year 6

By Mr Mark Abbadessa, Year6 teacher

After a successful start in Year 6, students are quickly adapting to a new classroom environment. So far, they have been thoroughly enjoying the new 1:1 technology policy that is in place at UDIS. The Year 6 students will be working towards completing a greater amount of classwork through Google Drive this year. These new skills they will develop will help build organisational skills and better prepare them for the future. We look forward to having an exciting school year as we focus on our Student Exhibition Projects throughout the year.



In the first week of school, students were excited to decorating the new Thai class. This year all students will work to develop skills in reading and writing while having fun with the Thai language. We will also work individually and in groups, and will be sure to use games to make our learning fun whenever possible.

n the first week of school, students were excited to decorating the new Thai class. This year all students will work to develop skills in reading and writing while having fun with the Thai language. We will also work individually and in groups, and will be sure to use games to make our learning fun whenever possi



Health and Safety- Parking

Welcome back to a new school year. Thank you for your understanding, great driving and parking skills. We are still tweaking the procedure for dropping off the children and picking them up in the afternoon. Generally we are happy with the way things are going. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the parking procedure. If you do please email me at john.k@udoninternationalschool.com with your ideas.



Inquiry corner

Do you have fond memories of school? Most of us remember friends, the games we played on the playground and our favourite teachers remain clear in our memories too. However, here's a question to ponder: Do your good memories include much about the learning in the classroom? Many of us would have to say that is not the case. The actual learning that went on in the classrooms is not often remembered in the category of good memories of school.

Personally, I remember listening to teachers explain things and then having to copy a lot of content from textbooks. I even had to copy dull paragraphs of the teacher's handwritten notes from an old blackboard! There were grammar exercises which involved inserting missing words, answering endless questions after reading comprehension exercises and memorising spelling lists. I 'learned' a lot of things by simply reciting them to myself. This is style education sees students, as empty vessels to be filled with knowledge. It is a model of education that has not changed much for thousands of years. The teacher, who is thought of as 'the fount of knowledge', talks while the students listen.

At UDIS we believe that children are curious and bring a lot of prior knowledge, skills and experience into school. The role of the teacher is not to present a body of knowledge to the student, but rather to form rich questions which will engage them in discussion and lead them into asking further related questions. UDIS students are engaged in activities which allow them to extend and build upon what they already know. We engage young minds in situations which cause them to begin asking their own questions. They are then supported in researching answers to these.



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	11
Blue House Martin Luther King	4
Black House Princess Diana	18
Green House Nelson Mandela	6
Yellow House Mother Teresa	8



Parent cafe

Our Parent cafe for 2019/2020 will resume this year and the upcoming events are:

Session	Date	Topic
#1	16/09/19	The PYP and Learner Agency

The next parent cafe is the PYP and Learner Agency with Ms. Cynthia on Monday 16 September.



Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Welcome I Can Read for our New CPP
Contact number 062-991-1655

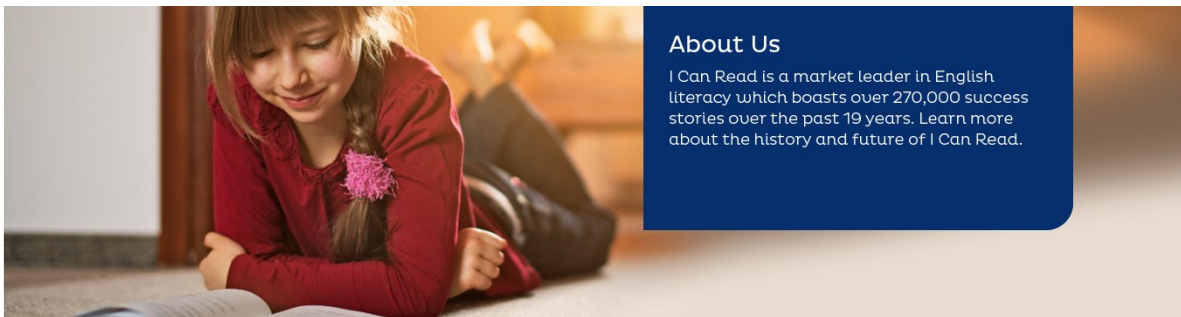


The I Can Read System originally came about through research conducted between 1995 and 2000 by Antony Earnshaw and Annabel Seargeant. It is structured, cumulative and hierarchical, and is the first system in the world to link clusters of letters to single sounds in a unique manner.

The I Can Read reading programme enables the student to see how letters combine to create invariant sounds and empowers the student to take control of his or her own reading progress.

I Can Read system teaches three essential skills that the new reader needs to learn to read:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Blending sequences of phono-graphemes



The I Can Read reading programme overcomes the difficulties that new readers face when they learn to read and have to combine letters into blended sounds. It overcomes the problem of knowing how to pronounce words when so many letters and clusters of letters can be associated with more than one sound. Commencing with simple, straightforward words, the student progresses to learn more difficult phoneme combinations, building upon his or her successes along the way.



School board update - Summary of meeting held on Friday 17 May

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 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 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.

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

Teacher Only Days

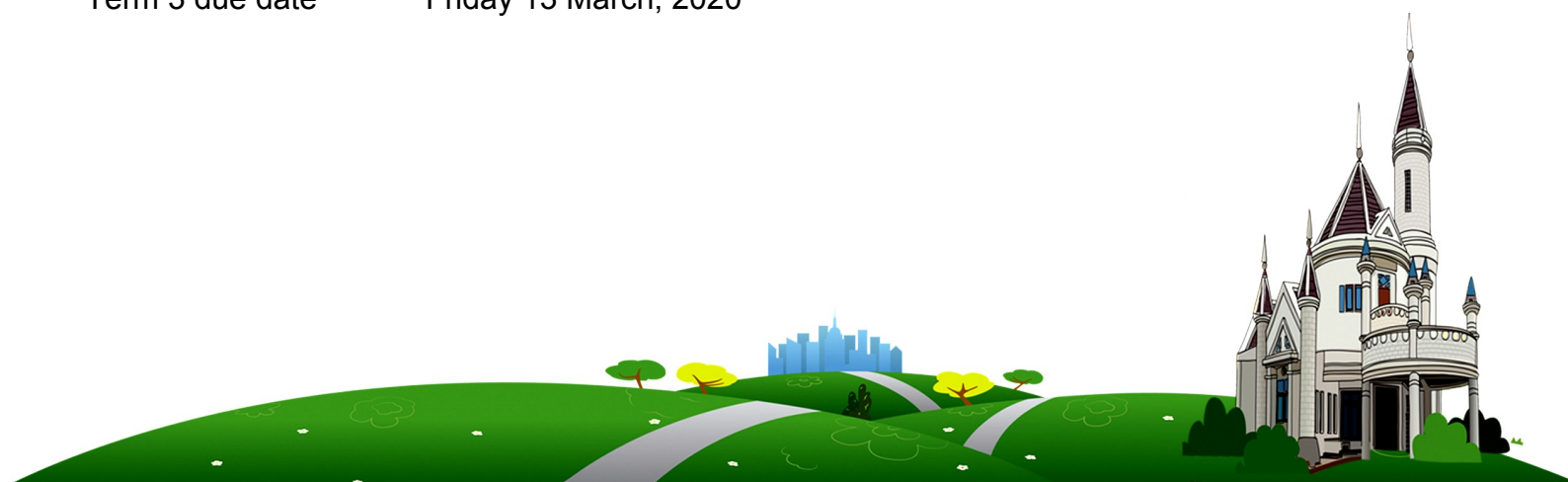
Teacher only day #1 Wednesday 23 October, 2019 (Substitute from Tuesday)
Teacher only day #2 Monday 6 January, 2020

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
Queens Birthday Wednesday 3 June, 2020

Payment dates

Term 1 due date Friday 26 July, 2019
Term 2 due date Friday 29 November, 2019
Term 3 due date Friday 13 March, 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

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

Head of School: lindsay@udis.ac.th

Deputy Principal: john.e@udis.ac.th

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

Head of Thai Teacher: sineenard@udis.ac.th

Preschool teacher: charlotte@udis.ac.th

K1 teacher: phibzia@udis.ac.th

K2 teacher: jane@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: rachel@udis.ac.th

Y2 teacher: john.k@udis.ac.th

Y3 teacher: kane@udis.ac.th

Y4 teacher: charlotte.r@udis.ac.th

Y5 teacher: john.e@udis.ac.th

Y6 teacher: mark@udis.ac.th

Y7 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