



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

23rd September 2019 | ISSUE3



Teachers day at UDIS

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 23 September Parent Cafe - Playbased learning in our EY
- 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)

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Wai Kru's photos in page 12

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

This week, we celebrated our annual teachers day at UDIS. Teachers day is a chance for our school community to recognise and reflect on all the efforts our teaching staff make to ensure the best possible learning environment for our learners. I can say that at UDIS, we are lucky to have such a passionate and skilled group of educators who are always willing to go the extra mile for our learners. I see evidence of that every day at school, whether it is helping them during class, addressing their concerns at breaktimes, or seeing them off safely with their parents at the end of the day. We have a teaching body that really cares for the learners in our care.



This week, we also welcomed our new Year 4 teacher. Mr. Seth Hays. Seth comes to us from the western part of the United States where he graduated from Central Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education along with a specialisation in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). Seth is a licenced teacher in his home country and has experience teaching a diverse range of grade levels in the United States including middle school science, 5th, 4th, 2nd, and 1st. Prior to starting on his journey towards becoming a qualified educator, Seth was introduced to teaching while visiting the Kingdom of Thailand back in 2012. This experience led him to discover his true calling in life and ignited a passion to help children learn how to think and navigate the complicated world around them.



We now have our education outside the classroom (EOTC) programme in full swing. It is great to see many of our classrooms look to stage exciting field trips in various parts of Udon Thani. We believe that Udon is our classroom and the learners are always excited to get out and about to make their learning real. I am also looking forward to joining the Year 3 fieldtrip to Ban Chiang this week and spending some time with the learners on what should be a fun trip.

Best regards

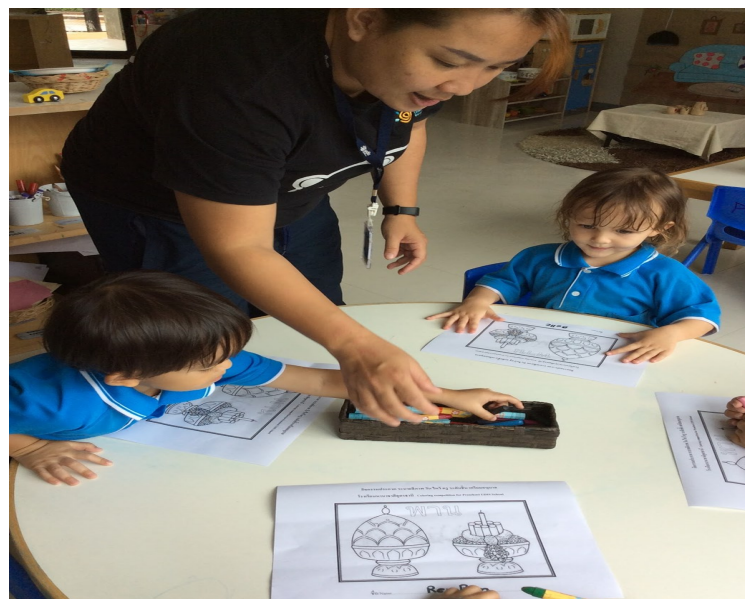
Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

Early Years Update

Preschool class update - Thai Lessons

By Ms Charlotte, Preschool teacher

This year Thai is being taught by the Teaching Assistants in Preschool and K1 in order to better integrate Thai into our play-based learning at these levels. We would like to integrate Thai into all aspects of the children's learning rather than it being only taught through a stand-alone lesson. However, there will be some scheduled activities around Thai culture and literacy. For example, this week in Thai the children have been learning about Wai Kru ahead of our event next week and participating in Wai Kru activities.



Early Years Update

K2 class update - Learning letter sounds

By Ms Jane, K2 teacher

K2 have enjoyed learning the letter sounds s,a,t and p. We thought of many exciting ways to learn the sounds. Here are some examples of what we have been doing.

We had a Teddy bears picnic and made some Toast. This week we made some Pancakes and had a Princess/Prince Pizza Party.



Year 2 class update - The first field trip of the school year

By Mr John K., Year 2 teacher

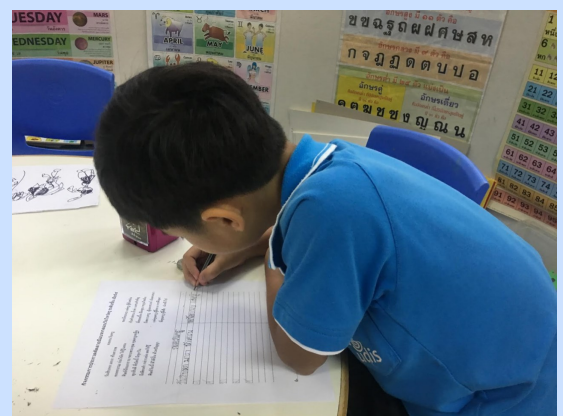
We went on a field trip last week. We were investigating the different places we can buy healthy foods. We had learned about how to make good choices about the things we eat. We visited Topps supermarket and a couple of local markets. We were able to understand why the different places cost different amounts of money for the same fruit. We learned that there is a lot of sugar in many of our favourite foods. We bought a lot of fruit and brought it back to the class and shared it with our friends. We had lunch at Nongprajak park and enjoyed some free time on the slides there.



Year 4 class update - Times, times, times tables

By Charlotte (Charlie) Ramsey, Year 4 teacher

In our Year 4 class, we have been practising our times tables with a strong focus on the 9 and 6 times tables. We have done mathematics games to practise our multiplication inside and outside the classroom. We have also had a few times table tests, either working together as a whole class, in pairs or independently. Surprisingly, the Y4s have really enjoyed being tested and have been keen to improve their score. There has also been an introduction to division with the 9 and 6 times table. Great effort everyone!



Primary Years Update

Year 6 update - Preparing for the Student Exhibition

By Mr Mark Abbadessa, Year 6 teacher

The Year 6 class is in the beginning stages of learning about the PYP Exhibition and why it is an important process that takes place within the PYP. Students were introduced to the theme and Central Idea that will be used for this year's exhibition so they could begin brainstorming ideas and forming groups for this project. Our class will be working closely with the Year 7 class throughout this process in hopes of providing a quality exhibition for both students and parents to close out this academic school year. We look forward to sharing details of The PYP Exhibition in the coming weeks.



Thai classes (Thai and TAL) are not only learning about the Thai language, but also Thai culture, Thai holidays and Thai events. We have been working as a combined class to prepare for teachers day on Thursday using the time to complete our drawings and Thai essays.



Health and Safety- Parking

Good afternoon to you all. I would like to give all of the parents, careers and nannys a gentle reminder that as you enter the school, you need to have your parent ID visible. If you forget to bring it, that's not a problem, just explain to the office staff and they will give you a temporary pass for that morning or afternoon. Don't forget to return the temporary pass back to the office on your way out of school.

Secondly our new parking and drop of routines are improving each week. Thank you that's really great! I have one request! Please drive around the circuit again if your child has not arrived at the gate when you arrive to pick them up. I don't want you parking near the gate and causing congestion or worse, someone accidently scratching your car.

Now for some items of happy news. The extension to the canteen area is complete.

The children and staff will have more room to move around and enjoy their food. Speaking of food the school menu has been reviewed and there are new and interesting foods to be tasted. The teachers are encouraging the student's to try all the new foods, please you could do the same at home. Thank you!

Last of all this week, an update regarding the swimming pool shade. This has been completed and the children will again be able to enjoy their swimming lessons again (weather permitting!).



Inquiry corner

I sometimes look at our students and think about all of the great learning opportunities available to them. My experience of primary education was far less engaging. Perhaps you too remember being a child at school and worrying because the work the teacher had told you to do was too difficult? On the other hand, there were times when you were told to do something that was too easy. How frustrating it was to sit through long periods of whole class instruction time!

At UDIS our Units of Inquiry are organised around a structure called The Inquiry Circle. Inquiry style learning always starts with the teacher assessing what the students already know. This initial 'Tuning In' Activity is something which grabs children's attention and gets them talking. As the teacher listens and asks appropriate questions, the teacher is able to assess what previous knowledge the students already have. Through observations and notes, the teacher begins to see which children have no prior experience of the theme. Likewise, those who have a good understanding are also noted. In this way the teacher can plan activities to engage groups of students at just the right level.

In this way, no child is left feeling that their work is too difficult or too easy. In a class of children, there is always a great difference in levels of experience, skills and understanding. As teachers who design 'Tuning In' activities we make efforts to engage each child at an appropriate level of understanding.

In the next article I will discuss the next stage in the inquiry teaching cycle, 'Finding Out'.

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	66
Blue House	55
Black House	67
Green House	70
Yellow House	61



Parent cafe

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

Session	Date	Topic
#2	23/09/19	Playbased learning at UDIS

The next parent cafe is Playbased Learning at UDIS with the EY Team on Monday 23 September.



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 Monday 2 September

On Monday 2 September the school held its first PTA meeting of the year. The meeting was held to setup how the school will run the PTA meetings and the responsibilities of all involved. The school is also looking for a second parent representative to sit on the School Board. So, please let us know if you are interested.

The school outlined some important initiatives this year including using the PTA representatives more, preparing for CIS accreditation, communication, Learner agency and the enhanced PYP for 2020, digital portfolios and completing the rollout of the 1:1 programme. The school then explained what had been done to improve the menu. This involved taking into consideration feedback from parents and adding a dedicated egg and soup dish each day.

General concerns included a Year 1 parent asking about showers after swimming. The school recommended every learner have a shower after swimming and will look into this to make sure it is happening. Other parents asked about the use of air purifiers in class and dedicated Line groups for announcements and suggestions/feedback.

The PTA class representatives for this year are:

Preschool	Mrs. Wannisa Chueawanit (Kool's mum)
K1	Ms. Chonnanee Rattanasuntorn (Pleng's mum), Ms. Mukda Purinit - Phat's mum
K2	Ms. Prapapit Chaiyawong (Prabs's mum) , Ms. Mukda Purinit (Phu's mum)
Year 1	Mrs. Kasama Kraikutree (Torch's Mum)
Year 2	Ms. Potchawan Tangpan (Linux's mum) , Nattira Pollock (Tanat's mum) Ms. Wannisa Chueawanit (Khung's mum)
Year 3	Vacant
Year 4	Vacant
Year 5	Mr. Arnaud Klinsberg (Rainer's dad), Ms. Lhin (Phee's mum) , Ms. Nuch (Athens's mum)
Year 6	Ms. Prodpran Supadech (Grace's mum) , Ms. Kasama Kraikutree (Time's mum)
Year 7	Mr. Sanpet Enguthaiwat Laopaiboon (Bua's father), Mrs. Rattana Pipatsuttikul (Anfield's mum)

Teachers' Appreciation Day

udis International School

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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

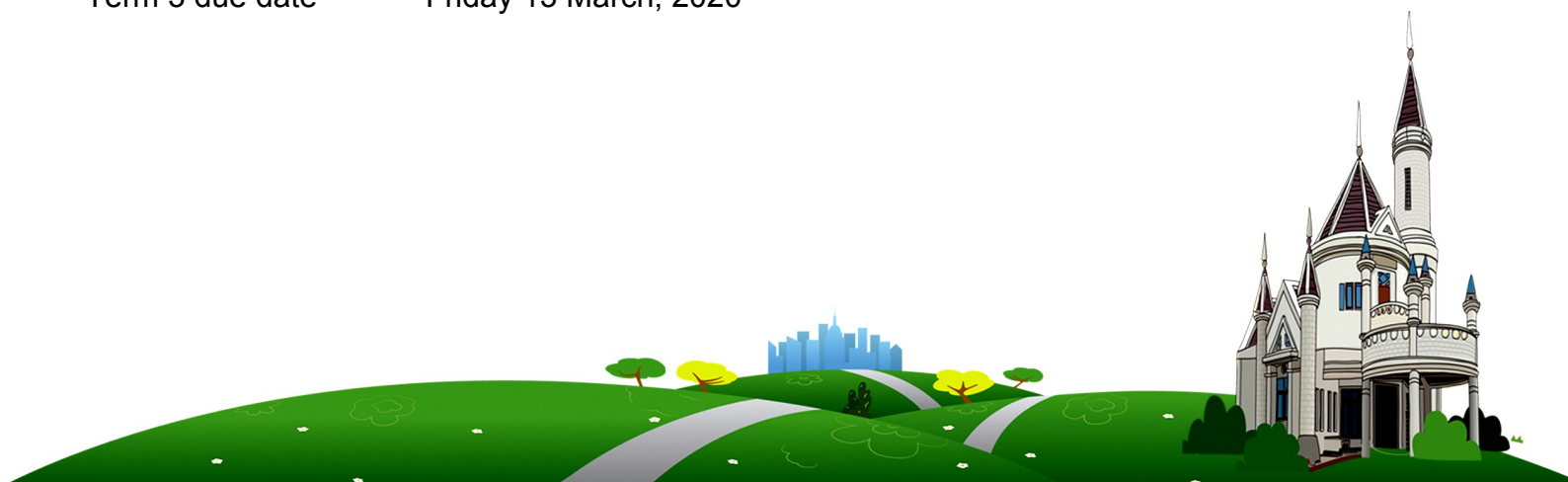
Teacher only day #1 Wednesday 23 October, 2019 (Substitute from Tuesday)
Teacher only day #2 Monday 6 January, 2020

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

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K2 teacher: jane@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: rachel@udis.ac.th

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