



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

17th January 2020 | ISSUE 8



Year 6 Camp

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

20 January	PTA #4
23 January	Chinese New Year assembly
27 or 28 January	The MYP and DP - UDIS and where our programmes lead w. Mr. Robert Taylor (our incoming Principal in August)
3 February	Parent Cafe #5
5 February	Global play day
10-14 February	Thriving week
14 February	Sports day (half day)
2 March	PTA #5
2-6 March	International week
16 March	Parent Cafe #6
3 April	Songkran festival (full day)

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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a wonderful break and a chance to spend time with your families. I was lucky enough to go back to New Zealand for the 'summer' and spend time with my family. I think in the busy world in which we live, taking the time to recharge and get away from work is becoming more and more important. One of our core aims at UDIS is that our learners are thriving and we hope to instil the need for a balanced life within all of our learners.



Having said that, we have a busy term in front of us. We are continuing to work on our CIS accreditation and getting all of our new building projects completed. I am really excited about the opportunities these new facilities will give us next year in providing more practical outlets for our classroom learning. We are going to talk more about this at our PTA meeting this week of which you are all welcome to join.



Finally, we are pleased to announce our new Principal for 2020/2021, Mr Robert (Rob) Taylor. Rob has over ten years of experience as an educator in IB schools and holds both a Canadian Principal's Qualification and a Masters of Science in Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. He has worked in educational leadership, as both a Principal and Curriculum Coordinator, at international schools in a variety of countries around Asia, including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Thailand. Rob has a keen interest in leading the process of continual school improvement, through CIS and IB evaluation and authorisation, and is excited to have the opportunity to do so within the UDIS community. He is a life-long learner who enjoys classroom teaching very much and will be designing and facilitating the MYP curriculum in Year 7 and 8 Science for the academic year 2020-21.

Rob will be holding a special parents cafe on Monday 27 January around the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP) and where our school is headed. This will be a great chance to meet our new Principal so we look forward to you attending.

Best regards
Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School



IB Diploma

The best choice for university entrance around the world

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is an assessed programme for students aged 16 to 19. It is respected by leading universities across the globe. The programme aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge — students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.

Why study the IB Diploma?

The IB not only gives learners the best chances of accessing the world's best universities. It also helps them succeed by developing the skills they will need at university. research shows that there are many benefits to choosing the DP over other curricula. In the IB's 2014 Review of Research, results found that IB programmes had a positive impact on student preparedness for college, career and civic life:

- IB graduates are more likely to persist through college
- IB students are prepared for college-level coursework
- IB students demonstrate civic knowledge and skills
- IB students graduate with a sense of civic responsibility
- IB students demonstrate strong critical thinking skills
- IB primary students demonstrate superior science literacy
- The IB prepares students from around the world to attend top universities

The IB Diploma is a widely recognised high school qualification that can be used across the world. You can find university recognition by country by examining the following website from the IB:

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/recognition-of-the-ib-diploma-by-countries-and-universities/country-recognition-statements/>



THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

UDIS uses the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) to provide our learners with the knowledge, concepts, skills personal attributes and the capacity to take action, all of which our learners need to equip them for successful lives, both now and in the future. Learning through inquiry, a child's investigations across and beyond subject areas will strengthen knowledge and understanding as they explore global, topical and relevant 'big picture' questions, or transdisciplinary themes.

Student-centred learning

The PYP provides an ideal foundation for children to become successful, lifelong learners by developing their:

- social and emotional well-being
- independence, as they take responsibility for their own learning
- international mindedness
- understanding of the world and their ability to function effectively within it
- attitudes and dispositions for learning
- ability to take mindful, appropriate and sustainable student-initiated action
- language skills; all students study an additional language from at least 7 years of age.

Success with the PYP

Learning in the PYP is viewed as a continuous journey; teachers work with students to identify their needs and then document, monitor and provide ongoing assessment and feedback to plan the next stage of their learning.

Quality assurance

Implementation of the PYP is a transformative experience for students, schools and the wider learning community. Professional development for teachers together with a rigorous process of authorisation and regular evaluation ensure that IB World Schools deliver the best possible education for PYP students.

“UDIS is fully authorised by the International Baccalaureate to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP).”



Council of International Schools

CIS is a membership community working collaboratively to shape international education through professional services to schools, higher education institutions, and individuals. The CIS vision is to inspire the development of global citizens through high quality international education: connecting ideas, cultures, and educators from every corner of the world. CIS provides membership and high quality accreditation for international schools and is a benchmark for the best quality international schools in Thailand.

All CIS member schools are committed to incorporating international and intercultural perspectives into their programmes so that students can move forward with the attitudes and understanding that will provide them with a solid base wherever their studies or work may take them.

CIS member schools further commit to undertaking an ongoing quality assurance process such as CIS International Accreditation to enhance student learning. CIS Accreditation ensures that the school meets the CIS standards for accreditation which examines the areas of school philosophy and objectives, teaching and learning, governance and management, faculty and support staff, student support services, facilities and resources and student and community life.

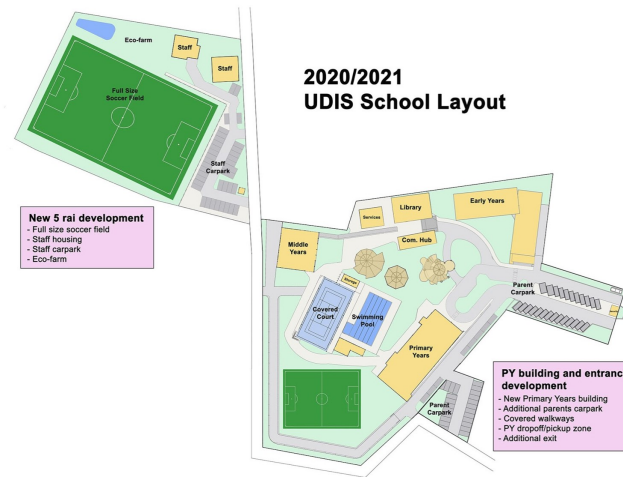
Higher education institutions recognise immediately that a CIS Accredited school meets globally-recognised standards and promotes values and skills that they are seeking in students. CIS International Accreditation is recognised by various government and non-government agencies in a number of countries.

UDIS is a full member of CIS and is working towards full accreditation



UDIS 2020/2021 - Bigger and Better!

Over the past several years, UDIS has invested almost 100 million baht in the development of new facilities and resources. We are now pleased to announce the development of a new 5 rai plot of land next to the school and an additional ½ rai plot that is being developed for a new parents carpark. As enrolment grows, we are also looking at the development of a cafetorium and the completion of classroom spaces for the Diploma Programme (upper high school).



In particular, we are excited that we can provide a chance for our learners to put our inquiry curriculum into action. In the science lab, learners can conduct experiments and test out hypotheses. In the design and technology laboratory, learners can build and develop technology to solve problems they have identified. In our eco-farm, learners can understand our connection to our environment and get their hands dirty. Our new facilities will help our learners develop and enhance our entry into the Middle Years Programme.

UDIS 2020/2021 - Bigger and Better!

Our facilities for 2020/2021 will include:

- 26+modern classrooms
- Science lab
- Design and technology lab
- Large meeting hall
- Community Hub
- Music and art classrooms
- Covered gymnasium
- Library
- Full size soccer field
- Eco-farm
- 80+ carparks
- Full size covered swimming pool

Highlights of the 5rai development

- Full size soccer field
- Ecofarm
- Staff carparking



Full size sports field



Ecofarm



Staff housing

Highlights of the new Primary Years building

- Large meeting hall
- Design and technology lab
- Science lab



Large meeting hall (120 persons)



Design and technology lab (example)



Science lab

Early Years Update

K1 class update - Welcome back to school

By Ms Phibsia, K1 teacher

The rest of the academic year we will focus on two Units of Inquiry 'Where we are in place and time and Sharing the planet'. We tuned into our daily routines and outdoor learning space and discussed the question of how can we be responsible about our learning space? This month we are also focusing on cultures and traditions as part of our intercultural education. In literacy, we started off with rhyming words and pictures. In mathematics, we are focusing on separating a group of three or four objects in different ways and beginning to recognise that the total is still the same. Stay tuned for what is happening in K1!



Primary Years Update

Year 1 class update - Reasons to Celebrate!

By Ms Rachel, Year 1 teacher

Currently the Unit of Inquiry we are working on is 'Celebrations', therefore it was wonderful to have the opportunity to host our own celebration - Junior's birthday! As you can see the children thoroughly enjoyed sharing Junior's birthday cake! Happy Birthday Junior.



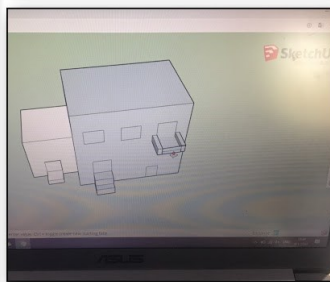
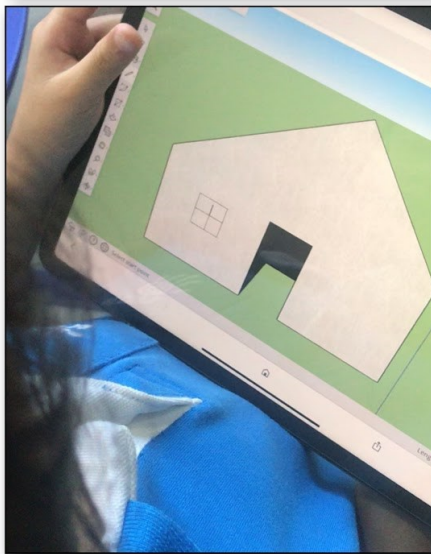
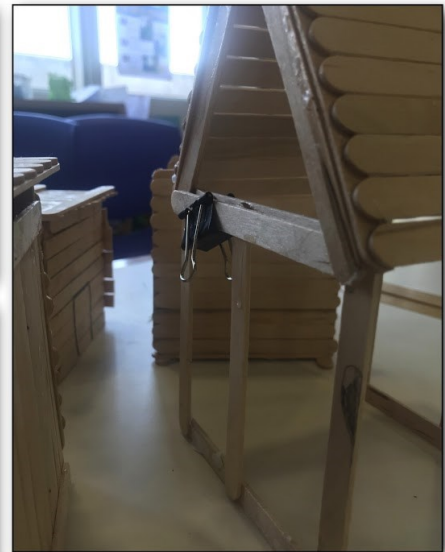
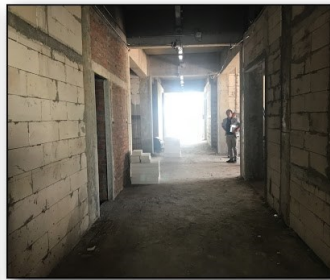
Apart from enjoying Birthday Celebrations the children are busy decorating the classroom for Chinese New Year. They have done a marvellous job, making lanterns, dragons and painting Nian the monster.



Year 3 class update - Buildings and Structures

By Mr Kane, Year 3 teacher

Our third Unit of Inquiry has focused on different ways to build structures, and how different materials can be used. In particular we have focused on the form (What it is like) and the function (How it works). We visited the construction site on UDIS grounds last term and discovered they are using a lot of concrete and steel to build with. The class has been using the Google app Sketchup for Schools. With the guidance of Mr Rick each student has been set the task of using Sketchup to draw their own home using both 3D and 2D shapes. This has been a good challenge! Another project we are working on is using the material of wood, in the form of ice block sticks, to make a model house. The students are surprising me with their creative problem solving skills. Many students are being risk takers by trying things they are not sure will work or not. Well done Year 3! Coming up this month we are organising a field trip to Gaia Ashram where they use natural, sustainable materials like clay and straw to build with.



Primary Years Update

Year 5 update - Year Five love Top Trump Cards!

By Mr John E., Year 5 teacher



We have some new Top Trump Card sets from the UK. Most of the topics relate to our learning in Y5. The cards are full of data which the children need to understand and compare. They have to think and make quick decisions independently, using their brain, rather than relying on technology.

- Fastest Trains (Science/Geography)
- Volcanoes (Science/Geography)
- David Walliams (English UKs most popular childrens' author)
- Roald Dahl (English major selling international author)
- Sensational Science (Science/Technology)
- Dinosaurs (History/Science)
- Horrible Histories (History)
- Cats (Science)
- Dogs (Science)
- and just for fun...
- Frozen 2!

Year 7 update

By Ms Cynthai, Year 7 teacher

This week the concepts of Sustainability, Transformation and Industrialization have been the focus of our inquiry. We have been inquiring into what exactly minerals are, how they are mined and what properties some very common ones have. As we come to understand more about mining we realise that the question of sustainability arises. Large areas of the natural environment are being destroyed, both here in Udon Thani and further afield



In mathematics we have been focusing on properties and mental strategies for addition and subtraction. We have also begun to look at using formal methods of addition with integers and decimals. The students have been working with number lines, column addition, bar modelling, part-whole models and using tables to retrieve information to solve problems.

Modern languages - English as an Additional Language (EAL)

We had so many stories to share from our Christmas vacations. So, we created our own holiday booklets from scrap paper to showcase our best moments and experiences. This was an amazing way to slowly ease us back to our daily school routines and help the environment. We had lots of practise asking and answering questions and we got really creative in designing the front cover. Our EAL learners in KS1 used pictures to help them with their writing and KS2 used the simple past tense to write about their holiday adventures.



Health and Safety- Monkeys

Last week we had a visit from a monkey. It was not a time when many students were around. The monkey walked around the perimeter wall of the school and disappeared. We have instructed the learners about what to do if they should meet this or other monkeys during the course of the day at school. Perhaps our parents could talk to their children about how to behave if they should ever meet a monkey and about ways to stay safe in this situation.



Inquiry corner

What do inquiry teachers do?

The teacher talks less. The learners talk more. That's because deeper understanding grows as a learner tries to explain what is in their head.

Teachers ask 'rich' questions. The conversations in an inquiry classroom are rich with quality questions – inquiry teachers know how to use questions to help students uncover their own thinking and understanding.

Teacher captures the learner's heart. We know what our learners love and we relate our lessons to those things that interest the children.

Teachers teach how to learn. We can't possibly know everything, and so we too are still learning. We lead the learners in how they can learn by themselves

A big part of the inquiry approach is learning how to learn.



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	37
Blue House	36
Black House	38
Green House	40
Yellow House	42



Parent cafe

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

Date	Topic
27/01/2020	The MYP and DP - UDIS and where our programmes lead W. Mr. Robert Taylor
3/02/2020	Phonics at UDIS
16/03/2020	Student led conferences & high quality learning

The next parent cafe is “The MYP and DP - UDIS and where our programmes lead” with Mr. Robert Taylor on Monday 27 January, 2020.



School board update - Summary of meeting held on Friday 22 November

The school operates a school board which oversees how the school is operated and makes decisions on policy, fees and budgets. The parent volunteers role is to look out for the interests of parents on the school board so that the Board can consider the interests of parents when it makes decisions.

On Friday 22 November, the school held its second Board meeting of the year. The Board lineup for this year is:

Acting Chairman:	K. Siriphat Pukpo
Representative of the Owner & Licensee	K. Siriphat Pukpo
Honorary member #1	Mr. Kurt Lunstrum
Honorary member #2	K. Wicha Chanklom
Parent representative #1	K. Kasama Kraikutree
Parent representative #2	Ms. Chen Wenshan Dawn
Teacher representative	Mr. Mark Abbadessa
School Director	K. Sineenad Chamat
Board member	Dr. Lindsay Stuart

In the second meeting of the year, the Board completed the appraisal of the Head of School for the 2018/2019 academic year and set targets for the 2019/2020 academic year. The Board then discussed strategy and planning for next year that would inform the approval of the new school budget for 2020/2021. The Board believed we needed to do better in marketing the benefits of the school to parents and suggested a regular climate survey to gauge parent perceptions. The Board also confirmed the plan to proceed step by step until the Diploma Programme (DP) which provides options for parents to continue with our style of learning until the end of high school. The Board then identified its work for the remainder of the year which includes finding new Board members and completing its technology plan amongst other things.

The next Board meeting is planned for Friday 21 February.



At this meeting, we spoke to parents about the results from the food survey. The school highlighted some of the main findings. Of these, 54% of parents were satisfied with the catering while 46% of parents were not. The school suggested that it could provide a food stall at the Christmas event for parents to try the school's food. The school can also provide a trial lunch for parents to come and try the food too.

การประชุมครั้งนี้เราพูดคุยกันถึงเรื่องผลการสำรวจเรื่องอาหาร ทางโรงเรียนได้นำผลการสำรวจบางข้อที่สำคัญ คือ ผลการสำรวจ 54% ของผู้ปกครอง พึงพอใจกับการให้บริการอาหารของโรงเรียน ส่วนอีก 46% ของผู้ปกครอง ไม่พึงพอใจกับการให้บริการอาหารของโรงเรียน ทางโรงเรียนจึงเสนอท่านผู้ปกครองว่า ในวันคริสต์มาสที่จะถึงนี้ ทางโรงเรียนจะจัดอาหารบางอย่างที่อยู่ในเมนูอาหารกลางวันของนักเรียน ให้ท่านผู้ปกครองได้ชิมในวันงาน และทางโรงเรียนยังเสนอให้ท่านผู้ปกครองเข้ามาทดลองชิมอาหารกลางวันได้ด้วยเช่นกัน

The second issue was around the opt-out option. 40% of parents surveyed said that they would like the ability to opt-out from the food fee. The school asked what this might mean to parents as this would mean they would have to provide their own lunch and snacks. Parents expressed some uncertainty about this and asked to query other parents. Parents suggested looking at the balance of foods as the vegetarian option did not seem popular, and surveying the popularity of the sandwich and salad bars.

ประเด็นที่ 2 คือ ผลการสำรวจ 40% ของผู้ปกครอง ต้องการให้โรงเรียนยกเลิกการให้บริการอาหาร นั้นหมายถึงท่านผู้ปกครองจะต้องเตรียมเบรคเช้า, อาหารกลางวัน และ เบรคบ่าย มาเอง ผู้ปกครองบางท่านไม่แน่ใจเกี่ยวกับเรื่องเปอร์เซ็นต์ที่สำรวจได้ ผู้ปกครองจึงอาสาจะไปสอบถามผู้ปกครองท่านอื่นๆ อีกครั้ง ผู้ปกครองแนะนำให้โรงเรียนดูเรื่องความสมดุลเรื่องอาหารมังสวิรัต เพราะผลการสำรวจอาหารมังสวิรัตไม่ค่อยเป็นที่นิยมมากนัก และยังมี การสอบถามเกี่ยวกับความนิยมของสลัดบาร์ และแซนวิชบาร์

The school then outlined changes it was making to the end of term report cards. These are intended to simplify reports and convey information more easily to parents.

จากนั้นทางโรงเรียนได้มีการอธิบายเพิ่มเติมเกี่ยวกับการเปลี่ยนแปลงการรายงานผลการเรียนนักเรียน จุดประสงค์เพื่อลดความซับซ้อน และสามารถสื่อสารให้ผู้ปกครองเข้าใจได้ง่ายขึ้น

Next, the PTA discussed the Christmas event. It was decided that an event that started from 5pm onwards was desirable. The school asked if parents were interested in setting up a food booth and parents agreed to follow up on this.

ต่อมาได้พูดคุยถึงเรื่องงานวันคริสต์มาส ผู้ปกครองส่วนใหญ่ประสงค์ให้งานเริ่มห้าโมงเย็นเป็นต้นไป ทางโรงเรียนยังได้สอบถามผู้ปกครองถึงความสนใจในการตั้งแผงขายอาหารด้วยเช่นกัน

For sports day, we invited suggestions from parents. Parents suggested that separate EY and PY events could be difficult to organise. They suggested holding them on one day and integrating them as much as possible.

สำหรับงานกีฬาโรงเรียน เรียงเชิญผู้ปกครองทุกท่านเข้าร่วมงาน ผู้ปกครองบางท่านเสนอว่า การแยกกิจกรรมระหว่างแผนกอนุบาล และประถม อาจจะทำให้เกิดความยุ่งยากในการจัดการ ผู้ปกครองจึงเสนอแนะว่าควรจัดในวันเดียวกัน และจัดรวมกันจะดีกว่า

Lastly, the school reported on actions from the last meeting. The school has added air purifiers to all homerooms and a central AQI chart for parents to monitor. The school has also added portion plates as a plating option for learners at lunchtimes. Lastly, the school has invested heavily in replacing its WIFI network to support the 1:1 programme and the general use of technology within the school. Parents commented that for AQI inside days, this information should still be conveyed to parents before school starts.

หัวข้อสุดท้าย ทางโรงเรียนได้รายงานผลความคืบหน้าจากการประชุมครั้งที่แล้ว ทางโรงเรียนได้ติดตั้งเครื่องฟอกอากาศในห้องเรียนทุกห้องเรียนเรียบร้อยแล้ว และมีบอร์ดแสดงค่าอากาศต่างๆ เข้าๆ รวมถึงทางโรงเรียนได้เพิ่มตัวเลือกของชนิดถาดอาหาร รวมถึงถาดหลุมให้เป็นตัวเลือกสำหรับนักเรียนด้วยเช่นกัน สุดท้ายโรงเรียนได้ปรับเปลี่ยนสัญญาณอินเทอร์เน็ตให้ดีขึ้นเพื่อรองรับโปรแกรม 1:1 ผู้ปกครองแนะนำให้ทางโรงเรียนแจ้งค่า AQI ลงในไลน์กลุ่มผู้ปกครอง เพื่อแจ้งให้ผู้ปกครองรับทราบว่าจะใส่หน้ากากอนามัยมาโรงเรียนหรือไม่

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Marketing Team visited CPP and community services for Happy New Year 2020 and we gave CPP of UDIS Gift.



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

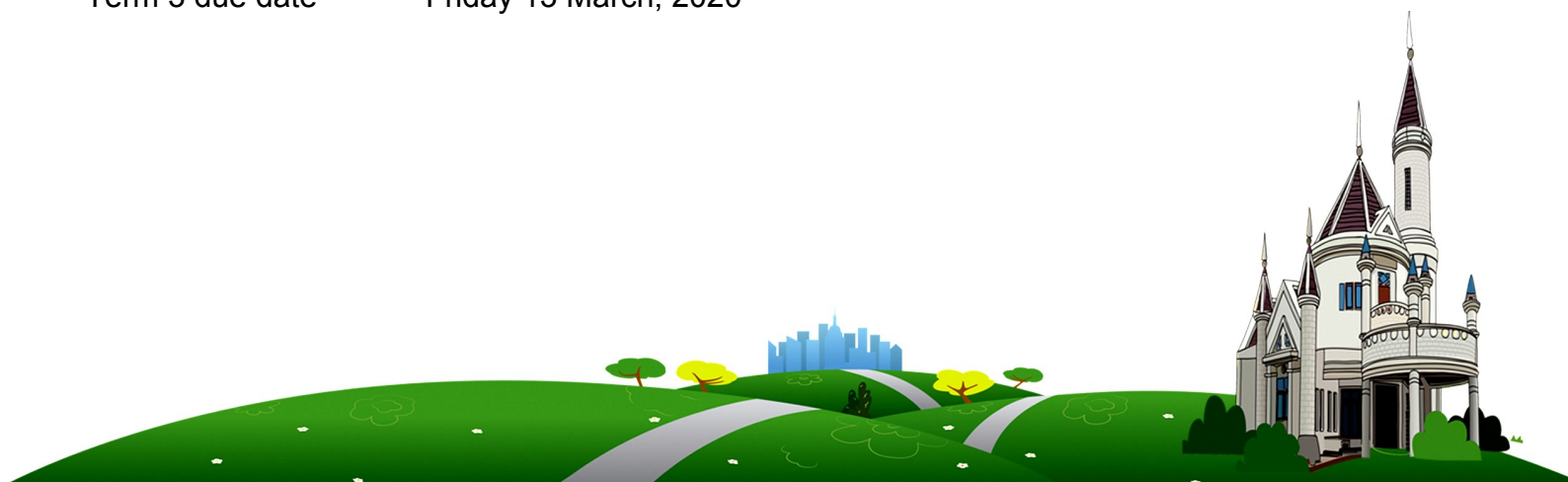
Teacher only day #1 Wednesday 23 October, 2019 (Substitute from Tuesday)
Teacher only day #2 Monday 6 January, 2020

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

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

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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: seth@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: manatchaya@udis.ac.th

Email suggestion box: suggestions@udis.ac.th