

20th March 2020 | ISSUE12



Sponsor the robotics competition

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

3 April	Songkran festival (class based activities)
3 April	Last day of Term 2
20 April	Start of Term 3
27 April	PTA#6
18-19 May	Half term break
IJune	PTA#7
19 June	Last day of Term 3
10 August	First day of 2020/2021



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Dear Parents

What a really busy couple of days it has just been? After the jump in Covid-19 cases in Thailand the government shut down all schools for at least 14 days to slow further spread. We have been planning and organising a possible shift to online learning for the past couple of weeks so we have been about as ready as we could be to make this new switch. It was a busy day on Wednesday as we kicked off a new digital era at the school with kids reporting for classes online and working over webcams with teachers. It's been a great start, and I know that as we all get used to



the platforms in use, that we can make the most of this and continue to help our learners have some great learning experiences.

In other news this week, we confirmed our sponsorship of the inaugural Northeast Robot Competition 2020. We are really excited to be linked to this innovative event which was planning on hosting almost 300 teams from around Thailand at Khon Kaen University later this month. Science and technology are important parts of our curriculum and these will be strengthened with our new facilities for August, 2020 including a science lab and art/design lab.

Finally, we are continuing to recognise student success in the school. Last newsletter we began a new section in this newsletter to recognise students that are achieving within the school. This week we see the efforts of students in K1 and Year 7 for the work they have done.

Best regards Dr. Lindsay Stuart Head of School

Student success in K1

During our 14 day quarantine period, Kojyu took great action at home. Kojyu has been a risk-taker throughout his online learning journey. He enthusiastically joined circle times and all the learning engagement during our video chats. He chose his favourite activities and worked on counting numbers confidently. As part of our current Unit of Inquiry 'Sharing the planet' we are learning all about living things and the environment. Kojyu was able to reflect on his previous learning and he created a robot using recycled materials. Well done to Kojyu for being responsible and thinking critically while keeping in touch with his learning until he gets back to school.



Student success in Year 7

We are so pleased with Michelle's enthusiasm for geography, artistic expression and international mindedness. She has deep and broad knowledge of the world map and the languages spoken in each country. She recently used her artistic skills to make this most wonderful wall display. Most surprisingly of all, Michelle actually learned to read some of the country names in the local script. Please look closely and you'll see the major languages of the world written in the corresponding script. We're so glad to have this decorating our wall. Thanks Michelle for this!





Early Years Update

K1 class update – Looking after our environment By Ms Phibsia, K1 teacher

In K1, we are exploring all about our environment and how are we taking responsibility for taking care of it? We inquired into gardens and created our mini garden right outside our classroom. We looked into the bean lifecycle and planted our own beans by experimenting in different ways and guess what? They are growing so fast. K1 is very excited about rhymes and counting numbers this term. To find out more please read our blogs every week.









Year 1 class update – Life Cycles

By Ms Rachel, Year 1 teacher

In class, the Year 1 students have been investigating life cycles and the process of change. Thames brought silkworms to school, which really helped us to understand this concept. We were able to observe, first hand, how the silkworm begins life as an egg, then becomes a silkworm and finally emerges as a moth from the cocoon. It was wonderful to see life cycles in action.



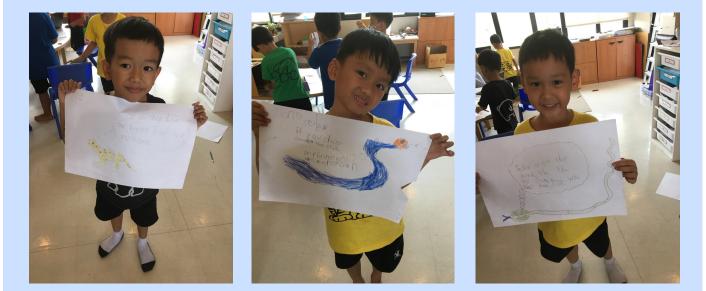




As a class we read the story, 'The Great Kapok Tree', by Lynne Cherry.

This book highlights the disastrous effects people can have on the environment. After reading the story the children understood that by cutting down trees in the rainforest, many species of insects, animals and plants are adversely affected and indeed species can become endangered.

After hearing the story, the children chose an animal from the story to draw. They then put inside a speech bubble, what the animal would say to the people cutting down the tree.



Year 3 class update - Paper Mâché and UOI 4

By Mr Kane, Year 3 teacher

Following on from the Year 3 assembly about plastic pollution the class made some paper mâché and plastic bottle art. A group of boys made a volcano, others made penguins or foxes. After shaping the art we let it dry, we are p[leased with how strong they came out. Then we started to paint it. You can see in the pictures that the students haven't finished yet.

UOI (Uni of INquiry) 4 had the central idea: When interacting with natural habitats, humans make choices that have an impact on other living things. We focused on the concepts of causation (What causes things to happen?), change (What is different?), responsibility (Who is responsible?) (Pictured bottom right).

After finding out about some different animal habitats, we inquired into how they have changed, why and who is responsible. One example of what we found out was rhinos are losing their habitat because many people cut down the trees in the jungles and savannahs to make space to build houses. Who is responsible for this? People are. The children have become quite knowledgeable about this. They have practised using the skill of communication by working in pairs and groups, and also will practise their communication skills preparing the end of unit video. The students have shown a lot of caring, they have shown how they feel sorry for the animals that have lost their habitats, and want to help them.

The action the children are taking is to make informative videos to teach people about the effect people have on animal habitats so that we can look after animal habitats and ensure those animals still have a place to live in. (Pictured top right - An example of the end of unit video groups)



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Primary Years Update

Year Five are learning about Myths and Legends.

By Mr John E., Year 5 teacher

Now we are using online learning, we have a collection of books on Get Epic that the students can access from home.







We rewrote the story about King Midas in our own words before the school closure

We have already worked on the following stories:-

- King Midas and the Golden Finger
- St Colmille and the Loch Ness Monster
- Theseus and the Minotaur
- Orpheus and Eurydice
- Jason and the Golden Fleece



At the moment we are reading and retelling these stories and will be moving on to write some Myths and Legends of our own.

Primary Years Update

Year 7 update-Society is built on the past

By Ms Cynthai, Year 7 teacher

In Year 7 we are enjoying our new unit of inquiry with this central idea:

Present-day societies are built upon the systems and technologies of past civilizations.

This is a great opportunity to integrate both history and science into the inquiry. The central idea does not focus simply on the past, it leads students to question how the learning relates to the present day.

In this case we are dividing into pairs which will study particular periods of history and what systems and technologies they developed that are still in use today. We are looking at the simple machines that were developed in the past and understanding them better by attempting to build basic versions of them.



In the area of Personal and Social Education we are giving a lot of attention to Digital Citizenship this week. We will be looking at how we can stay safe when we chat with others online and how to identify online scams.



Modern languages - English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Our 'Mother Tongue Day Assembly' from February, was one of the ways where we celebrate diversity here at UDIS. It was mostly student-led because the children chose what they wanted to present and how to present it. It was amazing to see our students doing different performances using their mother languages.

EAL Learners in Years 1, 2 and 3 have been carrying on with learning their sounds while Years 4 to 7 have been doing lots of writing practise using adverbs.























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Coronavirus and Social distancing

Social distancing is a term applied to certain actions that are taken to stop or slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease.

Social distancing means that people stay away from each other, two meters away is



recommended, so that the coronavirus cannot spread from one person to another.

Social distancing also means not touching other people, that includes handshakes. Physical touch is the most likely way a person will catch the coronavirus and the easiest way to spread it.

Social distancing is staying away from mass gatherings.

Inquiry corner

A word which goes hand in hand with inquiry is curiosity. Here at UDIS we encourage our students from an early age to be curious. Indeed, children are naturally curious. We are all used to hearing, "Why? Why? Why, mummy/ daddy, why?" As teachers, we are glad to hear students voicing questions because it means that they are wondering about what they see and want to engage in discussion. Our aim is to support students in shaping their wonderings into well formed questions. This often involves extending their vocabulary and introducing them to polite questioning techniques.

A unit of inquiry often begins with engaging the children in an activity specifically to cause them to ask questions. An interesting object, a short film clip, perhaps an extract from a book, the words of a visiting speaker or an interesting image are all example of things children may be presented with in order to motivate them to ask questions. As questions come forward, discussions begin and teachers guide their students towards the resources in which answers to the questions may be found.

Deep enduring understanding are developed as students research answers to their own questions. In this way students enjoy their studies and go on to ask further, deeper questions. The cycle goes on, and so we develop lifelong learners.



Curiosity is a display of motivation and engagement.

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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:



Parent cafe

Our Parent cafe for 2019/2020 are currently cancelled due to COVID-19. We will reassess the situation in Term 3 to see if these can be restarted.

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 21 February, the school held its third Board meeting of the year. The Board lineup is:

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

In the third meeting of the year, the Head of School reported back to the Board the current progress and developments of the school including progress towards accreditation, curriculum development work, enrolment and building progress. The Board then formally approved the financial reports for the 2018/2019 academic year. Next the Board considered the new school budget for 2020/2021 and provisionally approved it. The Board approved a fee increase of 3% tuition increase for all levels and for catering and bus fees. The Board also considered the issue of new investment into the school to continue driving it forward. 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 15 May.

PTA update - Summary of meeting held on Monday 20 January 2020

On Monday 9 March, we held our 5th PTA meeting of the year which was held as both an online event on Youtube Live and a face to face meeting.

We first spoke about COVID-19 and the precautions and procedures that the school has put in place. These include the importance of social distancing, information about international travel and information about how the school would handle any likely closures. It is important to remember that there is a low risk of COVID-19 in Udon Thani at the moment and it is important not to panic. The procedures that we put in place should minimise the spread of the virus. We have also worked out plans for continuing learning in the event of any closure.

Next we discussed the MYP uniform. Ms Siri and Ms Pae presented the different options and we solicited some feedback from parents. The preference of parents was toward the polo shirts option with non-plaid pants. We will combine all feedback and send out the final option to our community for confirmation.

We then spoke about the community report for 2018/2019. This report covers all important areas of the school and contains important information for parents about how the school is running. We urge parents to view this on our website.

Finally, we spoke about planning for our end of year event. At this stage, we will not be able to conduct this as a large gathering although it was suggested that if this was outside then this could work. We will consider all options and announce to parents once we have a plan.

We opened the floor for any questions or concerns but there was none raised at this meeting.

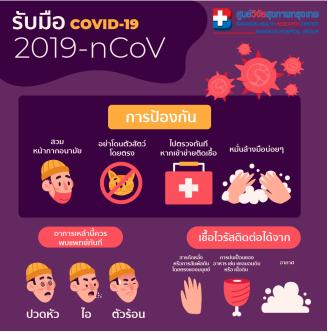
The next PTA meeting is planned for Monday 27 April.

Promotion of Bangkok Hospital Udonthani 2020



HOSPITAL HOTLINE CALL:0 2310 3000, OR 1719(LOCAL CALL)







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Promotion of Bangkok Hospital Udonthani 2020



Promotion of Bangkok Hospital Udonthani 2020



School Terms and Dates 2019/2020

UDIS operates three terms per school year as follows:

Term 1 (80 days)

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

Term 2 (61 days)

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

Term 3 (41 days)

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

Teacher Only Days

Teacher only day #1 Teacher only day #2 Wednesday 23 October, 2019 (Substitute from Tuesday) 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 10 March, 2020 (Substitute from Saturday) Labour Day Friday 1 May, 2020 Visaka Bucha Day Wednesday 6 May, 2020 We are cancelling Visaka Bucha day to provide a makeup day for our COVID-19 closure on Friday 28 February Queens Birthday Wednesday 3 June, 2020

Payment dates

Term 1 due date Term 2 due date Term 3 due date Friday 26 July, 2019 Friday 29 November, 2019 Friday 13 March, 2020

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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: 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