

3rd April 2020 | ISSUE13



# Online learning at UDIS!

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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



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#### Message from the Head of School

#### **Dear Parents**

Well it has certainly been a momentous last two weeks with the spread of Covid-19 and its effect on the world. Please follow the guidance from the government and ensure hand hygiene and social distancing to keep your families safe. We are a resilient community and I am sure we can pull through if we can support each other the best we can through these tough times.

We are two weeks into online learning at UDIS and routines are beginning to become established with this new form of learning. The key to this being a success is creating routines for your children to



follow around regular school times. This issue of our newsletter shows that our learners are making this transition. However, if you need any help, please reach out as we are happy to help our community get up to speed on this new form of learning.

We continue to evaluate and maintain the highest level of education for our learners as much as we can with the difficult situation we all find ourselves in. We understand that our families circumstances may have changed with regard to continued enrolment at the school so please let us know what your intentions are. These are essential to us to confirm our planning for the new school year.

We are also celebrating Songkran on Friday. Songkran is a lovely tradition that in its essence brings families together and is one that has a lot of relevance at this point in time. While we may be forced to live closely together it is also an opportunity to develop our relationships and bonds with our family members.

Finally, have a wonderful holiday and I will look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 3.

Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart Head of School Hospitals in Udon Thani sent out a request for all robotics groups in Thailand to create and make masks for hospitals to help workers stay safe. Learners at UDIS recognised the opportunity to make a difference in their community by heeding this call to action and developing protective face masks using the 3d printers they had at home. A number of masks were developed and have been donated to local hospitals in the Udon Thani area. Well done to Pin, Plai, Pordee, Porpiang and Inn for their efforts helping our community!









# Early Years Update

# Preschool class update - Online Learning By Ms Charlotte, Preschool teacher

The children have done incredibly well switching to online learning. I am so proud of their resilience and independence.













## Early Years Update

# K2 class update - Working hard online

By Ms Jane, K2 teacher

#### Well done to everyone in K2!

The children are continuing their learning at home with help from their amazing parents. The work that is being uploaded to Tapestry is brilliant. It is great to see everyone working together and helping each other. Keep up the good work K2!







#### Year 2 class update - A change of style of learning

By Mr John K., Year 2 teacher

It is a great credit to the year two class that they have had very few issues trying to complete work online. They have been responsible learners involved with the completion of tasks as best as they can and attended video meetings everyday.

They have been enjoying sharing their work and interacting with others through the Flipgrid app. A big thank you must also go to the parents for supporting their children during this unusual time. Let's hope we are back to normal very soon!



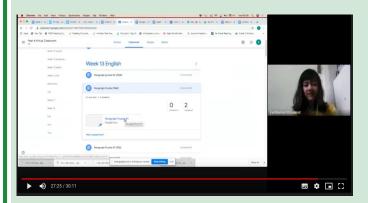




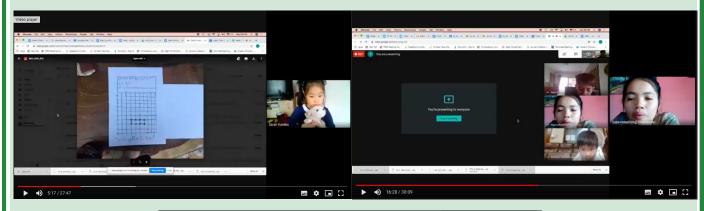
# Year 4 class update - Quality learning with Virtual Learning!

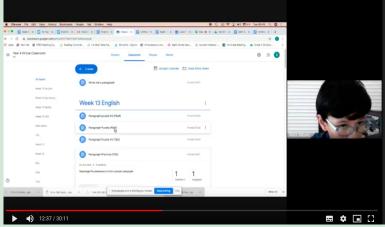
By Mr Seth, Year 4 teacher

I want to send a big shout out and thank you to the wonderful Year 4 parents! You all have been incredibly patient during this time of transition and helpful to the needs of your children. Again, thank you for your efforts and tireless devotion to your children's success. Furthermore, our learners deserve a big pat on the back for a job well done these past couple of weeks! It is not an easy task to go from in-class learning to online learning overnight. Our students have faced this challenge head-on and succeeded in overcoming something difficult. I could not be more happy with the work they have done. The UOI projects have been wonderful. Students have been able to attend regular Google Meet lessons. Their completed work has been coming in and high quality learning has been taking place. Way to go Year 4!!









# Year 6 update - Virtual Learning

By Mr Mark, Year 6 teacher

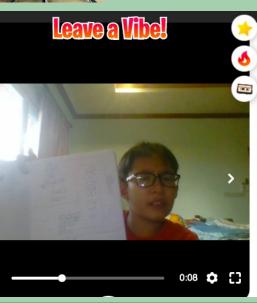
Year 6 has been settling in well in our virtual learning sessions and activities. The learners should be commended for their hard work and for their engagement in our virtual learning lessons. They continue to grow in confidence using Google Classroom, Flipgrid and other resources. The children have been sharing videos and photos of their work with me via Google Classroom, through email and through Flipgrid. Well done everyone!











We have transitioned to online learning for all Thai classes to help our learners continue to learn Thai. In Year 6 and 7, our learners have been learning about literature and values. These values represent the traditions, culture and morals of Thai society. In Year 2, classes have been learning more about the Thai language and long and short vowels. We are really happy at the transition our learners have made to online learning. Thanks also to all our parents for supporting their children at home in Thai.









#### Health and Safety- COVID 19

The Thai government is asking us to stay safe by staying indoors and only going outside if it is absolutely necessary. I hope all in the UDIS family are following this request.

If we are remaining inside we need to be mindful of keeping our mind and body active. I am sure we are following a healthy diet. Also there are many useful exercise videos on Youtube that we can follow to keep our body fit and healthy.



However our mind needs to stay healthy as well. There are websites where we can challenge our brain to solve puzzles and to read novels online.

During these uncertain times, try to stay fit and healthy, both on the outside and on the inside!

#### 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, 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.

#### 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	462
Blue House	339
Black House	457
Green House	487
Yellow House	411



#### 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.



#### School board update - Summary of meeting held on Friday 21 February, 2020

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:

Representative of the Owner & Licensee
Honorary member #1

K. Siriphat Pukpo
K. Siriphat Pukpo
K. Wicha Chanklom

Honorary member #2 K. Ampuscha Chotnopparatpattara

Parent representative
Teacher representative
School Director
Board member

Ms. Chen Wenshan Dawn
Mr. Mark Abbadessa
K. Sineenad Chamat
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.

#### Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

#### **Promotion from Wattana Hospital 2020**



#### 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

Friday 19 June is likely to be a full day of school.

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 10 February, 2020

Labour Day Friday 1 May, 2020 Visaka Bucha Day Thursday 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 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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(for all general enquiries)

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Email suggestion box: suggestions@udis.ac.th

