



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

20th March 2020 | ISSUE12



New building progress

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

4 May PTA#6
18-19 May Half term break
1 June PTA#7
19 June Last day of Term 3
10 August First day of 2020/2021



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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 3! It has certainly been an eventful month or so since our last newsletter with Covid-19 affecting our community and our school. While it is a difficult time for our community, please keep yourselves and your families safe as much as possible. If we can prevent the spread, then we will be moving closer to things returning to normal.



The Minister of Education has advised us to continue with online learning and they will re-evaluate the situation every 15 days. The government has also advised that the state of emergency is being extended into May but that some businesses will be able to re-open. So... what does all this mean for a potential re-opening for us? We will either need to remain with online learning for the remainder of Term 3 or we will be able to re-open the school as early as Monday 11 May. I wish I could provide more certainty to you all about where we stand with this.

What we can control is our policy and procedures to safeguard our community against Covid-19. We are working on a Covid policy to guide our actions when we do re-open. We are also working out how we can support learners at school, and those who wish to stay at home, or who are not able to return to campus. You can help us develop this by joining our PTA meeting on Monday or completing the survey that we have sent out to parents this week.

The Covid situation has also affected our current enrolment and will have an impact on our enrolment next year. Less enrolment means less income for the school, and our income is completely reliant on parents. All of our regular expenses have remained and we are continuing to pay staff at the school which is our most significant expense. To cover the deficits that we have, we have paused our 5 rai project and have also dipped into our emergency reserve. We are lucky to have a substantial reserve that can see us through the current crisis.

A decreased enrolment will mean some changes for next year, but please be assured that our educational quality will only continue to improve. We have our CIS accreditation next year to get through and the best practices from CIS has improved many areas of the school. If we can secure CIS accreditation, alongside our existing IB accreditation, then we would certainly be one of the best value for money international schools in Thailand.

Thanks again for your support.

Best regards

Dr. Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

Administration – Message from the office

If you still have money owing for Term 3 invoices please make payment as soon as you can through the school office.

Student success at UDIS - K2

Everyone in K2 has shown great enthusiasm and commitment to online learning. They have all uploaded some amazing videos and pictures that show how creative and knowledgeable they are. A big thank you to all the parents who have been a great support when helping with their child's learning. Well done K2!



Early Years Update

K1 class update - Online Learning in K1

By Ms Phibsia, K1 teacher

It has been wonderful to see how fast the children got into the routine of online learning in this difficult situation. Everyone in K1 has been risk-takers and has shown some great enthusiasm and commitment while joining in with face to face learning. For the last few weeks, we have seen some great progress and creativity in our learning. From making an astronaut helmet to creating a mini garden, so much learning and integrity in their work. Well done to all K1 and parents who have committed their time and effort to support online learning at home. Here are a few pictures!

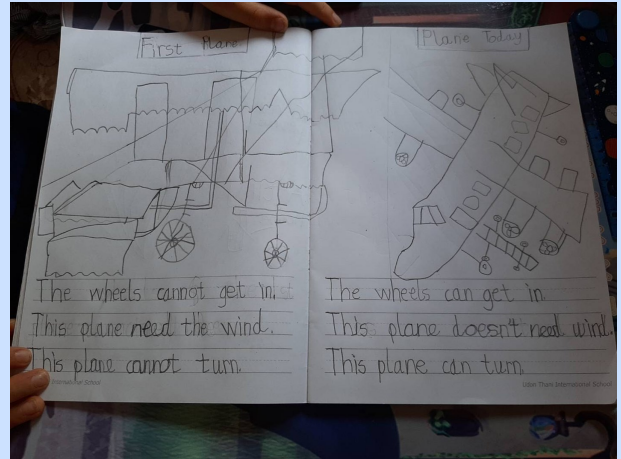
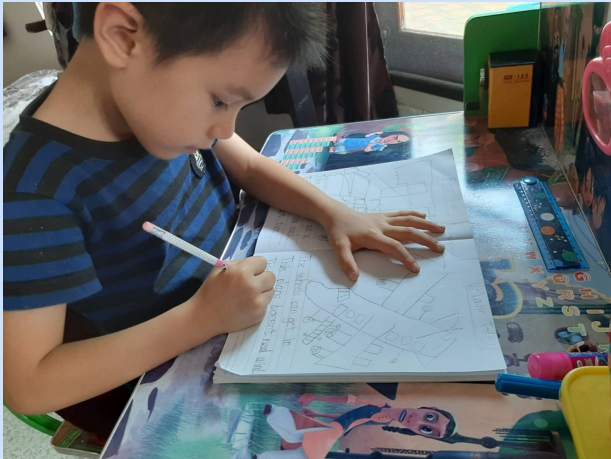


Primary Years Update

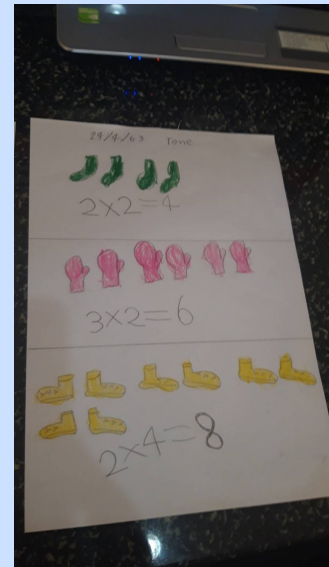
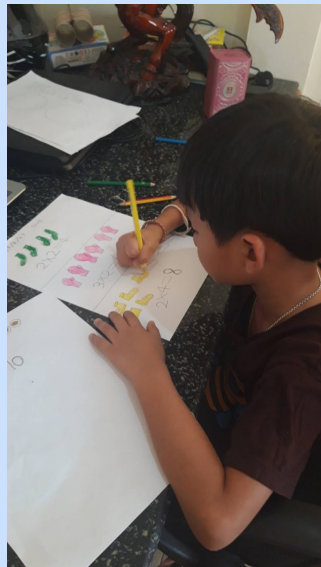
Year 1 class update - Learning Virtual Style!

By Ms Rachel, Year 1 teacher

I think we would all agree that 'face to face' learning is our preferred style of learning. However, learning online has demonstrated that our children possess many admirable qualities that may have gone unnoticed in the classroom situation. Some of these qualities include; perseverance, resourcefulness, creativity and self discipline. I am amazed at the time the Year 1 students are spending on their work at home and indeed the final product. Well done Year 1!



Moses worked hard on his UOI work and the final product. Very impressive Moses! Meanwhile Junior is busy drawing his 'olden day' plane. While these boys are busy working on their UOI project, Tone is busy doing his multiplication. Great job Tone!



Primary Years Update

Year 3 class update - Going Online

By Mr Kane, Year 3 teacher

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all parents in supporting their children during this time. Thank you for supporting your kids with their learning, however you can. Some parents have to work, and you are the ones who have the hardest job. I would also like to acknowledge the staff at UDIS for making the transition to online learning quickly. This has been a HUGE challenge for us! For Ms PJ and myself, it was a hard transition and there are ongoing challenges every day. For the Year 3 students, well done in making the transition! We are fortunate at UDIS because Years 3-7 already use Google Apps and many websites in daily life, so the transition to learning from home was easier than it could have been.

Students have had to be risk takers because so much of what we have been doing is new. As a teacher I am impressed with the way the students can still show caring to one another, and also their determination to support each other and still have fun!

We have managed to maintain the momentum we had with Unit #5 (before focusing on organisations. Pictured here are some of the toy companies the students created. Along with this the students designed and made a toy, thought of a company name, made a model toy factory to produce their toy and decided who would be in the company including what their roles and responsibilities would be.

Stay strong and we will get through this challenging time together!

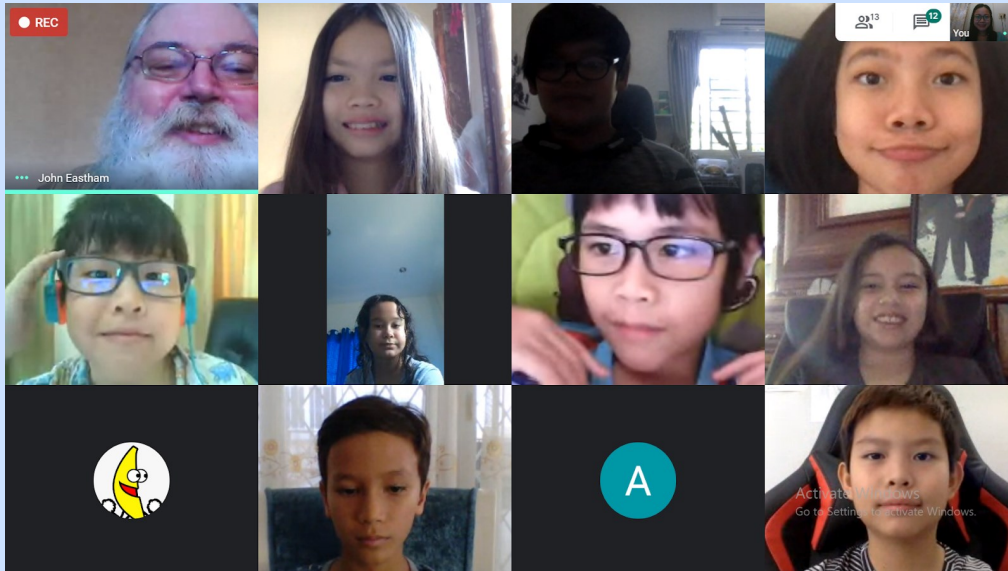
The collage features several student projects:

- UDI 5: Nymph's company Organisation:** A hierarchical organization chart titled "My Company Organization Chart". At the top is "Mrs. Kane the lovely boss" (Make decisions for the company. Help the staff to do their job.). Below are "Licha Design & Import Director" and "Matthew Operation Director" (Make sure the company runs smoothly.). Under Licha are "Sarah Lise Quality Manager" and "Nymph Sale Manager". Under Matthew are "kelly Planning & Production Manager" and "Yuu-Yuu Warehouse Manager" (Manage the warehouse.).
- UDI 6: My company Organisation:** Another organization chart titled "My Company Organization Chart". At the top is "Ms Kelly CEO, Export Director" (Make decisions for the company. Help the staff to do their job.). Below are "Ms PJ Design" and "Sarah Lise Maker" (To make the toy we all had in mind). Under Ms PJ are "Theodore Quality Manager" (Check the quality of the toys) and "Nymph Sale Manager". Under Sarah Lise are "Mr Terry (my dad) Planner" and "Alyssa Dock" (To make food for everyone).
- Hand-drawn posters:** One titled "THUNDER STRIKER" with drawings of a hawk and a lightning bolt. Another says "It can fly so high that it's like a Hawk! Thunder Strike". A third says "It Goes Very Fast!".
- Physical Toys:** A colorful paper airplane and a toy car made from a LEGO Technic brick.
- Other Drawings:** A technical drawing of a catapult with the note "this is the catapult for toy". A blue sign that says "Joy Factory".
- Photo:** A young boy holding a cardboard box divided into compartments, labeled "MILO", "O-Rock", and "V100".

Year 5 Class update

By Mr John E., Year 5 teacher

Year 5 miss coming to school but it is not all bad. Here are some of their comments about online learning



- **I like learning at home but it's sometimes lonely but I can work in the comfort of my own home.**
- **I like working at home because we don't have to wake up really early.**
- **I like working at home because I can practise my computer skills and I like to work independently.**
- **I do not work any less each day.**
- **I like online learning because I can type things faster.**
- **Online learning is as important as schoolwork.**
- **I enjoy working at home because I have my parents to help me**
- **I enjoy how you can have more experiences on electronic devices.**
- **When we work at home we can have breaks any time...just not too long!**
- **I like online learning because we get more time to eat and sleep.**
- **I like online learning because we can be balanced.**
- **I like online learning because I know more about computers and I enjoy that I can talk with my friends if I need help with my work.**

Year 7 update

By Ms Cynthai, Year 7 teacher

We have been improving in the areas of self-management and communication skills. Being online has meant that students have to be good at managing their time; knowing when to join the video meetings and having work completed on time is very important. Year 7 students have been quite good at this.

Communication skills have been exercised by having to speak clearly, listen carefully and ask good questions. When challenges pop up it can be frustrating, but being calm and explaining the problem to an adult is an important aspect of communicating clearly. I am pleased to say that we have been in situations where we've truly had to exercise these important skills.

It is clear from all of the short videos we are recording that we are all really developing well in the area of confidence in communicating too!



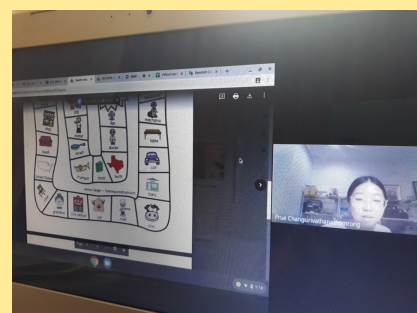
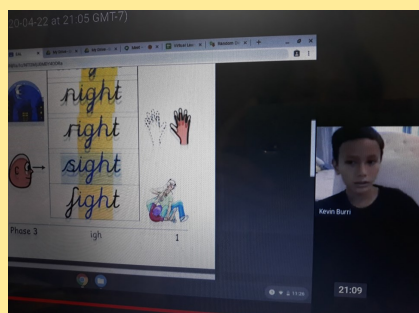
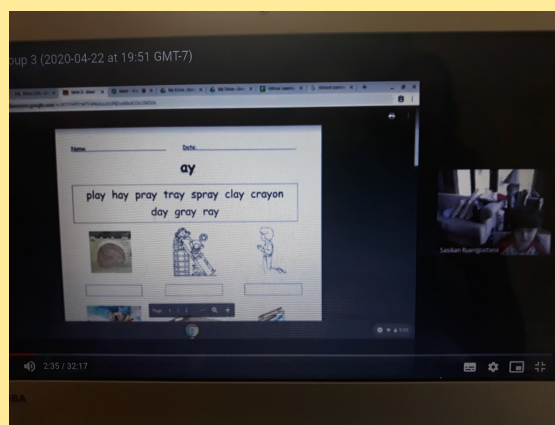
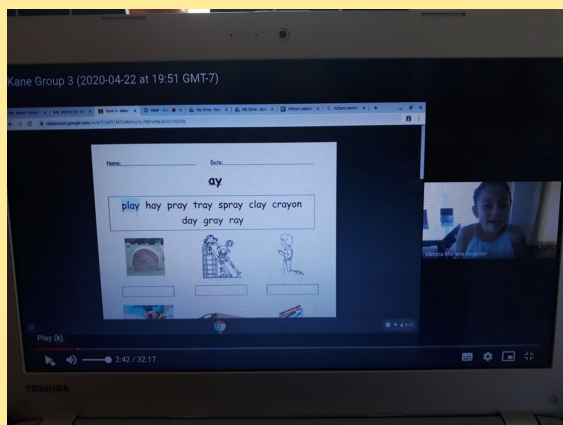
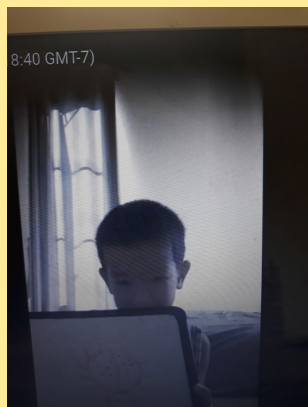
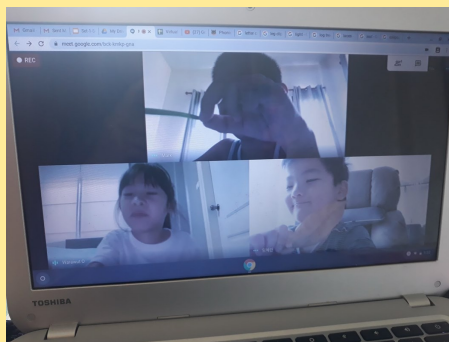
Modern languages - English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Welcome back to our online learning for Term 3!

Our learners in Year 1 have been learning about the 'l' sound. They had so much fun looking around the house for things beginning with 'l'. Some of the things they found include lollipops, lemon and leaves.

Years 2 and 3 are focusing on reading and writing words with 'ay' while Years 5 and 6 have begun learning about nouns. We use an online dice to do "Roll and Read" and to play a noun board game to help us with our reading and speaking practise.

Our children have been really caring during EAL Google Meets and I am pleased to see them taking more risks with their online learning. Thank you mums and dads for all your help and for your continued support.



Health and Safety- Monkeys

Udon Thani seems to be responding positively to the requests of the Thai government, As a result we have had very few cases of people being infected here. We are all part of that undertaking and we should congratulate ourselves for being responsible citizens. I hope that our efforts do not go unnoticed and that we can get back to our normal daily lives very soon.

Stay safe!



Inquiry corner

We teachers are inquirers too! Yes, this experience of online teaching and learning is an opportunity for us to extend our repertoire of teaching skills. We have networked with other schools, done a lot of reading and joined some webinars too. We believe that learning is a life-long process and we aim to model the inquiry mindset for our students too.



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	-
Blue House	-
Black House	-
Green House	-
Yellow House	-



Parent cafe

The next events for our parent cafe are:

Date	Event
25 May 2020	End of year assessment

The next parent cafe is “End of Year Assessment” with the leadership team on Monday 25 May, 2020.



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:	K. Siriphat Pukpo
Representative of the Owner & Licensee	K. Siriphat Pukpo
Honorary member #1	K. Wicha Chanklom
Honorary member #2	K. Ampuscha Chotnopparatpattara
Parent representative	Ms. Chen Wenshan Dawn
Teacher representative	Mr. Mark Abbadessa
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 9 March

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)

UDIS in combination with the Rotary Makkang Club and an IB school from Beverton in the USA donated hand gel and UDIS water bottles to people in Udon Thani. For this project we also joined with the Udon Thani Governor and Rotary International. It was great for our school to help out those less fortunate during this time of crisis!



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 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 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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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

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