



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

7th December 2017 | ISSUE 8

Goodbye 2017!

We wish everybody a happy holidays as we bring 2017 to a close.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

11 - 14 December - Parent conferences for end of term reports
 Thursday 14 December - Christmas festival event - from 5:30 to 7:30pm (please contact your homeroom teacher about costume requirement)

15 December - Last day of Term 1
 8 January, 2018 - Teachers only day #2
 9 January, 2018 - Start of Term 2
 26 January - Sports day event
 29 January - PTA #4

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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We are coming to the end of our first term of this academic year. We have been very busy over the past month with getting reports completed for all students and organising our Christmas festival. It has been great to see the progress that many of our students are making in the school so far this year.



As we come to the end of the term, it is also a good time to reflect back over the term. At the start of the year we were in temporary classrooms and now we have our new buildings and physical education spaces completed. It has been so much more relaxed over the past couple of months as we can stretch out and find some space over our campus. I hope parents are also enjoying the new Community Hub, as we have found the space to provide an airconditioned area for parents to wait in which has been long requested.

The biggest achievement over the past term has been the integration of our new teachers for this year. We are now up to nine classes and we have brought together a great bunch of teachers to facilitate learning amongst our students. We have run teachers through a variety of different professional developments this term, with new teachers beginning the formal 'Making the PYP Happen' course with the IB in the next term.

I am sad to announce the departure of Miss Nikita, our Chinese Teacher. Her grandmother became very ill over the past month and Nikita travelled back to be with her in November. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing health of her grandmother, she will resign from the school at the end of this term. We wish Nikita and her family all the best on her return to China.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. Please stay safe on the roads and find some time to relax with family.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School



Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator

In recent issues i have described parts of 'Inquiry Cycle', a way of organising our inquiry style teaching and learning. This page brings the cycle to a conclusion, as I describe the final two stages:

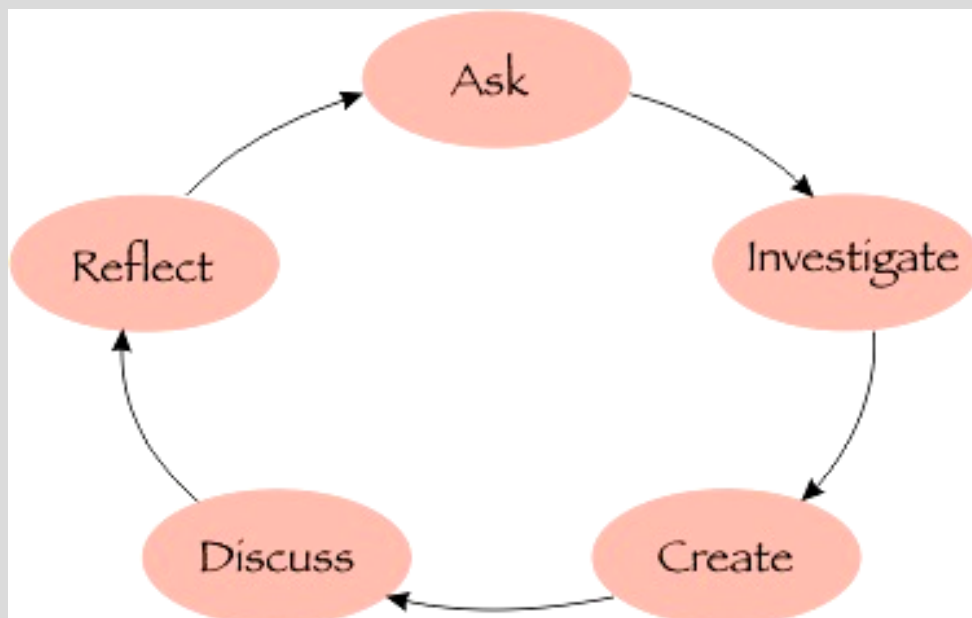
Making Conclusions

At the conclusion of a unit of inquiry students are given time to consider what they have learned. This reflection time allows them to think back to where they started, when they knew very little on the topic. They are asked to consider how their thinking has changed. What new knowledge have they gained? What skills have they practiced? What new perspectives do they see? These kinds of understanding come about through time spent quietly pondering what has been achieved. Quite often in traditional classrooms the teacher will close a lesson by telling the students what was just covered in the lesson. However, this kind of 'Making Conclusions' involves engaging the student in deep self reflection in order to consider what was new and personal learning for each one of them. A student who draws their own conclusions demonstrates a deep level of understanding and engagement.

Taking Action

When students have drawn their conclusions, ultimately they should be in a good position to take action on something they have learned. Deep conceptual understanding of an issue or topic will lead students into actually doing something about what they have learned. Simple examples include; choosing to cut down on junk food after a unit on health, reusing plastic bags and bottles after a unit on caring for the environment, or after a unit on pollution students might feel they need to ask parents to walk with them to school occasionally, rather than always using the car.

Taking Action is a key part of learning in the PYP. When students are passionate about their learning it will naturally lead them into wanting to take action. Our aim is to support students towards doing something good for the benefit of themselves and their community.



Early Years Update

K1 class update - Our first field trip!

By Ms Jennifer Chapman, K1 Teacher

We were so excited to go on K1's first field trip to Kidzooona this week! We particularly loved playing on the slides and ball pool in the soft play area!

This field trip ties in well to our Unit of Inquiry, as we were learning about different ways we could tell stories. Many of the students did a lot of acting out story lines in their play within the various role play stations they have at Kidzooona such as a supermarket, hospital and restaurant areas. The students did some fantastic reflections on our adventures and shared these with the rest of the class.



Year 1 class update "Preparing for the UDIS Christmas Bazaar!"

By Ms Jane Sutton, Year 1 Teacher

As part of our UOI - 'Celebrations and traditions' we have been busy making Gingerbread men. We researched the different kinds of yummy food you can eat during different celebrations and this was one of our favourites. During our reflection we decided this would be the best thing to make for the Christmas Bazaar on Thursday 14th December.



Year 3 class update - Real Experiences

By Ms Emmi Hines, Year 3 Teacher

Year 3 was able to explore how a restaurant was built from local materials on a visit to Jammies Recipes. This was a direct link to our central idea ***“the design of buildings and structures is dependent upon environmental factors, human ingenuity, and available materials.”***

Our class was able to tie in what we have been learning about in English and Mathematics while taking a trip to Dohome. The students had to make their own shopping list, follow directions and even pay for the items they intended to buy.



Year 5 class update - Artists at Work!

By Mr Robert Langridge, Y5 Teacher



Our field trip to Ban Chiang was both interesting and fun. Year 5 learned of the history of this area dating back more than 5000 years including the recent migration of Laos people to this area. They learned how art works were important to the community and how pottery, weaving and basket making were created by the people of this time. Students also got insight into the role of an archaeologist and the tedious work they perform to uncover lost communities buried beneath the surface of the Earth. They enjoyed the hands on experience of creating their own pottery and decorating it. Year 5 is currently busy creating art pieces to support a futuristic Art Movement they developed called Splashism. It will be interesting to see the final pieces of artwork work they create. The Christmas Bazar is coming up soon and Year 5 will represent the country of Mexico by making a nativity scene which is very typical of decorations and celebration during Christmas. Students have also been busy putting together portfolios of work to present to their parent. Looking forward to a great Christmas holiday and a Happy New year.



MODERN LANGUAGES - CHINESE

Students have been very happy these past two weeks because they had the opportunity to eat a lot of Chinese food. For the lower primary students, we cooked “dumplings” and learned how to eat using chopsticks. For the upper primary students, we learned how to communicate in Chinese with waiters at a restaurant. Students now have the knowledge to order Chinese food! Next week, we will begin to review what we learned during Term 1. I hope everyone is enjoying Chinese class and I want to wish everyone a great holiday!



Health and Safety

By Mr Donato Nucciarone, Health and safety coordinator

The end of term is approaching and i just wanted to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. When we return to school, i will be providing staff with some safeguarding training. Our staff is dedicated to working with children and supporting families to ensure the safety and protection of children. In addition, we want to promote their development and wellbeing so they can be the very best in life.

In addition, over the holiday I will be working on developing some points from our H&S CIS action plan. Our school is really looking forward to becoming a CIS accredited school and Health and Safety plays a huge part in the process.



House Update

The end of term is approaching and as a result we will announce the winning team for the term. We decided to have a winning team each term in order for teams to have a better opportunity to experience success in our house competition. During Term 2, the points will be restarted at zero and a new champion will arise at the end of the term.

The current house scores are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	258
Blue House Martin Luther King	200
Black House Princess Diana	228
Green House Nelson Mandela	227
Yellow House Mother Teresa	221



Parent cafe

We would like to introduce our Parent Cafes for parents to come and learn more about different aspects of the school from our talented teaching staff.

Parent cafe's will be restarting in Term 2.



Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

Yamaha Music School at Central Udon Thani has a promotion and contest event.



YAMAHA
ซื้อช่วยชาติ
พบกับข้อเสนอ
สุดพิเศษ
ที่พลาดไม่ได้

สินค้าเปียโน
และคีย์บอร์ด
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Message from Admin

Administration - Message from the office

- **Term 2 invoices were due by Friday 1 December.**
- **All Thursdays from now on will be house shirt day. Students with PE class can bring along their regular PE shirt to change into if they wish.**

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

Deputy Principal: john.e@udis.ac.th

Assistant Principal: emmi@udis.ac.th

Preschool teacher: olga@udis.ac.th

K1 teacher: jennifer@udis.ac.th

K2 teacher: jo@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: jane@udis.ac.th

Y2 teacher: john.k@udis.ac.th

Y3 teacher: emmi@udis.ac.th

Y4 teacher: john.e@udis.ac.th

Y5 teacher: robert@udis.ac.th

Y6/7 teacher: thomas@udis.ac.th

School Secretary: wannapa@udis.ac.th

Email suggestion box: suggestions@udis.ac.th