



# Newsletter

## Udon Thani International School

17th January 2018 | ISSUE 9



### STUDENT SUCCESS AT UDIS

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 26 January - Sports day event
- 29 January - PTA #4
- 5 February - Parent Cafe #4
- 7 February - Global play day
- 15 February - Chinese New Year
- 19-20 February - Half term break (Holiday)
- 5 March - PTA #5
- 12 March - Parent Cafe #5
- 5-9 March - International week
- 26-29 March - Student led conferences
- 30 March - Thai day event
- 30 March - Last day of Term 2
- 18 April - First day of Term 3
- 28-29 May - Half term break (Holiday)
- 22 June - Last day of Term 3
- 14 August, 2018 - Start of Term 1 2018/2019

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# Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 2 at UDIS! We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday with their families. This term we have a lot planned with our upcoming Sports Day, Chinese New Year, International Week and Thai day. We have organised a number of PTA meetings and parent cafes so please come along and join those. At the end of this term, students will be showcasing their work to their parents with our student led conferences.



This term, we have hired a new Chinese teacher, Miss Feren, but unfortunately she is delayed in China with work permit issues. It is difficult for applicants to gain visas in China compared with other countries we work with. We expect her to arrive in mid February. In the meantime, we will cover Chinese classes with a technology class by Mr Rick with the remaining Chinese class being covered by homeroom teachers. I apologise for any inconvenience caused while we wait for Miss Feren to arrive.

This term we are also busy working towards our CIS prep visit. We will have two CIS visitors come to the school and examine many different parts of the teaching, learning and operations of the school. This visit is planned for the start of May and is an important step for us in our CIS accreditation journey.

This term we are also busy helping our community understand about the UN rights of the child. We recognise the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and we use this to inform the teaching and practice of children's rights education at our school. Our children's rights education programme will help teach children their human rights while also providing a framework to operate the school in a manner that respects children's rights. This week we got stuck into this with a special assembly led by our student council.

Best regards

*Dr Lindsay Stuart*

Head of School

## Inquiry corner

By Mrs Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator

Normally, when we think about curriculum, we think of a list of academic subjects - Maths, Literacy and Science. Indeed, these are central to academic learning. However, as well as these, the UDIS Primary Years Programme emphasises a focus not only on knowledge within these subject areas, but on the development of character within students too.

UDIS takes a school-wide character education approach that leads students to become examples of the IB learner profile. To reach this goal, students learn to adopt the following attitudes:

<p><b>Appreciation</b> I am thankful!</p>	<p><b>Enthusiasm</b> I am excited!</p>	<p><b>Cooperation</b> I work with others!</p>	<p><b>Creativity</b> I can make it better!</p>
<p><b>Confidence</b> I know I can!</p>	<p><b>Commitment</b> I will not give up!</p>	<p><b>Curiosity</b> I wonder!</p>	<p><b>Integrity</b> I tell the truth!</p>
<p><b>Empathy</b> I know how you feel!</p>	<p><b>Tolerance</b> I accept others!</p>	<p><b>Independence</b> I can do it by myself</p>	<p><b>Respect</b> I am polite!</p>

These attitudes support harmony within the community, go hand in hand with inquiry learning and encourage a positive mindset towards learning too.

# STUDENT SUCCESS AT UDIS

We have been encouraging students to become learners and show personal growth by recognising their successes. At our last assembly we honoured students who had 100% attendance and students who had made the most growth academically, socially or personally in each class from the first term. UDIS is proud of all our students and their hard work during the 1st Term.



## Early Years Update

### Preschool class update - Our visit to the school sick bay.

By Ms Olga Sviridova, Preschool Teacher

On Monday we visited the school sick bay to learn about what nurses do to help people. Our school nurse Ms. Som-O talked to the students about different tools and materials she uses to help others such as a stethoscope, a thermometer, a syringe, a torch, plasters, masks, cold packs etc. and demonstrated how we can use them. The Preschool students enjoyed exploring the sick bay and look forward to visiting other departments at school.



## Early Years Update

### K2 class update - "Is it Old or New?"

By Ms Jo Fletcher, K2 Teacher

K2 have just started their new Unit of Inquiry "Where we are in place and time." We have been discussing the key word 'artifact' and what we think it means. We have also been learning to identify how we know whether something is old or new. The children had some great ideas, noticing that old things are often "dirty" and that we find new things "at the toy shop." We enjoyed investigating an old telephone and discussing how we knew it was old. Every week we will be taking a closer look at a different artifact and brainstorming how we know it's old and whether it differs to things we see today.



## Year 2 class update - Welcome back

By Mr John Kelly, Year 2 Teacher

Welcome back to Term 2 of this year. It is cold and the children are bringing extra clothes to school. This is fine, just please make sure that they have their names in their clothes.



We have a whole school sports morning on the 26th of January to look forward to. Our Year 2 class will also be visiting the airport to watch how aircraft overcome forces to be able to fly with an upcoming field trip which is part of our Unit of Inquiry this term. We are learning and looking at how inventors used forces and energy to overcome human difficulties and made our lives easier.

The children have learnt how to complete column addition questions so they can add with carrying tens which is very exciting. Soon we will try subtracting numbers with two digits, just for fun ;-).



I would like to ask you to make sure that the students read each night with you. I have left activities on the study ladder for them to complete at their leisure.

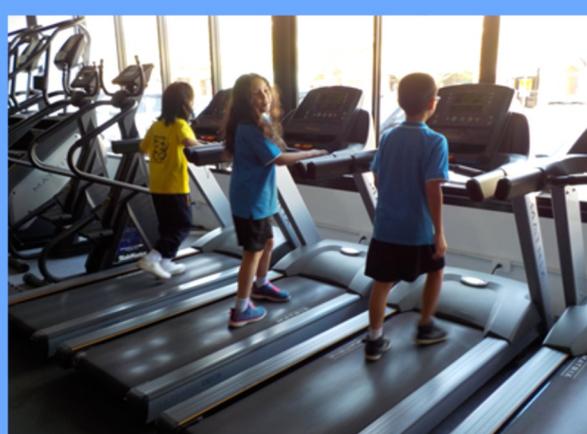
We tried some experiments with magnets this week and learnt about the role of friction and other forces in our lives.

## Year 4 class update

By Mr John Eastham, Y4 Teacher

# Gymtastic Year 4!

At the end of our last Unit of Inquiry about “How we express ourselves” Year 4 went on a field trip to the ‘Your Fitness’ Gym in Udon Thani. We were shown round by Mr. Don, our UDIS PSPE teacher. Under Mr. Don’s guidance the children were able to try out a range of equipment. In their classroom learning, the children were working on using persuasive language and how images and text can influence behaviour. Back at school the children created some advertisements for a gym of their own using information collected during the field trip. The completed posters are displayed in our classroom.



# Year 6/7 class update-“KEEPS ROLLING ON”

By Mr Thomas Schuck, Year 6/7 Teacher

Welcome back to Term 2. I hope everyone had a very relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Year 6/7 continues to keep rolling ahead. We have returned to normal, and our lessons are back on track. Everyone is very happy we did so well with our Summative Assessments with the previous UOI on “Who We Are”. We have started diving into our third transdisciplinary unit, which is titled “How The World Works”. We have already had some very constructive discussions, and the acquisition of knowledge has been superb. We are looking forward to getting more involved in many new and interesting projects that are coming up within this transdisciplinary unit. Look for lots of new pictures of the cool science experiments Year 6/7 will be doing in the coming weeks.

A big **“Thank You”** to Year 6/7 parents for coming to your child’s conferences. I truly enjoyed our conversations, and look forward to seeing everyone again at the next round of conferences.

Please keep checking the Year 6/7 Blog for photos and important announcements of happenings within our classroom.

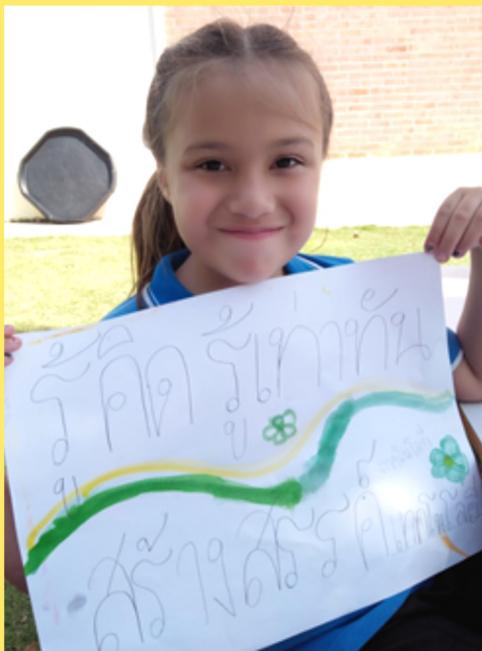


By Miss Natt, Thai Department

## MODERN LANGUAGES - THAI LANGUAGE

Welcome back for Term 2. We would also like to wish everyone a happy Children's Day and Teacher's Day which are special Thai events that have all happened recently. We have begun this term with many new activities in Thai class which have included learning about the National Children's day slogan that was given by the Thai prime minister.

With the slogan "Clever, cautious, creative in technology", it is hoped to inspire the youth of today to be earnest about learning, constantly enhance their abilities, and be willing to acquire beneficial new knowledge while using information media technology constructively.



## English as an additional language (EAL)

EAL is all about giving opportunities to the students to build confidence in using English in an academic context. There are several EAL strategies that are implemented at UDIS. Students have been exposed to different learning engagements throughout the week in which they were given the opportunity to use strategies across all 4 skills. We have been focusing on our reading skills during EAL sessions using several reading strategies like:

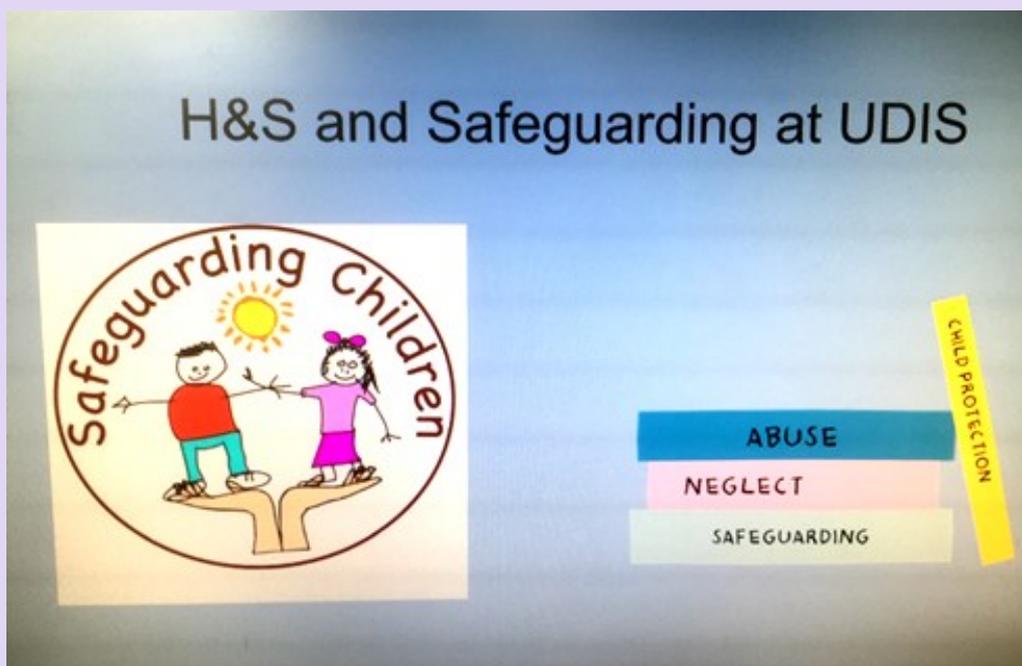
- Picture walk
- Blending the words
- Reading as a group



# Health and Safety

By Mr Donato Nucciarone, Health and safety coordinator

On Monday January 22nd, teachers participated in a safeguarding session led by Mr. Don where we reviewed our emergency procedures in case of evacuations. During the month of February we will also be having a lockdown drill to ensure that teachers and staff are aware of the procedures we use in case of an intruder on campus. We also spoke about accident and incident reports as our teachers and staff monitor accidents that occur at school and log everything so we can follow up with parents. Teachers also have access to behavioural forms they can use if a child is having difficulty in the classroom. When a form is filled out, management and I take the responsibility of following up on the incident and making sure a different outcome takes place in the future. Finally, during the training session, we looked at the staff conduct policy which outlines what staff can and can't do at school. As teachers, it is our duty to lead by example and be proper role models for the students.



## House Update

Congratulations to the Red team who came first place during Term 1! This year we decided to restart house points every term in hopes of having different winners. The red team did a great job in taking the trophy home for Term 1. We are now in the second week of Term 2 and children are already trying their best to accumulate as many house points as they can. Sports day is next Friday and the children are super excited about scoring points and having some fun!

The current house scores for Term 2 are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	3
Blue House Martin Luther King	3
Black House Princess Diana	25
Green House Nelson Mandela	4
Yellow House Mother Teresa	1



## 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. The schedule is below:

Session	Date	Topic
#4	Monday 5 February	Supporting mathematics at home with Miss Cynthia and Mr John
#5	Monday 5 March	Student led conferences at UDIS with Miss Cynthia

**The next parent cafe is “Supporting mathematics at home” with Miss Cynthia and Mr John**



## Welcome Santa Fe Steak to our new member of CPP.

**Santa Fe Steak provide a member card for UDIS members  
and discount 5-10%**

**\*Pay by cash 10% discount  
\*Pay by credit card 5% discount**



## 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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