

27th February 2015 | ISSUE 1



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

4th March 2015
Makha Bucha Day (Holiday)

NOTICES

PTA update

We held our latest PTA meeting at the beginning of this month. We discussed the purpose of the PTA, events coming up, policy around students being picked up by other parents and then an open session to discuss general issues. Thanks to everyone that got involved. We always like to hear feedback from our parents as this can shape what we do around the school. Minutes from all PTA meetings can be found on our website at www.udis.ac.th.

Administration

Message from the office

Please note that invoices for Term 3 payment are now being issued. Payment is due by Friday 20th March and can be made through the school office or by bank transfer. Please contact the school office for more information or email us at admin@udis.ac.th.

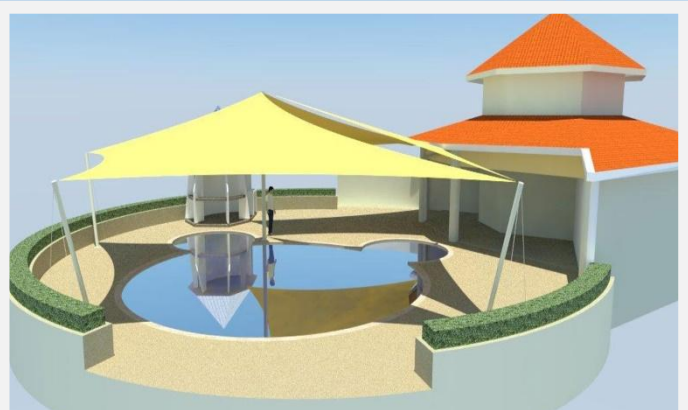
Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

I am glad to welcome you to the first issue of the new format for our newsletter. As a new school we are undergoing a lot of changes which we hope benefit our school community. We hope this new format will provide more information on all the good things happening in and around the school. If you have any suggestions about our new format or things that could be included in our newsletter then please let us know.

As we have reached the middle of our first academic year, it is a good time to look back on all the progress we have made. In September, we were making the best of temporary classrooms while now we enjoy the comforts and conveniences of our new building. The students have all settled in very well to our new surroundings and it is very exciting to see the learning that is taking place at the school.

There will be many changes throughout our campus in the coming years. At the end of this term, we are constructing a shade sail for our swimming pool which will help us to conduct lessons during the coming hot season. I hope to be able to share with you more exciting developments as they come to pass.



Over the past two weeks the students have been learning about being a risk-taker which means approaching uncertainty with forethought and determination while encouraging independence and cooperation to explore new ideas and innovation strategies. As a school, we have also been celebrating 'Mother tongue week' where students have learned about the different home languages of our students.

Thanks to our staff and parents who have been involved with all these activities. I believe the students have learned a lot while they always enjoy seeing their parents involved at the school.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart
Head of School

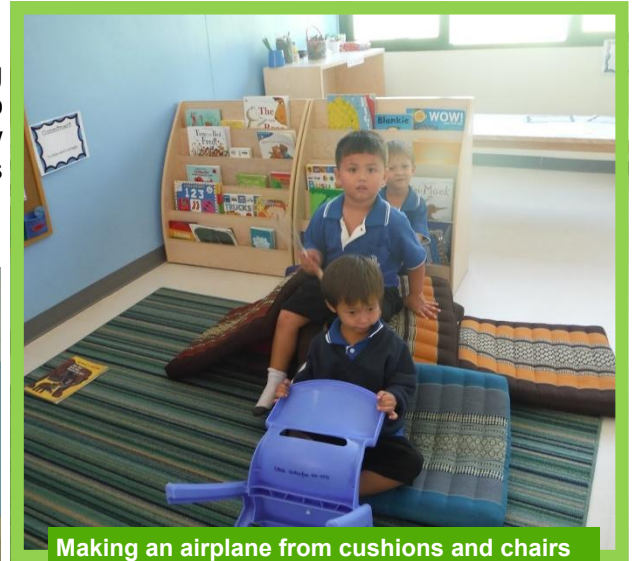
Early Years Update

FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS

By Mrs Rachel Bernstein, K1 Teacher

We are continuing our work on appropriately identifying and expressing emotions and feelings. Students are also learning how to identify their friends' emotions and how they can help when their friends are sad or angry. This has helped the children get along better with others.

Playing teachers



Making an airplane from cushions and chairs

Students are also expressing their creativity and ideas through imaginative and focused play. Chairs have been flipped upside down and turned into airplanes, toy trucks have been used to haul blocks to help during clean-up time and silk cloths have been turned into many things from trains to princess dresses.

We are planning a field trip in March to Nong Prajak Park to explore and have a picnic. Dates will be decided soon.

HOW THE WORLD WORKS

By Mrs Rosalyn Herring, K2 Teacher



K2 Have been learning about How The World Works.

We have looked at paper mache and how glue can be used to strengthen paper and cloth. Come and see our sculptures.

This week we have started working with fabrics. We have pulled apart some items and looked at the pattern used to create them. The children helped sew a shirt and some pants for the class doll. They are now creating their own patterns. We look forward to their creations.

Primary Years Update

YEAR 1/2 VISIT TO SIKAI NHUAR, NONGKAI

By Mr Cormac Johnston, Year 1/2 Teacher



Year 1 and 2 have been working hard on their reflection about their recent field trip to a sustainable farm in Sikai Nhuar. In addition, the students have been making Valentines Day cards on recycled paper complimenting our UOI on sustainability and making paper lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year.

In numeracy, Year 1 have been enquiring into patterns and measurements.

Year 2 have also been focusing on creating their 3-D models in class.



SHARING THE PLANET

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Year 3/4 Teacher

Year 3 and Year 4 are wrapping up their unit with a nice skit or puppet show. Students are compiling their information about different cultures on the planet and talking about how the physical geography of the Earth has impacted their lives. Students presented the information before the end of the half term.



Presenting their skit.



We have now moved into "Sharing the Planet" where we have many more great activities planned.



Preparing for their skit.

Special Feature

MOTHER TONGUE WEEK

By Miss Emmi Hines, Assistant Principal

This week we have been focusing on various countries from around the world. Focusing on language, traditional customs, food and clothing for each country that our students and staff are from. We have had several parents come in and read to the students, bring in traditional foods from their home country and even volunteer in classrooms with special activities. The students have enjoyed learning about the different countries, listening to the stories and eating the wonderful food. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this a special week for our school.



Modern Languages

新年快乐!(Xīnnián kuàilè)

By Miss Ke-ai, Chinese Teacher

For this year, February 19th 2015 is Chinese New Year. Chinese New Year in Chinese is called “春节(Chūnjié)” which also means “Spring Festival”. It's the most important holiday for Chinese people, we always give blessing to our family, friends or someone we love. We wish you a “Happy New Year”, “May all your heart's wishes be fulfilled” and “May you be happy and prosperous”: “新年快乐!(Xīnnián kuàilè)万事如意!(Wànshì rúyì)恭喜发财!(Gōngxǐ fācái)”.

Health and Safety



By Mr Michael Delcavo,
Health and safety coordinator

“Did you know that a lack of sleep can cause all sorts of negative consequences? Irritability, poor decision making and even weight gain are all possibilities from a poor night's rest. If you want to perform well and feel good, getting a full night's sleep is recommended. If you can keep your sleeping times consistent and stay away from big meals before bed you are likely to feel much better.”

Inquiry corner

Risk-Taker

By Mr Dan Stratford, Curriculum Coordinator

As we progress on our school journey we are making strides towards our vision of becoming an IB World School. Our key focus within our school at this moment is to bring inquiry into the classroom. Examples of what this looks like include 'taking and defending a position', 'solving problems in a variety of ways' or generally 'exploring, wondering and questioning'. We would encourage you to develop these skills at home and to ask your child their perspective and why they think that. The question 'Why?' is key!

We have begun weekly assemblies where we are promoting the IB Learner Profile. We have already covered 'caring' and our current focus is 'risk-taker', with the tag line: 'We try new things'. To this end, in class we have been trying to explore new experiences and this is very much something that can be considered at home. It is important to develop these attributes outside of the classroom so do encourage the students to take new steps outside of school and to be brave!

Upcoming Learner Profile attributes include: balanced, communicator, inquirers, knowledgeable, open-minded, principled, reflective, thinkers.



Taya K1



Cream Y4



Belty Y1



Alex K2