



# Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

22nd May 2015 | ISSUE6



## Dance Party by Student Council

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### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Monday 25th - Tuesday 26th May  
Half-Term Break

Wednesday 27th May  
3pm  
PTA Meeting

Tuesday 23rd - Wednesday 24th June  
Book Fair

### Yearbook 2014/2015

We are issuing a Yearbook for all students to celebrate our academic year. The Yearbook will include sections on staff, students, specialist subjects, classes, clubs, school activities, awards, fieldtrips and graduating students.

If you have a business you would like to promote in the Yearbook, we have advertising available from just 1,000 baht! Please contact the office for more information.

## Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We have just completed the first half-term of Term three and the year has really flown by. Next half-term, we move into a testing phase as we begin preparing for end of year reports which will be issued in the last week of school. These reports will show student progress across the year and are also a good time for students to reflect on their own progress.

Last week, we enjoyed our first Thai merit day. This is a customary celebration that brings to life the students work in Thai language and culture class. It was great to see such a good turnout of parents and the food and items provided will make a real difference to our local community. Thanks again for your generosity.

Our healthy eating month continues until the end of May. Please encourage your children to make healthy choices while at home. It is also important to encourage them to get outside and be active. Child obesity is a growing problem in Thailand and it can only be tackled by encouraging an active, healthy lifestyle.

Finally, we are holding our next PTA meeting on Wednesday 27 May from 3pm. All parents are most welcome to attend. We will be reporting back on some of the issues raised at previous meetings so parents can see what action the school has taken.

Have an enjoyable few days holiday and we look forward to seeing you back next week.

Best regards

*Dr Lindsay Stuart*

Head of School

## Inquiry corner

### OUR INQUIRY JOURNEY

*By Mr Dan Stratford, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator*

The purpose of the IB Primary Years Programme extends beyond the acquisition of knowledge, although that is certainly key! We aim to develop the research and thinking skills of our students so that they have the requisite strategies to learn in increasingly new areas as they develop. This will better prepare them for university and to become lifelong learners as they grow into a world we cannot yet imagine.

The International Baccalaureate's Mission Statement includes the phrase, '[The IB...] develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world.' A key component of our programme is 'Action'. In our school reception you will find our 'Action Board'. This is a place for you to add comments if your child has taken action as a result of their work in school or where you can share interesting conversations that develop at home through their learning.

# Early Years Update

By Mrs Rachel Bernstein, K1 Teacher



Last week the K1 and K2 students put on an assembly for the whole school. They helped to tell the story, 'The Odd Egg' to promote acceptance and open-mindedness in our school. They were a bit nervous on the day, but got some good practice standing up in front of a group of people. Well done K1!

For language we are practicing the names of ALL the letters in the alphabet and learning to recognise them out of order. We are also looking at the letters in our names.

In maths, we are continuing to recognise numbers 1-20. We are being introduced to the terms before and after. We have also been working on recognising patterns and are getting quick at naming the next item in a pattern.

For our Unit of Inquiry, we continue to pick beans from our garden to give to the chef. We are learning the various parts of the plant.



## A Class Act

By Miss Karyn Scimgeour, K2 Teacher

A big week for K2 last week as they practiced and performed a play in Assembly. Together with students from K1 they acted out the story of 'The Odd Egg' which we have been reading in class to promote understanding, acceptance and open mindedness. Although there were some nerves they all did very well. Bravo!!!



K2 have completed their paper patchwork quilt, in which they used various methods to copy or use patterns from nature to create their own images and learn some new artistic techniques. The quilt is on display in the classroom if parents would like to see it. In patterns we have been looking at daily routines and students are creating timelines for their favourite school day, which we will continue to discuss and add to. This helps students to practice recalling and talking about past events, allows them to share their hobbies and pastimes with classmates, as well as highlighting the importance of good hygiene routines.

We went on a shape survey around the school and students were able to find examples of many of the shapes we have been learning about in class. After reading 'The Carrot Seed' again we planted some seeds in an attempt to grow some 'patience' plants and we hope that both our plants and our patience will grow over the next few weeks.



"We're going on a shape hunt!"

# Primary Years Update

By Mr Cormac Johnston,  
Year 1/2 Teacher

Hi everyone! In our UOI the students have been continuing with their focus on local/global sustainability. We have been looking at the issues of poverty and how everyone can make a difference to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We have also been planting different varieties of seeds and flowers and observing and recording their growth. Our balcony garden is looking fantastic and the students have worked really hard on this project.



In numeracy, Year 1 has been focusing on time, counting patterns that involve time, and reading schedules. We will finish up this concept with a project on schedules on Friday. For Year 2, we have been looking at division and multiplication. Students have been practising and consolidating their skills in their math stations by using counters and other objects together with their counting charts.



In English, both Year 1 and Year 2 will be continuing with our journal writing and linking it in with our UOI on the environment. Students have also been learning new vocabulary associated with the UOI, Health Month and various types of food from around the world.

## Year 3 and 4 finishes up its unit, "How we express ourselves"

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Year 3/4 Teacher



The students have been on an amazing field trip to see how advertising happens and why it is important. They were able to make their own radio broadcast and make their own signs.

Students have been expressing themselves in many way and are finishing up the unit with an advertising campaign of their own.

For their next unit they will be learning about who they are. They will look at body systems and how they work together to ensure our health and survival.

In English, the students have been focusing on listening and speaking. They are using bigger voices and making many presentations to show improvement in their speaking abilities. We have been listening to many things in this unit as well, that the students have to process and remember, to develop their listening skills.

Math has been very good as the students have reached a much higher level of comprehension with numbers. They have really understood fractions and decimals and are able to order them on a number line. They have worked through some very difficult concepts for themselves.

## Language and Culture

### Let the Kids Learn Through Play

By Miss Nat, Head Thai Teacher

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**TWENTY years ago, kids spent much of their time playing: building with blocks, drawing or creating imaginary worlds, in their own heads or with classmates. But increasingly, these activities are being abandoned for the teacher-led, didactic instruction typically used in higher grades.**

**...scientists, education researchers and educators say there is little evidence that this approach improves long-term achievement; in fact, it may have the opposite effect, potentially slowing emotional and cognitive development, causing unnecessary stress and perhaps even souring kids' desire to learn. ”**

- David Kohn -

I wanted to share this quote from an article I have read recently. From my experience as a Thai language teacher, this relates to how children best learn language. Language needs to be taught organically rather than by dictated instruction. When children enjoy learning and can connect to their learning they will not only remember the new language but they will use it in their lives. When children are taught by teachers dictating instruction and worksheets the children are not fully aware of what they are doing and will soon forget the lesson. Here at UDIS, students in Thai class learn language through stories and making connections to the world around them.

## Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

We have had an excellent month with the students learning about nutrition and making smart selections of food. We have included what to eat, how much to eat and how to get a diverse diet.

Students have investigated their own fruits and vegetables, made up their own plates of food, and examined pictures to find out what items may be missing to make a more balanced meal.

We feel that good nutrition is highly important for the student's welfare and for their thinking capabilities. As a school, nutrition is a very important subject as we need students to be able to focus during their lessons.

# Dance Party by Student Council



## Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

We are looking for new partners for the coming academic year.  
Please contact the school office if you have a business to promote as part of our CPP.

Find out more on our website  
(<http://www.udoninternationalschool.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  
(for all general enquiries)

Urgent matters: 095 668 9636

Head of School: [lindsay@udis.ac.th](mailto:lindsay@udis.ac.th)

Deputy Principal: [dan@udis.ac.th](mailto:dan@udis.ac.th)

Assisting Principal: [emmi@udis.ac.th](mailto:emmi@udis.ac.th)

K1 teacher: [rachel@udis.ac.th](mailto:rachel@udis.ac.th)

K2 teacher: [karyn@udis.ac.th](mailto:karyn@udis.ac.th)

Y1 teacher: [emmi@udis.ac.th](mailto:emmi@udis.ac.th)

Y1/2 teacher: [cormac@udis.ac.th](mailto:cormac@udis.ac.th)

Y3/4 teacher: [michael@udis.ac.th](mailto:michael@udis.ac.th)

School Secretary: [wannapa@udis.ac.th](mailto:wannapa@udis.ac.th)

Email suggestion box: [suggestions@udis.ac.th](mailto:suggestions@udis.ac.th)