



# Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

5th June 2015 | ISSUE 7



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## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 9th June  
School Photo Day

Wednesday 10th June  
Student Dress Down Day

Monday 22nd - Tuesday 23rd June  
Book Fair

## Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We have a very busy month in front of us as we start looking at end of year reports, our student end of year event and our Yearbook. Our Yearbook will be a celebration of the school's first year and include all our classes, events, ECA's, field trips, teachers, students and parents. To support the production of our Yearbook we are looking for sponsors who would like to advertise in it. Please contact the school office if you are interested in doing so, we appreciate the support.

On Tuesday 9th June we will be holding school photos. We have a professional photography team coming to school to take pictures of each class, and each student. These photos will then be available to purchase through the school office.

Last week we also held a PTA meeting. Thank you to all those attended. This was a chance for us to report back on action that was taking place at the school. At the meeting we discussed the school's outdoor play policy where we have a system of inside or outside play at break times based on the temperature and humidity. We also talked about the timeline for the accreditation of the school and our candidacy application to the IB in October. We also discussed some of the new programmes at the school for 2015 which will include English as an Additional Language (EAL) and Thai as an additional language (TAL). Both of these programmes are intended to support students where Thai or English is not the native language spoken.

Finally, we have noticed that there are children being dropped off before 7:50am in the morning. Before 7:50am we do not have any staff on duty and we are concerned for their safety. If you arrive before 7:50am we ask that you stay with your child until there is a staff member on duty. Thanks for your help with this.

If you would like further information on anything that is going on at UDIS, please don't hesitate to contact the school office or myself. We are always happy to help.

Best regards

*Dr Lindsay Stuart*

Head of School

## Inquiry corner

### The Inquiry Cycle

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

Kath Murdoch's 'Inquiry Cycle' is the process whereby the students encounter and explore in their learning. In the initial Tuning In stage, the students ask what they know about a given area of study and what they want to know. In Finding Out, the students ask how they can discover more about the topic and what resources they may use. Then it's time for gathering what information they can. In Sorting Out, it's time for the students to take stock of the information they have gathered and to think about how they can organise it and make it presentable.

Now it's time for Going Further, when the students will consider whether all their questions have been answered. They will look at whether new questions emerge and how they might present the information. In Making Conclusions, it's time to reflect on the material gathered and presented. How does it inform the original Central Idea and what have I learnt from the process? In Taking Action, the students meet that key aspect of the IB Mission Statement to 'Develop caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world.'

# Early Years Update

By Mrs Rachel Bernstein, K1 Teacher



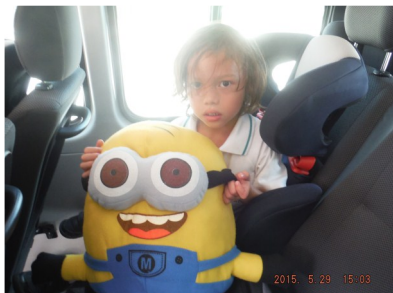
The K1 class is happy to welcome our new teacher Rachel H. to our class. She will be with us for the remainder of the year to help Rachel B. when she goes on maternity leave. Rachel H. will be the preschool teacher in the next school year.

As we are preparing to move on to K2 we have been working hard at becoming more independent and refining our small motor skills. Students have been working on how they hold and use scissors and pencils. They have greatly improved on using their spoons and forks when they eat rather than their hands.

At home, please give your child time to accomplish tasks on their own. If they are struggling to get themselves dressed, put on their socks/shoes or feed themselves try to use words to guide them before jumping into to help. Again, it is really important to allow them time to figure things out on their own. This will help as we approach K2!



By Miss Karyn Scimgeour, K2 Teacher



K2 welcomed Bob the class mascot just before half term and he has already been on adventures with his friends Phee and Max. He is looking forward to another fun packed weekend with Alex. Bob has really helped the students talk about their weekend activities, especially when they are able to share photos of what they have done.

In their continued investigation of patterns K2 have been asking “What is a pattern?” and “What is the difference between a pattern and a picture”. Through experiments, crafts and discussions they have been finding the

answers. They have been trying even more new ways to create patterns and are starting the thinking about the shapes, patterns and themes they like for their final works of art. They will also start to make their own Zen Garden this week, as they explore the emotion of colours and patterns.

We have been creating symmetrical crafts and investigating what makes an object symmetrical as well as how to re-create symmetrical patterns. Now we are starting to look at number patterns and identifying the patterns in simple addition and subtraction problems.

Work has begun on the end of year performance and we are all very excited for the end performance. To help us with our various projects and preparation for the show please can I ask people to send in the following if they have them:

**\*glass jars and bottles \*scrap material \*wire coat hangers \*old magazines and newspapers**

If you have not already please send in an old shirt for arts and crafts as we do a lot of this in K2 and this is a better way to protect their uniform.

Thank you as always for your support!

Miss Karyn, Miss May & Miss Kat



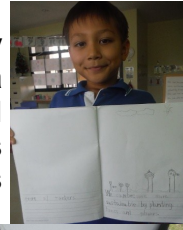
# Primary Years Update

*By Mr Cormac Johnston, Year 1/2 Teacher*

In our UOI the children have completed work on their sustainability park project. They have also been investigating and planting a variety of seeds and flowers. Our new and last unit of this year will be looking at plant and animal life cycles. How plants and animals adapt to various environments which will be a great way to end this school year.

In numeracy, Year 1 has been exploring the differences between 2D and 3D shapes while learning vocabulary associated with these shapes. Year 2 has have been looking at capacity, volume, adding numbers using partitioning and solving word problems. Both Year 1 and Year 2 have also been working on their other math skills such as fractions, sequencing numbers, multiplication and division skills in their math stations.

Our class has been working hard during the last two terms to learn reading strategies and the spelling of sight words. Now students have a chance to put what they have learned into use with more independent work stations in the classroom. Year 2 has been doing a lot of journal writing linked to our unit of inquiry. We have also been looking at reading strategies and conventions in writing and working on our word blends and high frequency words.



*By Mr Michael Delcavo, Year 3/4 Teacher*

The year 3/4 class has started their final unit which is, "Who we are". The Central idea of the unit is, "The effective interactions between human body systems contribute to health and survival".

So far the students have been investigating the different body systems we have, what their function is and what the major organs are. From this we have started looking into some systems with greater detail.

The students are gaining an idea of synergy which is that things working separately are not as powerful as then they work together. So for this section we are looking at taking away a body function to see how well they can perform with the other systems trying to help.

We took away the students ability to see to find out if they were able to complete simple tasks. Pictures are included.

We are wrapping things up for the year and making our recommendations and reports. We have had a very successful year with many

students gaining a greater understanding of the IB and inquiry.



# Language and Culture

## Have you eaten yet?

By Miss Nat, Head Thai Teacher

吃



“吃了吗 (chīle ma?)” ? Have you eaten yet?” is one way to greet people in Chinese style, it shows that they care about you. “吃 (chī)” means eat, or we can say “吃饭 (chīfàn)” which the context means “eat rice” because Chinese people eat rice just like Thai people, so we always added the word “饭 (fàn)” which is “rice” right next to the word “吃 (chī)” which is eat.

In Chinese culture, “eating” is so important, that’s why Chinese people always fastidious about food and drinks. One of the most important activity for the family reunion is “团圆饭 (tuányuán fàn)” which is “Reunion Dinner”.

## What do you want to be?

As we are coming closer to the end of school. Teachers are having students inquire about their future and what they would like to be. We are encouraging all students to dress up as a professional in a certain occupation, a superhero or anything else that they might dream about becoming. Have fun with this and we look forward to seeing a variety of costumes on Wednesday 10th June. Donations for dress down day can be made to the Student Council on the day.



# Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

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- 1 The average human brain weighs about 3 pounds. Compare that to the brain of a sperm whale brain (17 pounds), dog (2.5 ounces), cat (1 ounce), and goldfish (1/333 ounce).
  - 2 The human brain may not be the largest of all brains, but it is the biggest when compared to body size.
  - 3 During waking hours, the brain generates between 10 and 23 watts of power - enough to light a light bulb.
  - 4 Information in the brain travels at speeds of up to 268 miles per hour, faster than the race cars in the Indy 500, unless of course you are drunk, then things really slow down.
  - 5 Your brain is approximately 80% water.
  - 6 Your brain is estimated to have more than 100 billion neurons (also called nerve cells or brain cells), which is about the number of stars in the Milky Way galaxy.
  - 7 Each neuron is connected to other neurons by up to 40,000 individual connections called synapses.
  - 8 Your brain has more connections than there are stars in the universe.
  - 9 A piece of brain tissue the size of a grain of sand contains 100,000 neurons and 1 billion synapses all "talking" to each other.
  - 10 A wrinkled brain makes you smarter! The brain's wrinkles, grooves, and ridges give it more surface area and more processing power.
  - 11 Your brain represents only about 2 percent of your body weight, but it consumes about 25% of the calories you consume, 25% of the total blood flow in your body, and 20% of the oxygen you breathe.
  - 12 Your brain doesn't fully mature until you reach about 25 years of age.
  - 13 Your brain NEVER turns off or even rests, not even while you sleep. Your brain is very active at night, especially during dreaming.
  - 14 Contrary to popular belief, your brain never stops changing and can continue to form new neural connections throughout your lifetime.

**Your brain is the most complicated, amazing organ in the universe! It controls everything you do, feel, and think. Take care of it. Commit to better brain health because the brain is the MAIN thing!**



## Administration - Message from the office

### Wednesday 10th June

Free dress day. We would like students to come dressed as what they would like to do when they grow up. This could be as a doctor, nurse, fire person etc.

### 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.

### Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

We are also 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.

### School photo day

Tuesday 9th June will be school photo day. We will be taking class photos and individual photos of all students. Photos will be available for purchase through the order form sent out to parents or please contact the school office. Please wear your school uniform on Tuesday and, if needed, bring your PE uniform as well.

### Prices for school photos

200 baht for one class photo

200 baht for one individual photo

380 baht for a set of one class photo and one individual photo

## 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)

## Message from our community sponsors

We have a Community Partnership Programme (CPP) for all interested businesses.

Find out more on our website  
(<http://www.udoninternationalschool.com/en/general-information/cpp/>)

or contact the School Office for more information.