



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

19th June 2015 | ISSUE8



IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Head of School	p2
Inquiry Corner	p2
Early Years Update	p3
Primary Years Update	p4
Language and Culture	p5
Health and Safety	p6

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th June
Book Week

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We are into the last month of school and we have been very busy with preparations for the end of the school year. We are currently planning an end of year student event outside the school for Friday 10 July from 10.00am. This event will include an end of year school performance, student performances and prize giving. More information to follow.

End of year reports will also be issued from Tuesday 7 July. Reports will be given to parents at parent-teacher conferences which will be held across the last week of school. We look forward to seeing you all there.

We are currently finalising the recruitment of staff for our next academic year. We will announce our staff lineup for 2015/2016 in the next newsletter. We have some excellent staff joining us and have some exciting announcements to make.

This week we sent home a parent questionnaire to gain feedback from the school year. We plan on sending this home each year so please take the time to complete this and return to the school office. We also sent out an intentions form for students that plan on returning in August so please complete and return this too. The questionnaire and the intentions form help guide our school planning.

Finally, we had our school photo day last week. If you have not ordered any photos from this then please do so at the school office.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School



Inquiry corner

A Concept-Based Curriculum

By Mr Dan Stratford, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

What is the purpose of a concept-based curriculum? Many of the jobs that our students do during their careers have not yet been invented. Technological advances create new opportunities and our students need to have the mental flexibility to be able to work in a constantly developing employment market.

The benefit of a concept-based curriculum is that these ideas transcend time and space and can be applied in various fields. The **key concepts** of the PYP are fundamental ideas that can be applied across the curriculum and each one has a question that relates to it. The concepts are Causation, Change, Connection, Form, Function, Perspective, Reflection and Responsibility.

For each Unit of Inquiry, two or three concepts will be selected and these will be applied to the learning throughout those weeks. For example, if a Unit's concepts were Form, Function and Change, the key questions would be: What is it? How does it work? How does it change? Thus the students explore these ideas and develop deeper understanding throughout their studies.

Early Years Update

By Miss Rachel Hammann , K1 Teacher

This week we welcome our new friend Licha who will be joining us for the remainder of the academic year. We are looking forward to sharing many wonderful learning experiences together.

K1 have been utilising the whole classroom as a rich learning environment, developing their interests and abilities in many different curriculum areas.

Continuous interests have been; creating intricate train tracks, building extravagant block constructions and role play cooking in the home corner.

During these experiences children are developing dispositions of teamwork, sharing and problem solving. Also developing their fine motor skills, creative imagination, and positive relationships from reciprocal, respectful social interactions.

In circle time we have also been learning new rhymes and songs in which children are developing an understanding of direction, actions, and rhythm. Our new favourite is a hand rhyme called 'open, shut them,' which your children will be able to share with you :)



A Class Act

By Miss Karyn Scrimgeour, K2 Teacher

K2 have been looking at texturing and embossing techniques, as well looking at how we looking at different techniques for decorating glass. We also tried our hand at making foam mosaic frames to help students practice before using real mosaic tiles. Having learned so many different techniques it has been great to watch students re-use these in different ways. K2 has definitely learned to be more creative and self expressive.

We made our own Zen gardens after discussing what the different patterns in the sand of a Zen garden can mean as well as the different items we put in there. Students created a colour and shape mood board, choosing their own representations for each emotion. This art therapy technique is a great way to encourage children to be more self expressive and also to understand more about the emotions they are feeling.

We also looked at Batic painting and students started to create work and designs for their final project.



Primary Years Update

By Mr Cormac Johnston, Year 1/2 Teacher

In our UOI we have been investigating life cycles and how plants and animals adapt to their various environments. We have been looking at a savannah and investigating how plants and animals adapt to a hostile environment and what they have to do to survive. We have been comparing plants in colder countries to plants in warmer countries and comparing and contrasting them. We have also been working hard on our life cycles which is due for completion this Friday.



In Numeracy we have been very busy with testing which should be completed by this Friday. The students have worked very hard this year and its great to see them doing so well. We have also been working on our Busy Ants including topics such as adding and subtracting two digit numbers using the expanded written method and solving addition and subtraction problems using various strategies.



In Literacy we have been working on our journal writing topics linked whenever possible to our UOI. The students have also been rehearsing for their play the 9 little pigs and helping to make the props and face masks. We have also been working on our reading and writing strategies.

Year 3 and 4 finishes up its unit

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Year 3/4 Teacher

The Year Three and Four class has really been motoring along with their new unit. They have performed at assemblies showing the rest of the school about body systems and their importance. They also led a dance and a song for the group.

We are looking at one more field trip this year to a hospital where we will speak with doctors about the different organs of the body and learn more about their importance.

Students have been working hard and finishing up and working on some final tests. The improvement in Maths class has been large and the English level has risen. We are very proud of the group and the progress they have made this year.



Language and Culture

Welcome to UDIS Book Week!

ขอต้อนรับสู่ สัปดาห์หนังสือ UDIS

By Miss Nat, Head Thai Teacher

During the school year, most of the books that students read have been arranged them by the teachers and parents.

Sometimes I wonder what books that the children like to choose and read on their own. I would like to share an article about a summer reading List of 31 great books for students, chosen by students.

These are samples of 31 books that students have chosen themselves and some comments from them about why they would like to share a particular book that they've recently read and wish to recommend to other kids their own age. This article was posted by Emilie Soffe.

[Beast Quest: Sepron, The Sea Serpent](#) by Adam Blade

Do you love adventure and a book that makes you wonder? Then this is the book for you!

-Adam Tippett, Grade 5, Forest Hill Public School

[Best of the Best](#) by Tim Green

This book about baseball demonstrates true determination. In it, friends help friends. Good people can make bad people better.

-George Stavrou, Grade 4, Coolidge School

[BFG](#) by Roald Dahl

This is a funny book which shows how two unlike things or species can become friends by being kind.

-George Stavrou, Grade 4, Coolidge School

[Book: The Book with No Pictures](#) by B. J. Novak

It makes my teacher says things she will never say to us. It makes strict people let loose!

-Dominicus Kavanagh, Grade 5 Forest Hill Public School

Do you want to make your teacher act funny and crazy in front of the WHOLE class? Then get them to read this. (Hint: Don't let the adult peek inside first, they need to see it for the first time as they read it to you).

-Lauren Wolfe, Grade 5, Forest Hill Public School

[Bunnacula](#) by Deborah and James Howe

This was such a funny book, after I had read many serious books. I love my pets, and so I could imagine my pets talking just like the animal characters in the book. The dog and cat have such different personalities, and their interaction with each other is fun. I usually don't like vampire books, but this one is different than any others!

-Reagan Brake, Grade 5, Elyria Christian School

[The Cay](#) by Theodore Taylor

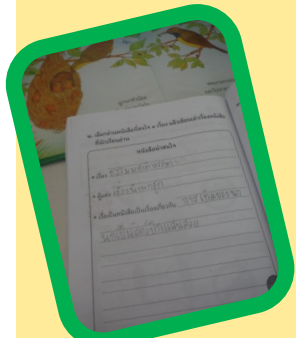
I was surprised by how much I liked this book. It took a while for me to get into this book, but soon, I didn't want it to end. It is the most emotional book I have ever read, and I haven't stopped thinking about it. I want to go to the island that Timothy and Phillip were on.

-Reagan Brake, Grade 5, Elyria Christian School

[City of Ember](#) by Jeanne DuPrau

This book challenged my imagination. I watched the trailer for the movie, and decided not to watch it because it did not match with the way I imagined the world in the book. I thought my version was better and I didn't want to ruin it.

-Reagan Brake, Grade 5, Elyria Christian School



[Diary of a Wimpy Kid](#) by Jeff Kinney

This is a really funny series and almost all of his books are *New York Times Best Sellers*.

-Adam Tippett, Grade 5, Forest Hill Public School

[Fish in a Tree](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

This book is worth reading because it leaves you wanting more. This book also holds valuable lessons. It is also funny.

-Erin Moses, Grade 5, Coolidge School



What books would you want your kids add to the list?

Next: UDIS will have a book week, we are looking forward to sharing our Thai folk stories and literature to everyone.

Let's have a great time!

Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

Here are some amazing things you may not have known about your body.

Amazing Anatomy

- The heart is the strongest muscle in the body.
- The largest muscle in your body is located in your rear end.
- The human neck has the same number of vertebrae as a giraffe's neck.
- There are 22 bones in the human skull.
- The human skull is 80% water.
- The average human head weighs about 8 pounds.
- Your heart is just a bit bigger than your fist.
- The heart pumps 36,000 gallons of blood a day.
- The smallest bone in the body is in your ear.
- The femur (thigh bone) is the biggest bone in the body.



Fascinating Facts



- Your nose and ears never stop growing.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- The air released from a sneeze can exceed 100 mph.
- It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- From the age of thirty, humans gradually begin to shrink in size.
- At rest a normal person breathes 10-15 times a minute. A baby takes about 40-50 breaths a minute.
- Like a fingerprint, every person has a unique tongue print.
- Every time you step forward, you use fifty-four muscles.
- The surface area of a human lung is equal to a tennis court.
- Food stays in your stomach for 2 to 4 hours.
- Your funny bone isn't bone at all. It's a nerve that runs just under your skin in each elbow.

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.

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: dan@udis.ac.th

Assistant Principal: emmi@udis.ac.th

K1 teacher: rachel@udis.ac.th

K2 teacher: karyn@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: emmi@udis.ac.th

Y1/2 teacher: cormac@udis.ac.th

Y3/4 teacher: michael@udis.ac.th

School Secretary: wannapa@udis.ac.th

Email suggestion box: suggestions@udis.ac.th