




Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

3rd July 2015 | ISSUE 9



IN THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Head of School	p2
Inquiry Corner	p3
Early Years Update	p4
Primary Years Update	p5
Language and Culture	p6
Health and Safety	p6
New staff announcements	p7
 Message from Admin	p10

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 7th – Thursday 9th July
Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday 10th July
9am - 11:30am
End of year student party
Prajaktra Design Hotel
(Ceremony starts at 9:30am sharp)

Monday 13th - Friday 17th July
School Office closed

Monday 24th August
First day of school - 2015/2016

Message from the Head of School

End of year show at Prajaktra hotel

Dear Parents

This will be our last newsletter of the 2014/2015 academic year. It is a time to reflect back on everything that we have managed to achieve this year. We had a very humble start in temporary classrooms and it is so great to see how far we have come in such a short length of time. More exciting has been the progress we have seen amongst our students. The end of year reports and portfolios will show the progress students have made this year and we will be presenting these at parent-teacher conferences next week.



To celebrate the end of the academic year, we are holding an end of year student party at Prajaktra Design Hotel. The event will begin from 9am and finish by 11:30am. We will be handing out student awards and there will be a number of student performances. It should provide a fun and entertaining wrap up of this academic year.

One project which has taken the whole year has been arriving at a mission statement to capture our vision for where we want the school to be as a staff. I can share this vision with you now:

Udon Thani International School inspires internationally minded, balanced learners who thrive and become active global citizens.

This statement captures our desire to help develop international mindedness within our students so they can work with and understand people from across the world. We want to develop balanced learners who can achieve academically, socially, culturally, cognitively and physically. Finally, we want to encourage our students to succeed in life in whatever field they choose.

As we approach the end of the academic year, we also say farewell to staff and students that are leaving us. We wish all the best to Cormac (Year 1/2 homeroom), Dan (Deputy Principal) and Ker-Ai (Chinese Teacher) who are leaving us for new opportunities. We also wish Rachel B all the best as she leaves us for maternity leave. We also say goodbye to Leo (Year 4) and Max (K2) who are returning to the UK and View (Year 3) who is heading to Abu Dhabi. We trust that you have enjoyed your time at UDIS and we hope to see you again in the future.

For everyone else, we look forward to seeing you all next year. We have some exciting new staff joining the school which you can read about later in this newsletter. We are also looking for interest from parents in joining our Community Partnership Programme (CPP) for the 2015/2016 academic year. Please contact the school office if you would like to do so.

Thanks again for all your support this year, have a very happy and safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you back again next year.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School

The IB Learner Profile.

By Mr Dan Stratford, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

Balanced, Caring, Communicator, Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Open-Minded, Principled, Reflective, Risk-Taker, Thinker. What is the purpose behind having a 'Learner Profile'? Why do we use a value-based curriculum that advocates certain characteristics?

The UDIS Mission Statement reads: UDIS inspires internationally-minded, balanced learners who thrive and become active global citizens. Education at our school has an ultimate focus on producing a better world and developing students who are active in taking a lead to do so. We want our students to take action which makes a difference!

As we make our journey towards IB authorisation, UDIS joins a worldwide family of schools. Our students will be able to move into any IB school in the world and recognise the curriculum, the style of learning and the purpose. They will also emerge from their schooling with qualifications that hold prestige with the best universities across the globe.

Our Mission Statement aligns with that of the IB, who have developed programmes that *'...encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.'*

Thus we adopt the IB Learner Profile with the aim and drive to create learners who can change and improve the world through their leadership and action.

Personally, I am now completing my time at Udon Thani International School. It has been a period of great personal and professional growth for me and I have enjoyed working with you. The school has a great team in place for next year and I look forward to hearing how you progress. I send my very best wishes to you all for the future.

Early Years Update

By Miss Rachel Hammann , K1 Teacher

The end of the academic year is fast approaching, in K1 we have been rehearsing for our final production with our K2 friends, which is coming together nicely.

During book week, K1 engaged in a discussion of what story they wanted as the theme for our classroom. 'Frozen' was the clear winner. We had a very expressive week through creative art and roleplay, in which the student designed and decorated their own ice castle.

Following our UOI we have been incorporating ICT as a research tool to observe the lifecycle of beans and plants, as well as becoming familiar with the names of different parts of plants and their essential needs for life.

One of our new stories the students have developed an interest in is called 'white rabbit's colour book.' This is a story about colour mixing, in which the students have been engaged in their own experimental explorations with colour.



Once upon a Time in UDIS

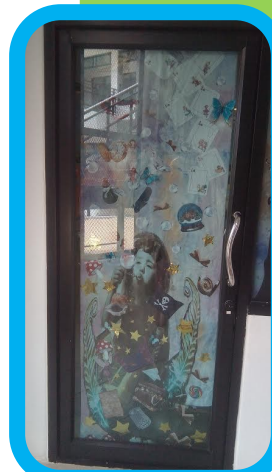
By Miss Karyn Scrimgeour, K2 Teacher

It's an exciting time as the school year draws to a close. Students have been practicing techniques, making designs and will complete their final projects next week. They have been rehearsing for the end of year show, which is really starting to come together and I am sure parents will enjoy watching it as much as we've enjoyed putting it together.



Last week was book week and K2 looked at a variety of different fairytales and had lots of fun role playing the stories, dressing up as different characters and creating a giant frieze to illustrate some of the many stories we looked at. We will be leaving the frieze up until the end of the year so hopefully you will have a chance to come along to the K2 classroom and see what the students have been up to.

I am looking forward to inviting parents to come in and look at the work their children have been doing, as this will also be a good opportunity for students to talk about the things they have learned this term.



Primary Years Update

By Mr Cormac Johnston, Year 1/2 Teacher

Dear parents and students,

This will be my final newsletter as I will be moving back to Europe this coming July. It has been a pleasure to teach your children in the Year 1/2 composite class and they have made huge strides in their learning and their ability to engage with the inquiry process which will hopefully build a strong foundation for their continued learning. I wish all the students and parents the very best and I very much appreciate all your support and positive contributions throughout the academic year.



In our UOI this week we have been completing our Life Cycles projects and presentations and looking at how communities in isolated locations adapt to the local environment. We have also been looking at evolution in relation to humans and the age of the earth and the changes that have taken place over billions of years. We are going on a field trip to the aquarium this Friday to investigate the life cycles of various species of fish.

In Literacy, we have been completing our assessments and ensuring we have completed all of our work. The children have already taken home most of the work they did at school and will complete this, this week or early next week.

In math we have also been finishing our assessment work on our Busy Ants and math stations and have been looking at number questions and how to use our problem solving strategies.

Please ensure you return the appointment slips for the Teacher parent conferences from July 7-9. I look forward to seeing you to discuss your child's progress.

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Year 3/4 Teacher



The Year 3/4 class took a very informative field trip to Bangkok Hospital on June 26th. Students were very engaged in the activities and sights to be seen in the hospital. We were led around the hospital with the staff and a few doctors.



Students were able to look under a microscope to see blood cells. Students also saw diagrams of hearts, the recovery room, the emergency room and saw housing. Many of the students seemed very interested in becoming doctors themselves.



We asked many questions about body systems and what we are able to replace in our bodies. Students were amazed to learn that we can replace hearts and are researching ways to replace a brain.

The students are now working on their final projects that they will complete this week. The assessments have been wrapped up for the students and the feedback good. They have made great strides this year and are ready to move onto the next grade level.



It's tea time!

By Miss Natt, Head Thai Teacher



Chinese people love drinking tea, when you go to their house they will make some tea for you. Conversation and tea is a good combination. “茶 (chá)” is tea, the pronunciation is so similar to Thai. When you drink tea you can say “喝茶 (hē chá)”, “喝 (hē)” means “to drink”.

There are so many types of tea such as “绿茶 (lǜchá) : Green tea”; “红茶 (hóngchá) : Black tea”; “乌龙茶 (wūlóngchá) Oolong tea”; “花茶 (huāchá) : Scented tea” and so on. What is your favorite? 你喜欢

哪一种? (nǐ xǐhuān nǎ yī zhǒng?) .

Health and Safety

Human body did you know

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator



- **Did you know** 11% of people are left handed
- **Did you know** unless food is mixed with saliva you can't taste it
- **Did you know** the average person falls asleep in 7 minutes
- **Did you know** 8% of people have an extra rib
- **Did you know** the smallest bones in the human body are found in your ear
- **Did you know** stewardesses is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand
- **Did you know** that you burn more calories eating celery than it contains (the more you eat the thinner you become)
- **Did you know** all the blinking in one day equates to having your eyes closed for 30 minutes
- **Did you know** your foot has 26 bones in it
- **Did you know** the average human brain contains around 78% water
- **Did you know** your brain uses between 20 - 25% of the oxygen you breathe
- **Did you know** a 1/4 of your bones are in your feet
- **Did you know** your tongue is the fastest healing part of your body
- **Did you know** a 1 minute kiss burns 26 calories
- **Did you know** you burn more calories sleeping than watching TV
- **Did you know** an average person will spend 25 years asleep
- **Did you know** the most common mental illnesses are anxiety and depression
- **Did you know** your skin is the largest organ making up the human body
- **Did you know** enamel is the hardest substance in your body
- **Did you know** the hyoid bone in your throat is the only bone in your body not attached to any other



New staff announcements for 2015/2016

We are sad to say goodbye to Cormac (Year 1/2 homeroom teacher), Dan (Deputy Principal) and Ker-Ai (Chinese Teacher) who are all leaving us for new opportunities. Rachel B will also be leaving for maternity leave.

We are pleased to announce the following staff who are joining us, or who are taking up new positions, for the 2015/2016 academic year.

Staff with new positions



**Deputy Principal & Curriculum Coordinator
Michael Delcavo**

Congratulations to Mr. D who will become our new Deputy Principal and Curriculum Coordinator for 2015/2016.



**Preschool Teacher
Rachel Hammann**

Rachel will be leading our Preschool class in 2015/2016 from her maternity cover position in K1.



**Year 1 Teacher
Karyn Scrimgeour**

Karyn will be moving up from K2 to Year 1 for our 2015/2016 academic year.



**Year 2 Teacher
Emmi Hines**

Emmi will be moving up from Year 1 English and Maths teacher to Year 2 teacher for our 2015/2016 academic year.

New staff announcements for 2015/2016



K2 Teacher
Kameran Lund

Kameran holds a Masters Degree in Education from Tiffin University in Ohio and a Master of Science in Early Childhood Studies from Walden University. He is also completing his PhD Education with a specialty in Early Childhood Brain Development. Kameran has taught in International Schools for over 5 years in Thailand and has experience teaching in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP).

Kameran loves working with young children and their parents to assist each individual child with their unique developmental growth and progress. He is an avid scholar and passionate educator that is always looking for new and innovative ways to bring the classroom to life and encourage young students to explore, take risks, and develop holistically.



Year 3 Teacher*
Liam Chadwick

Liam is a fully qualified teacher from New Zealand who holds a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Elementary) from the Christchurch College of Education and a TEFL qualification. Liam has completed a variety of IB professional development courses and has worked with the PYP for over 5 years. Liam has over 10 years teaching experience from schools in New Zealand and international schools in Indonesia and Vietnam.

Liam has a passion for physical education and outdoor education and has been prominently involved in developing these interests in previous schools. He is also a qualified diver and enjoys diving trips around the world. Liam believes that students need a fun, safe and challenging learning environment where they are developing learning in all subject areas.



Year 4/5 Teacher*
Rebecca Kehn

Rebecca is a fully qualified teacher from the United States. She holds a Bachelor of English and a Masters in Teaching. She has a diverse teaching background in both public schools in the US and international schools. Rebecca adopts a balanced approach in her teaching by providing structured, but flexible, learning opportunities in which students can safely take risks.

In Rebecca's classes, students interact with each other, creating, collaborating, reflecting and growing in a warm, friendly environment. Students are able to develop strong literacy foundations and a lifelong love of learning in a classroom where individual differences and personal growth are celebrated. Carefully planned lessons provide the background upon which students are able to inquire about their world and allow their natural curiosity to propel them forward.

*The composite class for Year 3/4 or Year 4/5 has not been determine yet.

New staff announcements for 2015/2016



Phibzia Siddiqui
EAL Coordinator

Phibzia holds a Master's Degree in Education (TEFL) from the National University of Laos. She has also completed a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and an Advanced diploma in "Early Childhood Development" from ECD-Affiliated Edith Cowan University (Australia). She has 13 years of teaching experience around Asia and has training and experience in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). Phibzia comes to us from a position as EAL teacher at Vientiane International School.

Phibzia has the passion and the energy for English language learning and teaching across all levels of students. She has used a range of teaching strategies to accommodate student's different learning styles and their unique needs.



Chinese Teacher
Wang Yankun

Wang holds a Bachelor degree in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language from Kunming University in Yunnan, China. Wang is a qualified Chinese language teacher with the National Senior High School Teachers' Qualification Certificate. He is proficient in Chinese traditional culture and knowledge and speaks Chinese Mandarin.

Wang is passionate about teaching and is a patient and caring Chinese teacher. He has worked in both China and Thailand before with students from kindergarten to high school. Wang is a devoted teacher and has left his native China so he can help foreigners learn Chinese.



Message from Admin

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to announce our first annual End of the Year Ceremony and Celebration on Friday 10th July. Your child has been working hard on a special performance to show their growth this year. We ask that all students and parents arrive by 9am to Prajaktra Design Hotel for this special event in their school uniform. K1/K2 will need to bring their green clothes (green shirt and green pants) to change into for their performance. Y1/Y2 is divided up in groups for their costumes. The pig group will need to bring a white top and dark jeans or skirt. The wolf group will need to bring a black top and dark jeans to change into. If you have any questions about the clothes for this day, please ask your child's teacher for more details. Refreshments and light snacks will be available during the ceremony, as well. Below is the schedule for the morning event.

Schedule outline	
Time	Activity
9am	Registration open
9:30am	Welcome Song
9:35am	Introduction
9:40am	Head of School Message
9:45am	Message from Representative of School Licensee
9:50am	Multimedia presentation
10:00am	Student awards
10:20am	Morning Break
10:30am	End of year show - K1/K2
10:55am	End of year show - Y1/2
11:00am	End of year show - Y3/4
11:15am	Choir performance
11:20am	Student performance
11:25am	School song
11:30am	Ceremony is completed.

Book Week



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

Assisting 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