



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

16th November 2015 | ISSUE 4

HALLOWEEN

More Photos on page 12



On Friday 30th October we held our second Halloween festival. In the morning our school was overrun with witches, monsters and all manner of horrors from the night. Thanks to all that took part and everybody had a lot of fun at this event.



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 18th November
school closure due to electricity

Monday 23rd November
PTA meeting

Wednesday 25th November
8.20am-10.05am
Loy Krathong

Friday 4th December
Final payment date for invoice

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the second half of Term 1. This will be a busy end of term for us as we head into the end of year holidays. We have our first term reports and parent conferences scheduled for the last week of term as well our Loy Krathong celebration and Christmas Festival.

One of the highlights of our year is our Christmas Festival. We have begun to organise this with the theme of "Santa coming to town." This will be held on Thursday 17th December from 9-12pm. We are actively looking for parents who wish to be involved with the planning and execution of the Christmas Festival. There will be a chance to discuss this at our upcoming PTA meeting.



Our second PTA meeting of the year will be held on Monday 23rd November from 3:10-4pm. We will be discussing parental involvement for the Christmas Festival, playground safety and the Executive Board. We have just completed a Health and Safety committee review of the Early Years playground and we can discuss our findings at this meeting.

The school held its first Executive Board Meeting on Friday 30th October. The role of the Executive Board is to ensure that UDIS provides students with a good education. The Executive Board sets the plans and policies of the school, and oversees the employment of school staff and the management of the school budget. We will be announcing the names of the Executive Board in the next school newsletter.

Finally, the school will be holding its annual Loy Krathong celebration on Wednesday 25th November from 8:20am-10am. We invite all parents to come along and be part of these celebrations with us.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

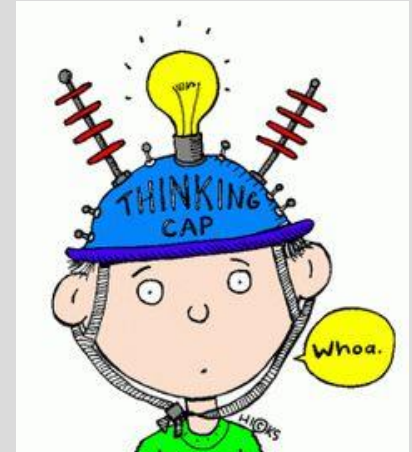
Head of School

Inquiry corner

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

As we know the IB focuses on inquiry. We create the spaces and encourage students to inquire into their own learning. As children are naturally curious, we work with what interests them and make their learning relevant. According to students who are part of the the IB, a worthwhile unit of inquiry has/is...

- Lots of options so kids can choose what interests them.
- Activities that engage you and take your freedom to another level.
- Ways that kids can connect to the inquiry.
- Excursions, incursions, projects, building things, freedom to learn.
- One that students have connections to. Relevance to everyday life.
- Fun, interactive, different materials, getting your hands dirty.
- Freedom for students to inquire into what interests them.
- Enough for kids to explore. Not too small.
- Open ended, so we can figure it out for ourselves.
- Skills and knowledge that will help for the future.
- Freedom to lead your own inquiry.
- Hands on experiences beyond the classroom.
- Complex questions you can pursue without running out of material.
- Enough time to go deep into your questions.



So these are questions we want to explore into make sure we are offering up units filled with inquiry.

- Are their options for the learners to investigate what interests them?
- Are there possibilities for everyone to connect to the learning?
- Do the learners have freedom to explore?
- Is the learning relevant to their lives?
- Is the learning engaging and challenging?
- Are there opportunities for play?
- Is it open-ended so learners can figure things out for themselves?
- Are there opportunities for development of skills and knowledge for the future?
- Does the learning extend beyond the classroom?
- Is there enough time to for deep learning?



Early Years Update

Exploring spaces!

By Miss Jennifer Chapman, Preschool Teacher

Dear Preschool parents,

Welcome back from the holidays!

Preschool had a lovely time getting involved in the Halloween activities and it was so good to see so many parents involved. We really enjoyed going trick-a-treating around school and dressing up. Although some of us found the costumes a little scary!

We are moving fast into our exciting new topic for the term 'Where we are in Time and Place.' In this unit of inquiry Preschool are exploring different areas around school, and what they are used for. We have already been really busy looking around the school, talking about how spaces are used and taking photos to place on the school map.

For our ECA and unit of inquiry work, we shall be using junk modelling to create different building structures and attempt making a model of our school. The Early Years team would like to ask if parents could contribute old cereal, tissue, milk bottles or shoe boxes to help us with our big project. Any help in collecting these items would be fantastic!

The next Early Years assembly is quickly approaching. The focus for our this assembly will be using multi languages in the classroom. Preschool will be performing the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?' by Eric Carle.' To prepared for this the children are working really hard to learn animals and colours in Thai, English and Chinese. They have sorted colours and created puppets to help them retell the story. We look forward to seeing their performance.



By Ms Kaitlyn Hyland, K1 Teacher

We have been having an excellent time learning new songs and practising the beginning sounds of each letter. While we have been assessing each child for individual phonics knowledge, we are covering each of the letters and letting the children have a go at writing the letters. First we practise the letters while only saying the sound, then using tactile sandpaper letters we emphasize the words that begin with that sound. To prepare the hand for the writing grasp necessary to begin writing, the children have engaged in several activities to develop their fine motor skills. Using tongs, chopsticks, and spoons to transfer rice, beans and grains are all good ways to strengthen the hands. Allowing the children to open and close containers and bottles using different sorts of lids are intriguing ways to practice the movements necessary to work with the hands. Another exercise to prepare and support the fingers is to practise cutting wavy, straight and zig-zagging lines. The students have been growing this skill daily.

Our work with geometry this term has had to do with exploring how small triangles can build larger triangles, and small rectangles can build to make large rectangles. We have also looked at how small squares can fit inside one large square; and through investigation the students concluded that smaller circles could not build one larger circle. In Numeracy, we are first assessing individual skills and teaching to the level each child is currently working at. In group work, we are working on one to one correspondence in counting as well as matching number symbols to quantities of things. Several students have been quite impressive in this work.

Our focus this term is on where we are in time and space, with a central idea of orienting to the buildings and faculties on our campus. There are continent, country and Udon Thani maps to help them localize their place in the world, and then the map of the campus to fine tune it. The children have been taking a scavenger hunt around the premises to learn more about the behaviours and equipment in each area. With this we have been showing how to read our campus map, and attaching stickers to the places we visit. The children particularly enjoy our trips to the playground and the swimming pool!

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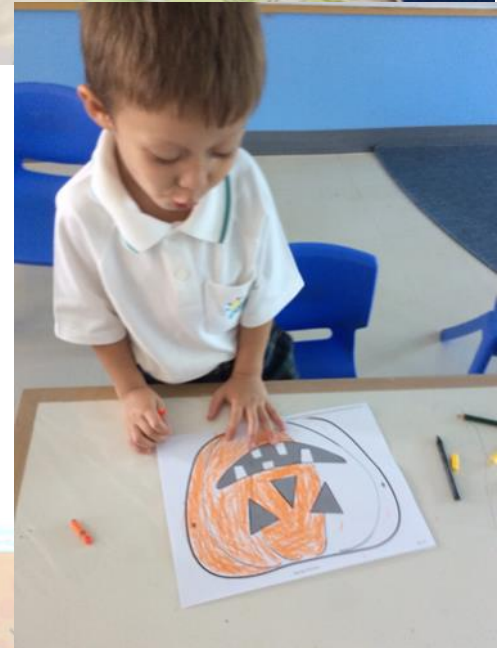
Halloween Fun + Spaces and Uses

By Mr Kameron Lund, K2 Teacher

We had a great Halloween holiday celebration here at UDIS. Our K2 kids dressed as superheroes, cats, monsters and princesses. We walked around the campus and were able to 'trick or treat' at all of the different classrooms. We also had fun playing lots of Halloween games and fun activities. It was a very special day and the kids had a great time!

In our new PYP Unit we are learning about how people use different spaces. This week we walked around campus and talked about all of the fun places we have on campus to play and have fun. The kids then drew their favourite places and shared with their friends what they liked about each space and why they chose it as their favourite. This will be a great unit of inquiry and we encourage parents to talk to their children about their favourite places and why they like them.

Just a reminder that our next Early Years assembly is coming and it will be a great chance for the children to show everyone how they can sing and perform in three different languages! In our Early Years program the children learn how to communicate in English, Thai and Chinese so please come along and enjoy our fantastic assembly.



Primary Years Update

Let's Celebrate Learning

By Ms Karyn Scrimgeour, Year 1 Teacher

There was lots of spooky fun to be had on the second week back at school with lots of preparations for Halloween. Year 1 and Year 2 students are learning about different celebrations as part of their Unit of Inquiry and this incorporates lots of fun while learning. We looked at why we follow certain traditions on Halloween, as well as the similar holiday of Day of the Dead. The students had loads of fun listening to spooky stories, making lanterns, colouring skulls and making puppets. The day itself was full of fun and it was great to see the students, teachers and parents dressed up and joining in with the activities and games.



We have also started looking at the UK holidays such as Bonfire Night (Guy Fawkes) and St Patrick's Day. Students were excited by recreating firework effect pictures and colouring Guy Fawkes masks. We made dancing leprechauns and watched Irish dancing videos while learning a few simple steps. Year 1 and Year 2 are looking at the things people do to celebrate and the traditions they follow from the food they eat to the clothes they wear.

We have continued the celebration theme into our maths lessons and using party place settings to learn to count in 2's 5's and 10's. We have drawn round our hands, coloured caterpillars and learned silly dances and rhymes to help us remember and having a lot of laughs while doing it.



Celebrations and Traditions

By Ms Emmi Hines, Year 2 Teacher

Year 2 and Year 1 has started a new UOI unit focusing on the central idea of: Celebrations and traditions are expressions of shared beliefs and values. This particular unit allows students to take a closer look into celebrations and traditions that are honoured around the world. We are doing this through boxes, art, videos, creative writing, books, acting out celebrations through drama and even creating our own celebration.



By Mr Liam Chadwick, Y3/4 Teacher

Our class has integrated well so far this year. All students work well together and I like to ensure this is ongoing throughout the year. The following is our day generally in class and what we are focusing on at present. Each day is different and being flexible is essential. Any questions you may have please contact the school to make an appointment.

Sharing circle - Morning game,
PYP Attitude = Curiosity. Our focus words for PYP
Learner Profile = Reflective. Our focus words for PYP
Check communication, homework books, Open circle - class discussion, news from teachers.

The morning sharing circle is important for us to start the day. This makes sure we're all on the same page for the day.

Math: We use Busy Ants and work is provided using a variety of resources to compliment each other. We use mathematics groups as students are at different learning levels.

English: We are working on spelling lists, sounding out the words, completing meaning, spelling activities and reading groups. *Reading groups are used to help students at different levels.*

UOI: Discuss the UOI and break down the central idea into student language to create a better understanding. UOI is full class lesson and within the lesson we may share with each other or in groups.

Our daily review - reflecting on the day's goals and achievements.



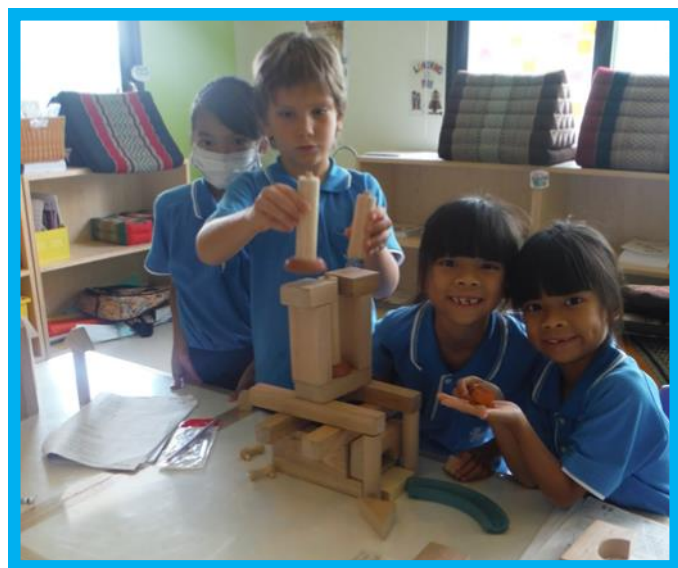
Preparing for Halloween



UOI - Watching and discussing important events to gain an understanding



Group work - words cards



3D shapes - Math

Little Artists

By Mrs Rebecca Kehn, Y5 Teacher

Year 5 students have been immersing themselves in the world of the arts! Our current unit of inquiry, *Art is All Around Us*, explores the central idea: *Throughout history, people have interacted with each other and communicated using the arts.* The students have been very excited about this unit. The following are some ideas students have generated at the beginning of this unit. So far in the unit, students have discussed art, written about art, interpreted art, and, of course, created art!

Student generated definitions of art:

Art is something that humans create using their skills and imagination to express their ideas and feelings.

Art can make us think, make us feel happy, sad, angry, strange, disturbed, crazy, peaceful, confused, and calm.

Art can be amazing, creative, weird, cool, creative, ugly and beautiful

Art forms include: writing, cave paintings, rock art, origami, bush art, carving, clothing, nail art, drama, natural art, flower arrangements, pottery, sculptures, music, paintings, drawings, buildings, architecture, jewellery, photographs, dance, sand art, landscaping.

Anyone can be an artist!

We have been having a great time so far! All of the Year 5 students are extremely creative in their own unique ways, and Miss May and I love watching their imaginations come to life!

What else have we been up to?

The Year 5 students are progressing nicely in all areas. In mathematics they have been working on fractions, multiplication and division. In English they have been working on spelling, reading comprehension, and extended noun phrases, adjectives and prepositions. They have also been drafting stories on Storybird.com. English as an additional language support has begun and we are placing supports in and out of the classroom for students who need additional assistance in this area. Ms Phibs has been working with us to develop systems and individualised lessons for these students. She will focus on supporting the students in the regular curriculum. Students are still very much a part of all the learning going on in the classroom, but given support geared at their unique needs.

Friendly Reminders:

While the Year 5 students are quite responsible with completing their homework, it can be helpful to create a homework routine at home. Children need structure at home in order to complete their homework. It can be helpful to provide them a regular location in your home that is quiet and free of distractions, and a regular time for homework. Encourage your children to complete their homework early in the afternoon, rather than later when they are tired. Thank you for your support with students' home learning.



By Miss Natt, Head Thai Teacher

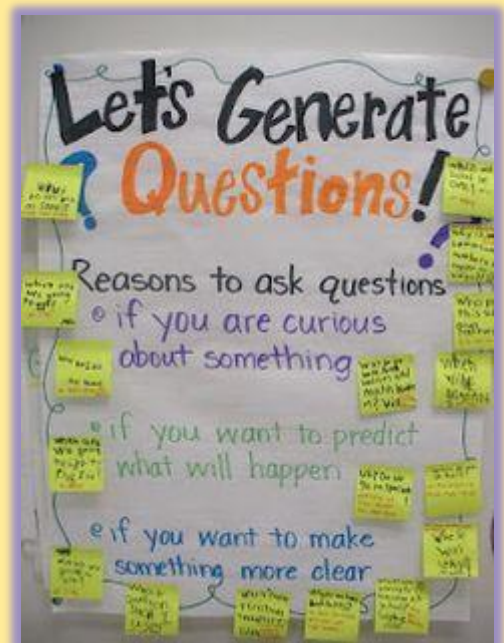
Inquiry Learning : Ask better questions



The Great inquiry teachers know how to encourage students to share their thinking by being skilled listeners and by asking better (not simply more) questions.

The Questions – and how we ask them – can quickly shut down or open up a conversation. The combination of the right questions and true heart-listening can yield our most powerful teaching and learning moments. I am working on how to ask better and more creativity questions with the students. I started from Y5 students in Thai class to teach the students to create the questions. We would like to share our activities that ... we will turn to be the better inquirers.

“Genuine inquiry compels us to listen – to the world, to each other and to ourselves. True listening is so often a victim of the talk-centred, busy world of teaching. How can we better ‘still’ ourselves to listen with our hearts, to hear what is said and unsaid by our students and our colleagues?” Kath Murdoch



Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

At school we are taking care of students in many ways. It is important for us that we are taking precautions, educating children about health and safety, and taking necessary steps to insure well being on the campus.

The Health and Safety Committee has been interested in following up with concerns about the playground and is doing an inspection to make sure we are doing all that we can to make sure students are safe.

We monitor students during breaks and lunch times while they play on the school equipment, we have developed a behavioural matrix which shows good behaviours in different parts of the school, we have trained the teachers to know what to look for, and we do risk assessments on the equipment.

We are also teaching parents and are adding some information here to better the safety on campus:



Playground safety rules that children should learn and understand

- Remind your child that the playground is a public space that they must share with other children.
- Teach your child to remain patient while waiting for their turn.
- Your child should play safely and treat others how they would like to be treated.
- Tell your child to stay away from moving swings and swinging handlebars.
- Remind your child to hold onto any railings.
- Teach your child to always slide down feet first and keep their hands near to their bodies.

As always, please feel free to come and discuss any issues with us at the school. Thanks for assisting us to make the campus a safe place for our children.

Halloween



Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

UDIS operates a Community Partnership Programme (CPP) with local businesses in the Udon Thani area who wish to support the school and its staff and students. Under the CPP, these businesses have offered discounts and benefits to staff and students who present their UDIS ID card.

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

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