


30th November 2015 | ISSUE5



Loy Krathong --> more photos on page 12

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Friday 4th December
Father's Day

Monday 14th—Tuesday 15th December
End of year reports and parent-teacher conferences

Thursday 17th December
Christmas Festival and last day of term

Monday 11th January
First day of Term 2

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We are rapidly approaching the end of the first term and it will be a busy few weeks for us as we prepare for our Christmas Festival and end of term reports.

On Wednesday we held our Loy Krathong celebration and it was great to see parents, staff and students all enjoying our Loy Krathong activities. It was especially great to see some of our students perform and we hope to see more student performances at coming events.

This week, we held our second PTA meeting of the year. We discussed playground safety and the risk assessment we conducted on the Early Years playground. Our playground is designed so that there is some inherent risk within the environment which teaches children to be careful. Of course, we also want an environment in which children are not at risk of being seriously hurt. So, we found that some areas of the playground could be developed to improve safety but that there was no immediate need for change. With staff effectively monitoring the playground we hope to maintain our record of no serious accidents in this area.

Our PTA meetings are also a great chance for staff and parents to work together to develop a community of learning around our students. In this vein, we have added a new Line group of parents and staff and we hope this group can be used by parents to pose questions upon which the community can answer. Thanks to all those who have joined already.

Finally, our end of year Christmas Festival is just around the corner. The theme this year is "Santa's coming to town." We would love to see some parental participation during our celebration. This could be a group dance, musical performance or some form of skit as the children love to see their parents involved in the school. Please get in touch with Emmi, Jennifer or Kaitlyn if you have any ideas for this.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School



Inquiry corner

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

What is Inquiry Based Learning?

Inquiry based learning involves the learner and leads them to deeper understandings. Inquiry here implies possessing skills and attitudes which allows the inquirer to ask questions, seek out new information and generate new understandings.

The dictionary meaning of Inquiry is seeking knowledge, information, or truth through questioning. Every person has a natural inclination to inquiry. For example, infants use inquiry to develop their understanding of their environment, babies naturally turn towards the voices they hear, put things in their mouths, grasp things, and observe faces. The inquiry process is mainly the gathering of information and data through the senses like smelling, tasting, touching, hearing and seeing, and then processing that information to develop new understanding.

Early Years Update

Time to Celebrate!

By Miss Jennifer Chapman, Preschool Teacher

This is a wonderful time of year for celebrations around the world and there are many events happening in the school. This gives us an excellent opportunity for the children to learn about different cultures and their beliefs.

This week we have celebrated Loy Krathong, where the students learned the history of the festival and the importance of looking after the river. It was fantastic to see so many parents and teachers involved. All the Preschool children helped to make a *Krathong* and joined in with the *Rum Wong* circle dance.

Christmas is fast approaching and Preschool are currently learning about the Nativity story in preparation for the Christmas play. I have been so impressed with how well the children have been learning the songs for Loy Krathong and the Christmas play.



The children have been singing in Thai and Chinese for the Early Years assembly where the children will perform Eric Carle's book 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear what do you see?' in three different languages. Preschool has made puppets for each character and will play the part of 'Red Bird' in the assembly. I look forward to updating you about all the upcoming events in my next newsletter.



K1 studies buildings and how they are made of different materials

By Ms Kaitlyn Hyland, K1 Teacher

This week K1 is exploring the fairy tale, 'The 3 Little Pigs' and learning to differentiate building materials that comprise various structures on our campus, in their homes and communities. We have finished our tour of the school campus; connecting staff members to certain locations on campus, ensuring children know all the teachers, cooks, and office personnel. They have had a blast collecting materials to represent different areas of our school and connecting pictures of their teachers with the buildings they occupy. Now we will be sorting hay, wood, brick, tiles and glass to show how you can arrange different elements to create varying compositions.

I have been so impressed with how quickly the K1 students have been learning the lines to their Assembly, Loy Kathong and Christmas songs! They have been tracing stencils to improve their steady writing hand, whilst practising both letter and number formation. The joy in their concentration is apparent from the calm way they have been working in class. Each day in K1 is a new and exciting adventure, with so many new discoveries!



K2 learning about our school

By Mr Kameron Lund, K2 Teacher

In K2 we are learning about different spaces around the school and how those spaces are used. We went on a walking tour of the school and visited all of the different spaces and learned about what they are for and who uses them. The students were then asked what their favourite places were and among the most popular was our soft play room, sandbox, playground, and our play-based learning centers in our classroom. It was great to see the kids walking around campus and exploring the different spaces in our school. They are really becoming great inquirers!



Primary Years Update

Learning to be Thankful

By Ms Karyn Scrimgeour, Year 1 Teacher

We are continuing to celebrate learning through the unit of inquiry and our class has been looking at Thanksgiving. Although only one of our class members is American it is a new experience for the rest of the Year 1 students and teachers. We have learned all about the history of Thanksgiving and how hard it was for the people and how the Indians were very friendly to the newcomers.

We will be ending our inquiry into Thanksgiving with a feast where students and their families can sample some typical Thanksgiving foods, as well as share sometime together while giving thanks for all we have.

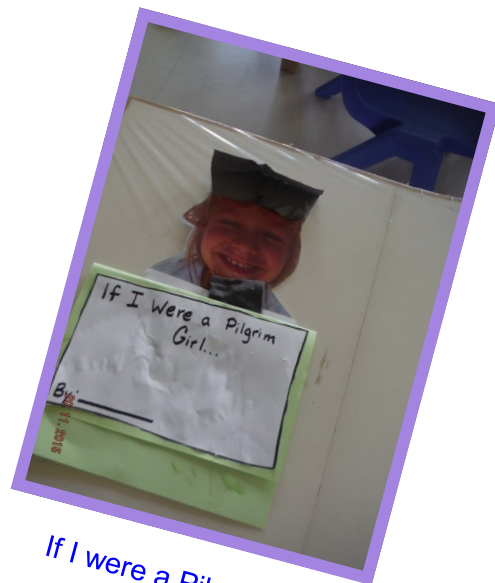
In mathematics we have been reviewing addition and subtraction through games and activities, as well as looking at position and direction. We have had lots of fun with the subject incorporating songs, games, dancing, crafts and much more to bring mathematics to life for the students.

The students understanding of phonics continues to improve and we will be spending the next few weeks looking at the short vowel sounds and learning to recognise them in the middle of words. The children love the active games and board games we play to practice this, as well as learning to blend with the Alphablocks.

We are gearing up for Christmas and are just about to celebrate Loy Krathong so a lot more practical experience for our unit on the traditions and beliefs behind our celebrations. So I look forward to updating you in the next letter.



Making the Mayflower



If I were a Pilgrim girl



Working together to work it out

The meaning of Thanksgiving

By Ms Emmi Hines, Year 2 Teacher

Year 1 and Year 2 are spending time inquiring into what Thanksgiving means, the history behind the holiday and traditions that are associated with this type of celebration. Our students have learned why the Pilgrims first left England and the rough voyage it took to cross the sea to arrive in America. Year 1 and Year 2 have also learned how the Indians helped the Pilgrims survive over the next few years by teaching them how to farm and hunt for food. The best way to show the students how the Pilgrims and Indians came together in a big celebration is to have an actual Thanksgiving Feast. We want to share our learning and our cooking with friends and family as a way to say, "Thank you" for all that you do. This feast took place on Friday 27th November.



Chase writing about being a Pilgrim



Our new hideout



Andrey's Mayflower writing project



What Dean is thankful for



The making of our Teepee

"A community's response to a significant event provides an insight into the history and values of that community".

By Mr Liam Chadwick, Y3/4 Teacher

We have been studying important events and how or what effect they can have on a community. Year 3/4 went on a field trip to the Udon Thani Museum, Ho Chi Minh historical site and the Vietnamese Temple in Udon Thani. This trip was in relation to our UOI and the the Central Idea, "A community's response to a significant event provides an insight into the history and values of that community". There were a number of purposes for the trip where the students can gain an understanding of the history of Udon Thani, how Ho Chi Minh came to live in Udon Thani, as well as the migration of Vietnamese people to Udon Thani. The trip was very successful and a great opportunity for students to gain a better understanding of our Unit of Inquiry.



Little Artists and Grammarians

By Mrs Rebecca Kehn, Y5 Teacher

Year 5 continues to explore their Unit of Inquiry, delving even deeper into the central idea: *Throughout history, people have interacted with each other and communicated using the arts.* The students continued to look at why we create art, and what art can tell us by studying Jackson Pollock and creating Jackson Pollock like art. Students worked in small groups to fling and flick paint on the canvas. Students had a lot of fun expressing themselves, and really got into it. Their creativity really came through. Students will continue exploring the central idea by looking specifically at what art can tell us about culture, beliefs, and daily lives of prehistoric peoples. They will be visiting Ban Chiang Archaeological Site this Thursday.

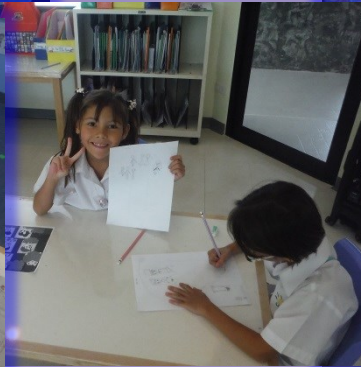
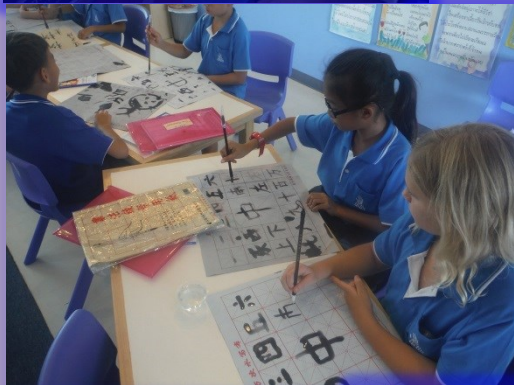
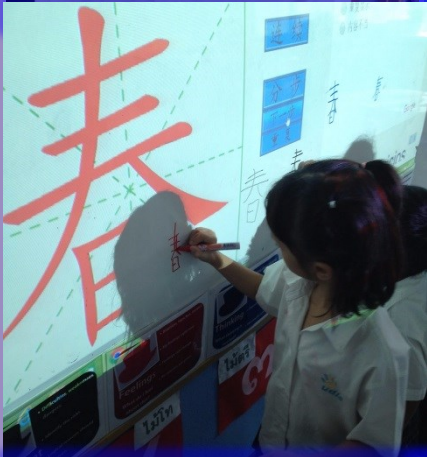
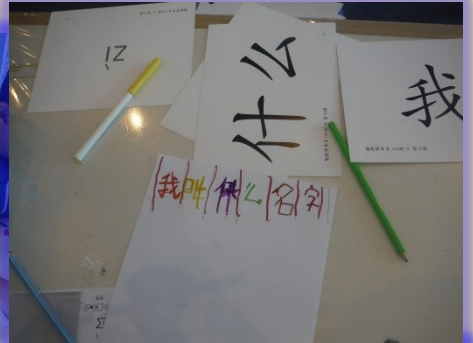
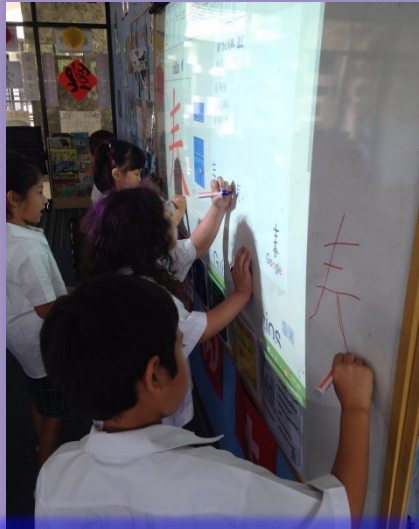
Year 5 students also have been learning about the parts of speech. Our English as a Language support teacher, Miss. Phibs, came in to team teach a collaborative lesson on the parts of speech. As a class, we brainstormed what we already knew about the parts of speech. We then came up with examples of each part of speech and placed the examples in brown paper bags. We will continue to add to our bags of nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns, and interjections throughout the year. Students will also generate original sentences using the parts of speech. We had a lot of fun working together as a team to construct our understanding!



Language and Culture

By Mr Wang Yankun, Chinese Teacher

This week we did lots of amazing things in Chinese which included brush writing, Chinese New Year Festival, Chinese couplets, face description, family tree, geography, daily greetings in Chinese, animals and colours. Students were very interested and we had fun learning together. Let's see all the things they did:



Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

Enjoying mental health means having a sense of wellbeing, being able to function during everyday life and feeling confident to rise to a challenge when the opportunity arises. Just like your physical health, there are actions you can take to increase your mental health. Boost your wellbeing and stay mentally healthy by following a few simple steps.

1. Connect with others. Develop and maintain strong relationships with people around you who will support and enrich your life. The quality of our personal relationships has a great effect on our wellbeing. Putting time and effort into building strong relationships can bring great rewards.

2. Take time to enjoy. Set aside time for activities, hobbies and projects you enjoy. Let yourself be spontaneous and creative when the urge takes you. Do a crossword; take a walk in your local park; read a book; sew a quilt; draw pictures with your kids; play with your pets – whatever takes your fancy.

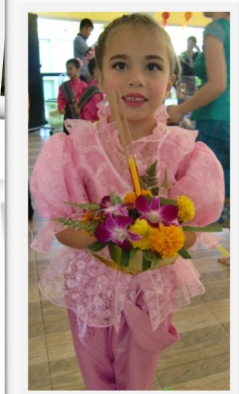
3. Participate and share interests. Join a club or group of people who share your interests. Being part of a group of people with a common interest provides a sense of belonging and is good for your mental health. Join a sports club; a band; an evening walking group; a dance class; a theatre or choir group; a book or car club.

4. Contribute to your community. Volunteer your time for a cause or issue that you care about. Help out a neighbour, work in a community garden or do something nice for a friend. There are many great ways to contribute that can help you feel good about yourself and your place in the world. An effort to improve the lives of others is sure to improve your life too.

5. Take care of yourself. Be active and eat well – these help maintain a healthy body. Physical and mental health are closely linked; it's easier to feel good about life if your body feels good. You don't have to go to the gym to exercise – gardening, vacuuming, dancing and bushwalking all count. Combine physical activity with a balanced diet to nourish your body and mind and keep you feeling good, inside and out.



Loy Krathong Celebration





Message from Admin

Payment of Term 2 Invoices

A gentle reminder that all Term 2 invoices are due for payment by Friday 4th December.

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

School Number: 042 110 379 , 095 668 9636
(for all general enquiries)

Head of School: lindsay@udis.ac.th

Deputy Principal: michael@udis.ac.th

Assisting Principal: emmi@udis.ac.th

Preschool teacher: jennifer@udis.ac.th

K1 teacher: kaitlyn@udis.ac.th

K2 teacher: kameren@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: karyn@udis.ac.th

Y2 teacher: emmi@udis.ac.th

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

Y5 teacher: rebecca@udis.ac.th

School Secretary: wannapa@udis.ac.th

Email suggestion box: suggestions@udis.ac.th