



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

6th June 2016 | ISSUE15

Parents inquiry sessions

We held two parent inquiry sessions over the past two weeks to show parents how we conducted inquiry learning at UDIS. Thanks to all the staff and parents who took part in these!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Book week - 6-10 June

3:10-4pm - Monday 19 June - PTA Meeting

Friday 1 July - End of Year

IN THIS ISSUE :

Message from the Head of School p2

Inquiry Corner p2

Homeroom teacher announcement p3

Early Years Update p5

Primary Years Update p7

Language and Culture p9

Health and Safety p11



Message from Admin p12

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We are rapidly approaching the end of this academic year and it is very busy around the school at present. We have just finished up our Healthy Eating Month and will move into Book week from June 6-10. After that, we are preparing for our end of year graduation event on Friday 1 July.

This week, I would like to announce our new homeroom teaching lineup for 2016/2017. We will retain seven classes next year with composite classes in Year 2/3 and Year 4/5. We are sad to say goodbye to Kameron and Liam who are moving to new schools. However, we are pleased to welcome Bill Bloodgood (K2) and Susan Mitchell (Year 4/5) for our next academic year. We had a long recruitment process and believe that we have secured some excellent teachers to build into our third year at UDIS. You can read more about our homeroom teaching lineup later in this newsletter. We will also finalise specialist and management lineups in the next few issues of our newsletter too.



Two weeks ago, the Executive School Board approved our school fees for the 2016/2017 academic year. This amounted to a 3% fee raise for all categories and a 10% fee raise for textbooks and materials. Our new fee list and invoices for next year will be sent to parents shortly.

We are also hoping to make announcements of our new building plans for UDIS. We have some exciting developments to announce but we are just waiting to finalise a few details first. Thanks for your patience.

Finally, thanks to all parents who attended the parent education sessions. I hope you gained further insight into the teaching and learning at UDIS. I encourage you to stay involved with your child's education and to please ask any questions that you have about our school.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School

Inquiry corner

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

We have recently hosted some parent trainings about the IB. We have been receiving some good feedback from parents and found out things the parents already know about the IB and also some things they want to learn more about. Some of the comments include:

"Learning in the IB is fun"

"Clarifying all knowledge in multiple ways"

"How all subjects are integrated within the same Unit Of Inquiry"

"Have fun and gain knowledge"

"Learning can be fun in the classroom"

"Learning inspires creativity"

"The learning is fed from children's enquiring minds - 'Curiosity'"

"PE is not just a sport but also health in general"

"Maximising the learning of a new topic through all subjects. Which allows students to make connections."

"Allow students to explore their interest. Interaction is 2 ways."

We also had some really good questions and we will be going through these at our next parent education meeting that happened this week.

Please feel free to come and ask questions as you have them.

Homeroom teacher announcement - 2016/2017

We are very pleased to announce our homeroom teacher lineup for 2016/2017. We will have seven classes next year from Preschool to Year 6. Our Year 2/3 and Year 4/5 classes will be composite classes. We anticipate expanding to nine classes for the 2017/2018 academic year.



Preschool - Jennifer Chapman

Jennifer holds a Bachelor degree in Primary Education from Sheffield Hallam University and Early Years Professional Status. Jennifer has worked in schools, Early Years Settings across the UK and childcare centres in Switzerland and Austria. She has come to us from a being a Preschool room leader in the UK and has considerable experience working within the 2-3 year old age range. She has recently completed a TEFL qualification.

Jennifer loves planning hands on child led exploration based on children's interests and abilities, where children learn through play and having fun. She works closely with the children and their families to meet the child's individual needs and areas of further development.



K1 - Kaitlyn Hyland

Ms. Kaitlyn Hyland has been teaching for over 15 years, since her first preschool class at St. Vincent's in 1999. Her Bachelor's Degree is in Elementary Education from Rockhurst University in Kansas City; she completed her AMI Montessori Primary training for 3 – 6 year olds in 2004 and earned her Master of Arts in Education from Loyola at Baltimore in 2006. Her experience ranges from classes of one year olds to third grade classes, and covers every level in between. She recently began a Montessori school from scratch in Denver, CO; which continues to thrive. She has also taught in a prestigious international school in Shanghai, China.

Kaitlyn's favorite part of teaching is when all the hard work pays off and the children start blending sounds to read. "Happy students are what really make the job worthwhile for me; pride in my work and the joy of children growing into good people makes it feel less like work and more like an ever-evolving project aimed at helping people become the best they can". As a mother of three, Kaitlyn recognizes how important her work is and aims to balance the development of academic preparedness and enrichment with self-understanding, peaceful social interaction and a global community awareness. She strives each day to offer an environment of acceptance and trust to inspire each child's personal love of learning. Her hobbies include yoga, reading, and painting.



K2 - Bill Bloodgood

Bill is a certified teacher from California with a Bachelor's Degree in English from Sonoma State University and his Preschool Teacher Credentials from the New College of California. Bill has also completed his Preschool Teacher/Director certification and an Advanced ESL Teaching certificate. He has then spent most of the last 30 years teaching in preschools and kindergartens in the USA and China. With teaching, Bill has found a career which he has found interesting and important and one in which he is continuing to strive to master.

Bill believes that it is important to teach children how to think and learn and to internalise a sense of worth in them that can give them the confidence to pursue their passions. Children also need a set of foundation skills to interact with their world which teachers need to develop in students too. Bill also believes that as a teacher, fun is essential, and that is something he always strives for in his classes.

Homeroom teacher announcement - 2016/2017



Year 1 - Karyn Scrimgeour

Karyn is a fully qualified teacher from the United Kingdom. She has ten years of experience in teaching and mentoring students from infancy to adults. Karyn has previously worked in kindergarten and lower primary positions in Thailand where she gained valuable ESL experience. She also comes to us from a position as a teacher trainer for Scholastic where she was involved with teaching numeracy and early literacy methods to teachers throughout Southeast Asia.



Year 2/3 - Emmi Hines

Emmi holds a Master's Degree in Administration of Education from Grand Canyon University. She also has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Purdue University and is TEFL and ESL certified from the USA. She has 12 years teaching experience in the USA, China and 3 years at our sister school, KPBS, in Khon Kaen. Her passion is helping her students become the best they can be through a variety of teaching techniques.



Year 4/5 - Susan Mitchell

Susan is a certified teacher from Canada with over ten years experience teaching primary, junior and intermediate students in Canada, the United States, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. Susan completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Western Ontario, a Masters Degree from the University of Toronto and her teacher certification from D'Youville College in New York State, U.S.A. She also holds TEFL certification. Susan loves exploring creative new ways to build understandings with students and develop their love of learning. When Susan is not in the classroom she enjoys travelling to broaden her perspective and awareness of diverse cultures and communities.



Year 6 - 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 in Thailand. Rebecca adopts a balanced approach in her teaching by providing structured, but flexible, learning opportunities in which students can safely take risks.

On any given day, 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.

Early Years Update

Preschool class update - Eating a rainbow!

By Ms Jennifer Chapman, Preschool Teacher

The Preschool students have been very busy learning all about eating a balanced diet and eating foods from all colours of the rainbow. They were very engaged in finding which fruits they could include to make a rainbow fruit salad. The students worked hard to practice peeling and cutting fruit which helped develop their fine motor skills. Once the fruit salad was finished the students were very proud to share their hard work at snack time with their friends.

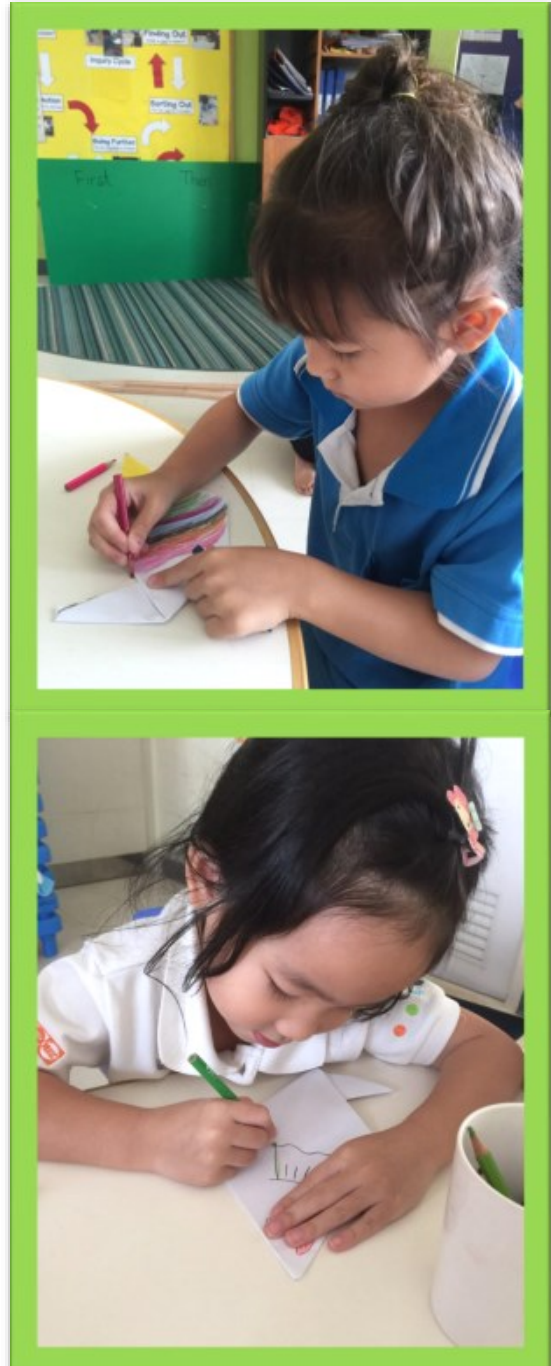


Early Years Update

K1 class update - Animals Everywhere!

By Ms Kaitlyn Hyland, K1 Teacher

K1 has been creating great drawings for our unit on how animals interact with people in different ways. Their drawing skills have been growing with patience, perseverance and practice. Many children have also been practicing to write the names of the animals, as well as sorting the animal picture cards into mammal, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish. They have gotten quite good at noting which animals are vertebrates with backbones and which animals are invertebrates without backbones. We had a special guest this week and all of Early Years was excited because Ms. Ploy brought in her pet dog! The children loved petting and cuddling him, and realised they had to be careful and gentle with their hands, as the dog had been rescued and cared for but was growing old. This was a valuable experience for all the Early Years learning how to interact with a more sensitive animal. Well done, K1!



Primary Years Update

Year 1 class update - Once upon a Time in Year 1

By Ms Karyn Scrimgeour, Year 1 Teacher

Year 2 is closing this UOI unit of "All living things through a process of change" by completing a project that shows their understanding of an animal or plant and all the processes it might go through in completing its life cycle. We have been able to carry the central idea into all areas of learning throughout the day such as mathematics, language subjects and even into our free choice time. Students have made a deep connection with this unit and it has led to many inquiries of their own and questions we are still searching for. Although, we may not have been able to find answers to all our questions yet, we will move onto the exciting inquiry that our next unit will bring. Year 1 has started their new unit of inquiry which is "Learning about previous generations helps us to understand the relationship between the past and the present". We started with Ms Emmi interviewing me (Ms Karyn) about my childhood and looked at what my school was like, how I used to play and what my first memories were. We have invited parents to come in share their childhood memories and artifacts, so we have lots to look forward to over the coming weeks. In the classrooms we are looking at timelines and comparisons and in English we are learning how to structure interview questions and write profiles. We are also eagerly making preparations for 'Book Week' and discussing our favourite stories and characters. We have also begun rehearsals for our 'End of Year Show', which I am certain will be a fantastic event.



Year 3/4 class update

By Mr Liam Chadwick, Y3/4 Teacher

Greetings,

The year is coming to its conclusion rapidly with only four weeks to go. Year 3/4 have been busy as usual with everyone playing their part well in our class. We have had some new additions to the class over the last few weeks and all have settled in well, making new friends and really enjoying the learning in a new environment. It is great to have them in our class. We also recently took a field trip to Phu Fui Lom national park. This was in conclusion of our unit, Sharing the Planet - When interacting with natural habitats humans make choices that have impact on other living things. The park provided a great experience in a natural habitat where students learned about a variety of plants and the DINOSAURS that once existed there. An excellent learning point for students was the question "what do you think happened to the dinosaurs?" There were many great responses, for example that humans invaded their land and took it over meaning they had no food to eat. Overall, a great trip for all. To conclude our unit, students then created a diorama of a natural habitat they had selected to research. They needed to include information about their habitat of choice, what choices humans had made, good or bad in relation to their habitat, and what other living things were affected by human choice. They then completed a brief video recording about this which displayed their understanding the central idea of the unit.



Modern languages - Chinese

Now it is getting close to the end of the year. PY students have just completed unit 5 and are moving into the last inquiry unit of the year. Our EY kids are involved in their last unit too concerning animals. Currently, I am looking for PY students to further develop their Chinese language skills by developing more confidence in speaking Chinese through various activities that are fun, interesting and enjoyable. In China we have a saying that “talented students are trained by a strict teacher.” I trust that our kids have this understanding in Chinese class.



Preschool working on their animals.



K1 finding their animal year!

Language and Culture

By Mr Wang Yankun, Chinese Teacher



Year 1 developing their understanding of Hanyu Pinyin.



Y3/Y4 are learning Chinese culture and have a lot of fun!

Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

Here at UDIS we take health and safety very seriously. We are careful to look after the students under our care and we teach the students about how to be healthy and to look after themselves. We recently completed health eating month which was an excellent opportunity to work with the students about healthy foods they can choose to eat daily. We also looked into many other issues at the school where students can be kept safe from harm.



As part of our commitment to Health and Safety we are sending the Health and Safety coordinator to a training in Bangkok to further develop our procedures and practices. From this workshop we can deepen our understanding and further solidify our policies and procedures at our school.





Message from Admin

Yearbook 2015/2016 advertising (LAST WEEK)

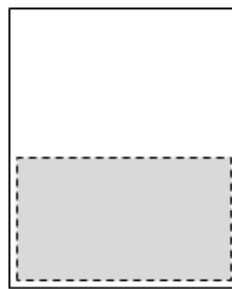
UDIS is launching our annual Yearbook that will document our second year as a school. The Yearbook will celebrate the achievements of our second year as a school and the students, teachers and parents that have been part of it. The Yearbook will include sections on staff, students, specialist subjects, classes, clubs, school activities, awards, fieldtrips and graduating students.

The Yearbook will be given free to all students, parents and to our community as an e-book. Printed copies will be available for sale to those who want them. As such, we are looking for Yearbook sponsors who can advertise their products and services. We have the current advertising space available:

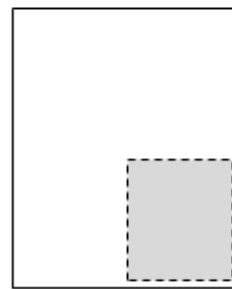
Location	Size	Price
Inside Front cover	A4 (297mm high x 210mm wide)	5,000 baht
Inside back cover	A4 (297mm high x 210mm wide)	4,000 baht
Full page	A4 (297mm high x 210mm wide)	2,500 baht
Half page – horizontal	135mm high x 180mm wide	1,500 baht
Quarter page – vertical	127mm high x 87mm wide	1,000 baht



Full page



Half page



Quarter page

Details

- Adverts are required in any of the following formats: High resolution Adobe PDF/X files (distilled at 200dpi with all fonts embedded) – Adobe Photoshop TIFF or EPS formats at 300dpi or better – Adobe Illustrator EPS files
- Placement is first come, first served.
- 20% discount available for two or more spots, double pages etc.
- 10% discount for parents of the school

Submission

Adverts can be submitted to admin@udis.ac.th with your contact details and desired advert type and placement or contact the School Office.

Please contact the School Office for more information:
Email: admin@udis.ac.th ; Phone: 042 110-379

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

Assistant 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