

29th August 2016 | ISSUE1


Welcome back to 2016/2017



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Thursday 22 September (Assembly)
Teachers day
- 10-14 October - Book week
- 17-21 October - Half term break (Holiday)
- 24 October - Chulalongkorn day (Holiday)
- 25 October - Teachers only day
- 15 November - Loy Krathong
- 1 December (Assembly) - Father's day
- 5 December - HM The King's Birthday (Holiday)
- 16 December (half day) - Christmas festival

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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Welcome back for the new school year at UDIS. It is great to see so many new faces around the school. Each year our student numbers have continued to increase and it has been great to see us provide quality, international education to more and more parents in Udon Thani.

This academic year, we would like to welcome all our new students to the school. We also have Olga (Preschool), Bill (K2) and Susan (Y5/6) as our new homeroom teachers, Donato as our new PSPE teacher and Bang (K1), Koy (K1) and Toyo (Y5/6) as new members of our Thai teaching staff. Congratulations to Apple and Doum who have joined our Thai teaching staff and also Miss Natt who has been appointed the Thai Deputy Director of the School.



This week we held parent meetings to set up the new year and explain where we are going as a school. This year, we have an accreditation officer from the Council of International Schools (CIS) coming in November. This to help determine if we are to gain candidacy in CIS. We also have our PYP advisor visiting in October to check out the school and help us get ready for authorisation in 2018/2019. These will be very important visits for the school to set us up to become an IB World School with CIS. We hope to marry the best curriculum in the world (IB) with the best accreditation (CIS) as we aim to become a leading school in the Northeast.

Finally, an update on buildings. The owners have been working hard to raise funds for these. Currently with the state of the economy, it is difficult to raise money through land sales while banks have been unwilling to lend money as the school has not reached a breakeven point. We hope to make further announcements when we are able.

It looks like we are ready for a great 2016/2017 academic year. I look forward to how this year will turn out.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School

Inquiry corner

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

As school has started up for another year we have been looking into the Units we will be delivering. All classes have begun their first Units and students are getting into the important vocabulary that will assist their learning.

We have posted our "Programme of Inquiry" across from the office. Here you will be able to see all of the current Units we are teaching and find out the central ideas, lines of inquiry, and concepts that are attached to each Unit.

The more familiar you are with the Units the better! So we encourage all parents to take a look at the Programme of Inquiry board, talk with their homeroom teachers about the current topics and feel



Early Years Update

Preschool class update - Settling into School

By Ms Jennifer Chapman, Preschool Teacher

Welcome families to a year which promises to be full of fun, friendships, learning and growth. We are excited to begin our Preschool year with new adventures and ideas. The students are quickly becoming settled into their classroom routines and we have already seen some wonderful friendships develop. During the first couple of weeks we will focus on family, friends and learning all about our classroom environment. We are going to engage in a lot of projects that will help us get to know each other better. We will talk about similarities as well as our differences. Not only do we all look different, but we also have different interests. We will be asking for family input throughout the next few weeks in order to know our families better too.

An update, we hope to have Miss Olga joining us from 5 September, the Thai authorities have been very slow in issuing the paperwork she needs for an employment visa here. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



Early Years Update

K2 class update - K2 A Good Beginning!

By Mr Bill Bloodgood, K2 Teacher

The first couple of weeks in K2 have been productive, educational and, most importantly, fun! Our teaching team has developed a very nice rapport over this relatively short period and the children have all settled in very nicely. We are looking forward to a great year together as the K2 Class (aka: The Dinosaurs! Roooaarr!)



Primary Years Update

Year 1 class update - Making Connections

By Ms Karyn Scrimgeour, Year 1 Teacher

It's been a great start to the new school year and it has been fantastic to meet all of the students. We are really getting to know each other and highlighting our strengths, as well as setting goals for our future learning. As you can see there is a bit of a busy bee theme to our classroom and that is exactly what we have been. Busy learning, having fun and making new friends. We have been making a lot of connections with each other and our learning. Off we go!!!



Year 4 class update—Off to a Great Start!

By Mrs Rebecca Kehn, Y4 Teacher

It's amazing how quickly the first two weeks have gone by! During this time, the Year 4 students have been busy getting used to their new classroom and learning all the routines they will need to know for the year. It's been wonderful to get to know each other, and begin building our classroom community. In addition to learning routines, we have been spending time completing entry assessments aimed at identifying where the students are in reading, writing, and mathematics, completing collaborative art projects, creating essential agreements, writing and talking about ourselves, and engaging in lots of reading and mathematics. We have also begun our first unit Who We Are. We are inquiring into the central idea: The effective interactions between human body systems contribute to health and survival. During the next few weeks we will be learning about the digestive system and the cardiovascular system. It's great to be back at school! We are off and running already!



Modern languages - Thai Language

Sawasdee Ka!

Welcome back to school. We hope you all had a good holiday. We have started a new school year in Thai class with learning Thai language and inquiries that link with the homeroom classes. We also have a lot of fun activities which all the Thai teachers are preparing for students. We are off to a good start from the first two weeks of school. Students have learned to get used to a new routine and are ready to learn more.



English as an additional language (EAL)

Welcome back to school for the new school year. This segment of the newsletter will keep you informed about all our different classes and special activities that we put on in EAL. This week I am introducing students to the new EAL classroom environment. Students are getting used to routines and they are reinforcing their reading, writing, listening and, speaking skills as they work on different activities within EAL and the classroom.



Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

Over the summer holidays, we have been working on making improvements to our playground to ensure equipment is safe for students. We have been looking closely at where students could get parts of their body trapped (head, neck, fingers and feet) and we have filled in those areas.

For instance, some of the areas corrected are shown below:



We have also been careful to watch out for areas that may be wearing down and have done work to fix that. Also seen in the pictures provided below:



Playground safety is a very important aspect of the school at UDIS.



Message from Admin

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

We are finalising our list of CPP partners for the 2016/2017 academic year. In the next newsletter we will list out all CPP partners and the benefits they provide.

If any parents would like to join our CPP programme, please contact our Marketing Officer, Miss PJ (potjanaporn@udis.ac.th)

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

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