

18th October 2016 | ISSUE6

OUR VISION AS A SCHOOL

Our school vision is that UDIS inspires internationally-minded, balanced learners who thrive and become active, global citizens.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

30 November - PTA meeting #3

1 December (Assembly) - Father's day

5 December - HM The King's Birthday
(Holiday)

16 December (half day) - Christmas
festival, End of Term

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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Over the past two weeks, we have been busy preparing for our visit by the Council of International Schools (CIS). A central part of our CIS accreditation is that we have a set of guiding statements that direct the operations of the school. The most important of these is our school vision which is that UDIS inspires internationally-minded, balanced learners who thrive and become active, global citizens. We will be looking at opportunities to discuss this vision with our community this year as this vision guides everything we should be doing at the school.



On Monday and Tuesday, we had Miss Jenni Thompson, our CIS School Evaluation Officer, come to visit the school as part of our CIS candidacy application. This visit was intended for CIS to check the school against the documentation we had provided CIS and to ensure that we were meeting the necessary requirements to gain CIS candidacy. I am pleased to report that this visit went very well, so we will await the visit report and possible next steps. I will report these to you as soon as I know.

We also held a PTA meeting this week and had a good turnout of parents. The PTA report is available later in this newsletter for those who were not able to attend the meeting. We will have one final PTA meeting this calendar year on 30 November. That meeting will be focused on the learning standards we use at UDIS and background to our school reports and parent conferences. I would encourage all parents to attend.

Lastly, we have upcoming Loy Krathong and Christmas events planned. Loy Krathong will be a more restrained celebration this year in light of the King's passing. We are also planning our Christmas event and we will send you more information when we have it.

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School

Inquiry corner

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Deputy Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

Did you know that the IB has three main school programmes? The first level is the PYP (Primary Years Programme) which we offer at UDIS. From there the IB moves into the MYP (Middle Years Programme) and then finishes with the DP (Diploma programme).

The programmes are built upon each other. The main focus in the PYP and the MYP is to gain the skills to think and research on your own. We teach the students information during this time but the main focus is on their skills.

The DP programme is when we get into a lot of material with the kids. The students look more specifically at information to process. DP students have shown to be able to perform at a high level and are ready to get into college. If you have certain colleges in mind for your child you may want to see how they align with the IB. Some students are able to transfer their high school credits into college courses.

Not all students may choose to go the DP route. Every school should offer DP as a possible graduation certificate but also making a general diploma available for students who may not want to push through the DP curriculum.

If you have questions about the IB, please feel free to come and chat with me or send me an email.

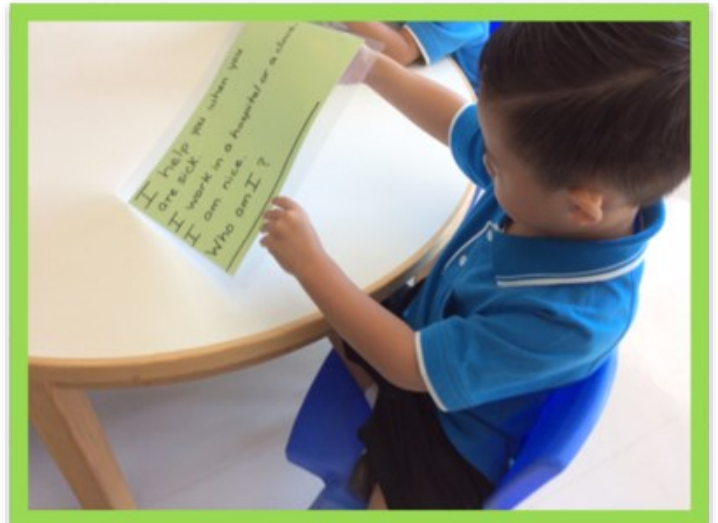
Early Years Update

K1 class update - People who help us

By Ms Jennifer Chapman , K1 Teacher

As part of our new Unit of Inquiry 'How We Organise Ourselves,' imaginative role play will be a focus as students explore the job roles of people in their family, school and local area. K1 have taken a huge interest in being 'doctors' as we set up a doctor's surgery in the classroom. The children were able to look after each other, as well as the dolls and teddy bears, and the children could bandage the dolls and bears that had hurt themselves. The class is also very excited to go on their upcoming, first school trip to the hospital where they can speak to staff about their job roles.

We would like to provide the students with as many opportunities as we can to explore the roles of people within our local community. If any parents or carers feel they would like to come into school to talk about their jobs and give an insight into how they help us, we would be very grateful. The students would love to ask you lots of questions!



Primary Years Update

Year 2/3 class update - Piecing it all together

By Ms Emmi Hines Year 2/3 Teacher

Students are starting to understand why images that each of us see in our environment all tell us something. Our new unit is focusing on the Central Idea of Images communicate ideas and information. We have started to inquire into various images and their meaning to us. Some examples of images are logos, store names and common advertisements. These real life examples help us explore ideas and how we interpret information.



By Ms Susan Mitchell, Y5/6 Teacher

Year 5/6 students have also been solidifying some of their spelling, vocabulary, grammar and oral debating skills. In small groups they have been thinking about the way they decode words and the strategies they use to spell them, as well as the meaning they give words based on their understanding of the prefixes and roots. They have been formulating ideas about opinion, fact, similarities, differences and summary of points to support a particular position.



MODERN LANGUAGES - CHINESE

After half-term break, students did some review to solidify their understandings of their last unit. EY students learned more words and developed their listening skills. In PY, students have been working on their speaking skills. We have now been incorporating Chinese into many of the units of inquiry now. Students are looking at daily communication skills, Chinese culture and how to be open-minded about other societies. Students have had a lot of fun with their new unit of inquiry.



English as an additional language (EAL)

The EAL support programme at UDIS recognises the contribution that EAL makes to the students learning at the school. As such, and in the context of our ever-changing world, the common task of learning English as an additional language unites the EAL students of UDIS by offering a support network, which serves to promote students' enjoyment of learning while facing the challenges of seeking to achieve their personal academic potential. Furthermore, the EAL programme seeks to provide our students with the skills to be confident, global citizens, who are able to interact with the English-speaking community of the world.



Health and Safety

By Mr Michael Delcavo, Health and safety coordinator

As we get into the cold season it is likely that we will have students getting sick Please contact the school if your child is sick and especially if they have been diagnosed with any contagious diseases such as measles, Chicken pox, hand, foot and mouth, RSV etc. It is important for us to look after the entire school population so we want to be careful about contagious diseases and are weary of them spreading around the school.

If your child is not feeling well we kindly ask that you keep them home until they are no longer contagious. The school nurse is always available to chat about these concerns with parents.



On Wednesday 9 November the PTA held its second meeting of the year. At the meeting, the school discussed issues from the previous meetings and the actions the school had taken to resolve these. These included payment of fees, late payment charges, supervision of students after school, development of a parent's cafe, agenda translation, toilets before school opens, late cards, swimming pool maintenance, judder bars and no-smoking areas. The presentation of school solutions did not receive much feedback from parents so the school will consider feedback forms or other ways of eliciting more feedback in the future.

There were also some unresolved issues including combining all extra fees into material fees, parent cards and early entry into the school. No other solutions were discussed for these issues so it was suggested that we could come back to these at the end of the year for consideration next year. We briefly discussed uniforms and the desire that these were worn consistently by all students. We also briefly discussed sports and music and it was suggested that the school could notify students who had a particular aptitude for an instrument/sport which could be followed up outside of school. The school could also look to provide more music and sport opportunities for students too.

Finally, there was some discussion about academic standards and the learning the students were expected to achieve at each level. The school said that this was a good topic to get further into at the next PTA meeting. This would help give parents more information before the reports and Term 1 parent-teacher conferences. There was also discussion about the level of English within the class with EY parents concerned about the preparation for primary.



House Update

This year, we have introduced a House system at the school comprising five house teams. Students have been placed into these teams and able to gain points from classroom activities and school events.

The current house scores are:

<i>House team</i>	<i>Current points</i>
<i>Red House Confucius</i>	50
<i>Blue House Martin Luther King</i>	66
<i>Black House Princess Diana</i>	83
<i>Green House Nelson Mandela</i>	73
<i>Yellow House Mother Teresa</i>	75





Message from Admin

Administration - Message from the office

Term 2 invoices due date Friday 2 December, 2016

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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