



Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

28th August 2017 | ISSUE1

Welcome back to 2017/2018

Teaching Lineup
for 2017/2018 inside!!!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 31 August - EY parent and class meetings
- 4 September - Parent Cafe #1 - Finding out about the PYP
- 21 September - Teachers day event
- 2 October - Parent Cafe #2 - Learning in the Early Years
- 9-12 October - Book week event
- 13 October - King Bhumibol Memorial Day holiday
- 23 October - Chulalongkorn Day holiday
- 23-27 October (1 week) - Half term break
- 30 October - Teachers only day #1
- 31 October - First day of Term 1 Half Term 2
- 2 November - Loy Krathong event
- 6 November - Parent Cafe #3 - Growth mindset
- 30 November - King's birthday (Fathers Day) event
- 5 December - King Rama IX Birthday holiday
- 15 December - Christmas festival event
- 15 December - Last day of Term 1
- 8 January, 2018 - Teachers only day #2
- 9 January, 2018 - Start of Term 2
- 26 January - Sports day event

IN THIS ISSUE :

Message from the Head of School	p2
Inquiry Corner	p3
Early Years Update	p12
Primary Years Update	p14
Language and Culture	p17
Health and Safety	p19
House Update & Parent Café	p20
Community Partnership Programme (CPP)	p21

Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

Welcome back to Term 1 of the 2017/2018 academic year. It has been a very smooth start to the year and it has been wonderful to get to know our new staff, students and parents. This year we have a number of new staff and our full teaching lineup is listed later in this newsletter. In particular, I would like to introduce Mr John Eastham who is our Year 4 teacher but also the new Deputy Principal of the school and also Miss Cynthia who is our new Curriculum, Coordinator. We have a new management structure this year and Miss Emmi will be our new Primary Years Coordinator. We have a very talented lineup of staff across the school and I am sure you will get a chance to meet everybody.



This year we are working towards further developing our guiding principles at the school, beginning to implement our 5 year strategy and working on development work to prepare for our upcoming accreditations. We are on the verge of launching for full CIS accreditation and we are aiming for both CIS accreditation and PYP authorisation in the 2018/2019 academic year.

Our new primary campus is almost complete. As I write this, the builders are finishing up their construction work and we will begin adding the landscaping, external playground and the new furniture and equipment for this building. We will be moving classrooms across gradually but we fully expect that our Year 3-7 classes and specialist classes will have completed the move by the start of the second half term in October.

Finally, we have two parent meetings scheduled, a Primary Years meeting this Friday and an Early Years meeting rescheduled for Thursday 31 August. We look forward to seeing everyone along to these meetings.

Looking forward to a great 2017/2018 academic year!

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School



Inquiry corner

By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator

Most adults have fond memories of school. They remember their friends, the games they played on the playground and favourite teachers remain clear in ones memories too. However, here's a question to ponder: Do our good memories include much about how we learned in the classroom? Many of us would have to say that is not the case. The actual learning that went on in the classrooms is possibly not remembered in the category of good memories of school.

Personally, I remember listening to teachers explain things and then having to copy a lot of content from textbooks. I even had to copy dull paragraphs of the teacher's handwritten notes from an old blackboard! There were grammar exercises which involved inserting missing words, answering endless questions after reading comprehension exercises and memorising spelling lists. I 'learned' a lot of things by simply reciting them to myself.

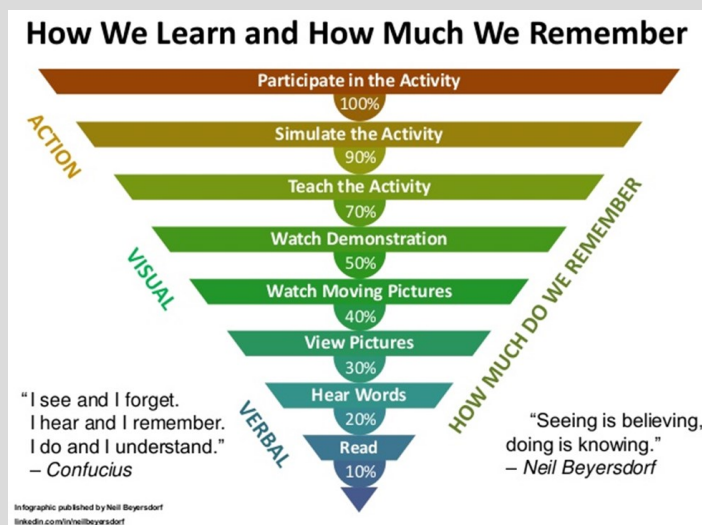
This is kind of traditional education sees students, as empty vessels to be filled with knowledge. It is a model of education that has not changed much for thousands of years. The teacher, who is thought of as 'the fount of knowledge', talks while the students listen.



How much more I could have learned and actually retained if I had been given opportunities to engage in inquiry based learning! At UDIS we believe that children are curious and bring a lot of prior knowledge, skills and experience into school. The role of the teacher is not to present a body of knowledge to the student, but rather to form rich questions which will engage them in discussion and lead them into asking further related questions. UDIS students are engaged in activities which allow them to extend and build upon what they already know. We engage young minds in situations which cause them to begin asking their own questions. Students are then supported in researching answers to these.

As well experienced teachers, we have found that the best learning happens when we put students into situations that arouse their curiosity. This is the heart of what we are about as teachers.

This diagram clearly illustrates how good learning happens.



We are very pleased to announce our teaching lineup for this year.

Management staff



Head of School - Dr. Lindsay Stuart

Lindsay is an experienced school administrator with over 15 years experience working in education in Thailand. Lindsay hails from New Zealand, where he graduated from the University of Canterbury with Bachelor degrees in Arts and Science before completing a PhD in Information Systems. He also holds a Masters degree from Mahidol University in Thailand and a Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Administration from Massey University in New Zealand. Lindsay has an excellent understanding of educational administration, learning and technology and uses that knowledge to guide and shape exciting learning programmes for the students of UDIS.



Deputy Principal - John Eastham

John holds a Masters degree in International Education from Oxford Brookes University in the UK and has taught throughout the primary age range (5 to 11) in the UK, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and most recently in Myanmar. John has worked in a variety of roles including Principal, curriculum leadership and class teaching. He is delighted to join UDIS at a time when it is developing its membership of CIS, and is an IB Primary Years candidate school, as this will ensure quality, international based learning for all UDIS students. John is looking forward very much to being the Y4 classroom teacher enabling students to become active and independent learners.



Curriculum Coordinator - Cynthia Thomas

Cynthia is an experienced PYP educator who has worked in schools in Thailand, Turkey, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom. Cynthia holds a Bachelor of Education Honours Degree (Primary Years) from the University of Nottingham and a Masters Degree in International Education from Sunderland University. She has previously worked with a variety of primary levels in schools including UWC Thailand (Phuket International Academy) and Bilkent Laboratory & International School which are both IB World Schools.

Cynthia enjoys working to develop equality of educational activities with prior work with migrant communities in Phuket. She is also interested in mindfulness, Mathematics and inquiry style teaching and learning.

Management staff



Primary Years Coordinator - 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 16 years teaching experience in both the USA and overseas. Her passion is helping her students become the best they can be through a variety of teaching techniques.



Early Years Coordinator - Jennifer Chapman

Jennifer holds a Bachelor degree in Primary Education from Sheffield Hallam University, Early Years Professional Status and a TEFL certificate. Jennifer has worked in schools, Early Years Settings across the UK and childcare centres in Switzerland and Austria. She came to us from being a Preschool room leader in the UK and has considerable experience working within the 2-4 year old age range. 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.



Deputy Thai Director - Pakanatt Thadruk

Pakanatt (Natt) holds a Bachelor of Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Regional Studies from Chiang Mai University. She has been working as a Thai language teacher for the past 7 years and comes to us from American Pacific International School in Chiang Mai. Natt is also experienced in the PYP, has completed a number of IB courses in her field and is certified as a School Evaluation and Accreditation Visiting Team Member for the Council of International Schools (CIS). Natt teaches Thai language to our students in a holistic fashion involving a number of different activities where the students can inquire and explore.

Homeroom teachers



Preschool - Olga Svyrydova

Olga holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Philology and Translation, a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and is a fully qualified teacher from the Ukraine. Olga previously worked at the British International School of the Ukraine (an IB world school) and the Volksschule Sankt Kathrein am Offenegg school in Austria as an English teacher and Early Years Teacher. She has also completed two official training courses in the PYP and is able to speak Russian, Ukrainian, English and German.

Olga is a warm and caring teacher who takes pride in her meticulous preparation for her classes. We look forward to her adding a European flavour to our staff with her passion and experience with the inquiry approach.



K1 - 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.



K2 - Jo Fletcher

Jo gained a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Early Childhood) from Canterbury University and is a fully qualified teacher from New Zealand. She has over 5 years' experience working in early childhood centers in both Wellington and Christchurch. Working at UDIS is her first experience working overseas but she was previously an international student in Brunei and has travelled widely.

Jo really enjoys working with 3-5 year old children and is passionate about teaching these ages. She loves to know where children are from and ensures this is incorporated into her teaching as she helps children develop their own identities. She is also interested in fashion and computing and seeks to introduce these interests to her students as well.

Homeroom teachers



Year 1 - Jane Sutton

Jane holds a Bachelor degree in Music and teaching from Ripon and York University in the UK. With thirteen years teaching experience in schools across the UK, Cambodia, Norway, China and Taiwan. Jane has considerable experience working with the 3-7 year-old age range as well as coordinating Sports, Music, Art and Phonics. She also holds TEFL certification. Jane is an energetic and caring teacher who takes great pride in her class. She firmly believes in teaching children how to think while building their confidence and allowing them to prosper.



Year 2 - John Kelly

John was born in Glasgow, Scotland, where it is usually cold wet and windy and lived there for the first 16 years of his life before immigrating to Australia with his family. In Western Australia he was awarded a Bachelor of Education at Curtin University. John has taught in Australia, England, Turkey, Thailand, Qatar and Kuwait over nearly three decades. During his time in these various countries he has taught all grades of primary school and worked with students and teachers from across the globe. John is looking forward to returning to Thailand with his wife and son. John considers himself an open, creative, friendly and reliable teacher who is a keen advocate for the development of community within a school. In past schools, he has taken pride in being able to utilise parents in the development of students learning. John believes that students must be engaged, challenged and able to reflect independently and collaboratively about their learning.



Year 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.

Homeroom teachers



Year 4 - John Eastham

John holds a Masters degree in International Education from Oxford Brookes University in the UK and has taught throughout the Primary age range (5 to 11) in the UK, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand and most recently in Myanmar. John has worked in a variety of roles including Principal, curriculum leadership and class teaching. He is delighted to be joining UDIS at a time when it is developing its membership of CIS, and is an IB Primary Years candidate school, as this will ensure quality internationally based learning for all UDIS students. John is looking forward very much to being the Y3/Y4 classroom teacher enabling students to become active and independent learners.



Year 5 - Robert Langridge

Robert graduated with a Bachelor of Education and an Ontario Teaching Certificate from the University of Toronto. He also holds a Bachelor of Physical Education and Special Education Certificates. Robert has over 20 years of experience working in Canadian schools before teaching internationally in China, Egypt and Thailand. Robert is passionate about physical education and is a certified coach in track and field, soccer and volleyball. He has extensive experience in special education where he is trained at identifying the learning needs of students and intervention programmes to help them.



Year 6/7 - Thomas Schuck

Thomas (Tom) comes to UDIS with over 25 years of educational experience in both public and charter schools with experience with the Core Knowledge, Singapore, Cambridge, IGCSE, PYP and MYP curriculums. Tom earned his Bachelor of Arts (Communications) from the University of Colorado and his Master of Arts in Education (Administration and Supervision) from the University of Phoenix. Tom also has a track record of success in school leadership with prior roles from Assistant Principal to Head of School. Parent involvement and student achievement were at the core of his success in providing the best possible education for all students.

Tom and his wife have moved to Thailand to enjoy new experiences and to broaden his classroom experience. Tom has been involved with a number of community organisations and is an active board member of 'Parents Challenge' a group providing scholarships to underprivileged children. Prior to his career in education, Schuck spent 12 years working in the private sector with the Denver Nuggets NBA team, the cable TV industry and advertising. Tom's personal life consists of his wife Christine, and their wonderful children and grandchildren. His favorite sports are tennis, hockey, running, basketball, skiing and of course football.

Specialist teachers



Thai - PY Y4-7 - Pakanatt Thadruk

Pakanatt (Natt) holds a Bachelor of Elementary Education and a Master of Arts in Regional Studies from Chiang Mai University. She has been working as a Thai language teacher for the past 7 years and comes to us from American Pacific International School in Chiang Mai. Natt is also experienced in the PYP, has completed a number of IB courses in her field and is certified as a School Evaluation and Accreditation Visiting Team Member for the Council of International Schools (CIS). Natt teaches Thai language to our students in a holistic fashion involving a number of different activities where the students can inquire and explore.



Thai - EY and Y1-3 - Hattaya Sirito

Hattaya (Doum) holds a Bachelor of Art in English from Udon Thani Rajabhat University in Udon Thani and a Graduate Diploma in Teaching from Santapol College. Doum has worked as a teaching assistant and classroom teacher for 7 years at Paramin School and Tumble Tots in Udon Thani. Doum enjoys reading, drawing, Thai dance and handicrafts.



TAL Teacher - Mrs. Paew Kaewpakdee

Paew comes from the south of Thailand and holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from Ramkhamhaeng University, a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from Ramkhamhaeng University and a Graduate Diploma in Curriculum and Teaching. Paew has almost 15 years teaching experience in schools in Thailand and the Middle East and comes to us as our TAL teacher. She is very organised and reliable and loves to teach both Thai and English to her students.

Specialist teachers



Chinese - Qiuxia Long

Long has a Bachelor of Education (Chinese language and literature) degree from Chongqing University of Education. She is a trained Chinese teacher who has previous Chinese teaching experience in schools in Chongqing. UDIS is the first international posting for Long and the first time she has been to Thailand. Long is familiar with teaching Chinese to both non-Chinese speakers and Chinese language speakers using art, music, pictures, videos and resources. She believes that the best way to teach Chinese is through speaking Chinese to the students. She also enjoys travelling and has hiked in Tibet and did a self-driving tour of Route One in the USA.



PSPE - Donato Nucciarone

Donato is a fully qualified PE and swimming teacher from Canada. He gained his Bachelor's degree in Education (Physical and Health Education) from McGill University and also gained a TEFL certificate from the University of Toronto. He worked in various schools in Canada before setting off overseas and working at Assumption College in Bangkok. Donato operates his own summer camp in Canada and takes an active interest coaching, nutrition, personal development and electronics.

Specialist teachers



Arts and learning support - Dr. Bernie Warren

Dr. Bernie was born in England and has lived in Canada since 1982. He is a trained English, Drama & Dance/Movement Specialist Teacher, holding a BA (Hons.) in English/Drama and a PhD in Psychology/Drama. He has taught Drama, Dance, English, Art and Music in school classrooms and is experienced in working with children with different abilities and learning styles. He also has 35 years of university teaching experience and remains the Professor Emeritus in Drama in Education & Community at the University of Windsor. Bernie has worked as a professional actor, choreographer, dancer, theatre director and musician; is a respected author and a published poet and playwright. Dr. Bernie is a Master Teacher of clown-doctors and has studied Eastern martial and healing arts since 1969 and is recognised as a Qigong & Tai Chi 'master teacher.' He loves teaching, is very successful at motivating students to learn, and above all else ... makes learning FUN



EAL - Phibzia Siddiqui

Phibzia holds a Master's Degree in Education (TEFL) from the National University of Laos. She has also completed a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) and an Advanced diploma in "Early Childhood Development" from ECD-Affiliated Edith Cowan University (Australia). She has over 13 years of teaching experience around Asia and has training and experience in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). Phibzia comes to us from a position as EAL teacher at Vientiane International School. Phibzia has the passion and the energy for English language learning and teaching across all levels of students. She has used a range of teaching strategies to accommodate student's different learning styles and their unique needs.



ICT Coordinator - Richard Slack

Richard holds a Bachelor of Science in Computing and a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education from Sunderland University. He has worked previously in schools in Thailand and Turkey teaching technology to students from different levels. Richard has a particular passion for IT which he used during a successful career in programming and systems management.

Early Years Update

Preschool class update - Our First Week At School

By Ms Olga Sviridova, Preschool Teacher

We are very happy to see our new group of children to start the school year!

This week we took some time to get to know each other and to settle into our routines. The children were actively exploring the classroom corners and the school playground. Slowly we are adjusting to new environment and routines.

It has been lovely to watch the children becoming more settled in their new little world.



Early Years Update

K2 class update - Getting to Know You!

By Ms Jo Fletcher, K2 Teacher

Welcome to our new K2 class! It has been a lot of fun getting to know each other and explore our new classroom - especially the dress up clothing! The class has been showing great teamwork through creating our very own birthday display from natural resources. We went on a hunt outside and each brought back one leaf and one stick. It was a lot of fun painting everything - and it looks fantastic on our wall! We can't wait to show you!

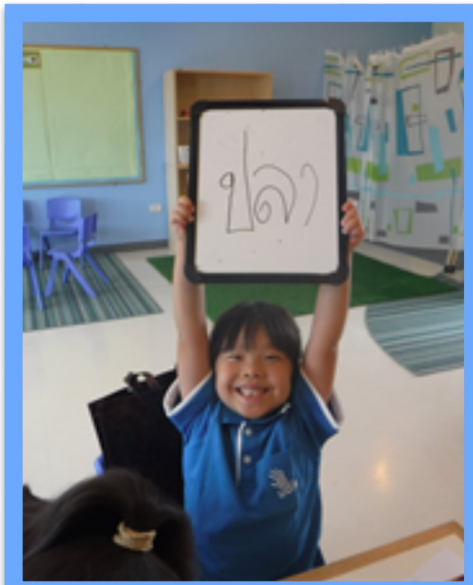


Primary Years Update

Year 2 class update - A Great Start to the Year

By Mr John Kelly, Year 2 Teacher

Year 2 has begun the school year with excited noises and happy smiles. We wrote and drew all about who we are. We introduced ourselves to Mr John, who is from Scotland and is very tall. Miss Jane is our teaching assistant she is from Bung Kan. She likes pink. We will be learning that the choices we make in our life affect our health and lifestyle. In Mathematics our focus will be on place value (learning about the relationship between tens and ones), addition and subtraction, as well learning about the calendar. We have tried to do some writing and are looking forward to reading each night at home. Our Thai lessons are fun and we have enjoyed swimming and PE with Mr. Don



Year 4 class update - An 'EGGSTRAORDINARY' first week for Year 4

By Mr John Eastham, Y4 Teacher

Year 4 have solved a huge mystery by using their, observational, thinking, scientific, mathematical and detective skills. We had a mystery object in class. Could the children work out what it was?



Passing the object around our circle.



What might be inside the bag?



Fragile handle with care!



Close observation was important!

In great style Year 4 were effective Risk Takers observing very carefully and suggesting what the object might be. They were super Inquirers thinking of appropriate questions and lines of inquiry to follow. A very scientific approach was adopted and the students reached the correct solution after much discussion and investigation. Our mystery object turned out to be an ostrich egg from Africa.

Year 6/7 class update - "Year 6/7 is Up and Running"

By Mr Thomas Schuck, Year 6/7 Teacher

Year 6/7 is off to a fabulous start. We have already begun learning about several different aspects of what is expected throughout the year. We have even created our own "Guidelines" of how we are going to accomplish all of our goals this year. Our students are very excited to be the "Role Models" of UDIS, as they realise all the other UDIS students will be watching and looking up to them. We have spent quite a bit of time doing several different activities with working on our "Thinking Skills." Our students have already taken several beginning of the year assessments (Mathematics, Reading and Writing). This will enable me to have a beginning benchmark as to which ability level each student is at in these particular subject areas. We will be starting out our school year in our UOI area with "How We Express Ourselves". We will be working diligently in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies as well as Language Arts this year. Our Year 6/7 class will be actively involved with a great deal of hands-on activities as well as a lot of collaborating amongst ourselves and other classes this year. The students have already shown a great attitude towards learning new concepts and skills, and I am extremely excited and looking forward to working with your child and having a very successful year!

Our Year 6/7 class is the BEST!!!



Let's get started.....



Asking questions.. We are researching..



Great Collaborating...



Let's put our thoughts together.....



Taking action.....



Pride in our work!!!!



MODERN LANGUAGES - THAI LANGUAGE

Welcome back to School

ต้อนรับวันเปิดเทอม

Welcome to our new Thai Teacher "Miss Paew" to UDIS.

In Thai Classes we have already started with several activities in the first and second weeks. In EY we have Thai class in the homerooms to combine the languages and culture within their own environment. In PY classes we encourage our students to be inquirers and also provide lessons about Thai culture and history throughout the school year. We are looking forward to our classes and environment to be well organised, well balanced and promote well-being.

We have enjoyed our first couple weeks in Thai classes very much. The students always come up with great new ideas and opinions. We have been reading in class everyday for 15 mins. We also write for fun in our Thai classes. We are off to an amazing start!



English as an additional language (EAL)

It has been a great first week of school seeing all the children back. I am excited to give my EAL students a new exciting learning experience this year. This year, students will be able to use “I Can” statements and take ownership of their learning. This week we are using a big word “Identity”. Students will draw self-portraits and talk about their identity and also find out about their new friends and introduce themselves. “Me bags” will be sent home for them to add 4 things that represents them as a person.



Health and Safety

By Mr Donato Nucciarone, Health and safety coordinator

A new school year has begun and we are really looking forward to keeping our students, parents and staff safe this year. Recently, our staff attended a private CPR and First Aid training session at Bangkok Hospital. The training allowed our staff to become CPR certified which will allow us to react quickly and effectively during emergency situations at school. In addition, our staff also attended a safeguarding session during orientation week. At UDIS, we work together to ensure students are safe and learning in a positive and caring environment.



House Update

UDIS has a House system comprising of five house teams. Students have been placed into these teams and are able to gain points from classroom activities and school events.

The current house scores are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	6
Blue House Martin Luther King	6
Black House Princess Diana	2
Green House Nelson Mandela	10
Yellow House Mother Teresa	5

**OUR FIRST HOUSE ASSEMBLY
WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 25TH.
STUDENTS ARE REALLY LOOKING
FORWARD TO IT!**

Parent cafe

We would like to launch our Parent Cafes for parents to come and learn more about different aspects of the school from our talented teaching staff. The schedule is below:

Session	Date	Topic
#1	Monday 4 September 3pm	Finding out about PYP - What is it? How is it organised? Parents are invited to take part in an inquiry style learning experience.
#2	Monday 2 October 3pm	Learning in the Early Years. Finding out how children learn at this young age.
#3	Monday 6 November	Growth Mindset - Finding out what this is and how parents can support their children in this area.

The next parent cafe is Monday 4th September with Cynthia. Please mark it on your calendar. It will be a very informative session.



Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

At the Eng Inc August Promotion, UDIS students enjoyed doing a summer camp at Eng Inc.



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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Assistant Principal: emmi@udis.ac.th

Preschool teacher: olga@udis.ac.th

K1 teacher: jennifer@udis.ac.th

K2 teacher: jo@udis.ac.th

Y1 teacher: jane@udis.ac.th

Y2 teacher: john.k@udis.ac.th

Y3 teacher: emmi@udis.ac.th

Y4 teacher: john.e@udis.ac.th

Y5 teacher: robert@udis.ac.th

Y6/7 teacher: thomas@udis.ac.th

School Secretary: wannapa@udis.ac.th

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