

Newsletter

Udon Thani International School

6th September 2017 | ISSUE2



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 21 September - Teachers day event
- 25 September - PTA #1
- 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
- 1 November - PTA #2
- 2 November - Loy Krathong event
- 6 November - Parent Cafe #3 - Growth mindset
- 29 November - PTA #3
- 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
- 29 January - PTA #4

Launch of CPP for 2017/2018

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Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

I hope you are settling into the new academic year well. Over the past two weeks we held two meetings with our Early Years and Primary Years parents. The first part of these included announcements for new initiatives this year and updates on other issues. The second part of these meetings was a chance for parents to meet their child's homeroom teaching team. We hoped parents gained a lot from these meetings and learned more about what is happening this year. Please note that there will be a chance to provide feedback to the school at our first parents and teachers association (PTA) meeting on Monday 25 September. We invite interested parents to please attend.



At the moment we are surveying parents who are interested in using our bus service. This may be a convenient way to avoid the traffic at the Mittrapab intersection while roadworks is underway. If you are interested, please contact the office.

Recently Miss Natt, our Deputy Director, also attended training in Bangkok around accreditation in Quality Assurance. These are great opportunities for our staff to connect with other international schools in Thailand and learn about processes that affect international schools here.

Finally, last week, Miss Emmi, Miss Cynthia, Miss Jen, Mr Don visited Silver Fern International School in Roi Et. The purpose of the visit was to tour their school and begin developing relationships between our two schools. We hope to begin our first exchange with Silver Fern in November with our football team competing at Silver Fern. More details to follow!

Best regards

Dr Lindsay Stuart

Head of School



By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator

Planning for inquiry based learning

Here, in my second article on inquiry, I'd like to continue with the theme of the last one. In that first article I invited readers to think back to their experiences of primary education. I pointed out that most of us did a lot of copying from books and listening to teachers talking. This kind of traditional teaching does not enable students to develop deep and enduring understandings. Now let's think back to all of those occasions when the teacher stood at the front and talked about things that we already knew. Oh, how boring that was! Then there were those times when the teacher introduced topics which we had no prior knowledge of. Do you remember feeling frustrated because the content was too difficult?



Allowing children to learn at a level that is good for them and allowing them to engage in their own inquiries involves a particular kind of planning. It is our aim here at UDIS to find out what the students already know before we start teaching new content. This is a stage of planning we call 'Tuning In'. It is very important to us as teachers to engage students at just the right level of challenge. We don't want to repeat what they already know, neither do we want to make them feel worried because they know nothing about the topic. The aim is to engage each child at their own level of understanding. A unit of inquiry will therefore begin with an activity which is intended to capture the attention of the class, get them talking and demonstrating what they already know. Here's an example:

I recently had a Year four class and our unit of inquiry was about how the systems of the human body work together. As my tuning in activity I asked a local butcher to provide me the internal organs of a pig. I asked that he kept them connected together as much as possible. As you see in the photograph, these students were fascinated and spent most of an afternoon handling the organs, cutting them open and asking one another endless questions about what they saw. As the teacher, I listened to their questions and made a list of the most significant ones. These were then written on the whiteboard. Those questions were organised into categories or lines of inquiry and they became a central part of our unit of inquiry.

The interesting point here is that I did not begin to study biology until midway through secondary school. Throughout the whole of the Advanced level course, I never actually handled any of the organisms I read about. No, I simply read about them! I took notes from just one book. I memorised the notes and copied diagrammes from the book. The students in the photograph above were only nine years of age. At the conclusion of six weeks of study they were able to explain the basic form and function of the human digestive system, the circulatory system or the muscular & skeletal system. I am completely confident that those nine year olds still have an enduring understanding of those systems. This is because the activity thrilled them, it sparked lots of questions in their minds and they were given freedom to simply explore



As the teacher, I engaged in discussion to assess their understanding of what they were handling, and then they were asked to research answers to the questions that they themselves had asked. That is the heart of inquiry based learning.

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

This year we have a number of new CPP partners who are offering discounts to UDIS cardholders. Any UDIS cardholder can visit any of the following establishments and receive discounts when they present their card.

Faroh House Restaurant & Wine	5% discount on food only
Rabiengpatchani Restaurant	5% discount on food only (pay cash only)
Prajaktra Design Hotel	Special rates per room per night for UDIS cardholders
Natt Auto Car (Nissan)	5% discount for car checking services
Prajak Optical	30% discount
Sugar Room	10% discount
Bangkok Hospital Udonthani	10% discount for room charge, medicine and medical supplies
Juno Park	Free 3,000 baht entrance fee
The Pannarai Hotel	15% discount for room rate (compared to walk-in price), 10 % discount for restaurant
Playport Udon Thani	Special entrance fee of 90 baht
I-Genius	Special Discounts - 30% discount for buffet course (5 months total of 30,500 THB) - 10% discount for Private Class
The Rink Iceskate"	Special Discounts - 50% discount for all day entry - Free 30 Minutes course (basic instruction) valued at 500 THB for first time visitor (both parents, students or staff can use) - 10% discount off purchases at the rink

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

"SMART HUB @ Preecha Market"	1. 10% top up discount from occasional discount or regular rate 2. Free 1 time/ month XL Room available up to 50 persons from 9.00am to 9.00pm. A reservation is required with the official documentation from the Head of School at least one day in advance. Parents can request this from the school if they wish to use.
UDON ARCHERY	Free 1 hour of lane hire for UDIS members including staff (must show UDIS Card) 10% discount of food only
Samuay&Son (Food)	5% discount if order food and drink up to 800THB 7% discount if order food and drink up to 1200THB *You must present the UDIS card to receive this discount
Artino Udonthani	5% discount off regular classes.
Dose Factory	5% discount of food and drink
Gray Cabin	5% discount of food and drink
Jammie's recipe Bakery Studio	5% discount (not including at Villa market)
Cafe In Law	5% discount
Eng Inc	Discount of registration fee of 30%



Early Years Update

K1 class update - All about me

By Ms Jennifer Chapman, K1 Teacher

We have had a lovely first few weeks back in K1 and the students have been settling into the classroom and making friends! Our first Unit 'Who We Are' is all about exploring our identity and building positive relationships with the people around us.

Already I have seen the children organise themselves, taking responsibility for their things and becoming more confident to join in with the different learning activities. We have been busy making big paintings and building houses with blocks together with our friends, learning each other's names and the special words 'please' and 'thank you' to use to ask for something. It was great to see some new relationships being built and the children playing so collaboratively.



Year 1 class update - A great start to the year!

By Ms Jane Sutton, Year 1 Teacher

We have had a fantastic first few weeks in school! The children have settled into school life and are enjoying exploring their first transdisciplinary theme **'Who we are'**.

They have been using their communication skills to tell each other about themselves, what they look like, where they come from and what they would like to do when they grow up. They have been using their inquiry skills to find out where their name comes from and what the similarities and differences between them are. A great start to the year!



Year 3 class update - Connections to living things

By Ms Emmi Hines, Year 3 Teacher

Over the last two weeks we have focused on various aspects of living things. Our daily readings have consisted of non-fiction books on animal life cycles. This includes classifications of animals, adaptations to help animals stay alive and life cycles. We have also started to research individual interests on particular animals. This research will help develop sentence structure and organisation of their thoughts. We have also been using Mathematics to incorporate place values of 3-digit numbers, ordering numbers in various ways and quick recall of simple subtraction problems.

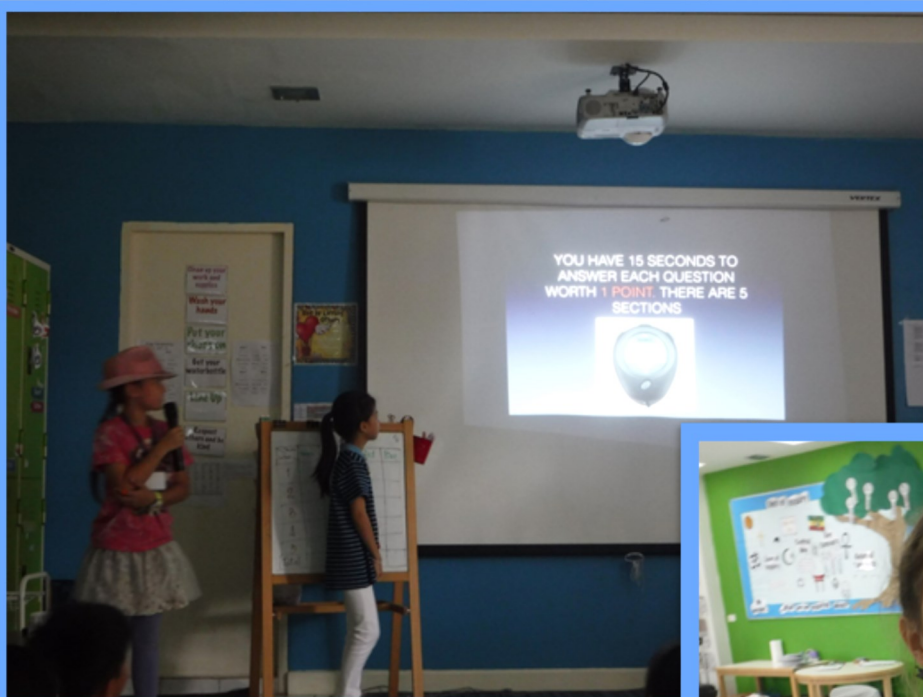


Year 5 class update - Great start to 2017/2018

By Mr Robert Langridge, Y5 Teacher

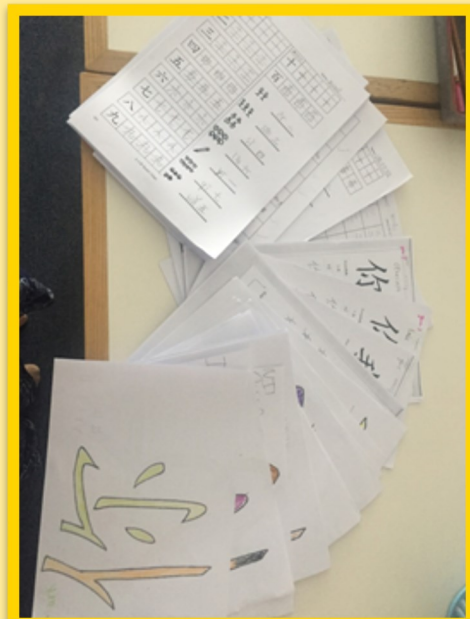
Year 5 students have kicked off a new year in a totally awesome way. They completed several small UOI projects around the main idea of beliefs and values, discussed a variety of religions around the world and an in depth look at Buddhism. They asked very interesting questions during our class discussions such as why do some people believe in God and others do not and who was Buddha? Currently, they are working hard on completing Power Point presentations about a religion or faith they have created by themselves such as Deerism and Ninjaism. They have been able to understand the concepts discussed earlier and incorporate them into their projects very well. The self created images are GREAT!. In addition to these large tasks Year 5 has already completed 2 math tests and used the writing process to write 10 sentences a week as well as assessment in Math and Writing.

We look forward to being involved in many new and interesting projects that are upcoming. Please keep checking the Year 5 Blog for photos and important announcements. Congrats to all students for their great assembly presentation KNOWLEDGEABLE and to **Saoirse Lahiff** for winning the IB Learner Profile Award for Knowledgeable.



MODERN LANGUAGES - CHINESE

We have learned quite a bit during the past few weeks in Chinese class. We explored the unit of "self-introduction" and studied various themes, such as numbers, greetings and basic elements of the language. It was amazing to see the students learn so quickly and use what they learned outside of the classroom. During Year 1&2 lessons, we've been drawing pictures of a specific word. During Year 3-7 lessons, we've been writing different words. Finally, during Year 5 lessons, students practiced teaching a Chinese theme to the class. Students are really looking forward to learning more about Chinese and China as a country during the upcoming lessons!



Health and Safety

By Mr Donato Nucciarone, Health and safety coordinator

This week, I performed a complete playground risk assessment for both playgrounds. Assessments will be done once a month in order to ensure that our equipment is safe for children to use. In addition, teachers who are on duty at lunch and at break times will also be inspecting the equipment to make sure that it is functional and not posing any danger to our children.



House Update

Students have been placed into one of the five house 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	47
Blue House Martin Luther King	27
Black House Princess Diana	51
Green House Nelson Mandela	53
Yellow House Mother Teresa	57



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
#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 2 October with the Early Years Team. Please mark it on your calendar. It will be a very informative session.



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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Y3 teacher: emmi@udis.ac.th

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