

10th October 2017 | ISSUE2

## Book Week at UDIS



### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 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 Café #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

### IN THIS ISSUE :

Message from the Head of School	p2
---------------------------------	----

Inquiry Corner	p2
----------------	----

Early Years Update	p5
--------------------	----

Primary Years Update	p6
----------------------	----

Language and Culture	p9
----------------------	----

Health and Safety	p10
-------------------	-----

House Update & Parent Café	p11
----------------------------	-----

Community Partnership Programme (CPP)	p12
---------------------------------------	-----

## Message from the Head of School

*Dear Parents*

It has been a busy start to the school year and we will be celebrating our book week next week. We will be holding a dressup day on Thursday where staff and students may come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We will also be holding special events every day so it should be a lot of fun.

Over the past three weeks, many of our PY classes and specialists have moved into the new building. We will move across the Year 4 class and the arts room over the next couple of weeks. We are still doing a number of activities to finish off this area but things are looking really good at present. We should be fully operational in the new building after half term break.



In other news, I am sad to announce the departure of Dr. Bernie from the school. Dr Bernie and his wife have had to urgently return to Canada due to medical issues. We will all certainly remember some of the fun arts and wellbeing sessions that Dr. Bernie put on and wish him the best on his return to Canada. Until the rest of term, Mr Rick, our ICT Coordinator, will be conducting technology sessions with our classes to provide students with the skills they will need to support their unit work for the rest of the year. Miss Cynthia will cover an arts session each week for students as well. We hope to have a new Arts teacher in place after half term break.

Finally, two weeks ago we held our first PTA meeting of the year. We watched a short video about what makes an inquiry teacher, introduced the classroom blogs and talked about the upcoming book week. No questions or issues were raised by parents and Mr John spoke about the importance of raising issues in the future so that the school can address these. The next meeting is planned for 1 November.

Best regards

*Dr Lindsay Stuart*

Head of School

## Inquiry corner

*By Ms Cynthia Thomas, Curriculum Coordinator*

Do you remember being a child at school and worrying because the work the teacher had told you to do was too difficult? On the other hand, there were times when we were told to do something that was too easy. How frustrating it was to sit through long periods of whole class instruction time!

In this article I am going to begin discussing how we plan our Units of Inquiry around a structure called The Inquiry Circle. Inquiry style learning always starts with the teacher assessing what the students already know. This initial 'Tuning In' Activity is something which grabs children's attention and gets them talking. As the teacher listens and asks appropriate questions, s/he is able to assess what previous knowledge the students already have. Through observations and notes, the teacher begins to see which children have no prior experience of the theme. Likewise, those who have a good understanding are also noted. In this way the teacher can plan activities to engage groups of students at just the right level.

In this way, no child is left feeling that their work is too difficult or too easy. In a class of children, there is always a great difference in levels of experience, skills and understanding. As teachers who design 'Tuning In' activities we make efforts to engage each child at an appropriate level of understanding.

In the next article I will discuss the next stage in the inquiry teaching cycle, 'Finding Out'.

## Book week!

- This week is Book Week! Asia Books will be in residence in the staff room. Do come and look at the range of books on offer. Children may reserve books during the day and parents may wish to make payment and collect books when they pick up their children at the end of the school day.
- There will be lots of storytelling, reading, roleplay, quizzes and sharing of books in both the English and Thai languages.
- Please send your child to school dressed as a favourite book character on Thursday 12th October. On this day UDIS will celebrate at a special Book Week dress up assembly where children (and adults) are encouraged to come to school dressed as a favourite book character. Please try to enable your child to bring a copy of their book to school as well.
- There is a special photo competition where parents are requested to take a photograph of their child reading somewhere very interesting. Please e-mail your photo to your child's homeroom teacher. (The addresses are at the back of this booklet)
- Competition Teaser.....Can you work out the identity of our 3 Mystery Readers? (This is one of the challenges at school where the children have to try and identify 25 member of the UDIS community reading)







# Book Week!

We are currently planning for the annual UDIS Book Week which will take place in October. We shall share our detailed plans nearer the time but wanted to give parents advance warning of a special event happening **on Thursday 12th October**.

On this day UDIS, will celebrate a special Book Week dress up assembly where children (and adults) are encouraged to come to school dressed as a favourite book character. Please try to bring a copy of the book to school as well!



## Early Years Update

### K1 class update - We are going on a Shape hunt!

*By Ms Jennifer Chapman, K1 Teacher*

It was great to see some new relationships being built and the children playing so collaboratively. In maths this week K1 began looking at recognising 2D shapes and we thought it would be fun to see if we can find any shapes around the school! We went on a shape hunt and were amazed to see that there were so many shapes around our playground. The children noted the windows were rectangles, that there were diamonds in the fence, stars on the climbing frame and our plates were oval shaped to name a few things the children found!



## Primary Years Update

### Year 1 class update - Visit from an Architect!

By Ms Jane Sutton, Year 1 Teacher

To learn more about our Unit Of Inquiry, homes, we invited an architect to come into school to talk about his job. Mr Ek told us about how he designs and builds different homes and he brought in lots of photographs to show us. We found out lots of important information and had a great time building different homes out of card and paper.

***Thank you to Mr Ek, Ms Mon and the Siam Urbana Development Company for giving up their time to come and talk to us.***





## Primary Years Update

### Year 3 class update - All the Places we can Live

By Ms Emmi Hines, Year 3 Teacher

Year 3 have been fully engrossed in our Unit of Inquiry which consists of Earth's physical geography and why people settle in different places around the world. Students have learned about our seven continents, various landforms that we find while traveling and explored a local farm as part of our out of class adventure. Our kids have been able to explore their learning by playing games on landforms, making a landform structure based on a particular country of their choosing and researching facts about particular countries to share with their classmates.



## Year 5 class update - New Discoveries!

By Mr Robert Langridge, Y5 Teacher

### Exploration leads to new discoveries and new perspectives!

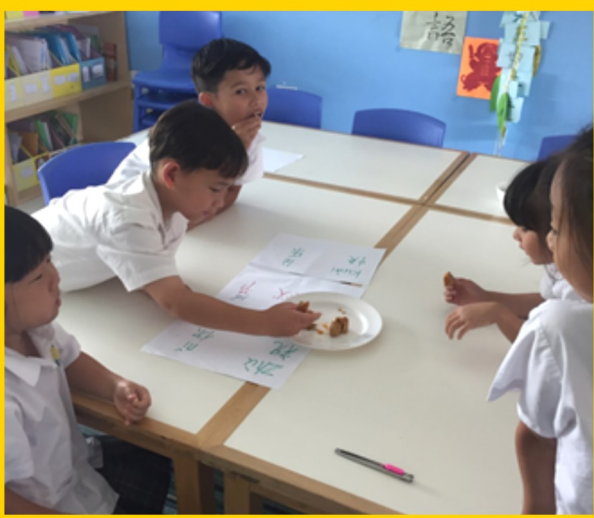
Year 5 continued their journey of self discovery and discovering the world around us. On Monday Sept. 18, Monk Phra Jitr, who is well known throughout Thailand came to visit Year 5. He talked about his life as a successful businessman in Bangkok, and why he gave it all up to become a monk. He discussed why he made this huge change in his life, the steps he took towards being a monk, the difficulties associated with this life choice, and how he uses the idea of MERIT to help others and achieve happiness. Students were very engaged and respectful, and generated some great inquiry questions. The following Monday, Sept. 25, Year 5 made the 55 km. journey to Ban Nong Kung School, to interact with the students there in a variety of teacher and Year 5 student led programs. Through the students reflections it was evident they enjoyed this experience, made some new friends, and appreciated their school and home community from a new perspective. Year 5 did a great job as being ambassadors for UDIS and we look forward to six students from BNK School, visiting our class and participating in the program for Monday, Oct. 9





## MODERN LANGUAGES - CHINESE

In the past couple of weeks, not only did we learn about Chinese language, but we also learned about Chinese culture. We started learning to draw using Chinese ink and brush which all the students really enjoyed and got excited over. We also learned about the "Moon Festival" and the legends, customs and symbols associated with the festival. Finally, we enjoyed moon cake and expressed our best wishes to each other.

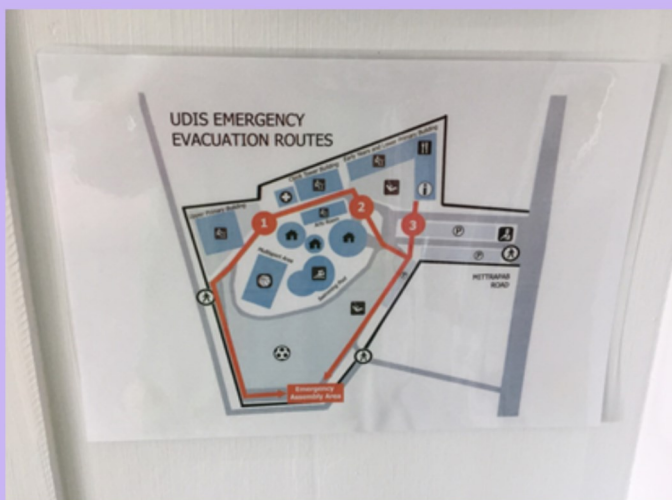
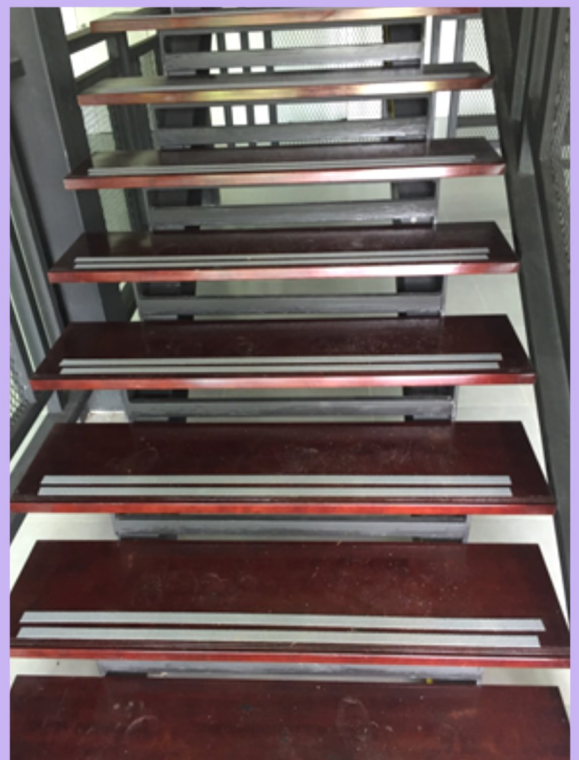


## Health and Safety

*By Mr Donato Nucciarone, Health and safety coordinator*

Most classes have moved into the new primary building. Last week, Mr. Don installed “anti-slip” tape on the new stairs. In addition, posters have been hung to remind students to keep to the left when walking up and down the stairs. Moreover, Mr. Don also posted the new evacuation routes and emergency contact information in each classroom.

Finally, construction for the flooring in the new gymnasium has begun. Once the flooring is done, students will be able to partake in PE lessons inside the gymnasium. The gymnasium will provide students with much needed shade during lessons.





## House Update

Last Thursday, we had our first house event of the year. The five teams competed in two relay races. Students and teachers had a lot of fun. One of the benefits of the house teams is that students form new friendships with children from various year levels.

The current house scores are:

House team	Current points
Red House Confucius	168
Blue House Martin Luther King	88
Black House Princess Diana	129
Green House Nelson Mandela	160
Yellow House Mother Teresa	133



## 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
#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 6 November 'Growth Mindset' with Miss Cynthia. Please mark it on your calendar. It will be a very informative session.**



## Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

**Welcome Pingu English School  
to our school's community partnership Programme(CPP)**





## 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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Y6/7 teacher: [thomas@udis.ac.th](mailto:thomas@udis.ac.th)

School Secretary: [wannapa@udis.ac.th](mailto:wannapa@udis.ac.th)

Email suggestion box: [suggestions@udis.ac.th](mailto:suggestions@udis.ac.th)