



# FOOTPRINTS

*The official newsletter of the Adventist International Mission School (AIMS)*

August - October 2011

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## From the Administrator's Desk



**A**IMS students recently completed the Northwest Evaluation Association Measurement of Academic Progress (NWEA-MAP). This is the standardized test that has replaced the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (IOWA). MAP testing is done electronically and results are returned promptly. The tests are appropriate for students of all nationalities and the designers have eliminated cultural bias. So far, we are pleased with the format, areas of testing and the technical and directional support. Teachers are learning how to effectively use the testing results to guide instruction. Student results will be discussed with you at our PTC meeting on February 5, 2012. We encourage all of our parents to attend.

On that note, Dr. Penny, one of our speakers last school year, will be the speaker and facilitator at our February 5 PTC meeting. She is returning by popular demand. Indeed, her presentations are not only beneficial to parents and teachers, but practical as well. There will be two presentations: kindergarten to grade 6 and grades 7 – 12. It is something to look forward to.

For those of you who would like to get the 2010-11 Christmas DVDs, you can buy them from the cashier. The cost is 100 baht.

## It's Thai Culture Day at AIMS



**I**n the morning of September 7, AIMS held the "Thai Culture Day." But what was meaningful and interesting about this program was it did not only feature Thai culture but it presented the cultures of several Asian countries as well.

The program started with a famous Chinese song and a folk tale from Teacher Helen's Grade 11 Chinese class. A traditional Thai dance followed. To add more emphasis on Thai culture, three types of "wai" were shown the students. "Wai" is Thai's unique gesture of greeting someone, or saying thank you, sorry, and goodbye to someone. It is done through folding the hands in front of the chest or face and with the head bowing. But there is something more significant in "wai" than just simply greetings. "Wai" means showing high respect to the older and even younger people. Lastly, in presenting Thai culture, was show-

ing the right way to show respect when meeting a parent, teacher, or older people.

The Filipino students sang and interpreted a popular folk song. Lastly, Teacher Golden, representing all Malaysians in school, enlightened students on Malaysian greetings and some Malaysian words.

Every country has its own

culture to practice, preserve, and be proud of. This is why Thai Culture Day is celebrated every year at AIMS. The students really appreciate holding Thai Culture Day every year because they know, learn, and respect other countries' cultures.

*By Norapun Settapon  
(Mai), Grade 11*





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## AIMS students honor teachers

Teachers are our second parents. This is why we must love and respect them.

AIMS recognizes teachers as very important people in the community honoring their devotion to duty and sacrifice for students' welfare. In recognition of the teachers' efforts and hardships in teaching students and building their character, AIMS celebrated the yearly Wan Waikru on August 25 in the Kindergarten Activity building.

During the touching Wan Waikru ceremony, students sang songs and recited poems



on the importance of the teachers in their (students') lives. The students also delivered messages on how they truly love, honor, and respect teachers. The most meaningful part of the program was the offering of orchid plants to the teachers by the students. The teachers, in return, blessed the students, and wholeheartedly accepted the orchid plants. Some teachers were so touched

by the ceremony that they shed tears.

Waikru Day proved once again that teachers are important to us. Although the event is celebrated once a year, students have to show the same respect and love toward teachers all the time.

*By Naiwen Chang (Mike)  
Grade 11*



## AIMS celebrates moms

The whole country of Thailand celebrates Mother's Day on August 12 because this day is the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. Because the Queen herself is a mother, all mothers are honoured on this important day.

On August 17, AIMS observed the annual Mother's Day to honor and pay respect to mothers. Parents, students, and teachers gathered at the basketball court immediately after the flag ceremony to witness the significant occasion.

Teacher Somchai started the program with a prayer. He later invited representative mothers from each class to sit on their appointed seats. When all mothers were seated, children knelt before them, did "wai", and offered them Jasmine plants as a sign of their love and respect. In return, mothers hugged and kissed their children, lovingly accepted the Jasmine plant, and blessed their children.

Selected students also rendered narratives and poems about the importance of a mother. Another interesting part of the program was the emotional rendering of "Mother, I love you." in Thai, Indonesian, Malaysian, Filipino, English, and Indian by the international and Thai students. In addition, they also spoke on how much they love their

*By Juiwen Chang (Max 1)  
Grade 11*



moms. Finally, Mrs. Patricia Foster, AIMS administrator, delivered her touching inspirational message on the love of mothers for their children.

Indeed, mothers who gave birth to us and who have raised us since we were born up to now without any complaint, deserve our love, honor, and respect. They are truly the world's loveliest beings that should be loved the most.

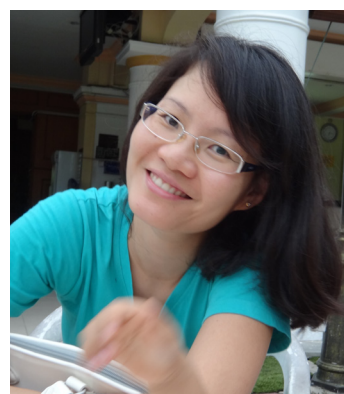




## Parents and teachers get acquainted for goodwill and the betterment of AIMS students

Parents and teachers had the chance to meet and know each other during the Parent-Teacher Acquaintance on the sunny morning of August 21 at the AIMS cafeteria. The activity aimed at introducing teachers to parents, discussing ways to improve students, and establishing friendly relations between parents and teachers. Mrs. Foster, AIMS administrator, introduced teachers and staff, both old and newcomers, to the parents. Most teachers looked very refreshed after the long break and they were all smiling cheerfully at the parents.

Mrs. Foster also beamed with pride as she made the announcement that AIMS has been accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), for FIVE years, all the way to high school! What great news for AIMS's parents! The parents in the cafeteria broke into rounds of applause as Mrs. Foster continued, "this is in addition to the accreditation by Ministry of Education and the Accrediting Association of Seventh-Day Adventists (AAA)."



By CheePheng Loh  
(Mother of Max, Simone,  
and Josh Tan Zheyuan)

Most parents were also happy to find out that the school cafeteria is offering more food choices now, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian. The parents really listened attentively to all the other updates about the school.

I was very happy to be able to attend this annual PTA. After a long summer break, it was good to see and catch up with other parents. Besides, no doubt our teachers are fully prepared to take up the challenge of coaching and teaching our kids. "Our kids are in good hands, thank God," I whispered to my husband as we left the cafeteria at the end of this meaningful meeting.

## Spiritual Emphasis Week spiritualizes students

AIMS once again organized the semiannual Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) from September 12 to 16 at the Kindergarten Activity building. Pastor Johnny Wong, AIU Chaplain, served as the speaker during the entire week. He spoke on the theme "Sharing the Joy of His Love, Stop Bullying." The messages deeply touched both students and teachers who attended the weeklong meetings. Students, in particular, learned how to share the joy of God's love that could result to kindness and friendship, instead of bullying.



By Tanida Ittiwat  
(Bee), Grade 12

The SEW also turned to be very valuable and remarkable due to the special musical numbers sang by each grade. Everyday, the program would start by an inspirational music from the students. The theme song composed by Teacher Linnie, as is the case every Spiritual Emphasis Week, also emphasized the theme and gave additional meaning to it.

Having learned new spiritual lessons and insights from the SEW, each student would leave the Kindergarten Activity building with joy on the faces.

SEW is a twice-a-year event that is awaited by students because of its spiritual and moral importance. Not all International Schools conduct this kind of character-building activity for the students.





# AIMS parents and teachers help flood victims

I was born in Ayutthaya province. I have never seen a horrible flood situation in my whole life than the one that happened in my hometown Ayutthaya. I could feel for the people there who suffered the calamity that befell them.

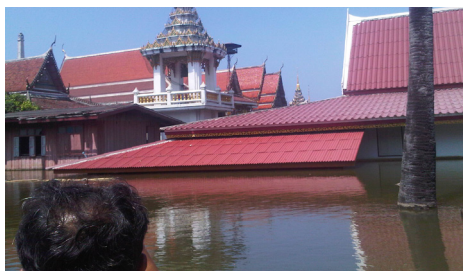
I felt so concerned about my townspeople in Bang, Pra-in, Ayutthaya that I wanted to help them as much as I could. Because of the floods, people there needed much food, water, more clothes, shelter, and everything so they would survive.

To be able to help, some AIMS parents and teachers donated money to buy goods for the flood victims. With the money collected, we were able to buy 560 packs of cooked foods and 100 packs bottled water. With the same money, we also bought 150 kilograms of rice, 11 dozens of noodles, 11 dozens of bottled oil, 50 kilograms of sugar, 45 kilograms of chicken, 11 dozens of packed salt, soy sauce and coffee.

On October 11, we distributed the 560 packs of cooked food to the people of Bang Pra-in, Ayutthaya, and another 162 packs of goods consisting rice, noodles, oil, sugar, chicken, salt, soy sauce, and coffee to the residents of Nakorn, Laung, also in Ayutthaya.

By Khun Kwan Ngarmkum  
(Mother of Kaew, Grade 8  
and Keiji, Kinder 3)

Khun Kitty, Pi Somporn, Teachers Wirun and Belle, Khun Omika "Aoe", and Ruamkatunyoo Foundation donated money and helped packed the 560 and 162 packs of goods that were distributed to the people.

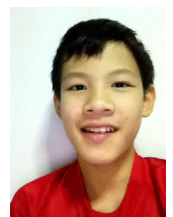


It's  
LAUGH  
TIME!

OH NO! MAP!

Dude, How'd ya  
finish so fast?

I used a 4  
side spinner!



By Max Tan Zheyuan  
Grade 8