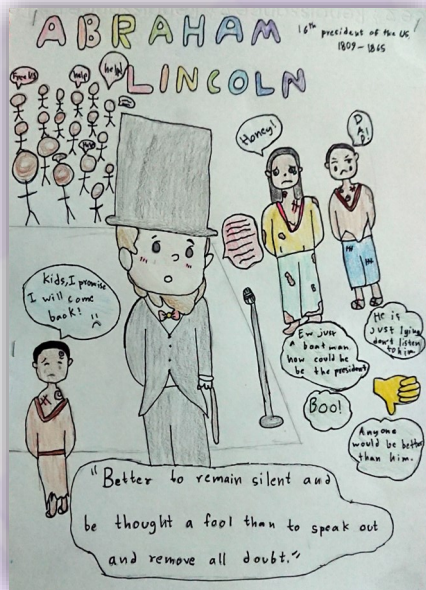
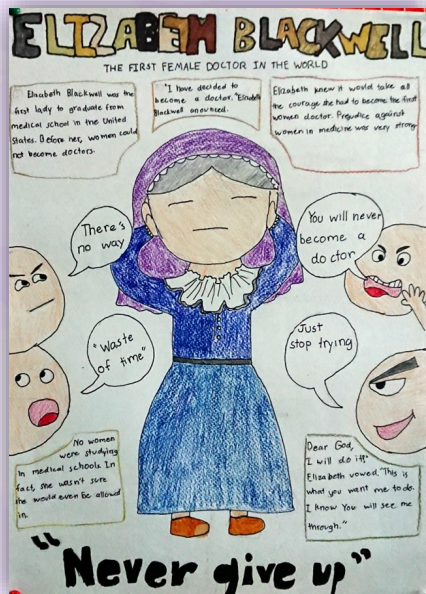


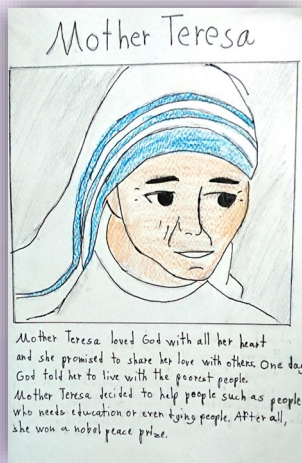
Grade 4 – Amber Gallery of Greatness



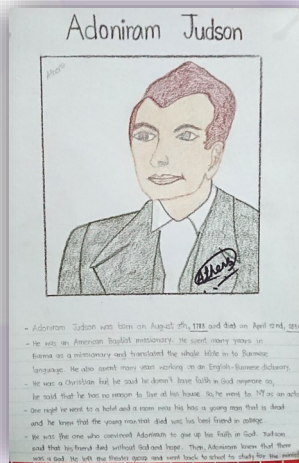
Pornchanok Assanee



Narung Taweeyanyangkul



Tirada Kanghanthip



Wachirasak Chumponanan

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Scutari hospital was filled with filth,
Soldiers' disgusting vomit spilt.
The smell wasn't pleasant,
It would be disliked by a peasant.

Then nightingale came
to care for the sick,
She cleaned the
Scutari hospital that quick.

She worked so hard
to help the soldiers,
Her experiences
made her bolder.

Nightingale saved many lives,
Her memory still thrives.
Thanks to her we have modern nursing,
To humankind it is a blessing.



- Seraphim Paw

FOOTPRINTS

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195 Moo 3, Muaklek, Saraburi, Thailand 18180

Volume 6 Issue 4

April - May 2022



"We don't just teach, we build character."

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Back	Grade 4 - Amber

The Adventures of Pathfinders

- Leslie Hayden Gara

For many years, students of AIMS have participated in the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs. They enjoyed moments with their friends during hikes, camps, and many other activities. These moments came with life lessons that have changed their lives without them even knowing it. These clubs teach students about basic survival and life skills. They also learn useful information about nature and life in general. For most students, they do not really see its impact beyond what they have been doing in the club. It seems to be just another requirement that they need to fulfill at school.

To understand the purpose of these clubs, here is their curriculum and objectives:

Adventurer Objectives:

- children will, at their own level, commit their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ.
- children will gain a positive attitude toward the benefits, joys, and responsibilities of living a Christian life.
- children will acquire the habits, skills and knowledge needed to live for Jesus today.
- parents and other primary care-givers will become more confident and effective as co-laborers with Christ for their children. (clubministries.org/adventurers)

Pathfinder Objectives:

- to understand that God loves them, cares for them, and appreciates them.
- to encourage Pathfinders to discover their God-given potentials.

- to be physically fit.

- to build in each Pathfinder a healthy appreciation and love of God's creation.

- to give opportunity for Pathfinders to develop and enlist leadership.

- to seek to foster the harmonious development of the physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual life of the Pathfinder. (pathfinder.org.au)

These clubs assist in developing the body, mind, and spirit of the students. With these abilities, the youth can carry on with the work of bringing others to the feet of Jesus. The Adventurer Club focuses on developing the social skills and preparing the young people for their walk with Jesus, while the Pathfinder Club nurtures and guides teenagers in their spiritual growth.

The immense influence of these clubs on the mindset of modern-day teens or children is immeasurable. It is unsurprisingly easy to get lost in the temptations and evils of this world, so teenagers and children need to always be prepared and on guard.

These are the fundamental philosophies of both clubs, to build up the students' character and to provide them a sense of community.

These young people may not realize it yet, but the Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs are slowly transforming them into becoming globally minded citizens who care for the world and the people around them.

A SENIOR'S BANQUET EXPERIENCE

- Sherik Kazimoto

Seniors' and Juniors' banquet happens every year. It's one event that both classes look forward to - that was before the pandemic happened. The pandemic caused a pause to the banquet for the seniors and juniors of the school year 2020-2021. In spite of the raging COVID19 infections for the past two years, the juniors and seniors continued to raise funds for their formal dinner party.

Below is a senior, who had the chance to enjoy the banquet experience before the pandemic hit. Her experience can give us a rush of excitement for the unpredictable outcomes of the future banquet plans.

Wikarnda Kanya
Class of 2018



The junior and senior banquet of 2019 is one of the most memorable occasions I have of AIMS. I have experienced both sides of the banquet - from being one of those who helped in organizing the event, to

being one of those who joined in the fun as a senior the following year.

As Juniors, we raised money for us to host the event. We sold Italian soda drinks, and toasted bread with butter. The preparation was fun, because we got to spend time together as a class. Students, teachers, and staff at AIMS became our customers. When we reached our targeted budget, we stopped selling and started to plan for the actual event.

Our class agreed to make it a happy occasion for all seniors. We did our best to achieve that goal. We invited the teachers who taught both the juniors and the seniors. On the day of the gathering, we all had fun laughing together and we even shed some tears together. We were filled with sadness as we will be separated, but our hearts were also filled with joy and love for the juniors, our teachers, and for AIMS.



Pastel themed Banquet 2019

Finally, the time came when we became seniors. At that time, I had the chance to see how the junior class put so much effort to plan and prepare for the event. We also supported the junior class in their fundraising.

We truly enjoyed our time together with our batchmates, the juniors, and our teachers. Even if we were familiar with the activities and things that happen in a banquet, we still really enjoyed the moment. I cannot deny the fact that I cried when I talked with some of my teachers. Afterall, they're a huge part of my success.

As the night went on, while everyone was having fun and reminiscing some memories, I finally understood why the seniors in the previous years cried while talking to the teachers. I was left with that thought, as the night came to an end. It was an eventful night, and that truly was one for the books and I will remember it for a long time.



Banquet 2019



▲ **Sirasit Srirueang** - The peaceful AIMS environment, not only the nature surrounding the school, but also the people.

▲ **Jongpanaporn Charoenkul** - All the joyful moments I had with my teachers and friends.

▲ **Pakhin Thamwiwat** - Hands down it is Teacher Foster's hamster.

▲ **Siraphop Phrailuecha** - I will always remember how the teachers loved and cared for my family when we were at our lowest.

▲ **Nithan Panyos** - How all the teachers cared for us since preschool.

▲ **Napat Chuenyoo** - I will never forget that AIMS is family, not just a place.

▲ **Worachit Chantarawichai** - I will always remember our grade 12 SY2021-2022 classroom

▲ **Li Qian** - The teachers and my friends who always gave me a chance to make amends.

▲ **Edgar Walemba** Fun times eating in the car with my friends.

▲ **Glyzel Kate Belnas** - Our grade 12 English teacher.

▲ **Panuwat Hemthong** - I will never forget my friends.

"You HAVE BRAINS IN YOUR HEAD, you HAVE FEET IN YOUR SHOES.
You CAN STEER YOURSELF ANY DIRECTION you CHOOSE.
You'RE ON your OWN, AND you KNOW WHAT you KNOW.
AND YOU ARE THE ONE WHO'LL DECIDE WHERE TO GO...
You'RE OFF TO GREAT PLACES! Today is your day!
Your MOUNTAIN IS WAITING, so... GET ON your way!"

- DR. SEUSS



THE DEATH OF LANGUAGES

- Sherik Kazimoto

We all grow up learning the language that our parents teach us. Not questioning the language, but embracing it and even trying to perfect it. But, as we grow older, we start to forget the language that we grew up with. Instead, we start to focus on the languages that the outside world is offering us. Languages vanish every two weeks, according to statistics presented in the UN conference on native languages. It's quite hard to think how a group of people could suddenly stop talking in a specific language or dialect. According to the UN, most languages are spoken by some people. Nearly 97% of the world's population speaks only 4% of their native languages.

The world is becoming more dependent on English, at the expense of forgetting their own languages. This leads to language extinction because of lack of use or practice of these languages. More than just having a lot of words, languages are closely related to each other. As endangered language specialist David Harrison, investigates in his novel "When languages Die" the speakers in the book frequently feel isolated, while other people experience the loss of something more important.

Language extinction usually happens when people turn to a language related to a cultural or economic force or spoken more widely. Out of 7,000 spoken languages, about 90% of them would be dead by the year 2100. There are 20 standard languages spoken by over 50 million people, which is 50% of the earth's population. On the other hand, the extinct languages are spoken by less than 10,000 people.

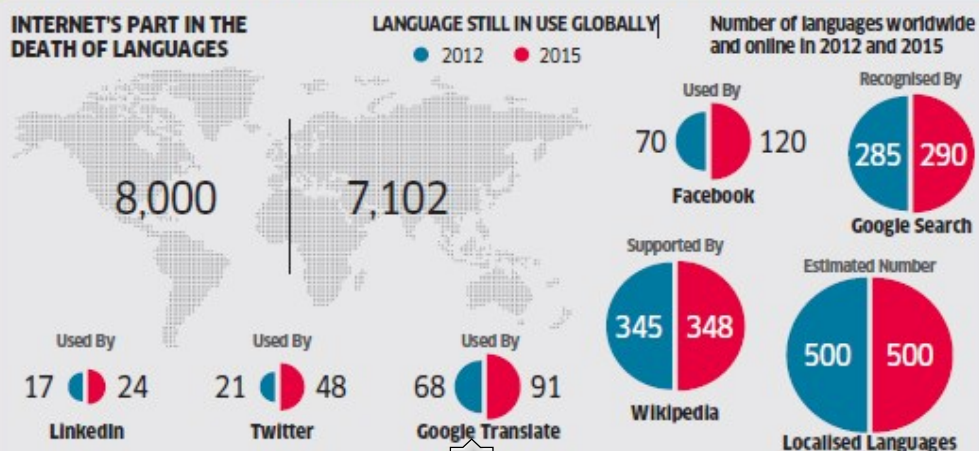
According to the United Nations, "The world's indigenous languages are on the verge of disappearing, with one language dying every two weeks and more at risk." Language is culturally important. They are a form of art and a way to convey values and traditions across generations.

When languages are preserved, traditions and customs live in the hearts and minds of those who understand them. Language is more than just the sum of its parts: it is not just about sentence structure and grammar. Language is history and discourses, customs, and heritage.

To find out about whether AIMS students are familiar with their native languages, I interviewed a

How Internet is Killing the World's Languages

According to Ethnologue, 915 languages across the world are dying, with six of them disappearing each year. The Internet may actually be contributing to the death of some global languages. 54.5% of the web's content is in English with a numbers of users preferring it to other languages



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SPIRITUALLY 'EQUIPPED'

- Paphangkorn Sirijanya

An informal interview was conducted regarding this year's Spiritual Emphasis Week. Students from grades 1, 5, 8, and 12 talked about the pros, the cons, and they even expressed their honest opinions regarding the relevance, significance, and benefits, of having a week dedicated to learning more about how to be spiritually filled.



Aarush Puppala
Grade 1

"I like what the speakers say and I think it is helpful to me. But the recent one, I had a hard time understanding and because the speaker was talking in Thai."

Kanyapath Euaitphol
Grade 5

"It is fun to sing and to see other classes sing. Sometimes I think it is boring because the lessons are almost the same but I still learn a lot from it."



Benjamin
Grade 8

"The Spiritual Emphasis Week is interesting because some of the lessons help us correct our ways or help us live a better life. Even

Jongpanaporn Charoenkul
Grade 12

The "Spiritual Emphasis Week is a great school program in terms of providing students with knowledge about God and Christia



if most of the students of AIMS do not believe in Christianity, nor follow the ways of Christ, I personally think of it as a guide for me to be more careful of my life choices. It makes me more aware of my influence as a Christian.

nity next to the regular Bible classes. I personally find it interesting to listen about the speaker's perspective and I learn more about God. However it might be boring for students who are not interested in the topics."

Despite the differences in beliefs and religion, both Christian and non-Christian students were able to learn something from the Spiritual Emphasis Week, and most importantly they were able to recognize the importance of their shared values. From the responses of the interview, even if some students may perceive it to be boring, the values that are being emphasized contributes positively to the way they see their future.

Spiritually Equipped

- Paphangkorn Sirijanya

Adventist International Mission School, is a Seventh-day Adventist institution, that practices a holistic approach to education which deals with the social, physical, and spiritual aspects of each student's life.

The school aims to build the character of the students, by instilling values that are primarily based on the teachings of the Bible. This is made possible through the Bible classes from kindergarten to high school. AIMS puts so much emphasis on the values formation of the students under their care.

The Spiritual Emphasis program's aims is to further 'equip' students spiritually and emotionally, for when they have to go out into the real world.

Under normal circumstances, the Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW) calls for an assembly, but due to the regulations imposed by the government to help reduce the transmission of the COVID19 virus, the SEW was either done in each homeroom classes or through Zoom. Resource persons were invited to talk on different topics in relation with Biblical values for students to learn and understand.

Students were encouraged to ask questions, and some teachers gave assignments related to the lectures given.

The most recent one took place in March of 2022. The speaker, Pastor Surachet, presented the Biblical ideas and values in Thai. He discussed about the love that God expresses to every human, as we are all perfect in God's eyes. He talked about how even when humans continue to sin against God, He's still willing to forgive them of their sins.

Mr. Pramuan Ngarmlord, the school's IT Teacher, translated Thai to English, for the benefit of the non-native English speakers and listeners. Far more important than any human qualities, a good character was the main focus.

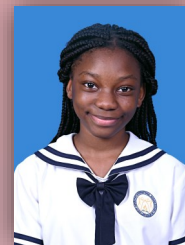
The school arranges this program in hopes that the students will integrate the values that they learn from the SEW into their lives.

"When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost"

— Billy Graham

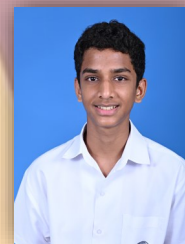


few students of different nationalities. Most of the students that I interviewed do know their native languages, and understand the importance of learning their native tongue.



Ruth Walemba
Grade 5

My native languages are Lukonzo (Uganda) and Shona (Zimbabwe). I do not speak them. I'm not learning my native languages because my parents are not teaching me.



Shawn Sundaesan
Grade 9

My native language is Telugu/Tamil. I don't speak it. I'm not learning it either because I'm not interested and I don't have time for it.



Phantrira Chotemeteepirom
Grade 10

My native language is Thai. I speak it fluently. I am still perfecting my language, because I always use it in speaking, writing and reading.



Gwendolyne Mantiri
Grade 6

My native language is Indonesian. I am not really good at speaking it. Sometimes, I do practice how to speak Indonesian, because when I visit Indonesia or talk to my parents I have to speak Indonesian.



Ella Encapas
Grade 9

My native language is Tagalog. I can't speak it fluently. I can understand it though. I am trying to use it more with my family starting with the simple words, so that I can get better with it. I might have to move back to my home country to fully learn Tagalog.



The family plays a big part in a child's knowledge of their native language. If not taken seriously, the child will grow up not knowing anything about their own language.

I interviewed a native English speaker, to know if how her exposure to the language of the host country affects the way she speaks in English.



Rachel Storie
Grade 9

Sometimes I find myself speaking English with a Thai accent, without attempting to. Once I realize how I am talking, I try to correct myself. Other times, I find myself using some incorrect

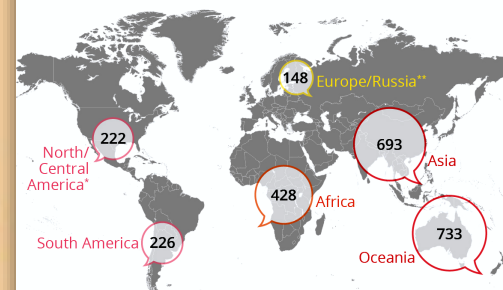


words, pronouns, tenses that I hear from my classmates. I usually try to correct my friends' and my own mistakes whenever I can. Although my accent might change, and my grammar might be flawed sometimes, it does not necessarily affect my vocabulary.

We could preserve our own native languages by either practicing them with our family and friends or having classes and teaching them ourselves. It's also up to the parents to make their kids learn. If parents don't tell their kids the importance of learning their native tongue, the kids will not be interested to learn at all. Regaining our language means enabling the new generations to understand our traditions beliefs and even our way of thinking.

Where Languages Are Dying

Languages classified as threatened/ endangered in 2022, by region



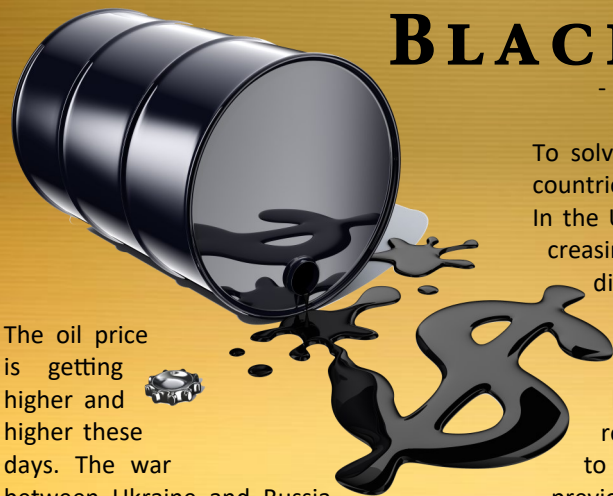
* Including the Caribbean

** Including the Caucasus

Source: Endangered Languages Project



statista



BLACK GOLD

- Phurin Siloh

The oil price is getting higher and higher these days. The war between Ukraine and Russia caused for prices to rise drastically. Majority of the European countries have agreed to impose some form of sanction on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, and this led to many of them refusing to buy oil from the former Soviet state.

The 38 member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) can only release or export 60 million barrels of oil – equivalent to only 12 days of Russian exports from their reserves to the market. This is not enough to supply the need for oil of the European countries.

To show their solidarity with the European states, the United States banned Russian oil imports to the US, which covers about 8 percent of their oil demand. The leading oil companies like Shell, BP and Exxon pulled out of Russia; with that the crude oil price increased up to over a hundred dollars per barrel.

"The Russian-Ukraine crisis significantly changed the global oil supply forecasts, and this is a key input into how oil is priced globally," said David Bahnsen, chief investment officer at The Bahnsen Group, a wealth management firm based in Newport Beach, California.

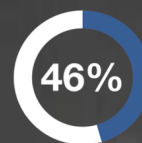
To solve this problem, governments in some countries decreased the taxes for petroleum. In the US, the government is looking into decreasing their federal taxes and state taxes on diesel and gasoline.

According to Nick Lioudis in his article published in the investopedia.com blogsite, "Another option could include releasing more from strategic reserves to the market. However as recent and previous actions show, this would only have a short-lived and limited impact on the oil prices. What is released today will need to be replenished soon."

Mr. Jayaraj Chinniah, AIMS' history teacher has this to say, "The reason for the increasing price of oil is not only because of the war, but also because of the Covid-19 pandemic."

Since the pandemic outbreak, oil prices continued to increase. The problems in importing and exporting goods to and from other countries, made the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), come up with the decision of cutting the global production of oil for about 10% barrels per day, which is around 10 million barrels in 2020. This led to the crude oil's price increase in countries that import petroleum, and crude oil.

To solve this problem, OPEC increased the global production by 400,000 barrels per day, which is still not enough for the world's need. The almost three years of pandemic affected the global economy and caused the world trade volume to drop. The demand to increase the oil production caused the oil price to escalate, and these past two years had been the largest since the 1973 oil crisis. Sooner or later this would affect the prices of commodities.



of parents

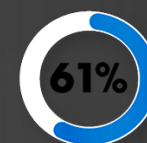
believe that wearing a uniform counteracts bullying within schools.



9 in 10

teachers believe that wearing of school uniform can positively affect most pupils' behavior.

Source: price-buckland.co.uk



of children

think that a school uniform makes bullying less likely to occur.



of parents

agree that wearing school uniforms reduces bullying, believe that this is because uniform puts everyone on a level playing field.

also make them free from the consequences of their actions. They will be free from making mistakes from breaking the rules.

Footprints interviewed some students to ask about their opinions regarding the school rules and policies, and here are some of what the students have to say:

Uniforms

- The school uniform may need slight changes or alterations. Some suggested changes in the material used, and others said that a change in color may be good.
- Another student said that simplicity matters, "I think that the AIMS uniform from pre-school to grade 8 is pretty decent. It doesn't have a distinct design, but sometimes it is better to keep things simple."
- When we go to school it is important that the way we dress is appropriate in. However, it is also important to note that comfort and protection are things that need to be considered. Most students are active and playful.

PE class isn't the only day students play sports. Without proper sports shoes when playing, accidents can happen.

Computers/Wi-Fi Connection

- "On the policy of monitoring computers at school, not only does it have an unwanted effect on the device, but it also takes away students'

- freedom to do what they want to do on their laptops, especially at home". As part of the school's responsibility, making sure that students are doing their work is important. However, taking away control directly from the student's computer may not be the best approach.

- Monitoring Wi-Fi connection will suffice, blocking anymore than that takes away the student's freedom over their devices.

General Rules

- "I think most of the regular school rules are useful and understandable. Rules that prevent students from using phones in their classes,

running in the hallway, going out of the classroom without the teacher's permission, etc. can sometimes draw criticisms from students, but it doesn't change the fact that these rules are required to maintain order and manage students behavior".

AIMS IT POLICIES

Providing a secure and safe digital environment is the school's responsibility. As per our ICT Policy Network Terms of Use, point 1:

"Access to AIMS's electronic networks must be;

- a) for the purpose of education or research and consistent with the educational objectives of AIMS; or
- b) for legitimate AIMS related business use."

To help ensure that this will happen, the school employs different systems to filter and monitor devices while students are on the campus. The system in place also protects users from maliciously installing malware, ransomware, and/or any virus that may cause more harm to users' devices or the school's entire network system.

For more information about our existing ICT Policies, please grab a copy by downloading it from this link: <https://www.aims.ac.th/downloads/AIMS-ICTPolicy.pdf>

Source: AIMS IT Department

- Leslie Hayden Gara

KNOW THE RULES

Wearing of uniforms is a fundamental part of school policy. Uniforms represent the school, and it is a way of identifying where students are from. It is also a safety issue, for example, when schools go on a field trip, it would be easier to identify the students in a crowd. In case anyone gets lost, it can be used as a vital information for the authorities.

Mr. Honesto Encapas, the school Behavioral Management Officer has this to say, "uniforms can set your mind for studying. Once we are in uniform, our minds will have a studying mindset, and it makes us feel prepared for school. If we wear something else, we may not feel like studying, and we can get distracted easily. School teaches us to be disciplined in the way we dress. Wearing uniforms prepares us for our future careers. Different jobs have different types of dress codes and attires that promote professionalism."

He said further that, "many students often get bullied because of their appearance and attire. Wearing of uniforms can lessen bullying because everyone wears the same thing. It's more than just a dress code, it brings unity and order."

"School rules were established to protect us and keep things in order, and they also serve a greater purpose in the development of students' character and their future. The regular school or classroom rules allow students to concentrate and focus on their studies. Respect is taught and practiced because of the use of rules."

Mr. Honesto Encapas also shared with us that, abiding by even the simplest of school rules can help prepare us for our future. Under our parents' roof, we also need to follow some rules, they teach us about obedience.

Obedience is one vital thing that students must learn and always practice. Whether it's just following simple rules or rules that might alter or change our lives, it surely will benefit us in any way.

Obedience can shape students' character into one that could be appreciated by others. Students often see rules as a barrier to the freedom that they believe they deserve. However, by obeying and following the rules, it can help them achieve freedom. It can

Some countries' solution to this problem is to decrease the taxes imposed on the importation of oil. In Thailand, the cabinet approved to reduce oil taxes from 5.99 Baht/liter to 3.20 Baht/Liter or 2.79 Baht/liter.

At present, the Excise Department targets to reduce diesel taxes to 3 Baht for 3 Months, from 18 – February to 20 May 2022. This could help mainly the transportation sector, such as the taxi, bus, and van driver. This will enable them to keep their meter or prices at the average rate.

The price of oil commands the global economy. It could affect the economic growth and inflation rate of a country. The higher the oil price is, the higher the cost of living would be. It directly affects the price of products using petroleum such as asphalt, plastic, ammonia, sunglasses, wheels, and even hand lotions. It could also indirectly affect the cost of transportation and manufacturing.

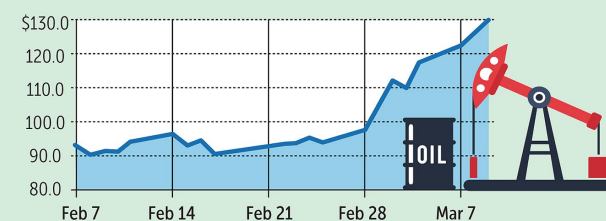
For now, we can't really do much about it. The only thing we can do right now is to hope and pray that the war would not stretch any longer. To top that, we are still in a pandemic. If these two problems will be solved, I believe that the price of oil will go back to its normal rate. If not, we will continue to suffer from the price increase of our basic needs.

SNAPSHOT OF THAILAND'S INFLATION RATE DURING APRIL 2021-FEBRUARY 2022



Source: tradingeconomics.com

OIL PRICE INCREASES DURING FEBRUARY-MARCH 2022



Source: Oilprice.com

BANGKOK POST GRAPHICS

We asked a few students if they know anything about the effects of the oil price increase to them as ordinary citizens, and to know what their thoughts are about it.



Pat Intamart
Grade 11

The Ukraine-Russia war caused the prices to go up and it is not a good thing. I need to spend more money when I need something like food in the market and fuel for my car. It also makes investing in business more risky,

due to the money instability. My family owns a motel business, with the inflation, we have less customers than before, plus the pandemic that scares people from travelling.

Aden Chris Sundaesan
Grade 9

I do not pay for my motorbike's oil, but I am aware that the price is increasing. It reduces the amount of things that my family can buy due to the increase of prices of basic goods in the market.

WONDERS OF MATHEMATICS

- Phurin Siloh

Mathematics is a basic computing language that students must learn beginning from their pre-school education. It begins with simple counting of numbers 1 to 10. It will progress to the understanding of place values, fractions and integers, all of which are building blocks for the more advanced math subjects such as algebra, statistics, geometry and calculus.

A research of the University of Waterloo states that, it only takes you two days to forget about 50%- 80% of what you learn. "Our brains are constantly recording information on a temporary basis: scraps of conversations heard on the sidewalk, what the person in front of you is wearing. Because the information isn't necessary, and it doesn't come up again, our brains dump it all off, along with what was learned in the lecture that you actually do want to hold on to" (University of Waterloo).

We are now in the period of computers and programming, and Math is the basic language used in computing algorithms. If you look carefully into the codes, you will find that it is all about mathematics. They are embedded in designing the templates of each computer software.

Based on the website named "Codez," they claim that coding is Math. "In order to write a line of codes that works well, and that is completely bug-free, coders need to strengthen their algorithmic and computational thinking. These two ways of thinking in their deepest sense is Math."

Mathematics gives one access to many other education fields, it also gives way for logical thinking and reasoning. These two things are important in coding.

According to Mr. Clandestine Claro, AIMS IT assistant and teacher, "In coding, you can't just ask how, but you also need to ask why? You need to think logically to be able to solve problems when they appear, or when you are looking into other people's code. This skill is mostly inherent in people who are skilled in mathematics."

Almost all branches of education have mathematics in it and science is one of them. Science gives students the knowledge as to how and why things work. Some good examples are how igneous rocks are formed, why does it rain, how gravity affect matter, and many other why and how science questions that could be answered mathematically.

As stated by UNDSCL.berkeley.edu, "Many mathematicians work on problems that help us understand and explain the natural world. For example, Isaac Newton's discovery of the basic rules of motion was made possible by the advances he made in calculus." This is one of the many examples on how math works in the field of science.

In South Asia, water does not hold as much significance. Their celebration leans more heavily towards religion. Offering of food to the gods is given more importance. Music, dances, and parades are part of their festival, along with passing of snacks, drinks, and colorful masks to everyone.



Bangladeshi mask maker/illustrator making masks for Pohela Boishakh.

The Bengal region of India and Bangladesh celebrates *Pohela Boishakh*, where the days are spent with family. Dances are performed and masks are worn. It is believed to have originated from a Mughal Emperor who began the first celebrations of the Bengali New Year.

In the northern region of Assam, India, the people celebrate *Bohag Bihu* for four days. The first days are dedicated to ceremonies honoring the agricultural roots of Assam. The second day is a family day, third day is for outdoor events, and the fourth day is for future resolutions and reflections.

Held before South India's monsoon season, the *Aadi Perukku* festival focuses on the life-giving properties of water. People celebrate by visiting



waterfalls, lakes or riverbeds and sometimes leave offerings of prayers, fruits, beads and other small items to acknowledge the water systems that support the cultures around them.



A traditional festival drink during Pana Sankranti the Bela Pana.

Pana Sankranti is celebrated in the Odia region of India, on the 14th of April. It is believed to be the birthday of a famous Hindu deity called Hanuman. *Bela Pana*, a drink made from the bael fruit pulp is prepared for this festive occasion.

The Punjab region celebrates Vaisakhi, a spring harvest festival in Northern India. People in this region follow Sikhism and this date marks a joyous occasion of the first crop harvest of the year.

Nihangs are believed to be armed immortal warriors, known to the believers to at times take part in the *Gat-kas*, a form of



martial arts, where they display their horsemanship. The significance of this celebration came from the period where Sikhism was defended by Guru Tegh Bahadur sometime in the 1600's.

Songkran is just one of the New Year's celebration being celebrated in April. Despite the differences in their culture and beliefs, South and Southeast Asian people welcome the New Year with joy. These festivals bring joy and hope to the people, to look forward to another year ahead. Looks like a trip to these countries will be an experience worth flying for.

Water Festivals Around the World

- Paphangkorn Sirijanya

Those living in Thailand are familiar with the Songkran festival and its history. As Thai citizens, we would assume that a water festival like Songkran is celebrated only in Thailand. You may not have heard of similar festivals elsewhere. Countries in the South and Southeast Asian regions celebrate their own versions of Songkran which we know nothing about.

Songkran is a festival celebrating the new year of the South and Southeast Asian Solar Calendar. Other similar new year festivals are celebrated on or around the same days in the month of April. These South and Southeastern Asian countries hold these festivals for the traditional new year. In Thailand it is called *Songkran*, In Myanmar they named it *Thingyan*, it is *Mo-ha Sangkranta* for the Cambodians, Laos' is called *Pi Mai*, which is similar to the Thai words for new year.



A Cambodian New Year parade accompanied by music and dances.

These four Southeast Asian countries celebrate the New Year with street dancing and splashing of water.

Water represents the cleansing of the body and soul from all the 'dirt' we gather from the previous year. People sprinkle water on monks, statues of Buddha, and each other to clean them.



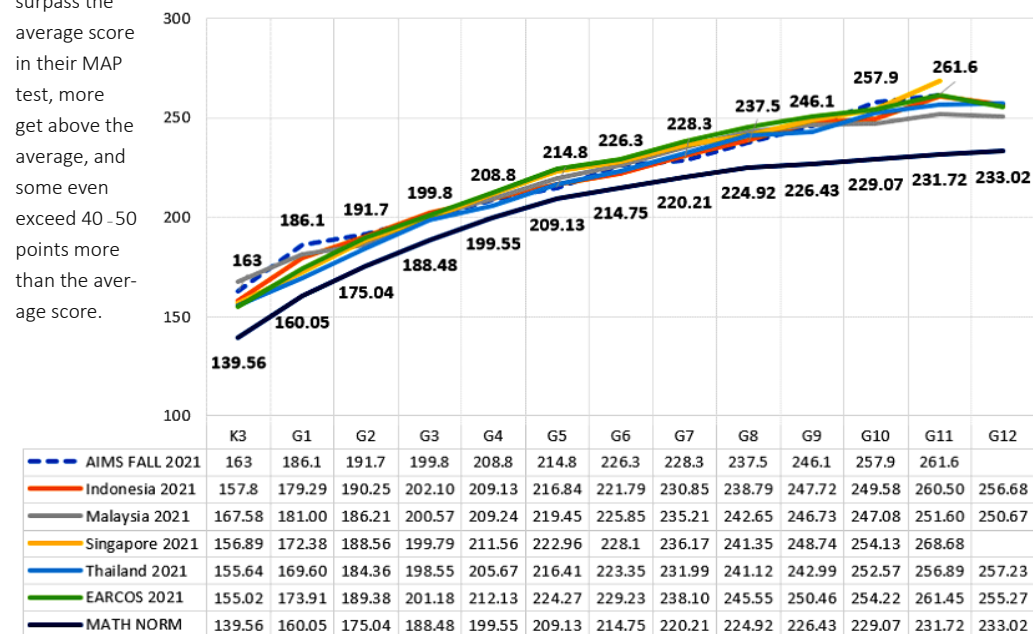
Indian Buddhist monks splashing water on Buddha statue during Sankranti festival

People in Northeastern India celebrate Sankranti with water splashing as their main activity. It is also a tradition for people to bathe in rivers and sprinkle water on the figures of Buddha during the festival. The day starts with a feast and a community prayer. The act of splashing water on each other is also practiced, but the festival is mainly dedicated to the worship of Buddha.



AIMS students are able to surpass the average score in their MAP test, more get above the average, and some even exceed 40-50 points more than the average score.

AIMS MATHEMATICS MAP TEST FALL RESULT SY 2021-2022 Fall in Comparison with THE NORM and other ASEAN COUNTRIES



Excerpt of an interview with Mr. Edwin Aure, the Math Department Head of AIMS:

What are your plans for your department?

We're hoping that our students can hone at least 85-90% of their Math skills, to improve their grades, and hopefully achieve the standards set by the MAP Test.

How do you propose to do that?

We'll continue assisting struggling students after school, and help students in mastering their basics in integers and fractions. Students easily forget what they've learned, so we will integrate these in their lessons, for them to better understand the more advanced Math.

What are your hopes for your department?

We have three things in mind:

- We want to identify each student's learning needs. This way, we could cater to those who would like to have more advanced lessons, and at the same time help those who are struggling with Math.
- We want to have our own Math classrooms, it can save us the time from moving around. We can use that time for preparations, so we can teach more effectively.
- Interactive boards – which could accommodate for different learning styles, and make lesson revisions more convenient and efficient.

Men in Math



Mr. Edwin Aure

Math Department Head
Statistics, Algebra 1, Geometry, Pre-calculus

Mr. Noel Cortes

Integrated Mathematics,
Pre-Algebra, Algebra 2, Calculus

Mr. Nelson Acosta

Math 3, Math 4,
Math 5, Math 6

Mathematics goes beyond just the subject itself. That's why it is important that we take this subject seriously. It might seem complicated, and sometimes boring, but if you do your best, you will find it rewarding and even fun to learn.

All in the Family

- Paphangkorn Sirijanya



For years, a number of families had been sending their children to study at AIMS. One family in particular decided to send four of their children to be educated here. We are hoping that the excerpt of my interview with Mrs. Chutima Siripattanakul can help our readers see AIMS in a parent's perspective.

May I know a little bit about your family's background?

"We are a Buddhist family. I have four children – two boys and two girls, and all of them studied at AIMS along with my nephews and nieces."

What is your family's means of livelihood?

"My husband and I work for our family business all about road construction (highway and road construction.)"

How did you first come to know AIMS?

"In 2005, my brother's first child studied at AIMS, and he asked me to come with him to see the school. Then after that, we decided to send our first child to study at AIMS. Now, all the children in our family studies at AIMS."

What activities do you and your family enjoy doing together, and how do you make time to be together?

"I live with my sister and brother with children of their own; we are one big family so we have around 10 children to take care of. Sometimes the children would play together or the family would play sports or travel somewhere. The children sometimes even play music; they have their own band."

At what age did you send your first child to school?

"In 2007, our family moved from Bangkok to Saraburi ,

and we sent our first and second child to AIMS at the same time. They actually studied in Bangkok first in Tantawan School. At that time, that school only had a kindergarten program. One of the boys started in K2, and the other followed suit. They were around five or six years old."

Can you still remember how it felt when you brought your first child on her first day of school?

"I was not worried at all because we knew AIMS since 2005 from my friend. A relative sent my nephew to AIMS first, and he is just two years older than my first daughter. So, I was not worried at all."



What is it about AIMS that made you decide to send your children to AIMS?

"I think at that time; English was considered very essential for the future. AIMS was one of the first international schools in Saraburi, and I am very confident in the international education system; I think it is very effective. Another reason is because our extended family is really keen on being together. We send our kids to school close to Saraburi so we can live together until the children finishes high school and go for their undergrad studies preferably abroad."



Can you tell us about each of your children and what is keeping them busy now?

"The first one is in her second year at Chulaborn Medical School in Bangkok. The second one went to Germany to take up engineering, and currently in his first year. The third one is going to Switzerland this year to take up hospitality management. The youngest is still at AIMS."



How often do you contact your children who are abroad?

"Maybe two times a week. We make a video call all the time. My son came back to visit us in Thailand just this January."

How do you feel about the way AIMS had influenced your children's behavior and way of thinking?

"I love it! Even though we are not Christians, I think the school is steering the children away from bad influences. I think it is very helpful to keeping the children safe."



Are there any areas that you think AIMS could improve? What are they?

"Seeing as how the school is growing so rapidly, I think it will become harder to manage the school. My worry is that if the school is growing too fast, there won't be enough resources for the students, teachers, and staff."

AIMS can only be grateful for the support that this family has extended to the school in many ways, and for entrusting their children's education to the institution that nurtured them all these years.

