

# Student Council

Alisa Sin

The Student Council (SC) is an organization run by high school students of AIMS under the supervision of their indomitable advisor, Mr. Marvin "SirMarvinSir" Marcelino. They are in charge of planning and carrying out school activities and community service projects. It gives students the chance to learn the art of leadership.

The SC serves as the voice of the student body. They organize activities that boost the school's spirit and encourages everyone to look after the welfare of their communities. They passionately support the right of students to voice their ideas, and opinions regarding school-related issues. As representatives of the student body, they listen to their concerns and recommendations, and they then bring these concerns



to the administration for further discussions.

They see themselves as a family, and Nawat "Focus" Thanwiwat quoted the famous line of the See You Again song, "How can we not talk about family when family's all that we got?" They exercise democracy in their governance, by listening to everyone's thoughts and suggestions.



It has been a long time since the school had its regular whole school face-to-face activities. Everyone still needs to observe strict health protocols. Seeing that the students are getting bored with just learning in their classes, and how less fun school had been lately. The SC decided to bring back fun activities such as the crazy hair and twin days. The majority of the students, including teachers who took part in these activities genuinely liked it.

The SC members are all doing their best to make the school less boring and be more fun for everyone. It just shows how open to other students' ideas the student council is. Their willingness to listen to the opinions, and concerns of others endears them to the student body. They exude that positive influence to their peers, especially to the younger kids.



# FOOTPRINTS

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2023

Stand Up,  
Speak Up

Mass Shootings

The Best Gift Ever

What's for Lunch?

Adventures  
in Pathfinding

Professional  
Development

Parent - Teacher  
Conference



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



Western Association  
of Schools and Colleges



Office of National  
Standards and Quality  
Assessment



Adventist  
Accrediting  
Agency



**ADVENTIST INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

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**SPORTS**



**FIFA  
World Cup 2022**

32 nations qualified for the World Cup 2022 FIFA in Qatar. It kicked off on November 21 to December 18, 2022. It is the first time for an Arab country to host such an event. History was also made by Stéphanie Frappart, who became the first woman to officiate a FIFA World Cup match. Together with Neuza Back and Karen Díaz Medina, they formed the first all-female trio to take charge. The cultural exchange through football has been heart-warming.



**Winter Olympics  
Beijing 2022**

Beijing is the first city in the world to have hosted both the summer and winter Olympic Games. The goal is to encourage people across China to embrace sports. Beijing hosted four snow events (snowboard big air and freestyle skiing big air, men's and women's), and other events like (curling, ice hockey and skating). Yanqing, hosted the Alpine skiing and sliding (bobsleigh, skeleton and luge).

**RETIRED ATHLETES**

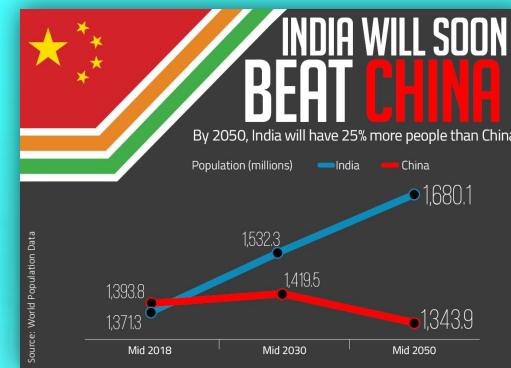


**Roger Federer**

"I am 41 years old. I have played more than 1500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competitive career."

**Serena Williams**

"I have never liked the word retirement. It doesn't feel like a modern word to me... Maybe the best word to describe what I'm up to is evolution. I'm here to tell you that I'm evolving away from tennis, toward other things that are important to me."



**CHINA VS. INDIA  
Population Growth**

The World Population Prospects for 2022 released that India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country. According to the report, India's population stands at 1.412 billion in 2022, compared to China's 1.426 billion. India, which will surpass China as the world's most populous nation by 2023.

**POLITICAL COMEBACKS  
Malaysia and Philippines**



**Anwar Ibrahim**

Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim was sworn in as prime minister on November 24, 2022, capping a three-decade political journey from a protest leader, a convicted prisoner, and opposition leader. He has time and again been denied the premiership despite getting within striking distance over the years.

**Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.**

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, 64, won the Philippine 2022 elections by a landslide, 36 years after his father, who ruled for more than two decades, was chased from the Malacañan Palace by a popular uprising. His election sealed the deal for the family's return to power. Marcos, 64, ran on a campaign of national unity, and propagating a collective nostalgia for the supposed "golden era" of the country during his father's presidency.

Sources: BBC and CNN



# The World in 2022

## Events and Trends that could shape the world in the years ahead

- Footprints Editorial Staff



### Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee

On 6th of February 2022, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to have celebrated a Platinum Jubilee, marking her 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms, and the Commonwealth. The throne passed immediately to the heir, Charles, the former Prince of Wales, who will be known as King Charles III. He was the longest serving heir apparent at age 73, and the oldest person to accede to throne. He became the head of the Commonwealth, as well as UK's head of state.

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### Queen Elizabeth II Death

Britain's longest serving monarch, whose reign survived shifts in her country's post-imperial society and weathered successive challenges, including a few wars, inflations, and family scandals, died on September 8, 2022, at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. She was 96 years old.



### UK's First Prime Minister of Color

Rishi Sunak, a practicing Hindu of Indian descent, will be the first person of color to serve in Britain's highest office, and his Conservative Party's leadership win, coincided with the festival of Diwali, marking a moment of jubilation among many South Asians. This is considered a milestones in UK's evolution as a multicultural and multi-faith society.

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### Gotabaya Rajapaksa Ousted

The former president of Sri Lanka fled from the country on July 9, on board a military jet, amid mass protests over the island's economic crisis. His departure ends a family dynasty that has dominated Sri Lanka's politics for the past two decades.

### Elon Musk Twitter

The world's richest man, Mr. Elon Musk, acquired and took over Twitter for \$44b. Musk tweeted "the bird is freed" and later said "let the good times roll". The acquisition has been celebrated by some Republicans, who argued that Twitter censored conservative views.



### Shinzo Abe Assassination

Former prime minister of Japan who held the office longer than anyone else, was fatally shot on July 8, 2022 while he was giving a speech for a political candidate in the city of Nara. His killing shocked Japan, where gun violence of any kind is rare. He was the longest-serving prime minister in Japanese history.



### Russia - Ukraine Conflict

Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine on February 24, assaulting several key Ukrainian cities including its capital city, Kyiv. The attacks led to fighting and fatalities of soldiers and civilians. The conflict forced people to flee, and seek refuge in neighboring countries.



### DEADLIEST YEAR for Mass Shootings

Year 2022 was the worst year for mass shootings in decades. Mass shootings are viewed as an American phenomenon, as the country sees far more incidents than other developed countries, other countries are getting similar incidents in recent years. The killing of Kindergarten kids in Northern Thailand is one of them. "These onslaughts, where people are killed attending school, enjoying a night out, or shopping, wear on the psyche of citizens," according to James Alan Fox, an American professor of law and criminology.



Sources: BBC and CNN

# Looking Back to See the Future

transcribed by - Chanikan Panyos



### When AIMS started, what did you think AIMS would be?

When AIMS started, we had a few students. I never thought that the school would grow from 86 students to 440. I thought we would only have a hundred students at most.

### What were the struggles you faced when you started?

There were some difficulties at first. We needed to build a new building because we were using three apartment units that each housed four apartments on the campus of Asia Pacific International University (AIU). There weren't even application forms when we applied for government status as an international school. Everything was done from scratch, but because we wanted the school to be organized for our students, we worked together to put things in order.

### What are the problems that you face being an administrator of AIMS, and how do you overcome those problems?

As an administrator, I believe that there are no difficult problems, only solutions. Our AIMS family helps each other to overcome obstacles or negative circumstances. Because of this we are able to overcome any problems we may encounter.

### What are your happiest moments, or are there students you fondly remember?

My happiest moments as an administrator of AIMS are the ones I spend with the students, teachers, and staff. Without these people, AIMS could not have become the school that it is today. I cherish the memories of our annual Christmas programs, and when we moved to our first building which is 22 years old now. These are a few of the favorite things I remember, but of course there are many more.

### What are your goals and hopes for AIMS in the next five years?

Our plans are to complete the high school building and add more subjects to our high school curriculum. All of us hope that AIMS will be the best school in the Saraburi area and become a beacon of hope for our young learners.

### Do you have a messages for your AIMS family?

Our blessings at AIMS are numerous and they all come from the living God who is the sovereign King of Earth. The AIMS faculty and staff honor Him with our expressions of appreciation for his blessings in 2022 and look forward to His blessings in the new year, 2023.

To all of our AIMS family, faculty, staff, students, parents, and AIMS Board members have a blessed and prosperous New year, 2023.

Much Love,

Patricia Ann Foster



# MASS SHOOTINGS

## How Can We Prevent It From Happening?

- Chanika Panyos



On 6 October 2022, a sad news broke out in Thailand after a tragic shooting incident at an early childhood development center in the province of Nong Bua Lamphu in Northern Thailand. Many people were reportedly killed by a former policeman who was dismissed from his duty, and most of those who died were young children. At least 36 people died in the incident, including the gunman who later killed himself and even his own family.

Daycare centers are supposed to be where children are safe to learn and play, not a place for such a tragedy. This incident is a wake up call for schools to be more strict regarding the safety of students, and to take this incident as an example to improve schools' security measures in order to keep everyone at school safe.

If a student witnesses a violent incident, it can leave a horrible image that will haunt them for a long time. It can even lead to stress and depression.

Khun Weerasak Ritthitrapitop, AIMS' school manager said that some situations can be beyond anyone's control. The school will need to look into every detail and come up with a lockdown protocol to ensure everyone's safety. There is a need to look into other cases also such as domestic violence and abuse, both for the students and its personnel. AIMS will have to strictly implement its child protection protocol, including but not limited to the following:

- Scanning of people entering the school building, including parents because we cannot certainly remember everyone who comes in the campus.
- Combat, safety, and basic first-aid training for the security personnel, including all teachers and staff in case of its necessity.
- Training the students to respond to any incident that may happen in the school. This includes the fire and lockdown drills.

Along with these, students must be taught how to protect themselves, and they must know what to do for them to survive in situations like this.

### Standard Response Protocol in a Nutshell

#### HOLD "In Your Classroom or Area"

Students are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in your area or inside a room until the "All Clear" is announced

Adults and Staff are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults and return to normal

#### SECURE-LOCKOUT "Get Inside - Lock Outside Doors"

Students are trained to:

- Go inside the building

Adults and Staff are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors and lock the doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults

#### LOCKDOWN "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"

Students are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

Adults and Staff are trained to:

- Recover all students from the hallway, if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight, maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend

## What for Lunch?

### MORE THAN JUST FOOD

- Napharada Yaibandit

Food is essential for a child's brain, body, and overall development. Students particularly need all the nutrients that they could get to sustain them during their days at school. Children get energy from the food that they eat. They need it for them to learn and do all the activities that they do in their classes. Some students bring their own food from home. However, a majority of the students eat the food provided by the vendors at school. They choose the vendor that they prefer to eat with. Their choice depends mostly on their food preferences.

In the past years, there has been some minor complaints about the school lunch. The Footprints Editorial Staff came up with the idea of doing a survey to know everyone's thoughts regarding this matter. Survey forms were distributed randomly from elementary to high school. The questions were based on what most students commonly talk about. We wanted to know their opinions and recommendations.

The highest rating given by the students for the school's lunch is 6.5. There are many reasons why they rated it this low. The first reason is the limited choices on the menu.

Most of the elementary students think that the menu needs to be updated, while the middle and high school students were more considerate. To sum it up, the student representatives of each class agreed that there should be more variety of food on the menu for lunch.

The Majority of that there should be Korean, and even some foods. Most students ly enjoy eating spicy

The number of vendors also play an important role in the food choices. About 80% of the quality of food depends on the vendor who prepares it. At the moment, there are only two vendors that students can choose from, which they think is not enough. They think that there should be more vendors, but due to the space of the cafeteria this will be unlikely. Having more vendors will make them become more competitive, and this will result into better food choices and services. This can also lead other vendors into terminating their services if they cannot compete with others. So, it is important to balance every-thing.

Some students think that snacks and sweets such as, chocolates, sodas, chips, candies, and others should be made available in the school's minimart. They do understand the reasons why the school does not allow these types of food to be sold, it is mainly for health reasons. They are also aware that this suggestion may not be considered, but they still think that it is fine to have them in moderation.

There are other little things that can help improve the way the school lunch is served. It may start with serving warmer and softer food, adding some twist to the menu every now and then, and even offering other alternatives than the ones that are currently served. Simple improvements like this can change the way students look and think of the school's lunch.

Bon Appétit



# Stand UP Speak OUT

- Napharada Yaibandit



Cases of bullying is a common problem for many schools. Sadly some are beginning to view this as just a normal thing. However majority of the schools still consider this as a serious problem, and are giving emphasis on the importance of educating students on the ill effects of bullying. AIMS is one of those schools that makes this a priority.

The Students' Council along with the school's counselors came up with an idea to launch an anti-bullying campaign. Teachers Heidi and Honest co-ordinated all the assemblies and took charge of all the activities.

The initiative was based on the feedback from the school's stakeholders regarding the need to strengthen the students' social, emotional, and mental health. The campaign aims to celebrate healthy friendships, promote kindness, and to advocate for positive relationships by involving everyone at school in reaching out to others, to improve the social and emotional well-being of the students.

Mrs. Tamara Storie, the main resource speaker for the anti-bullying campaign is a certified TESOL Pre-Primary Teacher, Mental Health Coach, and a First Responder. She is currently working towards her board certification on Mental Health Coaching. Her experience enables her to connect with young people perfectly. She expressed so much joy that she was able to help students who are facing bullying-related issues.

The Anti-bullying information and awareness drive started in November 23, 2022 for the lower level (Grades 1-3), and ended with the higher level (Grades 4-12) on November 25, 2022. Each class planted a kindness tree to help promote positive behavior. Each class have to take care of their "Kindness Tree" together.

In January, the SC will be having an anti-bullying T-shirt design contest. Shirts with the winning designs may be pre-ordered, and in February it can be worn by the students every Wednesday to raise awareness against bullying.

In March 2023, there will be presentations and workshops every Friday. High school students will go to different classes to promote kindness and positive relationships. It will culminate with a festival of friendship called "Fun Friday." They will have booths, games and activities in designated areas. This will be open to everyone at AIMS.

The campaign focuses on the following:

## ✓ Self-Awareness:

Understanding emotions, thoughts, and how they influence behavior.

## ✓ Self-Management:

Regulate emotions and behaviors in different situations and work towards a goal.

## ✓ Responsible Decision-Making:

Make positive choices and take responsibility for positive and negative outcomes.

## ✓ Social Awareness:

Take new perspectives and empathize with others.

## ✓ Relationship Skills:

Establish and maintain healthy and meaningful relationships with others.

## TYPES OF BULLYING

### PHYSICAL



- ⊗ Hitting, pushing, shoving, blocking, pinching, kicking, tripping, slapping
- ⊗ Stealing or damaging other's things
- ⊗ Making mean or rude hand gestures
- ⊗ Unwanted or inappropriate touching



### VERBAL

- ⊗ Intimidating, discriminating, threatening, insulting others, embarrassing



### DIGITAL

- ⊗ Posting inappropriate messages or pictures
- ⊗ Sending harassing, threatening, and hurtful mean messages



### SOCIAL

- ⊗ Spreading lies, rumors, and gossiping
- ⊗ Exclusion—Leaving someone out on purpose

AIMS may not have as much problem as other schools with regards to bullying, but it is still important to continue to remind the students the need to be kind to one another. Some students may consider bullying as just a joke, but for others it ruins their lives. To stop the cycle of bullying, everyone must stand up and speak out against it.

## EVACUATE "To a Location"

Students are trained to:

- Leave everything behind, but if possible, bring mobile phones
- Always follow instructions

Adults and Staff are trained to:

- Bring roll sheets and Go Bags (unless instructed not to bring anything, dependent on reason for evacuation)
- Lead students to the evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems



## SHELTER "Hazard and Safety Strategy"

Safety Strategies includes:

- Evacuate to the shelter area
- Seal the room, and drop, cover, and hold

Students are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

Adults and Staff are trained in:

- Appropriate hazard & safety strategies, basic first-aid



## Parents Suggestions With Regards to School Safety and Emergency Readiness

We asked a few parents about their perspective/suggestions regarding the shooting incident and the school's safety protocols:

I believe that many people were shocked about what happened. No parent will want for their child to be in that situation. I think the school should control the access of people, whether parents or guardians. or those who come to inspect the school as well and should be as cautious as possible.

- Grade 10 Parent

The school needs to be more strict with their security protocols, and can do the following measures:

- Thoroughly check anyone who comes and enters the school premises, particularly the main buildings.
- Make sure that guests or visitors do not have in their possession any harmful materials or deadly weapons.
- All safety drills must be done thoroughly and regularly so that students and teachers will not panic in case situations like these happen at school.
- The school must also teach the students how to survive or protect themselves.
- All teachers and staff must have basic first aid training, so that they can respond accordingly.

- Grade 4 Parent

## Nititorn Sricharoenslip

Grade 7



### What will you do if you are in this situation?

I will find a room that is far from other people and lock the door because I cannot do anything anymore. If I have my phone, I will call the emergency department for help, and I will also call my parents.

### What will you do to protect yourself?

I will wear many layers of my shirts and jackets so that if the assailant shoots, the bullets would not hit my skin.

### How would this affect the students?

We will get scared, but we need to be prepared all the time because we do not know when this will happen. Some of us may get affected mentally, and some students can become paranoid.

## Solomon Sin

Grade 5



### What can you say about the recent school shooting in Thailand?

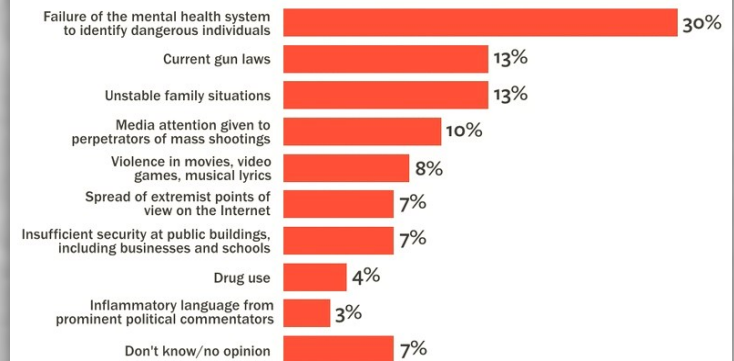
The man who did that was so cruel. Most of the victims were just little kids. I hope he would get the consequences worthy of what he did. Other students are also quite scared from what happened.

### What will you do if you were in the situation?

I will go to the teachers' office, lock the door and hide. When it becomes quiet, I will go out. I will find weapons to protect myself.

Schools around Thailand can only hope that this kind of brutal killings will never happen again. This is also a good reminder for school administrators that there is a great need to prepare for anything that may happen when the students are under their care.

## WHICH IS MOST TO BLAME FOR MASS SHOOTINGS?



SOURCE: University of Texas/Texas Tribune Poll, November 2015

MOE = +/-2.83 percentage points



# Parent Teacher Conference

- Alisa Sin

Parents-teacher conference is a meeting between teachers and the parents, where they discuss about a child's progress. The parents are informed of their children's behavior and academic performance. When their children were smaller, they seem to visit more frequently, but as their children get older, they hardly ever do. Due to this, most parents are barely able to get the full picture of their child's academic problems or behavioral problems.

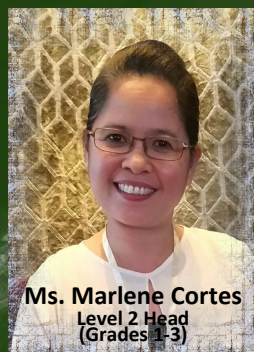
It is better for the parents to have a face to face meeting with their child's teacher, rather than just reading the teacher's comments on their report cards. Reading the comments alone may sometimes give the parents a different view of what the teachers really want them to know about issues concerning their child. It will be easier for the teachers to have a proper discussion with the parents onsite than online. It is also a chance for the parents to ask questions, and express their own concerns regarding their child.

It is essential for parents to prepare their questions in advance before the conference starts so they won't forget any of them when the time comes for them to ask. Some parents become furious with their child when the teachers tell them about how their child behaves in the class, or how they are performing academically. In a Parent-Teacher conference, the teachers can help the parents process the information they are given, and they can also get the help that they need to assist their child at home.

We asked the leaders of levels 2, 3, and 4-5 about how they plan and do the PTC meetings. This will help us better understand how it is done, and what the benefits are to the students and their parents.



The Level 2 Department Head - teacher Marlene "Mallen" Cortes, meets all the teachers in her department prior to the PTC, to remind them of the things that they need to do and have during the meeting. She makes sure that they have everything that they need to show and share with the parents that can help parents understand their child's concerns and needs.



Ms. Marlene Cortes  
Level 2 Head  
(Grades 1-3)

For her homeroom, she usually meets the parents at school for PTC. She discusses with them their child's progress at the end of each quarter. She shows the parents their child's portfolios and report card, and tells them about their strengths and weaknesses. She gives them a rundown of the interventions that are being done to assist their child, in coping with the requirements and skills that they may have missed.

There were times where the students are involved in the PTC by having them demonstrate the way she teaches, and how they are learning in front of the parents. This is to show how the kids are being taught and how their skills are assessed at school.

She begins the PTC by telling the parents about the good things that their child is doing, before she tells them about what they need to work on. These are things that the student needs to do to improve academically. The parents are mostly kind and respectful towards the teachers. She never experienced being confronted by any parent during a PTC, she believes that having a SMILE on her face helps a lot.

There is a huge difference when parents and teachers work hand in hand for the welfare of a child. Students tend to perform better academically. This also helps students with their emotional and social development, that directly affects how they behave in the class. When the PTC was on-site, and with more than twenty students in a class, it took the teachers about four to five hours to talk with the parents. However when the PTC was switched online, it only took five days to complete the meetings in the afternoons after school. This year, with only thirteen students, she is able to meet the parents individually for about 15 to 20 minutes in Zoom.

# Loy Krathong

- Chanika Panyos



Sukhothai: Where Loy Krathong Originated

Thai people believe that water has spirits. Loy Krathong is a festival in Thailand that happens every year. It is when Thai people gather around the lakes or rivers to pay their respects to the goddess of water.

'Loy Krathong' means a "floating basket." To make them, we slice of a banana loaf of bread that is ornately and intricately decorated with banana leaves, flowers, ribbons, incense sticks, and some krathongs even have candles.



just simply basket." To can use a trunk or a can be ornately designed and decorated with banana leaves, flowers, ribbons, incense sticks, and some krathongs even have candles.

For the Thai people, this festival is to thank the god or goddess of water. People begin the festival by making their Krathongs with their friends or families, some also buy from local shops. The festival also includes firework shows, competition for the largest and most extravagant Krathongs, and a beauty pageant called Noppamas Queen Contests. Loy Krathong is celebrated on a full moon of the 12th month of the lunar calendar.



Loy Krathong is celebrated in November and the most popular place to witness it is in the province of Sukhothai. According to the Thai folklore, Loy Krathong originated from Sukhothai province, around 1238. Local legends say that in the 14th century, there was a lady called Nang Noppamas, a king's consort who made the first Krathong as a gift for the king.

## Chiang Mai: Two Festivals in One

It was first krathong floated in the waterways of the walled city of Sukhothai. Sukhothai is the birthplace of the Loy Krathong Festival, and is one of the best places to experience this joyful occasion. The festivities last for about five days. People from all over Thailand and even some parts of the world, gather in the Historical Park of Sukhothai to see the fireworks and to float their krathongs.

Aside from the Loy Krathong celebration, the city also holds another magnificent festival, The Yi Peng Festival (Thai lantern festival) on the same day. This is an ancient festival that dates back to the ancient Lanna Kingdom (in the late 13th Century). It was traditionally celebrated to mark the end of the monsoon season and the beginning of the cool season. Thai people release lanterns into the air during its celebration. It is also being celebrated in Northern Thailand, especially in Chiang Mai.



## The natural way

Figures show the number of krathong retrieved the day after they were set afloat on the night of the Loy Krathong festival from 2009 to 2016.

Year	Krathong made of natural materials	%	Styrofoam Krathong	%	Total
2009	769,564	87.2	112,854	12.8	882,418
2010	828,263	87.5	118,575	12.5	946,838
2011	264,942	82.1	57,837	17.9	322,779
2012	785,016	85.7	131,338	14.3	916,354
2013	757,567	87.5	107,848	12.5	865,415
2014	885,995	90.2	96,069	9.8	982,064
2015	754,587	91.4	71,024	8.6	825,614
2016	617,901	93.7	44,034	6.3	661,935



Source: Bangkok Metropolitan Administration



turns out to be too many for the fish to eat, and they become rotten floating garbage instead.





# Sawasdee and other Thai Cultural Manners

- Sivaporn Waleesila



In today's society, it is sad to see some young Thai people are showing lack of proper etiquette and manners. Many are losing sight of the fact that being polite and well-mannered involves taking into consideration other people's feelings.

In Thailand, greetings are accompanied by a gesture known as 'wai'. A 'wai' indicates the level of respect for another person and is an acknowledgement of seniority. **Wai** is a long-standing custom in Thai culture. It is a sign of respect to one another through a greeting, a thank you, an apology, or a farewell.



Used by someone older to someone younger



Towards an older person e.g. students 'wai' to their teachers



Towards monks or the image or the Buddha

## Types of Wai

- Young people 'wai' to their parents, teachers and other older people with their thumbs pressed close to their nose, and their fingertips sit between their eyebrows.
- An older person may subordinate 'wai' in return to a younger person or subordinate. This is done with hands at chest level and only a slight bowing of the head, resembling a nod. This is a 'rap wai', an acknowledgement of the other person.
- Young children bend their knees when they 'wai'. Adults should not do this.
- The wai reserved for Buddha images, monks, and the royal family involves prostration. This is used only for religious or royal contexts.

## Ways Thai people show manners in Greetings

- In an international context, a handshake acceptable. However, a male may only shake a female's hand if she extends it to him first.
- In formal and informal situations, Thais greet each other with 'Sawasdee' followed by 'Kah' for females and 'Kraap' (soft r) for males.
- It is normal to refer to someone of a higher status using the title 'Khun' (Mr/Ms) followed by their first name. People of the same age or those who are close friends may omit the use of the title *Khun*.

## Others Things Worth Knowing

### Do:

- Remove shoes when entering someone's home.
- Wear modest, neat clothing. Social status is often determined by clothing.
- Show respect for the royal family. Stop to pay respect during the National Anthem.

### Don't:

- Show someone your feet, or allow your feet to be higher than the level of someone else's head.
- Touch a monk. Monks are forbidden to have physical contact with women.
- Touch someone's head, or pass something over another person's head.
- Show displays of affection in public. It is considered rude and inappropriate.

## Dining Etiquette in Thailand

- Make sure you always use your right hand, and never lick your fingers after eating.
- Finishing all of the food on your plate shows that you are still hungry. It is good to leave a few bites, to show your host that you are full and satisfied.
- Seating is often arranged by social hierarchy, so it is best to wait for your host to introduce you and tell you where to sit.

## Gift Giving Etiquette

- Gift giving is often informal. Except at weddings or other important events, it is not expected. However, a simple gift is a worthwhile gesture.
- Don't wrap a gift in black, blue, or green. These are funeral colors, and are used for mourning. Red is an auspicious color among Chinese Thais.
- It is not common for Thais to open a gift in front of the giver.
- Fruit, flowers, or chocolates are safe choices.
- If you are invited to someone's home, bringing a gift is not mandatory. However, a small token of gratitude is always appreciated.

AIMS does its best to live up to its slogan, **"We don't just teach, we build character."** It encourages its students to be respectful and mindful of others. To never differentiate people, and to show equal regard towards everyone. This kind of environment can only flourish when people listen to each other, value other people's opinions, and are considerate of their fellowmen.

One-on-one PTC meetings with Teacher Nerliza "Nerlie" Sales Flores are usually scheduled for the parents, but due to the pandemic this ideal and convenient set-up had to change.



Ms. Nerliza Sales  
Level 3 Head  
(Grades 4-6)

For the last 3 years, the Parents' Conference had to be done through Zoom instead of the usual in-person meetings. For her homeroom, the parents are offered time slots to choose from. They can schedule an online meeting with her at their most convenient time. If they are unable to make it on time, they may have to reschedule.

During the face to face PTC, she made sure that the students' portfolios were well organized and their report cards were ready for the parents to see and bring home afterwards. The students' portfolios were a compilation of students' works for a quarter. These portfolios give parents the idea of what their children did and accomplished each quarter.

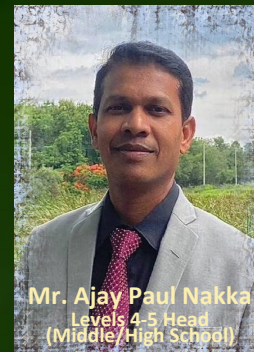
For the online meeting, she prepares Power-Point presentations where items in the agenda are listed and discussed one by one. The Power-Point presentations include samples of their children's activities, projects, and class works. A collection of photos and videos are also included in the presentation. This gives the parents a glimpse of how students are learning and even enjoying their classes.

The progress of a student is also discussed while the report card of the child is shown on the screen. During the individual conference with the parents, she often finds them very understanding and supportive of their children and towards her as well. They appreciate her way of giving feedback of their child's behavior and academic performance.

Teacher Nerlie seldom experiences having parents who get upset when she begins discussing the weaknesses and behavior of their children. She keeps seeing changes in the majority of her students' behavior after each PTC. This is because the parents support them more at home, especially in the areas where their children need more follow-up and assistance. This motivates the students to strive harder, and be more conscientious in their learning.

According to the High School Level Head Teacher Ajay Paul Nakka, high school teachers utilize the parent-teacher conferences as an opportunity to update the parents on the progress their child has made every quarter. As a homeroom teacher, he sets up a meeting and notifies all his students that their parents need to attend the in person or online meeting. Parents have two weeks to drop by or visit online without being required to choose a time based on the schedule.

His main criterion and evidence is a report card that he shows to the parents. He gives them information about their child's behavior in the classroom too since he is their homeroom teacher. If the child is shown to be receiving poor grades or needs further improvement in their skills in different subjects he will have to direct the parents to see the child's individual subject teachers.



Mr. Ajay Paul Nakka  
Levels 4-5 Head  
(Middle/High School)

He will be more than delighted to update the parents informally and provide them with his personal contact information if applicable. As a parent himself, he is aware that most parents do not want to hear criticisms of their child, therefore he tries to concentrate primarily on the good.



"Your son carved his initials in his wooden classroom desk and argued that he was merely doing desktop publishing."



# The Best Gift Ever

- Napharada Yaiibandit

People all over the world get excited to celebrate the Christmas holidays, and to welcome the coming year. Everyone looks forward to the changes that the new year brings. In the West, children hang their socks hoping for them to be filled with presents. Adults set up their Christmas trees, and decorate them with trimmings. Walking streets and public places become alive, and for Christians it is an occasion to celebrate the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ.



The pandemic put the Christmas celebrations of AIMS on hold for three years. In 2022, everyone was hopeful that things will get better since the government already announced that the kingdom of Thailand had reclassified the COVID-19 viral infection as just a common communicable disease.

AIMS, in cooperation with the 'Precious Hands String Ensemble' under the direction of Ms. Mella Mae Viloso, came up with a plan to do a virtual Christmas program. The theme of the Christmas program was, "The Best Present Ever." It was participated by some students only, as it was not made compulsory for all students to take part in. Only 116 students from grades 1-12 participated in it.

The presentation was recorded, and edited by Hope Channel. The recording ran from November 6 to 13, to fit into the schedule of the studio, and the availability of their crew. AIMS is blessed to have Hope Channel backing the school up in making the Christmas online presentation happen.

The program was composed of narrations, dialogues, instrumental, and vocal performances. Some of the students played the violins and a cello in the string section. Flutes, saxophones, and clarinets in the woodwind section, and a euphonium and trumpets in the brass section. There were those who played the handbells and the melodica too.



Before the final day of recording, the students had to practice every day to perfect their parts, and when they were ready, they were brought to the Hope Channel studio for the final take. The program was broadcasted through Zoom, YouTube, and other social media platforms, for everyone to watch the Christmas program online.



To pay homage to the Thai culture and tradition, some students performed a traditional Thai dance. It is a way for foreign parents, teachers, and students of AIMS to appreciate the culture of their host country. It was also wonderful to see the students in their traditional costumes, as they danced to the beat of their own music.

Links to the performances was sent through Line to the parents. A link was also posted on the school's official Facebook page. It enabled everyone to share it with their families who were not able to watch it together with them.



Naw Hser Khu Paw  
Grade 1 - Diamond

The grade 1 - Diamond homeroom teacher, Ms. Naw Hser Khu Paw "Linda", thinks that it is always beneficial to hear, see, and learn new ideas from other people during workshops and seminars. She was able to learn ways to make her students' learning more meaningful.

The one that she attended recently, motivated her to learn, explore, and to improve her teaching strategies.

She had the opportunity to attend various professional developments within and outside of AIMS. The choice of PDs depend on the immediate needs of the school, and more importantly the learning needs of the students. That is why she is grateful that AIMS allocates a budget yearly for its teachers' professional development.

At school, teachers are grouped in different Professional Learning Groups, and in their PLCs, they discuss about how to improve the way they teach, and how to better address the individual academic concerns of their students. The PLC gives her a chance to discover the best practices that her colleagues are using, and in return, she also shares what she is doing that works well in her class.

Teacher Linda is happy to say that she is now using the ideas and techniques that she learned in the workshops that she attended, including those that she gathered from her co-teachers in their PLCs. She noticed that her students are becoming more engaged and interested with what they are doing in the class.



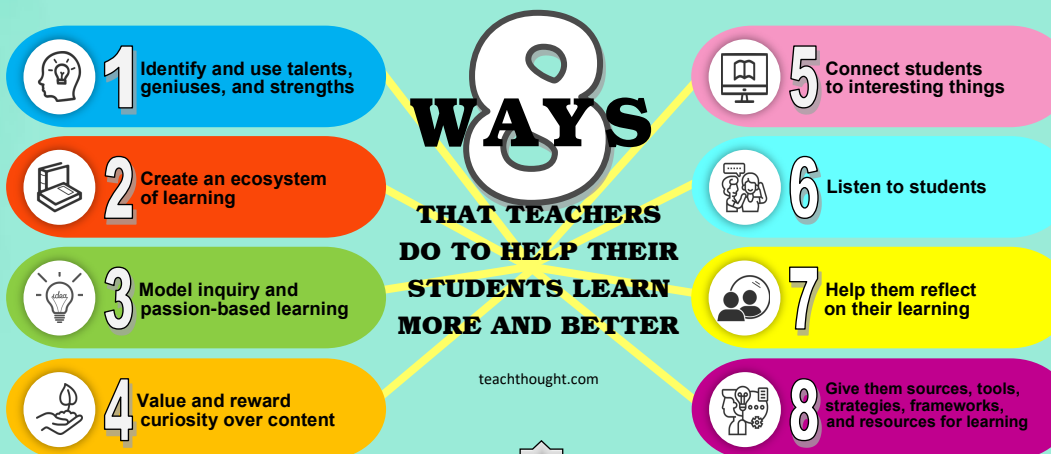
Carol Sudamani Jayaraj  
Language Arts Teacher

Teacher Carol Sudamani Jayaraj said that if the workshop is mostly focused on high school, she often finds them to be helpful. Since she is a high school Language Arts teacher. She finds them quite beneficial. She said further that the teaching strategies has changed significantly in the past five years since she attended her first PD.

The workshop that she just attended was the only in-person training that she had a chance to participate in since the pandemic started. Despite the lockdowns, AIMS continued to teach online, and teachers had to adjust drastically due to the situation that everyone was in. Everyone had to switch to the new teaching and learning format, so the teachers had to learn the new setup immediately. Webinars on online learning and teaching helped in so many ways.

Teacher Carol finds going to the same workshop over and over again, to learn the same things to be useless for her. She enjoys those that can teach her new techniques, and that can help her in improving her teaching abilities.

As she continues to learn how to be a better educator, she hopes that her students will benefit from it. She strives to be better because she wants her students to become successful later in life. She believes that by being fully equipped with knowledge and skills as a teacher, she can make a difference in the lives of her students. That the students in the future may become useful members of their communities.







# Professional Development

- Alisa Sin

Workshops and seminars are examples of how teachers develop professionally. These activities allow teachers to engage in meaningful discussions that enables them to gain more knowledge, ideas, and skills to enhance their teaching and strategies.

Teachers are learners too, and learning continually can help them refocus, stay organized, especially in planning their lessons. They get to share and learn from others' experiences. These shared experiences help equip them with better teaching strategies that they can apply in their classes. When teachers learn, students can learn better.

Teachers Heidi Encapas and Arpha Vida Bugay participated in the WIDA International Institute seminar last October 4-7, 2022. It is the first step in implementing the WIDA Standards and Assessment System to support multilingual students.

On October 24, levels 2 and 3 teachers attended the "Literacy Reading Across Curriculum and Metacognition and Retrieval Process" seminar conducted by Educational Collaborative for International Schools (ECIS) held at Ramkhamhaeng International School. Ms. Helen Morgan an international educational consultant under EMCC Global, and Ms. Nancy Lhoest, the chair of ECIS facilitated it.



All Mathematics teachers are attending a four-session workshop on "Making Sense of Mathematics", conducted by Ms. Cathy Romero, a sixth grade mathematics teacher of International School of Bangkok, and an elementary and middle school mathematics curriculum, instruction, and assessment instructional leader.



Marian Panugao  
Grade 3 - Jasper

For the grade-3 Jasper homeroom teacher, Teacher Marian Panugao, she thinks of workshops as time for her to continue working on her personal development as a professional.

AIMS teachers usually join the in-service workshops organized by the school, that is included in the school calendar.

Just recently, Teacher Marian attended a one-day workshop, at Ramkhamhaeng International School in Bangkok. The workshop was quite interesting and engaging. During the sessions, she had the opportunity to participate in discussions with teachers from different schools. The interaction allowed her to exchange knowledge and experiences with her peers. Since she started working at AIMS, she has only attended workshops organized by the school. Being out there and meeting teachers from other schools opened her mind to other possibilities on how she can make her students become more receptive in her class.

There were times during the workshop when she struggled with the thought on how she can integrate the strategies that she learned in those series of sessions. It was the same kind of struggle that she experienced in one of the level-2 PLC meetings, particularly the micro teaching activity.

In the micro teaching activity, a teacher plays the role of a teacher and the rest of the teachers play the role of the students. At the end of the activity, they will evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching strategy used. This is to determine which strategy is the most effective for specific topics.

Aside from micro teaching, teachers are also encouraged to do the Peer Observation. This is to observe the classes of the teachers that they are co-teaching. Through this, they can give their suggestions on how their co-teacher can improve their strategies, and they can also discuss about what they have learned from them.

The Christmas celebration was not only limited to the Christmas presentation. Each class got busy decorating their classrooms, and planning for their Christmas parties. The traditional exchanging of gifts was observed in most classes, while some classes in elementary shared their blessings to others by doing a fund raising campaign for the less fortunate people who live around Muaklek.

The pandemic changed the way people celebrate the holidays, but it did not dampen their spirit. There are so many reasons for celebrating the holidays. One of them is that we are still alive and we continue to survive this pandemic, we still have our families who love us and continue to support us in every way, and we are finally back to school doing face-to-face classes this school year.



The Christmas celebration and program was everyone's way of saying that they are grateful and happy for all the blessings that they received, the health that they still have, and especially the life that they still enjoy. All these made Christmas worth celebrating.



## Christmas Programs Before and During Pandemic

### BEFORE:

- Everyone was allowed to join in the celebration.

In the past, grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, and even the closest family members and friends came to join in the festivities.

- Christmas dinner and booth displays.

After the performances, everyone had dinner outdoors.

- Performances were held on the same day

Everyone participated in the annual Christmas program that was held inside the Asia-Pacific International University's Auditorium.



### DURING:

- Christmas programs were canceled many times in the last three years

The instability and unpredictability of the pandemic, put the celebrations on hold. The highlight of every school year have to wait until it will be much safer for everyone

- Celebrations and mini-programs

Classes held parties in their classrooms, and some even exchanged gifts. Some classes in elementary and kindergarten did mini-programs for the parents to watch online. Everyone did their best to keep the Christmas spirit alive, and to give love during the season of sharing and giving.





# Adventures in Pathfinding

- Chanika Panyos



It was named Pathfinder as its members looked for paths for them to learn and enjoy. The aim of the Adventurer and Pathfinder program is to help students to build relationships, find friends, and to learn life skills that could help them develop discipline for them to become better citizens of the world.

The main difference between these two groups is that the Adventurer is for students in K3 to grades 1-3, and Pathfinder is for grades 4 to 8. Pathfinder and Adventurer are only for elementary and middle school because it is the requirement from the Seventh-day Adventist institution. The Adventurer program is focused more on fun activities, whereas the Pathfinder program is more on developing life skills.

There are different activities to choose from in the Pathfinder program. These activities can help prepare the students for any situation that may come their way. They are taught basic knowledge and skills that they may need in the future. Discipline, obedience and respect for others, are also being emphasized, as they need these traits in dealing with other people.

This year's Pathfinder program features these activities under the following instructors:

- **Flag Signaling** - Teacher Jeviel
- **Marching drills** - Teacher Noel
- **Basic first aid** - Teachers Deepa, Marge, & Arpha
- **Knot tying and Lashing** - Teacher Nelson
- **Basic mountain/rock climbing** - Teacher Glenn

In the coming years the club director and officers plan to offer more activities for students to learn and enjoy. These activities will be subject to the availability of the instructors, and the schedule for each chosen activity.

The club director, teacher Nelson Acosta is looking into activities that can help students develop their love for their country, compassion for others, and awareness of environmental issues that the world is facing these days.

The club activities foster global mindedness amongst the students, as they are taught to think not just about themselves, but also how they can be that change that they want to see in the world.

## BASIC FIRST AID



Students learn how to apply first aid on people who may be injured, in pain, or in need of the quickest medical help.

This should not in any way be considered as a form of treatment, nor take the place of a certified physician. While waiting for the paramedics to arrive, people on site will have to apply basic first aid to reduce the risk of more injury, possible infection, or even death. The three **P's** that every first aider must remember-**preserve life, prevent deterioration, and promote recovery.**

## KNOT TYING



This skill will come in handy in situations where we will need to tie things together. If students know the basics, it will be useful for them. In survival situations, knot tying is usually used to secure a tent, fasten a hammock, or even for basic first aid.

In this activity, students are given scenarios for them to demonstrate their skills, and to simulate a particular situation. They are also given enough time to practice the skills that they learn in each session. The goal is for them to learn it by heart.

## LASHING



This is used to craft and create things by using ropes only. They can make things such as tents, rafts, or tables. Lashing can also be used to build other useful items in a camp setting. When students are lost and have nothing with them, they can make things that can help them survive, especially when they are out in the wilderness.

## FLAG SIGNALING

This skill is mostly used in the army. It allows communication even at a distance. They can relay messages such as **STOP, PROCEED, or FALL BACK.** Each signal has different meanings and knowing each one is extremely important. Students learn about the different signals by using two little flags. They are also reminded about how critical it is to give the signals properly. Basic light signaling and light coding are also included in the semaphore signal training.



## BASIC MOUNTAIN CLIMBING (ROCK CLIMBING)

This is for students to know all the basic techniques in climbing up hills, mountains, or even high rise buildings. This could be useful in times of adventures or emergencies where there will be a need for them to climb up or



go down from higher, even dangerous places.

This activity can help students overcome their fear of heights, and develop their balance and coordination while climbing.

## MARCHING

This is an essential skill for students to learn. Marching drills help students develop a sense of teamwork, discipline, and self-control; it promotes automatic performance of duties under any circumstance, and an instinctive response to the command of their leaders.

In ancient times, the most powerful and successful empires developed ways of moving troops from one place to another without them getting mixed up with other troops. So they marched together from one place to another, also known as drill. The theory was, without drills, masses of soldiers would end up getting lost on the way to battle and fight with just any unit they could find, instead of the unit they trained with. Overall, the drill system worked: soldiers stayed together and could be commanded as a group. (military.com)



AIMS students are not being trained for the military, but they are trained to be disciplined, obedient, and to have self control especially in times of emergency or distress.

