

WHAT I ABOUT MY SCHOOL

- Alisa Sin

No teaching strategy, technique, or method in the world works as well to motivate kids to do better at school, than their love and appreciation of their school. We interviewed a few students to share what they love about AIMS.



Warittha Wongjessadaphorn - K2

I enjoy coloring princess pictures given by my teacher. I love playing in the playground with my friends, and the rice with curry for lunch. I also enjoy counting numbers and learning ABCs.



Nathakorn Na-nakron - K3

I love the school playground because my teacher plays games with me there, and we learn how to spell and read new words there too. We jump on the letters on the floor to spell out some words.



Atitthan Warathanawat - G3

I love running and playing freely in our school's big playground. Our teachers are kind. They help me understand the lessons when it is difficult. They teach us to respect one another. In the Bible class I love learning about Jesus.



Pattanan Chongussayakul - G4

Our school teaches us to respect one another. The school encourages us to be "Buddies" instead of "Bullies," and they teach us to respect, and the importance of being kind to each other.



Patthamon Akaruean - G6

Our teachers are warm and supportive, and they help me become a better student. I love joining in the extracurricular activities and sports programs. Our teachers are approachable and attentive to our needs.

My English skills improved since I moved here. AIMS offers more activities now than it did in the past few years. I am happy that the school is against bullying, and promotes a peaceful environment that makes me feel at ease.



René leilany deudom

G7

I am a proud student of AIMS. The school has a good environment, with loving teachers and staff. The teachers here do not smoke or drink, so they are good examples for the students. Overall, I am satisfied with what the school has to offer.



Supphakrin Chankajorn

G9

I like Sports Week the most. We have one whole week to just play, and we got to release all our stresses and energy in our games. Since AIMS is against bullying, I am treated nicely here. When I don't understand some lessons, the teachers spend their time with me to help me understand.



Suwijak Rattanadilok na Phuket

G10

It is the small and cozy vibe of the school that I really like the most, but sometimes it can also feel cramped and uncomfortable. The small number of students makes it easier for us to get along. As a high school student, I appreciate that the school is providing us study hall periods. The teachers support us in our preparation for university, and that helps me develop a better mindset, and a stronger sense of responsibility.



Pichamon Kingputthaphong

G11

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

FOOTPRINTS

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



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Cover: **"Innocence"**

This photo was taken during one of the handball games on Sports Fest. These two girls stopped in the middle of a game to make shadow shapes. They were oblivious to their surroundings, while their teammates and the other team were running around and scrambling to get the ball and make a goal to win.

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Science Laboratory Renovation

interview with: Mr. Isaiah Chitlay - Lab Assistant
by: Sivaporn Waleesila

A school laboratory is a facility that provides controlled conditions in which scientific or technological research, experiments, and measurement may be performed. Our school laboratory is undergoing some renovations. There is a need to make necessary changes in some of the school's facilities, and one of them is the laboratory.

It is important to ensure that a laboratory is hazard free, especially when students are having their experiments. Hazards in a laboratory include poisonous substances, flammable and explosive chemicals, or equipment. So, precautions are vitally important.

What is the idea behind the lab renovation?

The lab tables are quite old and unsafe. When chemicals are dropped on it, it gets easily stained, and it is difficult to clean. The science department decided to renovate the lab. The sinks had to be repaired too because of some leaks that make the area wet. For 17 years, the laboratory has never been renovated. It is about time that it is done.

Whose idea was it to renovate the laboratory?

Teachers Foster and Ranjan came to check the lab, and they said that the lab must be good for learning. Our school is an International school, it must look clean and neat at all times.



What are the plans of the Science Department concerning the laboratory?

The laboratory that we have now will be for Elementary students in the future. In the new building of the High School, there will be a new lab for Middle and High School students. For now, it is hard for the science teachers to schedule the activities for each class who need to use the lab because we only have one lab room for the whole school. For now, we just have to be happy with the renovation of the one that we have.

...from page 5



Supawat Ruksasiripong
"Friend" - Grade 10

I think that being disrespectful also affects students because when they are being disrespectful, they also could not learn what the teachers are teaching. It needs to be balanced. Some

students when they do not like the teacher, do not listen in class. They do not do the works that the teacher assigns everyone to do, and this affects their grades.

Teachers back then were able to teach students many things. They can punish students physically, which in turn helped them grow up to be more responsible people. Nowadays, children are protected by laws, so teachers can no longer punish us like before. I prefer not to be punished, because if it happens I probably would not like it either.



Catherina Nakka
"Cathy" - Grade 12

I have had a few experiences with friends who were being disrespectful toward teachers. Some of the students are trapped in disrespectful, improper conduct patterns simply because they do not

know what else to do. Other students are disrespectful due to issues at home or with their pals, and they end up venting their frustrations on their teachers. Teachers must avoid unpleasant reactions, and instead try to understand and talk things over with their students individually. Teachers often make mistakes, but they help us learn what we need to know to succeed in life. Learning would be much more difficult without the hard work and devotion of teachers. Teachers deserve our respect.

Teachers used to physically discipline students years ago. This, I feel, does not improve how students are learning and instead causes negative consequences. Rather than being violent, I believe there are alternative methods to discipline students. If children do not complete their homework or classwork, they may be kept after school. If a student's behavior is inappropriate, he or she may be referred for counseling.



新年快樂 HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR

- Silvaporn Waleesila -

Xīnnián Kuàilè

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is the most important festival in China, and a major event in some other East Asian countries. It is a festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year based on the traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar. It is traditionally a time to honor deities and ancestors, and a time to have feasts and visit families.

Thai people have long adopted Chinese cultural traditions into Thai society. It is so harmonious with the Thai traditions, that they do not feel that the Chinese traditions are peculiar to their way of life. While it is not possible to determine when the Chinese culture came to influence Thai society, historically, it is enough to infer that Chinese traditions were established since the time of Ayutthaya.

Chinese New Year 2023 fell on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023. Following the Chinese zodiac cycle, each Chinese year is linked to a certain animal sign. 2023 is specifically the water rabbit. In Chinese tradition, the sign of the Rabbit represents longevity, harmony, and prosperity.

The Lunar New Year is also a day when everyone, kids and adults alike wait for their Ang Pao, right? For shopping, try looking for Chinese New Year promotions, it will be worth it. Wherever you go during Chinese New Year, you can see people dressed in all their beautiful red dresses.



Anyone of Chinese descent, prepare for the Chinese New Year. Including what to do before the Lunar New Year, and how to get it done. It is best to avoid certain taboos to welcome good things and add blessings to one's life.

Chinese New Year is all about food. During the 16-day celebration period, foods that are considered to bring good luck are provided, particularly on New Year's Eve's family reunion dinner.

- Fish is a necessity since it sounds like a "surplus", for the Chinese culture it represents abundance.
- As a symbol of family and prosperity, tasty dumplings shaped like Chinese silver ingots are shared.
- *Niángao*, a glutinous rice cake, which sounds like "year high," is served because it represents a higher income or position.



Source: www.chinahighlights.com



PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5 PERSISTS

- Chanika Panyos

Air pollution has been recognized as a threat to human health since the time of Hippocrates, ca 400 BC. Measurements from the eighteenth century onwards, show the growing scale of poor air quality in urban and industrial centers. The industrial revolution accelerated both the magnitude of emissions of the primary pollutants and the geographical spread of contributing countries as highly polluted cities became the defining issue, culminating with the great smog of London in 1952.

Source: royalsocietypublishing.org

The pollution doubled when the world started to have more factories. With the increasing number of industrial plants, more pollutants were released into the air causing pollution. Pollution exists everywhere, and it only varies on how much or how little it is.

Since 2018, the amount of PM 2.5 (particulate matter) released into the air, from cars and factories emitting fumes increased greatly in Thailand. With more trees being cut down, it causes an imbalance because we are losing oxygen from trees that can help neutralize pollution. In addition, cutting a large number of trees causes natural disasters as well. Pollution does not only exist in the air but in most waterways too. In Bangkok, there is one such waterway called Saen Saeb Canal, which is known for its foul smell and rotteness. This is a result of people dumping dirty water into the river. These kinds of pollutants have a profound impact on aquatic animals and may result in more species becoming extinct.

Many are getting sick due to pollution, and people's lifespan has been significantly shortened due to this. Even though technology provides the comforts that people enjoy these days, on the other hand, we are losing so many things that matter more. For instance, when factories are built, people need to cut down the trees which give us fresh air. Sometimes, to build these infrastructures, builders need to dig underground to find the components for building these factories. All these human activities can eventually lead to environmental destruction which can cause global warming.

These days, people are wearing masks as usual due to the COVID-19 protocols. In a way, it is good for the body because people get fewer dust particulates into their bodies. However, dust is still everywhere which is difficult for people to avoid. Specks of dust are not only found outdoors but also indoors. We gathered some tips on how we can reduce the amount of dust that we inhale daily. We hope that this can be helpful.

7 ways to improve indoor air quality and reduce air pollution in your home.

1. Change your AC filter

Changing AC filters regularly normally includes a filter change – if you are allergy-prone or lives in a metropolitan area with high levels of pollution.

2. Don't forget about other air filters.

Check the filters in your other household appliances. The vacuum cleaner, dryer and kitchen vents should all be inspected and maintained periodically.

3. Use cooking vents

Gas stoves release harmful contaminants, including carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. So, when you're cooking, be sure to turn on your kitchen vents, or open a window to help filter out the air even more.

4. Keep your rugs and carpets clean.

Rugs and carpets do more than increase the comfort of your home. They act as their own air filters, trapping dust and other particles in their many fibers. Clean them weekly to improve the air quality in your home.

5. Control humidity in your home.

Humid and moist conditions breed mold and mildew that can trigger respiratory issues like allergies and asthma. Hot summer months can bring about humid conditions. Reduce the amount of moisture in the air and curb the growth of irritating molds with a few well-placed dehumidifiers.

6. Buy indoor plants to freshen the air.

Plants are nature's natural air filters. Buying a few indoor plants can do wonders to improve the indoor air quality in your home while enhancing your home décor. Small plants like ferns and lilies (which bloom indoors) and larger palm trees are the best options to pull contaminants out of the air.

7. Give Your Pets a Bath

If you have pets, bathe them and wash their bedding often to reduce allergy-causing dander. We hate to break it to you, but you should also keep them out of bedrooms.

Source: petro.com

CHARACTER Education

A Moral Compass for Schools

- Chanika Panyos

In this generation, proper education is very important for young people. It provides them stability in life, and it increases their chances for better career opportunities. Education improves their creativity and develops their critical thinking. Nowadays, relationships between teachers and students are different compared to those in the past. There are many restrictions for teachers, especially in disciplining their students, some of which may affect the students in the future.

In Thai tradition, having manners is always emphasized. Education and manners come with respect. Students are taught to show respect to their teachers. This is because teachers are like second parents and schools are like their second homes. This may not be always true for everyone. Not every student likes their teachers, and not all teachers like their students as well. Just like everyone, they need to learn how to live together in a society. Teachers are not always correct. They could make mistakes, but their tiny mistakes sometimes could affect the students. It might make students act differently towards their teacher. There are times when students act disrespectfully, and they end up being labeled as bad-mannered students.

If students do not like a teacher, they express it by not listening to what the teacher is teaching them in class. Some do not submit their assigned work. Just like what a friend of mine in my previous school did, and as a consequence he failed the examination, and he did not learn anything.

There are many ways to solve these kinds of problems, but the best way is to sit down, talk, and listen to each other. We are humans, we cannot read minds. Different teachers experienced different situations. I asked a few teachers to share their experiences in dealing with their students:



Ms. Rujarin Veerawong
Thai Teacher

I had some experience with disrespectful students, but I think it is normal for students to sometimes not like a teacher. If students do not listen to what I say, I ask them if they find it difficult to understand the lesson. If so, I have to repeat it. It is normal for kids to be somewhat disrespectful sometimes, they might be having a bad day, and they express it through their actions. I talk to them personally. I make an agree-

ment with them regarding how they are supposed to behave in the class. I always have rules for my students to follow, so I do not have that many problems with them.

When I was a student, I got punished by my teachers. They hit my hands, but they sometimes had to do it to teach me a lesson not to make those mistakes again. Some teachers hurt their students because of anger, and it results in severe injuries for the students. If teachers are to punish their students, they should explain the reasons. In school, there are rules to follow, like a family with rules set by parents for their children. Teachers need to be more rational, and not focused only on punishments because it scares the kids. A child's behavior also depends on the adults. Teachers must set a good example, and parents must set good examples for their children as well.

Nowadays, it is easier to reach parents, if their children exhibit inappropriate behavior. Teachers must regularly talk to the parents about their kids so that they would know what their children are doing. This would also help the parents to pay more attention to their children.

ในสมัยที่ครูเรียน ครูเคยถูกครูสอนตีมือแต่ในตอนนี้ครูเข้าใจว่าเป็นการตีเพื่อสั่งสอนไม่ได้ตีจากความโกรธ แต่จากเรื่องที่เป็นปัญหานั้นคือการที่ครูกระทำด้วยความโกรธทำให้นักเรียนบาดเจ็บ ซึ่งขึ้นอยู่กับครูสอนที่จะลงโทษนักเรียนแต่ต้องมีกรอบเหตุผลให้นักเรียนเข้าใจเช่นกัน ในโรงเรียนมีกฎระเบียบและในครอบครัวก็มีกฎเพื่อสอนลูกหลาน ครูควรมีเหตุผลในการพูดคุยกับนักเรียน ไม่ใช่สั่งแต่จะลงโทษเพราะนั่นอาจทำให้นักเรียนกลัวพฤติกรรมของนักเรียนอาจเกิดจากการลอกเลียนแบบ ดังนั้น ครูควรจะเป็นแบบอย่างที่ดีให้นักเรียนและผู้ปกครองควรจะเป็นแบบอย่างที่ดีให้ลูกหลาน

ในสมัยนี้มีเทคโนโลยีที่ล้ำสมัยซึ่งทำให้การสื่อสารกับผู้ปกครองนั้นง่ายขึ้น ถ้านักเรียนแสดงพฤติกรรมที่ไม่เหมาะสม ครูผู้สอนก็ควรจะรายงานผู้ปกครองให้ช่วยเป็นหูเป็นตาและสั่งสอนลูกหลานของตน



BOOK TALKS

The librarians organize book talks each year. These are short presentations of books, which were chosen to encourage students to read them. This year, some teachers were invited to do the presentations in the class, and they did it through PowerPoint presentations, draw and tell, and question and answer.

READING BUDDIES



The middle school and high school students visit the lower grades, bringing books with them to read to their reading buddies. The younger ones enjoyed listening to the animated reading of stories by the older kids. This was done under the supervision of the Language Arts teachers in their Reading



Grade six kids reading for the kindergartners.

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

On Valentine's Day, the librarians wrapped some books and displayed them in the library. Students came and picked one for them to read with a partner. After reading the book, they fill out a "Rate Your Date Slip" form found inside the book. The slips were dropped in a red box for a raffle, and those whose slips were picked won a prize.



Other activities were comic strip illustration, curiosity quest, bookmark challenge, book-worm hunt, team coloring contest, and DEAR (drop everything and read) time.

The school librarians, Ms. Marry Jane Bam-bury and Ms. Katherine Juayno always come up with great ideas to motivate the students to read. These activities are for students to enjoy while reading the books that they love.

2023 READING CHALLENGE

- ☐ A travel book
- ☐ A biography book
- ☐ A book with a long title
- ☐ An award-winning book
- ☐ A book about war or disasters
- ☐ A book you have not read before
- ☐ A book about nature and wildlife
- ☐ A book with weather on the cover
- ☐ A book with genre you do not usually read
- ☐ A book written by an author that you have not read before

LIBRARY

MORE THAN JUST BOOKS AND QUIET NOOKS

- The Librarians

A library is the soul of a school. Adventist International Mission School's library was established to support the school's curriculum. Its services are used for research, the instructional needs of teachers, and the reading requirements of students. It serves students from elementary to high school. AIMS' library houses a collection of 13,735 titles. 9,413 of them are reading books, 1,006 reference books, 2,458 professional books, and 858 DVD and audio CDs.

The library plays a fundamental role in our school community, through its available resources and services. It creates learning opportunities and supports literacy and education. As the saying goes, "A room without books is like a body without a soul."

WHAT OUR LIBRARIANS DO

Here is a list of things that librarians do:

- Organizing reading events.
- Providing information on library policies.
- Collect, catalog, and organize a database of printed and digital resources.
- Assist students and teachers in locating books and other reference materials.
- Oversees the borrowing and returning of books and other resource materials.
- Managing, budgeting, allocating, and purchasing resources and reference materials.
- Keep resources up to date, by doing regular audits and inventory resources.

STUDY HALL

The library's study hall program allows high school students to spend their extra periods in the library. The main purpose of this program is for the students to have additional time to finish their assignments, research works, and projects and for them to study in advance for their lessons. Other students get to have time to discuss the lessons that they are having some difficulty with, with their classmates, and even their seniors who may be in the library at the same time.

LIBRARY CLASSES

Library classes are offered to elementary students from grades one to six. This is for them to be familiar with the library's services and systems; such as the Dewey Decimal Classification, OPAC research system, and others. Learning about these things will enhance students' research skills in the future. Knowledge of this can help them with their research needs, especially when they reach middle and high school.



SCRABBLE IN THE LIBRARY

AIMS' scrabble club is a fun way of learning and acquiring more English vocabulary. Players can check their spelling as they play. It also enhances the students' dictionary skills in a more relaxed and enjoyable way.

ARTS AND CRAFTS



Books inspired artworks

Books inspired crafts



Mr. Marvin Marcelino
Art Teacher

In the class when some students do not follow my instructions or if they do not listen to me, I don't confront them because if I confront them, they might feel offended, usually if that happens, I asked students to stay behind and tell them that we will talk after and understand what is the issue. This doesn't happen in AIMS, it happened in other schools where I used to teach.

I have experienced teaching in Thai schools but my students were just little kids. I understand that they are kids, and sometimes they might be disrespectful but for little kids, it is a different thing, disrespectful is for ones who already know what is right or wrong, so when kids do not do what I told them to do, they might just be having fun. Kids are human, we can talk to them. In school, there are principles we need to follow but if they need help understanding, teachers might be disappointed because we have expectations for students, we teach them to give them knowledge and for them to be better people.

Nowadays, children have rights, but it does more damage than being strict because you are giving them too much freedom, it might cause students to neglect to follow instructions. They might not turn in their assignments on time and fail to do as the teacher tells them to do but it should be balanced, teachers cannot be too strict and too chill with their students. We can still give them rights by respecting them and as a student, they also need to maintain discipline, if students understand the rules, they should understand their responsibility and it would cause less violation. As a teacher, we should remind them of responsibility, however, if students went beyond the rules, then they should understand that there are consequences.

I have experienced disrespectful students but personally, sometimes people have bad days, on that day students might not feel well so they expressed themselves by acting disrespectfully, so I do not take it personally. Students have a limited understanding, they are kids we are mature.

There were some students in the past who screamed and said bad words in front of me, one of them even threw a shoe on the ceiling in front of me. I was so shocked because I could not believe that they did those things towards me. I felt really embarrassed. Of course, I was not happy about it, but at that time I thought that it was my responsibility to teach them about respect and good manners. So, I talked to them personally, and explained to them that they should not do that to anyone. I told them that if they will do it again, I will have to bring them to the office, and they will be in trouble.

These days, students are given too much leniency, and I think they are getting out of control because of too much freedom, teachers can no longer discipline their students properly, for fear they will get into trouble.

As a student, I was punished by my teachers too. They did not spare the rod, but I attribute my success to them because they taught me to be responsible, respectful, and be disciplined.



Mr. Noel Cortes
Math Teacher

Nunthapat Thiamchaiboonthawee "Cheer" - Grade 7



A couple of years ago, I used to have classmates who refused to obey the teacher's instructions. They also slept during class time so they usually did not understand the lessons properly. Most of the times their actions disturbed other students. I think that the teachers

should talk to these kinds of students about their behavior, and if they do not listen, the teachers must immediately inform their parents about how they are behaving in the class.

When students are punished physically, I think some of them might start following the actions of that teacher, and maybe they would start doing the same kind of violence towards others. I think that punishing a child physically is not the best way to solve problems of misbehavior in the class. Children who experience violence might feel scared, and may not forget the trauma for the rest of their lives.

TEAMWORK

Divides the Task, Multiplies the Success

- Napharada Yaibandit



Sports Fest is one of the most exciting activities at AIMS. For three years, the school has not had this kind of activity due to the pandemic. This year, the threat of Covid 19 infection has become less serious, so, the Administrative Council of AIMS decided for the school to have a week-long Sports Fest. This year is a little different from the last few years. The difference is that the playing time was extended, from two days to one week.

Teacher Glenn Virgil Belnas, who was in charge of organizing the Sports Day, combined the days for the elimination and final round. For years, the elimination rounds for Sports Day were done after school, weeks before the final round. The time was quite limited. The gaps between games were too quick, and it put a lot of pressure on the students, and the teachers who officiated the games. So, it makes more sense to do them all together in one whole week so everyone has more time to do all the activities.

The categories of games and groups were broadened and became more varied. He differentiated the groups for all students to have a chance to play and enjoy in their category and level. Compared to the previous Sports Fest there were only three categories, but this year it was increased to five.

Most of the teachers were assigned to be the officials of the games. They are the ones who know the rules of the games. Teachers were assigned as recorders and scorers. The other teachers were in designated areas to make sure that the students were safe at all times. The assistant and the student teachers

were also given responsibilities to do for the whole week.

Teacher Glenn is grateful that the school's administrators decided to allow the extension of the Sports Fest into one full week. It made it more fun and memorable for the students as everyone was able to participate and have fun.

The first day of the Sports Fest started with an assembly at the basketball court. Students were divided into teams from grades one to twelve. The opening ceremony began with the lighting of the torch. Each team captain held a torch and ran in a relay to light up the fire with the other teams. After the ceremony, the games started.

It was challenging for students to keep their masks on while playing. They were constantly reminded to put them on for safety reasons. Though it was optional, most students preferred to take their masks off when they were playing.



MAINTENANCE STAFF

SCHOOL'S QUIET CLEANLINESS HEROES

- Sivaporn Waleesila

The maids are responsible for keeping the school clean and tidy. They perform various cleaning tasks, such as mopping, sweeping floors, washing dishes, wiping kitchen counters, and many more. It is hard to imagine a school without them.



Lamphaen Chalika
8 years of service

In my eight years of work at AIMS, I learned many things. In my first few years, it was difficult to communicate with foreign teachers. When they need my help, we had to use gestures to understand each other. Some teachers can speak and understand a bit of Thai, and that is helpful. Now, I can speak a few words in English and can communicate with non-Thai students and teachers. Everyone at AIMS is nice and kind to me. They treat me like a part of their family.



Yupha Thianthong
4 years of service

I love children, and I wanted to work in an Adventist institution. I stopped going to school when I was in the fourth grade, so, I could not understand English, but I try my best to talk to foreign teachers by using Thai words that they are familiar with.

At AIMS I got to know about God. One time I broke my ribs. The doctor told me to rest for three months, but I prayed hard and I got better, so I was able to get back to work. Our leader invited me to come to church, and now, I am trying to turn to God and let God lead my way.



Sarita Sengma
2 years of service

I could not speak or understand English at all. I find it quite challenging to communicate with foreign teachers. It is a good thing that the Thai students are kind enough to help me with the translation, and it makes it easier for me to understand the teachers.

Every Friday, our team of maintenance workers worship together. I get to know more about God when we pray, sing, and listen to each other's inspiring testimonies every week.

The decision to work at AIMS was for me to gain new experiences, and earn some money for my family. I am willing to do everything that my leader, the teachers, and the students ask me to do. It is my way of helping them in my little way.

I worked in other places before, and the big difference is the workplace environment. Here, even the students are helpful, especially in translating for the maids, and that makes our work so much easier.

A few years ago, I used to work at Asia Pacific International University, an Adventist institution. I am a Christian, and I want to work in a Christian workplace, so working here is a blessing. Plus, I love children. Seeing kids each day makes me happy. I am so blessed to have kind co-workers too. We assist each other, especially when someone needs help. Teachers treat us with respect and it is so heartwarming.

A friend of mine invited me to work here. I worked for about 4 months, but I had to stop for a while. When I came back, I continued to work for about three years already. Sometimes it is hard to work with different personalities, but I just focus on my work because my being here is for my family. My work becomes lighter when I see the smiles on people's faces. I feel so lucky because the teachers and staff do not treat the maids here differently.

These silent cleanliness heroes are important members of our school. They keep the school clean and in good condition. They help reduce the risk of illnesses, and the possibility of injuries, by maintaining a clean environment for everyone. A little smile of appreciation for them when we pass by will surely make their work a lot lighter.



Yupaporn Tee-in
10 months of service



Bim Kongnetr
2 years of service



Kanya Thiangla
3 years of service

FIRE SAFETY DRILL

What to do when the school is on fire

- Sivaporn Waleesila

Fire drills conducted at school can help students be prepared mentally and physically when a fire breaks out. Fire alarm systems are set in place, and when it is activated, everyone needs to be evacuated immediately, to the nearest exit to simulate a real emergency.



We asked Mr. Weerasak Rithitraipop, the school manager, who is also in charge of the safety plan and protocols of the school, to give us some idea on how the school's safety protocol is implemented in case of fire and other related or similar emergencies. Below is an excerpt of the interview we had with him.

Q. What is the fire drill for?

The purpose of the fire drill is to train the teachers, students, and staff to be ready at all times. When there is a fire, everyone needs to get out of the building immediately. Doing fire drills regularly will help especially the students to be familiar with the evacuation routes. This can only be done through constant practice and proper implementation of protocols. The goal is for everyone to respond automatically when they hear the sound of fire alarms, and for them to go in an orderly manner to their designated areas.

Q. How often should fire drills be done?

In our previous plans we decided to do it three times a year, but this year, we thought of doing it once a month. Then we decided to go back to our original plan of having it thrice a year. We have to be prepared all the time because we will never know when it will happen. That is why it is important to keep on practicing for a fire drill regularly.



What should the teachers and staff do when they hear the fire alarm?

The teachers and staff should follow the procedure that the school provided. Teachers in the classrooms must take the class log, turn off the lights and aircon, then make sure that everyone in the class can get out of the school building as quickly as possible. We expect everyone to be out of the building, and in their assigned locations within five minutes. Once they are in place, the teachers must make a roll call to check if everyone is present. In case someone is missing, they will have to report it to the person in-charge so that they can plan and decide what to do with the missing student or personnel. After the drill, the teachers and staff will have to lead the students back to the building safely.

As the person responsible for this, what do you do after the fire drill has taken place?

I will have to gather all the information regarding the fire drill. The team will discuss and summarize everything that happened, then we will have to evaluate and look at the problems. We will check whether our training is enough, or do we have to improve in some aspects. The next step is to find ways to solve the problems that we observed and work on the ones we need to improve.

These are the steps that the homeroom teachers must teach and practice with their students regularly:

- Listen to the fire alarm sound.
- Stop and drop what you are doing.
- Line up quietly, and listen to the teachers/adults as they do the roll call and give instructions.
- Walk out of the building quietly in a single file.
- Listen to the teachers/adults call out your name.
- Wait quietly while in line.
- Follow the teachers/adults until you get back inside the building safely.

To guarantee the safety of the students, a first aid and rest area was provided for the students and teachers. It was placed in front of the main cafeteria, close to where most of the games were being played so there would be no need to walk a long way if anything happened. There were only three incidents of injuries with contusions and a fracture, and all without bleeding. Most of the cases were minor ones according to Ms. Kritsadaporn Lekasuwan, the school nurse.



The games that most people were interested in were basketball and volleyball. Both were played on the basketball court where the bases of all teams were located. The excitement of the games drew many students and teachers to watch the games of all teams.

The basketball and volleyball games were divided into three sets. If a team wins all of the first two sets, they automatically qualify for the finals. There were times when the teams ended in a tie. The referee had to call for an extension or overtime until they can break the tie.



Kindergartners' Sports Fest had to be done separately. This was due to their age and because they are still too small to play games that are too much for their small bodies to handle. Little children's muscles are not yet that strong. So, they were given games and activities that were right for their age. They only had three games per day, which included hurdle jumping, stacking cups relay, ball passing relay, spoon egg hunt, and many more.



2023 SPORTS FEST WINNERS

Kindergarten

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 1st Place | - Yellow Team |
| 2nd Place | - Purple Team |
| 3rd Place | - Red and Pink Teams |

Grades One to Twelve

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1st Place | - Yellow Team |
| 2nd Place | - Pink Team |
| 3rd Place | - Red Team |

The winning team received 3,000 Baht as a cash prize. They used the money to buy ice cream and other snacks for everyone on the team to share and enjoy. It also served as a reward for their hard work for their team to win in the Sports Fest 2023.

ENGLISH MONTH

Language Arts Bridging Communication Gaps

- Jesada Satayavaksakoon and Catherina Ajay Paul Nakka



Kindergarten and primary teachers joining in the fun of the character parade.

The English Month (EM) Celebration is an annual event that takes place in February. For two years, the seniors were responsible for organizing and conducting the said event, under the supervision of Ms. Arpha Vida Bugay, the grade 12 Language Arts (LA) teacher. The seniors were heavily involved in all of the activities for the English Month celebration. Let us take a look back at their preparation process, and the activities that they conducted.

In their process of brainstorming and planning, the grade 12 students worked closely with their LA teacher. The students had to choose their advisors to guide them on how they were to manage the activities assigned to them. They worked on their tasks, including working out the budget for the celebration. The budget

of 25,000 Baht for the event, covered all expenses for miscellaneous and prizes for the activities at all levels.

The grade 12 students discussed with their chosen advisors the things that they had to do to prepare for their assigned tasks. They then talked to the homeroom teachers and informed them of the details of the program for each level. They also had to arrange the schedule, putting into consideration the availability and convenience of each class.

They organized several activities, such as short story, poetry, essay writing, speech choir, song interpretation, impromptu speech, spelling bee, poster, and bookmark making, and the most popular one was the Character Parade, in which the students dressed up as their favorite literary figures from different era and continents of the world.

These activities served as safe spaces for participants to engage socially and intellectually. The intention is to instill the values of collaboration and passion for creativity in each student, through their active participation.



Kasina "Vivi" Sutadwanich

Grade 11

I used to travel by train, and I think that it is quite nice because we can open the windows, so we can breathe fresh air. Our home is not in Muaklek, and I have been studying at AIMS since I was 4 years old. All these years I have seen some improvements in Muaklek, like the elevated railroads and the Royal Thai Air Force Academy.



I think the new trains would be more comfortable for people to travel on. On the other hand, trees are also decreasing because they are being cut down to give space for the new buildings. I think that all these changes will be for the good of the next generation.

Rubporn "Aoy" Nunchai

Grade 11

I have never, ever used railway transport, but I hope that one day I could travel by train with my family, and friends, or even alone. I think that the new infrastructure in Muaklek is fulfilling the community's basic and social needs. The roads are getting better and the high-speed railways are nearly finished. Not long from now Muaklek will become a prominent city.

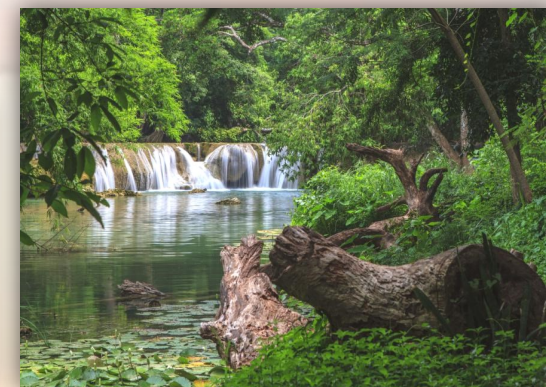


I have been in Muaklek since I was born. I could not remember how Muaklek was before, but I could say that Muaklek back then was more peaceful and refreshing. It was filled with fresh greeneries, a few buildings, with just a few people. Nowadays it contains more chemicals, and dust or particulate matter 2.5. More buildings are being constructed, and the population is increasing. I still think that Muaklek has a friendlier environment in the Saraburi area, especially in our school because we are surrounded by lots of trees.

Many new things are coming up in Muaklek. There are new restaurants, new cafes, and even new highways. These can help people in different ways. These are proofs that Muaklek is developing.



Years ago, Muaklek was mostly forest. No internet and some parts even have no electricity. It was mostly known for its waterfall, Chet Sao Noi, and the nearby resorts.



Muaklek was not this big before, there were only a few people, buildings, and not much for any kind of entertainment. Now it is developing rapidly. There are new Amazon Coffee shops, and there is one across the train station which is quite popular. There are more 7/11s and more grocery stores like Mini Big C and Lotus. Muaklek now has Mr. DIY, that sells household products at an affordable price. There are more gas stations as well because people nowadays love to travel.

More and more people are turning to the internet to find information about different places, and people are flowing into the provinces as they become more popular as tourist attractions, especially on social media. Muaklek has indeed developed quite a lot compared to how it was before.

Muaklek moving Forward

- Chanika Panyos



Transportation is an essential part of people's lives, whether at present or in the past because it allows everyone to travel faster. Today's automobiles have evolved into much better versions, compared to what they had in the past. These days, there are many kinds of vehicles and one of the most popular ways to travel is by train.

A train is one of the best choices of transportation because it is not expensive, and there is no traffic to worry about. On a train, people can see the countryside and breathe fresh air as most inter-provincial trains' windows are open so it is good for the people's health.

The ease of travel is not only being catered by the old and rusty inter-provincial trains, but also by the more advanced electric trains and subways in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand. The State Railway of Thailand makes it possible for people to travel faster and easier. Most Thais have turned and become more dependent on the use of the train as a mode of transport more and more.

In Muaklek, the train is beneficial for the people around the area, and the new train station will be opened soon. According to one of the senior staff at Muaklek train station, Mr. Maitree Wongtakee, new railroads are being built for public transportation and freight of goods, because the train connects many provinces and other Southeast Asian regions such as Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore. The train also helps people to travel from place to place. The trains from Muaklek station end up at Nong Khai and Ubon Ratchathani.



In the past, building a railway faced many obstacles due to some of the mountainous regions. Technology in the past was not as advanced as it is now. The construction period before took much longer than these days.

In the future, there will be a high-speed train in Saraburi, and this will save a lot of traveling and transportation time for travelers. This will also be a great help to the people in the communities where the train will pass through.

King Chulalongkorn Father of Thailand's Railway System



King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) is considered the 'father' of the modern Thai Railway system, as it was during his reign that the first railway lines were built in Thailand and under his patronage the creation of what is now the State of Railway of Thailand.

King Chulalongkorn's original vision was a railway line that would run from Bangkok to Chiang Mai, although sadly he never lived to see the construction of the line as far as Chiang Mai. It took 6 years after King Chulalongkorn's death in 1910, that the track reached up north in Chiang Mai.

The first section of the railway to be completed was from Bangkok to Ayutthaya, started in 1891 and completed in 1895. The distance from Bangkok to Ayutthaya is 74 kilometers, making progress on track construction around 18 kilometers a year. The construction had to speed up to build Thailand a full railway system. At present, the amount of tracks in Thailand is estimated as 4,070 kilometers.

Source: thailandtrains.com

Writing poems, essays, and short stories, for instance, encourages critical thinking as students had to think of the best ways to write, based on the topics or themes given to them on the day of the competition itself. Students had the opportunity to think critically while considering other viewpoints and perspectives as they were writing.



Grade 6 students in their speech choir.

The activities helped students improve their articulation, pronunciation, gestures, and the way they speak, through activities like the speech choir and song interpretation. The poster and bookmark-making contest enabled the students to display their artistic ability and creativity. These activities were specifically planned to increase students' awareness of the English language through the demonstration of their literary abilities.



Grade 2 students doing a song interpretation

The grade 12 students evaluated their work on the activities and came up with things that can help improve the program in the future. One of the things that they pointed out was that there were too many other activities before the English Month, causing a lack of preparation for activities that required a longer time to organize and practice. Some activities had to be postponed, and others ended late. Despite this, they were able to conduct the activities as best as they can.

They also believe that the next batch of students who will oversee the activities must focus on preparation. Think of more outside-of-the-box ideas and activities. Proper dissemination of information ahead of time will give the participants plenty of time to prepare for the different events that they will have to be a part of. Some activities could even be announced in the first quarter of the school year.



Gingerbread Man and Jack in the Beanstalk



Knight on a Horse

Language Arts teachers, with the English Month organizers, is essential in making sure that the program will be educational and filled with lots of fun.

While difficulties and challenges are to be expected, it is critical to focus on the planning stage and think of more engaging and creative activities. The English Month celebration provides the students the opportunity to improve their English language skills, and to show their creativity and language proficiency. With proper planning, preparation, and feedback, programs like this can be more fun and successful.



Jack Sparrow



Grade 12 Students - Event Organizers

PATHFINDERS & ADVENTURERS

"Together They Grow, Bound for Eternity"

- Napharada Yaibandit



The Pathfinder and Adventurer camping has been put on hold for three years due to the pandemic. This year, the club directors decided to carry on with all the activities that they used to have. The highlight of the clubs' activities each year is the campout. This is a way of training students from grades four to eight how to be more independent and responsible members of society.

The Pathfinders' camp was held at Rai Hup-paya camp in Nakhon Nayok province. The place has a big all-purpose hall and rooms that could accommodate a big number of students. The campsite is equipped with separate standard bathrooms and toilets for girls and boys, with enough water supply for everyone. Rai Hup-paya camp is situated amidst nature, with lots of trees around it and some resident birds and animals. All of the campers stayed in the camp for a total of three days and two nights.



In previous years, the Pathfinder club included students from grades five to eight only, but this year the grade four students were included. Instead, they had to join the Adventurers' camp in Muaklek. The school's Pathfinder director, Mr. Nelson Acosta had to discuss this matter with the grade four homeroom teachers first. The grade four classes are under level three, and moving them from their level may not be convenient for the teachers. In the end, the teachers based their decision on what they think is best for the students.



Camping is a good way to motivate kids. They get to prove that they can do some things without their parent's supervision. One of the most important lessons is the dexterity in learning some life skills that they can use in the future. Some of the life skills that they learned during the camp included basic first aid, bush crafting, cooking, hiking, knot tying, semaphore signaling, wall climbing, and many more.



Drilling and marching are part of their training. It teaches them to respect those in authority, and it is also a good way for them to learn the value of obedience and discipline.



VALENTINE'S DAY

- Alisa Sin



Valentine's Day is celebrated on the 14th of February. It is dedicated to expressing love and affection for one another. While it is widely celebrated in many countries around the world, the way it is celebrated can vary greatly from culture to culture. In Thailand, Valentine's Day celebration reflects the country's culture and traditions.

The beginning of the Valentine's Day celebration in Thailand is somewhat unclear, but it is believed to have been introduced by Western culture in recent years. Nevertheless, it was embraced by many Thai couples as a way to express their love for one another. This is not a traditional Thai holiday, but it has been adopted by the Thai people, especially among the younger generation.

One of the popular ways of celebrating Valentine's in Thailand is through the exchanging of gifts. Flowers, chocolates, and teddy bears are commonly given as gifts. Others give each other pieces of jewelry or other luxury items. Thai couples usually give each other thoughtful gifts as a way of showing their love and appreciation.

Another way that Valentine's Day is celebrated in Thailand is through having special meals and trips. Many couples choose to go out for a romantic dinner at a fancy restaurant on Valentine's Day. Others may choose to take a trip together or plan a special outing, such as a picnic, or a trip to a theme park. These are ways for couples to spend and create lasting memories together.

Thais exchange cards and letters too. Some couples write love letters with homemade cards, as a way for them to express their love in a more personal and intimate way. In many schools, children bring stacks of stickers that they use to stick on their friends' and teachers' shirts.

In Thailand, Valentine's Day is also marked by special promotions and discounts offered by various businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, and gift shops. This makes it a good opportunity for couples to indulge and treat themselves to something special on that day. Many businesses in Thailand offer special deals and discounts on Valentine's Day to attract customers, a good way for couples to save money while they celebrate.



Valentine's Day may be celebrated in Thailand, but it is not as widely observed as it is in other countries. Couples in Thailand typically celebrate by exchanging gifts, going out for a romantic dinner, and writing love letters, but mostly to take advantage of Valentine's Day promotions and discounts in leading department stores, and online shops.

The Valentine's Day celebration may not be a part of the Thai culture and tradition, but it has been embraced by most Thai people as a way of showing affection and appreciation for each other and will be here to stay.

CHILDREN'S DAY

- Sivaporn Waleesila

The National Children's Day of Thailand happens on the second Saturday of January every year. Some years ago, the Children's Day was held annually every first Monday of October. In 1965, the government changed it because the rainy season happens between July to October.

The Children's Day slogan is given every year by the Prime Minister. 2023 slogan is:

รู้หน้าที่ มีวินัย ใฝ่ความดี - which means, know your duty, have discipline, desire for good.

- Prayut Chan-Ocha
Thailand - Prime Minister

The other slogan was inspired by a song from a popular Thai pop band the Paper Planes Band:

"สร้างสรรค์ความคิด ผูกมิตรซื่อตรง ก้าวอย่างมั่นคง..." "Create innovative ideas, make genuine friends, go forward with confidence..."

Celebrating Thai National Children's Day enables children across the country, both at school and outside of the school system, to know their priorities. They are reminded of their duties and responsibilities as citizens of Thailand.



Most schools in Thailand prepare games and fun activities for the children. The kids perform in school programs, where they show their

talents in front of their families and teachers. Parents and teachers prepare gifts and snacks for the children too.

Parents usually take their children on a weekend trip, or they have fun activities for a day. Many of them are free on weekends, so they get to spend some time together.

The Thai government prepares special gifts for children in orphanages. Kids receive toys, some snacks, and boxes of milk. They want all children, including the orphans to have fun on that day.



On January 13, 2023, AIMS had a Children's Day celebration. The school prepared a program for students because they want them to feel that they are an important part of the AIMS family. Everyone had some ice cream, cakes, and snacks to celebrate with.



The celebration is a way of showing the children that they are truly the nation's most valuable resource. It is important to make them feel protected, loved, trusted, and appreciated.

Psalm 127:3 NLT says, "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."



The Adventurer camp was held at the Mission Health Promotion Center (MHPC) in Muaklek, Saraburi. The venue is quite close to the school, and the accommodation is suitable for the kids. Students' security and safety are the primary concerns for the designated camp director - Ms. Naw Hser Khu Paw, the grade 1 homeroom teacher, and other teachers.



"Together We Grow" is this year's theme. Campouts like this teach students how to be more responsible and independent. It also helps in developing their social skills and practicing discipline and obedience. They learn how to work as a team, and they are taught how to be physically fit so that they could go along with all the activities in the camp.

"The Adventurer club is an introduction and a preparatory course for the Pathfinder Club. Each child is encouraged to participate in various age-challenging activities ranging from games, outdoor activities, nature exploration, camping, field trips, and community service projects are introduced to the students. AIMS uses a five-level age-specific curriculum along with specialized areas in crafts, nature study, recreation, spiritual development, including basic home arts and life skills."

www.gcyouthministries.org

This year, the grade four students joined the pathfinder club, and it caused the number of adventurers to decrease. The good thing is that the Kindergarten-3 kids joined in the camping fun too. The K3 kids only came for the daytime activities, and at 3:30 in the afternoon they were picked up by their parents and had to sleep at home.



The camping program was based on an Australian campout system. The kids were a bit disappointed because swimming was not included in the list of activities for this year. Instead of having swimming activities, the camp coordinators added some water games, such as water relay, water balloon catching and throwing in its place.

The kids learned other skills like crafts making, and camp bread baking. They even had fun grilling hotdogs with their friends.

The kids are looking forward to more fun-filled activities next year, and they can no longer wait to go camping again.

Camping

Written by: Lauren Shirk

The tents are up,
The food prepared.
It is time to camp,
And we are so thrilled.

Hiking, and running,
We can't wait to explore.
We'll be so tired,
I bet that we'll snore!



LEARNING IN THE WILD

Grade 12 Camping Field Trip 2023

- Alisa Sin



Just recently, the grade twelve students went on a camping field trip at Khaoyai National Park. The trip was organized by their Language Arts teacher, Ms. Arpha Vida Buga-ay, together with teachers Janejira Jaroonsang (Thai Class) and Idee Geal Gabu (Physics and Physical Science Classes). It was a joint field trip of the Physical Science, Physics, Thai, and Language Arts Classes. Each class had specific objectives for the trip:

Thai - Appreciate Thai wildlife and diversity.

Language Arts - Instill positive ethical, cultural, and environmental values, and allow students to form their opinions on how they can help preserve wildlife and other natural resources. To develop social and communication skills by learning with peers in a more relaxed setting.

Physics & Physical Science- Observe scientific principles to understand the physical world better.

The main goal of the trip is to observe wildlife in their natural habitat and to better understand their importance and role in the world. The trip gave the students a chance to see wild animals up close. It also enhanced their basic survival skills such as cooking and setting up tents. The decision to visit Khaoyai National Park was based on its proximity, and the limited budget available for the trip.

Khao Yai National Park is one of the national forests of the country. It was established under the initiative of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, in collaboration with other countries such as the United States of America and Switzerland. It is considered the best national park in Thailand for regular visitors because it is relatively easy to see some impressive animals. It was established in 1962 as Thailand's first national park, it is the third largest in Thailand. Situated mainly in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. It extends into Prachinburi, Saraburi, and Nakhon Nayok provinces. The park covers an area of 2,168 km², including rain/evergreen forests and grasslands. The average altitude of the national park ranges from 400 to 1,000 meters above sea level. Khao Yai is part of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex; a World Heritage Site declared by UNESCO, covering 5 protected areas from Khao Yai to the Cambodian border. The other protected areas are; Pang Sida National Park, Thap Lan National Park, Ta Phraya National Park, and Dong Yai Wildlife Sanctuary.

www.khaoyainationalpark.com



During the trip, they saw and observed different kinds of animals such as elephants, deer, porcupines, monitor lizards, raptors, gibbons, macaques, hornbills, and other bird species.



They also learned about the animals' natural habitat and how they react to people. The trip was quite special, as the students were lucky enough to spot many animals throughout the day, and the best part was when they saw the herd of elephants on the afternoon of their first day.

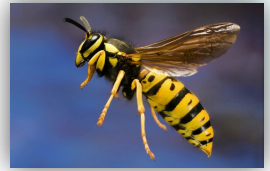


The trip was fun for them, however, they encountered a minor hitch when they were cooking their dinner of Japanese Chicken Curry. None of them had any experience in cooking the dish before. It was already dark when they arrived at the camping area, and they were all hungry from the day's activities. Despite that little challenge, they were able to make some hilarious memories together that added more to their fun experiences that day.

The students also learned some basic survival skills, and how to take responsibility for themselves and others. Teacher Arpha taught them some valuable lessons on being a good leader. A good leader is responsible and looks out for everyone under his or her care. Must always be prepared, and makes sure that everyone is safe at all times.

The students learned how important wildlife and forests are to the world, and how they play a significant role in human survival. They discovered that if one looks closely enough, one can see the beauty in every living thing.

Just like the wasp that was whirring around them. Its sting could be fatal for some, but if left alone, it can continue to help in the pollination of the plants in the forest.



Initially, the students were apprehensive about encountering some leeches, but they did not come across any during the trip. While the students had previously observed wildlife through online platforms like YouTube, they have never observed these wild animals face-to-face before, except at the zoo.



At first, they were not that impressed with the idea of doing a wildlife camping trip, but then they ended up wanting to stay longer. The grade 12 students had a lot of fun, and their camping trip will surely be one of their best memories of AIMS. A once-in-a-lifetime experience that they will surely remember for a long time.

