



FOOTPRINTS

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From the Administrator's Desk



Dear Parents,

Homework is a very important part of your child's education here at AIMS.

While there are advocates for and against homework, we feel that this practice is valuable. Since we assign homework we would like to take this opportunity to share some important points of our homework policy.

Homework is an extension of your child's schoolwork. The teacher gives at-home activities that may include:

- Reinforcement of a newly acquired skill
- A preparation assignment to make student ready for a class activity
- A project that is parallel to lessons being learned in the class

The purpose of homework is to help students build good study habits, foster a sense of responsibility, serve as practice for the school curriculum, prepare students for class tests and standardized exams and provide an opportunity for more communication between teachers and parents and parents and student.

Although the time required for the completion of an assignment will vary from student to student, we encourage teachers to be sensitive to the demands of other subjects when planning homework assignments. The following is a guideline for the amount of homework given per day:

Level 1 (prep-center to K3) - no homework

Grade 1 – 20 minutes

Grade 2 – 30 minutes

Grade 3 – 30–45 minutes

Grade 4 – 45 minutes – 60 minutes

Grades 5 to 8 – 90 minutes

Grades 9 to 12 - 120 minutes

We hope the following suggestions taken from Classroom Instruction that Works (Marzano) will help to make homework time worthwhile:

Help your child establish a consistent schedule for completing homework

Help set up a consistent organized place for homework to be done.

Encourage, motivate, and prompt your child, but do not sit with her and do the homework with her. The purpose of the homework is for your child to practice and use what she has learned. If your child is consistently not able to do the homework by herself, please

Grades 7 through 10 use computer tablets for learning

Clifford Belnas, Grade 8

This year, the school did things differently. Instead of using textbooks, it bought Acer Iconia W700 and Acer Aspire 3 computer tablets for the students to use in their studying.

There are advantages in using the tablets at school. First, textbooks are too heavy to carry to school, but the tablets have e-books which makes it easier to carry to school. Second, the tablets are light, and we, students, can do our homework or schoolwork anytime or anywhere.

Third, the tablets have many different applications that the students can use in studying like taking down notes, creating presentations, writing essays, doing research, etc. Fourth, there is also a new way for students to submit their work or



assignments which is through the Internet. Fifth, both students and teachers have easier access to information. For the students, they can use online resources which help them understand the lessons better. For the teachers, they can prepare lessons easier through online resources. The new website which students are getting used to is

Schoology. Schoology is a website where the teachers can send online homework to students. Students must check their Schoology every day to see if they have some assignments to do.

Sixth, another important thing about using the tablet is we are reducing the use of paper which makes our school ecofriendly. Seventh, "students will also increase in engagement and achievement. They will have improved quality of work and writing skills. They will also improve their productivity and critical thinking skills. They will be able to have better communication and teamwork skills. And lastly, they will develop real-world-skills in using and applying technology." (<http://www.eng.vt.edu/it/tabletbenefits>)

There are also disadvantages in using the new tablets. First, students may get distracted during a teacher's lecture if they go to websites or play computer games instead of listening to the teacher. Second, teachers and students cannot use Schoology if there is no Internet. There is no Internet if there is no power. Third, the students will not be able to use tablets at school if they forgot to charge them at home. Lastly, if a student accidentally drops the tablet, it will break into pieces.

There are many advantages and some disadvantages in using the new tablets. But overall, there are positive things in using this new technology. It's a whole new world for AIMS. ♥

contact the teacher.

If your child is practicing a skill, ask him to tell you which steps are easy for him, which are difficult, or how he is going to improve. If your child is doing a project, ask him what knowledge he is applying in the project. If, your child is consistently unable to talk about the knowledge he is practicing or using, please call the teacher.

When bedtime comes, please stop your child, even if he is not done.

When you come to the school, please stop by the office and ask for a copy of our homework policy. ♥

AIMS celebrates mothers

Ha Rim Ji (Ha Rim), Grade 8

On August 15, 2013, AIMS celebrated “Mother’s Day.” The basketball court was beautifully decorated with banners and flowers. Many parents, especially the mothers of the students, were present at AIMS. All of their faces were full of joy and happiness because of the opportunity to celebrate a special day for dear mothers.

The program started after the flag ceremony with an opening prayer by Teacher Ajay. Selected representatives from grades 1-6 spoke about the importance of mothers in their lives. A representative student from Grade 4 even read a wonderful poem to her mother. Then, some students and children presented their mothers with beautiful and pure jasmine flowers and said, “I love you” to them. In return, the mothers hugged, kissed, and prayed for blessings upon their children. Then Mrs. Foster, the administrator, gave the closing remarks and ended the wonderful program with a prayer of gratitude for our dear mothers. It really was a awesome program.

Mothers are our main source of life. They take care of us, feed us, clothe us, shelter us, and help us in many other ways. They have borne us for nine months, and gave us life. They really are the main characters in the story of our lives. And I believe this is why Mother’s Day is celebrated – to show respect and appreciation to our dear mothers. ♥



Students honor teachers

Nuttida Sirimongkklanurak (Jan), Grade 7

The AIMS Wai Kru Day is a very special ceremony. It has been practiced by the AIMS family year after year. The Wai Kru Day is a traditional Thai ceremony that allows students to show love, honor, and respect to their teachers. The students also benefit from the teachers' blessings, after they have honored them. Every year, the Thai teachers organize this ceremony which is so beneficial for both the students and the teachers. But this year's Wai Kru Day was a little different from the past years since the students also put much effort and creativity into the program.

The Wai Kru program was held on August 22, 2013 in the AIMS cafeteria. Each grade had to select two representatives, a boy and a girl. As I told you earlier, this year's program was a little different from other years. Every year, the representatives have to buy their own trays to give to their teachers as an offering. But this year, instead of buying the trays, they made



them themselves. The students from Grades 9 to 12 had to make two trays. They had to make one creative tray and one beautiful tray. All the students really brainstormed on what they would make and worked hard on their creations. Each class came up with

unique trays! Grades 9 and 12 both made Minion trays. Minions are very famous characters from the movie "Despicable Me." Grade 10 also came up with a brilliant idea of a huge heart with the words "Love teachers" in Thai!

This year's program was a lot of fun. All credits go to the Thai teachers who organized the program. I hope that the Thai teachers will come up with new creative ideas in the years to come. But at this point, we have to say a big "Thank you" to them for organizing such a wonderful program for the AIMS family. ♥



It's Thai Culture Day

Jiratchaya Charoenkul (Shampoo), Grade 7

On the sixth day of September, we had Thai Culture Day. It was held at the AIMS basketball court. During the program, teachers taught us how to have good manners and to be respectful to our parents and teachers. It is a good thing for students who have good conduct because they would have a chance to receive certificates.



How can we be good students? That is what teachers taught us. They said that we must be respectful, and we must dress in our complete uniforms. Another way to be a good student is to greet others. We must always greet our parents, teachers, and other respected people everytime we meet them. To learn

more about Thai culture, we had a Thai dance from some talented girls at AIMS. The dance was very good. We also had a Thai song sung by the International as well as some Thai students. Their song was challenging, but they sang it well.

Teachers gave certificates of recognition to Thai and International students who showed respect and right practice of Thai culture, and who displayed good manners and right conduct.



Thai Culture Day will be done again next year. Do you want a certificate? Be a good student and be respectful to every person, especially the older ones. ♥

AIMS observes Spiritual Emphasis Week

Jasperine Phetchareun (Jas), Grade 7

From September 16 to 20, 2013, AIMS had Spiritual Emphasis Week. Students got to hear five different speakers and had the chance to gain a lot of spiritual knowledge from each one of them. We were spiritually filled with different kinds of knowledge from different kinds of speakers. Each speaker was fun in his own way. I believe each speaker was inspired by God to come and take the time to speak to AIMS students.

This year's theme was the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-11 of the Holy Bible. Grades 5 through 12 students had their Spiritual Emphasis session in the first period – 8:30 to 9:20 in the morning. Pre-school through Grade 4 had theirs in the second period – 9:20 to 10:05.

On Monday, the first day, the service was led by Grade 5, and Grade 6 sang a special song. The speaker was Pastor Alfian Sadondang and he spoke about "Blessed are the poor in Spirit." On Tuesday, the service was led by Grade 7, with a special song from Grade 8. The speaker was Brother Armin Kritzinger. He spoke about "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness." On Wednesday, Grade 9 led the service as well as sang the special song. The speaker was Dr. Sang-Hoon Jee and he spoke about "Blessed are the pure in heart." Then on Thursday, Grade 10 led the service, Grade 11 sang a special song. The speaker was Pastor Abel Ntep and he spoke about "Blessed are the merciful." On Friday, the last day of the Spiritual Emphasis week, Grade 12 led the service and sang the special song. The speaker was Pastor Luesak Yangkullawat and he spoke about "Blessed are the peacemakers."

The Spiritual Emphasis week ended on Friday. At the end of the, we were filled with spiritual knowledge and wisdom from the different speakers. ♥

