



FOOTPRINTS

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From the Administrator's Desk



Curriculum Review

I would like to take this opportunity to give you some information about our curriculum development process. Beginning in 2007, teachers and administrators examined and revised the AIMS curriculum. The result is a standard based curriculum. Teachers developed standards and benchmarks for each subject area and aligned them from kindergarten to grade 12.

In 2010, the kindergarten level adopted the Creative Curriculum that "reflects good child development principles while integrating content and skill development, aligning curriculum and assessment."

Three accrediting bodies approved our curriculum. However, curriculum should never become static; but should be constantly examined based on the latest research in the field of Education. With that in mind, AIMS has established a Curriculum Review Committee. Subject departments are being assigned a five-year cycle to review the current curriculum in use, decide changes, implement the changes and assess them. There is a year for review, a year for formalizing changes and three years for implementation and assessment.

The Language Arts department is now in the first full year of the review process. Their first task is to:

- Collect and analyze data from our standardized tests
- Examine the existing Language Arts curriculum
- Review research-based literature in language arts
- Examine best practice in other international schools
- Summarize findings and develop plans for implementation

Since we are a small school we will begin a new subject cycle each year so that same teachers who would serve on many of the subject committees will not be overtaxed and will be able to do a thorough job with each subject. The core subjects: language arts, math and science are our priorities.

OPEC Visit

The Office of Private Education Commission (OPEC) visited AIMS February 6, 2014. The purpose was to evaluate and grade AIMS since all private schools are under the supervision of OPEC. We feel very blessed that AIMS received a score of 100/100.

Upcoming Events

Reading weeks will be March 17 to 27. Asia Bookstore will again come to AIMS to sell children's books. ♥

AIMS alumnus Max Chang shines

Eldrian Golden (Ian) and Akarawat Wangsawat (Jee), Grade 10

Eldrian Golden (Ian) and Akarawat Wangsawat (Jee) interviewed Jui Wen Chang (Max) on alumni day.



Ian and Jee: Please tell us a little bit about the course you are taking at Thammasat University.

Max: I'm taking the Bachelor of Arts Program in Journalism (Mass Media Studies) at Thammasat University. The program focuses on mass media studies such as news analysis, film production, advertising, public relations, etc.

Ian and Jee: Could you tell us some of the experiences and achievements you had during your first year?

Max: I was elected president of the Bachelor of Arts Program in Journalism, 8th class and made it to the top ten in academics in the Integrated Information Technology class and top three in two other courses, Social Science, and Humanities.

Ian and Jee: What are some of the difficulties you had adjusting to college life?

Max: The major difficulty I had in my university life is time management. It's not like easy schedules. All are packed and busy. It's difficult because there is too much free time compared to high school, but there are zero reminders for any work or projects. Responsibility is the only thing that will help you survive university.

Ian and Jee: How would you compare high school and university?

Max: Different life, different world. If you think university is just a bigger version of high school, you are going to have a bad time. Excuses don't work, and there will be no teachers running after you for you to have a better score.

Ian and Jee: In your opinion, do you think AIMS contributed to your success at Thammasat University?

Max: Definitely! Responsibility and self-confidence were what I developed at AIMS and took out with me after I graduated. I was one of the first students who had after school study hall with Mrs. Foster, and the reviewing methods in my high school helped me out in my studies at the university. Being able to join countless activities and clubs at AIMS and present projects to AIMS teachers gave me the advantages of responsibility and self-confidence. This helped me achieve in college.

Ian and Jee: Do you have any apothegms (words of wisdom) for AIMS students?

Max: Enjoy high school life to the fullest, you are never having it back. But always bear in mind that you must be responsible and serious in studying. If you end up in the after school study hall, you are doing it wrong. ♥



It's Christmas Program at AIMS

Christmas is here, our hearts are filled with cheer!" It is the first line of the finale song composed by Teacher Lynn timer for the 2013 AIMS Christmas program. AIMS' students sang it well and made this year's Christmas program a memorable night again. The students proudly did the yearly program. The theme was "Praise the King of Kings!" Part 1 was Praises to the New-born King and Part 2 was Modern-day Praises to the King of Kings.

Even though everyone practiced for a short period of time, the program turned out pretty well. Each grade came up with a marvelous choreography and creative presentation that made parents' jaws dropped in awe. The program started with the fast opening interpretative dance by Grades 4 and 5 in Part 1. The Kindergarteners made Christmas even merrier by singing and playing their instruments in their voice and instrument praise. Peter and Ellie (Grades 10 and 8) who played Joseph and Mary, Jesus' father and mother, sang Mary and Joseph's Song beautifully. Grade 7 showed Jesus the King of King's love for the modern-day people. Grade 8 performed the Christmas Angels and Shepherd's Dance, while wise men Ha Rim, Denny, and Dave (Grade 8) sang the worship song for the new-born Baby Jesus, the King of Kings. Grades 3 and 1 did their own interpretative praise songs of O Come All Ye Faithful and Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.

Part 2 began with Grade 10 portraying Let Freedom Ring praise song. Grade 2 made the audience clap

with their Christmas Praise Medley song and dance. Grade 6 made a hand chime ensemble accompanying the praise song O How I Love Him! Grades 9 and 11 also performed with creativity when they praised the King of Kings with their songs. Part 2 ended with another fast number Christmas Roundelay wonderfully done by Grades 4 and 5 again. The finale song Praise the King of Kings composed by Teacher Lynn timer ended the whole program. Teacher Lynn timer also composed three other songs: Voices and Instruments Praise, Mary and Joseph's Song, and We Come to Praise and Worship You.

All students worked so hard to create their own choreography and everybody was exhausted but happy during that time.

Even though lots of students said they did not have much time to practice because of school work assigned to them during the practice, everything went smoothly and organized.

AIMS students promise to work harder to present a better performance in the next year's Christmas program. ♥





Loy Krathong once again at AIMS

Saowapak Hanpadungkit (Im), Grade 7

Loy Krathong is a Thai festival celebrated yearly. During the festival, Thai people thank the water by placing Krathongs in the river. On November 15, 2013, AIMS celebrated the Loy Krathong Day. However, our celebration was slightly different from the traditional method.

In the first part of the program, the master of ceremony teachers explained to the students the meaning and purpose of Loy Krathong Day. Then two groups of students, one from Grade 3 and another from the Thai Dance Club, danced two beautiful and colorful Thai dances. The next important part was the Miss Loy Krathong beauty pageant. In this activity, a female repre-



sentative represents each grade, introduces herself, and answers questions about Loy Krathong.

Food exhibits and selling were also part of

the Loy Krathong Day. Thai parents and some International teachers cooked food specialties and sold them to the students, parents, teachers, and visitors. What a happy day!

As a whole, this event was planned well and the activities helped us learn more about Loy Krathong. ♥



Daddy, I love you

Porawat Sattavacharavech (Win), Grade 8



Every December 5, AIMS honors fathers because students love their fathers and it is also the birthday of the King whom the Thai people look up as the People's Father and King. On this day, all Thai people celebrate Father's Day. Father's Day is an important time to celebrate because Thai children express their love and respect to their fathers and because the people honor the king for the many projects he has done to Thailand to make it better. This year, AIMS students, parents, and teachers celebrated Father's Day on December 4 at the basketball court.

The program started with the opening prayer by Teacher Ajay, a father himself. He thanked God the Father for the gift of fathers. Then the King's Anthem (สรรเสริญพระบารมี) and Sa-Du-Di-Ma-Ha-Ra-Cha (สดุดีมหาราชา) song was sung as led by Bee, G12. After the two songs, Ian and Jee, both Grade 12, welcomed everyone and explained the importance of Father's Day. Then father and son Teacher Nelson and Ben Acosta, G9, exchanged speeches. Teacher Nelson read his speech telling how he loves his son Ben, and Ben, in return, told Teacher Nelson, his father, how he appreciates his father's love and how he thanks him. After the touching speeches, Mon, Grade 6, sang Nai-Luang-Nai-Duang-Jai (ในหลวงในดวงใจ). Another song to the fathers was sung by K3 students while they played their ukuleles. Then came the most important part of the program which was the showing of love and respect to fathers by their children. The fathers were asked to sit on the seats on the



front and their children knelt before them, kissed and hugged them, and said "I love you" to them. The children also gave their fathers a glass frame with the portrait of the king on it. Finally, AIMS administrator Mrs. Patricia Ann Foster said her closing remarks and prayed to close the program.

A father is a person who is kind to us and loves and cares about us. As their children, we should love and respect them. In a year, there is only one day to honor our fathers. But I believe that we should love, respect, and show our gratefulness to our fathers every day of the year and forever. ♥

