

KEEPING IN CHECK

- Emanuell Darryl Bingku

Last year was certainly unwelcoming for most of us due to the inconveniences and troubles it gave us. It was hard, and no one was prepared for it. Towards the end of the year, the situation improved. Nowadays, people are working harder to make changes to their way of life, in order for them to combat the dangers of COVID-19. Since we are in a pandemic, the government is doubling its efforts to keep everyone in Thailand safe. Safety protocols were set in place and are strictly implemented.

Schools are also doing their best to ensure that everyone who steps into the school grounds will be kept safe and will be able to learn more in a comfortable and reassuring environment. However, it does not prevent other types of diseases, injuries, or casualties from happening in the school. For this reason, the school always has a medical and emergency support on standby in order to minimize any form of disaster or casualties that may happen.



Mrs. Kritsadapoon Lekasawan or also known as T. Maew, is the one in charge of the medical support for AIMS. Her efforts and contribution to the well-being of the students, teachers, and staff is immensely important. Her main job as a school nurse is to help those who are injured or ill.

In the light of the current COVID situation, it is also her duty to give updates of the COVID situation to the school's personnel and students every day. If any student needs immediate medical attention, she is in charge of contacting and bringing the student to the nearest hospital.

Teacher Maew was able to make connections with the Lungkhaw Public Health Office in Muaklek, and she gets all the necessary information from them. Some parents of the students of AIMS who are doctors and nurses by profession are also extending help in any way they can.

The IT Department - under its Department Head Engr. Edan Boy Pedragosa, with the help of the maintenance staff, installed the latest thermal scanning devices and distributed RFID cards to the students and staff for added security.

To further minimize exposure to the virus, "No Touch switches" were installed at the doors.



Teachers are assigned to be on duty to watch over the students during break and lunch time at designated areas around the school, to guarantee students' safety.



Overall, the school is working hard to keep everyone safe. The medical support and security protocols have made it possible for students and teachers to attend classes face to face. The school hopes that in the future, their manpower could increase in order for them to protect everyone who steps into the school grounds.



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



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MOVING ON WITH AIMS

- Gevanya Franklene Mantiri and Glyzel Kate Belnas

Time surely does pass by like a blink of an eye. One moment you are playing with your younger brother and before you know it, you see him getting married to the love of his life. We are not able to stop time, nor will it wait for us because as we know, the cycle continues. We might not realize it, but change is everywhere. Each year, we can decide to either improve and make ourselves better or remain as we are.

Adventist International Mission School continues to build on what it has started 20 years ago; keeping up with the times, and improving on the way it delivers its service to its students.

In this issue, we will be going through how the school has been over the past years, and how it will, and can improve more. This issue will also deal on how the school prepared its safety protocols, especially with the threat of a pandemic.

This will be a walk back in time for all of us. Reminiscing the past for those who started AIMS from the beginning, and watching as the new era of AIMS unfold before our eyes. These will be exciting times for AIMS. Challenging but will surely be exciting.

ENGLISH EMPHASIS

- Gabriela Kylene Mantiri

Every year, the English department of AIMS celebrates the English Month in February, but due to the pandemic, school activities are now being discouraged. What used to be a month long event of debates, stage play presentations, peer-reading, and other kinds of activities; is now limited to classroom activities.

For this reason, we have decided to compile the poems written by the grade 12 students in their Language Arts class. They have written seven forms of poetry to express different kinds of emotions. Showing the beauty of nature through Haikus, expressions of love in couplets, and even some humor in limericks.

Until things get back to normal, there can never be elaborate plans for the English Month. Fortunately, the teachers are doing their best to teach their students in creative ways through hands-on activities. They make English learning fun and interesting.

English is an international language that enables us to communicate with each other. It is a way of bridging our differences so we can understand each other better. We may not be able to showcase what we have learned in English through plays, music or any kinds of show, but we can share them here in Footprints.

AIMS Throwback

- Glyzel Kate Belnas



A forest of beautiful plants and trees turned itself into a school that is filled with beautiful people - the brains who developed this whole institution. From greens and diverse wildlife into a colored building of diverse nationalities, this school, Adventist International Mission School, was built with a strong foundation of good character and motives.

AIMS is located in Muaklek, Saraburi, Thailand. This province is mostly agricultural, with small businesses and some factories. The school is found in a countrified area that is wide enough to provide a safe and quiet place for the children to learn. The children can grow and be educated in a natural environment on the grounds of the then Mission College.

Back in 1999, a woman named Mrs. Canady established the English Elementary School. It started as a school that would cater to the children of the faculty and staff of Mission College - which we now know as the Asia Pacific International University (AIU).

At that time, the Muaklek Church, which was under the leadership of Pastor Wendel Wilcox, established the Mission Kindergarten School. This was intended for the children of the workers of Asia Pacific International University (AIU). It was originally located in a room in the AIU administration building, then was relocated into a vacated residential duplex. The Day Care Center was located in an empty apartment building in the same area.

Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness - Godlikeness is the goal to be reached.

- Ellen G. White



Once upon a time in Muaklek, Thailand, there was a young girl who moved to study at what was formerly known as the Mission College. During those days, the children had great experiences; especially because they were the first students at the school

that we now call - AIMS. Back then, the kids spent a lot of time outdoors. This young girl really loved adventure, and she still does now. Up until the summer of 2003, the students were studying in a building down at Mission College, for their summer classes.

At the beginning of a new academic year in 2002, the new school building was completed and was ready to be occupied by the students. It made everyone excited to go to school. The AIMS students, parents and teachers all helped in moving books from the old library and other study materials into the new building, located at the entrance of Mission College. They also organized a day to plant trees around the new building. AIMS was still a growing school, and it only offered education until Grade eight then. Every year was a learning experience, both for the students and the teachers. From around ninety six students at that time, the school continued to grow in number, and so did the quality of education that the students were getting.

The young girl mentioned earlier was one of the first students of AIMS. Along with her classmates and friends, they built memories and gained more knowledge each day. They had the same activities each year, such as Sports Day, talent shows, Songkran and many more. Most of the activities were held at the open basketball court and a non-air-conditioned cafeteria. This young girl had so much fun at AIMS, and made so much memories she cherishes until now.

In all those years, she was able to witness some of AIMS' first and great changes. She witnessed the first basketball team of AIMS, called Templars, and through the help of some teachers, they were able to compete with other schools locally and provincially. AIMS also added classes until Grade 12, and Spanish classes was also first introduced during their time as well.

There were many ideas that these alumni suggested that AIMS made happen later on. One of the ideas was having a separate school uniform for the high school, and they saw the transition from the old one to the new one during their time at school. Other ideas that were also suggested were a school yearbook and a banquet for the older students, which was at first just for the student council, but was later changed to Junior-Senior Banquet. Even after their batch graduated, AIMS continues to make the changes that we see to this day.

That once upon a time young girl has now turned into a very responsible young woman, who is now happily and proudly serving her alma mater as one of its kindergarten teachers.



Teacher Kristel May Villaluz Acosta has come a long way and has come full circle. All those years of learning at AIMS coupled with her persistence and dedication, Teacher May is now happily nurturing little kids and helping them grow in their little kindergarten world.



I studied at AIMS from grades 1-5 (2001-2005). At first, our classrooms were at the faculty/staff houses in Mission College - now AIU, this was because at that time the current AIMS main building was still under construction. We didn't have uniforms, so we could wear whatever we wanted to.

Some of the most memorable experiences I had were creating GIFs with Teacher Edward during my computer class, etching mirrors with Teacher Tranqui during arts class, playing frisbee with Teacher Tranqui during P.E., watching Wan Lee and bawling our eyes out during Thai class with Teacher Tad, cooking during summer school, going to Dream World for our fieldtrip, and even watching shooting stars at 2:00 AM during our Pathfinder campout.

Another thing I enjoyed was the science fair. There would be no classes for the whole day and all our tables would be arranged outside like a market. All classes were assigned to come up with activity stations for others to participate, in exchange for a small prize or snack.

Since the number of students was small, we were all like a family even though some of us were not in the same grade. Studying was a fun experience for me, and I wanted to come to school every day.

I appreciate the experiences I had at AIMS, and I hope my students now will too.



Teachers can change lives with just a right mix of chalk and challenges.

Walking Down Memory Lane



Photo Credits: @AIMS Multimedia



Through the years, the population of AIMS has grown steadily. With more number of students, the school needed to add more classrooms and to improve its facilities. For years, the school administration has been looking for ways to expand in order to cater to the growing population. There were times when the school had to turn down some students, due to the lack of classrooms. Each class has been maxed up to its fullest capacity of twenty to twenty five students. The only way to address this need is to build, build, build.



Where the counselor's office once was...

At the beginning of the school year, this plan is finally nearing its fruition. The hill at the back of the main building has been cleared and leveled. The counselors office had to be torn down, and Teachers Heidi and DJ had to be temporarily relocated to a container van office between the basketball court and the cafeteria.

One of the first things that was done while waiting for the finalization of the paper work, was the installation of a bigger and better electric transformers. With a bigger building, there will be a greater need for power supply. It is also to make sure that the school will be safe from possible electric related problems.

The first phase of the new building will be for the high school students. This will make it possible for the computer laboratory to have more space for new and better facilities. AIMS has organized clubs where students learn different kinds of life skills. The activities in each club requires bigger classrooms for the students to freely move around as they do their activities.



The first phase will have more rooms for faculty and staff offices. The ground floor will house a wider library, a bigger cafeteria, and a new mini-mart for school supplies and even some snacks. The second floor will be mainly for the high school classrooms. The third floor will be for the extra rooms that other co-curricular classes will need, or may be converted into a multi-purpose hall.

According to Khun Weerasak – the school manager, the first phase will include the construction of the right wing of the new building. It will take approximately eight months to a year to finish it, and they're hoping to begin in June 2021. The blueprints are yet to be finalized and approved by the government before the actual building can commence.

POETRY and MEMORIES

A compilation of original poems written by the grade 12 students as a requirement for the 3rd Quarter, school year 2020 - 2021.

NARRATIVE

- Tula Kongsaree

LIFE GIVER'S LIGHT

Colors coming out from plain sentences,
Blinking into the world beyond five senses.
Panting with words from his mouth,
Clearer it becomes as the syllables are out.
Each pause filled with rhythmic heartbeats,
I'll tell a story of a man, please take a seat.

Here's the story he once told me,
There was once a guy, who's young and free.
Working hard to support his siblings and wife,
Only one person, but he took care of six lives.
Selling what he can on a scorching street,
With nothing, not even shoes on his feet.

Work, work, and work, there's no time to stop,
Until one day, he was working in a shop.
Work, work, and work, he became the owner,
Selling lumber, construction materials,
even when he had fever.
All his sweat paid off the price,
It's now his time to move up and rise.

Supporting his little brother, till he became a doctor,
Educating his children till they
became fathers and mothers.
Each of them became successful in their own ways,
His wife, his children, his family
became comfortable these days.
Unfortunately his breath stopped
before you were even born,
But his legacy will stay
in our hearts as we move as one.

My eyes widened, and my palms sweat,
I know we owe this man a huge debt.
"This was your grandfather," my dad said,
There will be many difficulties in life ahead,
Work with diligence, and one day it will pay,
Never ever give up anywhere, anyway.

HAIKU

- Pongsapak Yopinta

NATURE SERIES

Beach

Seashells in the sand.
In the hot, summer's day beach.
Blue sky, sunny day.

Clouds

Soft clouds in the sky.
In spring, all the leaves are green.
Autumn, please don't come.

Butterfly

Butterflies look cool.
Many colors – red and black.
They are everywhere.

TANKA

- Pataraporn Skulsuksai

GATHER AROUND

Let us gather here,
Where the river flows between.
As we stand around,
And our feet in the river,
Feeling the cold touch of it.

Can you feel it yet?

The river flowing in you,
Refreshing feeling.

Standing on the muddy ground,
Fishes swimming by our feet.

Now open your eyes.

Can you see the river there?
Where the river flows.
See where it flows, it brings life.
To us and to the nature.

COUPLET

- Wenqin Song

BEAUTIFUL COMMITMENT

Once upon a time in Shanghai,
I thought I had you as mine.
I couldn't tell what's in your heart;
You left me with a question mark.

Thailand life keeps me busy;
Chinese girls drive me crazy.
I've tried to call you online,
But all I received is decline.

We were thousands of miles away,
And my heart had started to sway.
That foggy truth underneath your veil,
Predestined that I am going to fail.

Got enough of the misery from you,
I want a candid love to form a lovely two.
Resolved to get rid of your maze,
Now I am here to kiss a brand-new face.

Darling, what I have to say?
No reservation, and you I'll never betray.
Get in to our love affair,
Till we both have silver hairs.

TERZA RIMA

- Teeranop Kingphutthaphong

GROUP OR SOLO

One, two, one, two, one two..
"Alright, group yourselves together."
My group looked great, until I saw you.

I was assigned to be the group leader,
To be responsible if anything goes wrong.
To take care of you like I am your father.

I waited for your email for so long.
Is this a group or just my work?
It is better not to have him, am I wrong?

The situation seems like I am his clerk,
Doing all the job for my boss.
I feel like I am buried under a pile of work.

You are like an obstacle I need to cross.
No path, no way for me to escape.
In the end, I am the only one at a loss.

Oh, please help me, any hero with a cape.
Save me from this unfair group.
Cause teacher can't even help me escape.

LIMERICK

- Napas Sipiyarak

BELL, WHOSE NAME ISN'T SPELLED BELLE

There's a friend of mine named Bell,
Who has many stories to tell.
She always hesitates
In the decision she creates
And regrets with all her body cells.

When we were studying in grade four,
Her dad had to change the floors and doors.
She quickly chose purple and pink.
She was pleased that she forgot to blink.
Now, she regrets even more and more.

She once went to the shore.
She saw hermit crabs and picked up four.
She took them home and changed her mind.
She brought them back, and they were fine.
From then on, she only buys pets from store.

We were friend since when we were small.
Every time you stumble and fall,
I'll always be there, laughing at you.
Just kidding, I'll help you get through.

SENSORY

- Pitchayut Lertniratwong

AN INVISIBLE THREAT

An invisible threat looms –
preying on the weak,
feasting on ignorance,
and unheeded by the powerful.

An invisible threat dooms
those who are vulnerable.

It invades your body,
attacks your senses,
hijacks your system,
pushes you to the edge,
into the brink of death,
Or scars you for life.

It forces its victims
to isolate, to distance themselves.
So simple, yet so devastating.

Like dominoes they fall –
people, relationships, and economies
all crumble from its attack.

Now they're dragging out the widows,
they're dragging out the dead,
singing "I miss you".

Flip the lid, out pops the dead –
they took it without love,
they took it with a pinch of salt.

They've been warned,
but they took it with a pinch of salt.

We've been warned,
but we took it with a pinch of salt.
An invisible threat loomed,

But people took it with a pinch of salt.

HAIKU

- Phatsit Chanwitayaphan

THUNDER

Thunderstorm at night,
That very loud roaring sound,
Makes the night bright as the day.

Bolts around the sky,
moving quickly all around,
Left and right and more...

Rainfall and thunder,
Flashing bolts across the skies,
Purple sky shines bright.

LIMERICK

- Chanikan Buranasaksri

MY BELOVED BROTHER

A boy whom I met since I was born.
A person who could fight even just for a unicorn.
Just looking and staring at each other's faces,
Makes me want to leave for the outer space.
You look like a kid when you mourn.

The moment you open your mouth;
That's the time when I have no doubt.
Why people call your teeth a hoe,
Because it always stands out and shows.
This is not the only thing I'm wondering about.

The way you live in your room.
It makes me want to buy you a perfume.
You eat and sleep like the world is about to end;
Having cockroaches as your new friends.
I wonder if you know the thing called- broom?

Just sweep and clear those things.
Living here you are not the king.
You are just my bigger brother,
And I'm just your little sister.
We both are the same as human beings.

TANKA

- Mark Shifberg

CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOM

Cherry Blossoms bloom.
the Samurai stands to watch.
He feels their petals,
Soft as his maiden's own touch.

Dangling on his waist,
his swords sways along with them.
Windy pink petals,
where the Sakura points to.
He will follow where it leads.

They signify Peace,
one that follows them through death.
Pleasant and quiet,
the cherry blossoms still bloom.
Yet the Samurai still stands.

NARRATIVE

- Aldrina Chelsea Anthoney

A BOY'S STORY

On the evergreen hills of Ambanad,
lived a traditional Indian couple.
They cooked in ancient clay pots,
picked firewood from the forests,
and got freshwater from nearby creeks.
Their life was filled with bliss.

Not long after, they had a son.
As Catholics, they picked a Christian name.
They named their babe Anthoney.
They loved him like nothing else in the world.
Anthoney, too, adored his parents.
They were a happy little family.

Since the couple worked in a rubber estate,
they would wake up at the crack of dawn for work,
careful not to wake Anthoney, who was dead asleep.

Receiving a low wage, they worked very hard.
After work, the father cut firewood
and the mother milked cows
to make their evening chai.

One day, the couple left for work
Twelve-year-old Anthoney woke up in his own time,
wiped the drool off his chin,
and rushed out to play with Mohan.
Mohan and Anthoney ran around and played tag.
Getting curious of the forest, they headed towards it.
Soon, they found themselves in the middle of a grove.

The sun began to set, and the workers
returned home from work.
Anthoney's worried parents began to look for him.
The father rushed into the woods in search of Anthoney.
The father found the frightened boys sitting on a rock.
Quietly, Mohan, Anthoney, and his father walked home.
Anthoney ate his dinner happily,
knowing little about the beating
that was about to follow...

COUPLET

- zibin chen

THE LETTER

See the shining stars in the sky,
look like the sparkles in your eyes.
Your eyes are like the moonlight,
gleams of light flash through the night.

Time collapse in your sight,
it folds to an ammonite.
Tracing its thread to the past,
it once had a beautiful draft.

I will draw you as a budding flower,
portraying you in each passing hour.
You add color to the winter,
profound and lovelier than others.

Same as the rotational inertia,
I can't stop until I reach Persia.
The mass of my heart becomes larger
when you are on the axis of my center.

SENSORY

- Mingxiang Chen

FIGHTERS

Life was always fast-paced until the virus erupted.

Peace is granted to cities, not for the homeless.

Hunger hits their stomachs,

Relentless cold wind freezes their skins,

As well as their hearts.

The lock down of the cities locked their hopes.

Desperation is creeping over people's hearts

Coloring them solid black.

Medicine bitters the mouth,

Needle pricks the skin,

Mourning in the ward.

Darkness rises.

Economic crisis is like a demon

Swallowing the poor into its bloody mouth.

Joblessness is the last straw

That broke the camel's back.

They look dead outside

And they are truly dead inside.

Life seems easy for students –

Sitting in front of the laptop all day,

Lectures on the screen,

Voices from the earphone,

And when the stomach is complaining,

Mind wonders and walks to where the waffles are.

However, they are the light and hope.

Medical apparatus on a doctor's hands –

Clank, clank, clank.

The metallic scent penetrates the room,

Salty taste of the skin,

They are the fighters against the desperation.

TERZA RIMA

- Joash Napod Naag

PARADOXICAL

Teachers, constantly remind students to be early,
when they themselves arrive to their classes late,
and when we call them out, they get angry.

Teachers, give students absurd submission dates,
with unreasonable amount of assignments,
then, have the audacity to say that they can relate.

Teachers, give their favorites special treatment,
when they are aware that it is not right,
their hypocrisy is such an entertainment.

Teachers, they love to make their students write,
when they themselves don't like to do it,
and when displeased, they order a rewrite.

Teachers, want their students to never quit,
when we see them often do,
even they too can't commit and quit.

Teachers, teach their students how to be good,
when they can't even follow their own rules.

Teachers, you believe you know what is good.

Oh, you make yourselves look like a bunch of trolls!