



# FOOTPRINTS

The official newsletter of the Adventist International Mission School (AIMS)

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## From the Administrator's Desk



Dear Parents,

This school year has sped by quickly, which is not unusual especially with the busyness of our school community. This year has boasted many activities and events. Several of our students participated in the Nurturing Talent Toward Supremacy in ASEA for Saraburi Area 2 and did an excellent job. Our Student Council members this year organized the Loy Kratong program and are completing our first soon to be published yearbook. Students have worked hard in acquiring knowledge and skills for essential and enduring learning.

I would like to express appreciation to the teachers for diligently working on achieving all aspects of the curriculum: academics, clubs, assemblies, cultural days, and to the staff for their exceptional support in these endeavors.

As part of the AIMS community, parents have worked with the school in the supportive roles of assisting teachers in planning and helping with class activities during the school year. We would like to express our thanks to you for being an integral part of our school community.

## PP, Jack bagged the National English Language Competition 2012 Championship; Camp, first runner up



PP (Grade 9)



Camp (Grade 5)



Jack (Grade 7)

On-issara Jarernvanich, PP (Grade 9); Teerapat Sirimongklunurak, Jack (Grade 7); and Pusin Puriwatthanapong, Camp (Grade 5) qualified to the national level of the English Language Competition 2012 and emerged winners. PP was declared champion in the spelling bee contest by the national board of judges. Jack, on the other hand, got the championship place in storytelling, and Camp landed first runner up in Spelling. PP and Jack got gold medals and Camp, silver. They were also awarded the certificate of recognition. More than 30 schools participated. The three national winners, PP, Jack, and Camp, surely brought joy and honor to their parents, teachers, classmates, and AIMS.

## AIMS families serve Hinkong Thai School

AIMS teachers led by Sir Noparat, AIMS Thai principal, and Teachers Belle, Anelize, Mirma, Marizel, Rojean, Nelson, Luchie, with their respective families conducted an outreach Christmas activity for the more than 600 students of Hinkong Thai school. Students from grades 1 through 9 enthusiastically participated in every activity organized for them.

The highlight of the program was a role-play of the birth of Jesus. T. Anelize narrated the story as T. Belle's children performed the narration. The students also appreciated the violin rendition by David Michael Morley and Clifford Belnas. Both are AIMS students. Mr.

Wagner, T. Anelize's husband, acted as Santa Claus. He also played the trumpet for the children.

Christmas songs filled the air as teachers and students sang together. Lower grades students were asked to paint or draw their ideas of heaven while the higher graders did group activities.

Truly, the whole Christmas Sabbath outreach day turned out to be a happy, memorable one for each student of Hinkong Thai school.

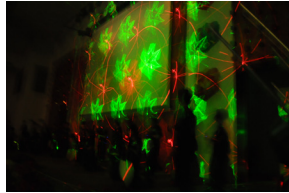
The Christmas outreach program is an annual activity of AIMS. This is the fourth one. AIMS serves the community through this kind of ministry.

By Teacher Belle Morley, Preparatory Teacher





## It's all about gifts in AIMS Christmas program



The Christmas program was the most exciting activity that the school held last year. It was amazing! All of the AIMS students participated in the program. The teachers and staff really put their efforts to make this program a successful one.

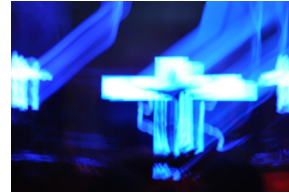
For a month, we practiced for our performance because we wanted it to be perfect. Our class got the theme about "peace". The message of our performance was telling the audience to have peace, not anger. The rest of the AIMS students performed according to the themes about "love" and "joy." This year's Christmas theme gave a lot of good messages to the audience. All of us did our best in this program as we wanted our administrator, Mrs. Foster, to be pleased. It had been a hard time for my class and me to choose what kind of show we were going to perform. We came up with many ideas but some of them were not appropriate. Finally, we decided

to make placards with the lyrics of a song on them and interpreted them through skits. Mrs. Foster was very pleased with us.

All performances of the AIMS students were great. Everyone looked glamorous and wonderful. I especially liked the performance of the grade 2 students. The message was timely: "Love in any language." It gave the audience an idea that true love can be said in any language; that language does not matter as long as love is true. True love encourages people to love others more. Moreover, after every class finished performing, we went back to school and ate to celebrate. There were abundant foods to eat. We enjoyed eating and hanging out with friends.

This Christmas program was the best program of all. I really liked the performances. It conveyed very memorable messages. It was worth working hard to make this program successful.

*By Sirikorn Chatsanguthai (Fah), Grade 9*





## AIMS celebrates Loy Kratong

Because Loy Kratong or “festival of lights” is important to Thai culture, AIMS observed Loy Kratong Festival on November 10, 2011. Many parents, teachers, and students attended this occasion that was held at the AIMS basketball court. This event is celebrated annually to emphasize its importance as part of Thai culture signifying the evening of the full moon of the 12th month in the traditional Thai lunar calendar. In the western calendar, this usually falls in

November.

Loi literally means 'to float,' while krathong refers to the lotus-shaped receptacle which can float on the water. Traditionally, boats made of banana leaf with flowers and candles atop were made to float on rivers to signify letting go of bad thoughts to purify oneself. This “letting go” of boats or banana rafts was associated with beautiful lights. The addition of new features to the program made this year's Loy Kratong Festival more interesting. This included Thai, Philippine, Chinese, and Indian native cultural dances. Also notable was the beauty pageant participated in by beautiful lady representatives or contestants from every grade. This was the highlight of the program. Mrs. Foster ended the program with a closing prayer. In conclusion, the main purpose of Loy Kratong Festival is to make the students always be reminded or mindful of Thai traditions. The AIMS community which attended this festival really enjoyed the program.

*By Chalida Ittiwat (Bow), Grade 12*



## AIMS children tell their fathers, “Father, I love You.”



The love of our fathers is marvelous and hard for us to estimate. We may call our fathers in varied ways – Dad, Daddy, Papa, Pa – but there is only one pure love that fathers all around the world have for us, their children.

My father is the most important man to me. I feel that his love for me cannot be measured. I cannot exactly tell how much he loves me. I just feel that he loves me very much whatever I do or become.

After long periods of daily hard work, my father still finds time to play or share time with me. I treat him as my father and friend, and yes, my teacher.

To honor fathers' love for their children and thank them for that wonderful love were the reasons why AIMS family celebrated Fathers' Day on December 5. The annual celebration also observed the birthday of the Father of Thailand, His Majesty King Bhumibol Ayuldayej, also a father.

The Fathers' Day program included tributes to fathers or short speeches rendered by selected students telling how they love their fathers and how important their fathers were to them. These short speeches were spoken in Thai, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, Filipino, and Indian. Fathers were asked to sit in front to be honored, kissed and hugged by their children. Each father was also offered a “phuttaraksa” plant. But the most touching of all was the saying of “I love you, Father” by the children. The atmosphere was filled with love. My father was not there during that time. But how I wished I could have hugged and kissed him on the cheek and told him, “Dad, I love you very much.” This occasion really showed the honor and love of AIMS children to their beloved fathers.

Actually, we don't have to wait for Fathers' Day to show our love to our fathers. We can do it everyday or every minute of the day. We should show our love not just by word but by action. We must treat our fathers nicely. Their hearts will be glad.

*By Napathsorn Unchit (Mamiow), Grade 11*



## AIMS Pathfinders camp in Malaysia

Thirty-seven AIMS Pathfinders attended the 9th Southeast Asia Union Mission International Pathfinder Camporee held December 11 to 16 in Camp Wawasa, Kg. Ovai Papar, Sabah, Malaysia. The number of all Pathfinders who joined the camping totaled to 1,275 who came from 28 countries of Malaysia, America, Botswana, Cambodia, China, England, Finland, Equatorial Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Myanmar, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Cameroon, Chile, Argentina, Vietnam, Haiti, Germany, South Korea, Mongolia, and South Africa.

The camp's theme was "Walk by Faith" and the guest speakers were Master Guide Jonathan Tejel, World Pathfinder Director and Honorable Datuk Masidi Manjun, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, State of Sabah, Malaysia.

The camp featured skills and honor classes like leadership, conducting significant events, cryptography, marine flag signaling, glass painting, basic first aid, storytelling, cultural diversity appreciation, camp skills, drawing and painting, puppetry, and Bible marking. But what the campers enjoyed most was the cultural village booth visit where they visited and saw unique products from each cottage of the 27 participating countries.

For me, the camp was great. There were many people to meet, play with, and make friends. Lots of fun activities occupied my whole day. The overall experience was nice because of the extra crowd of strangers wanting friends from every country. So I ended up with a bunch of strangers shaking my hands, giving me souvenirs, and talking to me. I did the same to them.

Yes, the camp was also great for people who appreciate nature. And I experienced it. But do you know that my first impression when I got to the



campsite was, "How could I survive in a place like this." But the camp turned out to be a really cool experience because of nature, activities, and different presentations from the 27 countries who displayed skills and shows from their native land.

Those campers who found this camp boring might have a different opinion. I'm writing this so anybody who thinks Pathfinder camping is not worth attending may THINK AGAIN.

*By Max Tan (Max), Grade 8*

