

Catch up with our Prem graduates

making a difference

Celebrating achievements, fostering connections, and looking forward to a exciting future!



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Message From The Head Of School

A Warm Welcome to the Latest Edition of Prem Pulse

We are excited to welcome you to this edition of the Prem Pulse, where we reflect on the vibrant spirit and accomplishments that have shaped our community during the past semester of 2024/25. In this issue, you'll find stories that highlight the creativity, dedication, and passion of our students, staff, and families—elements that make Prem such a special place.

Through the pages of this magazine, we hope you'll enjoy reading about the many ways in which our community continues to grow, learn, and celebrate together. From inspiring student achievements to the impactful events that brought us all closer, this edition showcases the diverse experiences that define our unique Prem journey.

Thank you for being part of our community. We look forward to sharing these wonderful moments with you and to the continued success of the year ahead.

With very best wishes, Rachel Keys M.A. (Oxon), M.Ed. Head of School





PREM KICKS OFF

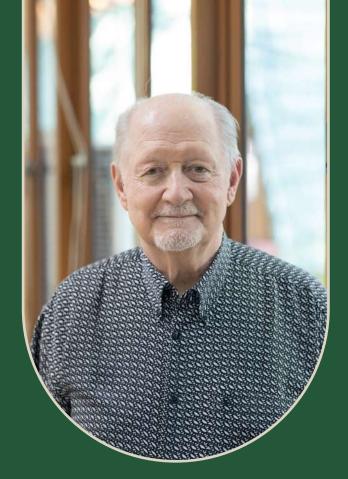
with Excitement and Energy

The first day of Prem's 2024-2025 academic year was filled with excitement and energy as students returned to campus, eager to begin their new journey. The campus buzzed with the enthusiasm of reunions and the anticipation of new challenges. Teachers and staff warmly welcomed students, guiding them through their first classes and setting the stage for a year of growth, learning, and discovery. With classrooms abuzz and new friendships forming, the opening day marked a promising start to what is sure to be an inspiring and successful year at Prem.

The day also included key events that set the tone for the year ahead. Parents gathered for a Coffee Talk, fostering community connections and sharing insights about the school year. Junior School students participated in their first assembly, where they were introduced to the year's themes and activities, while Senior School students kicked off the year with an assembly focused on setting goals and expectations. The day concluded with the Grade 12 Senior Sunrise, a special tradition that marks the beginning of their final year at Prem, symbolising new beginnings and the journey ahead.







Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer, a Board of Governors member at Prem International School, has spent over six decades dedicated to education and development across the globe. Growing up in Minnesota, USA, Dr. Shaeffer's early family travels sparked his lifelong passion for exploration and diverse cultures. His academic journey led him to Stanford University and an exchange programme in Germany, where his interest in global education deepened.

Dr. Shaeffer's career began with the Peace Corps, teaching English in a small school in Malaysia Borneo. His diverse teaching experience in multicultural settings across Southeast Asia laid the foundation for his role as an international development educator. He later pursued advanced degrees at Stanford and worked with prestigious organisations such as the Ford Foundation, UNESCO, and UNICEF in Jakarta, New York, Ottawa, Paris, and Bangkok.

Though retired for 14 years, Dr. Shaeffer remains actively engaged in various networks related to early childhood development, working on projects such as school nutrition programmes in Indonesia. His lifelong commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and the importance of early childhood education continues to shape his contributions to global education.

GOVERNOR SPOTLIGHT:

DR. SHELDON SHAEFFER

Board of Governors member

As a member of Prem's Board of Governors, Dr. Shaeffer is focused on guiding the school to think more proactively about the future. "Prem should not just focus on recruiting students or hiring the best teachers. The key is preparing students for the world they will face 30 years from now," he says. He emphasises the importance of a long-term vision that not only addresses academic learning but also equips students with social and emotional skills to adapt to a rapidly changing world. Dr. Shaeffer notes that Prem excels in fostering this holistic development, helping students navigate the changing ecological and educational landscapes.

Dr. Shaeffer's involvement with Prem began through his connection with Richard Engelheart, a former colleague and currently the Chairman of the Board of Governors, who invited him to join the board after retiring in Chiang Mai. Initially skeptical of international schools, Dr. Shaeffer admits that his previous experiences painted them as catering to a specific group with very little interest in local cultures. However, Prem stood out for its inclusive, holistic approach. "Prem students are more tolerant, and the school develops them into global leaders," he shares, highlighting what sets Prem apart from other international schools in Thailand.

At 78, Dr. Shaeffer remains as passionate as ever, advocating for educational programmes that promote equality and prepare students for the future. His influence extends far beyond the classroom, making him a respected figure in global education development.



LOY KRATHONG AT PREM

The Thai Department at Prem International School organised the Loy Krathong festival to allow students to learn about and preserve beautiful Thai culture.

Students participated in creating krathongs using natural materials such as banana leaves, flowers, and biodegradable materials, while dressed in elegant Thai traditional costumes.

This activity helped instill in students an appreciation for Thai traditions and awareness of environmental conservation through the use of natural materials in krathong making. It also provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about collaboration, develop creativity, and experience the beauty of Thai arts and culture.

The event was highly successful, reflecting the school's commitment to integrating international education with Thai cultural preservation.



PREM HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL CAREER, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY FAIR



The event, led by Dawn Parry, Head of Higher Education and Careers Counselling, brought together more than 700 students, parents, and educators, providing a valuable platform to explore higher education options, application processes, and student life. In the Academic Year 2023-2024, Dawn and her team achieved remarkable success with Prem's Grade 12 students, who secured 133 university offers, including many from prestigious lvy League schools.

Our Head of School, Rachel Keys, emphasised the fair's unique role in inspiring students' educational journeys and preparing them for exciting futures.







PREM TEACHERS SHARING **GOOD PRACTICE-**

On 21 November 2024, Prem's teachers traveled to Chiang Mai International School (CMIS) to share good practices during the ELLSA job-appropriate day with other international schools in Chiang Mai. The ELLSA organisation aims to bring together EAL teachers for mutual support and the sharing of innovative ideas. The event saw many teachers from Prem sharing their knowledge and experiences with others from CMIS, Lanna, APIS, Varee, and Tonkla schools, demonstrating the caliber of Thanks were extended to our teachers, Akane, Anne-Carole, Valezka, Gudrun, and Tim, who shared insights on various subjects, including the use of Al, reciprocal reading methodology, and graphic novels to elicit inferential thinking.

RECIPROCAL

Well done to everyone involved!





ISAT CELEBRATES – 30 YEARS IN THAILAND -

23 November 2024, PREM had the privilege of attending the ISAT (International Schools Association Thailand) 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner Celebration in Bangkok. Representing Prem at this special event were Anne-Carole Laborde, Noortje Janssen, Elacia Wittingham, Keiko Shofu, and Valezka Roman. The evening brought together a vibrant community of educators, working in Thailand, from around the globe. This was accompanied by a delightful dinner and an inspiring keynote address by Dr. Derrick Gay.

Dr. Gay's thought-provoking talk, "The Double-Edged Sword of Diversity: Reframing Diversity to Drive Belonging," deeply resonated with Prem mission. His insights highlighted the importance of fostering diversity and belonging—not only among our students but also within our international community of educators.

Engaging with such expertise offers invaluable learning opportunities, reinforcing the growth mindset and sense of belonging that lie at the heart of Prem's identity. The evening was a true celebration of collaboration, learning, and the rich tapestry of global education.

Congratulations to ISAT on its 30th anniversary! Prem is proud to be a founding member and deeply values ISAT's contributions to promoting international education in Thailand, supporting professional development, and fostering school growth. Earlier this month, the ISAT team visited Prem and other international schools in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai affected by floods, offering vital support.

WINTER WONDERLAND 2024 BRINGS FESTIVE CHEER TO PREM

Prem transformed into a magical Winter Wonderland as the community came together to celebrate the season in spectacular style. The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and the festive spirit, making it a memorable way to kick off the holidays.

The event featured stunning fantasy staging and dazzling site decorations, with a highlight being the enchanting Christmas tree lighting. Head of School surprised everyone with her grand entrance from a present box before illuminating the tree, adding a magical touch to the evening.

Activities included snowball fights, a bubble house, a maze, and over 43 vendors spread across the Quad, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy. The Quad and library buzzed with excitement as families and friends explored the festive offerings and soaked in the holiday atmosphere.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us and to the Parent, School, Community (PSC) group for organising this enchanting event. Winter Wonderland 2024 was truly a celebration to remember!





SPORTS DAY 2024

Sports Day 2024 was an unforgettable event, bringing the Prem community together for a day filled with energy, enthusiasm, and outstanding sportsmanship. Students showcased their teamwork and athletic spirit across a variety of activities, making it a truly memorable occasion.

Set against the stunning backdrop of Prem's 100-acre campus, the event highlighted the school's commitment to blending natural beauty with academic and co-curricular excellence. The day not only fostered a sense of camaraderie but also allowed students to thrive in an inspiring environment.

Congratulations to all our students for their incredible participation and enthusiasm!







Spirit Week Kicked Off at Prem International School!

Spirit Week 2024 at Prem was full of excitement. Junior School students showcased their creativity and school spirit with a variety of incredible outfits, each one more imaginative than the last. From fun and colorful attire to themed costumes, the energy on campus was contagious.

The amazing styles around campus were a highlight, and the positive energy continued throughout the week. Spirit Week proved to be an exciting and memorable event for all involved.





Teacher Professional Development Day

at Prem



Teacher Professional Development Day at Prem was a day of growth and learning for the school's dedicated educators. The day began with an inspiring and thought-provoking talk on critical thinking by Skye Cleary, ARThailand's Philosopher in Residence and a professor at Columbia University, renowned for its rigorous academics and global influence.

Teachers also had the opportunity to share their expertise with one another, exploring topics such as Al integration in teaching, thinking routines, and innovative recycling practices. The day was a reminder of the collective effort to continuously elevate teaching and learning at Prem.







Cross Country Meet 2024 at Prem

Prem's campus was filled with energy as students from international schools across Chiang Mai gathered for the Cross Country Meet 2024. Runners dashed through the stunning grounds of the school and the breathtaking Three-Generation Farm, making the event both scenic and exhilarating.

A huge congratulations went out to all the participants for their amazing efforts and sportsmanship. It was a joy to see everyone embrace the challenge and cheer each other on.

Well done, runners!







On the day of the 3-Way Conferences at Prem, parents, teachers, and students came together to discuss progress, celebrate achievements, and strengthen connections within the community. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to support students on their learning journey.



A SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN NIGHT



On 1 November 2024, the Prem community gathered for a festive Halloween celebration. Junior and Middle School students began the evening with Trick-or-Treating and Trunk-or-Treating at Premburi, collecting treats from participating homes and decorated vehicles.

The festivities continued at La Factoria, where the community enjoyed a vibrant Costume Parade, engaging games organised by the High School Student Council, and

a magical Witches Brew show tailored for younger guests. Families indulged in treats from La Factoria's menu and food trucks, creating a memorable evening filled with fun, food, and a strong sense of community spirit.

The event was made possible through the enthusiasm and participation of all involved, leaving everyone with lasting memories of a fantastic Halloween celebration.

The Governors





Prem hosted the first Governors-Parents-Students Lunch of the academic year, bringing together key members of the school community to strengthen connections and foster collaboration.

Attendees enjoyed meaningful conversations over a shared meal, creating opportunities to build stronger relationships between governors, parents, and students. The event was enlivened by talented student musicians and singers, whose performances, supported by their friends, added a vibrant and joyful atmosphere.

This gathering underscored Prem's commitment to inclusivity and collaboration within its community. The school thanked everyone who contributed to the event's success and looks forward to more opportunities to unite the community in the year ahead.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP at Prem Junior School

This year, our Junior School students had the exciting opportunity to take on leadership roles in the Student Council (StuCo) and as House Captains, allowing them to actively contribute to our school community.

Students submitted applications detailing their leadership interests, proposed changes for a better and more peaceful school, and the qualities that make them strong leaders. We were thrilled by the response, receiving 40 inspiring applications that showcased the passion of our PYP learners. Here are a few standout quotes:





- ♦ I can be very creative.
- ◆ I am principled and open-minded. I listen to different perspectives.
- ♦ I want to be a voice for my classmates and make Prem the best international school in Thailand.
- ♦ I want to celebrate the different cultures at Prem.
- **♦ I want to help new students feel part of the community.**
- ♦ I want all students to feel they belong.
- ♦ I want to make Prem eco-friendly.
- I think kindness, teamwork, and caring are key leadership qualities.

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Reading these applications gave us confidence that our future is in capable, compassionate hands. We look forward to collaborating with our Student Council and House Captains this year to create meaningful changes at personal, local, and global levels.



GRADE 3 Students Visit Three-Generation Farm

Our Grade 3 students visited The Three-Generation Farm to explore how herbs and plants support the human body, connecting with their unit on body systems. They learned about the health benefits of aloe vera for skin and digestion, turmeric for inflammation, lemongrass for digestion, and phrai (Thai ginger) for respiratory and brain health. Holy basil (Tulsi) was also introduced for its stress-relieving and immune-boosting properties.

This hands-on experience deepened students' understanding of how local plants support the body, inspiring them to make healthier choices.

FARM MAG





GRADE 4 CAMP:

Adventure, Teamwork, And Lifelong Memories

Grade 4 students recently enjoyed a two-day camp filled with adventure, creativity, and teamwork, fostering personal growth and memorable experiences.

The camp kicked off with a Life Raft challenge, where students demonstrated communication and problem-solving skills, collaborating to navigate their "raft" without "sinking." In the afternoon, they explored entrepreneurship at the farm, making lip balm and lime kaffir shampoo, showcasing self-management and creativity. The evening featured pizza-making, campfire songs, marshmallow roasting, and storytelling, strengthening social skills and group bonds. Getting to sleep that night was a challenge—excitement buzzed in the air as students reflected on the day's adventures!

Day 2 began with students teaching games they created during their Unit of Inquiry to a local Thai school, highlighting their collaboration, presentation skills, and open-mindedness. After a delicious buffet lunch, the camp concluded with a visit to the Elephant PooPooPaper Park, where students learned about eco-friendly paper production, deepening their understanding of sustainability.

Throughout the camp, students displayed "Approaches to Learning" skills like thinking and self-management, while embodying Learner Profile attributes such as risk-takers, inquirers, and caring individuals. Grade 4 Camp was more than an adventure—it was a journey of growth and learning. Thank you to everyone who made this incredible experience possible!





GRADE 5 THRIVE AT CAMP:

A Journey Of Learning And Adventure

In an exciting two-day, one-night camping trip, Grade 5 students participated in a range of activities designed to build teamwork, self-reliance, and environmental awareness. The camp, held at a beautiful outdoor location, provided an enriching experience with a focus on sustainable living and practical skills.

Students kicked off their adventure by making solar ovens. They learned how solar energy can be harnessed to cook food and worked together to build simple solar-powered ovens. To put their creations to the test, they made delicious s'mores, gaining hands-on experience with sustainable cooking methods.

One of the camp's highlights was making burgers. Students worked together to prepare and cook their own burgers. This activity not only taught them valuable cooking skills but also encouraged collaboration and self-sufficiency.

Teamwork was further developed through team-building games and the challenging low ropes course. Students collaborated to overcome obstacles, enhancing communication and trust. The experience culminated with the students sleeping in tents under the stars, which fostered independence and resilience.

This camp was a perfect blend of education and adventure, providing students with essential life skills and lasting memories. By the end of the trip, the Grade 5 students returned with a greater appreciation for teamwork, sustainability, and self-reliance, ready to face new challenges with confidence.

FANTASTIC FESTIVAL OF SUPER SCIENCE

The Quad was buzzing with energy and curiosity as Junior School students from Grades 2 to 5 showcased their scientific talents during the Festival of Super Science. The morning was filled with excitement as these young scientists presented their experiments, demonstrated their knowledge, and practised their presentation and communication skills.

From innovative ideas to creative displays, the event highlighted the spirit of inquiry and exploration that drives learning at Prem. A big round of applause to our Junior School learners for their creativity, dedication, and passion for science!







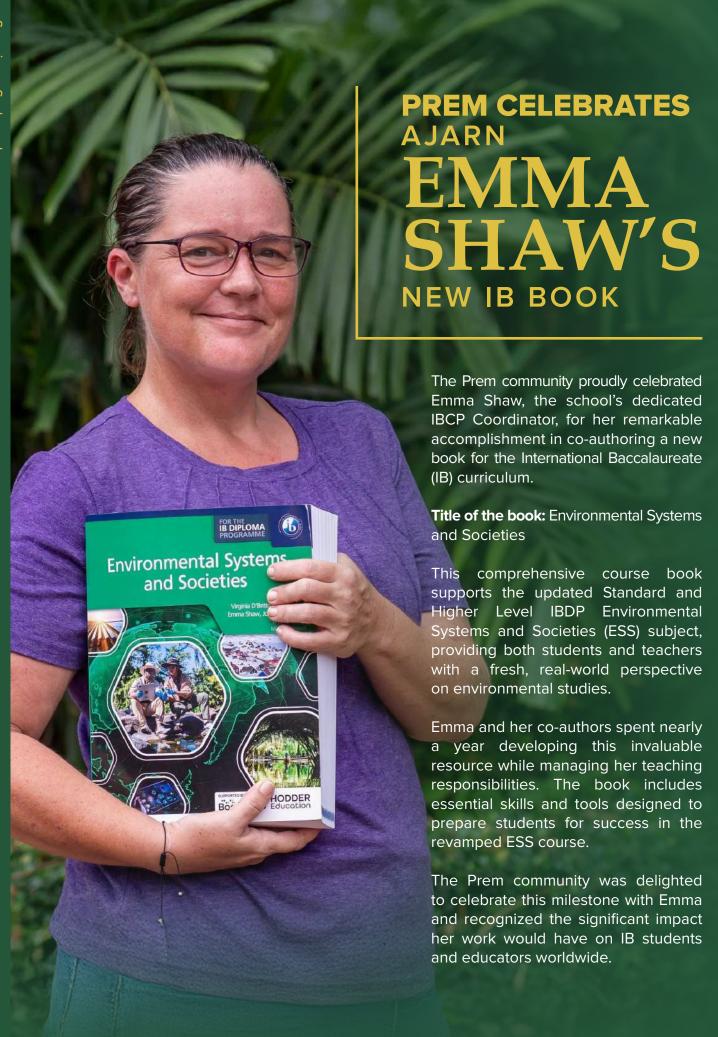




Grade 7 students in the Thai Culture class dived into the rich tradition of the Bo Sang Umbrella, a vibrant Lanna creation made from handmade paper and bamboo, famous for its colorful and intricate floral designs. The students learned about its craftsmanship and cultural importance in Northern Thailand. The students collaborated in groups to design their own umbrella patterns, reflecting personal meaning. Special thanks to the art department for guiding them in mastering these techniques. The students were fully engaged and dedicated, to creating their own unique umbrellas.

Cultural Activities Enhance MANDARIN —— ACQUISITION





Senior SUNRISE G12

Grade 12 began their final year at school with our Prem tradition, Senior Sunrise. Our newly crowned seniors started the day with a special meal with their homeroom teachers and coordinators. It is always so meaningful to see them connect after the summer holiday in the evening before. Students and homeroom teachers played boardgames, went swimming or played sports together in the gym. Lights were out at 10, and unsuprisingly students needed fairly persistent encouragement to get up and onto the vans for 4.50am. They were rewarded with a beautiful view of the sun rising in cool mountain air over Chiangmai, and was rewarded by the collective sighs of "Oh Wow" as they crested the hill. It's always a special moment.

It is a lovely tradition that we have here, and it is always a privilege to share it with these students who will go on to face a year of challenges and successes. The tradition reminds them that they have a team of teachers to guide them through this year, but also that they have each other for support, encouragement, humour and empathy as they ride through the year.



INFORMATIVE IB WORKSHOPS Engage PREM Parents

Prem hosted workshops designed to help parents gain a deeper understanding of the International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes. These sessions provided valuable insights into the structure, expectations, and benefits of each programme, equipping parents with the knowledge to better support their children.

The workshops covered the following programmes:

- IB Middle Years Programme (MYP):
 Focused on critical thinking and communication, laying the groundwork for secondary education.
- IB Diploma Programme (DP):
 Highlighted its rigorous academic curriculum, global recognition, and pathways to university.
- IB Career-related Programme (CP):
 Emphasised its blend of academic rigour and career-focused learning opportunities.
- **IB Intensive English Programme (IEP):** Explained how it equips students with essential English skills for success.





Parents who attended expressed their appreciation for the workshops, noting the valuable insights into Prem's dedication to providing a globally recognised and holistic education.







APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

The Prem College Office hosted two informative workshops to assist students with their university and college applications.

UK University Applications Workshop:

On 12 September 2024, Khun Napassorn Soontracharn (Nash), Director of SI-UK Chiang Mai and a Prem alumna, shared expert tips on applying to UK universities. Drawing from her personal experiences, she provided practical advice for securing admission to top institutions.

USA College Applications Workshop:

On 17 September 2024, Mr. Mike Hock, a seasoned advisor with over 20 years of experience, guided Grades 10-12 through the US college application process, sharing critical steps for gaining entry to American universities.

Both workshops were well-received, equipping students with valuable tools and insights for navigating the application journey.



IB Diploma Programme Arts-In at Prem: A Creative Kickoff!

The IB Diploma Programme Arts-In event was a creative success at Prem International School! Students dove into workshops and studio time, preparing for their upcoming coursework components.

Visual Arts students had the incredible opportunity to collaborate with Alex Soulsby, Prem's Whole School Creative Director, and Skye C. Cleary, PhD MBA—Prem's inspiring Philosopher in Residence and a professor at Columbia University, a prestigious Ivy League institution.

A huge thank you was extended to MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum for supporting this unforgettable experience!









VEX IQ 5.0 Mission: Shaping a Smarter Future





On 24 November 2024, Bangkok became a hub of innovation during the VEX IQ Robot 5.0 Mission Competition. The event was about more than just programming robots–it focused on harnessing the power of human-robot collaboration to drive connectivity, automation, and data-driven solutions for the future.

With 141 teams from five countries—Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines—the competition showcased groundbreaking technologies, teamwork, and creativity aimed at redefining industries and inspiring the next generation of innovators.

Prem's Grade 10 teams—Marie, Mark, Summer, and Sean—proudly represented the school, tackling intense missions that tested their coding skills, time management, and collaboration under high-pressure scenarios. Their perseverance and determination highlighted the effort needed to succeed in such a dynamic competition.

A huge congratulations went out to the two teams for competing with passion and resilience. They are not just building robots—they are shaping the future!









Grade 12 CAS Exhibition A Showcase of Dedication and Creativity

Prem's Grade 12 students proudly showcased the culmination of their year-long CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) Projects in a remarkable exhibition.

The event offered an incredible opportunity for Grade 11 students and teachers to witness the dedication, creativity, and hard work behind these inspiring initiatives. From impactful service projects to innovative creative endeavors, each presentation highlighted the students' unique passions and their commitment to making a difference.

Teachers and younger peers were captivated by the stories shared, gaining valuable insights and inspiration for their own CAS journeys. The exhibition celebrated not only the students' achievements but also the collaborative and service-driven spirit that defines the school community.

A huge congratulations was extended to Grade 12 for their outstanding efforts and for setting such an inspiring example for future cohorts!





Introducing CODING IN STEAM

In our Grade 6-7 Intensive English Programme (IEP), students learned to code using Swift Playgrounds, an app designed to introduce programming basics in a fun, interactive way. Throughout the term, they guided a character called 'Byte' through various coding challenges, developing problem-solving, collaboration, and communication skills along the way.

Reflecting on the experience, Grade 6 student Hant Sang shared, "I used my thinking skills to figure out what the character needs to do next."

Our STEAM went beyond coding—it was an adventure in learning, teamwork, and growth!







exciting journey to enhance their creative performance skills while building confidence in their English speaking abilities. We've explored a variety of puppetry traditions, from basic paper puppets to enchanting shadow puppets.

It has been a joy to witness the diverse storytelling talents and unique characters brought to life through their voices. Their enthusiasm and creativity inspire us all!



—— IEP BLENDED LEARNING

EXPERIENCES

The Intensive English Programme (IEP) aimed to create an immersive environment that brought language learning to life. The programme combined online and in-person learning opportunities, providing students with diverse and meaningful ways to develop language skills while staying connected with peers, teachers, and families.

The blended programme included a sequence of learning experiences that incorporated both synchronous and asynchronous tasks, followed by in-person meet-ups. Students were introduced to new vocabulary, developed comprehension, and built confidence in using English. Parents also played an active role in these shared experiences, fostering a collaborative and supportive learning community that enriched the students' journey with the English language.



THE WORLD OF BEES

at Maerim Bee Garden

The first meet-up for the Intensive English Programme students was a visit to Maerim Bee Garden. During this visit, students learned about the various types of bees, each with distinct habits and roles within their colonies. They explored how bees collaborate, the organisation of hives, and the vital role bees play in maintaining ecosystems. A highlight of the trip was sampling different types of honey and pollen, which provided a delicious and nutritious treat.





BUDDHIST CULTURE at Wat Umong

The next excursion took students, parents, and teachers to Wat Umong, a historic temple in Chiang Mai. This unique experience allowed them to delve into Buddhist culture and history. The temple's ancient tunnels, peaceful forest, and symbolic statues offered rich visual and cultural context to support language development.

Students practised English by discussing cultural aspects of Buddhism and describing their surroundings. The visit included serene moments of reflection and the excitement of feeding the pigeons, creating a well-rounded and engaging learning experience.



WEEKEND

ADVENTURES AND CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

with our Boarding Students



Weekends in the boarding programme offer a unique opportunity for staff and students to connect and enjoy activities together, providing a different dynamic from the weekday routine. Jimmy, a Grade 12 Student, took the initiative to organise Games Nights on Fridays, starting with a lively round of Bingo. The origins of the students' love for this game are unclear, but it has certainly become a favorite pastime.

Saturday brought a trip to Central Festival, where staff assisted students with essential purchases like stationery, swimwear, and banking before they dispersed to shop, dine, and watch movies. The venue remains a popular choice as it allows boarding students to meet up with their day student friends.

Sunday was a more relaxed day, featuring swimming, golf, cooking, baking, and a visit to a charming coffee shop in Mae Rim. Adding to the weekend's joy, the boarding community experienced the generosity of Prem's Chinese and Korean parents, who treated every boarding student to Moon Cakes with their dinner on Monday night in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The thoughtfulness and support from parents, especially for students who are far from their families, are deeply appreciated. These gestures make the boarding experience even more special.



LOY KRATHONG WEEKEND

Exploring, Creating, and Connectingin Boarding

The Loy Krathong weekend was filled with fun, food, and creativity, as the boarders enjoyed a variety of activities supported by an incredible team of boarding staff and teachers. The excitement began on Friday evening, with some boarders heading out for their favourite hotpot and Moo Krata Thai-style BBQ dinner — a great way to bond over shared meals. Meanwhile, on campus, Table Tennis matches took place, with Teachers David and Aum cheering on the players. Table Tennis is one of the boarders' favourite activities.

On Saturday, the boarders went to Central Festival for a day of shopping and entertainment, accompanied by Director of Boarding Linda, Teachers Keiko and Carla. The group stocked up on groceries before relaxing with a movie, adding some fun to the weekend routine.







Sunday morning shifted focus to creativity and culture. Teachers Mayada, Val and Noina guided the boarders in making Krathong crafts in preparation for the upcoming Loy Krathong festival. The atmosphere was filled with concentration as each student created beautiful, handmade floating offerings. It was heartwarming to see the teachers collaborate with the boarders on this meaningful cultural activity.

Later in the day, the weekend concluded with a delicious Sunday BBQ, where boarders and teachers gathered for food and fun. It was the perfect way to end a weekend filled with variety, fun, and opportunities for boarders to strengthen friendships with both peers and teachers.

All We Want For CHRISTMAS Is...

Festive Fun In Boarding!

It was inspiring to see staff and students come together to start the Christmas season with such energy and creativity. The boarding lounge and clusters were transformed with twinkling lights strung across the walls and bright balloons added for an extra touch of cheer. The students worked side by side, chatting, laughing, and singing along to festive music as they brought their creative ideas to life.

Once the decorations were complete, the fun continued with a gingerbread-making session. The delicious scents of gingerbread filled the room, and there was plenty of chatter and good-natured teasing as everyone compared their creations.

It was one of those days that reminded us why we love the boarding community so much. Seeing the excitement and teamwork of both staff and students, and watching the spaces come alive with Christmas cheer, made it truly memorable. The lounge and clusters were glowing with holiday magic, ready for the celebrations ahead!





BOARDING CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024

The Amphitheater was transformed into a magical Christmas wonderland filled with delicious food, a festive gift exchange, incredible talents, and even a spectacular fireworks display!

Our boarders truly know how to spread joy and love during this special time of year. We are so lucky to have such enthusiastic and happy boarding students, and staff who are only too happy to make the holidays special.

We look forward to organising the next special event for our students, families and friends.







BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL BAND Festival 2024

The BIBF 2024, held at the International School Bangkok (ISB) from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September 2024, was an extraordinary celebration of musical talent and international collaboration. The festival brought together 196 students from six countries and 15 international schools, culminating in a spectacular performance of four advanced musical pieces.

From the outset of the academic year, our dedicated students embarked on a rigorous rehearsal schedule. Nearly every day after school and even on weekends, our ensemble practised tirelessly to perfect the selected pieces. This commitment to excellence was evident throughout the festival.

The journey began with a bus ride from Chiang Mai to Bangkok on Thursday morning. After a long day of travel, our group arrived at the hotel in the evening, where we took advantage of some leisure time by the pool.



Friday marked the official start of the festival, featuring a full day of rehearsals under the expert quidance of quest conductor Dr. Matthew R. Arau. Dr. Arau, Chair of Music Education and Symphonic Band Conductor at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music, is also the CEO of Upbeat Global. His leadership and insight were invaluable, as he conducted two impactful "Upbeat" sessions. One session was dedicated to our students, focusing on mindfulness, mindset, and leadership, while the other engaged all the band directors present. Dr. Arau's sessions offered profound insights and practical strategies to enhance our students' performance and their overall well-being.

Saturday was a day of culmination and celebration. We began with morning rehearsals to fine-tune our performances, followed by the highly anticipated Gala concert in the afternoon. The concert was

a resounding success, drawing many Prem parents and supporters who attended to witness the fruits of our students' hard work. The energy and enthusiasm of the audience were palpable, contributing to a memorable and inspiring performance. After the concert, our group enjoyed some well-deserved downtime at a local mall, where we indulged in food and karaoke, before riding back to Chaing Mai. This relaxed environment provided a perfect end to our festival experience, fostering further bonding among the students and staff.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the parents who traveled to Bangkok and those who tuned into the live broadcast. Your support and encouragement played a crucial role in making this event a success.







BANGKOK GLOBAL ROUND

Prem students achieved remarkable success at the World Scholar's Cup Global Round in Bangkok, held from 5 to 12 September 2024, Twelve scholars represented Prem, competing against peers from over 50 countries. Their dedication paid off, as all junior and senior teams earned invitations to the prestigious Tournament of Champions at Yale University November 2024.

The competition included events such as debate, collaborative writing, and the scholar's bowl, where Prem students showcased exceptional skills. Special recognition goes to the senior team of Sophia, Astrid, and Meiji, with Sophia earning a 7th-place finish among 700 senior debaters, securing a trophy for her outstanding performance.

Junior teams included:

- Daisy, Rinca, and Alicia
- · Nirwan, Tiger, and Jerry
- · Yeonwoo, Yale, and Richard

Beyond the competition, students participated in a Cultural Fair, celebrating diverse heritages, and capped off the experience with a Scholars Ball at the Pullman Hotel.

Teachers Chris, Amy and Ambika for their guidance and ensuring a seamless trip for ensuring a seamless trip. As preparations begin for Yale, Prem looks forward to seeing its scholars shine on the global stage once more.

Congratulations to all Prem scholars on this outstanding achievement!



AL ROUND



LUNING'S JOURNEY TO

RICE UNIVERSITY'S Division 1 Golf Team

Luning Yang, a long-time Prem student, achieved a significant milestone by signing with Rice University's NCAA Division 1 women's golf team. This remarkable accomplishment reflects her hard work, resilience, and dedication to her sport, marking an exciting chapter in her athletic and academic journey.

Luning described joining Rice's golf team as "a dream come true." The university's vibrant environment and supportive community resonated with her, making it feel like an ideal place to grow as both an athlete and an individual. She expressed particular honour in joining Rice's inaugural team, viewing it as an opportunity to contribute to a legacy of excellence.

Her passion for golf extends beyond the game itself, as she views collegiate-level golf as a challenge requiring both mental and physical fortitude. Rice University provided the perfect balance of high-level athletics and rigorous academics, aligning with her goals. Luning noted that the campus, community, and even the presence of playful squirrels added to its charm.

Having been a Prem student since the second grade, Luning credited the school community with shaping her journey. She acknowledged the support of teachers and mentors, for their pivotal roles in her development. Their encouragement helped her pursue her goals with confidence, both academically and athletically.







qualities she now brings to her role on the Rice Owls golf team. While excelling in athletics, she plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree, preparing for a future career in medicine.

Reflecting on her journey, Luning advised younger athletes to "trust the process, even when it's tough, because those hard days shape you the most." She emphasised

commitment to excellence on and off the course exemplifies the values of the Prem community. Her achievements serve as an inspiration, and the community looks forward to following her continued success at Rice University and beyond.



The Grade 9 students recently completed their Bronze level Adventurous Journey as part of the International Award. The journey took them along a challenging trek from the base of the Monk's Trail all the way to the highest point of Chiang Mai, Doi Pui. This trek covered steep inclines, dense forest, and rugged terrain, pushing students to their physical and mental limits.

Carrying all their necessary gear, including their backpacks with tents, food, and personal items, the students embraced the responsibility of cooking their own meals and setting up camp. Under the stars, they spent a night in the wilderness, experiencing both the beauty and challenges of outdoor living.



The students demonstrated exceptional resilience throughout the journey. Despite the physical exertion and the challenges of outdoor camping, they remained positive, worked well as a team, and encouraged one another. Their ability to adapt, problem-solve, and support their peers highlights their growth in confidence and self-sufficiency.

Overall, this Adventurous Journey was a great success, showcasing the students' resilience, teamwork, and growing independence. It was an unforgettable experience that not only strengthened their outdoor skills but also brought them closer together as a group.

PREM Student Honoured

HIS MAJESTY'S CERTIFICATE – of Academic Excellence –

Prem student Sudik was honoured with the prestigious Certificate of Academic Excellence for 2023 by His Majesty the King of Bhutan. This distinguished award recognised her exceptional academic performance in Grade 10, marking a significant milestone in her educational journey.

Although studying abroad in Thailand, the award brought Sudik closer to her homeland, reaffirming the strong connection she maintains with her roots and her dedication to academic excellence. Her achievement is a reflection of her hard work, commitment, and the unwavering support from her teachers and family.

Sudik's dedication to learning has served as an inspiration to the Prem community. Congratulations are extended to her on this well-deserved recognition, and there is anticipation for her continued success in the future.

THE RELIEF WELLNESS SOCIETY

At the end of the Academic Year 2023-2024 Prem donated 10,000 baht to the Philanthropy Connections Foundation. Through this donation, the funds supported the purchase of a year's worth of first aid kits and hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels, plastic cups, and soap) for 31 children living in internally displaced persons' camps in Myanmar.

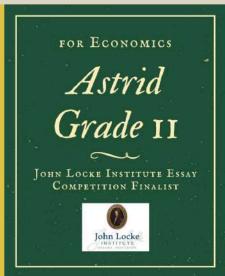
Many of these children are orphaned, having lost their parents due to the war, or have

been abandoned by parents unable to care for them. The donation helped provide medical and hygienic necessities, as well as support their daily food costs with the remainder of the funds, ensuring they receive adequate nutrition and avoid falling ill.

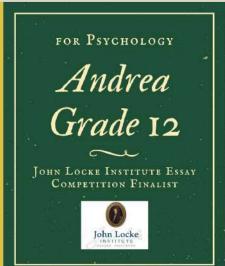
Gratitude was expressed for all the support received in making this donation possible.



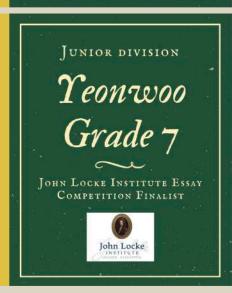
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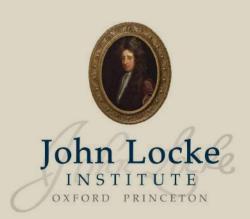












We are thrilled to announce that three of our talented students were shortlisted for this year's John Locke Institute Essay Competition. Astrid (Grade 11) for Economics, Andrea (Grade 12) for Psychology, and Yeonwoo (Grade 7) for the Junior Division were recognised in this highly competitive contest.

The competition, judged by academics from top universities like Oxford and Princeton, challenges students to delve into complex subjects such as philosophy, psychology, and economics.

This recognition not only highlights their exceptional critical thinking and writing skills but also strengthens their university applications, showcasing their ability to compete on a global stage.

Being shortlisted is a significant achievement, reflecting our commitment to fostering independent learning and preparing students for the rigours of higher education. We are incredibly proud of Astrid, Andrea, and Yeonwoo for their outstanding accomplishments and wish them continued success in their academic journeys.

CHIANG MAI MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The MUN club participated in the prestigious Chiang Mai International Conference, held at the scenic Alpine Resort. The event brought together over 400 students from 16 different schools, creating an engaging environment for debate, discussion of current global affairs, and participation in various activities.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity for students to practise leadership and public speaking skills while deepening their understanding of global politics and diverse perspectives.

The MUN club continued to grow in size and strength, with members already looking forward to the next conference and the opportunities it will bring.









PANTHER PRIDE SHINES

In The First Season Of The Year

The Panthers have wrapped up their first season of the year with remarkable achievements, showcasing their talent and determination across multiple sports. Despite facing challenges, including disruptions to training due to severe flooding in Chiang Mai, the teams demonstrated resilience and delivered outstanding performances throughout the season.



CMAC Highlights

The U12 girls' basketball team made significant strides, finishing fourth in their competition and setting the stage for growth in future seasons. In football, the U16 and U20 girls' teams shone brightly, securing impressive silver medal finishes in their respective CMAC competitions.

International Achievements

The U20 girls' football team extended their success beyond local competition, earning a bronze medal at the Southeast Asia International Schools Invitational. Competing against top teams from the region, they proved their mettle on an international stage.

Boys Teams Build Momentum

The boys' teams also put up commendable performances, demonstrating growth and potential throughout their seasons. While the focus this year was on development, their efforts promise even stronger showings in the future.

Persevering Through Adversity

Training interruptions caused by flooding tested the team's resilience, yet they rose to the challenge and exceeded expectations. Their ability to perform at such a high level despite the setbacks is a testament to their dedication, teamwork, and support from the school community.

As the Panthers conclude their first season of the year, the focus now turns to building on this foundation of success. With lessons learned and a hunger for improvement, the Panthers are poised for even greater accomplishments in the seasons ahead. Here's to continued growth and triumphs in the year to come!





FRIENDLY **FOOTBALL FESTIVAL**

at Prem: A Day of Sportsmanship and Service







On 19 November 2024, 26 CMAC school teams, comprising players under 10 years of age ('U10') and under 8 years of age ('U8'), participated in a friendly football festival at Prem. The event saw 36 matches take place across six pitches, creating an exciting and competitive atmosphere.

The tournament provided an opportunity for Grade 1-4 students from schools across the Chiang Mai Athletic Conference to experience a tournament-style afternoon, with U8 teams playing two matches each and U10 teams playing three matches each.

The tournament was largely run by Prem youth volunteers, who served as coaches and referees as part of their MYP Service programme. A big "Thank You" was extended to these students: Lanna (Grade 10 U10B Coach), and referees Sophia (Grade 11), Joshua, Daniel, Yoseph (Grade 10), Jamtruel (Grade 9), Yun, Sophie, Cici, and Alicia (Grade 7).

One of the Grade 7 youth referees commented, "Refereeing is more difficult and more exhausting than playing!" The event was a true testament to the spirit of sportsmanship and service.



Prem was proud to welcome **Skye Cleary**, the distinguished philosopher, author, and lecturer from **Columbia University**, to our **Artist Residency Thailand** programme. Skye's expertise in existential philosophy, critical thinking, and logical reasoning has positioned her as an internationally respected leader in education and thought development. Her visit was a testament to Prem's commitment to fostering learning that is both globally relevant and deeply rooted in critical inquiry.





Skye's residency began with an inspiring workshop for our **Parent School Council (PSC)** on critical thinking and logical reasoning. This hands-on session provided parents and staff with invaluable tools to better understand and apply these essential skills. Given their importance to the **IB curriculum** and Prem's mission of nurturing thoughtful, empathetic, and globally-minded learners, this workshop was the perfect introduction to her work and set the tone for the two-week residency.

She engaged with learners across all divisions, from Junior School to Senior School, to delve into themes such as **love**, **friendship**, **and critical reasoning**. Her work included interactive workshops, collaborative discussions, and reflective activities that

challenge students to think deeply about the world and their place in it. Her expertise extended to faculty professional development, ensuring our whole community benefits from her input and thinking. What makes Skye's visit particularly special was the breadth of her involvement. From our youngest learners to our most advanced Diploma programme students, Skye sparked meaningful conversations, encouraging curiosity, and helping students and educators alike to connect with complex ideas in accessible ways. Her residency demonstrated the sustained ability of the ARThailand programme to bring world-class practitioners to Prem, enhancing both our community's learning environment and our global reputation as a center for creativity and education.



Prem Supports the International "What is Empathy Project"

Prem's ARThailand programme proudly supported the international "What is Empathy Project," an inspiring initiative aimed at exploring empathy through art and design. Janeil, CEO of MAP (Making Art with Purpose), and Mark Randall, Associate Dean of Parsons School of Design and Prem's Creative Director, worked closely with Grade 3 and 4 students to help them discover what empathy meant to them.

In hands-on workshops, students designed flags that symbolised their personal interpretations of empathy. These unique creations were showcased along Prem's Global Way, allowing the entire community to engage with the students' insights and creativity.

The project brought the students' learning to life and filled the campus with meaningful art!





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

STEVE PARFITT

Secures Dream Placement At Williams Racing Formula 1

We are excited to share some great news about Steve Parfitt, who graduated from Prem in 2023. Steve is studying Motorsports Engineering at Oxford Brookes University and has just been offered a job with Williams Racing Formula 1. He will work in the Vehicle Performance Department starting in August 2025.

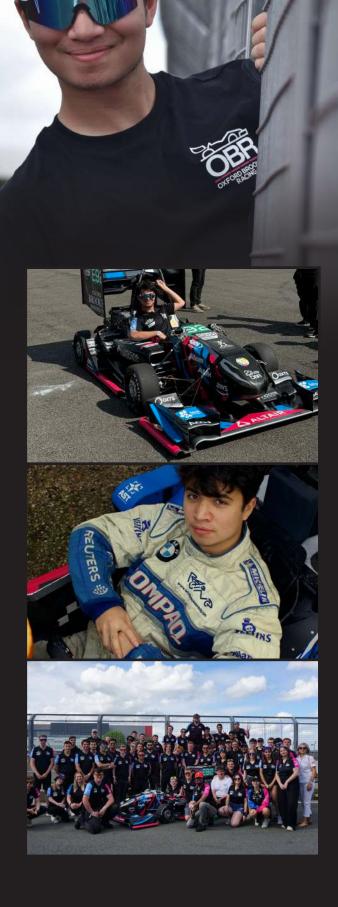
Steve worked closely with Dawn, Head of Higher Education and Careers Counselling from Grade 9 to plan his university pathway and future careers. He has always been passionate about motorsports and aspired to work in Formula 1. Over the years, Steve worked hard, took every opportunity offered, and showed dedication to his dream.

In his new role, Steve will help plan race strategies, support race weekends, and analyse how the cars perform. This is a big step towards his goal of working in Formula 1.

Steve said, "I want to thank the College and Careers Office for all their help and support in helping me reach my dream of working in Formula 1!"

We are very proud of Steve. His success shows how hard work and support from school can help students achieve their dreams.

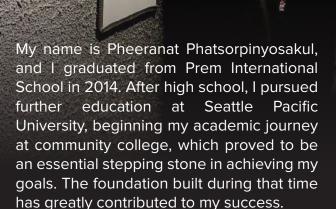
Congratulations, Steve! We look forward to following your journey at Williams Racing.



Embracing Technology and Community:

A Message from

Pheeranat Phatsorpinyosakul



In today's rapidly evolving education system, I recognize how online courses and tools such as Al are reshaping learning environments. Just as we once embraced graphic calculators, Al should be seen not as something to avoid but as a tool that can enhance our educational experiences.

It is up to us to find innovative ways to utilize it in both our academic and professional lives.

In addition to my studies, I work with my family at Rimping Supermarket in Chiang Mai, where I continue to gain practical, real-world experience that complements my formal education. Please reach out to me if you are in Chiang Mai, I would be delighted to connect and share more about my journey.

As we look ahead, let's embrace the opportunities technology presents and continue to adapt to the changing landscape of learning and work.



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TRAIDHOS CAMP

CHIANG MAI THAILAND

Traidhos Camp has been running camp and holiday programs for over fifteen years. We offer ten open camp programs year round: English Camp, English Through Environment Camp, Activity Camp, Art Camp, Sports Camp, STEM Camp, EP, Mini EP & Bilingual School Camp, Educator Camp, Family Camp and Customised Camp. At our purpose built campus in Mae Rim, Chiang Mai, our campers immerse themselves in adventures that exercise their bodies and minds while putting fun and safety first.



More than **15 years** of experience organizing camps



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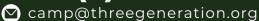
Safe and secure picturesque camp location in Mae Rim, Chiang Mai

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Prem International School

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