

Balazine

February 2025

STARTING THE BALANCE



BALANCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SURATTHANI
โรงเรียนนานาชาติ บาลานซ์ สุราษฎร์ธานี

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February 2025

February brought out so many themes at Balance, but the most celebrated was that of perseverance. We have all achieved a huge milestone as we passed the halfway mark through the academic year. For many, Balance was a new academic experience, for others, it was a new professional and cultural experience. But more importantly, Balance was a new school to all of us. However, with perseverance and determination, we have all succeeded in reaching and passing the half-year cornerstone together. Still, we are experiencing many firsts – our first Lunar New Year Celebration, our first Inter-House Sports Day, our first out-of-town football tournament in Koh Phangan, and Balance's first international schools visit to Malaysia. All solidifying our growth and commitment to offering world-class academic, sporting and cultural experiences at Balance.

Grant Larter
Head of School



How many legs does it have?

Numeracy for toddlers in the Cambridge Early Years Curriculum focuses on developing foundational mathematical skills through hands-on, playful experiences. At this stage, children begin to recognise numbers, understand quantities, and explore basic concepts, such as sorting and comparing. A fun and engaging activity to support numeracy development is counting animal legs and sorting animals based on the number of legs they have. Using toy animals or picture cards, toddlers can count the legs of familiar animals—such as two legs for birds, four for cats and dogs, and eight for spiders—helping them associate numbers with real-world objects.



By grouping animals according to the number of legs, children develop early classification and problem-solving skills while strengthening their understanding of numerical concepts in a meaningful and interactive way. This activity fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and language development as children describe their observations and engage in discussion, reinforcing key numeracy foundations outlined in the Cambridge Early Years Curriculum.

Ms. Sarah



Plant Play Grow!



As part of our 'Let's Explore' unit in the Cambridge EY1 curriculum, Nursery class has been learning about food and things that grow. For this activity, we focused on sunflowers, discussing what they need to grow: sun, water, and soil. The children then used their imagination to draw predictions of what they think their sunflowers will look like in the future.



Taking our learning outdoors, the children eagerly scooped soil into their pots before carefully planting their sunflower seeds. To make watering even more exciting, we turned it into a game! The children filled small cups with water and raced to pour it into their watering cans before giving their seeds a well-deserved drink. This hands-on experience helped them understand the process of plant growth while developing teamwork, coordination, and curiosity about the world around them. We can't wait to watch our sunflowers grow!

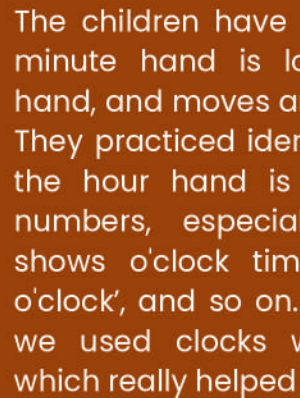
Ms. Hollie





TELL THE TIME

This week in Reception, we have been learning all about time! The children have been introduced to 'o'clock' and have enjoyed exploring the concept through the traditional nursery rhyme 'Hickory Dickory Dock'. They loved doing the actions as the rhyme helped them understand the movement of the clock's hands. We focused on recognising the hour hand and explained that this is the shorter hand on the clock.



The children have also learned that the minute hand is longer than the hour hand, and moves around the whole clock. They practiced identifying the time when the hour hand is pointing to different numbers, especially when the clock shows o'clock times like '1 o'clock', '2 o'clock', and so on. To make it more fun, we used clocks with movable hands, which really helped them grasp the idea!

We also discussed the importance of punctuality. The children know we should be at school by 8:00 AM to start our day on time, and they are now aware of how to read the time on the clock to ensure they're always ready.

Ms. Ros



The Eucalyptus Eucalyptus Tree

In English class, our Year 1 students have been working on retelling stories. This week, we read 'The Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree' and explored how stories can be reimagined in creative ways.



First, the students worked in pairs to reimagine the story with their own set of animals. Then, they wrote and illustrated their own characters, adding colourful pictures and descriptive text to bring their stories to life. The students then shared their work with other pairs, asking thoughtful questions and discussing their ideas.

Finally, the students reflected on their writing by checking for mistakes, identifying where they could have improved their handwriting, and noticing where capital letters and full stops were missing. It was fantastic to see their creativity and growing confidence in storytelling!

Mr. James





REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE



Our Year 2 students have been learning about **“what happens when we waste things?”** in Global perspectives class.



First, they discovered why waste is a problem and came up with some great waste-saving ideas. Then, they learned about the 3 Rs: reduce, reuse and recycle and how they could enforce these ideas into their everyday lives.



Next, they surveyed the school grounds and highlighted areas where waste could be reduced.



Finally, they used Canva to create beautiful, eye-catching posters with powerful messages.

We hope the posters inspire other students at Balance to reduce waste and help the planet.

Ms. Sally



Creativity Through Play-Based Learning



This month, our students have been actively engaged in play-based learning, a key component of the Cambridge curriculum that nurtures creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration. By combining structured free-play, children were able to explore subjects like mathematics, science and English in a hands-on way that deepens understanding.

Outdoor activities are especially valuable, allowing students to connect with nature, develop motor skills, and experience learning through movement. These experiences cater to different learning styles and help build confidence, resilience, and curiosity. As we celebrate Lunar New Year, our students have enjoyed interactive activities that explore traditions, stories, and cultural significance, fostering a sense of global awareness.



Through play, exploration and real-world connections, we create a well-rounded and joyful learning environment that inspires a lifelong love for discovery.



Mr. Charles

MAKING THE NEWS

IN OUR YEAR 4 ENGLISH CLASS, WE ARE DIVING INTO
THE EXCITING WORLD OF NEWS REPORTING!

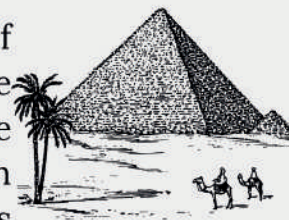


Our unit 'Making the News' focuses on exploring news reports, asking questions and finding answers. We have been analysing headlines and conducting interviews to develop our journalistic skills. To begin, we traveled back in time to Ancient Egypt to discover what life was like over 2,000 years ago. We learned new vocabulary, including words like 'hieroglyphics' and 'pharaohs', which helped us understand more about Egyptian history. One of our favorite activities was writing our names in hieroglyphics, just like the ancient scribes did!



Through this, we discovered how people communicated long before modern newspapers existed. As we continue the unit, we will investigate how reporters gather information and present stories in an engaging way. We will also practice asking the right questions to uncover important details in a news story.

By the end of the unit, we hope to create our own exciting news reports. This journey into journalism is not only fun but also helps us become better writers and critical thinkers!



Ms. Britney

A trip to BANGKOK

This month, our Year 5 students have been fully engaged in English with hands-on learning experiences. In our transportation unit, students explored real-world examples by finding different routes around the Bangkok metro. Cambridge education is about more than just memorisation – it's about applying knowledge in practical ways.

For this activity, students predicted their fastest and slowest routes from Don Mueang to the Hua Lamphong train station. They then checked their findings, testing which route proved to be the best and worst. Throughout this exercise, students practised valuable real-world skills, such as using maps, giving clear directions, and comparing travel times using mathematics. They also explored the concept that the metro can sometimes be faster than travelling by car, especially during rush hour.

This activity helped students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills while deepening their understanding of both English and Maths. A big thank you to Year 5 for the excellent and horrible travel advice!

Mr. Sam



The Walrus and the Carpenter



Poetry Performance



The awesome Year 6s performed the poem "The Walrus and the Carpenter" in front of the whole school for their end-of-term assessment this month! They had practiced relentlessly for their performance, helping to make the props (with some help from the super talented Kru Luck - thank you!) and assisting each other with their lines.

Needless to say, their performance went wonderfully, these confident, creative and super intelligent young adults impressed yet again and keep improving every day! Well done Year 6 from the proudest teacher in the world!

Mr. Jack



CREATIVITY CLASSIFICATIONS AND A VISIT FROM BOB THE BEETLE

This month, our Year 7 students embarked on an exciting journey into the world of species and viruses, uncovering the secrets of classification. From understanding what defines a living organism to exploring the intricate structures of viruses, our young scientists put their knowledge to the test in creative and hands-on ways.

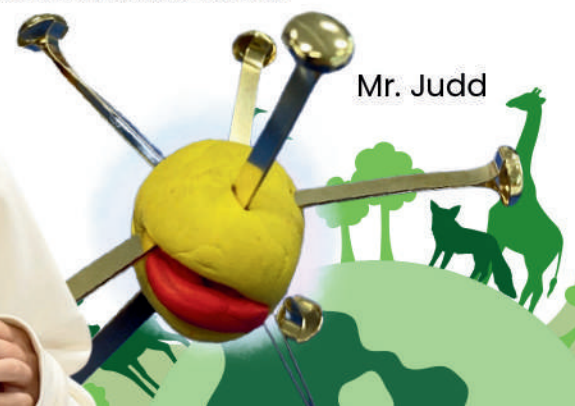


One of the highlights of the unit was designing their very own organisms—blending science with imagination to create species that showcased not only their creativity but also their understanding of what makes something truly "alive." Students carefully considered key characteristics such as movement, reproduction and response to the environment, proving their mastery of biological classification.

But the adventure didn't stop there! With the help of our special guest, Bob the Beetle, we compared different species, examined unique adaptations, and deepened our appreciation for the diversity of life on Earth.

A huge well done to our brilliant Year 7s for their enthusiasm and hard work. Keep up the fantastic scientific discoveries!

Mr. Judd



วันเด็กแห่งชาติ

ในเดือนมกราคม ในรายวิชาภาษาไทย นักเรียนได้เรียนรู้เกี่ยวกับวันสำคัญของเด็ก ๆ ในประเทศไทย นั่นก็คือวันเด็กแห่งชาติ ซึ่งเป็นวันสำคัญที่ทางรัฐบาลไทยได้เล็งเห็นความสำคัญของเยาวชน ซึ่งเป็นอนาคตของชาติ และเพื่อให้ประชาชนได้ตระหนักถึงความสำคัญของเด็ก ให้ความสำคัญในการเลี้ยงดูอบรม สั่งสอนเด็ก ช่วยเหลือสงเคราะห์เด็กเป็นพิเศษ เด็กและเยาวชนยึดมั่นในสถาบันชาติ ศาสนา พระมหากษัตริย์ และการปกครองระบอบประชาธิปไตยอันมีพระมหากษัตริย์เป็นประมุข



เด็กทุกคน รู้จักหน้าที่ของตน อยู่ในระเบียบวินัยและเผยแพร่ ปรักฤษญาสากลว่าด้วยสิทธิของ เด็ก และในวันสำคัญนี้ คุณครู ได้ให้ความรู้เกี่ยวกับประวัติวัน เด็กแห่งชาติ คำขวัญวันเด็ก ซึ่งจะเปลี่ยนไปในทุกๆปี หน้าที่ ของเด็กต่อตนเอง ครอบครัว และสังคม นอกจากนี้ยังให้ นักเรียนระบายสีภาพกิจกรรม วันเด็กและฝึกเขียนคำขวัญ วันเด็กแห่งชาติ

ครูสุภาภรณ์ ต้นสาลี



Balaviz

Balance VIZIT Day

On the 2nd of February 2025, Balance International School hosted the first Balaviz event, offering an exciting opportunity for families to explore our school and Cambridge curriculum. Visitors attended a presentation, gaining insights into our unique educational approach, which blends academic rigor with holistic development.



Children had the chance to engage in various hands-on activities. At the Early Years station, they explored playful learning, while the art and science stations sparked creativity and curiosity. The physical education station kept everyone active, promoting health and teamwork.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all parents and young learners who joined us. We look forward to future events and seeing you again soon!



BALANCE'S SPORTS DAY

Balance International School celebrated Sports Day with excitement and teamwork. The event began with a lively parade, showcasing the unity of our three houses: Yaksha ●, Erawan ● and Singha ●. Students and parents participated in fun-filled games like tug of war, sack race, dribbling relay, and the three-legged race. The day was filled with laughter, cheers, and a true spirit of collaboration, making it a memorable celebration of both physical well-being and community spirit.





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Facebook
www.facebook.com/bisspublic



LINE ID
@biss



Phone Number
082 254 2424
077 969 595



Website
<https://www.biss.ac.th>



E-mail Address
info@biss.ac.th



Our Location
88/8 Moo. 1 Bang Bai Mai District,
Muang Suratthani , Suratthani, Thailand

