



EKAMAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

Journal of EIS published three times a year.

Volume 20 | Issue 3 | May 2018

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

ES Recognition Ceremony

## A STARRY NIGHT

EIS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet

## STUDENTS REVIVE PASSION FOR WRITING

2<sup>nd</sup> Essay Writing Competition

## DO NOT WORRY

A Celebration Sabbath Challenge

## GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

Challenges All To Be The Sermon

## STAR CASE CHAMPION

Former SC Officer & Athlete

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 The school's official publication published three times in a school year. EIS was established in 1946 as a Child Training Center, and later became known as Adventist English School. In 1992 it became Ekamai International School. EIS is a holistic Seventh-day Adventist Christian learning institution that provides education from Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12.

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## ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTO



Songkran Rattanathane comes alive in a campus wide celebration. Read full story on pages 8-9. Photo by Lin Tan-Alvez.



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**God's word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.**

Psalms 119:105

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



EMPOWERS  
INSPIRES  
SERVES



### **Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness!**

As we inch closer to the end of the school year 2017-2018, we look back recognizing God's guidance, protection, and grace to ourselves, and our dear EIS.

We are grateful not only for the tangible developments and growth of our school but more importantly for the souls that we have brought to the feet of Jesus. As truth bearers, we perpetually desire to increase this number in our best efforts to honor God.

Thank you to the leadership team who has been a steadfast support in planning and implementing what is best for our student body. Congratulations to all the teachers who have successfully instilled the value and fun of learning, not just the academics, but life application as well. My gratitude to all the staff who have painstakingly labored and served parents, students, and guests. We are also grateful to our alumni who actively supported us in various ways. To the parents who have been our partner in building the holistic life for each child, we are also thankful to all of you. Lastly, we congratulate our student body for completing and gaining another academic year of wisdom and knowledge.

This last issue of the EIS Newsletter for this school year features interesting success stories and documents school-wide activities that have gathered us together as one family such as the 60th Anniversary, Songkran Festival, and Faculty Spiritual Retreat. It also recognizes the achievements of our students like Battle of the Brains, Recognition Ceremony, Essay Writing Competition, and many others. Moreover, in the Connecting with God section, we feature worship events and other initiatives that can uplift our spiritual walks including the Celebration Sabbath, Global Youth Day, Bible Camp, Service Without Borders, and the Sunday Outreach Ministry of the Habitat for Humanity Club.

We will continue to pursue excellence and service for God's glory. Thank you and God bless.

*Prachack*

**PRACHACK JITBUNYAD**

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Rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

Ephesians 6:7-8





# INTEGRATED ENRICHMENT IEL OFF-CAMPUS DAY

For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.  
- Proverbs 2:6



By Verlinda D. Quimba, IEL 2 Teacher

**A**bout 36 IEL students along with 7 teachers and staff trod the two acre plot of Baan Bang Khen last April 27, 2018. This trip was called "Integrated Enrichment Off-Campus Day" for the reason that the place had enriched and reinforced the students' previous knowledge in relation to health, values, history, and grammar while having fun. Baan Bang Khen became the one-day classroom of the IEL students with worksheet questionnaires especially designed to fit the different subjects taught in the classroom.

Baan Bang Khen, as it is called, is a nostalgic cluster of museums. It consists of a number of museums in specially constructed old houses with each house exhibiting displays that preserve an aspect of everyday life more than half a century ago.



Opened in January 2017, this project is the brainchild of restaurant owner, Sompong Pisankitvanich, who decided to convert this 5 rai (0.8 hectare or 2 acres) plot of land into an indoor and outdoor vintage display area.

Upon reaching their destination, many students became emotional when entering the Baan Por Luang area where old photographs, coins, bills and other memorabilia were displayed in honor and in commemoration of the late Rama IX - King Bhumibol Adulyadej. He was so dear to the Thai hearts that Yanaphat Wangarrayagul (IEL 2) couldn't help but whispered: "I am having goosebumps, Teacher." I even overheard some students whispering and saying that they felt like crying. Most of the students took the time to pay respect to the king with a traditional Thai wai.

The mood switched when the groups entered the Coca-Cola house. On display were limited edition Coke bottles, mugs, jars, postal boxes, clocks, dolls, signage, refrigerator magnets, pins, vending machines, as well as benches from different parts of the world. Even if some of the students and teachers were not Coke lovers, they were fascinated and enjoyed the displays.



Another highlight of the place was the variety of shops ranging from vintage clocks, telephones, amplifiers, radios, televisions, barbershops, traditional Chinese medicine, and home, beauty, hygiene, and health products such as matches, baby powders, milk, detergent soaps, as well as toothpaste and much more. We were even surprised to see the toothpaste Darkie with a dark man on the picture, only to find out that the Darlie toothpaste of today was once called Darkie.

As part of the tasks led by the student leaders, the students positioned themselves, sang songs, and recited memory verses in the antique classroom.



They were happy to see how a typical classroom (fit with chairs, desks and school supplies) looked like in the past. The teachers and staff had fun watching the students act as teachers and students while posing for pictures. It was a hot day, but there was more to discover! The students made their way up to the tree houses using the wooden stairs. Each house was built around a big tree trunk. The students comfortably walked from one house to the other, occasionally looking down from above. Most of them did not want to leave as they said in chorus: "It's so cool to be up here!" To quench the thirst and for a cool treat in the heat everyone rushed into the café to be greeted by air conditioning. However, the students were surprised to see the huge teddy bear dolls and statues of selected famous singers and movie characters such as The Incredible Hulk and Elvis Presley. The entrance fee was just twenty baht, and the entrance tickets could be exchanged with a bottle of water or other items at the café. The queue was a bit long in the café, so while waiting for the students roamed around, and were delighted to touch and take photos of the vintage scooters, movie projectors, bicycles, motorcycles, refrigerators, helmets, and even gasoline stations.

The IEL students continued to wander and appreciate even the very old-fashioned murals on the walls. IEL 2 student, Suvitchaya Veerachit, who also suggested this place could not contain her emotion, expressed: "I want to come back!"





# REWRITE THE STARS

## EIS TALENT SHOW

Praise him, sun and moon. Praise him, all you shining stars.  
- Psalm 148:3

By Urvi Shawijswarnkul, 12C

**I**t all starts with two C's: courage and confidence. All students that participated in this year's absolutely mesmerizing talent show had these two C's. The talent show was held on February 27th for Elementary, February 28th for Middle School, and March 2nd for High School in the Milne Auditorium. The theme for this talent show was "Rewrite the Stars." Everyone was full of excitement with lights shining on the stage and the entertaining emcees that captivated the audience's attention. The performers staged an exceptional show. Having Superstar Academy sponsor our event brought even more light to this talent show. The performance categories consisted of: Vocal solo, Vocal group, Instrumental solo, Instrumental group, Dance solo, Dance group, and Band. The judges had an exceptionally hard time deciding the winners for each category as all the performers did an amazing job.



Even though a few won awards, all the performers were able to capture the audience's heart with their wonderful talents. One special aspect of the talent show was not only how the performers gave 100%, but the support the audience gave during the performances. They encouraged each and every performer with their appreciation and applause. I personally would like to congratulate all the performers for taking so much effort and having so much courage to come and perform on stage and for giving us an opportunity to see their talents. Well done and keep it up!



# MOONLIGHT GALA

## AWAKENS A LASTING BOND

His kingdom will last forever, like the moon, like a lasting witness in the sky. *Selah*  
- Psalm 89:37

By Urvi Shawijswarnkul, 12C

**T**he end for the Senior Class of 2017-2018 arrived with the last union of Juniors and Seniors at the Junior-Senior Banquet. The prom, arranged by the Junior Class of 2017-2018, took place on March 31, 2018, led by Junior vice president, Dhanabordee Mekintharanggur, 11D. It was successfully enjoyable and memorable for the Seniors.

The prom started at 7:30 pm, emceed by Zenita Pakhrin, 11C and Dhanabordee Mekintharanggur 11D, followed by speeches made by the presidents of both grades, and ended at around 10:30 pm with the spectacular farewell song composed by Nattakorn Shrestha 11D, and sung by selected Juniors.



Samuel Thaik Din 11A, Junior president, said, "The junior class began planning the prom around November to December. It was the wish of wanting the Seniors to enjoy their last few weeks in school that this traditional prom was successful."

Sijhana Virakul 12G, Senior Class president, encouraged the Junior Class, "Cherish the moment before it's too late because you will not realize what you've been missing until it has been missed."

The Seniors would like to thank all the Juniors for organizing this meaningful event for their last prom.







# SONGKRAN RATTANATHANEE

## HISTORY COMES ALIVE

“When people have compassion, friendship, and unity, they speak and think in a constructive way to ensure national independence and prosperity.”

- HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej  
King Rama IX, Thailand



By Urvi Shawijswarnkul, 12C

**T**he historic times have come back for a visit. This year's Songkran Ratanathanee has brought back many memories from the 3 main eras of the Sukhothai Kingdom, Ayutthaya Period, and the Rattanakosin Period. The word Rattananathene depicts the means of the city of prosperity. This program was hosted by Porpim Jindasakchai and Sijhana Virakul, students of grade 12, with the responsibility of showcasing the Thai culture to the audience.

Kicking-off the program, we began with the traditional Thai National Anthem and the King's Anthem performed by grades of 6 to 8, followed by General Manager, Ms. Catherine Chulkasate's opening prayer to commence the event. Our director, Mr. Prachack Jitbunyad, conveyed the opening remarks before the dance presentation.



The sophistication of the dance represented the elegance of the eras. The Thai students had come together to present the theme of this year's Songkran festival. "God's love, who has blessed us with flourishing art, customs, and achievements of our country," said one of the emcees. During the program the EIS students were dressed in traditional clothes representing the Thai culture with an international fusion.

During the rest of the day, parents, teachers, and students were allowed to view around the Ratanathanee Street, where there were many food, drink, and game stalls set up by the students for all to enjoy.



After the sales organized on Ratanathanee Street, there was a free Songkran water play from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm in the soccer field to allow all students the opportunity to enjoy the Songkran festival.

"Setting up the Songkran Rattanathanee Program was incredibly fun. Although it was tiring, it allowed everyone to join hands and work together, standing united and strong. Not only that, it also allowed us to learn more about our country's history. It can definitely be said that everything that we all did was worth it," Sijhana Virakul, Senior '18 President.







# PATHFINDERS ANNUAL CAMP

## SOLIDIFIES BONDS & FRIENDSHIPS

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.  
- Lamentations 3:27



By: Panisara Kasemteerasomboon, 8E & Pimvalan Petchmune, 8D

**E**very school year around the 3rd Quarter, the Pathfinders (consisting of Grades 5-8 and IEL) will each go on a camping trip for three days. Each camping trip will have a different location, date, and theme: Grade 5 Camping was held at Wangdum Mountain Camp, Kanchanaburi, with the theme: *Love, Care, Share*, from January 10 until January 12, 2018. Grade 6 Camping was held at Brookside Valley Resort, Rayong, with the theme: *Jesus is with Me*, from January 24 until January 26, 2018. Grade 7 Camping was held at Pungluang Campground, Prachinburi, with the theme: *An Explorer...a Friend To All*, from January 31 until February 2, 2018. Grade 8 Camping was held at Suansaiyok Adventure and Historical Resort, Kanchanaburi, with the theme: *Facing the Giants*, from February 7 until February 9, 2018.

Camping has always been a very exciting and meaningful activity for EIS students. Not only is it fun, but it also teaches students about the importance of teamwork, patience, and basic knowledge about the world around us in which we cannot learn in the classroom. The Pathfinder Department is responsible for setting every year's camp. They had always tried their very best to make the students have fun while being safe. Camping is the event that many students look forward to from the beginning of the school year, and we personally can see why.



"It didn't end on a high note. But I suppose, it is okay because the camp wasn't too bad." Noppadol, 8D

"This camp was the best camp I have ever had and it was worth it. I had so much fun and I didn't want the camp to end. Since it was the last Pathfinder camp, I felt like I did my best and made it one of the most memorable memories of me and my friends." Watsa, 8E

"Since the first day at camp, I already felt like I wanted to go home. All the activities felt too hard and very challenging. The second day came by and it was even harder. When it was really time to go home though, I felt really sad, but I am also happy that I got to spend time with my friends. Even though there were problems in between, it was worth it." Panisara, 8E

"The camp this year was really good and it made me feel closer to my friends. I felt really sad because this is both my first and last camp." Yunheng, 8E

"Last year's camping trip was more fun than this year." Fame, 8B

"I think that this year's camp was really fun, but I don't like some messy activities. I feel really shocked and disappointed that this will be the last camping trip before some friends will leave." Kawintra, 8C

"The activities were boring, and there was almost no change from last year's. Well, I guess the first day was kind of fun, the rooms were pretty nice, and I guess maybe the food. Our class performance could have been better, with more emotion to the voice acting and more depth to the story's plot. Other than that, it was fine." JuEun, 8E



"I think it was really fun and boring at the same time. Being with friends was really fun, but the activities were kind of boring. This is one of the most memorable camps." Nisa, 8C

"When I went there it was very hot, but the view made me forget the hot weather." Joonwon, 8D

"Well, camp this year is very fun. It tells me a lot about survival skills and also a lot of adventure through the camp." Wuttikorn, 8G

"I have new friends and got to get to know them better. My fear of heights has disappeared and I have learned that I have to be brave and love myself more. The activities are the best!" Paradee, 7E





# A DAY AT MINI MURRAH FARM

## KINDERGARTEN 2 & 3 FIELD TRIP

All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace.  
- Isaiah 54:13



By Angie Colegado-Cordero, Secretary of PS & ES Principal

**G**rowing up in an urban environment, one can imagine what children are missing out on. Enjoying a trip to the rural areas and seeing real, live farm animals is rare these days. This EIS field trip was another activity that the Kindergarten students were looking forward to participating in. On February 28, 2018, the Kindergarten 2 and Kindergarten 3 classes decided to visit the Mini Murrah Farm, an hour and a half drive from Bangkok. The participants included 127 Kindergarten students, 10 teachers and parents who helped supervised the trip.

The objective of this field trip was to identify the farm animals, to develop the sensory learning through objects like dry hay, green grass, and vegetables, and to increase their appreciation of nature. Everyone was welcomed with fresh organic Murrah milk and farm-made cookies.



Then after the welcome, the walking tour started. The students experienced farm life, and learned how it was like to raise Murrah Buffalo with the help of a farm expert. Feeding a baby Murrah was exciting to many of the students, but to some it was scary as it was also their first time to feed a baby Murrah. In addition, the Kindergarten 2 and Kindergarten 3 enrolled in a cooking course and one of the highlights was the DIY pizza activity. Another one was the ice cream workshop where the students transformed fresh Murrah milk into fresh farm made ice cream to take home.



Knowing where our food comes from, and getting involved in more outdoor activities provides the students with an experience to see how a farm works and how animals help us. The trip has been a great hands-on experience that no kindergarten book can provide.



This learning initiative from the Kindergarten section is consistent with Ekamai International School's continuing desire and goal to equip its student body with a holistic Christian Adventist education.





# ACADEMIC SUCCESS DESERVES RECOGNITION

Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.

- Proverbs 3:3-4



By Angie Colegado-Cordero, Secretary of the PS & ES Principal

**T**he Recognition Day is yet another momentous date in the EIS academic calendar. It is a day characterized by joy, admiration, and inspiration when the school gathers together to celebrate students' high academic achievements. Hard-working students who have toiled their hardest over a year of study can exclaim, "We've done it!" And they experience the sweet savor of success upon receiving their awards. But for those students who have almost made it to the hall of fame, this serves as a challenge to work harder and aim for success.

Pidnapak Sakkunawuthikul (3B) and Praefa Kasuwan (3C) gave their tributes in gratitude to their parents giving strong support, being the pillar for their lives, being there when they fail, showing them how to live, and for being patient role models. They added that the greatest gift parents can give to their children is education.



Next, Thannicha Iampanit (4D) thanked the teachers who not only taught their students knowledge from the books but also from their hearts. She also mentioned the efforts of teachers in providing a positive learning climate, good support, and encouragement for the hard work of the students. Their teachers not only impart knowledge to them but they also act as their guardians, family members, and friends. Then, Apisara Tanyacharoenkarnca (5B) gave her tribute to the fifth graders and her farewell speech.

In addition, Pidnapak Sakkunawuthikul and Praefa Kasuwan made it to the top with three gold medals and the same GPA of 3.98. Secondly, Ponlasate Diewvanich (IEL 1) was the only gold medalist for IEL with a GPA of 3.71. Thirdly, Thannicha Iampanit earned a GPA of 3.95 and topped the gold medalists for grade four. Then, Apisa Tanyacharoenkarnca topped the grade 5 gold medalist with a 3.98 GPA. And, Josephine Heys 5B with a GPA of 3.98 topped the gold medal academic awards for three consecutive years.



She was not afraid to tell others about the greatness of her God. If she had kept silent, Captain Naaman would have continued to suffer from leprosy. It was her faith in God that gave her the boldness to speak and the assurance that her master would be healed.

Finally, Ms Catherine Chulkasate, EIS General Manager, ended the exciting ceremony with a prayer of blessing.



Ms. Sarita Arora, the Principal for Student Administration, delivered her recognition address to the students and revealed the story of a little girl who believed in a great God and worked as a maid for Captain Naaman's wife.







# TRIBUTE TO PARENTS

## FROM STUDENT ACHIEVERS

Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise.  
- Ephesians 6:2



By Panisara Kasemteerasomboon (8E) & Matina Chaiwarut, (8D)

**D**ear administrators, parents, teachers, and fellow students good morning. Time has passed by so fast and without realizing it I'm standing here in the last month of eighth grade. I wouldn't be able to stand here without all the help from my teachers. Last year was my first year here at this school and everything was new to me, but the teachers made me feel like I fit in and that they truly understood me. The teachers were all so nice and I could always feel a positive energy as I entered their classrooms.

All the teachers have been working so hard to help us become better people. Even though some of you might feel like the teachers are giving you too much work, have you ever realized how much more effort and time the teachers have been putting to teach you so that you can really understand the lesson they are teaching? How hard they are trying to make you have fun, but also learn something at the same time? Be thankful for all your teachers. In the dictionary, the word teacher refers to someone who teaches, especially in schools.



A teacher is someone who loves and cares about you. A teacher is someone who you can use thousands of words to describe.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the teachers for their effort and hard work in teaching all of us here. I would like to thank Sir Dhany, Sir Manh, Sir Luther, Ma'am Joy, Ma'am Maricel, Ma'am Joanne, Sir David, Sir John, Ma'am Weronika, Ma'am Tatiana, Ma'am Ivy, Sir Eliel, Sir Ben, Sir Neil, Kru Jum, Kru Joy and Sir Jimmy for teaching me.

I am grateful that I am able to be one of your students. And the rest of the teachers who I didn't mention, thank you for making our middle school life a memorable. May God bless you as you continue your path as a wonderful teacher. Thank you.



Dear beloved parents, respective teachers, and fellow students. Every year we progress to the next grade level. The higher it goes, the harder it becomes! Homework, tests, and projects increase in greater amount year after year, and this even leads us to develop a late night studying habit. Sometimes we sacrifice our free time for group projects, and sometimes we even skip meals for studying. Hence, all of our hard work and sacrifices are honored and rewarded today in this Recognition Ceremony. Have you and I ever noticed that behind our success there is always someone who is the strong fortress to support us? Someone who delivers us from this world, feed us, comforts us, encourages us, and provides for all our needs. These someones are... our beloved parents!

As we grow up, things change. Our friends change, perspectives change, and interests change, But the love of our parents for us does not change. No matter what we do, where we go, or what we think... our parents' love will be unwavering.



Today as a student representative, I would like to say to our parents that you are everything to us! Thank you for bringing us into this world. Thank you for always holding our hands and watching our backs when many obstacles come our way. Thank you for providing our everyday needs and education for us to be who we are today and a better person in the future. Your love is indescribable with words. All the medals, certificates, and honors that we get today, we would proudly like to dedicate them to you, our beloved parents! It is not only we, the students, but also you, the parents, being honored and recognized today.

I would like to conclude my speech with a saying: "The most beautiful thing in this world is to see your parents smiling, and knowing that you are the reason behind that smile." Therefore, fellow students! Make your parents smile and proud! Thank you.







# SUMMER MUSICAL CONCERTS

## PS, ES, & MS PRESENTATIONS

Make music to the Lord with harps, with harps and the sound of singing.  
- Psalm 98:5



By Amara Joan Sims, Assistant Editor

**T**his year the Ekamai International School Music Department featured three separate musical presentations for the Primary, Elementary, and Middle School sections in the Milne Auditorium on May 9, 2018. The programs highlighted what EIS students learned in their music classes throughout the second semester.

The Primary students (Kindergarten 1 – Grade 2) shared several worship songs in various languages. It was a delight to see each of their traditional costumes as they represented different countries around the world. Some of these nationalities included: the Philippines, France, Spain, Africa, China, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.



A special musical adaptation of Jonah and the big fish was eagerly anticipated. This modern telling of a well-known Bible story had a balmy, summertime feel to it. It contained an exhilarating mix of sea-themed songs featuring the sun, waves, and a bunch of scurvy pirates. With a fun and lively script, "Jonah, A Fishy Tail" introduced a whole host of new characters, including a tourist, an irritating crab, Tom & Jerry, and some nasty Ninevites. This musical managed to successfully retain the story's true meaning of how complete obedience to God can lead us to have a better and happy life. In addition to the musical, both the middle school band class, led by Mr. Weerajak and Mr. Sebastian, and grades 6-8 violin students, headed by Mr. Wittaya, opened the program with a selection of instrumental worship songs.



Mrs. Virnie Zulueta, the Head of the Music Department, shared these sentiments: "We give all the glory to our God for the success of our three musical presentations. We could feel His presence with our students' performance... and how they showcased the messages of their songs and stories on stage. He really blessed the programs... Praise God!"

Annually, the music department hosts musical performances that showcase the talents and gifts of the students from all sections as an act of worship and gratitude to God for the whole school year of guidance and blessings.





# A STARRY NIGHT

## 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Learning your words gives wisdom and understanding for the foolish.  
-- Psalm 119:130



By Lin Tan-Alvez, Media & Publications Coordinator

**M**emories reminiscent of the good old days at Ekamai International School filled the magnificently adorned Royal Bangkok Sports Club on Saturday night as alumni from Child Training Center (CTC), Adventist English School (AES), and now Ekamai International School commemorated its 60<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. The event was espoused by the officers of the alumni association led by its President, Mahesh Ramchandani in partnership with the school's leadership team to honor and recognize Ekamai International School's leadership and excellence in Adventist Christian international education in Bangkok Thailand.

Graduates from 1950 to 2017 reconnected with their classmates, friends, and teachers. It was an auspicious gathering graced by the school's prominent graduates and successful leaders in various fields of professional disciplines.



"We are overwhelmed and perpetually grateful for the steadfast support of our alumni. It is encouraging to note and share that our success is a shared and collective efforts from all members of our family," School Director, Prachack Jitbunyad said. "We are here today, to honor that same God who has carried us through the years and has been our rock through it all."



Remembering to look unto the Lord Jesus Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith as counseled by Paul in Hebrew 12:2. Moreover, we are also gathered here to celebrate not the passing of time but to reminisce the memories, reflect on the moments, and the look back how EIS has touched our lives one way to another." He conveyed during his welcome remarks.



Prominent personalities who graced the successful event included Peter Chan, a Chinese film director, producer and screenwriter from AES Class of 1980; Kathaleeya McIntosh, Thai actress; and Boyd Kosiyapong, Thai producer, among many others.

A poignant tribute to teachers who have served EIS for over 30 years was presented by class presidents of each decade. Organizers of the event were also honored by the school's administrators.

The glittering gathering of successful stars demonstrated the school's homey atmosphere that heightened relationships across culture, location, and language, true to its commitment to empower, inspire, and serve.







# FIDE-RATED TOURNAMENT

## ATTRACTS CHESS ENTHUSIASTS

Chess helps you to concentrate, improve your logic. It teaches you to play by the rules and take responsibility for your actions, how to problem solve in an uncertain environment.

- Garry Kasparov

Chess Grandmaster & World Chess Champion

By Siri Thitipankul, 12B

**T**he EIS Chess Club organized the 1<sup>st</sup> EIS FIDE-rated Tournament on Sunday, March 18, 2018. The tournament was the first of its kind to be organized by the club as a means of exposing chess to students, as well as to gain traction within the Thailand chess community. The tournament consisted of six rounds, 25 minutes each, for both the open and student categories with a total cash prize of 15,000 baht. Participants in the open category were also eligible to get their points tallied up to contribute to their official FIDE score which would affect their rankings internationally. The tournament was the largest chess competition that EIS has ever hosted, bringing in a total of 85 chess players: 38 players were placed in the open category and 47 in the student category.

Since the tournament allowed for tallying of official FIDE scores, the competition was fierce. EIS witnessed the participation of some very high rank players, including International Master Kjetil Stokke, who was the Thailand National Trainer Asian Indoor Game 2017, as well as FIDE Masters Jony Habla and Yaaqoz Vaingorten. The tournament had some high level plays that were watched by spectators and players alike. After the day spent playing six contested rounds of chess, the winners who tallied the highest scores for the student category were Jirath Samatthanan in first place, Kinh Luan Nguyen in second place, and Kunthee Yongvanich in third place. For the open category, we had Gerald Ferriol in first place, Winston Joseph R. Silva in second place, and FIDE Master Jony Habla in third place.



"It is an honor to successfully organize the FIDE chess tournament and help spread the game of chess. It feels great to see players of all ages, especially young players, compete with each other and enjoying the game," said Thanatad Songpetchmongkol, the EIS Chess Club President





# WINNING ESSAY

## DISCOURSES INTEGRATION OF FAITH INTO THE LEARNING PROCESS

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.  
- Proverbs 16:24

By Tanya Rishi, 12B

**M**y school is a house of worship, and for that, I am immensely grateful. Rarely does one get the opportunity to study in a Christ-centric academic program that fortifies all four aspects of wellbeing – physical, mental, social, and spiritual. This year I graduate from my school, this church that has brought me up to be the strongest, wisest, and the most morally righteous person I could be. I am ready to share these values and important life lessons I have learned with the outside world and serve my community with the generous blessings that have been imparted to me by this Christian school. Studying in a Christian school environment that integrates faith into each and every aspect of learning has influenced my worldview, character, and educational experience in numerous positive ways.

First of all, integrating Christian learning into the study program does wonders for each student's perspective of the world around them. From the very beginning, we are taught of prayer. Perhaps the greatest thing we students have learned is the importance of gratitude. This school has taught me to focus on the things God has given me and what I can do with my abilities. From a very early age, I was taught that there is no such thing as the highest standard – each person has a unique purpose and is treasured. Our purpose in life as young people is not to live up to some standard, but to be the best people we can be for our society. This mindset in a Christian school gives rise to subjects like P.E., art, music, as well as extracurricular activities that are created for the sole mission of helping the student explore and appreciate just how many opportunities are present for them. Perhaps most importantly, the Christian environment in school has provided me with the best learning experience.

The values and beliefs I have been taught have empowered me in every possible way and turned me into a well-rounded person who has experienced more than just learning in the classroom. For example, the Pathfinder program is one that is prevalent throughout Seventh-day Adventist Christian schools everywhere. Through Pathfinding, students learn life skills that would serve them well whenever they are needed – including how to collaborate, how to share and pool each person's skills, and how to turn resources into quality products.

In conclusion, a proper educational experience is one that seeks to strengthen all sides of the health triangle. My Christian school has blessed me in ways that I will never experience elsewhere. School has been the best experience of my entire life. Often, it has been tough balancing the values aspect of studying as well as the academic, but it has been well worth it. Our teachers are taught not only to impart knowledge to us, but also to be our mentors and guides who pray for us to succeed. I am extremely appreciative of this house, this church, Ekamai International School, which has turned me into the strongest, wisest, and best person I can be. I look forward to utilizing the skills I have learned in college and the rest of my life. Perhaps I will never have the same learning experience again for the rest of my life, but I can gladly and safely say that I have already been shaped into the person I need to be. The Christian school environment has determined my life's purpose and set a clear path for me that I can follow for the rest of my life.





# STUDENTS REVIVE A PASSION FOR WRITING

## AT THE 2<sup>nd</sup> ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Learning your words gives wisdom and understanding for the foolish.  
- Psalm 119:130



By Tripti Rishi, 9C

**T**he 2<sup>nd</sup> Essay Writing Competition organized by the EIS Media & Publications department, in partnership with the EIS Article Writing Club was held on March 22, 2018. This competition was open to all high school students. The proposed challenge was to write a 500-word essay about a chosen prompt in the span of 30 minutes under a panel of judges. The prompts were only provided to the participants the moment before they entered the room.

The panel of judges included: Mr. Harold Dawat, Principal for Academic Administration; Mr. Ian Cordero, Accreditation, and IEL Coordinator; Mrs. Hazel Ginajil, Head of the English Department; Mrs. Lin Tan-Alvez, Publications, and Media Coordinator; Ms. Shireen Bazliel, AP English Teacher; and Ms. Amara Sims, Assistant Editor.



Students wrote essays based on three topics:

**Prompt 1:** Advancement in science and technology have exponentially impacted the way people live. Recently, artificial intelligence is garnering unprecedented attention from the public causing mixed reactions. What are your thoughts on our increasing dependence on technology?

**Prompt 2:** The EIS curriculum is unique with its integration of faith into the learning process. How does learning in a Christian school environment influenced your worldview, choices, character, and learning itself?

**Prompt 3:** High school students are overwhelmed with standardized tests such as SAT, TOEFL, IELTS, and many others to advance the educational ladder. Do you think standardized tests are effective indicators of one's academic competencies and performance? If not, how do you propose to measure a student academic skills?

Cash awards and certificates awaited the participants.

The prizes were as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> place - 2,000 baht

2<sup>nd</sup> place - 1,500 baht

3<sup>rd</sup> place - 1,000 baht



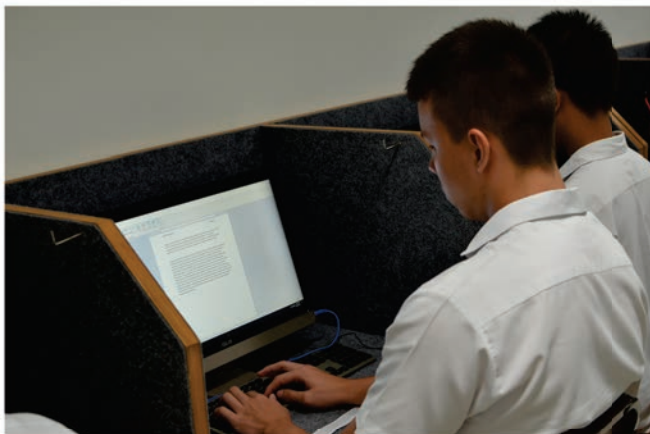
Some essays had powerful sentences that captured the hearts of the judges right away. Three exceptional essays stood out, and we are proud to announce that the winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> place: Tanya Rishi – 12B

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Hee Jae Chung – 12C

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Anirudh Kwatra – 12C

Congratulations to the winners! I would personally like to tell all who like to write: this competition is a nice experience, so be sure to join next time!







# STUDENTS OUTWIT EACH OTHER IN BATTLE OF THE BRAINS

For wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.  
- Proverbs 2:10



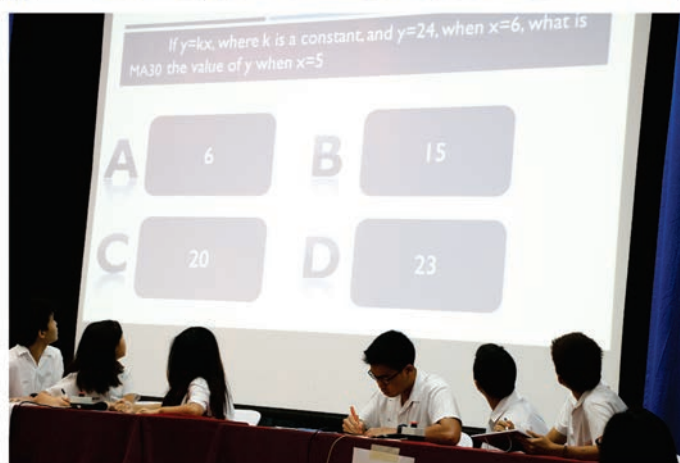
By Bhavika Srishtha, 11A

**O**n January 17, 2018, the Student Council hosted the Battle of the Brains event in the auditorium for the elementary, middle, and high school sections. The event was held for students who want to express their intelligence outside of the class as well as their knowledge of the everyday world and current trends.

This year, the selected students had to choose any of the questions tailored to that of each grade level, within the history, math, science, social sciences, sports, foreign language, and trendy categories, with a favorite question from each SC officer exclusive to the high school event. For each question the students answered correctly, they will earn a certain amount of points based on the question provided, and for every question they answered incorrectly, they will lose a certain amount of points. The students could also ask a teacher or a friend when they were stuck on a question.



During each of these events, all students, both the contestants and the audience, actively participated in helping their classmates answer the questions. Sounds of excitement filled the air when the students answered the questions correctly, with the grade level that answered the question correctly cheering the most, while sounds of disappointment surged when they answered incorrectly. Through teamwork and cooperation each grade level made their efforts to answer all the questions, even if some were challenging. In the end, the 11<sup>th</sup> grade took the trophy over everyone else in high school, while the 7<sup>th</sup> grade followed suit in middle school.



"The event was a success," said Teeravee Khuprasert, SC President, "because students had fun and were able to learn something from the program. I believe Battle of the Brains is an event that actually increases students' inquisitiveness and learning capabilities through exposing themselves to various types [of] questions, both academic and general knowledge based. I truly feel that this kind of event should be further promoted and supported by the school. It is a great way for students to learn and have fun at the same time!"







# XINDERELLA

## A TWISTED FAIRY TALE

"You must always remember this: Have courage, and be kind. You have more kindness in your little finger than most people possess in their whole body. And it has power. More than you know."

- Brittany Candau

Have Courage, Be Kind: The Tale of Cinderella



By Hafsa Qasim, 10B

**N**ow you're probably thinking, "Bless the heart of whoever wrote the title, they must have a terribly weak vocabulary skill, how could they have misspelled Cinderella wrong." In truth, the play itself is actually spelled "Xinderella." It is rather a satire of Cinderella, a version that has been carefully put together, spiced with a hint of humor and a special twist.

Xinderella is a "small" play that turned "huge" according to Mrs. Amy Angelo. It was made possible with the teamwork and efforts of the 10B students, kudos to the director, Pipatra Tirapairojana 10B, as well as the scriptwriter, and the rest of the class that came together to give you a spontaneous play. The play was held at the Milne Auditorium, on February 21, 2018. Ms. Amy's support played an important part in the success of the play.



The play was a fairy tale of Xinderella, a young beautiful Chinese girl like in the original tale, bullied by her step-sisters and step-mother. As the story progresses with each scene filled with hilarity, which made the crowd cackle persistently throughout the whole play. Soon enough the tale was coming to an end, as the crowd sat patiently replaying out the expected story in their minds; little did they know that the unexpected was about to happen. During the last scene, after which Drizella and Anastasia had tried on the glass slipper and failed to wear it, Xinderella then proceeded to don it. However, as it turns out her feet apparently "grew" overnight. Confusion ran through Xinderella's mind as Lady Tremaine snatches the glass slippers and wears it, and as it turns out hers was the perfect fit. Everyone grasped, including the crowd, bewildered by the unforeseen sight. As for the twist, the story ended with the prince's royal weddings, both Lady Tremaine and the Fairy Godmother.



As the curtains closed, applause exploded and the crowd joyously beamed, amused by the comical play, which ended with a terrible twist and left most flustered. The End.





# ROUDY FUTURE ENGINEERS RESUSCITATE A RUST BUCKET

In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for men.

- Colossians 3:23



By Belle Bunyakida, 12G

**I**n front of a house in a quiet neighborhood lies an abandoned 1980 Toyota Corona rusting away the last remaining years of its life. Then one day, a group of young aspiring engineers take the vehicle into their care and return it to its former glory over four months.

The Engineer's Society, led by seniors Theerapat Santanaprasit 12G, and Sirawich Limpiwilart 12A, have been working on the aged Toyota Corona diligently since the beginning of 2018 and have managed to make the once nonfunctional car into a drivable one. However this feat would not have been possible without the main team of the club: Chanakarn Komthongvijit, 9D, Jason Nills Jirapaht Jittaseno, 9D, Noppawat Yacantha, 8A and the sponsors namely: Amara Joan Sims, Sonny Ronquillo, Jun Earl Dagaojes, and Dem Gagatam. Many days were spent under the blistering hot sun and evenings



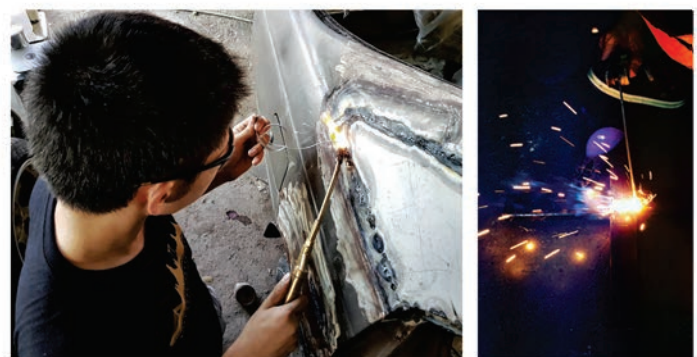
tinkering around with engine parts. The initial process of the project involved fixing and rebuilding the clutch, which is a plate that sends power to the wheels, as well as rebuilding the carburetor, a device that mixes fuel with air. The interior of the car was stripped in order to save weight.

After that, the engineers took the car to a body shop located on the outskirts of Bangkok to learn and experience welding. "We learned that welding metal is very time consuming if you are inexperienced. Many mistakes will be made in the early days, but after some practice, it becomes fun and easy," said Theerapat. The team cut and welded metal parts for the rusted sections of the car and modified the frame in order to improve handling and safety. The engine was further repaired and the students moved on to painting the car.



Recently the former "piece of scrap metal" has become a fully functional car that can be driven with little to no problems. The Engineer's Society plans to perform an engine swap, add a roll cage, and retune the Corona's suspension in the future.

With the seniors graduating, the car project has been passed on to the next generation of engineers. Their progress can be observed on their Instagram page: [engineers\\_nation](#) and you can financially support this club on GoGetFunding; the club's page will be linked in the QR code.







# EIS MEDICINE CLUB

## VISITS SEA LIFE BANGKOK OCEAN WORLD

The sea is His, for he made it, and His hands formed the dry land.

- Psalm 95:5



By Amara Joan Sims, Assistant Editor

**N**one would imagine the magnificent wonders hiding in the basement of the prestigious Siam Paragon Shopping Centre. An eager 32 students of Ekamai International School visited the Sea Life Bangkok Ocean World aquarium on April 8, 2018 to uncover more about biodiversity of life. Successfully organized by the EIS Medicine Club, this field trip was open to officers, members, and other specially invited guests. The club was happy to welcome a middle school student – a victorious first in the club’s history.

The group was welcomed by two friendly tour guides, who were very informative and quick to answer every question the students posed. Several AP Biology and Pre-AP Biology students joined this trip, and were able to implement what they had learned in the classroom.



Five million litres of aquarium exhibits were to be discovered featuring a tropical coral reef fit with clownfish and lion fish, a glowing jellyfish exhibit, a freezing penguin enclosure, and a romantic sea turtle tank. Days before the visit, seahorses were born, so the students were able to carefully spot the microscopic seahorses floating about the tank. The Shark Walk was a heart-pounding experience also; only a thin sheet of acrylic material separated the guests from five different species of sharks swimming in the tank below. In addition to the audiovisual experience, fearless students lined up to touch a sea star and a sea cucumber. Even the teachers squirmed at the slimy touch!



Walking through the underwater ocean tunnel, schools of fish, manta rays, and sharks waved and smiled. The highlight was walking above that giant aquarium where a beautiful leopard whipray graced the surface. Observing all these species is a reminder that the Creator is both a Master Biologist and a Master Artist.







# GAMES, GRADES, & GOD

## 16<sup>th</sup> RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.  
- Proverbs 3:3-4



By Lin Tan-Alvez, Media & Publications Coordinator

"I was once a determined A student until I got into an accident that changed the course of my academic journey. From being a summa cum laude candidate, I ended up being a cum laude while losing interest in studying, and my marks went from great to worst. I was hooked on games and the same addiction was carried over to achieving good grades until that day I almost lost my vision. Through all these journeys God never left me. He was there when I was achieving and He was also there when I was not," Chaplain Wilson Aritonang shared during the 16<sup>th</sup> recognition ceremony for middle schoolers where he stood as speaker.

"The destiny of hard work is success. Where you are now is a success," he conveyed to the eager gold, silver, and bronze medalists seated in the front rows of the Milne Auditorium on May 7, 2018. He continued to inspire the students by sharing that the difference



between an achiever and a not-an-achiever-yet is hard work. He added, "Today's success is the picking of tomorrow's."

This event also recognized the support and guidance of the parents who are worthy of recognition and appreciation. Ohga Sumihiro topped the Grade 6 gold medalists with a GPA of 3.94, Jaya Jindal with a GPA of 3.97 was number 1 for Grade 7, and Panisara Kasemteerasomboon with a GPA of 3.98 led the gold medalists for Grade 8. Honors criteria for a gold medal is a GPA of 3.70-4.00, a silver medal is 3.50-3.69 and bronze is 3.30-3.49.



Mr. Dannie Storie, Principal of the Middle School section, encouraged not only the achievers but all middle school and IEL students to continue on pursuing their goal through hard work and faith in God.

The program closed with a prayer of blessings offered by Mr. Harold Dawat, Principal for Academic Administration.







# DO NOT WORRY

## A CELEBRATION SABBATH CHALLENGE

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life.

- Matthew 6:25-27



By Lin Tan-Alvez, Media & Publications Coordinator

**W**orry does not erase today's burden but it finishes today's power. The Lord loves you and me so much that He places more value on us than the lilies and the birds. God takes care of us. He wants us to be free from worrying. Central to the message Dr. Franklin Hutabarat delivered during the Celebration Sabbath on February 24, 2018, held at the Student Center of the Elementary Building, was a challenge to everyone to stop worrying.

The Holy Bible has an antidote for worry. "Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are," he quoted Matthew 6:26.



He continued further to explain that we often worry about unnecessary earthly concerns that evidently separates us from the love of God. "We should direct our focus to heavenly things and seek the kingdom of God first and He will give everything we need," Dr. Hutabarat added.

His message opened with a story of an elderly woman who went for a medical consult about the many things she was worried about. The doctor ended with a prescription of promises from the Bible to give assurance from God and to remind us not to worry. Newly married Mr. and Mrs. John Shimray gave justice to the role playing.



The Celebration Sabbath was also a great opportunity for sharing God's words and fellowshiping with colleagues. An interactive Sabbath School lesson review was conducted in groups, while the children had their own discussions and activities.

Fellowship lunch followed after the worship service, where an array of international cuisine from various families and individuals was served in addition to the already prepared lunch from the school.







# REDEEMED 'n RESTORED

## FACULTY & STAFF SPIRITUAL RETREAT

And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.  
1 Peter 5:10



By Amara Joan Sims, Assistant Editor

**A**nually, the faculty and staff of Ekamai International School come together as one family through a spiritual retreat. This year it was held on March 28-30, 2018 at The Regent Cha-Am Beach Resort, adopting the theme "Redeemed 'N Restored," based on 1 Peter 5:10 which reads: "In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation."

During morning and evening worships, songs of adoration and praise were led by select musicians, and the theme song "In Christ Alone" was sung in both English and Thai. Prayers were uplifted by distinguished guests.

The EIS Campus Ministry prepared an array of speakers representing the administration, primary/elementary, middle, and high school sections. Each speaker built upon each other by investigating the entire passage found in 1 Peter 5:1-10. EIS Director, Mr. Prachack Jitbunyad, was the first speaker at Wednesday evening worship to lay the foundation for succeeding worships. His message placed special emphasis on corporate prayer - reflected in group prayer circles throughout the duration of the retreat.



The devotional on Thursday morning was led by Mr. Merle Das, who gave a message about 4 characteristics of a lion, as described in Ephesians 6:12. Lions have a distinct identity, even as the devil has – we must be mindful. Lions are a strategic animal, using many deceptive means to swallow its prey – we must be alert. This king of the jungle inhabits and secures a territory; Satan's targets are Jesus, the angels, and us, sinners – we must watch and pray, being resolute and resisting. Finally, although lions are powerful and strong, they still possess frailty, weakness – we must stand together. Mr. Merle concluded that Satan is a lion, and to combat his devices we should develop a community of prayer, acknowledging that complete and capable strength is only found in the Lord.

Ms. Emeline Lazarus lead out in Thursday's evening devotional by describing the desert experience the Israelites had, wherein they learned: dependence on God, humility, patience, trust, courage, and many more. She, too, had a personal wilderness experience even as she stood up that evening. Confessing to us that she had stage fright, she confidently declared that God was helping her share the message – a powerful testimony in itself.



The final worship on Friday morning was led by Mr. Eliel Cruz. He reminded us that God cares about us. He will rescue us from wherever we are. He will redeem us and transform us because only He can restore what is broken and change it into something amazing. Our suffering on earth is preparing us for eternal glory beyond all comparison. With this in mind we joined hands together for our final prayer band.

All glory to God for the wonderful experience in nature with family and friends. We can still hear the waves crashing against the shore all the way from our temporary home here in Bangkok; and we are most certainly looking forward to the ultimate spiritual retreat when we are forever redeemed 'n restored to an eternal home in heaven.







# BUDDIES NOT BULLIES

## ES ANTI-BULLYING INITIATIVE

'May the LORD give you increase, you and your children! May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth!'

- Psalm 115:14-15



By Tripti Rishi, 9C

**F**riendship is something we all treasure. A week-long friendship and #antibullying campaign that promoted friendship was held from March 19 to March 23, 2018, for the primary and elementary school students. This campaign helped tell students how to be true friends to one another and how to be buddies and not bullies. There were many ways friendship was promoted, including an art competition, in which students were supposed to draw or paint their dream for a loving and happy community. At the end of the competition winners who portrayed their imagination very well were chosen. The winners are as follows:

Grade 3

1. Logan Scott - 3A
2. Iyesha Dawn Dagaojes - 3D
3. Prippandao Tangcharoen - 3D



Grade 4

1. Jazzamine Tay - 4D
2. Noi Satake - 4A
3. Karin Pengniti - 4C

Grade 5

1. Kenshin Watanabe - 5B
2. Nalisa Decharin - 5A
3. Josephine Heys - 5D

Consolation Prizes:

1. Shiwoo Yeo - 4D
2. Kanpanit Kulsuptrakul - 5B
3. Apisara Tanyacharoenkarca - 5B

Another way friendship was promoted was when students were encouraged to make the mark of a true friend by adding their handprint on the unity tree. Last, but not least, the students had values reflections throughout the week where they learned how to be a buddy, not a bully. They learned to know how they can be a true friend, like Jesus.



We want to praise God for the active support of the EIS Leadership Team and our very own principal for the Primary and Elementary Section, Ms. Hazel Ilao.



Also, we praise God for Mr. Annek Chong-taveetham's great effort to paint the tree beautifully with his chosen students; and we praise the Lord for Mr. Sandor Mulaj's great help in organizing the art competition and its exhibition outside the building. We also praise the Lord for the wisdom and strength provided to Mr. Jun Riel and the rest of the Guidance Counselling team. To God be the Glory for His never ceasing guidance.

Always respect and treasure your friends and your friendship with them.





# SELFLESS SERVICE

## BEYOND BORDERS

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.

- Deuteronomy 15:11



By Lin Tan-Alvez, Media & Publications Coordinator

**W**hen God opens doors of opportunity for you to serve and care for others, jump for joy! With a steadfast spirit believe that He will equip you through it. This was evident in our recent mission trip to Tak Province during the Songkran break. Armed with the burning desire to reach out, share God's love, and serve, we journeyed twelve hours to reach our mission site.

Sunshine Orchard Learning Center is located on the border of Thailand and Myanmar and is dedicated to ministering to the needs of the Karen children and youth through education. American missionaries, Paul and Lena Adams and their children, have committed their lives to serving the abandoned, neglected, and underprivileged through a collection of Bible studies, education, medical relief, and rural village outreach projects, notwithstanding the imminent danger of war and risk of malaria.



The Karen Outreach Ministry supported by the Jesus for Asia program services migrants, stateless people, internally displaced, refugees, children at risk, and basically anyone in need.

We were in great awe at how faith has carried this ministry through while Mr. Paul was sharing the humble beginning and challenges of Sunshine Orchard during a moonlit night worship. How God has transformed pain into joy, and stateless individuals into a community of Seventh-day Adventist believers. We were deeply inspired by the courage and faith of these students—especially when we discovered that some even desire to be future missionaries and ministers.

We cemented pathways; painted classrooms, benches, and tables; and dug a pit for their toilet over the six days that we were there, but none of these came close to their desire to serve their fellow refugees, and most importantly God.



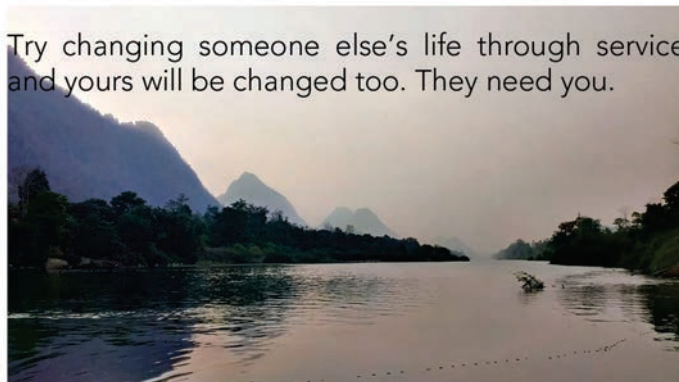
At the crack of dawn, the students hiked up to the chapel overlooking the picturesque Dawna Range to open their day with praise and worship and return at dusk to close in the same manner. They found Jesus at Sunshine Orchard through the generosity and compassion of those who devoted their lives to establishing and sustaining it.



"We literally picked babies on the mountain. Newly-born babies suffering from various infections. We rushed them to the hospital for medical care, shared our homes, meals, and even our names so they can escape from this dark part of their lives. Through all these challenges, God has been there - always been there," shared Mr. Paul. "Faith has been our strength. God has done amazing things to us, and He continues to do so even up to today," a soft-spoken Mr. Paul stopping midsentence to collect his thoughts and almost dropping tears stated further.

The missionaries at Sunshine Orchard mirror what Jesus has done. They walked, dined, ministered, healed, taught, and yes, crossed borders too, to help those in need. Sunshine Orchard needs your prayers and financial support to sustain what sheer faith has built to give these children a name, dignity, and family. To see how you can be of help, visit their website at <http://www.karenoutreach.org>.

Try changing someone else's life through service and yours will be changed too. They need you.







# GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

## CHALLENGES ALL TO BE THE SERMON

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

- 2 Timothy 2:22



By Wilson Aritonang, Chaplain & Jenima Gurung, TIH

**E**very year Seventh-day Adventist young people around the world go out on to the streets to celebrate "Global Youth Day" with their talents, time, and effort. Ekamai International School has been participating in this community-based activity since last year. This celebration is a symbol of our commitment to the God of our lifetime, and an act of service to the community around us. This is also a worldwide event that promotes to help people in need.

This year, on March 17, 2018, EIS students, teachers, and staff went out to Nawamin to hold a free health check-up and exposition. Students who were interested in the medical field joined this initiative to help out while able to learn new things. May other participants joined activities all around Bangkok to serve their respective communities for the whole day in different ways. More than 300 people were to help our assigned community in the health check-up. It was an expression of joy and heart work as the teachers and students worked and served side-by-side to meet the physical health needs of the local residents. Students were able to experience a beautiful moment helping children and seniors alike.

Students went door to door, person to person, handing out flyers about Jesus Christ as those who speaks Thai helped in translating and ensuring that the right message is conveyed.



At the same time they informed people about the health exposition so that they could go in case they were not aware of it. For families with children, they were told about the children's activity in the afternoon, which included: coloring, singing, and teaching English songs with actions to make it more enjoyable.

This event lasted the entire day and students were helping out with different parts of the service, whether it was playing with the kids, conversing with them, or finding others to join in the activities. Towards the end, we had a closing ceremony where everyone joined together to share their testimonies and experiences, as well as a few prayers.

Not only was this program successful, but it also helped students learn basic skills that are required in the modern world. It helped the students understand various perspectives, and gave us a glimpse of what we should or might expect when high school comes to an end. We were challenged to prioritize our goals for the future – a challenge to serve others – one we are eager to accept. Indeed, we are all born to love one another just as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, had shown while He was here on earth. What a privilege to follow His footsteps!



As the EIS students were arriving and organizing themselves into groups, some were eager to distribute gospel tracts. The very first person we encountered was a smelly, dirty, elderly man who had suffered from a stroke and was left with a motor impairment. We saw he needed medical attention and quickly went to call the nurses to bring their equipment across the parking lot to where he was sitting, along with some water and bananas. We were shocked to find him starting to smoke a cigarette when we returned and quickly replaced it with a banana in his hand. As the nurses took his blood pressure, we asked the elderly man if he knew Jesus. Tears streamed down his face as he heard for the first time of someone who loves him. We ended our visit with a prayer for him as well as a firm embrace. This is what it means to follow Jesus' footsteps.







# I REFUSE TO SINK

## GRADE 10 BIBLE CAMP

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
- Hebrews 4:12



By Wilson Aritonang, MS & HS Chaplain

**B**ible Camp is one of the programs the students in high school are always looking forward to, as it is truly special for many reasons. Bible Camp provides a complete training of spiritual, mental, physical, and social aspects in a very dynamic and relevant way. It also builds friendships in a very fresh way beyond classroom doors. And lastly, it creates opportunities to love God and love each other in the beautiful nature in Kanchanaburi.

It is an experience like no other because Bible Camp promotes lasting experience through real time interaction and real life principles as reflected in the Bible. The chosen theme was "I Refuse to Sink" and the main Bible text was Hebrews 6:19 which says, "This hope (in Jesus Christ) is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls." Messages were delivered to the students by Pastor Karlo Diel, our invited speaker, who inspired the students of the life-giving hope in Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior. The program may have ended already, but the dedication to this message of hope and commitment will continue to remind us of this hope which lasts beyond Bible Camp.



# WEEKEND SLUM OUTREACH

## A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INITIATIVE

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- Philippians 2:4

By Iris Angelica Zoe Alvez, TIB

**O**n the Sundays of March 11 to May 20, the members and officers of the EIS Habitat for Humanity Club, led by president Thitirat Siripaiboolpong, have been visiting the slums of On Nut Soi 49 and Pattanakarn Soi 4 to teach the children English conversation, Bible stories, Christian songs, arts and crafts, and many others.

This Christian literacy initiative has been supported by Chaplain Wilson Aritonang of the Campus Ministry Department, and teachers: Amara Joan Sims, Lin Tan-Alvez, and Hearty Joy Gagnan and Sankimon Rymbai.

"It is always a blessing to be with these kids who have the purest hearts to learn about Jesus," shared Ms. Lin.

"One of the objectives of the outreach is to change the lives of the kids in the slums, but when I see how the members of the EIS Habitat for Humanity Club are also changed in the process, I am grateful to God for being part of this noteworthy initiative," Ms. Amara conveyed.

Khun Rasamaee, who is both coordinating at On Nut and Klongtan Seventh-day Adventist Centers, had been generous enough with her time to help and host the members of the Habitat for Humanity Club.







# FACULTY & STAFF

## OPENS WEEK WITH PRAYER AND FASTING

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

- Matthew 6:16-18



By Lin Tan-Alvez, Media & Publications Coordinator

**P**rayers can move mountains. James, the brother of Jesus, supported this theology when he asserted in the Holy Scriptures that the prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working (James 5:16). It is for this and many other reasons that Ekamai International School always come together as a family to pray. The uniting power of prayer has once again gathered all EIS employees to a Week of Prayer and Fasting that started on February 19, 2018, until its culmination at the Celebration Sabbath on February 24, 2018 in the Student Center of the Elementary School.

The EIS Campus Ministry, which spearhead this bi-annual event, have made consistent effort to encourage everyone to follow a personal/individualized fasting program by fasting: the entire day, one meal per day, dessert/sugar for the entire 7 days, multi-media entertainment, and/or social media. Readings for this week's prayer and fasting are lifted from Mrs. Ellen White's book entitled Maranatha.





Day one opened with "Heaven is Cheap Enough," that focused on God's infinite and immeasurable love. The prayer focus was the vision and mission of the school. The core message of day two was "The Feast that Satisfies;" it encouraged all to the desire for goodness and true holiness. The prayer focus was all levels of school leadership. Central to day three's message is living a "Twofold Life" - a life of thought and action, of silent prayer and earnest work. The prayer focus was students and parents' needs. Day four challenged the people of God to be "Ready to Answer" the truth that is in them. The prayer focus was academic works and results. Day five elaborated on "The Faith that Works" and called on everyone to die to self and live for God. The prayer focus was personal and family needs.



All sections met daily for prayer in different locations with assigned individuals leading out the discussion, sharing testimonies, reading of God's Word, and praying.





# STAR CASE CHAMPION

## IS FORMER SC OFFICER & ATHLETE

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
- Psalm 37:4



By Iris Angelica Zoe Alvez, TIB

**T**welve teams from ten countries around the world flew to Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from April 15-22, 2018 to compete for the prestigious RSM Star Case Competition 2018. Organized by the said university, this gathering of outstanding business undergraduate students is a unique opportunity for twelve teams from top business schools worldwide to compete with each other by presenting their solutions to real-life business cases. They were given 24 hours to solve a case about Coca-Cola's sustainability goals. Apiwat Narkhan, from EIS Class of 2015 and now a member of the Chulalongkorn University's Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) International Program, with his teammates were declared champions, while delegates from Australia and USA came in second and third place, respectively. Apiwat and his team brought home a team trophy and a 2,400 Euro cash award.



"Always seek to improve. If you sit idly and do nothing, you will never improve. So instead, find around 20 to 30 minutes each day to do something that contributes to your skills or your knowledge. These things may be: reading books, reading news, watching videos etc. Over time, it will turn into a good habit that gives you a good head start ahead of other people. Be passionate. Always give your 100% in all that you do. Regardless of the results, you will always be satisfied and gain many lessons from it. Lastly, never give up. There will be times when you are down and demotivated. Instead of giving up, you will need to quickly learn from it, make improvements, and overcome it," he conveyed through an online interview.

Weeks before the Star Case Competition in The Netherlands, Apiwat, and his team also won the HSBC Case Competition locally hosted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation open to all business college students in Thailand. The HSBC has awarded them with a 100,000 baht cash, individual certificates, and a team trophy. In that same competition, Apiwat was awarded the best speaker trophy. He and his team will be representing Thailand in the global round that will be held in Hong Kong in June 2018. They will be competing against 21 delegates from different countries.

"EIS has contributed to a lot of things. In my opinion, the 2 biggest ones are: 1) Dealing with people (interpersonal skills) which I gained from being a student council officer. I believe that this does not apply to only case competitions, but it applies to everything no matter what you do or where you go in life. I've done many extracurricular activities in Chula, and in each activity, you will get to meet with people of various types, various natures, and various personalities. There are some that you will find a hard time being with or won't fit well with you.



Having learned how to deal with different types of people at EIS made me understand them better and helped me to find the best ways to make all parties satisfied. 2) Passion and perseverance in which I gained from the school basketball and volleyball teams. These sports have taught me many priceless lessons such as sportsmanship, teamwork, and the most precious thing, the determined mindset to work hard and never give up. In sports, if you don't put your 100% and really work hard, you will never get to improve. In case of competitions, you must also work hard and seek to improve every day because you are not up against people in your classroom nor university, but you are up against the top talents from all over the world. The passion and perseverance that I gained at EIS have pushed me to work hard and to never give up when faced with tough moments," he further shared.

Congratulations on all these feats. Your EIS family is so proud of you. Keep winning!





# AIMING FOR A TRULY ADVENTIST EDUCATION

## AAA ACCREDITATION VISIT

Love, the basis of creation and of redemption, is the basis of true education.

- Ellen White

Author, Spirit of Prophecy



By Ian Cordero, Accreditation & IEL Coordinator

**E**kamai International School has reached another significant milestone in its noble existence as an educational institution offering quality Christian education. From March 12-14, 2018, the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM), currently based in Singapore, organized and dispatched a nine-member team with a range of expertise in various fields including education, finance, ministry, and administration to conduct a full accreditation visit of the middle and high schools.

The Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) visiting team utilized various reports including the self-study report, responses to the previous recommendations, and vital statistics as a springboard to the organization and flow of the various activities during the visit.





The visit occurred during the same week as the Week of Prayer, a time of spiritual enrichment in which the Holy Spirit was actively at work in the hearts of many, and kicked off with a simple yet memorable welcome program in the Milne Auditorium.

In addition, the welcome program featured inspiring songs and instrumental music performed by the IEL students, high school guitarists, and middle and high school choirs, as well as the impressive presentation of the school mission, vision, and philosophy by the high school speech students. Other essential events of the visit included scheduled classroom observations and interviews with the students, faculty, and administration.

The EIS Leadership Team has expressed profound gratitude for the collaboration and untiring support of the entire EIS family starting from the visit preparations until its culmination during the exit report where the Chair of the Visiting Committee emphasized our mission to be at the center of all educational programs. May God continue to crown all united efforts for school improvement with success while EIS empowers, inspires, and serves in the local community.



Dr. Lawrence Domingo, Education Director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD), left an enduring memory of the AAA visit by citing the aim and mission of the SDA philosophy of education: "Adventist education prepares students for a useful and joy-filled life, fostering friendship with God, whole-person development, Bible-based values, and selfless service in accordance with the Seventh-day Adventist mission to the world."







# THE MAKER HEALS

## MEDICAL MISSIONARY TRAINING

But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.

- Malachi 4:2



Image Source: Nathan Greene

By Amara Joan Sims, Assistant Editor

**L**ooking to the news, one can see that this world is increasing with sickness; this calls for a more urgent medical missionary work. The life of Christ reflects one of a medical missionary – a life that seeks to share the gospel by meeting the needs of the afflicted and healing the sick and suffering. All kinds of diseases and maladies cover this planet, and He wants to send out medical missionaries who will give the last message: a combination of the Third Angels' message and the health message.

Many Seventh-day Adventists adopt eight health laws which can be summarized with the acronym: NEWSTART, namely: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global Health Department, the top 3 causes of death in Thailand include: cancer, ischemic heart disease, and stroke – which are all chronic diseases (1). Although it is true that one may have a genetic predisposition to these illnesses, with the right lifestyle choices they can easily be prevented.

Focusing on nutrition, an interesting review published in the journal *Nutrients* had the objective of analyzing and establishing the relationship between vegetarian diet interventions and chronic diseases, focusing on cardiovascular disease and cancer (2). The studies included in the review were based on three Adventist cohorts, and the results revealed that strict, pesco-, and lacto-ovo-vegetarian interventions were alarmingly significant at lowering risk for chronic diseases across the board when compared to non-vegetarians, thus increasing life-expectancy (2).



The participants of the studies were members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, many of which refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol, and exhibit temperance in eating. Thus common confounders were easily controlled in these studies. At the end of the study researchers concluded that a behavioural change of adopting a vegetarian diet was proven to be a way to optimize one's health (2).



Image Source: Nathan Greene

The Bethel Sanitarium, located in Gyeongsang Nam Do, South Korea, has been active for over 30 years in providing medical missionary evangelism and healthy eating program. The programs, The Maker Heals, has been held at the Thailand Adventist Mission in Bangkok, and at the Mission Health Promotion Center in Muak Lek, Saraburi, and countless testimonies can be told of the healing due to making simple lifestyle changes. The Maker Heals program is open to those who want to change their lifestyle or diet and learn how to cook healthy food, but also to share with family members and neighbors who are sick and desire a natural approach to healing.



The 10-day session will take place from July 6-15, 2018 at EIS with the registration fee of 3,000 baht which includes food and other expenses at the seminar. The program is set from 6:30 am – 4:00 pm with optional daily sundown worships until 8:00 pm. Registration forms can be obtained from the Human Resources office. For details you may reach 02-3913593 extension 203.

#### References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). "Global Health – Thailand." U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Retrieved from: [www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/thailand/](http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/thailand/).
2. Tai Le, L., & Sabaté, J. (2014). Beyond meatless, the health effects of vegan diets: findings from the Adventist cohorts. *Nutrients*, 6, 2131-2147. Retrieved from: <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6643/6/6/2131/pdf>





# SUMMER ROBOTICS CAMP

## A FUN AND INTERACTIVE WAY TO LEARN

In education, technology can be a life-changer, a game changer, for kids who are both in school and out of school. Technology can bring textbooks to life. The Internet can connect students to their peers in other parts of the world. It can bridge the quality gaps.

- Queen Rania of Jordan

**Join the fun and excitement.  
Enroll now!**



# ROBOTICS CAMP

**JUNE 11 - JULY 6, 2018**  
EKAMAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

*Think, Create, Build and Innovate*



### Morning class

16,000.00 Baht  
(Inclusive of T-shirt and Fieldtrip)

7:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Activities**  
Robotics, Science Experiment,  
Computer Literacy,  
Building Models, Solving Puzzles,  
Fieldtrip, Games and more

### Afternoon class

9,500.00 Baht  
(Inclusive of Lunch, T-shirt and Fieldtrip)

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**Activities**  
Robotics, Science Experiment,  
Building Models and more





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MAY

- 4 MS Summer Concert
- 7 MS Recognition
- 8 ES Recognition
- 9 After-school Activities Presentation
- 11 AP Exams
- Grade 1-2 Summer Concert
- 15-17 Senior Excursion
- 18 Adventurer/Pathfinder Investiture
- 26-27 Graduation Weekend
- 29 Visakha Bucha Day
- 30 Kindergarten SPTC
- 28-1 4th Quarter Exam

## JUNE

- 1 Kindergarten Graduation
- Last Day of School
- 5-6 Post School Days
- 11 Summer School Begins
- 4th Quarter Report Cards Out
- 13-19 K1-G8, IEL Registration
- 20 Grade 12 Registration
- 22 Grade 11 Registration
- 26 Grade 10 Registration
- 28 Grade 9 Registration

## JULY

- 6 Last Day of Summer School
- 9-Aug 3 Summer Break
- Office Opens (7am-3pm)
- 23-31 New Employees Orientation
- 27 Asarnha Bucha Day
- 30 Buddhist Lent Day
- Substitution for King's Birthday

## AUGUST

- 6-10 Pre-School Days
- 6 Faculty & Staff Dedication
- 9 New Student Orientation (ES, MS, HS)
- 10 New Student Orientation (PS, IEL)
- 13 Substitution Holiday HM Queen Sirikit's Birthday
- 14 School Begins for MS & HS
- 15 School Begins for ES & IEL
- 16 School Begins for G1-2
- 17 School Begins for Kindergarten

### VISION

Ekamai International School aspires an excellent global academic education that promotes moral character development for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in a Seventh-day Adventists Christian environment.

### MISSION

Ekamai International School offers Christ-centered quality global academic programs. We endeavor to create an internationally competent learning climate marked by God's presence and love, respecting uniqueness and diversity, care and development of potentials and abilities.

### PHILOSOPHY

Ekamai International School recognizes God as our creator and as the ultimate source of knowledge, wisdom and truth. We believe, promote and advance the holistic and harmonious development of the physical, mental, social and spiritual dimensions of human nature.





# Ekamai International School

Empowers. Inspires. Serves.



Founded in 1946, Ekamai International School (EIS) continues to offer an unparalleled education. We adhere to solid American curriculum with Thai language and culture instruction. Our goals are to educate and inspire our students to be moral, thoughtful and caring individuals in a global community.

**OPEN** for Enrollment **NOW**  
Pre-Kindergarten to High School

[www.eis.ac.th](http://www.eis.ac.th)  
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