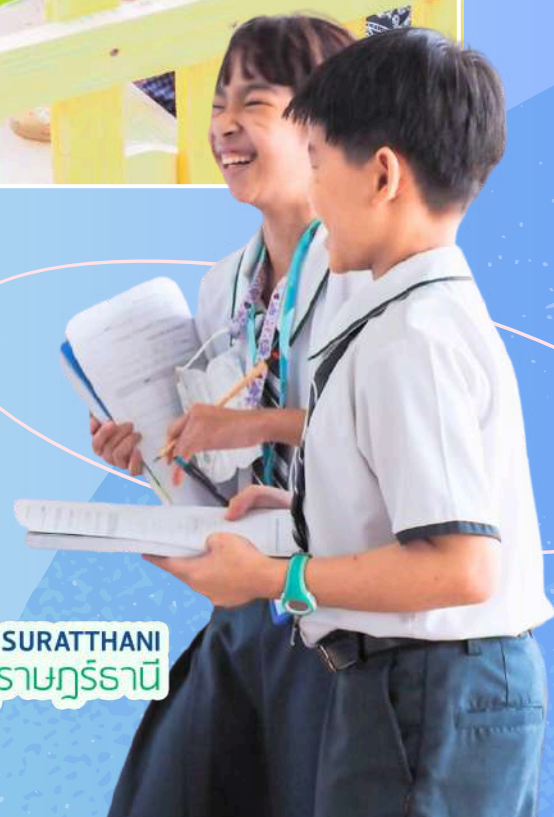


Balazine

OCTOBER 2024

BALANCE THE FUTURE



BALANCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SURATTHANI
โรงเรียนนานาชาติ บาลานซ์ สุราษฎร์ธานี

Whenever I have to sit down and write an article, I also try to find inspiration in quotes and in most times the quotes I look for are through important historical figures. This month is no different.

My quote for this month comes from Martin Luther King Jr wherein he talks about hope saying:

***“We must accept infinite disappointment,
but never lose infinite hope.”***

As I reflect on the month of October the one recurring theme has been that of hope. September reflected on dreams – the dreams of opening Balance International School. October changed Balance from a dream to a reality and the hope that all we had planned for was going to be met with enthusiasm and success. The hope that each morning when parents dropped off their children at their new school, they would experience the ethos of Balance in every activity and in every lesson. The hope that when children were fetched at the end of the day, stories of the day would fill the car ride home.

However, it was in the third week that I experience a level of hope I had never seen before. Balance traveled to Mae Sai Province to go and support Mailongkorn School as they had been devastated by the recent floods. Getting there was a huge challenge as much of the access roads were still impassable. Entering the school was indeed heartbreaking as a thriving institution had all but been destroyed by floodwaters and mud. However, instead of finding a community in despair, we saw a community drawn together in infinite hope – hope of coming together and rebuilding. Even in such abject circumstances where disappointment should have reigned, the human spirit of infinite hope was stronger than ever. These acts of kindness, of community and of willing service in-turn gave me hope, hope that there is still the fighting spirit in all humanity.

As we exit October and move forward into our third month of the school year, I am filled with a sense of serenity, peace and hope – hope that we have done the best we can at Balance and hope that even with the greatest of challenges we face in life, if we do so with infinite hope, the spirit of goodness in our human nature will always prevail.

Grant Larter
Head of School





MUD KITCHEN

Our Toddler students had a fun time in the Mud Kitchen this month! The activity encouraged creative play, teamwork, problem-solving, and sensory exploration. Children mixed soil, water, and natural elements to create their own "recipes." The Mud Kitchen was a great way to develop fine motor skills and connect with nature while learning through play!

Ms Sarah





CREATIVE MOVES & MINI MASTERPIECES!

This month, our nursery students have been busy exploring the wonderful world of creative expression across all subjects! In phonics, we had a frosty adventure painting the letter "I" with frozen paint icicles to build fluffy cotton ball igloos. Our little artists even painted a plant while learning about the letter "P." The children loved getting creative with their own features, making silly faces with laminated cut-outs as part of our body-themed language lesson.

We also explored colours by creating vibrant collages, letting everyone express themselves through their own choices. Movement and music have been just as exciting, with group dances during circle time keeping everyone on their toes!

The children have been producing all of their art independently, with the freedom to fully experiment using a variety of materials. From paint and collages to creative crafts, they've embraced the opportunity to explore different textures and techniques, resulting in their own unique and abstract masterpieces.

It's been a month full of creativity, laughter, and learning, and we're excited to see what November brings!

Ms Hollie

Autumn colours

October saw us having fun with Autumn colours.

Reception Class learnt about the Three Primary Colours - Red, Yellow and Blue.

We then learnt about the colours we can make when mixing the colours together. The children had great fun balloon printing and making the new colours. I do not think the children will ever forget how to make orange and green



We also have five new additions to our class. Rainbow and Cotton Candy but the others have not been named yet. The children love them dearly and will each take turns in feeding them.



The children will also learn how to care for them and change the water. Being responsible for pets teach the children so many life skills. While the children snack, the fish are fed. We are so lucky to have them.



Ms Ros

FLOWER GARDEN



This month in Year 1, we embarked on an exciting project—planning and growing our very own flower garden! Each student was responsible for ensuring their plant had everything it needed to thrive, from water and sunlight to good soil. Over the course of 9 days, students tracked the progress of their flowers, recording when they watered them and observing changes. To wrap up the project, they created beautiful posters that highlighted what they learned about living things and plants. These posters showcased their knowledge of plant growth, and it was wonderful to see how engaged and responsible the students were in caring for their flowers!

Mr James



Getting Some **PERSPECTIVE**

Year 2 has been very busy this month in Global Perspectives class. They are discovering where food comes from and how it travels. We have been lucky enough to welcome two guest speakers into our classroom to answer the students questions about food.

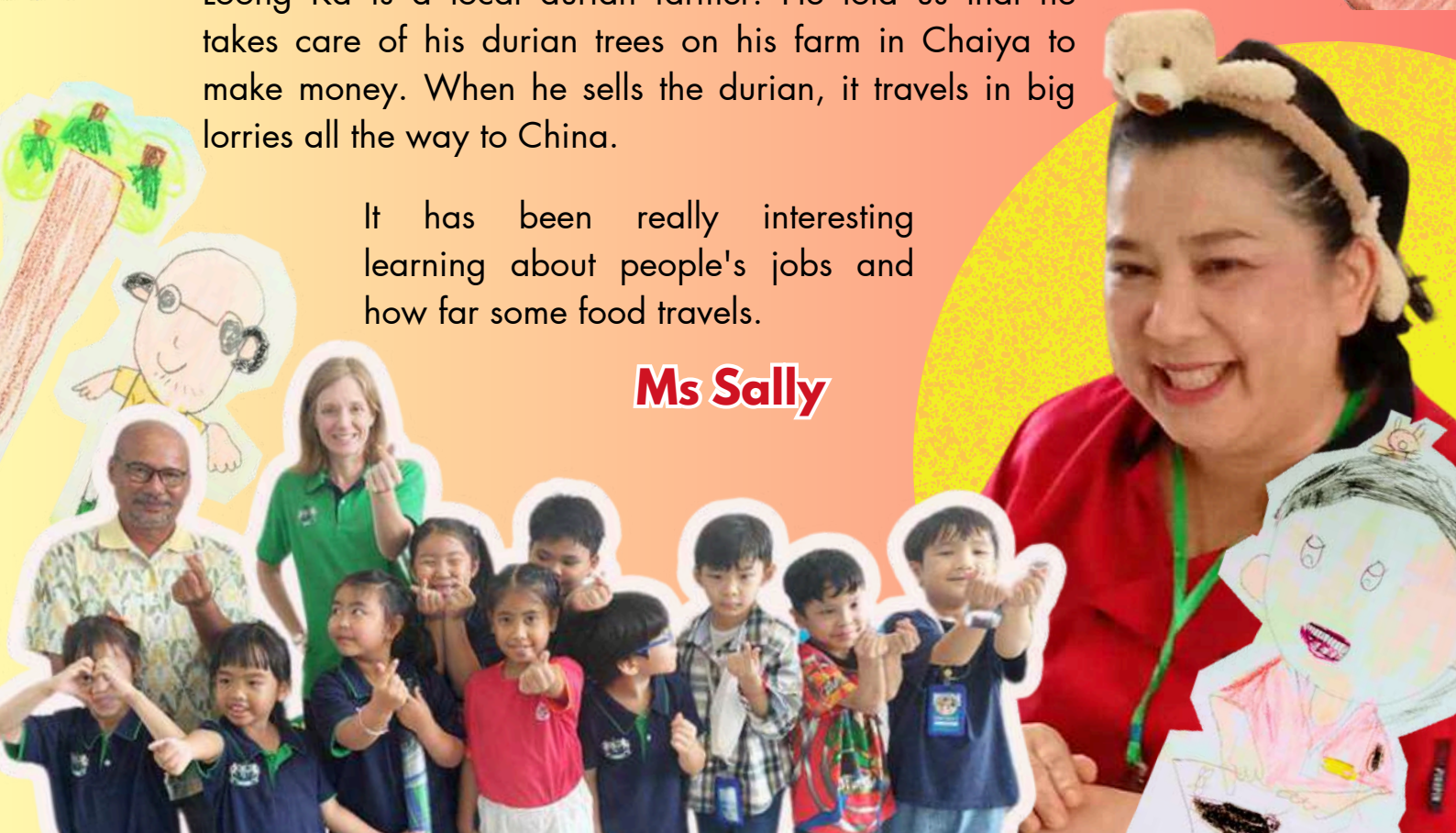


Our first guest was Chef Kae, our school chef. She told us that she likes to source local fresh produce as much as possible from the fresh market. However, she sometimes also visits a supermarket for food which is canned, dry, or packaged. Some of this food could come from far away, because it is unable to grow in Thailand.

Loong Ka is a local durian farmer. He told us that he takes care of his durian trees on his farm in Chaiya to make money. When he sells the durian, it travels in big lorries all the way to China.

It has been really interesting learning about people's jobs and how far some food travels.

Ms Sally



FRESH LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



As the expectations and routines have largely been set for the year, it is important to also break routines in order to keep the school day fresh for students. Technology has given us a lot more touch points for students to interact with when progressing through the course content.



The variety of games, activities and media provide greater differentiation for the students. No two students learn the same and need this technological differentiation in order to access the curriculum consistently. It also provides for a more dynamic learning environment for all students involved. I look forward to seeing our students interact with technology in new, exciting ways as this academic year moves forward.

Mr Charles



Students Versus Adults

This month in Global Perspective class we have been developing our research skills!

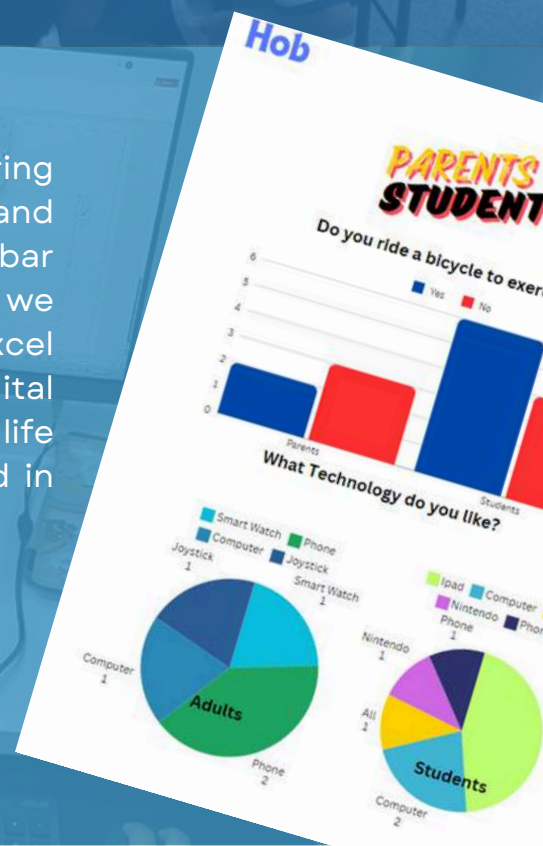


Over this unit, we have created two identical surveys one for students and one for adults about how they view technology and exercise. With no surprises the Year 4s can confidently say that all students like computer games but they also reported that 100% of students also enjoy exercise! The same can't be said about our findings for the adults...



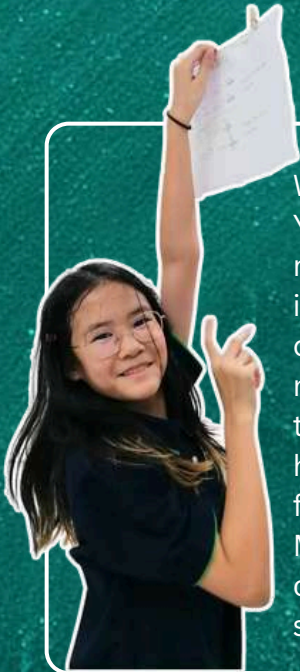
We have started transferring our research onto graphs and charts. We started with bar graphs on paper but now we are moving on to using Excel functions to build digital charts. So many useful life skills have been developed in this unit!

Mr Sam

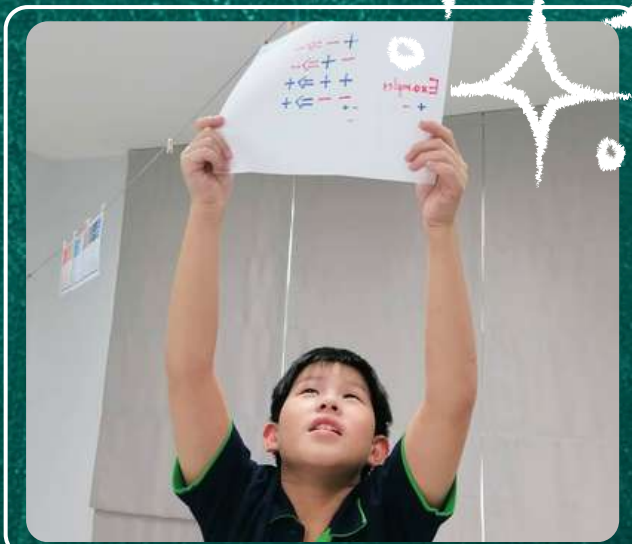
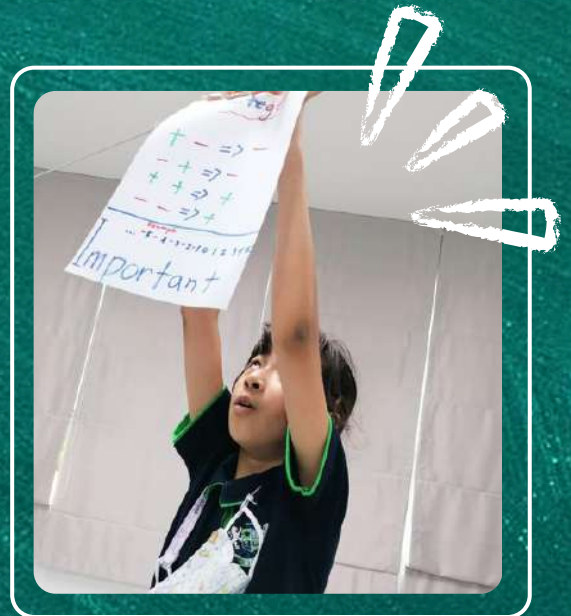




MATHEMATICS



We have an exceptional bunch of Year 6 students who have achieved much in the mathematics classroom in a short month and a half. We have covered topics such as place values, rounding, numbers and sequences to name but a few. Great fun was had in finding Highest Common factors and Lowest Common Multiples, and representing these outcomes in circular diagrams was so interesting.



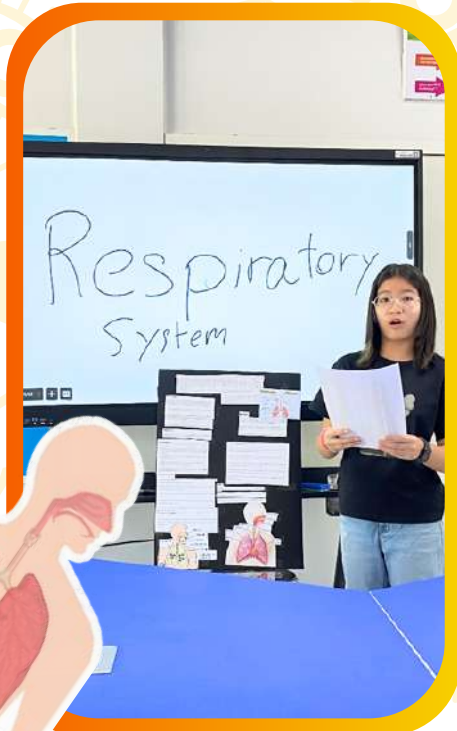
Of course, students love working with averages and this Year 4 group found it great fun trying to beat each other in our speed tests whilst finding means, medians, modes and ranges. We ended the half term by laying the foundation to algebraic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students enjoyed making reminder posters with the rules and then had even more fun hanging them up in the classroom. Our adventure continues as we now start investigating the properties of 2-D shapes.

Mr Peter



Materials & their Structures

Mr Judd



This month, the Year 7 students embarked on an exciting journey into the world of materials, exploring their structures and properties. They skillfully used scientific apparatus to measure temperatures and volumes of liquids, sharpening their practical skills.



In addition, the students presented impressive research on organ systems of their choice, showcasing their understanding of biology. We also dove into the water cycle, using the properties of different states of matter to explain natural phenomena.

The highlight of the month was creating crystals and conducting experiments to observe how various elements, compounds, and states of matter behave. It has been a fun and engaging month of discovery!

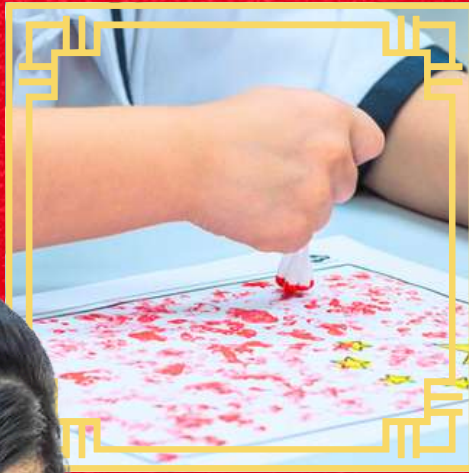


国庆节

CHINA NATIONAL DAY

In this month's Chinese class, we explored China's National Day (中华人民共和国国庆节) and the Golden Week celebrated on October 1st. Students learned about the significance of this day through fun activities, including trivia games, listening to the Chinese national anthem, and watching clips of the celebrations. They also painted Chinese flags, gaining insights into Chinese culture and traditions. To mark the occasion, students celebrated with Teacher Gam and Teacher Nutch, enhancing their understanding of China's heritage.

Laoshi Nutch, Laoshi Gam





RAMA IX COMMEMORATION ASSEMBLY AT BALANCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



Our recent assembly honouring the late King Rama IX was a deeply meaningful event, filled with respect, gratitude, and a heartfelt connection to Thailand's rich history. Students, staff, and families gathered to commemorate the anniversary of the beloved King's passing and reflect on his profound impact on the country.

A highlight of the assembly was the emotional performance of the "King in Fairytales" song, sung by our students with heartfelt reverence. The song was a beautiful tribute, bringing a sense of unity as everyone remembered the King's compassionate spirit and visionary leadership.

In addition, students exhibited their artistic interpretations of the King's work and legacy, displaying a variety of beautiful pieces that expressed gratitude and admiration. Parents were invited to view the artwork, which ranged from portraits of the King to visual representations of his many initiatives, reflecting the students' connection to his ideals.



HALLOWEEN

BISS HALLOWEEN

This year's Halloween festivities at Balance International School were truly unforgettable! The day was packed with spooky excitement, creative costumes, and an energy that could only come from the spirited students and staff who embraced every moment.

The day kicked off with a Spooky Assembly Parade, where students and teachers marched in their costumes. It was thrilled to see such fantastic costumes and Halloween cheer.



Our Classroom Door Competition turned the hallways into a haunted maze, with each door capturing a unique Halloween theme.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the surprise teacher dance performance during the morning assembly by both the Thai staff and Foreign staff. Teachers took to the stage in their costumes, delighting students with a spooky and fun dance that had everyone cheering and laughing.

A big thank you to all who organized, decorated, and participated, making this Halloween one to remember. Having our parents celebrating with their children added to a Balanced morning.

