

Balazine

March 2025

STARTING THE BALANCE



BALANCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SURATTHANI
โรงเรียนนานาชาติ บาลานซ์ สุราษฎร์ธานี

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March 2025

As someone who grew up in a country which has four distinctive seasons, one of the biggest challenges for me in Thailand was only having two seasons: cool and hot. The month of March is a transitional month in Thailand, moving us into the hotter times of the year. To use an English idiom, we have also been “turning up the heat” at Balance, for our students. They continue to experience the wonders of the Cambridge Curriculum as well as the outdoors. We enthralled our students with reptiles during the World Wildlife Day presentations, challenged them with mathematics competitions and celebrated their achievements at our term two ACE Cards awards assembly. We are looking forward to igniting the spark of engagement at Balance and are excited to see what the third term has in store for us all.

Grant Larter
Head of School



WASHING THE CLASSROOM PET DOGS



Our toddlers engaged in a hands-on learning experience as they explored the topic of pet care, by bathing our classroom pet dogs. After a playful adventure in a muddy puddle, the dogs needed a thorough wash! The children practiced essential self-care responsibility skills by washing the dogs' bodies, gently scrubbing their coats, and brushing their teeth.



This activity supported key learning outcomes from the Cambridge Early Years Curriculum, including:

Personal, Social, and Emotional Development:

Demonstrating care, empathy, and responsibility for living things.

Communication and Language: Following step-by-step instructions and using new vocabulary related to hygiene and pet care.

Physical Development: Developing fine motor skills through controlled movements while scrubbing, rinsing, and brushing.

Understanding the World: Learning about animals' needs and how to care for them in a real-life context.



The children showed wonderful gentleness, patience, and enthusiasm, reinforcing their understanding of kindness and responsibility in caring for pets.

Ms. Sarah

Teddy Bear Picnic Fun!



This special event was a wonderful way to bring learning outdoors while fostering independence and social skills.



The children proudly introduced their cuddly friends before carefully filling their own picnic boxes with their snack from home and fresh fruit provided by the school. Together, we enjoyed a lovely picnic under the sunshine, practicing manners like "please" and "thank you" as we shared space with our friends.

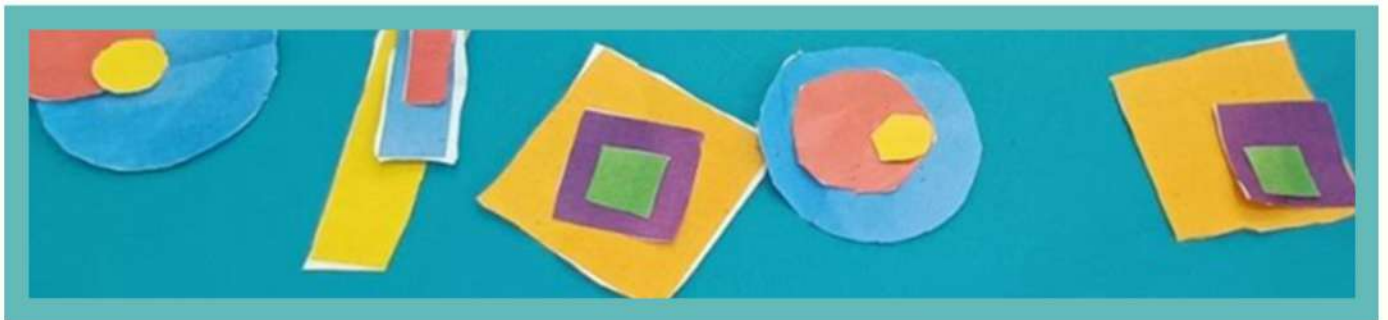
This experience supported the Cambridge EY1 curriculum by encouraging choice-making, communication, and turn-taking, all while having fun in the great outdoors!

Ms. Hollie



SHAPE

EXPLORATION



In Reception class, we've had a fantastic time exploring shapes! We began by learning about 2D shapes, using play dough to create and model different shapes like circles, squares, and triangles. The fun continued as we drew these shapes in shaving cream, allowing the children to trace and identify them with their fingers.

As we moved on to 3D shapes, the children eagerly worked with sticks and marshmallows to build cubes and pyramids. This hands-on approach helped the children understand the differences between flat and solid shapes while enhancing their creativity and fine motor skills. It's been an exciting journey in shape exploration!

Ms. Ros



Let's Investigate SOIL



In our Science lessons, Year 1 students explored the fascinating world beneath our feet, as part of our “Planet Earth” unit on soil. They began by investigating the composition of soil, discovering small rocks, leaves, dirt, and twigs. Unfortunately, we did not see any worms!



This led to a discussion on whether soil looks the same everywhere, and which solid would be best for living things, sparking curiosity and critical thinking. To test their ideas, students examined soil from different areas around the school, using their senses to observe its texture and appearance. Through hands-on exploration, they identified key differences and even washed away dirt to better understand soil composition. Finally, they applied their findings to determine which type of soil is best for plant growth and which may not be suitable. This engaging investigation helped students appreciate the diversity of soil and its importance in nature.



Mr. James



ROBOTS

This month, Year 2 have been buzzing with excitement as they dove into the fascinating world of robots in English class!



The students have been learning how to read and understand non-fiction texts. These texts helped them explore key facts about robots, from their different parts to the many tasks they can perform. They have discovered how to identify non-fiction texts by looking out for the important features they have, such as: contents pages, headings, diagrams and labels. These texts helped them to explore key facts about robots, from their different parts to the many tasks they can perform.



As part of their hands-on learning, the class used reused materials to design and create their very own robots! They carefully selected pieces like cardboard tubes, plastic bottles, and old boxes to give their robots unique features. We took photos so that each student could label their robot to describe what it could do.



Through this exciting project, Year 2 learned how non-fiction texts help them understand the world around them. They also gained valuable skills in creativity, problem-solving and teamwork, while bringing their robot designs to life!

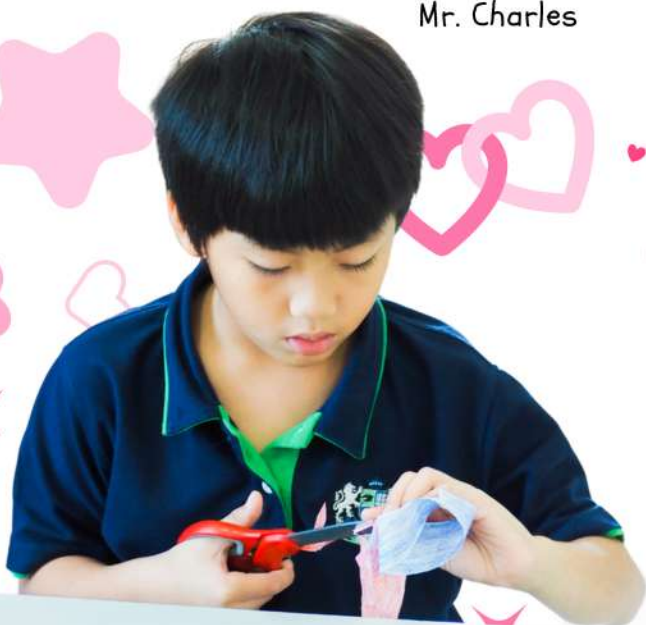
Ms. Sally



Linking Hearts

This month, our Year 3 students took part in a fun and engaging "Linked Paper Hearts" activity, where they created a pair of interconnected hearts using paper strips. This activity encouraged them to develop their listening skills as they carefully followed step-by-step instructions to fold, cut, and link their hearts together. It also fostered problem-solving skills, as students had to figure out how to connect the hearts without breaking the chain, adjusting their techniques when needed. Additionally, their fine motor skills were strengthened through precise cutting and folding, helping to refine their hand-eye coordination. The children showed great teamwork, patience, and creativity throughout the process. It was wonderful to see their excitement as they completed their heart chains.

Mr. Charles



A large graphic at the top of the page. On the left is a stylized Earth showing its internal layers (crust, mantle, core) in a cross-section. To the right of this is the title 'EARTH EXPLORED' in large, bold, blue 3D letters. Further right is a rainbow graphic. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

EARTH EXPLORED

This month, our Year 4 students have been delving into the fascinating world of Earth's structure. From volcanoes and earthquakes to tsunamis and mountains, they have been investigating how, where, and why these natural events occur. To bring their learning to life, students created 3D Earth models, helping them visualise and describe our planet's layers in an exciting, hands-on way.

But the adventure doesn't stop there! Later this month, Year 4 will embark on an exciting field trip to the Phunphin Geological Museum, where they will explore real-world geological wonders and reinforce their understanding of Earth's dynamic processes. Well done, Year 4! Keep up the amazing curiosity and exploration!

Mr. Judd



alan/some and food

In our recent English lesson, Year 5 students Porsche and Saimok learned how to use the articles "a," "an," and "some" with food vocabulary. To make the lesson engaging, we started with a fun restaurant roleplay, where they acted as chef and customer, ordering food using the correct articles. They practiced sentences like "Have you got some pizza?", "I have an egg", and "Do you want a sandwich?".

To reinforce their learning, we played food article games, where they had to quickly match food items with the right articles. They learned that we use "a" before singular nouns starting with a consonant sound, "an" before vowels, and "some" for uncountable or plural nouns. Afterward, we took the lesson beyond the classroom by heading to the canteen and school café to film each other practicing sentences in real-life situations.

The students enjoyed applying their knowledge while ordering their favourite food or snacks. This interactive approach helped Porsche and Saimok build confidence in speaking English. By the end of the week, they could correctly use "a," "an," and "some" in everyday food-related conversations. It was a fun and effective way to learn!

Mr. Eddie



The header features a collage of colorful geometric shapes including a green 'EXIT' sign with a white arrow, a pink cube, a red and yellow house-shaped prism, a blue pyramid, a purple cube, and a jar of strawberry jam. The word 'MATHS' is written in large, colorful 3D letters (blue, green, yellow, red, blue, red), and 'is Fun!' is written in a red, cursive font with a white outline.

MATHS *is Fun!*

Another month has passed, and with it, more exciting adventures in Mathematics! The Year 6 students have been diving into a variety of concepts over the past few weeks. We explored the rules of divisibility, learning how to quickly determine if a large number like 256,754,908,320 is divisible by 2, 3, or even 4. Or can 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10 divide evenly into this number? We discovered several divisibility rules that allow students to check divisibility calculations without performing lengthy long division. Interestingly, this topic tied in nicely with our earlier studies of factors from the first term.

In addition, the students had a blast learning about 3D shapes and their nets. A net is a two-dimensional shape that can be folded to form a three-dimensional solid. The students had a great time creating their own nets, and now, our classroom proudly displays their creative works of art!

Mr. Peter





WHO'S YOUR HERO?



The Year 7s were tasked with choosing a real-life hero to research and create an information poster, detailing the hero's life and achievements. They decided to choose Rosa Parks - a hero in her own right - for standing up to racial inequality. Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus for a person of different race, sparking a civil rights movement in the USA in 1955. The Year 7s created a wonderful poster detailing Parks' achievements, and finished by presenting their finished work. Really nice work and a great example of a hero we can all look up to!

Mr. Jack





Hello, here's an update from our music class. After several months of learning and teaching, we finally had our first official performance during the recent BalaViz Event. The performance featured two groups of students. The first group was Year 3 students. Our two Arpos: Arpo P and Arpo C, showcased their musical talent by performing two piano solos each. Even though both of them are still in the lower primary years, their abilities were truly impressive, far beyond their age. Now, the rest of the students continue to practice with determination, and one day, we will also perform and leave an impression on the audience, just like Arpo P and Arpo C.

BALANCE MUSIC SHOWCASE



The second group was our Year 6 and 7 Balance Band, consisting of Teacher Satang, Year 6 students August, Oblak, Melon and Magnum, and Year 7 students Nada and Porjai. We performed as a four-piece band, playing two songs: "Sugar by Maroon 5" and "The Show by Lenka." The students dedicated a lot of time and effort to their practice, and the results were beyond expectations and truly impressive. Not only did the students enjoy playing music, but they also gained more confidence and learned many valuable lessons from practicing as a team. On behalf of the music class, Teacher Satang and the students would like to thank Balance International School and the parents for their support in making this performance possible. Don't forget to follow our next performance. Thank you!

Mr.Satang





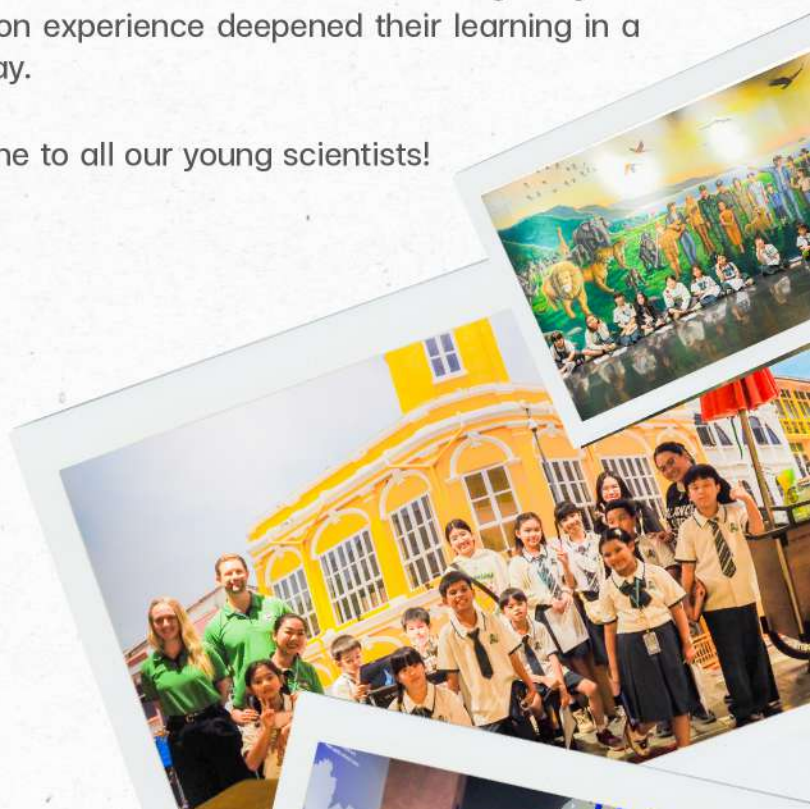
field trip

TO PHUNPHIN GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

On 27th March, our Year 4-7 students explored key Science topics beyond the classroom at the Phunphin Geological Museum.

Engaging in a scavenger hunt, they worked in teams to snap pictures, answer questions, and discover Earth's geological wonders. This hands-on experience deepened their learning in a fun and interactive way.

Well done to all our young scientists!



Spelling Bee

On the 28th of March, students from Years 1 to 7 participated in Balance International School's first-ever Spelling Bee.

The competition was intense, with each student giving their best to earn points for their house. In the end, Green House claimed victory with a total of 300 points!

As English is the main language at BISS, we are proud of all our students for their dedication to improving their skills.

Well done, everyone!



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY



To raise awareness of the value and benefits of wildlife for humans and ecosystems, we organised "World Wildlife Day" under the theme "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet." This event highlighted the importance of funding wildlife and forest conservation as a crucial investment in protecting both humanity and nature. Through expert presentations, interactive activities, and discussions, students explored the need for sustainable conservation efforts, fostering a deeper understanding of their role in preserving our planet's future.







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