

Dream School Status

CONGRATULATIONS KAMALA SCHOOL



On Thursday Feb. 9th 2012 Rachaprachanoukhor 36 School was informed that it had gained "A Dream School" status. This was as the result of a vigorous inspection by some 13 inspectors from the government's "Office of the Basic Education Commission" in Bangkok.

English was graded as "Very Highly Commended". It was deemed to be the second best academic subject in the school, following that of Science.

The students were praised for

their clear enunciation of words. In particular the inspectors were impressed that the students could make conversation, talk with them about various topics and answer the inspector's questions.

The students' skills went far beyond the mere repetition of "learned phrases", as is found in most inspections.

Carl Osmar, Director of Education, says he is delighted with the recognition of the quality of the English teaching at the school.



Khun Sawat Bunjongpas, the headmaster, with one of the teachers and the award

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Don't forget Bliss Beach Ball 27th April 2012

Fundraising

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April 2012



FRIDAY 27th APRIL
6.30PM 'TIL LATE

Phuket Has Been Good To Us
Presents

BLISS BEACH BALL

Donation: 2,500 THB
Includes sunset cocktails, dinner, wine and entertainment

Dress: Beach Chic Colours of the Ocean
Venue: Bliss Beach Club, Bang Tao

For further information please contact:
David@phukethasbeengoodtous.org
www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org

bliss
BEACH CLUB

Phuket News **LIVE 89.5** **andaman wine club** **BB&B** **BEAN ROOM**

Phuket Has Been Good To Us
Vocational Opportunities Through English

Close your eyes and picture the scene. You drive down a path through a field, arriving at an oasis on the water. As you walk up, an explosion of colour, making it seem as though the ocean has crawled out and taken over the Bliss Beach Club. As you enter, you are transported to a different world. Sit down for dinner let the music soothe your soul while the four course meal sets your taste buds aglow. PJaе Stanley and Jay LeShark will have you grooving before you know it, but the music and food are only part of what will set this night apart from any other. The rest of the night is filled with excitement you must see to believe.

The chic new Bliss Beach Club on Bang Tao is the setting for the 'Bliss Beach Ball'. Sip a cocktail as you watch the sun set into the ocean, eat a sumptuous 4 course dinner whilst chilling out with PJaе Stanley's blues music, then dance the night away with Jay Leshark. All this and free flow wine and beer from event sponsors BB&B and Andaman Wine Club.

We made dress code easy for the men - the colours of the ocean - so shorts and t-shirts are fine!

There will be a raffle and silent auction, as usual, so come and join in the fun and let us see if we can beat last year's record. If you can't attend come and buy a raffle ticket at the office or via the internet - all information on our events page and on Facebook.

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A Starlight Soirée

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The setting was stunning, the music spine-tingling, the wine and canapés sophisticated, and all combined made the foundation's inaugural Starlight Soiree a resounding success.

Over 400,000 baht was raised when music lovers were treated to an evening of popular recitals by international opera singer Julie-Anne Hunter accompanied by students and teachers of British International School, Phuket.

As evening skies drew in, hundreds of candles naturally led guests down the pathway to a copse of fairy light-covered trees where they were treated to chilled wine and canapés.

Ushers led guests to the amphitheatre, under the canopy of stars in the clear night sky and facing the stately backdrop of the school's façade. Based on the ancient Greek design for performance, guests sat on tiered cushioned platforms looking down upon a central area where a red carpet marked the stage.

The acoustics were perfect and as the opening notes from the grand piano were performed, Julie-Anne's enchanting voice reverberated around the grounds and to the

Schubert's Ave Maria, and a soprano version of Puccini's Nessun Dorma (None Shall Sleep) No one was!



After a short break for more wine and canapés in the gardens, BISP's Head of Arts and professional trumpet player Neill Thacker was the first of the school's performers who was followed by guitar, piano and violin solos concluding with an acapella rendition of Paul McCartney's Blackbird sung by the staff and student choir.

Julie-Anne returned with sensational performances of Lloyd Webber's Pie Jesu and Gershwin's Summertime and with calls of "Bravo!" and "More!" she agreed to an encore of Nessun Dorma, which had the audience on its feet and, on Julie-Anne's insistence, a resounding accompaniment in the chorus.

An animated and jovial announcement of raffle winners concluded a fun, artistic, relaxed and thoroughly entertaining soiree.

peaks of the surrounding hill.

Accompanied by professional pianist and teacher Merja Mäkivirta, Julie-Anne's repertoire included



Soprano singer Julie-Anne Hunter performs for students at Kalim School, she later sang at BIS' A Starlight Soiree.

Julie-Anne very kindly took time to visit Kalim School and encouraged the children to join in with her for some of her songs - they quickly realised how difficult it was to hit the right note! They then all sang some songs in English they had learnt at Coconut Club. Julie-Anne was really impressed and promised to come back next year

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Young Picasso

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Nai is Flying High



Nai (Jareun Pheusuwan), 12, a student at the Kamala School and member of the Coconut Club of the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation, has won the annual *The Phuket News*' Kids Art prize for 2011.

Nai can expect to soon be soaring into the sky on a paraglider, accompanied by staff

of the Andaman Horizon who are providing the exciting prize.

The *Phuket News* reported that the winning work shows that the young artist enjoyed being free just to paint and draw. He didn't need to try to keep to the likeness of things so was then able to explore lines and blobs of colours and the way they fit best together for the eye. The resulting image can be seen as an impression of his surroundings in Kamala, where some of the classrooms look out onto the beach.

Coconut Club students attend art class at PIA

7 lucky Coconut Club students were invited to visit Phuket International Academy (PIA) for a special art class on November 12. PIA art teacher Jo Moon taught the students about drawing and using water colour and oil pastels to create abstract visual art.

It was with a picture from this class that Nai won the *Phuket News* Art Prize.



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Arrivals & Departures

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Hi I am David Berman and will be working as a volunteer@ PHBG TU for the next year as Communications Coordinator. I spent most of last year (2011) in Luang

Prabang, Laos working for a small NGO that did education outreach work, primarily through the building of schools, dorms, and libraries. I came to Phuket, sight unseen, to volunteer for the foundation.

I have loved my time here so far and have noticed many differences between here and Laos. Thailand is much easier to work in, it's more developed and many people speak English. I do get to use some of the Lao I learned as it is very similar to Thai which is nice. I am much busier here because the events we put on are at such a high standard that it's not something we just throw together last minute. The entire staff here is truly amazing but we could always use more volunteers. In Laos there were 3 farang staff and 35 Lao staff some of which didn't speak any English—here it is just 9. The goals of the organizations are different. In Laos we wanted to get books in Lao to Lao people who didn't have any. Here at the foundation we are focused on improving their English and thus their vocational opportunities. The reward is that we are changing lives.

The best part about volunteering here is that when there is interaction with the children you can see how much they are enjoying themselves. Learning is still fun and exciting which can sometimes get lost in the western world. I just hope that I can help create more opportunities for the children. All it takes is one trip to Coconut Club to know that all our volunteers and staff are having an impact. Please feel free to stop by and join us sometime.



Hi, I am Stephan Bundi and I been working as a volunteer teacher at PHBG TU. I am now leaving to take a position in the UK teaching English in

inner city schools.

I will never forget the very first day: All of the English teachers and the accompanying mob of students congregated near the teachers' office where we filtered out our students and took them to our classrooms. My classroom was at the other end of the school, so once my students were identified, I queued them up and we took the five-minute walk to the room. They used the

occasion to test the boundaries so brawls broke out, tears were shed, students went missing - I shook my head and quivered at the prospect of what awaited me for the next year.

It turned out to be an absolutely wonderful experience and one I wouldn't take back for anything. The naughtiness that I saw from the children on that first day quickly settled down I will really miss hearing the students going wild calling "Teacher!" as though an A-list celebrity had arrived each morning and I will miss the wonderful staff that make the organization possible. Learning English will only become more important for Thais in the forthcoming years. Overall, this was a top experience. How fortunate am I that I can say that I have worked in a Thai public school!



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Coconut Club

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Coral Seekers Survive the Students



60 lucky students from Kamala School came back

to school during the holidays to play Survivor Thailand with Coral Seekers and 35 hairdressing salon owners from Australia. 6 teams battled against each other over fun, team building games. The adults in each team were left scratching their heads on how to complete the challenge whilst the students shot ahead competing the games in record times. The blue team finally won after a tense elimination challenge and were given special prizes. But no one missed out - the visitors from Australia gave every child a gift for all their hard work. Kamala School was a winner too as the visitors presented them with a cheque which they will use to mend their water filtration system. Coconut Club was not forgotten, a lovely gift basket was donated to the club too. Thank you Coral Seekers and Indola Tipp for a great day!!!



Birthday Parties at Bliss Beach Club

In January & February we celebrated the birthdays of more than 60 children at the recently opened Bliss Beach Club. The students had a great time! There was a huge, yummy birthday cake and they all received a rucksack of gifts. But there was more; a dip in the pool, games and Chef Alex showed the children how to make a special pizza. Of course the children got a slice of pizza to taste!

Many thanks to everybody who helped to make this a memorable day for the children. A special thanks to Pepe, GM of

Bliss Beach Club, who donated food, drinks and the birthday cake. And to Bliss Beach Club and all their staff for having us, you guys did a great job! We are looking forward to the Bliss Beach Club Ball. Finally another thanks for Bliss Beach Club for offering to host all future Coconut Club Birthday Parties.

Zumba Class with Monica

Aye Chihuahua! Coconut Club was alive with dancing and Zumbaing. Monica brought Zumba from North Sydney Australia to the shores of Phuket. 30 Coconut Club students (and a few teachers) got their feet moving and hearts racing to this fun and exciting workout. The children had a great time trying their best to keep up with the frantic pace and exuberance of Monica.



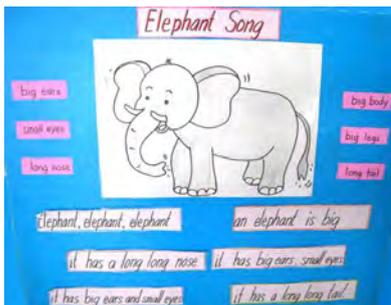
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Hi I am Brigitte (known as Agie) Ngipol . I am from the Philippines and have been teaching in Thailand for nearly five years.

I started working in a government school near Ayutthaya teaching 6 to 13 year olds after taking my TEFL course. While here I also learned Thai both written and spoken which has been really helpful to aid my students learn English more easily.

I teach five days a week at the school PHBGU supports in Kalim. The school here is different to Kamala in that there are no children living in the school as there are no facilities for boarders.

However about 50% are being looked after by grandmothers and many of them will walk up to 5km each way to get to school. The children here seem to be a little more disciplined (possible due to Grandmothers influence!) but can be just as naughty and as much fun.



I have my own classroom which I have set up with lots of books for the students to read and on the walls are their own photos and classwork. Once the faster ones finish the work set they are able to sit and read books to help their English further.

I also run a Facebook page which encourages the children to develop their computer skills and learn more English – often I will get a message from them at night asking what I am doing or about one of their photos I have put up.

I have great support from the Deputy Headmistress- Teacher Kat – and, together, we are able to run Coconut Club for the children each Wednesday. We do not have as many volunteers here as we do in Kamala so it is a great test of ingenuity to

find ways of occupying up to 33 children at a time. We have relay skateboard races, baseball games, etc. We had great fun with one race where they had to move a car along with a water pistol to a finish line – needless to say it ended up in a water fight with both children and teachers getting soaked. We teach them songs like the Banana song so that they can all dance as well as sing.



For crafts it is a little more difficult as we do not have many facilities – I would love to teach them to cook but we do not have a cooker but they did enjoy icing the cup cakes I brought in. If anyone has an old cooker they need a home for we would be delighted to help out. On Valentines Day we made roses from Chuba Chops– the boys were almost as romantic as the girls.

Any volunteers will be most welcome to join Wednesday Coconut Club at Kalim.



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

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Many thanks to all the companies who have supported us over the last few months including:

Absolute World Group	Climax Restaurant at Absolute Bangla Suites	Live 89.5	Soul of Asia
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Banyan Tree Phuket	Laypang Beach Restaurant, Bangtao Beach	Roseberry New Age Center	Zeavola Resort, Koh Phi Phi
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Bliss Beach Club			
British International School			
Cape Sienna			

And thanks to our recent individual sponsors

Julie-Anne Hunter	Dana Crevling	Jude Bossert	David Strachan
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Volunteer Thank You Party

After a successful school year, just before the holiday season starts, it was time again for our yearly volunteer party. With this party we wanted to say **THANKS** to all our amazing volunteers for their time and effort they put in the past year! Tina was so kind to open up her home, where everybody enjoyed a great afternoon with great people and lots of yummy food and drinks. Watermark donated some delicious cakes, K Pensri and Baan Rim Pa prepared some nice chicken and spring rolls, Stephanie and Ellis provided drinks and Peter Hamilton the wine.

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