

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation Newsletter

October 2011

New Web Site Launched



Our new website is now up! We want to give a HUGE thank you to The Escape in the UK who designed our amazing new site for us free of charge. With particular thanks to Rob Jones, owner of The Escape who came up with the idea of donating the site and Jacqui

Sanwell from The Escape who has the patience of a saint and held our hands through the process. Thank you all! Please check out our new website here: <http://www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org/>



Since our last newsletter, we have reached a milestone on our Facebook page with over 1,000 friends. If you haven't

already done so, please click 'Like' on our page to keep up to date with events and photos! Here's the link: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/phukethasbeengoodtous>

Spread the word

We are now reaching more people with our newsletter, with 800 individuals subscribed world wide. If you have any friends or family who you think may be interested in what we are doing, please forward them the newsletter. Or if they would like to regularly keep up to date with foundation news, please e-mail info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org and we will add them to our mailing list.

Diary dates

27-30th December 2011- Art Festival, Phuket Marina

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Previous to working in Thai government schools, I was for over thirty years within the British education system. The contrasts whether it is in terms of school ethos, management styles or classroom practices are so different.

Overall, Thai government schools see their prime aim as to pass on the best of Thai culture and to produce good Thai citizens. Loyalty to the King, country, religion, teachers and mother is paramount.

Each morning as I approach a school, as early as 7am, I see before me a sea of students in the national regulation school uniform with regulation hair-styles. The students enter the school grounds to "wai" (Thai greeting) teachers on duty. Cleanliness of the students nails and or uniform may be inspected. On a Monday the teachers wear the uniform of Thai civil servants (Servants of The King), on Tuesdays a style of polo shirt to show respect to the King, on

Wednesdays most students and teachers wear the Scouting Movement uniform and Fridays is the schools individual choice of



an informal batik multi-coloured shirt.

The day starts with assembly. This includes raising the national flag and the singing of both the national and King's anthems. The reciting of the students vows, the school creed and the school motto. Then there is the recitation of Buddhist and Muslim "prayers".

As I walk around the school the students "wai" each teacher they pass or who passes them. Here there is no need for teachers to be on patrol or on duty around the school as violence or bullying is virtually unheard of.

The singing of the National Anthem at 8am and lunch at 11.30am are the only times in the day that any punctuality or keeping to time is observed. No bells and no clocks in classrooms means that the start and finish of lessons is observed with some degree of laxity. Thai teachers live primarily in the

immediate. Forward planning, a school calendar, dates of events published in advance are all unheard of. Holidays, celebrations and special events you often only become aware of as they start to take place.

I enter a classroom to find there is certainly no air-conditioning. The ceiling fans and lights may or may not work depending on the degree of rusting that has taken place. The walls are bare of any colour save that of a picture of the King. Students sitting on the floor or sharing a chair and desk is quite common. Along the back wall may be up to sixty pairs of student shoes as shoes are not worn inside classrooms or houses.

As you pass classrooms (all with their two doors open) you observe a "lecture" or teaching by rote.



Students are not encouraged to raise their hands or to contradict or question something the teacher

says. This would be deemed to be the height of rudeness.

For the students in the classroom and amongst staff it is a culture of co-operation not competition. Everyone must be seen to be successful; there must be no failures. Above all else "it must be Sanook" i.e. fun or else it is not worth doing.

I am often asked the question "which are better; schools in Britain or schools in Thailand"? My answer is always the same; "they are different worlds, one is neither superior nor inferior to the other".

Carl Osmar

(Director of Education)

Fundraising

October 2011

The Phuket Oilfield Classic Class of 2011/2012

A big thank you to GOT.com and Mark Cameron for the incredible donation of 147,000 thb from the 2011 Phuket Oilfield Classic golf tournament!



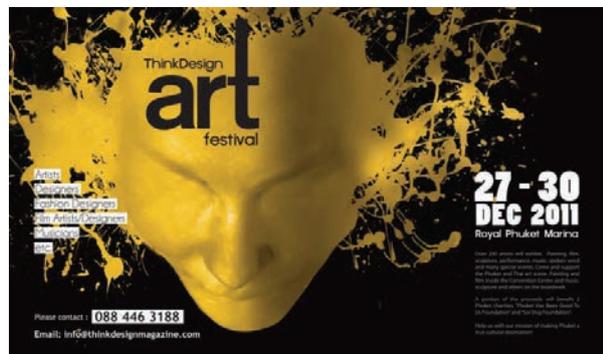
Cameron kindly donated a portion of the players' entry fees as well as the bulk of the profits from the evening's auction prizes. It was a great event that was enjoyed by all participants, many returning for the third consecutive year.

Cameron's kind donation to PHBGTO was used to sponsor a class in Kamala School. 15 students will receive English education for a whole year thanks to the generous donation. Thank you to Mark Cameron for his generosity in helping the children of Phuket!

Upcoming Events

Think Design Art Festival

Think Design has generously given us space at their upcoming Art Festival to accept donations for professional art work as well as art made by the students at Kamala and Kalim Schools. Think Design has also kindly offered to donate a portion of the proceeds from the show to the foundation. The Art Festival will be held at the Royal Phuket Marina from December 27th-30th. Please come out and support the Foundation as well as local artists on the island!



Fundraising Ball Returns

By popular demand, we will be bringing back our fabulous fundraising ball for a third consecutive year. The date will be announced shortly. Get ready for another memorable night!

Pro-Am Golf Tournament

After two fabulous years, the Phuket Property Dot Com Pro Am will be back in 2012 for the third installment. It will again take place at the award winning Laguna Golf Course and the wonderful people at Nap Patong have again signed on as the Official Hotel – housing many of Asia's best golfers. We will again be aiming to top the 1 million thb mark so please support the event and enjoy a rare chance to play with a top touring professional golfer. Details to follow shortly.

Coconut Club

October 2011

Coconut Club Opens at Kalim



With the help of our devoted teachers and lovely volunteers, we were able to hold our first ever sports Coconut Club in Kalim School. The room was filled with excited Prothom 5 and 6 students, ages 11 to 12, who were eager to participate in the days activities. Many students attended and some Thai teachers came to show their support for the afterschool program. With activities like skateboarding and racquetball, the students had a fun and eventful afternoon. We hope to invite the younger 9 to 10 year old students to Coconut Club next term as well!

Although this was our first sports Coconut Club at Kalim School, we have been running a homework club since we started teaching at the school. The foundation first placed teachers in Kalim School when it was rebuilt after the tsunami in 2004. Due to the success of the pilot program here, we were able to expand and now have 5 English teachers in Kamala school as well. In total, we now teach English to over 850 students in Phuket. This could not be done without our wonderful teachers and amazing volunteers. We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the classroom as well as with our after school program. Please contact us at info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org if you're interested in giving back to the local students of Phuket.

Coconut Club Students Win Phuket News Art Competition

Phuket News recently started a monthly art competition and our wonderful Coconut Club artists won the first two months running! A beautiful drawing from King had been announced as one of the winners in July. In August, we had 3 winners from Kamala School: Dang and Nop won with their art piece of an angry dragon and Pim with his street art of a beautiful interesting looking *phoe* (ghost). There will be a major prize announced at the end of the year for one talented young artist in Phuket. Good luck to all our competing students!



Goodbye to Teacher Bree

We sadly bid adieu to Bree McCulloch who has been leading cooking with the students of the Coconut Club



every Tuesday for over a year now, how time flies! She will be moving to Bangkok with her Fiancée James Stanton who is now the Executive Chef at Anantara Bangkok. With Bree's patient guidance the students were able to whip up everything from cupcakes to hamburgers! Thank you so much for all your help and generosity of spirit; you will be dearly missed!

J, Age 12 - "I like Coconut Club because it gives us knowledge, makes us happy, and entertains us."

Bolsee, Age 11 - "I like Coconut Club because I love to play games."

Am, Age 10 - "I like Coconut Club because all the teachers are so kind."

Bow, Age 13 - "I like Coconut Club because it is fun. I learn new English vocabulary and the teachers are so kind."

Thank you to all our supporters

October 2011

Without you, none of this would be possible!

Donor Spotlight: June Murphy



Big thanks go out to June Murphy who hand sewed 150 bags for birthday presents for the students of Coconut Club! They turned out great and the children absolutely loved them. Additional thanks to Erin Boyle and Adrian Staunton who transported the bags and other donations they collected from their lovely friends and family including: Karen Boyle, Lynn Kearvell, Premier Art Supplies in Adelaide, Sue Mellor, Sally Choo, Irene VanSetten and Allyson Cervelli!

Since July 2011

New Sponsor A Child

Paul Ahern, Reginald Johnson.

In-Kind Donors

Cheryl Meyers, Cudos, Dagmar von Diessl, GOT.com, Jodie Tanner, Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Samantha Zirkin, Stephanie & Ellis Munro, Watermark.

Donor Spotlight: Stephanie & Ellis Munro

Big congratulations to the Munros! On October 15th the couple tied the knot at a beautiful ceremony on Surin Beach in Phuket.



Stephanie, a volunteer teacher with the Foundation, and Ellis generously requested that instead of presents their guests make a donation to the Foundation; over 55,000 thb was raised! Many thanks and wishing you all the best in your new life together!

Donor Spotlight: Stephanie Van den Akker



In the summer of 2010 Stephanie Van den Akker and her friend Nathalie Crossan spent two weeks diligently volunteering in the classrooms and at Coconut Club. They raised over 30,000 thb at their secondary school with which they procured supplies that the

Foundation was in need of. This experience lead the two girls to each sponsor a student. In August, Stephanie ran another fundraiser to sponsor her student for a second year running. Many thanks for all your efforts and thoughtfulness!

Donor Spotlight: Andrew Volvrict and friends

Thanks to our generous friends over in Australia , the kids have new swim equipment for their weekend swim outings. Andrew Volvrict and his wife Sandra as well as friends Ifeta, Trish and Joanne were kind enough to donate the much needed swimming equipment for our students. Thank you all for your generosity!

Volunteer Appreciation Party

On September 17th, foundation volunteers and teachers gathered at the Yorkshire Inn to celebrate the end of a successful term. Complete with cocktails and delicious tastings from the chef at the Yorkshire Inn, this was a

brunch that our supporters won't soon forget. We would like to thank Paul Gibson and Peter Hamilton for making the party possible. We could not change the lives of Phuket's children without our dedicated supporters and volunteers. Thank you all for your time and we look forward to another successful term!