

Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation

July 2011

Welcome to our latest
newsletter

May saw the start of a new school term and the return of Carl Osmar and Lynn Crevling to Kamala School. We welcomed new teachers Fania Maluk and Stephanie Bossert and full time volunteer teacher Stephan Bundi to Kamala School and Brigitte Ngpol to Kalim School.

The last three months have also been a very busy time for the administration staff and volunteers; Into the Big Blue was held at the Sheraton Grande Laguna in May and The Phuket Property Dot Com Pro Am Invitational golf tournament was played at Laguna golf course in June.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Chantal Fernandes and Kathy Davies for all their hard work organising Into The Big Blue (see page 2).

Also a special thank you to the title sponsor of the Pro Am - Phuketproperty.com (see page 2).

Our Teachers



Carl Osmar



Brigitte Ngpol



Lynn Crevling



Fania Maluk



Stephanie Bossert



Stephan Bundi

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Annual Fundraisers

July 2011

Into the Big Blue



Guests raise their glasses to a great night out!

On 7th May 2011 Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation, held our annual fundraising gala dinner. The evening's rain couldn't dampen the mood as this year's "Into the Big Blue" theme saw the ballroom of the Sheraton Grande Laguna transformed into a bright underwater escape for guests to enjoy.

The evening got underway with a drinks reception, allowing guests to meet and mingle, followed by a delicious four-course meal. Guests were entertained by The Jazz Creators band and celebrity impersonators.

After the dinner and entertainment, the live auction began with luxury hotel packages and even a plum viewing spot at the 2011 Singapore Grand Prix up for bidding. Great music then saw the guests dancing which went well into the night, continuing at the after party at Tapas Tree.

The evening's efforts saw the Foundation raise over 2 million Thai Baht for the Foundation's English Language programmes in schools in Kamala and Kalim.

Phuket Property Dot Com Pro Am

The 2011 Phuket Property Dot Com Pro Am Invitational, held at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club, was a sell-out success. More than 20 golf pros and 70 amateurs enjoyed a great day of golf.

Professionals from the Asian Tour and OneAsia Tour came to Phuket to "give something back" with monies raised from the golf day going to the Foundation. Pros came from around the world, even rescheduling UK dates to be at the Pro Am, and amateurs came from around Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

There was a huge prize purse of five million baht: nearest the pin prizes on every hole; longest drive; overall winners prizes; two fantastic hole-in-one prizes on offer, a Sessa 19 Key Largo courtesy of Max-Marine Asia and a Mini Cooper S courtesy of Auto Express. (Although no-one downed a hole-in-one.)

In the evening the players came together at B-Lay Tong Resort for the prize giving dinner where Pro Chan Song gave a golf putting lesson to nine lucky Coconut Clubbers!

The event raised an amazing 1 million baht for the Foundation.

Thank you to the Pros:

Jamnian Chitpraso
Andy Combes
James Godbold
Jeremy Paulson
Chayuda Singsawan
Gerry Norquist
Andrew Pitts
Llewelyn Matthews
Darren Robson
Chan Song
Oliver Bates
Bruce Whitehead
Blake Ellison
Bryan Saltus
Kittian
Andy Leadbetter
CJ Gatto
Ron Harvey Jr.
John Shin
Ross Canavan
Justin Han
Sean McNamara



Pete Bolton, Co-Founder of Phuketproperty.com and Golf Pro Chan Song on stage with Coconut Club students

Life As A Teacher On Phuket

July 2011



The life of a teacher is a constant cycle of planning, preparing, executing, valuating, adjusting, and consulting with colleagues.

Toward the end of the work week, I think about preparing lesson plans for next week. I look at a list of the topic areas that match the national curriculum and select one to prepare a plan for teaching. Each teacher prepares at least one grade level's lesson plan for our colleagues and our self to use. Having selected the topic now, I look for ideas. We do not have a standard text or work book. We do have a binder with last year's lesson plans to consult; a large assortment of books and manuals with innovative ways to teach; and there is a wealth of creative ideas on various websites.

What supplementary materials do we have to teach this topic? Songs with a catchy and fun tune that will stick in the brain (we all can recall TV jingles from our childhood), flashcards, and/or worksheets sorted by dozens of topic areas? I start to sketch an outline, building the information in a progression, weaving in other resources, and selecting vocabulary and putting it into a meaningful and useful context that will build in complexity. As I work on it, I will ask my colleagues: Where are you on the last topic? Shall we incorporate some of it into this new one? Do you think this idea will work? Do you think it is too easy, too difficult? Do the ideas seem interesting and engaging?

When I have completed the plan, it is saved on the shared drive for all the teachers and the Director to access, I then may head to Coconut Club to set up, manage the activities, and guide volunteers and exuberant children. At 4:45 PM, we will clean up, lock up and I may return to the office to prepare materials for the next day, or I might plan to come in early the next morning to do so.

Heading home, I pack up a bulging folder of student work to grade for the 140 children I teach in the eight different classes and 18 different lessons for Grades One-Six that I teach each week. Tonight, after dinner, I will chip away at those papers: correcting errors, noting scores, and adding a smiley face, sticker or stamping the page with a rubber stamp. I know that when I return those papers, the children will look carefully at them, comparing notes and showing me proudly their scores as they tuck the papers into their folders.



Life As A Teacher On Phuket

Continued

July 2011

The next morning, I am at work by 7:30. I will refresh my memory on the lesson plan for each class, make sure I have all the materials, copies, and if time permits, I will do more grading and take a turn at our shared computers for the task of data-entry of hundreds of grades into spreadsheets. Perhaps 10 or 15 minutes before class starts, little faces will be seen at the glass door of the teachers' office, eager for English Class to begin. They will carry my basket full of folders and materials, and take my keys, racing ahead to open the classroom door. If I am teaching the young ones that morning, a call may ring out as I appear: "*Teacher Lynn maa laeow!!!*"

(Teacher Lynn comes already)" and a group of children will come racing down the hallway and throw their arms around me, almost making it impossible to keep walking.



Class begins with saying "Good morning", and with the young ones, I like to warm up with a peppy and happy and often interactive song. I will have plenty of activities planned, hopefully more than I need – just in case they move through it quickly. The next class is waiting in the corridor as the previous class exits. With no break, the teachers jump to the next lesson, the next plan, the next topic, shifting gears from First Grade to Sixth Grade and in-between.

At 11:30 AM, everyone has lunch and teachers either go to the school cafeteria for a free lunch or

go outside to a food cart to buy lunch. We eat lunch quickly to go back to prepare for the afternoon's classes.

We teach English, and we teach much more. We teach about Westerners, so we need to be good representatives. We teach respect for place and space and for each other. In my classroom, they learn not to touch things on the teacher's shelf, and not to "go for a stroll" during the middle of class for no apparent reason. We teach students to take care of materials and to say "please" and "thank you" and "I'm sorry", and we also must model those

things, too. We teach that we can be unhappy with a child's behaviour one day and express it appropriately, and at the next class hold no grudge and start with a clean slate.

We, as teachers, create a space for optimal learning through organization, creativity, flexibility, parameters, rules,

rewards and consequences – just like life. And with all of that in place, we can be educationally productive and also have a lot of fun.

We teach children to see themselves as capable and competent users of a foreign language -- a language with an entirely different alphabet, alien sounds, and an unfamiliar and complex structure. We give them an opportunity to be part of an increasingly global world, one that is open with promise for them.

**by Lynn Crevling, English Teacher, Kamala School
(who started with the Foundation in 2009 as a full time volunteer teacher)**

Coconut Club

July 2011

We've been getting back into the school year with many coconut club and weekend activities, including birthday parties, swimming, and cooking at coconut club. The students have been having a wonderful time and we've seen a huge improvement in their English skills!



Birthday parties have always been an event that the kids eagerly look forward to and this year has been no exception. The April & May birthday party at the beginning of the term was a huge success thanks to all our volunteers and donors. Complete with games, presents and of course, delicious birthday cake, this was definitely a party these birthday kids won't soon forget! We didn't forget about the June & July birthday children; there was a wonderful celebration held to ring in their birthdays as well. We would like to thank the Sheraton Grande Laguna and their guests for donating backpacks and presents for the birthday kids. The children absolutely loved them! We would also like to thank all those who contributed party food including Alma & Ratko, Teacher Stephanie, Kamala Bakery and Rockfish. It wasn't only the presents and food that made this a memorable day, there were also games played by volunteers Sandra, Madeline, Denise, Ingrid and Rockfish staff. Thank you all for your help in making this a great day for the birthday kids!

What would the weekend be without a dip in the pool?



These students aren't just splashing in the pool and cooling off from the heat, they have actually been learning how to swim. With the help of PIA and their kind staff, the children have been receiving swimming lessons every Saturday morning and are on their way to becoming expert swimmers! It doesn't stop there, the children have also been having afternoon swimming sessions at The Palms Kamala and Kamala Dreams. Deepest thanks to PIA, the Palms and Kamala dreams for their support!

Coconut club wouldn't be the same without a weekly cooking session with Bree. The kids look forward to this in anticipation every week and flock to our lovely cooking volunteer, Bree, as soon as she steps through the door. Anything from cupcakes to quiche, the children loved making it with the help of Bree. Unfortunately, she will be moving to Bangkok soon. We would like to give a big thanks to Bree for all her help throughout the years! You will be greatly missed!

Quotes from Coconut Club children:

"I like Coconut Club because I have fun drawing and learning cooking" – Boy

"When I grow up I want to become a teacher" – Bao

"I want to learn English so I can talk to foreigners who help orphans" – Am



by Hina Musa, full time volunteer Communications Manager and regular at Coconut Club

Events

July 2011



Khun Gay from Island Technology presents the cheque to Tina Hall, Director of Operations, Phuket Has Been Good To Us

Island Technology had a great 10 year anniversary bash at Thanyapura on Saturday 4th June. Over 200 guests enjoyed spectacular entertainment whilst celebrating Island Technology's success. Rather than bringing gifts, Island Technology kindly asked guests to donate to the Foundation. Over 24,000 was donated on the night and Island Technology kindly rounded the donations up to 30,000 baht. Thank you Khun Gay, and all of your staff for a great night and great support.

Michael Harries and some of his classmates in Hong Kong organized a father's day card and bake sale event on June 17th at their school to help raise money for PHBGTO Foundation. Through their hard work they were able to raise a total of 10,000 baht! Way to go guys. Thank you so much to Michael Harries, Chania Balwin, Carla Acepcion, Stephanie Cameron, Krish Chandiramani, Samantha Ryan and Emma Church for your efforts to help the children of Phuket!



Michael Harries, hard at work at the fundraiser



Teacher Stephanie and students using the dictionaries

The Sheraton Grande Laguna generously donated dictionaries for the students at Kamala and Kalim Schools. They also asked their guests to donate gifts for the children who live full time at Kamala School. We have given these to the children at their bimonthly birthday parties. Many thanks to the Sheraton and their guests for these lovely gifts.

Hariette Goldman visited Coconut Club with her family; father Bruce, sister Monique and their friend Olivia in January 2011. She was so moved by the amazing students she met that on her return to Australia she ran fundraising events in Sydney, Hariette returned to Phuket in June with fellow medical student Carly and volunteered in the classroom and at Coconut Club as part of their social justice project for their medical degree. Thank you Hariette & Carly for the donation and for your time!



May 2011 to July 2011
**Thank you to all of our supporters, without you,
 none of this would be possible!**

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