



PHUKET HAS BEEN GOOD TO US



NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2013

Greetings From the Board

Here we are at the end of another term, and once again we look back at the continuing achievements with pride. These last few months have been eventful. There have been new Kindergarten classes to teach and new team members to welcome. We've had children's birthday parties, swimming every Saturday and record numbers attending Coconut Club. Our days have been filled with amazing helpers at the schools, spectacular events around the island and wonderful donations from old and new friends.

I am absolutely delighted to announce that Khun Kritidech Srabua has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Phuket Has Been Good To Us. Khun Krit is Phuket born and the CEO and founder of Oriental Events Thailand. For the last few years he has been an avid supporter of the Foundation, helping us to stage professional and exciting fundraising events. We are thrilled to have someone with his expertise and dedication join the team.

Other tremendous news for the Foundation is that Angela McNoe has accepted the role of Senior Teacher at the Foundation. Angela has long been leading by example - her positive outlook and dedication have inspired everyone she encounters to be a little better and do a little more. We are thrilled to have the Senior Teacher position filled by such a remarkable, caring person and know that great things will continue to happen under her leadership.

We firmly believe that it is important to continue to build on our success. With that in mind, I am pleased to be able to tell you that from November onwards the Foundation will be taking on the English language education of an additional 250 students, aged four to seven, at the Kamala Childhood Development Centre. These Kindergarten students, who currently receive very little English education, transfer to Rachaprachnukroh School (our Kamala location) for their primary education, so we are very happy to be able to start lessons with them a little earlier.

It's an exciting time at the Foundation; we receive so much support from the community and it is incredibly rewarding to see the difference we've been able to make because of your involvement. Whether you've been lending a hand in the classroom, competing in our monthly Pub Quiz, taking up time (and luggage space) to visit us during your vacation, organizing or attending Red Hot Jazz at Boathouse on Kata Beach, or quietly supporting us from behind the scenes, you are the ones who are helping to give the students of Kamala and Kalim schools improved chances in life.

Your acts of generosity fuel our teachers, office staff and full time volunteers to continue their hard work - it shows them that you believe in this as much as they do. So a big thank you to each of you for working with us and for believing in our mission and our students. The children make us proud, and the role you're playing in their lives is instrumental in determining their futures. The Foundation could not carry on without you, and we are incredibly grateful for the lasting difference that you continue to make in the lives of these children.

Peter Hamilton
Vice Chairman, Board of Directors

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Top 5 Items

we need for next term

1. **A paper cutter**
2. **Printer ink (Canon #40, #41)**
3. **A3 coloured paper**
4. **A4 laminating sheets**
5. **A4 photocopy paper 80gr**

*Please find a complete list of items we're looking for on our [website](#).



School Updates

An Update from our Senior Teacher

Some great things have happened recently...

- ◆ Three new members joined the teaching team this term:

Teacher Michele came to us from the US of A. Michele's background is in special needs teaching. She has been a teacher for the hearing and speech impaired for nearly 20 years.

Teacher Talya, originally from the UK, joined us after falling in love with Thailand on her previous travels. Before coming to work with us, Talya taught in Mexico.

Teaching Fellow Taylor is the newest addition to the family, arriving last month from Indiana, USA. Taylor gained her TEFL certification in Italy and is excited for her next adventure to begin.

We welcome them all – it is nice to be at full strength again!

- ◆ We are very excited to welcome **Khun Arporn** to our Administrative Team. Her wealth of knowledge includes a university degree, years of teaching experience and a career in the airline industry. Her incredible work ethic, caring demeanor and ability to get difficult jobs done have made her an integral part of the team – we aren't quite sure how we got by without her.



Talk about excitement! It was all smiles at the schools when 9th Floor Restaurant and Bar donated a teddy bear to each of our 900 children. Thanks 9th Floor!



Introducing Taylor

Sawadeeka! My name is Taylor and I'm the newest member of PHBGU. It took me three planes, countless hours, and a crazy bus ride to get from Indianapolis, Indiana to Kamala but it's all been worth it. After graduating from Indiana University, I went to Italy to be a certified TEFL teacher and love everything about my fulfilling position. Working both as a Teaching Fellow and in the office, I'm excited to learn about all aspects of our Foundation.

My First Few Months with the Foundation: Teacher Michele's experience

Being an English teacher in Thailand has been, without a doubt, one of the best experiences of my life. In my 22 years of working in education, I have never seen dedication like we have at PHBGU. I teach Kindergarten and primary classes 4, 5, and 6. I also manage Coconut Club once a week, take the children swimming monthly and attend a birthday party bi-monthly. Coconut Club is a fun way for the children to just be kids *and* be able to practice their English. I love producing my lesson plans, playing games, doing arts and craft, and singing and dancing with the students!

Learning about Thai culture and becoming a member of this community has made the experience much more special. Often, I run into a student while I'm out in the community. I will suddenly hear a "Teacher Michele!" and look over to see a student with a HUGE smile on their face, waving uncontrollably and pointing me out to whomever they are with.

I have become far more attached to the children than I ever thought I would - especially with my Kindergarteners (mainly because they are so cute and cuddly, and some of them want to use me as a climbing tree). I absolutely cherish the moment when I see a student's face light up and I know that they finally understand. I love the feeling that I've really accomplished something with my students – many of whom have gone far beyond my expectations. I've also been allowed the opportunity to try out new teaching methods, which has helped my own development!



I hope to be here for at least a few years, I'm so excited to see how these kiddos grow and blossom into successful English-speaking young adults.



School Updates Continued

Even more great news from the school...

- ◆ We've started teaching **Kindergarten!** We have secured 45 minutes a day teaching Kindy and we can't get enough of them! -Teacher Michele would stay with them all day if she could! Everyone agrees that this age is the best time to assimilate languages and by having daily contact with Kindy children, we are giving them the best possible start at being truly bilingual.
- ◆ We have embarked on **Literature-Based Learning.** Historically, we have had a very vocab rich study programme, but as our students become more adept at English, we are using more and more picture books in the classroom. So far, we have used: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* with Kindergarten, *The Paper Bag Princess* and *The Gruffalo* in Primary 6. Soon Primary 4s will be taking on their first book study. If you, like us, are a book worm and would like to contribute, we have a large wish list of books that we would love donated.
- ◆ We have a full complement of teaching assistants and Reading Group assistants. Coming from Thailand, France, Ireland, Australia, Scotland, South Africa, Canada, Holland, England, USA, New Zealand and the Philippines– these helpers give the teachers so much support. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts in helping us to provide a better education for Phuket's children.



Reading Book Wish List

We are always in need of more educational materials. Here are the top ten books we're currently looking for:

Title	Author	Amount
<i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See</i>	Bill Martin Jr.	6
<i>Curious George</i>	Hans Augusto Ray	6
<i>The Runaway Bunny</i>	Margaret Wise Brown	6
<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i>	Margery Williams	6
<i>Where The Wild Things Are</i>	Maurice Sendak	6
<i>Clifford, The Big Red Dog</i>	Norman Bridwell	6
<i>Are You My Mother</i>	Philip D. Eastman	6
<i>Mud Puddle</i>	Robert Munsch	6
<i>Pinkalicious</i>	Victoria Kann	6
<i>The Little Engine That Could</i>	Watty Piper	6

Please let us know if you can donate any of these books. Click [here](#) for the complete Book Wish List. Thank you!

Project A.W.O.L.



This May, the cast and crew from the new US reality TV show Project A.W.O.L came to Phuket. Participants came to Thailand to experience "Another Way Of Life". What they had in common with one another was a business idea and a drive to better themselves and others.



As well as zip lining and boat rides, they spent time giving back to the local community - and that's where we came in. For two Saturdays, the cast and crew were scraping, taping and painting – making our rooms look shiny and new. They ate dinner with the residential children in the school cafeteria, organized a football tournament and volunteered themselves as dress-up and makeup models. On top of all that, the cast and crew replaced broken fans in classrooms, purchased new whiteboards and provided us with a brand new server for the office! We are very grateful for their contribution and hard work in improving our teaching environment.

Thank you Project A.W.O.L!!



Coconut Club Updates



Coconut Club

Everyone's favourite part of the day!



This term, we have had consistently high numbers of both children and helpers at Coconut Club. In just one month, a total of 403 students attended Coconut Club and 88

visitors assisted the Foundation - told you we were busy! We have a large number of new children – especially young girls – this term. Heck, are they cute! (And all available for sponsorship.)

We have done lots of arts and crafts these past few weeks – mask-making, wooden animals, balloon art, kites – you name it, and we've made it. Some of the art was available at our last big event: **Red Hot Jazz** at Boathouse (read more about it on the next page).

We continue to take two groups of residential children swimming every Saturday - and this is the highlight of their (and our) week. Our first group gets early morning swim lessons with Thanyapura and the second group enjoys an afternoon of pool-time fun at a local hotel. We are so lucky to have this support from the community who come through for us every week. Helpers are always needed and any extra eyes who can assist are welcome.

Bliss Beach Club sponsored another birthday party for the Coconut Club children. The rain stayed away and the children did play... (and eat pizza)!

A few lucky stand out students were treated to ten-pin bowling this term. Long-term supporters, the Rutherford Family, took ten of our older students out for a great day of fun and bowling.

Happy Coconutting everyone!



Former Student Mac's Story

Student birthday parties at Bliss Beach Club are always a happy occasion, but imagine our joy last month when 17 year old Mac approached Tina and said hello! Mac is a former residential student and regular Coconut Club attendee from Kamala School 3 years ago.



Everyone at the Foundation was touched to the point of tears when this young man came forward to tell his story. During his time as a student, he recalled that birthday parties were still being held afterschool in the Coconut Club room. He was thrilled to see that the next generation of children were celebrating their special day in style - thanks to the incredible generosity of our friends at Bliss Beach Club. Speaking to Mac led to reflection on the long way the Foundation has come and to appreciation of those who consistently help us.

Today Mac is working as a chef in the Surin Bay Inn! He says that his English lessons with us were incredibly helpful. This young man's success left us beaming with pride and happy to know that the students who come to hold such a special place in our hearts also remember us after we part ways.



Outstanding Supporters

Organizations like ours rely on the help of others to ensure our success, and we are certain that we have the best helpers in the business! A few supporters who we recently had to say goodbye to:

- ◆ Helen - who supported us for a number of years recently made the move back to England. We miss her warm presence more than we can say, and we're already counting down to her next visit!
- ◆ Jayd - who came from South Africa, using her gap year to travel. On her journeys, she discovered us! We are so grateful to have met her. She is wise beyond her years and will make an excellent teacher one day.
- ◆ Paul, Tanguy and Rafael - three students from La Rochelle Business School in France who arrived bearing cheese and have left so many happy memories behind.

Fundraising



Student in the Spotlight Supranee Deegaso

Supranee Deegaso is ten years old and is currently in Teacher Agie's class at Kalim School. For such a young age, she works very hard.



Her mother is a construction worker but her salary isn't enough to feed the family, so Supranee does odd jobs afterschool to help her family sustain themselves. Supranee lives with her mother and little brother in a Burmese refugee camp because the family can't afford to rent a room to live in. Supranee comes to school without any pocket money and sometimes has to skip school to look after her brother. Her family doesn't have much, but Supranee says that being poor will not be a hindrance to her success.

English is Supranee's favorite class – she likes learning new words. She understands that learning English is a necessary step in accomplishing the dream she has for her future: to become a chef in a large hotel in Phuket. She says that this dream is the reason she studies so hard.

Despite the obstacles she faces, she has maintained the highest marks because of her hard work. Supranee is an exceptional girl and we are certain that her dream will be realized one day. We hope to support her in her journey and look forward to the day when we can all dine in the big hotel where Chef Supranee works!



RED HOT JAZZ

Our most recent fundraising event 'Red Hot Jazz' was a great success! On September 13 the gorgeous Boathouse on Kata Beach hosted over 60 guests, who enjoyed four courses of French cuisine, free flow wine, and a very talented six-piece jazz band. All of our supporters lit up the evening in their exquisite red themed cocktail attire.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, guests and dedicated volunteers the event raised nearly 200,000 Thai baht - which will pay the salary of one of our teachers for the next school term. We hope to see you at our next event!



Mark Your Calendars...

The dates for our next big events have been set:

8th of February at the Pullman

9th of May at Bliss Beach Club



Sponsor a Child

If you're moved by Supranee's story, you can help!

Our **Sponsor a Child** programme is a very special opportunity to contribute to our students' education and well-being. Now is the perfect time to lend your support! Your 10,000 baht contribution will provide a child with English language lessons, extracurricular activities and field trips for an entire year.

Many thanks to all who currently support our work through the Sponsor A Child programme.

Visit our [website](#) to find out how you can help.

Sponsor a Class

This school year we've witnessed unprecedented generosity—we currently have not one but *four* sponsored classes.

Class sponsors enable us to provide practical and interactive English education for up to 20 Thai students for an entire year!

A big thank you to our incredible sponsors:

- ◆ **Anantara Vacation Club** sponsoring Kindergarten at Kamala School.
- ◆ **Jagota Brothers Trading Co.** sponsoring Primary 4 at Kalim School.
- ◆ **Jean-Claude and Kantaya Reuille** sponsoring Primary 6 Class 1 at Kamala School as a wedding present to themselves !
- ◆ **Franz Linden** friend of newlyweds Jean-Claude and Khun Kantaya, sponsoring Primary 6 Class 2 at Kamala School as a wedding present to the happy couple.

Find out more about our Sponsor A Class programme on our [website](#)!



Anantara's Kindergarteners



Foundation Updates

Bon Voyage Teacher Gina

Our dear friend and beloved teacher (the woman with the name perfect for broadcasting) Gina Jayona has left us to go to the UK this term.

Teacher Gina was the longest serving member of our Kamala School family. During her time here, she touched the lives of countless students. Beyond her classroom duties, she was also adored by the children at Coconut Club and has been our Reading Group Coordinator for the past year. Gina was a friend to everyone at the Foundation and is greatly missed by her students and colleagues alike.

But she leaves us to follow love, and we simply can't compete with that! In June, Gina travelled to her hometown in the Philippines to marry her longtime British beau. After four years of Skype dates and plane rides, Gina has now finally joined her hubby in the UK! Although we are very sad to say goodbye, we wish Mrs. Gina Simpson all the joy and happiness she deserves as she embarks upon this next stage of her life.



Meet Mike

Hi! My name is Mike and I am the new Office Fellow. Having just completed a post-graduate certificate in International Development in the great white north that is Canada, I was excited to get involved in working for an NGO. After setting my heart on Southeast Asia, I managed to narrow my search to Thailand and finally Phuket when I found the Foundation... on Facebook of all places. I started in the office in the middle of August and was immediately impressed and thankful at how welcoming everyone at the Foundation was. I'm excited for what the coming months are about to bring, and keen to contribute to PHBGU's great work in any way that I can.



Welcome Aboard Graham



Graham has lived in Phuket for five years, during which time he has been a dedicated volunteer with PHBGU. You may know him as the MC for the monthly Aussie Pub Quiz in Kamala or just from being the Foundation's ultimate spokesman. His big heart, sense of humour and ability to make friends wherever he goes has made him a great asset to the team. He hopes that he can help raise much needed funds for the Foundation through his passion for golf and the contacts he makes on the 19th hole!

Farewell from Lauren

Full-time volunteers with the Foundation typically sign six month contracts before they begin working here, but I knew after only one day in Kamala that six months would not be nearly enough time with this amazing organization.

Working alongside this dedicated team for nine months has inspired and changed me in so many ways. Before deciding to volunteer in Thailand, I had some experience in charity fundraising and understood how much effort goes into running a non-profit - but my abilities were limited. Because of the wide spectrum of tasks involved in continuing the Foundation's mission, working here has provided me with a wonderful and unique opportunity to acquire a much broader range of skills.



I feel so lucky to have worked for the Foundation - not only because of the professional skills I gained, but also because of the incredible work we do. The team's passion is palpable. Just step into one of our classrooms or spend an afternoon in Coconut Club and you will immediately understand why we work so many hours for little or no pay. Our work makes a real difference in these children's lives and to their futures, and I am immensely proud to have been a part of that.

Thank You To Our Sponsors



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Boathouse	Live 89.5	TK Art Gallery
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Sponsor A Child

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