

ECO@BISP NEWSLETTER



What is Eco@BISP?

In a nutshell

Eco@BISP is a group of parents, students and school staff that spread awareness about environmental issues and promote good practice through communication avenues, events, and meetings.

Mission:

To spread awareness of local and global environmental issues, and promote practices that address these issues in the BISP community.

Vision:

For BISP to become a school where environmental sustainability is ingrained into everything we do.

Want to get involved?

Students should contact Ms Duncan or Ms Jennings to join the student eco group. Parents and teachers can contact Jacqui Brelsford.

Contributors:

Aleksander Dokin
Sofie Christensen
Alex Duncan
Bhuvan Kumar
Damien Ong
Da Young Lee
Jada Ani
Phuoc Nguyen (Tom)
Seungyeon Byun (Katie)
Vincent Edouard



Monday
"Meat Free Monday" - join us in the fight to reduce our meat consumption.



Wednesday
E-waste - Learn about the issue of electronic waste.



Thursday
"Carbon Mindful Day" - Let's reduce our energy consumption by eliminating 1 privilege each hour.



Friday
Food waste - 64% of Landfills in Thailand is filled with food waste. Less is more!



Thailand Bans Plastic Bags

By Damien Ong Y12

Did you know? Thailand kick-started 2020 by introducing a ban on single-use plastic bags at major stores, continuing a campaign launched by the government and retailers towards a complete ban in 2021 to reduce waste and debris in the sea.

Public awareness of the risk to animals and the environment from such waste was raised last year in a series of incidents where animals including a deer and a baby dugong were found dead with plastics in their digestive systems.

In accordance with this, Thai shoppers are taking shopping to a whole new level with creative ways of replacing the use of plastic bags. People are stuffing their t-shirts, luggage, laundry hampers, and buckets with groceries. The move has inspired shoppers to reuse everyday household items for their errands, which is arguably better for the environment than buying a new reusable bag.

What are you using when you go shopping?
Send us photos to @bisphuket_eco

Year 2 Create Re-usable Bags

The Year 2 students were ahead of the curve. They made reusable bags as part of their Topic 'Our world is made of man-made and natural features' back in December 2019. "We considered how wonderful our island is and how it is our responsibility to keep it that way. The children decided that plastic bags are destroying the beautiful beaches and forests and so we decided that we could make a difference by stopping using them. To do this we made our own reusable bags which featured a picture of place in Phuket on them." explained Jane Sherlock Year 2 Teacher and Year Leader.

The students used a sewing machine to sew the tops and sides of the bags together and to sew on the handles. They then used acrylic paint to create the images.

They look fabulous and now we have no need to use plastic bags!



George (2JS) on the sewing machine and Pangpon (2SL) models the bag



Layan Beach Clean Up

By Katie Byun and Da Young Lee Y12

On Sunday, September 29th 2019, students from BISP along with parents and staff members got together to clean up one of the beaches to celebrate World Clean-Up Day. More than 50 people from the BISP community came together and although we only collected rubbish for about an hour and a half, the amount we were all able to collect was massive. The garbage we collected was collected by the local municipal rubbish disposal.



We would like to send a big 'Thank you!' to all those who participated and help contribute to the beach clean-up. Let's all remember that there is only one Earth, and it is our responsibility to protect her and keep her clean.



Eco-Jokes:

Q: What do you call someone who's obsessively environmentally friendly?

Ans: An... Eco-maniac

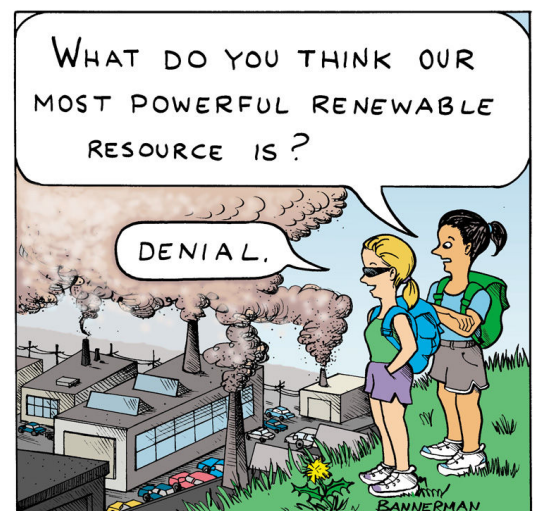


Q: Why are pirates so eco-friendly?

Ans: They always follow the three ARRRs!



Jokes from <https://upjoke.com/eco-jokes> & <https://www.coolpun.com/topic/environmental+science>
images from <https://twitter.com/ImEcomaniac> and <https://www.facebook.com/ecopiratesaustralia/>



BISP Refectory Make Home-Made Yogurt

New initiative saves plastic use and money!

By Katie Byun and Da Young Lee Y12

BISP is trying to reduce the plastic waste produced by the yogurt on offer during break and lunchtime by introducing the 'yogurt bowl' which started last year. As a result, we have been able to decrease the usage of 31,800 yogurt cups (!) and bring down the cost of providing them by around 1,000THB/week. Ms Khun Surang the Community Information and Support Manager said:

"We are very pleased with the money we saved, as it allows us to have more variety of food on the menu."

A big 'Thank you!' to the students and teachers in Primary who proposed the idea of the 'yogurt bowl' to the refectory after their own initiative to collect, clean and recycle the yoghurt pots.

In BISP, we're always trying to be as eco-friendly as possible by reducing the use of plastic and recyclable items like plastic, tin-can, cardboard, and glass bottles. If you have a suggestion or are putting in place an initiative in your classroom please let the eco-club know.



"We are very pleased with the money we saved, as it allows us to have more variety of food on the menu."

-- K. Surang, CIS Manager



'Plastic Pirates' the Musical

By Aleksandr Dokin (Sasha) Y6

Plastic Pirates is a musical about pirates who are the main heroes and antagonists at the same time. How is that possible you will ask me? And I will tell you right now.

Why are they antagonists?

They are antagonists because they were throwing plastic in the sea, which was hurting the sea creatures.

Why are they the main heroes?

They are the main heroes because when they realized their mistake, the pirates started thinking that they need to stop throwing all that plastic in the sea. However, the evil Gunner Grim didn't want to stop throwing plastic in the sea, and because of that he was made to walk the plank with his friend Barnacle Bill!

What is the message of this musical?

The message of this musical is that we need to STOP using plastic or recycle it because as we all know it hurts not only the sea creatures but it also can hurt you and I!

How can it hurt me if it's just plastic?

Imagine if you threw some plastic into the sea then after that a random fish ate this plastic, after that another fish ate him and next that fish landed on your plate. The plastic overtime breaks down into micro plastics and these will end up in your stomach. Yuck!



Plastic Pirate Ship: In the Making

By Alex Duncan Y12

BISP's environmental group, the Eco Club, started off this school year by giving back to the school community and lending a helping hand.

BISP's recent Primary Production - 'Plastic Pirates' was a huge success, but only due to the large aspirations that the Music Department saw for these young performers and the talent of our students.

However, with a large production, come star stealing props. The Eco Club was kind enough to step in and take control of an essential piece to pull the whole musical together. They spent 6 weeks working hard to build the pirates' ship.

Firstly, we determined a plan for making and designing the boat and split into groups to build the base and the body. One group glued plastic bottles onto cardboard to make the hull and reused a bamboo rod for the mast another built the base platform. Afterward, we built a flag out of painted bottle caps and attached plastic bags for the sails. Finally, we screwed wheels onto the the base. Great collaboration to create the finished product. Thank you also to the DT Department and technicians for letting us use their space and for their help in sticking it all together.

Greta Thunberg

By Sofie Christensen Y7



Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg, commonly known as the 'mosquito in the room' meaning she will be the reason for change.

Although Greta is a well-loved person, she does get her haters too.

"Every time I see her she's got a new outfit on. I don't see her making any sacrifices herself."

"She's done nothing of merit. At the end of the day, she's lived a privileged life, she got on a boat and sailed across the sea."

These statements are both partly true, however, even if she does have new clothes and sails the world Greta's passion is still making a huge difference to our world. She has talked about and discussed global warming with so many people and has definitely changed many of their mindsets.

Go Greta!



Some say I should be in school. But why should any young person be made to study for a future when no one is doing enough to save that future? What is the point of learning facts when the most important facts given by the finest scientists are ignored by our politicians?

**Greta Thunberg,
15-year-old Swedish student**

**WE ARE IN THE BEGINNING OF A
MASS EXTINCTION AND ALL YOU
CAN TALK ABOUT IS MONEY
AND FAIRY TALES OF
ETERNAL ECONOMIC GROWTH
HOW DARE YOU!**



“
IF YOU STILL SAY THAT
WE ARE WASTING
VALUABLE LESSON TIME,
THEN LET ME REMIND YOU THAT
OUR POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE
WASTED DECADES THROUGH
DENIAL AND INACTION.
”



"I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic ... and act as if the house was on fire. "

**Greta Thunberg
Environmental Activist**

BISP Installs Solar Panels

Green initiative cuts electricity costs, reduces our carbon footprint and educates our students

By Vincent Edouard Y12

Have you ever wondered what all that racket was on top of the Primary School roof? Yes? Well you're about to be amazed!

At the start of the school year, British International School Phuket installed hundreds of high quality, fully functioning solar panels producing the power of 400 KWs with the help of Innovation Technology Co. Ltd. They are now used to power multiple devices such as dishwashers and water systems as well as cut our overall electricity costs!

BISP is going green and saving 90,000 THB a month of electricity expense! No less importantly, this development also serves an educational purpose in the student community as it has demonstrated the importance and practicality of such environmental projects. We hope, in the future, the school and the students could all contribute to a green culture and make the campus a more sustainable place.



Learn more about Solar Cells

Check out the Solar Cells Booth (see photo below) in the Primary Foyer this week to learn more about the solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the primary building. From 9 - 10:30 am each day David Bearman, Khun Wiwat (Head of Engineering) and Khun Surang will be there giving short presentations to our Primary classes. Come along to find out more.



<https://www.coolpun.com/topic/environmental+science>



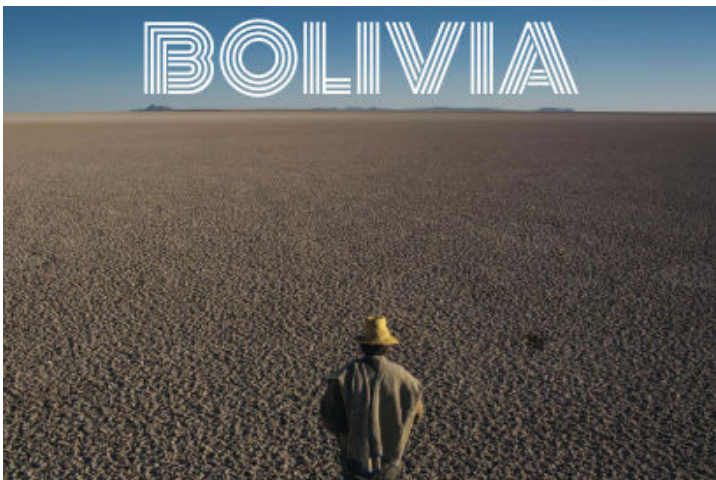
Today's Global Issues

By Bhuvan Kumar Y12



Fires rage across Australia cutting away at forest wildlife and killing over 1 billion animals including kangaroos, koalas, and more. Global temperatures keep soaring causing these issues to get bigger but nothing is done.

Icebergs melt in the waters off Antarctica as temperatures are at the hottest ever. Climate change has accelerated the rate of ice loss across the continent leading to rising sea levels and the destruction of habitats.



In the high plains of Bolivia, a man surveys the baked remains of what was the country's second largest lake. Lake Poopó. Drought and mismanagement issues have caused the lake to dry up.

The Amazon is losing the equivalent of one million soccer fields of forest each year, much of which is cut down to make way for agriculture. When forest is lost, the carbon it respired ends up in the atmosphere, accelerating climate change.



Global Issues Continued...



The Pacific Ocean has completely subsumed five of the Solomon Islands, an archipelago near Papua New Guinea. As sea levels rise, observations from the Solomon Islands are a warning of things to come.

There are at least 5.25 trillion individual pieces of plastic floating in the world's oceans leading to the death of "inestimable" number of birds, sea turtles, sea lions, seals and large whales.



Cyclone Idai took the lives of over 1,000 people across Zimbabwe, Mozambique & Malawi in 2019 and devastated millions. Natural disasters occur more frequently hitting areas that hadn't had cyclones since the satellite era.

1 million plant and animal species around the world are threatened with extinction. Humans rely on biodiversity for our livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life. Yet, through activities such as deforestation and overfishing we are reducing diversity within and between species according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).





BISP Students Launch 'Happy Green World'

A Y13 student reflects on the impact of presenting the 'Happy Green World' book and resources to local Phuket and Phang-Nga Teachers

By (Ping Ping) Napassanan Supsoonthornkul Y13

My commitment to taking over the Happy Green World Project was never a decision taken lightly from the very beginning. After seeing how hard, the previous seniors, Mr Berman, and all those involved worked to bring the Happy Green Project to life. Now finally passing it over into the hands of the community was an amazing experience. As for myself, I have changed from being a person that wasn't the most environmentally conscious, to being one who reflects on my actions. It has certainly helped me develop as a person.

Happy Green World is a programme in Thai and English, consisting of an information booklet, activity guide and board game. It teaches users about waste, its impacts, how to manage waste to minimise our ecological footprint and what action we can take.

From teaching the programme, I've learnt to implement simple techniques into my daily life, such as bulk buying, re-cycling and carrying a re-usable bag. More importantly, in conducting the programme, we students had to step out of our comfort zones. We first trialed the

programme in the primary school at BISP and then raised awareness of the programme at the PHIST (Phuket Sustainable Island for Sustainable Tourism) event and now have taught Thai teachers from across the Phuket and Phang-Nga region how to use the resources with their classes.

Teaching teachers was, inevitably, one of the most nerve-wracking experiences. We spent many hours as a team planning and organising and practicing the presentation. In the end, thanks to teamwork, cooperation, support and encouragement from the staff and the local teachers themselves, we succeeded.

Happy Green World taught me teamwork, determination, confidence, stepping out of your comfort zone, and truly being passionate about what you truly believe in. I hope that the programme, now in the hands of Phuket and Phang Nga teachers, will create a lasting impact on the students of Phuket and Phang-Nga and help keep our island beautiful.

For the next generation of HGW representatives - it would be amazing to see HGW in the hands of all students in Thailand. Best of luck! :)

