

# Kuraburi Burmese Learning Center Donor Update April 2014



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## **Current Learning Center Update**

The 2013-14 academic year began at Mulberry Burmese Learning Center in May 2013 and completed in March 2014. The school had an enrollment of 50 students and daily average attendance between 40-50 children aged 5 to 14. Children are taught a 6 subject curriculum including Mathematics, English, Burmese, History, Science, Geography, and computer class. The children also receive frequent training from the FED Health Team about healthy hygiene and nutritional habits to help avoid illness. Furthermore, the teachers teach students basic traditional and cultural customs of both Myanmar and Thailand.

## **Donation Update**

The Learning Center had 4 paid teachers for this academic year. Three teachers were paid by the Andaman Discoveries BLC Donation Fund and 1 paid through the student tuition fund of the Foundation for Education and Development.

The Andaman Discoveries Burmese Learning Center Fund contributed a total of \$13,000 to the center's operational cost for the 2013-2014 academic year. An additional \$900 was contributed from the volunteers who come to teach English at the center. These contributions go a long way to help

cover the operational cost of the center and much needed improvements.

Thank you to all of the generous donations from our Donors over the past few months. Our total amount raised is now \$16,400. We continue to seek funds to cover the budget for one full year of operational cost of the school, about \$40,000. Please spread the word to help continue the donations and provide an essential education for Burmese migrant children.

***"The Burmese kids truly make you feel like you are changing lives. It was a fantastic experience."***

***-Hilversum Student***



International School Volunteers  
with BLC Students

# Kuraburi Burmese Learning Center Update

## Get to know the Students & Teachers



Hla Thinzar Nwe

Hla Thinzar Nwe is twelve years old and very reserved. She thoughtfully explains how she would like to be a teacher when she grows up. English and Mathematics are her favorite subjects and she believes these are most important when finding a good occupation. She adores her teachers and is inspired to teach Burmese children in the future. Her parents are divorced, and she lives with her siblings and mother at a relative's home. Although she loves Thailand she would like to return to Burma with her family once she obtains a passport. Hla Thinzar can be found helping to set up canteen for lunch with the older students and helping to server food to the younger students. Her quiet but strong presence is always appreciated by volunteers and teachers at the center.

Chest Kanya is 33, from Kuraburi and has been enthusiastically working at the Burmese Learning Center for six years. Chest likes being a teacher because he enjoys working with children and having the freedom to be creative in the classroom. He feels that the Burmese Learning Center gives the kids a basic education, which creates more opportunity for them in the future. Chest would like the Burmese Learning Center be accepted as an equivalent to the Thai Government Schools' standards so that the Burmese children can be allowed to continue their education within the Thai schools. Teacher Chest works closely with the volunteers and study groups that come to the center and creates a supportive and engaging environment for them. He thinks that volunteers and groups help to develop the school and school grounds and that they create a friendlier learning environment that is more inviting for the Burmese kids. When he is not teaching at the Burmese Learning center, Chest teaches special studies classes, plays guitar, listens to music and fishes.



Teacher Chet

## Construction Update

This past February saw the completed construction of the front gate and wall for the learning center! The team from Andaman Discoveries and teachers from the center helped oversee the work done by local Burmese construction professionals. The 40 meter wall and 6 meter gate were built in a little over two weeks.

Special thanks to Donors for helping to make the center more secure for the students and the building during both opening and closing hours! The next goal is a fence that will be made by planting local vegetables and trees with thorns and spikes, to provide a benefit for the center and discourage intruders!

The grounds also received a fresh layering of dirt take will be flattened with the coming rains. This should developed into a safer sport area for the students who usually play football barefoot!

The learning center grounds now consist of the main building with six classrooms, a bathroom structure with four stalls, one computer/library room, canteen with kitchen area and the front wall with gate.



New Front Wall and dirt for playing area.



## Kuraburi Burmese Learning Center Update

### Hilversum International School Visit – Helping Hands



Laughter and joy filled the grounds at the Burmese Learning Center when the Hilversum students participated in a three day service project at the center! To brighten the newly built cement gate, the Hilversum students and Burmese kids brought out their creativity by painting murals along the wall. There are scattered and intertwined handprints from the students working together and artwork from the surrounding environment highlighted with English words. It is truly a collage of the two cultures coming together for a meaningful cause! They taught some interactive English by painting the wooden window shutters, which also brightened the classroom atmosphere! Throughout all of these fun activities, the students were able to interact, play and bond with each other. With paint on their hands and smiles on their faces the Hilversum students were able to share in an unforgettable experience with the kids at the Burmese Learning Center.

### Organic Garden & Composting



The organic Fertilizer project continues with the support of the teachers at the school and volunteers from Andaman Discoveries. A group of three students has been placed in charge of managing the compost! The finished fertilizer is used on the organic garden! It is encouraging to see projects being initiated that correlate with learning about other important elements, like the environment and sustainable living. With the teacher's busy schedule, the volunteers' help in keeping the students engaged in this project is invaluable!

The organic garden continues to get a yearly replanting and upkeep by a group of Americans who traveled on a massage and culture visit. The produce from the garden is used in the lunch program and for the live in teachers.

### Volunteering Update

Over the last year, Andaman Discoveries has sent six volunteers to the Burmese Learning Center. The volunteers teach English as a foreign language in an interactive and fun way. Having access to a native English speaker helps to build the confidence and conversational skills of the Burmese kids. This also reduces the workload of the teachers so they can focus on teaching the set curriculum. The volunteers also support and assist in the upkeep and development of projects like the recycle bank, composting pile and making recycled paper. Part of the volunteers cost goes to directly support the operational cost of the center. The volunteer program accepts people from all walks of life that have a willingness to serve, an open mindedness to immerse in the local culture, and creativity to work with a wide variety of children! Thank you to all of our volunteers for your efforts in making the days at the center so special!

### HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Operating funds remain scarce as we enter into the 2014-2015 academic year. All donations will go towards the operational costs of the school to ensure that the Burmese migrant community children will be able to continue to receive proper education. Interested donors will now be able to send donations directly through online payment. A donation page for the school has been created and can be accessed through this link:

[andamandiscoveries.com/supportblc/](http://andamandiscoveries.com/supportblc/)