

### Changing the world, one student at a time...

# 2012-2013 School Profile

BANG NA CAMPUS (Nursery – K3)

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# **Corporate Profile & History**

A branch of the EverClever Education Group, Wells International School began as EverClever Kindergarten in the fall of 1998. A conglomerate of companies, ranging from kindergarten to adult education, fall under the EverClever name, and the corporation is also affiliated with top institutions such as Framingham State University, the oldest teacher training institution in the United States.









**O**pening its doors on Sukhumvit Soi 47 with a total of only four students, EverClever Kindergarten soon grew to include other families in the surrounding community and became Wells International School. As it expanded, plans were already in the making for a primary school campus at nearby Sukhumvit Soi 51. In 2003, Wells International School – Thong Lor accepted its first students, ranging from Grades 1 to 5, and expanded to Grade 6 the following year. In 2005, construction began on a secondary school about 5 kilometers further down Sukhumvit Road, and in the fall of 2006, Wells International School – On Nut opened its doors to students in Grades 1 to 9. Seeking to establish better opportunities for its students, school leaders joined the International Schools Association of Thailand (ISAT) and the Thailand International Schools Activities Conference (TISAC), and began to explore accreditation options—a process that ultimately led to accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in the summer of 2009. Most recently, Wells finally closed its original kindergarten campus in Phrom Phong and opened a new kindergarten campus on Srinakarin 62.





# **Mission, Vision & Philosophy**

The mission of Wells International School is to deliver a quality, university-preparatory education to a diverse, international group of students in a nurturing environment of creativity and discovery, which inspires a passion for learning, fosters a sense of wonder and curiosity, and teaches responsible, global citizenship through a collaboration between the home and school community.

Its vision is to be globally recognized for its supportive and innovative educational programs that empower each student to achieve his or her highest potential.

Wells International School aims to provide quality education and foster character development in a caring community. The philosophy of Wells is directly linked to the desired attributes and traits needed throughout childhood in order to progress successfully in life. We capitalize on the uniqueness of all students, encouraging them to be communicators and thinkers who are principled, determined, well-balanced, caring, open-minded and knowledgeable. When combined, these attributes create a wholesome profile of an internationally-minded student.



While embracing the analytical methods of the American curriculum, the rigor of the British system and the international philosophy of the IB program, Wells International School ultimately adheres to the "best practices" approach: The methods and resources educators use should be firmly based in what best allows students to learn as opposed to rigidly following a particular educational approach or program. Four key concepts thus drive education at Wells International School:

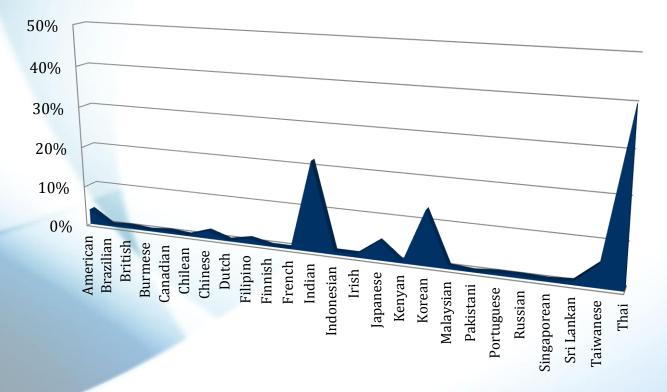
- A passion for learning
- Engaged, collaborative learning
- Critical thinking
- Real-life application



# **Student Demographics**

As is the case in most established international schools in Thailand, the student body at the Wells campuses represents a wide range of backgrounds, totaling over twenty-five different nationalities—a number that has risen steadily since 2007. At Wells – On Nut, the largest group is unsurprisingly Thai, representing 40% of the total student population of 480. The remainder hails from other Asian, European, African and American nations. Current trends in the 2012-2013 school year indicate that the non-Asian expatriate population is growing more rapidly than other groups; the number of American enrollees has grown more than 200% from the previous three years. Additionally, the school system welcomed its first Dutch, French, Finnish, Kenyan, Russian and Pakistani students within the past four years.

Wells typically draws interest from permanent residents of Bangkok, and most tend to remain enrolled in the Wells system for long periods. Less than 6% of the total student population, most of whom cited relocation as the primary reason, withdrew following the 2011-2012 school year. Due to increasingly high admissions and academic standards, the majority of students possess a relatively high level of English proficiency given that it is a second or third language for most.

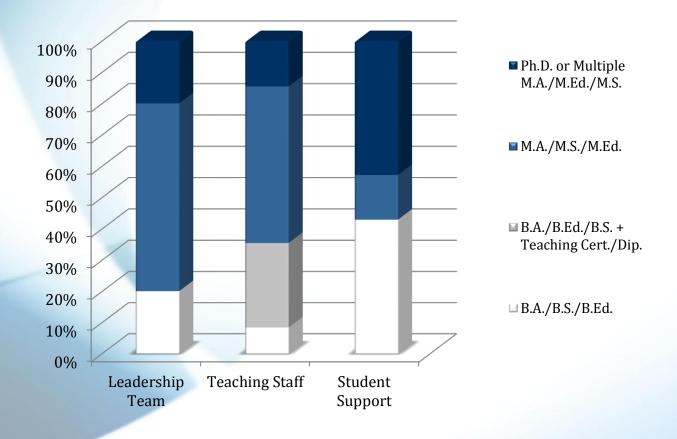




# **Staff Demographics**

Like the students at On Nut, the faculty brings a wide range of backgrounds to the school; in total the leadership team, teaching staff and administration represent over a dozen nations from around the globe. Being an American-curriculum school, the bulk of the core subject teachers hails from the United States, with the remainder representing European, Asian and even African nations. Staff retention is consistently high, and only three full-time teachers of approximately fifty chose to leave following the 2011-2012 school year.

Full-time Teaching Staff Nationalities				
U.S. Citizens	18			
Non-Thai Asian Citizens	14			
Thai Citizens	12			
European Citizens	3			
North/South American Citizens	2			
African Citizens	1			
Australian Citizens	1			





### **Curriculum: Overview**

Wells International School's instructional foundation is built upon the <u>U.S. Common Core State Standards Initiative</u>, a system of learning goals that has been systematically adapted to fit the diverse needs of an international student body in Thailand. It holds all students to high academic standards, expecting them to not only retain content, but to also critically analyze and evaluate that knowledge.



Additionally, students are encouraged to find ways in which they can make a difference for the better in their lives and those of others through the application of the lessons both inside and outside the school walls; all students must accumulate a minimum number of community service hours at the high school level. All aspects of the Wells curriculum from the nursery to high school levels are designed to extensively prepare students for studies at top universities around the globe.

**E** ducation in the United States focuses on independent, critical thinking and creative problem-solving, and the U.S. Department of Education provides schools with the most advanced resources and research data in the world in order to ensure the academic success of their students. All schools also teach the same core subjects-including information and communications technology, language arts, mathematics, physical education, science, and social studies-as well as fine arts and various other elective courses. As stated by the <u>International Schools Association of Thailand</u>, "in the matter of critical thinking the American system remains the recognized leader in developing this vital skill in students."



# **Curriculum: Kindergarten & Primary**

During the early years of children's lives, their cognitive development peaks, and they begin to learn foundational skills in language, motor skills and social interaction. Wells International Kindergarten and Wells International School tap into this enormous capacity, providing young research-based students with learning opportunities that promote their reasoning, creative thinking and inquiry skills. Aligned with the learning standards of Wells International School's primary and secondary programs, the curriculum at the kindergarten and early primary levels emphasizes hands-on learning, engaging physical and mental activities, and a approach that holistic address each domain-creative, emotional. developmental intellectual, physical and social. Young learners are thus able to build a solid academic foundation and a love for learning that carries into middle school and beyond.



**F**rom K3 to Grade 4, Wells instructors utilize <u>Literacy by Design</u>, a comprehensive program that integrates the language arts, social studies and science curricula into a cohesive whole. Based on the U.S. Common Core Standards and the <u>recommendations of the National Institute for Literacy</u>, the program offers:

- Research-based best practices
- Sequential, horizontal and vertical integration
- Targeted instruction
- Consistent assessment practices
- A focus on key reading comprehension skills
- Fully developed, engaging lessons
- Integrated print and online components







# **Curriculum: Secondary**

Upon moving to Grade 6 and beyond, Wells students begin to refine critical thinking skills that allow them to succeed in intensive courses in high school and university. Drawn from the U.S. Common Core Standards and influenced by the approach of the International Baccalaureate (IB) system, the Wells secondary curriculum emphasizes student engagement, collaborative learning and the application of principles and content gained in the classroom. Skill sets thus include areas such as synthesis, analysis, and evaluation, and instructors follow the set vertically aligned standards and skill progression models in order to guide students incrementally through the learning process. Classroom instruction typically focuses on group work and activities rather than a lecture-based approach. Upon reaching high school, students are offered a wide variety of options and programs to help them prepare for university, including:

- High school courses leading to a standard diploma
- Advanced Placement (AP) honors courses taught by trained AP instructors
- The IB Diploma Programme (as of the 2013-2014 school year)
- One-on-one university and career counseling
- Internships and job shadows at institutions such as Mahidol University and Sukhumvit Hospital
- Positions as teaching assistants







#### **Graduation Requirements**

Subject Area	Credit Requirement	
Language Arts	4	
Mathematics	3	
Social Studies	4	
Science	3	
Foreign Language	2	
Fine Arts	2	
ICT	1	
Physical Education	2	
Electives	5	
Total	26	



# **Student Performance Measures: The SAT 10**

To determine the efficacy of the Wells curriculum and instructional model, external measures are used to gauge student performance relative to global norms. One such measure is the tenth <u>Stanford Achievement Test Series 10 (SAT 10</u>), designed by the world-leading education company Pearson. Measuring students' skills in mathematics, language, reading, spelling, science and social science, the SAT 10 provides reports that not only identify where students are in comparison to their peers, but also strategies for teachers and parents to aid them further.

SAT 10 results over the past five years indicate that, on average, Wells students outperform global averages in virtually every subject area by the time they reach Grade 11 and 12:





Despite the American-centric slant on the social science portion of the SAT 10, students begin to match their U.S. peers by Grade 6 and often exceed them at the secondary level due to the increasingly international scope.



The math levels of Wells students at *all* grades either exceed or far exceed the U.S. national average, with the gap widening dramatically toward the end of the high school years.

Student performance indicates steady improvement in the sciences, particularly at the rigorous high school level, at which point many students take university-level biology and chemistry courses. This is supported by external programs such as the annual student internships at Mahidol University.



As expected in a predominantly ESL population, Wells students struggle with English. However, trends indicate that they are exceeding global norms in spelling and are on track to do so in reading and language by their senior years while some have done so even earlier.





# **Student Performance Measures: AP Exams**



#### # of AP Scholars with Distinction (2012): 2

Criteria: Earn a minimum of 3 on five AP exams, and an average of 3.5 or higher

#### # of AP Scholars with Honors (2012): 2

Criteria: Earn a minimum of 3 on four AP exams, and an average of 3.25 or higher

#### # of AP Scholars (2012): 5

Criteria: Earn a minimum of 3 on three AP exams

Another external measurement of student performance is the administration of the Advanced Placement exams. Designed by the College Board in the United States, the exams for each AP course reflect the learning standards defined by that organization—not those of the course instructor. As AP courses are designed to be analogous to university-level classes, students who receive a score of at least 3 out of the maximum of 5 demonstrate their ability to succeed at the university level while still in high school.

In 2012 nine Wells students were recognized by the College Board for high performances on the exams, and the averages scores in all subject areas far surpassed global averages.

Subject	Global Average	Wells Average	Differential	# of Students
Biology	2.70	3.300	+0.600	10
<u>Calculus AB</u>	2.82	3.875	+1.055	8
<u>Chemistry</u>	2.77	3.200	+0.430	5
English Lang. and Comp.	2.81	4.000	+1.190	7
Macroeconomics	2.76	3.600	+0.840	5
<u>Microeconomics</u>	3.01	3.400	+0.390	5
Psychology	3.12	3.813	+0.693	16
World History	2.57	3.500	+0.930	2

The composite score for each AP Exam is converted to a score of 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1. An AP Exam score of 5 is equivalent to grades of A+ and A in the corresponding college course; a score of 4 is equivalent to grades of A-, B+ and B; and a score of 3 is equivalent to grades of B-, C+ and C.

- The College Board: http://press.collegeboard.org/ap/fact-sheet



## **Extra-curriculars: Sports**





Wells features an exceptionally active sports community, and many students join multiple teams and activities. A member of the Thailand International Schools Activity Conference since 2008 and a participant in BISAC tournaments, the Wells Seahawks have become one of the most dominant forces in every league, amassing over a dozen championships in four years. Most recently, the U17 volleyball teams overcame the largest schools in Thailand to sweep the championships at the 2012 Bangkok Patana Invitational.



Despite the many victories, however, the coaches do not emphasize winning. On the contrary, the school's philosophy asserts that the process far outweighs the outcome. Students are encouraged to view sports as an extension of what they learn in the classroom—an opportunity to grow individually and collectively. Winning, simply put, is a bonus.

#### Notable TISAC & BISAC Accomplishments

2012 Under-17 Boys & Girls Volleyball BPS Invitational Champions
2011 Under-15 Boys Basketball Tournament Champions
2010 Under-13 Boys Football League Champions
2010 Under-15 Boys Basketball Tournament Champions
2010 Senior Boys Basketball League Champions
2010 Senior Girls Basketball League Champions
2010 Senior Girls Basketball League Champions
2009 Under-13 Girls Basketball League Champions
2009 Under-15 Boys Basketball League Champions
2009 Under-15 Girls Doubles Badminton Champions
2008 Under-13 Boys Basketball League Champions





# **Extra-curriculars: Academics & the Arts**

Not content with sports trophies, Wells students have gone on to win multiple national and international championships in a variety of competitions, overflowing the <u>Wells trophy case</u>. The school has a strong history in debate, having participated in the EU-Thailand National Intervarsity Debate Championship and the Thailand High School National Debating Championship since 2008. Additionally, Wells was among the first schools from Thailand to send teams to the regional and global rounds of the World Scholar's Cup, which has become world-renowned as a premier academic competition.

In the arts, students have proven equally competitive, particularly in recent years. Wells teams have been frequent participants in dance, vocal and theatre competitions and have again established a reputation as the teams to beat at those events.





# **Community Involvement & Service**





Included in the Wells school-wide learning results is an expectation that students take part in community service activities, and children of all ages are encouraged to find ways in which they can make a positive difference in the lives of others. The Student Support Services Department coordinates with local and international organizations in order to provide opportunities for students to give back to the community through donations, volunteer work and other forms of activism. Wells regularly partners with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Bangkok ServICE Conference, and also take part in activities such as reforestation, fundraising, flood relief and more.

Older students are also encouraged to explore their interests and strengths through internships and job shadow opportunities with both small and large companies. High school students partner with the faculty at Mahidol University's Department of Chemistry each summer to research bioenergy sources, and students have completed internships at Sukhumvit Hospital, the Bangkok Post and other major organizations.









x = independently organized TED event





# **University Acceptances**





# Notable Students & Alumni



Surachaet "Nick" Charaschanya Valedictorian, Class of 2011 Recipient of Colorado State University's Presidential Scholarship <u>Nattawat "Ton" Deewongkij</u> Class of 2010 <u>Runner-up on Academy Fantasia (AF7)</u> <u>Star of the film เหลือแหล่ (Luerlae)</u>



Arada "Darling" Arayawuth Class of 2011 Former member of Sugar Eyes Actress, model and VJ



In addition to the students shown here, Wells is home to others who have achieved national and international distinction, including Harjas Anandsongvit (2012 world champion in debate at the World Scholar's Cup), Chayuta "Lita" Suwanparin (pop singer in Korea), and many more.

Wells is proud of all of their accomplishments.



Akhil Shanishetti Class of 2015 <u>National Champion – World Scholar's Cup</u> Member of Thailand National Debate Team Panisara "Ping Ping" Sapchartanan Class of 2021 <u>Host on Channel 3's news program</u> ครถบครัวข่าวเด็ก



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