

BARNHEMMET I MUANG MAI

Tuesday, September 30 through Sunday, November 23, 2014



October and almost all of November has passed since our latest newsletter and we have a lot to tell. The children have gotten their midterm grades, they have had school holidays and they have started school again. We have mostly been here at Barnhem but we have also spent a week in Sweden to attend “An Evening for Happy Child”.

To make it easy – let us start from the beginning, which was early October. October could not have started better - the kids came home with their grades for the first semester of this school year and it was a joy to see their proud eyes and straight backs when they showed us their grades. Almost all of them had improved since last semester!

Holidays began and ended at different times in the different schools but October 10-26 all were off from school and during these weeks we of course tried to fill with as much fun as possible.

The fun started already on October 10, when we together with Gecko School cleaned Nai Yang beach and ended the day with fun games such as Tag Rugby. It was probably this day that Huw at Gecko School decided to come to Barnhem to teach our children how to play Tag Rugby for real - there are rumours that our children cheated a lot because they did not understand the rules... Sabina came to Barnhem in the middle of the holidays and she got a pretty fun start to her stay here.

On October 15-16 it was time to try out something new and fun again. All children were invited to Anthem Wake Park to learn wakeboarding by Rebekah Lee, who runs the place.

To give the children time to learn the group could not be too large so the first day we took off with all the boys. And oh how much fun they had. At first they were a little cautious, and it took a while for them to be able to stand on the board but the more they got the chance to practice, the more they dared. It was not easy to get them to stop when it was time to go home for dinner even if they were completely exhausted and every little muscle ached after the exercises.

The following day it was the girls' turn. We were a little worried that the girls would not dare or be too shy to try but how wrong we were! Actually it took them less time to manage to stand on the board and there was no way easier to get them to stop to go home when it was time. Fastest to learn was our beloved little Team who usually does not want to be involved in sports as she tends to think that she is bad at sports. To experience her pride and joy to actually be the best was music for the soul.

We do not think we need to point out that all of our children heartily recommend a visit to Anthem Wake Park if you come to Phuket. If you want to know more about the place, go to www.anthemwakepark.com.

On October 19 it was time for us to say thank you and goodbye to our volunteer Linn and for her to pack her bags and leave for Sweden.

During the period that has passed, we have made great new friends on the island. Thanks to Natasha Elderred, who works in public relations here on the island, we have come in contact with Paresa Resorts.

Paresa Resort Kamala is a five star hotel in Kamala and their GM Dawid Koegelenberg decided, after a visit to us together with Natasha, that we will be their Community Project. This started with a fantastic charity dinner on November 8, which we unfortunately could not attend as we were in Sweden when it took place. Dawid is a committed and warm-hearted man who truly wants to help us and cares for the kids and on October 25 all our children were invited to the hotel to learn how to bake brownies by the chefs of Paresa.

The kids thought it was really exciting. Just to visit this stunning hotel that is set on the slopes outside Kamala was an experience. Then learn how to bake brownies by real chefs was so much fun, not to mention eating them afterwards. The brownies, not the chefs!

Everyone at Barnhem is also invited to Paresa for dinner on Christmas Eve - and we will also sing some Christmas carols for the guests of Paresa. Guess if the children already are practicing the Christmas songs that we will sing!

On October 27 the school holidays ended. But the fun did not end. Just two days later it was time for the children to learn Tag Rugby for real, after homework was done

Huw came for the first training session.

The kids had fun and Huw worked hard to get them to understand, but both he and the kids were happy afterwards and training will happen more times.

Barnhem's very own Kjelle has been on the island to participate in a new feature film and when he is here so happens there is always something fun.

On November 1 he took everyone at Barnhem to Splash Jungle Waterpark. He has taken us there once before and wanted to do it again as he knows that the kids love it. You should have been there - as soon as we had entered the place all children ran incessantly, they were everywhere all the time. It was up and down all slides at such a pace that it was difficult, or rather impossible to keep up. They never wanted it to end, and they wanted to have time to ride as much as possible as many times as possible.

Normally it is children who nag to buy ice cream, but now it was Kjelle who pestered to buy ice cream for the kids. And in the end he got what he wanted - and all were equally excited, both Kjelle and the children. He is probably one of the kindest people in the world.

The day after it was time for us to get on the plane for a week in Sweden and for "An Evening for Happy Child".

"An Evening for Happy Child to the loving memory of Johan, Sara, Matilda, Eleonor, Josefin, and Lukas was just as warm, loving and nice as we had hoped. World Trade Center, Stockholm was quickly filled with friends of our beloved angels, friends who now also are friends with our wonderful family in Thailand and all our wonderful children. Many thanks to everyone who showed up and made the evening unforgettable!

It was with warm hearts we returned to Phuket and Barnhem.

During our week in Sweden a new volunteer by the name Moa had arrived, and we barely made it back to say goodbye to Ellinor.

Once back, it was just to recharge the batteries for our Open House on Saturday, 15/11. We wanted to have the Open House to give everyone who possibly might want to help us to rebuild Barnhem an opportunity to visit us and see our home with their own eyes.

It was a nice event.

So what are we doing right now? We are taking a breather and reloading!

On December 6 - our Happy Tour heroes will reach the finish line!

Just imagine, soon they will be here, they actually made it all the way from Sweden to Barnhem. And furthermore, they started as four happy crazy young men and will finish as five happy crazy young men as Lee, whom they met in the beginning of their

stretch through China, decided to follow them all the way to the goal.
Guess if we will make sure to welcome them as the kings they are!

For those of you who are not able to welcome our heroes, we would like to recommend a visit to the City Clinic in Gothenburg, as they will have an Open House for Happy Child and Barnhem on November 29. If you want more information you can visit www.city-kliniken.com. Many thanks to Thomas and everyone at the City Clinic for doing this for us!

Now it's time for us to end this letter to get out of the office to welcome our new volunteer Sassa who came to us today.

Warm regards,

Sussi and Hans



The boys are redy for some wakeboarding.



A happy gang together with Rebecca who invited us.



Team and Nid. Team did great and Nid who actually doesn't lik to swim did it anyway for the sake of the children.



Thomas has a lot on his shoulders right now....



The girls and their amazing teacher.



Group photo with Rebecca before going home.



At Paresa to learn how to bake Brownies.



Everyone got to decorate their own Brownies.



Two proud brothers.



And you got to eat your brownies as well!



Lunch before heading for Splash Jungle Water Park.



The whole gang before it all started.