



LITTLE MOUNTAIN
PAI COMMUNITY HOMESCHOOL

School Prospectus

Information about the aims, background and structure of Little Mountain Community School.

LITTLE MOUNTAIN - PAI COMMUNITY HOMESCHOOL (PCH)

SCHOOLYEAR 2017-18

About Little Mountain

The Little Mountain Pai Community Homeschool provides an engaging setting for learning in northwest Thailand. The school offers a child-centered approach for students from varied backgrounds – currently aged three to seven years – to develop the curiosity and skills that promote health and happiness.

Little Mountain's staff includes two lead English teachers and two Thai teachers. The self-starting non-profit has 24 children, but numbers and the age-range are expected to expand as more staff and fee-paying children are joined by local children in need who are supported by donations.

The Little Mountain curriculum is built around the observation that children thrive when given the chance to explore their own ideas and learn at their own pace. The program encourages students to work together through monitored play. It provides structured choices that nurture collaboration and learning through imitation and problem-solving in a safe environment. Little Mountain aims to foster imagination and respect in a multicultural setting, helping children to flourish as individuals who care about each other and to prepare them for more formal learning in later years.

Mission Statement

Little Mountain - Pai Community Homeschool is a non-profit, self-standing community school.

All parents are actively involved in the creation of the school and will contribute to its continued success.

Little Mountain's mission is to provide a balanced education that involves both academics and life skills. The role of the educators is to guide the children to become independent and innovative thinkers.

Background

In 2012, Kwah Dao, a non-profit organization based in Pai, Thailand opened an educational facility known as The Banyan Center which aimed to provide the children of stateless Burmese Shan communities with an opportunity for free education. Subsequently, local children in the Thai and Foreigner communities were invited to join the The Banyan Centre for a monthly fee.

During its four years of operation, The Banyan Center developed a nursery and kindergarden accommodating children from 2 ½ to 6 years of age and became registered as a homeschool.

As of March 31st 2016, Kwah Dao decided to close The Banyan Center. Many of the Thai and Foreigner parents who were paying for their children to attend the school wished for the provision to continue.

In 2016 a group of parents got together with the vision to create a community homeschool, based on their experiences of the Banyan Centre, which would enable local Thai and English speaking children to access quality education.

Location

We are located in the beautiful valley of Pai, Maehongson:

- Near the Myanmar border, about 150 kms northwest of Chiang Mai
- Originally a Shan state, inhabited by Burmese Shan communities
- Maintains its traditional customs and cultures, but incorporating Thai and, more recently, foreign customs, which makes Pai an attractive cultural blend of people and ways of life

Little Mountain has a brand new location and new school buildings for the 2017-18 school year.

Address:

Little Mountain Pai Community Homeschool

46 Moo 2 Tambon Viengnuer,

Pai, Thailand 58130

School Structure

Ages 3-6: Kindergarden 1-3

Age 7: Prathom (1st grade)

Age 8: Prathom (2nd grade)

1. Board existing of 5 parents
2. Finance team (3 people)
3. Teaching-team. 5 positions (see VI. TEACHING-TEAM)
4. Maintenance Team (2 people and supporting group of parents)
5. Menu plan (Group of parents)

Legalities

Little Mountain is officially registered at the education office in Maehongson as a homeschool center existing of 3 leaders.

Each leader can mentor up to 6 children of Thai nationality.

Children of Thai nationality will be tested and certified for each passed school level as per Thai government standards.

It is the responsibility of foreign parents to inform their native education authorities that their children are attending Little Mountain.

Both Thai and Foreign children will undergo continual assessment throughout their time at Little Mountain and parents will be provided with end of term reports as evidence of learning.

Curriculum

The Little Mountain Pai Community Homeschool provides an engaging setting for learning in northwest Thailand. The school offers a child-centered approach for students from varied backgrounds – currently aged three to eight years – to develop the curiosity and skills that promote health and happiness.

The Little Mountain curriculum is built around the observation that children thrive when given the chance to explore their own ideas and learn at their own pace. The program encourages students to work together through monitored play. It provides structured choices that nurture collaboration and learning through imitation and problem-solving in a safe environment. Little Mountain aims to foster imagination and respect in a multicultural, bilingual setting, helping children to flourish as individuals who care about each other and to prepare them for more formal learning in later years.

Our approach to education also seeks to incorporate skills essential for living. Pupils will work on ideas for sustainable living, practice traditional crafts and learn outdoor survival skills so that they get hands-on opportunities and build invaluable core qualities that will stay with them for life.

Thai curriculum

To ensure that parents and children are able to move freely between schools in the area, we adhere to the requirements proposed by the Thai curriculum, including regular assessments and certificates of achievement.

Teaching Team

1. 2 Lead Teachers English (native English speaking)
Teacher's Certificate/Diploma required to apply for a Work Permit
2. 2 Thai Teachers (native Thai speakers)
Teacher's Certificate/Diploma
3. Teaching Assistant (Native Thai speaker with English as Second Language)

Food

Healthy, nutritious and balanced food is important for the well-being of our children.

A balanced, vegetarian lunch and a healthy morning and afternoon snack are provided daily by the school. Water is available throughout the day.

Each term a new menu is planned by a 'Kitchen Team' (consisting of parents and kitchen staff).

Term Dates

There are two terms per school year, dates for the 2017-18 school year are:

Term 1: Monday, 8th May, 2017 to Friday, 29th September 2017

Term 2: Monday 23rd October, 2017 to Friday 9th March, 2018

Finances

Every Thai registered Homeschool-student is granted a subsidy of THB10'000 per year from the Thai Government. This amount is integrated in the school's budget as income and will be shared equally.

An estimated budget for 2017-18 has been created based on Little Mountains' 2016-17 accounts. This can be requested from the head teachers.

Possible funds raised by fundraising or from donations are not included in the estimated 2017-18 budget. These will be included in the actual budget at the end of the year.

The estimated 2017-18 budget includes 10% contingency, which will form the basis of a school-development fund, if not exhausted by the end of the school year.

Tuition fees are currently set as follows; per child, per term:

THB36,000 tuition paid in at least 1 month in advance of term start dates

THB700 insurance paid on admission

THB10,000 development fee paid on admission

Payment Due Dates:

Term 1: In full by 8th April 2017 (non refundable)

Term 2: In full by 22nd September 2018 (non refundable)

Contacts

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Coordination Team:

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George Wolstencroft georgewolstencroft@gmail.com

Board:

Suvitcha Paggrasa

Renate Khaosopa

Teun Melis teunmelis@gmail.com

Carlo Giovanacci carlog88@gmail.com

George Wolstencroft

Teaching Team:

Kru Tom - Lead teacher, native English.

Kru Lucy - English Teacher, native English.

Kru Tai - Thai Teacher, native Thai.

Kru Baz - Thai Teaching Assistant, native Thai/ English as second language.

Website

<https://littlemountainschool.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LittleMountainPaiCommunityHomeschool/?fref=ts>