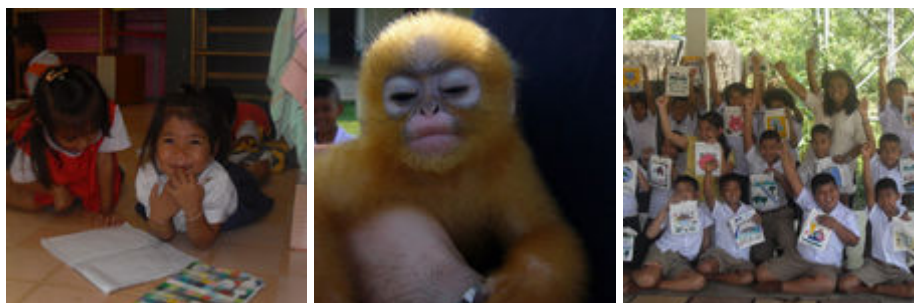


Week 7

This week was fairly quiet for me as the building site was closed and only one school, Thahan, was open for classes as the other had exams and the teachers wanted the students to focus on those. However I still went to see all of the schools and said hello to both teachers, students and at Thahan I also had the honour to meet and say hi to a tiny monkey as well. The monkey seemed a bit scared at first but once he got a good grip of my T-shirt he didn't want to leave me ☺.



Thahan

When I went to Thahan on Thursday the students were busy painting small woven bags. The bags were for a charity based in Nam Kem, another place here that was badly hit by the Tsunami, that visited the school and had a little art class. It was fun and some of the students are really great artists. I managed to paint one bag as well but it seems I'm lacking talent when it comes to drawing.

This week in Thahan school I had my first sport class. After many weeks with just music I thought it would be great for a change to do something completely different. The girls play volleyball now and then so we had a go with at that. We practiced different ways of passing on the ball but as Thahan school has no volleyball net we couldn't play in teams. I'll look for a cheap net for them next time I'm in Phuket. It would be great fun to be able to play some matches and I think the boys will be more interested too. At the moment football seems to be everything to them ☺. Unfortunately someone managed to reverse a car into one of the goals so at the moment Thahan is one goal down.



Pakklong

Despite Pakklong being closed for examinations and not having any classes I decided to show an old friend from Sweden around. All the kids were a bit quieter than normal and asked loads of questions about him. The girls wanted to know his name and the guys wanted him to join the football match. His name is Patric and he did well on the pitch but with 30 students all dressed in yellow he had a hard time knowing who was in which team. Patric loved seeing the school and thought it was interesting to see a version of Thailand that isn't just beaches, sun and tourists.

Ban Bangmuang

During the week I was scheduled for three classes at Ban Bangmuang but these were cancelled last minute due to bad results on the tests the students had the week before. Apparently the students had to write one paper each to make up for the bad results so they didn't have time for music classes. During week 8 I will have my final classes at Ban Bangmuang but as some students are still keen to try some instruments I'm going to stay around so they can have some classes with me. As I am here to teach music and I really enjoy it when the students are keen I don't mind at all having classes in the evenings or on weekends.



The Tsunami

The fact that the Tsunami hit this region back in 2004 is of course a less enjoyable experience and although the resorts along the beaches seem to have been rebuilt, it's easy to understand that things here will never be the same. To understand just how enormous the wave was I went to see the Patrol Boat 813 just outside Khao Lak. This is an 80.85 foot long, super heavy boat. The massive wave managed to move the boat a distance of 2km inland....Incredible. Khao Lak was one of the places that got hit the worst and most resorts around the village are now rebuilt. Unfortunately the problems in December here in Thailand and the economic problems around the world have had a bad effect on the tourist season here and many resorts have seen much less visitors than last year. I really hope they all come back very soon.

That's all from Thailand for this week.