

## Week 8

This week was the last before two volunteers, Leah and Brad, join me from the UK. Leah and Brad are part of the Festival Republic volunteer project where two people get the chance to go abroad and work for a week on one of our projects in Thailand or Bosnia. I am sure these guys can't wait to come and see what's going on and help us with our projects. The Thailand these guys are about to visit is not the one all tourists see, this version is much nicer but with less beaches. For me it will be great to see some new faces here and I'm sure they will enjoy their time here as much as I have.

When the volunteers arrive the idea is to show them all our current projects, Ban Bangmuang, Thahan and Pakklong, let them meet the students for a few music workshops and also help us with the construction of the new Festival Republic School in Pakklong.



### Thahan

As the semester is almost over I decided to have a day of games in Thahan. The students were divided into four groups and we played traditional European party games. They had to carry egg on a spoon in their mouths, they had a sack race and played a few other different games. The winning team was rewarded with ice cream. On the Friday, Thahan school had a charity day where loads of people were invited to the school. A few Buddhist monks attended, along with parents and other family and friends. The idea was to collect as much money as possible for next semester and the result was very good. The money will be used for an extra teacher for one year. For lunch everyone was given some good traditional Thai food cooked by the parents in the area. I just wish I could stop eating 😊.

### Ban Bangmuang

The older students in Ban Bangmuang came to my class despite being on holiday which was a nice surprise. For a change they all came dressed in casual clothes and the group was smaller than usual but when it comes to teaching music, smaller groups are usually better and I think that was definitely the case today. We had a two hour session and managed to try guitar, flute, keyboard and violin. Some of the students at Banmuang are talented and it would be great to teach them individually, maybe I can do that next time.

### School building project

The building site was open a few days again this week. We finished off the last few pieces on the roof which meant a day of climbing for some people and a day of assisting from the ground for others! To climb four meters up without scaffolding in flip flops is unbelievably unsafe. I cannot believe they are doing it. Thankfully everything went well today and I hope it does for the rest of this project as well. We also started to work on the ceiling.... The way it is being done is probably the correct way but I'm still surprised the way they/we do it. The ceiling is hanging from thin metal wires from the metal frame work just beneath the roof. This makes it very hard to do repair works in the future as the ceiling is too weak to walk on and it also has loads of wires all over the place. I won't bore you with construction stuff so for this week, that's it.

Stay tuned for Week 9.