

ISSUE NO.6 : JANUARY 2022

THE MANTA

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY
INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



STUDENT AGENCY



Congratulations to our grade 2 and 3 students who shared their inspiration and imagination with the community! Thank you to the families of the grade 2 and 3 students, and UWC Thailand staff, who came to support and celebrate our learners as they showcased their thinking and creativity in their 'How We Express Ourselves Mini-Exhibition'. Continue reading on [page 2](#).



[Learn more about UWC Thailand](#)



Episode # 39
Power Songs



Have a listen and see if you can recognise who is on the Manta Raydio team for 2022 :) This episode is the second part of 'Power Songs' - music selected by our deejays to give us energy and power as we kick off 2022! Songs this week come from Kenya - Savara, USA - AJR, Palestine - Shalby Younis & Ghazal Ghayeb, USA - Whitney Houston & Mariah Carey, Zambia - Afunika, USA - Hall & Oates. **Over 20 students were a part of making this episode.**

GRADE TWO & THREE MINI-EXHIBITION



For their 'How We Express Ourselves' unit of inquiry, our grade 2 and 3 students set up a **Mini-Exhibition** as a way to celebrate their journey in exploring the central idea of 'Inspiration and imagination leads us to create'.

In the weeks leading up to the mini-x, students learned about a variety of forms of expression from guests who were invited in to share their creations, and discuss their inspiration for choosing to express themselves in their selected way. From these experiences, students dug into what inspires them and selected a medium with which to communicate that inspiration.



"Grateful!" • "Inspired!" • "Proud!"
"Mind-blowing!" • "Talented!" - PYP Parents



"I can feel the passion and excitement from all the students" - PYP Parent

On the day of the event, the community was invited to share in the celebration, and engage in conversation with the students as they shared their stories. Students spoke confidently about the inspiration for their varied creations and the imagination that went into their pieces. **The feedback was overwhelmingly positive!**

Congratulations to all of our grade 2 and 3 students on knocking the socks off the audience with their thoughtful inspiration, their bold imagination, and their amazing creativity!

Kru Jen Friske, PYP Coordinator

 **Learn more about our Primary Years Programme**



"Schools should teach in a way which builds on a student's curiosity. Challenges which stimulate creativity and experimentation should be provided and generous time allowed for the process. The imagination can become atrophied like a muscle if it is not used." ~Kurt Hahn

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT, SERVICE & FUNDRAISING

OVER
72,000 THB
RAISED TO
SUPPORT OUR
PARTNERS



If it does not rain it pours...

But oh my it did not dampen our spirits. Our UWC vision and mission lives and breathes giving back — it's in our DNA. Even the most simple acts of benevolence — the ones we think of as “random acts of kindness” or “no big deal” — are actually incredibly important. This year despite the rain and the delayed showcase, our community came together to celebrate the Festival of Light.

Supporting our service partners, in all shapes and forms, strengthens our UWC Thailand community by bringing people together and providing our students with valuable insights and memorable, rewarding, and character-building experiences.

During the Festival of Light, our students were advocates for their programmes. Whether they were talking to the fair-goers or promoting their QR codes for more information, they were getting the message out into the community. Focusing on giving... we know that there aren't enough words in the dictionary to describe the significance of giving back.

THANK YOU to all who showed their support either by buying products or making a donation.

Finally, UWC Thailand has gone that one stage further - with hours left of school we collected items to support our Myanmar community with the reverse advent calendar. It's never too late to show your support. Simply drop your items at the front of the school.

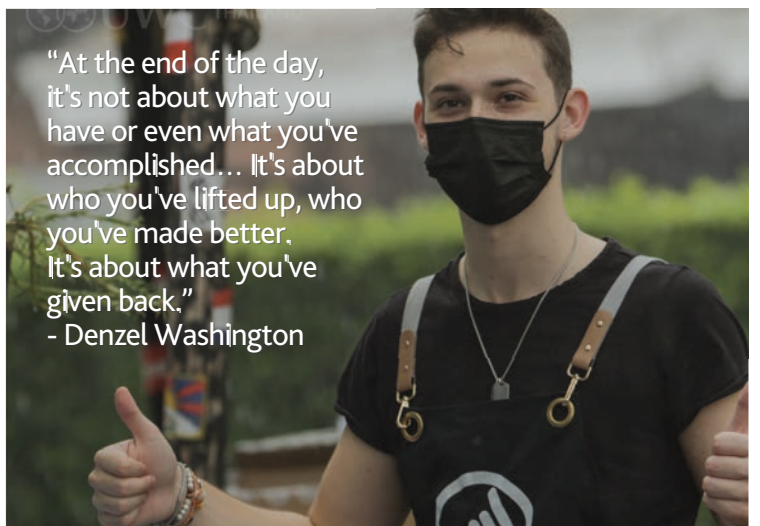
Altruism, philanthropy, charity, community service - give it any name you want, but it's beyond a doubt that UWC Thailand is supporting many of our local communities, so we thank you.

Kru Heidi Oxley-Withnell,
CAS & Service Learning Coordinator

Here are some of the organisations that the money will support:

- Ban Ya Literacy Centre
- Bodhi Dogs
- Gibbon Rehabilitation Centre
- Good Shepherd
- One Phuket
- Living Waters
- Ban Pla Klong Cheep
- Plant a tree for UWC Thailand and further develop the UWCT mangrove nursery
- 3 elders from the Old Peoples Home to have eye tests and buy glasses

“At the end of the day, it's not about what you have or even what you've accomplished... It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back.”
- Denzel Washington



FESTIVAL OF LIGHT, SERVICE & FUNDRAISING



STUDENT COUNCIL

What is the UWC Thailand Student Council (StuCo)?

The aim of the UWC Thailand Student Council is to represent the student body to work in partnership with the school leadership, staff, and parents for the benefit of the whole school community. The StuCo seeks to build a relationship based on mutual respect and trust with all in the school to create and maintain an environment conducive to personal development.

PYP Student Council

Back row:
Minna, Alila, Hannah,
Jasmina and Sis

Front row:
Bea, Lexi and Milly



MYP Student Council

Back row:
Mijke, Alex, Andrea
and Angela

Front row:
Elke, Kyra, Lita and
Chint Chint



DP Student Council

From left to right:
Beamlak, Zoya, Stuart,
Diego, Chikumbuso,
Katie, Mat and Daphne
(in the front)

*The new DP Student Council will
be elected at the end of January.



PEER BUDDIES AT UWC THAILAND



Most students start their UWC Thailand journey at the start of the school year, however, there are also a number of students who join us as the school year progresses. When families join us for the 'New Family Orientation', the students are introduced to their 'peer buddies'. These buddies show them around the school on the day, and often become their buddies once they are in full-time classes.

UWC Thailand also aims to create peer buddy relationships across grades and you will often see older students spending time with younger students to develop cross-grade interaction. One of the most popular buddy programmes involves the G11 students who are allocated to a primary classroom for the year and visit on regular occasions. To find out more, check in with your child or ask the classroom teacher.



"I really like it because I want them to feel welcomed to the school, and not feel nervous, lonely or not have any friends. I enjoy knowing that I am their first friend in the school."
- Renee, Grade 4 student



KEEPING UWC THAILAND SAFE!



UWC THAILAND WELCOMES TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM UWC ISAK JAPAN

UWC MAKES EDUCATION A
FORCE TO UNITE PEOPLE,
NATIONS AND CULTURES
FOR PEACE AND A
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



As we start this year with joy and gratitude, we would like to share and celebrate with you the amazing news that UWC Thailand has been working with the entire UWC International family to welcome 24 students transferring from UWC ISAK Japan this coming semester.

UWC ISAK Japan has faced insurmountable challenges this academic year with border restrictions in Japan that do not allow entry into the country. The UWC ISAK team has made the unimaginable decision to offer their Grade 11 students the option to transfer to another UWC school or college.

The call went out across the movement for support and UWC Thailand's leadership and staff immediately sought to support as many students as possible and responded to their call.

We are proud that twenty four fantastic young people have chosen to transfer to UWC Thailand and will be completing their UWC education with us. They are kind, inquisitive, excited, nervous and very grateful indeed. We are confident they will be a welcome addition to our Grade 11 cohort!



Arrivals Updates

Every day we have new students arriving to our campus here in Phuket, Thailand. As of today, 6 students are attending classes, and the others are on their way!

Where are students from?

Hong Kong, Turkey, Nepal, Israel, Myanmar, Indonesia, Estonia, Malaysia, United States of America, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda, Russia, Morocco, France, Mauritius, Bolivia, Egypt, Tanzania, Ghana, Ecuador and Paraguay.

If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand please contact our Chief Advancement Officer:
nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th



BOARDING UPDATE

REMODELING AND REFURBISHING

The past four weeks have been very exciting at the UWC Thailand boarding house! Building upon the hopes for updates and customisations in the house by our current boarding students in Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, we have taken on a substantial remodel and are refurbishing the ground floor of the house by integrating the ideas, suggestions and wishlists of our students and staff.

Changes include:

- **An outdoor deck area** with a bifold door opening from the common room area. This space will be perfect for grilling, hanging out and enjoying the beautiful view from the boarding house.
- **Reupholstering all ground floor furniture** to freshen and unify the look of the different spaces.
- **Reorganising current rooms** to create distinct spaces for distinct purposes:
 - **A dedicated study room with desks, chairs, plants and rugs** - perfect for a quiet time of study and reflection.
 - **A media space** - with a library and a projector for movies.
 - **A common/social games room** - with flexible seating areas and a ping-pong table.
 - **A remodelled shared kitchen** - with family group refrigerators, open shelving and family-style tables.
 - **A quiet, meditative space** - perfect for prayer, reflection, mindfulness or private phone calls.
 - **A central gathering area** - for connection, card playing and coordinating schedules for fun activities to come!

We have been heartened by the whole community support for this project!

**FINANCIAL
CONTRIBUTIONS
TOTTALLING
5,887,146
BAHT**

Thank You



CALL FOR DONATIONS

Thank you to all our donors who have given their time, financially or in kind to make our boarding house a home.

If you are still interested in supporting our student wishlists, pending needs include: a gas BBQ, outdoor furniture, pots and pans, pots for plants, wall decorations, hammock, and decorative cushions.

Email: nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th

Education

LIKE NO
OTHER.



Education

LIKE NO
OTHER.





UWC
THAILAND



427
STUDENTS

67 NATIONALITIES



193
PRIMARY YEARS

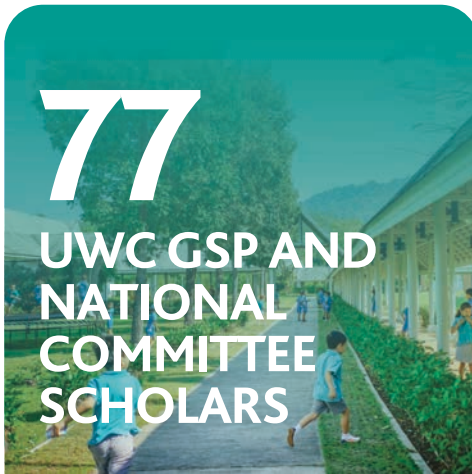
116
MIDDLE YEARS

118
**DIPLOMA
PROGRAMME**

97
**GRADE 9 - 12
BOARDING
STUDENTS**



77
**UWC GSP AND
NATIONAL
COMMITTEE
SCHOLARS**



137
STAFF MEMBERS

83 TEACHERS
54 SUPPORT STAFF



100%
DP PASS RATE

AVERAGE: 35.24

**STUDENTS WITH
40+ POINTS: 10**

TOP SCORE: 44



16
**HIGH
PERFORMANCE
ATHLETES**

