

THE MANTA

THE UWC THAILAND
COMMUNITY INTERACTIVE
E-MAGAZINE

WHO WE ARE:

1	MISSION
18	UWC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN 4 CONTINENTS
>150	NATIONAL COMMITTEES
3,000	VOLUNTEERS WHO SELECT UWC STUDENTS
9,529	CURRENT STUDENTS, 4,111 IN THE IB DIPLOMA YEARS
>80%	NATIONAL COMMITTEE SELECTED IBDP STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT
60,000	OVER 60,000 ALUMNI WORLDWIDE



UWC (UNITED WORLD COLLEGES) is a global educational movement that includes a network of international schools, colleges and national committees working to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. UWC schools and colleges deliver a challenging and transformational educational experience to a deliberately diverse group of young people guided by UWC's core values:

- Celebration of difference
- Personal responsibility and integrity
- Mutual responsibility and respect
- Compassion and service
- Respect for the environment
- A sense of idealism
- Personal challenge
- Action and personal example
- International and intercultural understanding



 **Learn more about UWC**



Episode # 33:
What are you grateful for?



What are you grateful for in life? Is it a person? A thing? A moment? A place? In this episode, we continue our table discussions, this time sharing what we are thankful for as we present 5 powerful songs related to gratitude. We also welcome Zou in Grade 2K to the Manta Raydio team!

GOVERNANCE

UWC Thailand has recently restructured its governance framework. The school is now governed by three entities: The Education for a Sustainable Future Foundation, Banyapura Limited and the UWC Thailand School Board. These three bodies work together to govern and support both educational and financial structures within the school, ensuring that the school remains steadfast in its commitment to provide high-quality education guided by the mission and values of the UWC movement and consistent with our non-profit ideals.



ALL BOARD MEMBERS AGREE TO SERVE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS AND ARE CHOSEN FOR THEIR EXPERTISE AND ABILITY TO FURTHER THE SCHOOL'S MISSION.

FOUNDATION BOARD (ESF)

UWC Thailand is owned by a non-profit foundation, Education for a Sustainable Future (ESF). This foundation is run by a Board that has ultimate oversight of the Banyapura and UWC Thailand School Boards, ensuring that the school remains focused on its long-term mission and vision. The ESF Board, together with UWC Thailand and its community, also plays a role in advancement and supporting the school's philanthropic efforts. The members of the ESF Board include well-respected leaders within the Phuket community. Together they provide long-term guidance and vision that will span generations.



BOON YONGSAKUL



CALVIN QUEK



KLAUS HEBBEN



**PANTUDA
JIVAVISITNONT**



SIRIVIBHA BERGER



**THIDARAT
KHORSANTIWICHAI**

BANYAPURA LIMITED

Banyapura Limited is the private Thai company that holds the school license. Banyapura owns the land that the UWC Thailand campus occupies and Banyapura is the borrower for the community loan which currently provides financial backing for the school. The members of the Banyapura Board have financial, legal and compliance expertise and in-depth knowledge of the details of the financial structures which support the school.



ANDREW SIAO



REBECCA THORBURN



YURIKO HIGUCHI

THE SCHOOL BOARD

The UWC Thailand School Board provides strategic, financial, legal and reputational oversight and leadership of the school. The Board comprises a mix of school, local, expatriate and international representatives who all donate their time and expertise to the governance of the school. School Board members are well-respected individuals in their fields: education, finance, human resources and welfare, law, marketing, strategic thinking, business and global awareness. The UWC Thailand School Board works closely with our Head of School, Lural Ramírez, and supports her autonomy in leading school operations.



NICOLA UPHAM



**BENJAMIN
GILMARTIN**



ANN IBERSON-HURST



CHARLOTTE MEYER



KANOK CHUPAK



LISTER HANNAH



**SIGRID SMILE
COLOYAN**



SONIA TAY



YULIA VOLODINA

FOCUS AREA COMMITTEES

Additionally, the UWC Thailand School Board has established the following Board Committees, to complement and assist its work and that of the school. All committee members donate their time and expertise.



ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DENISE GILMARTIN, CHAIR

YULIA VOLODINA, SONIA TAY, CHRISTINA LEE, KURTIS PETERSON,
KANOK CHUPAK, ANDREW SIAO AND DOROTHY MACPHERSON

EngCom works with the UWC Thailand School Board and school management to develop, enhance and improve relationships between all key stakeholders in the UWC Thailand community. They are charged with providing advice and support in networking and communications at local, national and global levels.



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
KATHLEEN WONG, CHAIR

CHARLOTTE MEYER, JENNY MACLEAN, JESSICA BELODED,
AI JEROME, BEN GILMARTIN AND SIGRID COLOYAN

GovCom's role is to provide advice and support to the UWC Thailand School Board and the ESF Board with regards to governance structure, compliance and development. GovCom assists in developing board policies, coordinating board training, and conducting the nominations and recruitment processes for the boards and committees.



FINANCE COMMITTEE
ANN IBERSON-HURST, CHAIR

LUKE JEROME, BEN GILMARTIN, FRANZ HOFER AND CHIET KUAN

FinCom has close connections with both the UWC Thailand School Board and school management in that both groups can use its advice, services and expertise in building a sound financial structure and ensuring the ongoing financial health of the school.



STEERING COMMITTEE
NICOLA UPHAM, CHAIR

BEN GILMARTIN AND LISTER HANNAH

SteerCom provides leadership within the UWC Thailand School Board in its oversight of the Board's focus, training and self-appraisal. It is responsible for the support and strategic oversight of the Head of School and is also available to assist the Head of school in times of crisis.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE **LOOKING FOR MEMBERS**

The Development Committee is currently being formed.
If you are interested, please contact GovCom for a job description!

DevCom will work towards the financial advancement of the School with three main areas of focus: donors, fundraising and philanthropy. This committee will engage with both the Foundation Board (ESF) and UWC Thailand School Board as well as with our Chief Advancement Officer and Head of School in her role as Director of Development.



If you would like to support the school, our Manta PTA group is always looking for volunteers.

Please email:
mantapta@uwcthailand.ac.th or
visit
<https://uwcthailand.ac.th/mantapta/>
to see how you can get involved!



CALL TO EARTH



CNN's commitment to sustainability was a strong influence in igniting an authentic school-wide movement towards a more sustainable future.



Here at UWC Thailand, we are proud of our students and our school community for the honor to be approached by CNN and to have our sustainability efforts recognised during and throughout their #calltoearth campaign. CNN's launch of Call To Earth, which included a robust collection of online resources for teachers and students focused on sustainability, also proved an encouraging motivator for our school's sustainability initiatives and projects and the individual and collective efforts of our students, teachers, and our broader community. This motivation and commitment was highlighted by CNN during Call to Earth Day on November 10 of this year, a day when engagement in sustainability activities was placed at the forefront of learning for students around the world.

UWC Thailand daily activities align quite naturally with Call To Earth Day. Many of our signature environment-based activities (e.g. mangrove reforestation project, outdoor education, gardening, kayaking and water sports) occur consistently throughout the academic year and ensure for our students a continual connection with, and protection of, our natural world. We are fortunate to have such close proximity to nature here at UWC Thailand, facilitating the opportunity for us all to connect with the outdoors on a regular basis.

Call To Earth strengthened students' connection to nature, and supported a realisation that they can make a positive impact on the state of the planet. The event also brought a sense of our community being part of a broader "Call To Earth" community. Students came away with a strong sense of unity as a local community and with our global community, understanding that every small contribution to the health of the planet contributes to collective and significant change.

CNN also launched a new interactive website, called "The Environmentalists of Tomorrow." The site features inspiring stories about youth-led environmental action and an interactive map of the world showcasing the best social media posts published on #CallToEarth day.

#CALLTOEARTH

CNN's commitment to highlighting sustainability was a strong influence in encouraging and motivating our authentic schoolwide movement towards a more sustainable future. CNN's media platforms offered an international spotlight during the event, which facilitated the celebration and sharing of sustainability efforts and events the world over. The global recognition that our specific sustainability efforts here at UWC Thailand are impactful, has further encouraged in us a commitment to sustainable development. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to explore the documentation of sustainability commitments around the world that were catalogued by CNN during and prior to the day's events. We are certain you will come away as inspired as we are by the efforts of others to protect our natural environment.

"Mangrove planting made me feel connected to the earth. It is surprisingly calming and something that everyone should try at least once in their lives. I loved it."

Grade 11, Talisa



"The mangrove planting that we did made me feel connected to the wider global society because not only were we assisting local fishing businesses to boost its economy and reforest the local ecosystem, but also we were doing it as part of a global movement to combat climate change."

Grade 11, Gakuto



"MANGROVE MUD FEELS GOOD. I LEARNED THAT MANGROVES HELP OUR PLANET."
GRADE 1



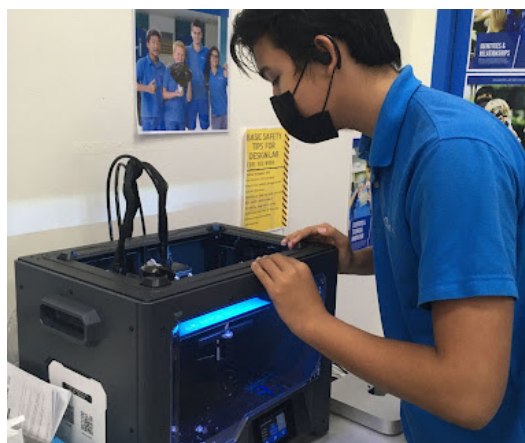
MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE



Practical investigations happening in secondary

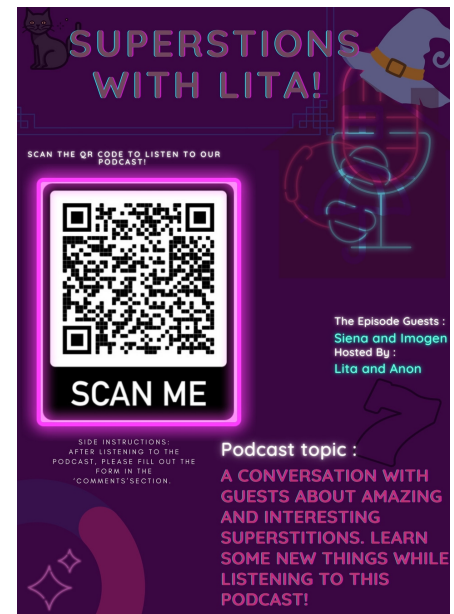
- Grade 6 are learning separation techniques and will be developing a method to separate a mixture of macaroni, iron shavings, salt, and sand.
- Grade 7 students have been learning about body systems - respiration and circulation in particular; they recently carried out an investigation into the relationship between exercise and heart rate and also dissected hearts. This week they have been investigating electric charge using a Van de Graaff generator - including using it to light a bunsen burner using the spark from their finger
- G8 have been testing the relationship between temperature and concentration on the rate of chemical reactions.
- Grade 9 are learning about atoms, they recently carried out flame tests to show the different colours of light energy released when chemical elements burn.
- G10 students are studying chemical reactions and using titration techniques to calculate concentrations of solutions

In Design Technology class students have been working on a wide variety of individual projects, including making a cup holder, a skateboard, a picture frame among other creative designs.



GRADE 7 PODCASTS

During virtual school, the grade 7 students addressed the problem of "how do we stay connected with our community?" with podcasts that they shared with friends and family. Most of the students chose to focus on culture, traditions and values as a way to share about themselves and connect with others. They started with an interview with parents where they were asked to select from a list of values and then draw comparisons across age and gender in order to find trends and develop a topic. Overall, the podcasts turned out very well and students were proud of the work they completed. [Scan the QR codes to listen.](#)



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

At UWC Thailand we are proud to provide an environment where students can be themselves and where they can openly ask challenging questions about various topics. As part of our health and sex education unit in our secondary school, we had students from the Sexuality and Gender Alliance share their stories. By sharing their own journey these students provide an insight into the challenges people who form part of the LGBTQ+ community might face in their own home countries. They shared how their life back home might be different from the life they lead here, or how parents and friends can react in completely different ways to somebody coming out.

The aim of the lesson was to create a greater level of understanding but also to ensure that students who are still on their own journey of personal discovery, know that they are not alone and that they are within a supportive school community.

Thank you to those of you who were so brave to share your story.



For privacy reasons, we will not name our students, nor provide photos. However, if you would like to talk to somebody please contact Kru Len (len.peters@uwcthailand.ac.th), our secondary school counsellor.



Our Head of School Lural Ramirez kicked off a project called **"Discover UWC Thailand"** aimed at both promoting our school and opening a channel for our community of teachers, parents, staff and students to learn and discuss relevant topics relevant to education. As part of the project, the event launched the start of a set of webinars the second webinar "University Counselling Does Matter" was successful and we would like to thank our guest speakers for their time and sharing their expertise.

Eli David, our keynote speaker, explained how "A good fit university is more important than the name or brand." A good fit is determined by the school's academic approach, location, diversity, class size, and the importance each of these aspects has to each individual student, and we could not agree more.

If you are interested in finding out more or couldn't attend the webinar please find the event recording as well as some additional resources below:

- [University Counselling Does Matter Webinar Recording - Video](#)
 - [Interview with Former University Admissions Director Judith Hodara - Video](#)
 - [Student Interview Reflections on University Application Process - Video](#)
 - [UWC Thailand University Counselling Overview & Resources - Website Link](#)
 - [University Acceptances at UWC Thailand - Website Link](#)
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