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THE MANTA

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



A Culture of Giving Back at UWC Thailand

At UWC Thailand, students engage in various service activities both within the school community and the local community. These activities range from volunteering at local schools or community centres to participating in environmental conservation projects and supporting humanitarian initiatives. By participating in service, students develop empathy, leadership, and cultural understanding while making a positive impact in the world. Service is an important aspect of UWC's educational philosophy and helps students develop a sense of responsibility to their communities and the world. Through these experiences, students gain valuable skills and make a difference in the lives of others.

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What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

Nelson Mandela, Late Honorary President, UWC



Learn more about UWC Thailand International School and follow us on social media.



A STEP TOWARDS A PLASTIC-FREE ISLAND

Plastic Free Phuket, a UWC Thailand student-led organisation, successfully took over the Fun Night Market at Boat Avenue and made it plastic-free.

The team worked tirelessly to educate vendors and shoppers about the negative impacts of plastic waste and encourage reusable alternatives. Plastic Free Phuket distributed free reusable tote bags featuring the artwork of their peers.

Their effort was noticed by regular visitors and Phuket's Governor Narong Woonciew, who paid a visit, acknowledged their efforts and promised to support their future initiatives.

Read more about Plastic Free Phuket's initiatives in an article by Aylin, grade 11 (Bulgaria).

[Click here](#) to read Aylin's article 

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**Ornkanya (Jill),
grade 11 (Thailand)**

- ***What is your role in Plastic Free Phuket?***

I am a member and incoming leader of Plastic Free Phuket. As a Thai speaker, I actively engage with the Thai community and play a key role in communication efforts. In addition, I am involved in regular beach clean-ups and have organised a "Plastic Free Night Market" to raise awareness and encourage reduced plastic consumption in our community.

- ***What does Plastic Free Phuket's initiative mean to you?***

Plastic Free Phuket is a cause that is close to my heart. I appreciate that we not only generate ideas but also actively work to put them into practice. It is inspiring to see the positive impact that our actions can have on the lives of others. As young people, we have the power to bring about change, even when the challenges may seem difficult.

- ***Why is giving back to the community through service important for you?***

Participating in service projects helps us to build stronger connections with the community in which we live. By participating, we form bonds and address important issues, which makes our community a better place.

Ornkanya (Jill) is a UWC Thailand Future Women Leader scholar. To learn more about our scholarships please visit our [website](#).

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Connecting with local community

Our volleyball, basketball, and football teams played numerous friendly games these past few weeks. Through these friendly matches, our teams were able to engage with local peers, build relationships and promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and a sense of community.

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Sports are a universal language and help to promote leadership skills, sportsmanship and teamwork among students.



By connecting with the local community, UWC Thailand students build relationships between international and local communities, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect while playing the game they love. It also helps to promote cultural exchange and understand different perspectives and approaches to playing a specific sport.

Kerstin Bender, UWC Thailand
Director of Sport, Activities and Camps



UWC Thailand vs Banbangrong School



UWC Thailand vs Phuket Wittayalai School



UWC Thailand vs Youth Football Home For Boys



Read the UWC Thailand International School
Annual Report 2021/22 to learn more about

Transformative and Holistic Education



24 HOUR RACE

PHUKET



**Over THB 310,000
was raised to end human trafficking.**

Congratulations to our teams for collectively running over 2,500 kilometres in the 24 hours. Finishing in third place was 'Basketball 1', in second was 'Team Grey Zone' and taking first place was 'Chlorine Daddies', who ran more than 270 kilometres as a team.

[Click here](#) for the full article and more photos 



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Participating in the 24 Hour Race helped me to discover my own capabilities, which I previously had not been aware of. At first, I felt very challenged, but I soon realized that by maintaining my own pace, I could successfully reach the finish line. I learned that I did not have to run as fast as others to accomplish my goal.

Linjie Zhou, UWC Thailand, Bilingual Admissions & Communications Coordinator



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Collaboration and Partnership

- ***What makes service such a fundamental aspect of UWC Thailand?***

Service activities are at the heart of our educational model. Our commitment to service is embedded in our learning philosophy and embraced by our mission, where we aim to challenge and inspire students to act for the good of all and the planet's sustainable development.

- ***How do UWC Thailand students benefit from service projects?***

Service projects provide students with opportunities to develop personal skills, including a spirit of discovery, self-reliance, awareness, and responsibility for their involvement in service programmes locally and globally. These projects challenge students to change their behaviour, undertake significant projects, act individually and collaboratively, and suggest modifications to existing systems to benefit those involved. Through these experiences, students gain empathy for others and encourage people in influential positions to act.

The work done in service and experiential projects also has psychological, social, and cognitive benefits for our students. In this way, service is essential not only for its positive impact on the world but also for its positive impact on the students themselves.

**Kru Heidi, UWC Thailand,
Service Learning Coordinator and Creativity,
Activity & Service Coordinator**



Dedicated Community Ally

Sustainable Maikhao Foundation

For the past four years, one of our most dedicated service partners has been the Sustainable Maikhao Foundation and its founder, Michelle Mouille. Through our weekly collaboration and support, our students learn how to reduce and manage waste, build a sustainable community through awareness, action, and education, and, on numerous occasions, help clean local beaches.

[Click here](#) for the full article 



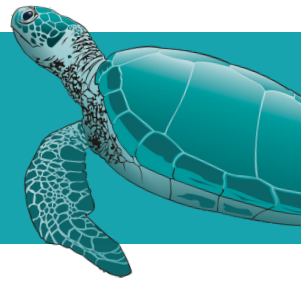
Kru Heidi

Kru Heidi is our Service Learning Coordinator, Creativity, Activity & Service Coordinator, and Secondary Physical Education Teacher

Heidi joined the community in 2015, bringing with her extensive experience in education and a deep understanding of the importance of service learning. As the Coordinator of Creativity, Activity and Service, Heidi is responsible for ensuring that service remains a central component of a UWC Thailand education.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Kru Heidi 

Hands-on Learning and Preservation of Local Biodiversity



Aligned with UWC Thailand's mission, grade 2 students participated in service trips to the Turtle Rehabilitation Sanctuary in Phuket. These experiential learning opportunities allowed students to engage in hands-on activities while learning about the importance of protecting and preserving endangered species.

This service trip was a valuable learning opportunity for grade 2 students to gain knowledge and skills and positively impact the environment.



[Click here](#) for the full article and more photos 

Developing an Appreciation for The Natural World

By Tiffany Eaton, Primary Years Mathematics Learning Leader and Grade 3 Teacher
Published in The EARCOS Triannual Journal, winter 2023

As Karate, a grade 4 student, looked over the watering hole at the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary, she remarked, "I've learned a lot of things [from these weekly service trips] that I could not read in books. After all, books keep secrets and can't tell the whole truth or experience that we have seen with our own eyes here."



[Click here](#) for the full EARCOS article and more photos 

A Path to Happiness and Success

Friendships and Chores

By Kurtis Peterson, Primary School Principal

At UWC Thailand, we believe in 'following the research' to cultivate genuine happiness and take mindful and compassionate action. Our educational goal is:

We seek to realise our highest human potential, cultivate genuine happiness and take mindful and compassionate action.

To achieve this goal, we need to understand what makes us happy and successful in life. The longest-running study on happiness, the Grant Study from Harvard University, provides valuable insights into what leads to a happy life.

The Grant Study, which started in the 1930s and is still ongoing, initially focused on a small group of white males attending Harvard...

[Click here](#) for the full article 



Read our Mid-Year Impact of Giving Report 2022/23 to read more about

Our Journey



If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand International School, please contact Nicki, our Chief Advancement Officer: nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th or go to the [support us](#) page on our website.

