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THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Magical Manta Moments

As one of the smartest creatures in the ocean and found in the warm tropical waters of Phuket, the manta ray was chosen as our school mascot in a contest held in 2016. Manta rays are beautiful creatures that glide gracefully through the ocean alone and in groups. They are hugely important to our underwater ecosystem, creating a valuable ecological connection between the surface ocean and the deep sea.

The manta ray is a magnificent creature that beautifully represents our school, spirit and community. Every member of the UWC Thailand community - staff, student, or parent - is a manta. As the saying at UWC Thailand goes, "Once a Manta, Always a Manta".

DISCOVERING PHUKET'S HISTORY WITH Grade 1



WHERE WE ARE IN PLACE AND TIME

Throughout the academic year, grade 1 students took experiential learning to a new level. Every Wednesday morning, they left campus looking for adventure, a chance to conduct research and time to interact with the community. After several weeks of learning about coastal environments on Layan Beach, the students decided to explore the natural beauty on their doorstep in Khao Phra Thaeo National Park and frequently visited the park to observe and interact with the river and rainforest.













Over the past six weeks, as a part of their 'Where we are in place and time' unit of inquiry, the grade 1's investigated the central idea that understanding their host country would develop their appreciation of its culture and history. They set off on several exciting day trips in and around Phuket Town to enhance their understanding.





On each trip, their mission was to take on the role of 'Historical Detective'. Several black and white pictures, taken many years ago, were displayed throughout their classroom. The students were asked to use prior knowledge to construct stories about what each image might be showing and where it could have been taken. It was an eye-opening experience when they noticed the Heroine's Monument was surrounded by palm trees and grasslands, not buildings and traffic!







Grade 1's continued their detective work in their Thai lesson, where they found out that Phuket used to be called Bhuket, and spotted an inscription on a photograph that read 'Bhuket Airport in 1952'.

They went to the Tin Mining Museum, visited a 114-year-old living museum called Chinpracha House, and were given a tour by a descendant of the original owner.

Their final research trip was a visit to Phratong Temple where they learned about Buddhism in Thailand.

The grade 1 students learned so much about the island and Thailand through off-campus experiential learning excursions for their unit of inquiry, 'Where we are in place and time'.







HUMAN EXPLORATION WITH Grade 2



As part of their current unit of inquiry, 'Human exploration is motivated by...', grade 2 has been visiting several locations around Phuket. They visited the Baba Museum, Thalang National Museum, Thai Hua Museum and, more recently, explored our neighbouring pineapple and rubber tree plantations.

During each field trip, they would question the reasons for exploration, observe interactions between people and their environment, and assess the points of view required for investigation. Research skills played a crucial role in their documentation, and students made connections and asked questions that led to deeper understandings. For example:



Is there something eating the leaves?



Does the stem have spikes to protect itself?



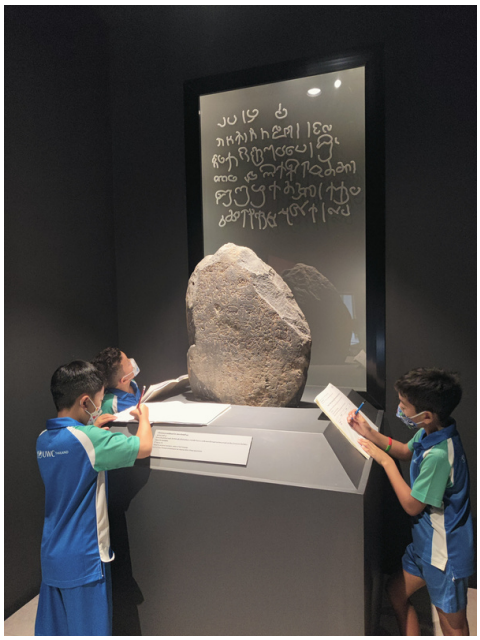
Does the plant need fresh, new water?

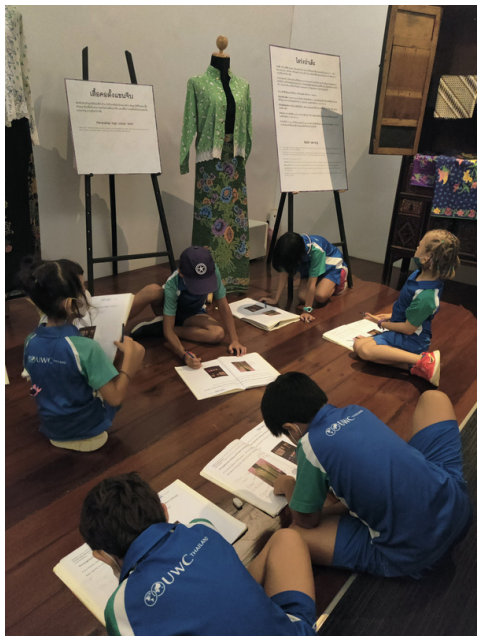


Are snails actually slugs?

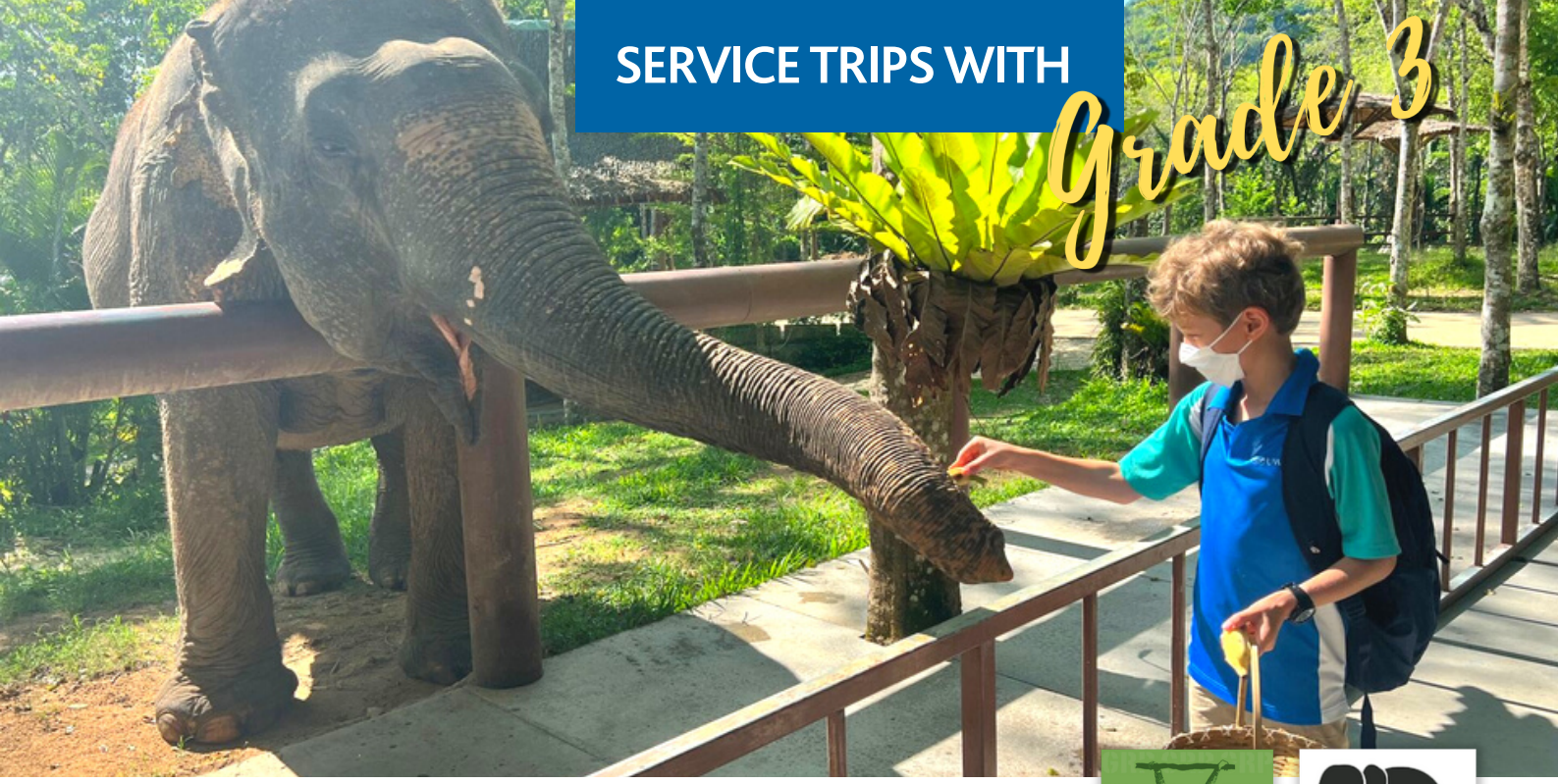


Do snails have blood?









SERVICE TRIPS WITH Grade 3

DEVELOPING A "PITCH-IN" ATTITUDE
and an appreciation for the natural world

During the past six weeks, grade 3 students have been actively supporting two of our UWC Thailand service partners: the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project and the Phuket Elephant Sanctuary. Each week, students have been challenged with various physical tasks, including hiking, planting banana trees, making rice balls, scrubbing and sweeping cages, removing trash from mangrove forests, and even fertilising the trees they planted with elephant dung! With the knowledge of primates from our PYP Coordinator, Jen Friske, and the support of John Lancett and the school Design and Technology team, students designed and hand-crafted enrichment items for the gibbons. The aim was to encourage the gibbons to develop the foraging skills they will need once successfully rehabilitated and released in the nearby Khao Pra Theaw forest (adjacent to UWC Thailand).







The service trips have not been fun or glamorous, but each trip has been the catalyst for growth; growth in each child's perseverance, growth in their "I can do it" attitudes and growth in the class' teamwork. This growth and perseverance have directly transferred to the classroom, where students have begun to realise the true meaning of UWC founder Kurt Hahn's words, when he said, "There is more in us than we know...if we can be made to see it". Grade 3 students can be found taking detailed notes, using multi-stepped problems to solve real-life situational math questions, considering perspectives outside their own, and taking meaningful action to make a difference in their classroom, on our campus, and beyond.







MULTICULTURAL DAY

AND LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

UWC Thailand hosts many fantastic events throughout the year, but none brings our community together like Multicultural Day. It's a day where we celebrate our diversity and enjoy food, music, dance and performances from over 60 nationalities that represent UWC Thailand. In addition to the flag parade, lion dance and piñata breaking by our primary students, we enjoyed songs from the school bands and cultural performances from our community. The day was a huge success, and it reminded us how fortunate we are to be surrounded by so many amazing people from all over the world.















[Click here to view more photographs from Multicultural Day]



This week we talk about Jazz around the world! What is Jazz? What iconic instruments have contributed to global jazz?

USA- Miles Davis & John Coltrane , Ethiopia- Mulatu Astatke, Brazil- Astrud Gilberto & Joao Gilberto, Tunisia- Anaour Brahem, Blegium- Toots Thielemans, Japan- Yoshida Brothers

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BOARDING?



Holi Festival



The Boarding House recently celebrated the Holi Festival with much excitement and enthusiasm. The festival, also known as the Festival of Spring, the Festival of Colours or the Festival of Love, marks the onset of spring and celebrates spring, love, and new life. Holi is a traditional Hindu festival celebrated predominantly on the Indian subcontinent, which has spread to other regions of Asia and parts of the Western world. On this day, people unite together, forgetting all negative feelings and resentments they may hold towards each other.







PLASTIC FREE *phuket*



Each month the boarding house hosts a community weekend. Along with a range of fun activities on campus, Plastic Free Phuket collaborated with the community weekend organisers to hold a beach clean at the far north end of Nai Yang beach. The student leaders encouraged everyone to come together to give back to the Phuket community and the environment.







THIS SCHOOL ROCKS!



Our amazing UWC Thailand performing arts team, including music with Kru Fredrick, drama with Kru Suki, and fine arts with Kru Dale, worked with our partner, PAPA (Phuket Academy of Performing Arts), to make this musical masterpiece a huge success. This School Rocks featured performances from our primary singers, junior and senior bands, drama students and even our rockstar grade one teacher Kru Jeff! It was wonderful to see so much community involvement making this an unforgettable night. Thank you to all who joined us as well as the Friends of the Arts and the Manta PTA.
If you missed the show, you can still watch it on our Facebook page here: https://fb.watch/c3Kp6Ej6ax/





















One of the main events of Conflict Transformation Week was UWCTalks 2022, which took place on 4 March. The event was organised by Samarth (grade 11) and the Extra-curricular Committee.

UWCx TALKS

The purpose of this event was to promote dialogue and essential discussion on three major topics related to conflict transformation: Global Conflict, Community Conflict and Personal Conflict. Following a brief introduction by our Head of School, our guest speaker focused on conflict transformation and the commonalities of conflicts around the world.











Addressing Global Conflict was Sofia (grade 11) and Mari (grade 12) whose presentation was followed by a panel discussion with Iyla, Katie and Diego. The second topic of Community Conflict was discussed by Violet, with an amazing presentation, also followed by a panel discussion with Zoya, Aaymane and Samarth. In the final presentation, Daphne and a panel comprised of Alister, Nisrine and Nisay, spoke about Personal Conflicts. This was one of the most impactful events of Conflict Transformation week as it provided a platform for students to discuss conflicts on a personal and global scale, as well as highlight how we can do our part to diminish the conflicts we encounter.

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



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Hello everyone!
My name is Rutendo Magade, and I am currently in my third year at Earlham College, studying for a Bachelor's in Arts degree in Social Entrepreneurship and Social Change.

My journey to get here has been quite interesting. I first left home at the age of 17, having decided that my life as it was, in the Southern African city of Harare (Zimbabwe), - seeing the same places and hearing the same ideas - was not as exciting as I wanted it to be. So I decided that moving halfway across the world by myself was the best way to fix this dilemma. UWC promised fresh ideas and exciting new ways of thinking. I was completely sold on this dream, so I purchased my first solo ticket and hopped on a plane headed to Thailand.

One of my earliest, most cherished memories of Thailand is sitting in the MRC and looking around to see people of all ethnicities surrounding me. I had grown up only ever surrounded by Black people, so this was a new and exciting experience for me. I felt fortunate and extremely grateful to be part of such a cohort. Of course, there were challenges with this too. For the first time, I wasn't just a person; I was a Black person. And when you are in a country such as Thailand, where every soap promises white skin- a clear message about the undesirability of dark skin, this can be quite a challenge. So now, not only was I navigating a new school, new people, and a new educational curriculum, I was also trying to figure out what it meant to be Black at an institution with only a handful of other Black students and just one Black professor. Thankfully, I am now at a stage in my life where I mostly have this figured out, but I will say it is a lifelong journey.

After graduating from UWC, I took a gap year. I applied to Global Citizen Year, an organisation that gives high school seniors the chance to travel to a different country, live with a host family, and learn the local language for nine months. And that is how I found myself on a plane headed for Brazil in August of 2018! Life in Brazil was great. Through learning Portuguese, I got to make friends with people who did not speak English. I also learned a lot about the complexities of race and culture in South America, a topic I had never considered before. And of course, I got to experience Brazilian Carnival- which was an experience of a lifetime!

After Brazil, the next step for me was college. I started studying physics and architecture as I believed that was what my passion was. However, after finding out that I enjoyed my business-related classes a lot more (and after talking to an architect who let me know that the first ten years of an architect's career are spent designing bathrooms), I decided to change my field of study. I am now studying Entrepreneurship because I thoroughly enjoy starting businesses, and this is an area of knowledge that I can see myself using throughout my life.

When I am not studying, I spend my time working on my magazine, Munaku, which I started to portray more positive imagery of Black women in the media. Throughout my life, I have come across enough messaging that Black women are not beautiful enough, not smart enough- that they need to go above and beyond to be deserving of the same opportunities as everyone else. Munaku is my way of creating a different narrative so that young Black women growing up in the world have positive and encouraging representation to inspire them.



https://munakumagazine.com/



INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS *are back!*

For more than two years, we have made the best of a world where recreational and competitive sports have been non-existent due to COVID-19. The good news is that over the last three weeks we have been able to resume competing with other schools in swimming, basketball, and football.

Click here to read more about our interscholastic sports journey of what we do, why we do it, and how we do it. Bringing our community back together so that they can better understand what happens on the pitch, on the track, on the court, and in the pool.









Sook San Wan Songkran
สุขสันต์วันสงกรานต์



13-15 April 2022

We wish you not just smiles but lots of laughter, not just wealth but prosperity and success, not just happiness but blissful joy.
Warm wishes during Songkran Festival.

UWC THAILAND