ISSUE NO.21 / 2023

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



"As we look back on another year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. Our commitment to living Hahn's ideals, contributing to the community, honouring Thailand, growing and learning together, and stretching our collective creativity and curiosity has made UWC Thailand a beacon of excellence in education."

Lural Ramírez, UWC Thailand Head of School

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media



Dear UWC Thailand Community,

As another remarkable year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have embarked on together. Our commitment to living out Kurt Hahn's ideals, contributing to the community, honouring Thailand, and growing and learning together has truly defined our UWC experience.

Living Kurt Hahn's ideals has been at the heart of our educational philosophy, and it is evident in every aspect of our community. Hahn believed in the transformative power of experiential education and the importance of cultivating compassion, resilience, and a sense of responsibility in our students. I am proud to say that we have embraced these ideals, creating a dynamic learning environment that nurtures the whole person and prepares our students to be compassionate leaders of the future.

Contributing to the community has been a fundamental pillar of our UWC Thailand ethos. We have witnessed countless acts of service and kindness from our students, staff, and parents, both within our campus and beyond. From community engagement projects to fundraising initiatives, we have consistently shown our dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Together, we have forged meaningful connections and built bridges that transcend cultural boundaries.

Honouring Thailand has been an integral part of our journey. We have been privileged to call this beautiful country our home, and it has enriched our UWC experience in countless ways. We have celebrated Thai culture, language, and traditions, fostering a deep appreciation and understanding of our host nation. We have also had the privilege of engaging with local communities, collaborating on projects that promote sustainable development and social justice. Through these efforts, we have deepened our connection to Thailand and demonstrated our commitment to being responsible global citizens.

In this past year, we have grown and learned together, overcoming challenges and embracing opportunities for personal and collective growth. Our students have embarked on journeys of self-discovery, exploring their passions and discovering new interests. Our educators have been tireless in their pursuit of innovative teaching methods, ensuring that our students receive a world-class education that prepares them for the complexities of our rapidly changing world. Through collaboration and mutual support, we have created a thriving learning community that is truly transformative.

Finally, we have stretched our collective creativity and curiosity, pushing the boundaries of what is possible. Our classrooms have been vibrant spaces where imagination and critical thinking have flourished. From the arts to the sciences, our students have pursued their passions with dedication and enthusiasm, constantly seeking new ways to express themselves and make a difference. Our community has embraced a culture of inquiry and exploration, fostering a spirit of lifelong learning that extends far beyond the walls of our campus.

As we look back on another year in the UWC movement, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together. Our commitment to living Kurt Hahn's ideals, contributing to the community, honouring Thailand, growing and learning together, and stretching our collective creativity and curiosity has made UWC Thailand a beacon of excellence in education. I am excited to see what the future holds for our community and the impact we will continue to make in the world.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

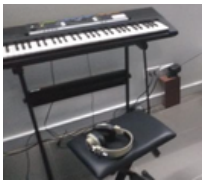
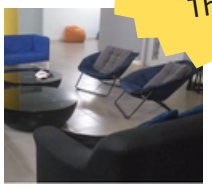
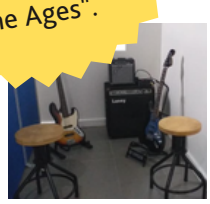
Kru Lural

Lural Ramírez, UWC Thailand Head of School

PHUKET ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS (PAPA)

LIVE
Click here to watch "DISCO Through The Ages".

A year in the life of PAPA at UWC Thailand

In the academic year, PAPA successfully taught 158 students in 162 private lessons and 7 group lessons per week, covering a diverse range of disciplines such as vocals, piano, guitar, bass, ukulele, drums, violin, and saxophone. To accommodate the growing number of students, five new practice cubicles were introduced. A notable achievement was the student recording and performance project, titled "DISCO Through The Ages," where students showcased their talents. The Halloween live show at the Junkyard Theatre was also a highlight, providing a fun and exciting experience for the students. Additionally, throughout the year, students generously donated toys and musical instruments to PAPA's Toys & Instruments for Orphans program, positively impacting the lives of less fortunate children.

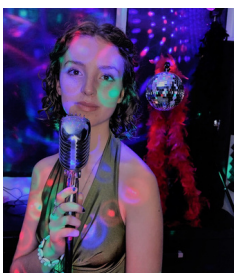





Find PAPA at:

MUSIC4LIFE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME



Click here to watch recordings

The Music4Life Scholarship Program has been running since 2013. During this time we have managed to award 78 scholarships.

You can support a student for a whole year by donating:
- USD 850 / THB 28,120 - 1 x weekly 30 minute music lesson
- USD 1250 / THB 42,180 - 1 x weekly 45 minute music lesson

"For my two years at PAPA, one of which I was on a guitar scholarship, I learned the importance of passion and drive for music which comes from within. I had the chance to learn the importance of dynamics through live performances. I also had the privilege of stepping into the recording studio and recording for the first time! I felt like a creator! PAPA has been a major step in my musical journey, a place and space where I have met many different and greatly talented people. I'll be forever grateful to all the teachers for their belief in me and in music, and their unending enthusiasm."

Katuta Sichlongo

Contact admin@phuketacademyofperformingarts.com for details.



Thank you to our Volunteers, Supporters and Donors

We would like to thank our volunteers, supporters, and donors who joined us at our special Thank You Event. Your presence made the occasion even more meaningful, and we are truly grateful for your unwavering support.

We cannot emphasise enough the significance of your contributions and the impact these have on the success of our students. Your time, talent, and resources have propelled us forward and made a difference in supporting the UWC mission.











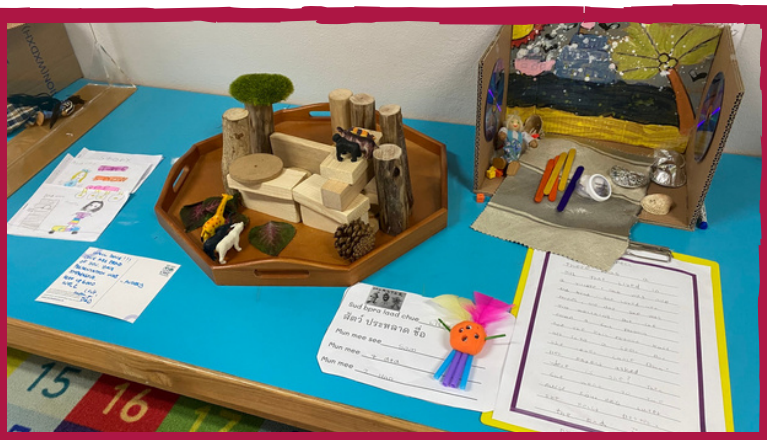
If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand, please contact Nicki, our Chief Advancement Officer: nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th or go to the support us page on our website.



A World of Imagination

Throughout the exhibition, our Grade 1 students confidently took centre stage as they eagerly shared their carefully crafted stories with their parents and teachers. With beaming smiles and animated gestures, they captivated their audience, showcasing the diverse range of storytelling skills they have developed throughout their Grade 1 journey. From heartwarming tales of friendship to thrilling adventures in imaginative worlds, their narratives showcased the limitless creativity of our students. The audience was impressed by their storytelling, reminding us of the power within each of these remarkable students and the beauty of their unique perspectives.

Click here for more photos







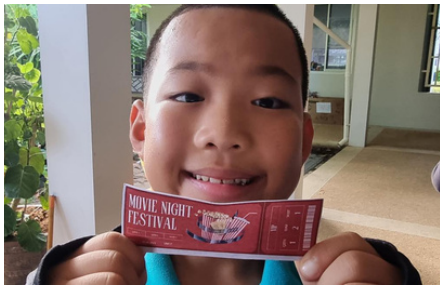


Grade 4 Film Festival

Grade 4 students at UWC Thailand showcased their self-made movies, capturing the essence of UWC values. Through their films, they initiated important discussions on well-being and global sustainability, addressing pressing issues in our lives. The students went above and beyond by transforming our Flex room into a charming cinema and organizing the sale of VIP seat tickets. All proceeds from the event were dedicated to supporting charitable causes, adding to the excitement and impact of the occasion.











Primary Years Exhibition (#PYPX2023)

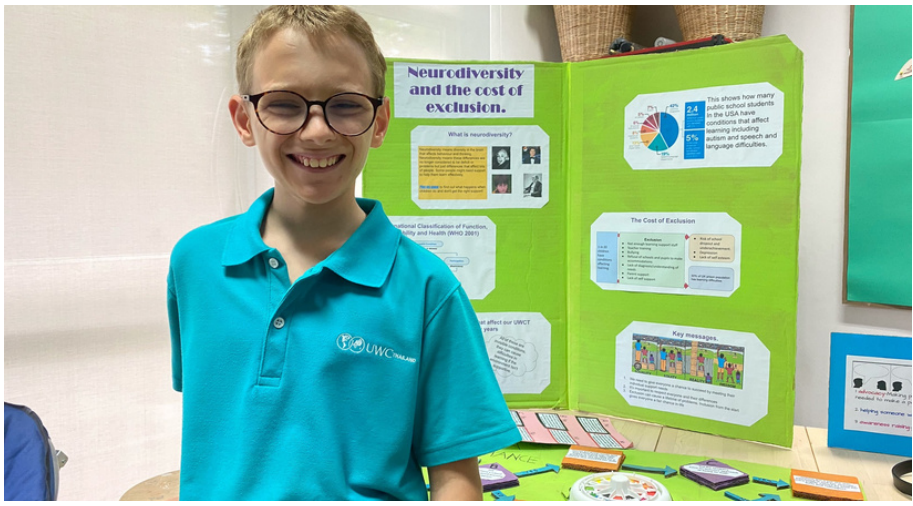
I am a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future!

The Grade 5 Primary Years Programme Exhibition, themed "I am a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future", made a profound impact on peers, staff, and parents alike. Over the period of 12 weeks, our dedicated students embarked on extensive research covering a wide range of topics, including music, fake news, and animal abuse, among others. The culmination of their efforts resulted in a vibrant and impactful showcase of their findings and initiatives.

Congratulations, Grade 5, on your extraordinary exhibition!

"I appreciate how students have an opportunity to conduct in-depth research, which has positively impacted their personal growth. This approach has been more effective than traditional learning methods."

Jean-Michel, parent





"A great sense of community has been created around learning. Kids have had the opportunity to contribute to each other's learning and share their knowledge."

Graham, parent







Click here for more photos











Grade 10 Work Experience Week

Our Grade 10 students had an exhilarating week participating in the Work Experience Initiative. Guided by local professionals, they embarked on a career discovery journey, receiving valuable feedback and refining their resumes. Networking and experiencing a diverse range of professions were emphasized, providing them with insights into the real working world. From real estate firms to restaurants, they were placed in workplaces aligned with their interests, gaining priceless industry insights and essential skills for future careers.

Thank you to all the professionals and local partners who generously shared their expertise and invested their time in guiding and inspiring our students during Work Experience Week.

"My experience at the pharmacy has been immensely enriching and gratifying. Through this experience, I have acquired invaluable expertise in pharmaceuticals and healthcare, reinforcing my conviction in the significance of this vocation."

Subreena, Grade 10 (Singapore)

"Participating in the UWC Thailand Work Experience Initiative was a very rewarding experience. Witnessing Grade 10 students grasping real estate nuances and dynamics highlighted the initiative's capacity to shape perspectives, foster resilience, and equip students for potential careers in the industry and beyond."

James Hutley
Owner & Operating Principal of Keller Williams Phuket,
Mentor, Productivity Coach, and Motivational Speaker

DocuMantaRays

Our grade 6 students showcased their transformative DocuMantaRays at the UWC Thailand 2023 Film Festival, captivating the audience through the power of storytelling. Their films skilfully incorporated music, design, language, and experiential learning, inspiring positive change. By addressing important issues and finding solutions, these films empower students to become global citizens.

We are immensely proud of our talented filmmakers – well done!

LIVE
Click here to watch the 2023 DocuMantaRays.



Leadership and Community Collaboration in Action



UWC Thailand Grade 9 Students' Event Hosting

UWC Thailand grade 9 students demonstrated their leadership skills by organizing a captivating multi-activity event as part of their Experiential Learning class. They hosted students from a local school, 'Baan Pa Klong Cheep,' showcasing their creativity and fostering connections among diverse backgrounds. This event provided an opportunity to appreciate our sense of community and embrace compassionate leadership. Congratulations to all involved!









Moving-on Ceremonies



Our Grade 5 and Grade 10 students had their Moving-on Ceremonies, which signifies their successful transition from our Primary Years Programme (PYP) to Middle Years Programme (MYP), and from Middle Years Programme (MYP) to Diploma Years Programme (DP) respectively in the new academic year.

During the event, students shared their cherished moments together. They recounted their favourite memories and celebrated the friendships they had made throughout their learning journey.

Congratulations to all the Grade 5 and Grade 10 students! We are so proud of you!

Click here for more photos













From Primary Years Programme to Middle Years Programme











From Middle Years Programme to Diploma Programme

Diploma Programme - Group 4 Project

Guest contributor, Subject Area Learning Leader for Science and Mathematics, Geoff Buck, shares his reflections on the collaborative scientific processes inherent to the Group 4 project within the IB programme.

The Grade 11 students recently completed their IB "Group 4 Project," an integral part of the IB science program that emphasises collaboration among students from different science disciplines and fosters an appreciation for real-world scientific cooperation. To explore this concept, we decided to investigate the Phuket rubber production process, drawing inspiration from our local environment.

During the project, the students went on a guided tour of a local rubber farm, where they gained insights into the various stages of rubber production... **Read more.**

> **"It was a lovely experience to see how they made rubber and transported it to other countries. It was nice to come here with friends and make our rubber; we also had experience making it in school."**

Marsela, Grade 11 (Afghanistan)

> **"We have the opportunity to come outside and interact with the things that we learn in classes. I think it's an integral part of education."**

Alexander, Grade 11 (United Kingdom)

Click here for the full article and more photos





















Project Week

Our Grade 11 students recently completed their transformative Project Week, an experience that went beyond traditional classroom boundaries. Some students became teachers, sharing their knowledge and skills with fellow students, while others collaborated with Non-Governmental Organizations to make a positive impact in the local community. Immersed in diverse environments like the Mirror Foundation in Chiang Rai and the floating villages of Koh Panyam and Koh Panyee, students infused purpose and meaning into their endeavours.



"During Project Week at the Mirror Foundation in Chiang Rai, our group built a water station, planted trees, and learned about local farming. I'm so grateful for the trip. Despite many challenges we faced, I gained a deeper understanding of the foundation I worked with, got to know my group members better and bonded with them."

Ornkanya (Jill), Grade 11 (Thailand)







SPORTS ROUND-UP

Manta Runners are first at the finish lines

Congratulations to UWC Thailand's Run Club for their outstanding performance at the 2023 Laguna Phuket Marathon! Each member, from staff to students, showcased their endurance and strength, standing out in their respective age groups. It was a remarkable team effort. Well done to all involved!



"Our athletes' dedication to weekly morning runs, following a progressive structure, contributed to their outstanding performance. The success of the first season validates months of hard work. I am very grateful for this opportunity to witness their growth."

Zane Castro, UWC Thailand Running Coach









UWC Thailand Spirit Day

Our Middle Years Programme students showcased their agility and determination during an action-packed morning of sports competitions on UWC Thailand Spirit Day. With cheers and high spirits, they pushed their limits and displayed remarkable sportsmanship while competing in football, basketball, capture the flag, and ultimate frisbee matches.

Click here for more photos









Manta swimmer Sastika, Grade 11 (Nepal) made waves at the 11th NSA Cup in Kathmandu. She set a national record in the 200m butterfly event with an impressive time of 3:06.45. Sastika also secured second place in the competitive 100m butterfly and earned third place in the 100m backstroke and 400m freestyle events.











UWC Thailand Talent Show

Our students and teachers stole the spotlight at the UWC Thailand Talent Show, an unforgettable occasion filled with soulful melodies, mesmerising dance moves, and entertaining comedy acts. Each performance showcased boundless creativity and incredible talent, captivating the audience with their passion. We applaud all participants for their dedication and hard work, making the Talent Show a resounding success.

Bravo!

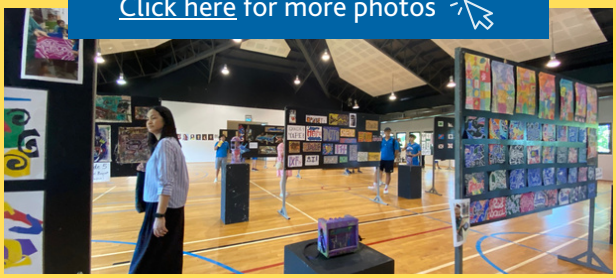
Click here for more photos

Visual Arts Exhibition

The UWC Thailand Visual Arts Exhibition showcased the incredible year-long creative journey of our students. Their colourful paintings, detailed drawings, and sculptures reflected their dedication and artistic growth. With each piece, our young artists expressed themselves uniquely, exploring different styles and materials.

Congratulations to all the talented artists for an exceptional exhibition!

Click here for more photos











Amazing Thailand

The Grade 4 students in Thai Studies class have made impressive progress in their learning journey. With this project, they have taken ownership of their studies, conducting independent research and preparing presentations based on their own inspirations. It's delightful to see their enthusiasm and enjoyment for learning. The fact that they can share their knowledge and experiences with the wider community is truly commendable.











#UWCThailandGreatTeacher



Kru Srisuphak Boonbongkarn and Kru Saruta Paothong received the Certificate of Recognition for 'Outstanding Teacher of the Year in Private School' presented by the Ministry of Education.

We are incredibly proud and fortunate to have you as our teachers at UWC Thailand! Congratulations!

"Life is a journey made up of various stages. When you successfully complete a difficult phase, happiness and success tend to follow. Reflecting upon these challenges, you'll be amazed by the amount of effort you've expended."

Srisuphak Boonbongkarn, UWC Thailand Thai Teacher