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THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE

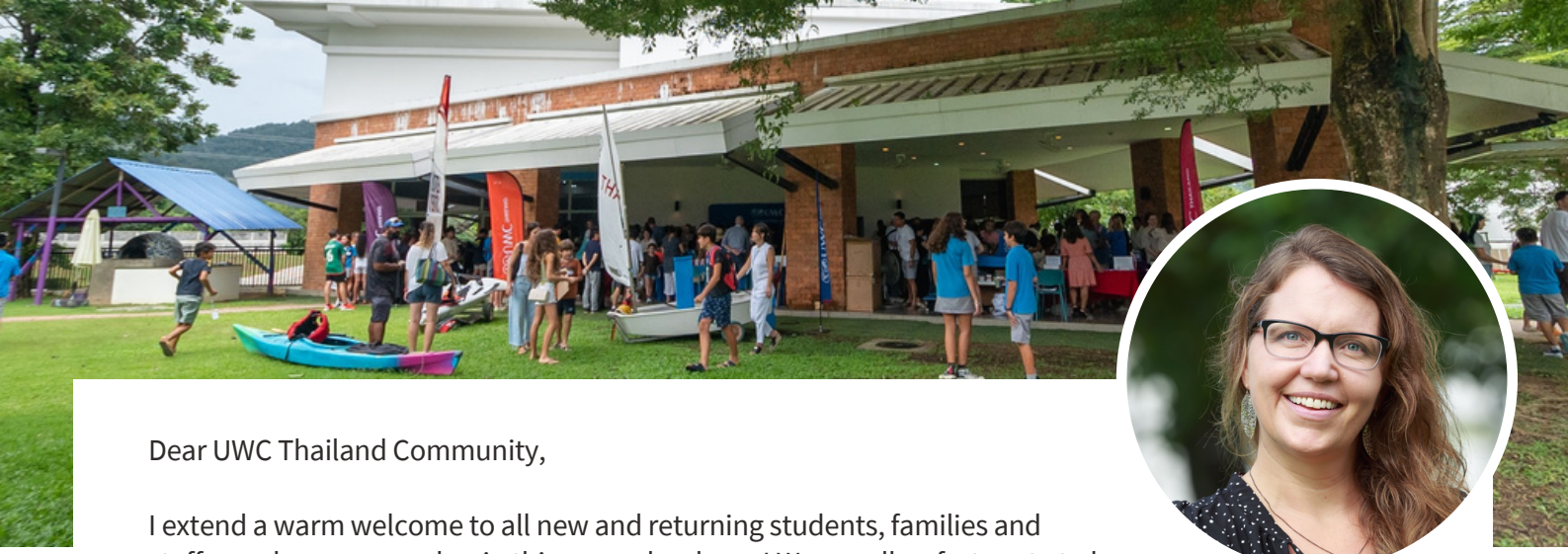


Welcome to a new year at UWC Thailand

Welcome to a new chapter of growth, learning, and unity at UWC Thailand International School! As we embark on another year of exploration and collaboration, we are thrilled to welcome both familiar faces and new members to our vibrant community. At UWC Thailand, we believe in the transformative power of diversity, curiosity, and shared experiences. As we navigate this new year together, let us embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, fostering a culture of understanding, empathy, and global citizenship. Here's to a year filled with academic excellence, personal development, and meaningful connections!

> **"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."**
>
> Nelson Mandela, Late Honorary President, UWC

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media



Dear UWC Thailand Community,

I extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students, families and staff members as we usher in this new school year! We are all so fortunate to be a part of the UWC movement, as we work together to fulfil **our mission to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.**

I extend an invitation to you to really embrace our mission this year!
If you don't already, please consider...

- Spending as much time as you can outdoors.
- Committing to daily mindfulness practice.
- Finding a way you can help others regularly...in big or small ways.
- Trying something new or working at something you are not good at yet.

We strive within our UWC mandate to work for peace, for sustainability and for unity across difference and that is an important and needed focus. But, let's also take care please in the way we frame this incredible opportunity we are presented with. How does our perspective change when what **"we have to do"**, instead is thought of as what **"we get to do"**? You will be happier and others, by extension, will benefit from your positive and constructive outlook, when you see your framing of the world as a choice and then decide to see that choice in the very best of lights.

Join me in that effort and let's have a **joyous, impactful and unprecedented year!**

Kru Lural

Lural Ramírez, UWC Thailand Head of School





If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand International School, please contact Nicki, our Director of Philanthropy and Strategic Initiatives: nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th or go to the support us page on our website.

UWC THAILAND





Embracing a Vibrant Community

UWC Thailand is excited to welcome 19 new teachers to our community this year!
These talented individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that will bolster and strengthen our programming. The school campus has been buzzing with activity as we greeted our new colleagues, who were warmly welcomed by our school leadership team and all members of our community, and stewarded through an impactful week of orientation activities and an introduction to the wonderful life that our beautiful island of Phuket offers to its residents.







Our new team members come from a variety of backgrounds and have a wide range of experiences, from teaching in international schools around the world to working in specialised areas of education. This diversity of experiences will enrich our community and help us to provide a more well-rounded and comprehensive education to our students.

During the orientation week, the new teachers participated in a series of activities designed to familiarise them with the school's values, culture, and expectations. They also had the opportunity to meet and bond with their new colleagues and to explore the beautiful surroundings of Phuket. We believe that a strong sense of community and a supportive work environment are key to the success of our staff and, in turn, our students.

As we settle into the new academic year, we are confident that our new teachers will make a significant and positive impact on our school community. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, and passion for teaching will help us to further our mission of providing a world-class education to our students. We are looking forward to a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

To our new teachers, we extend a warm welcome and our heartfelt gratitude for choosing to be a part of the UWC Thailand community. **We are thrilled to have you on board and look forward to working together to make this school year the best one yet!**









New Family Orientation

The New Family Orientation brought a multitude of fresh faces to our campus just as the school year began. It was a special event when our new students, accompanied by their parents and guardians, had the opportunity to meet our leadership team, staff, and teachers. Through a well-organised programme, they had the chance to ask questions, gain insights into our curriculum, and take a tour of the school.

What made the event even more special was the wonderful group of current parents and students who played an important role in guiding and warmly welcoming new families to our community.

Seeing all these new faces around campus made us happy and excited.
A heartfelt welcome to the UWC Thailand Family!

145 new students this semester

Click here for more photos









The Science of Reading

The first workshop of our Parent Coffee Mornings series, "The Science of Reading," aimed to explore childrens' reading development and provide essential guidance to parents. Led by Kru Caryl, Kru Rebecca, and Kru Holly, the sessions highlighted the significance of phonemic awareness and native language support in early learning, while also equipping parents of older students with effective reading strategies.











"As an Early Years teacher, it is crucial to educate the parents about the Science of Reading and the building blocks of reading. Involving them in their child's learning journey and providing them with information based on the current studies will empower them to support their child's literacy development."

Caryl Medilo Crisóstomo,
UWC Thailand Early Years Programme Learning Leader and Kindergarten Teacher

Maths Challenge

Ma Ruam Gun Math Games

Our grade 4 students launched the 'Ma Ruam Gun Math Games,' immersing themselves in thrilling math challenges that promote essential skills while fostering positivity and enjoyment. The first few weeks focus on numeracy, particularly exploring the concept of place value. Students have been actively using standard form numbers, expanded form, and honing their ability to read larger numbers. Additionally, they eagerly participated in the inaugural Math Games morning, excitedly engaging with a variety of games spanning addition/subtraction recall facts, multiplication/division recall facts, decimals, place value, and word problems.













Middle Years Programme Orientation Day

Our Middle Years Programme students kicked off their school year with an exciting Orientation Day.

The students dived into a range of activities that enhanced essential skills like communication, self-management, critical thinking, social bonding, research capabilities, and maintaining balance. These skills will help them to confidently confront the challenges presented by the Middle Years Curriculum and beyond.





> **"At our Orientation Day, teachers and students came together to develop skills in communication, self-management, thinking, and social bonding. They showcased their learner profile as enthusiastic learners, thinkers, communicators, and caring individuals. It was a day of exploration, laughter, and connection, aimed at starting the year with the right mindset of growth and joy."**

Emma Neuprez,
UWC Thailand Middle Years Programme Coordinator









Global Experience

Our National Committee students play a pivotal role in cultivating deliberate diversity within our community. These students bring a rich tapestry of cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives to our campus, enhancing the global learning experience that UWC stands for. Their presence enriches classroom discussions, broadens horizons, and fosters a deep sense of mutual understanding.

This year, we are fortunate to welcome 50 new National Committee and Global Selection Programme students to UWC Thailand.

"It is with great excitement and gratitude that I find myself a newly enrolled student at UWC Thailand. The opportunity to be part of such a dynamic and supportive network fills me with a sense of honour. I will use this opportunity in the best possible way."

Tahmina,
Grade 11 (Afghanistan)

Confluence

Some of our dedicated board members, teachers, and enthusiastic staff got together with our grade 11 and 12 students for "Confluence" – an intentional gathering that goes beyond a mere dinner event.

Confluence serves as a purposeful platform uniting our Diploma Programme students and the broader community, emphasising the importance of forging meaningful connections and fostering a strong sense of belonging within the UWC movement. During Confluence, everyone shared personal stories and experiences to convey culture, history, and values that bind us together and promote deeper understanding.

Click here for more photos









Connecting and Growing

Reflections on Orientation Week at UWC Thailand

Orientation stood as an exciting starting point for Grade 11 students at UWC Thailand, marking the initiation of their two-year Diploma Programme. This week provided an opportunity for new acquaintances and familiar faces to converge, forming connections and immersing themselves in the diverse experiences that lie ahead.

With the return of school-based students and the addition of fresh newcomers, an atmosphere of anticipation and eagerness enveloped the campus. The overarching aim of Orientation Week was clear: to foster connections between students and staff while acquainting them with the vibrant culture of Thailand.

The itinerary was filled with activities infused with Thai language and culture sessions offering students a glimpse into the rich heritage of Thai traditions. Moments of down time were also embedded, enabling students to reflect and practice mindfulness – a skill poised to accompany them through their journey.

Beyond cultural immersion, the week was punctuated with practical sessions. Students were equipped with insights into the technology they would require and most importantly they enjoyed the DP subject carousel which exposed them to the array of subjects they would encounter, providing a clearer understanding of the academic landscape ahead.

The highlight of Orientation Week was the three-day camp. For some, these adventures were familiar territory; for others, they marked exciting new forays. Regardless of rain or shine, students embarked on hikes, navigated waters via kayaks, and shared tales around campfires. These shared experiences kindled connections that will inevitably shape their experiences at UWC Thailand.

Amidst laughter and learning, lasting memories were forged.

Click here for more photos






















UWC Thailand's Grade 12 Leaders Inspire Grade 11

Empowering Growth Through Student-Led Initiatives

Heidi Oxley-Whitnell,
UWC Thailand Creativity, Activity & Service Coordinator,
and Secondary Physical Education Teacher

The energy in our school was buzzing as the new academic year kicked off, with grade 12 leaders taking the spotlight to introduce their student-led co-curricular programmes to the incoming grade 11 class. This event wasn't just a showcase of their initiatives; it fostered inspiration among the grade 11 students, encouraging them to step up and participate in this remarkable journey.

Our grade 12 leaders are genuinely exceptional. They've embarked on initiatives that stretch well beyond the confines of the classroom. From sustainability projects aimed at shrinking our ecological footprint to artistic explorations that explore the breadth of creative expression, these students embody the UWC mission and are agents of change. But their contributions don't stop there. They've also wholeheartedly embraced service initiatives, giving back to the community, and have established platforms for leadership, empowering others to take the reins of their futures.

As we celebrate these emerging leaders, we warmly invite our grade 11 students to join the IB CAS pilot programme. This programme presents a distinctive chance to align co-curricular activities with the core values of UWC, fostering personal growth, global consciousness, and a dedication to service. It's an opportunity for them to plunge headfirst into novel prospects, unearth talents, and contribute to the vibrant UWC Thailand community.

As a community, it's our shared responsibility to amplify their voices, nurture their visions, and carry forward the tradition of crafting positive change in unison. By doing so, we affirm that our school remains a haven where innovation, leadership, and service are not mere ideals but rather living, breathing realities.

Click here to learn more about our Service projects



2023 UWC THAILAND SUMMER CAMP RECAP



The UWC Thailand Summer Camps of 2023 provided a diverse range of activities, brought students together, and offered unforgettable experiences that will be cherished for years to come.

Through workshops, activities, and small projects, participants had the opportunity to delve into their passions and unearth new interests. It was a summer filled with growth, friendship, and learning.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this year's Summer Camps unforgettable.





" The 2023 UWC Thailand Summer Camp was a great experience. Seeing our students grow, learn, and form bonds was heartening. Their enthusiasm and dedication made it a memorable event. I am confident that the skills and friendships developed here will serve them well in the future."

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



Click here for more photos







SPORTS ROUND-UP

Empowerment Through Strength

Engaging in school-sponsored, pre-season workouts, our students had the incredible opportunity to enhance their physical ability through activities such as running, body balance techniques, and stretches. These dynamic exercises not only boosted their energy and prepared them for the diverse range of sports offered at our school but also got them thinking about the principles of a well-rounded body—both physically and mentally.







Indian Ocean Island Games

Een, grade 11 (Maldives), is off to Madagascar to represent Maldives National Swim Team at the Indian Ocean Island Games.
Good luck Een!

Sport tryouts for the new season

Our sports department hosted tryouts for basketball, football, volleyball and swimming as a way to kick off this sports season. These sessions highlighted both individual talents and the importance of teamwork. Basketball, volleyball and football tryouts showcased personal skills while our students who participated in swimming tryouts demonstrated agility and technique in the pool.







The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

PERFORMING ARTS

School Choir

Join our vibrant Community Choir led by Kru Frederick. All – parents, teachers, staff, alum, and alum parents – are welcome!

Contact: Kru Frederick

MANTA PTA

Community Potluck

We're having a potluck at the canteen! Bring a dish, mats, and eco-friendly utensils. Friday, 1 September, 3:30 pm.

Contact: Manta PTA

ATHLETICS

ASAC Senior Volleyball

Hosting nine international schools, UWC Thailand's first international sports event takes place 29 September to 1 October. Don't miss it!

Contact: Kru Kerstin

COMMUNITY

Coffee Mornings

Share a morning coffee (or tea) while you learn, engage and question various topics. Check the school calendar for meeting dates. All welcome!

PERFORMING ARTS

High School Musical Jr.

All parents! We are seeking volunteers to join our production team for High School Musical. Costumes, sets, hair & makeup.

Contact: Manta PTA

BOARDING

Host Family Presentation

Come and learn about our amazing host family programme. Wednesday, 6 September, Boarding House Lounge, 8:15 am

Contact: Nicki and Tapiwa

MANTA PTA

Community Weekend

Join us for the first Community Weekend of the 2023/24 academic year. 22 to 23 September at the Boarding House.

Contact: Manta PTA

CURRICULUM

UWC Day

Get involved in the global celebration of UWC Day 2023 under the theme of "Shaping a Sustainable Future" on 21 September.

Contact: Kru Heidi

MANTA PTA

Table Top Sale

The first Table Top Sale of the 2023/24 academic year led by our dedicated Manta PTA. Friday, 22 September, 2:30 pm.

Contact: Manta PTA