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THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



> **"My dream would be a multicultural society, one that is diverse and where every man, woman and child is treated equally. I dream of a world where all people of all races work together in harmony."**
>
> **Nelson Mandela**, Late Honorary President, UWC

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media



Board Retreat at UWC Thailand

As we begin a new academic year amidst a series of updates and transformations, the UWC Thailand School Board has undergone restructuring. We express our deep respect and gratitude to the outgoing Board Chair, Nicola Upham, whose outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment have indelibly shaped our school. Nicola, while stepping down as Chair, will continue her valuable role as a Board member.

As we bid farewell to Nicola's role as Chair, we extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome our new Chair, Carma Elliot, as she assumes the helm of our school's governance. Carma brings a wealth of experience to this pivotal role, having previously served as the President of UWCSEA in Singapore and as a distinguished member of the UWC International Board. She will be capably supported by Co-Vice Chairs, Charlotte Meyer and Sonia Tay, ensuring a seamless transition and the continuation of the board's vital work.

Recently, the School Board convened for their first board retreat under the new structure. Over the course of a few days, board members engaged in thoughtful discussions and collectively charted a path toward an even brighter future for UWC Thailand.

UWC Thailand School Board:

- **Carma Elliot**
  - Board Chair and Chair of the Steering Committee
- **Charlotte Meyer**
  - Co-Vice Chair and Chair of the Governance Committee
- **Sonia Tay**
  - Co-Vice Chair and Chair of Engagement Committee
- **Nicola Upham** - Board Member
- **Lister Hannah** - Board Member
- **Andrew Miller**
  - Board Member and Chair of Finance Committee
- **Kanokwan Ongborirukkul (Kru Pum)**
  - Board Member
- **Len Peters** - Board Member
- **Phatcharaphorn Phermkaew (Kru Yui)**
  - Board Member and School Director

- **Pranat Laohapairoj** - Board Advisor
- **Lural Ramírez** - Head of School

[PHOTO] UWC Thailand School Board: *Back row from left;* Carma Elliot, Lural Ramírez (Head of UWC Thailand), Nicola Upham, Len Peters, Pranat Laohapairoj (Board Advisor), Lister Hannah. *Front row from left;* Andrew Miller, Kanokwan Ongborirukkul, Phatcharaphorn Phermkaew, Sonia Tay, Charlotte Meyer.

UWC Thailand proudly hosts its first International Sports Tournament!







At the very beginning of October, UWC Thailand was abuzz with excitement, pride, and the unmistakable spirit of competition as we hosted our inaugural international tournament as official members of the ASEAN Sports and Activities Conference (ASAC).

During a three-day tournament, nine schools and 18 teams came together and spent a weekend that will be well remembered by all. With the support of Kerstin Bender, our Director of Sport, Activities, and Camps, we've compiled the following list of highlights:

- Over **180 participants, including 40 support staff and 30 referees** from four South-East Asian countries, joined our campus for the tournament.
- We welcomed a local team from **Phuket Wittayalai School** to the tournament.
- The tournament witnessed **remarkable support, particularly from our boarding students**, who turned out in large numbers.
- Beyond the athletic competitions, the event emphasised sportsmanship, promoting **connections, mutual respect, and cultural exchange**.
- Many **new friendships** were formed.
- **The UWC Thailand girls team's strong game and unwavering determination secured them the third place.**



























Congratulations to all who participated in the tournament; your dedication and sportsmanship made this event truly memorable. Here's to many more thrilling tournaments and cherished memories!



Click here for the full article and more photos









October Camps





October Camps 2023 were a delightful mix of fun, laughter, and learning, where our students engaged in a wide array of activities, from **dancing and fitness training to basketball, football, and sailing.** These experiences allowed them to acquire new skills, boost their confidence, and form lasting friendships.

> **"The camp is a great place for young students to learn perseverance, self-motivation, and other skills such as muscle tone, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. It is also a place where students can freely express their love for dance and their unique style."**

Debbie Mahinay, UWC Thailand Dance Coach

Click here for more photos

Plastic Free Phuket



In the past month, UWC Thailand bid farewell to **Governor Narong Wooncliew**, a staunch supporter of our Plastic Free Phuket initiative as he prepares to retire at the end of this month. His unwavering dedication and support of our mission to combat plastic pollution in Phuket were instrumental in our journey towards a sustainable, plastic-free future for Phuket.

Throughout our efforts, we were fortunate to have Governor Narong's enthusiastic backing for the **Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban**. His participation in seminars and discussions with leaders in the environmental sector added credibility to our cause and inspired others to join us. As we bid farewell to Governor Narong, we express our heartfelt gratitude for his contributions and remain committed to our mission to create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Phuket.

Khob Khun Ka



Adventure at Old Phuket Farm

Our Kindergarten students embarked on an exciting educational adventure at the Old Phuket Farm, where they explored the world of traditional agriculture and Thai cuisine.

Through hands-on experiences, they planted rice in the paddy fields, discovered the intricate process of rice production from farm to table, and milled and sifted rice. They also explored rubber tree tapping and the transformation of latex into everyday items. In addition to learning about agriculture, the students had the opportunity to create delicious Thai dishes, including coconut milk and curry, and enjoyed tasting butterfly pea tea, coconut sticky rice, and fresh pineapple. It was a fun and enriching experience that connected them to the rich history and culture of Phuket.








Click here to see a video

Self-taught Language

The Multilingual Mosaic

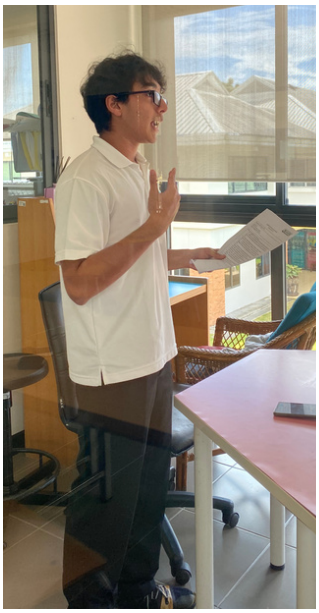
The International Baccalaureate (IB) programme at UWC Thailand places a strong emphasis on international-mindedness and the holistic development of students. A core component of this educational approach is the requirement for all IB students to learn at least two languages. The first language is generally the language of instruction or the student's mother tongue, while the second language offers a unique opportunity for students to explore a language that interests them or holds personal relevance.

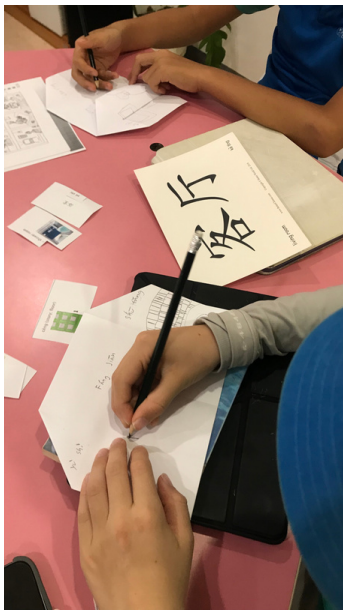
This encouragement of self-taught languages not only empowers students to take greater control of their educational journey but also instills valuable life skills such as self-direction and personal responsibility. Learning a self-taught language further aligns with the IB's mission to cultivate intercultural awareness and respect. It enables students to deeply engage with cultures that personally intrigue them, thereby broadening their horizons and developing a more global perspective.

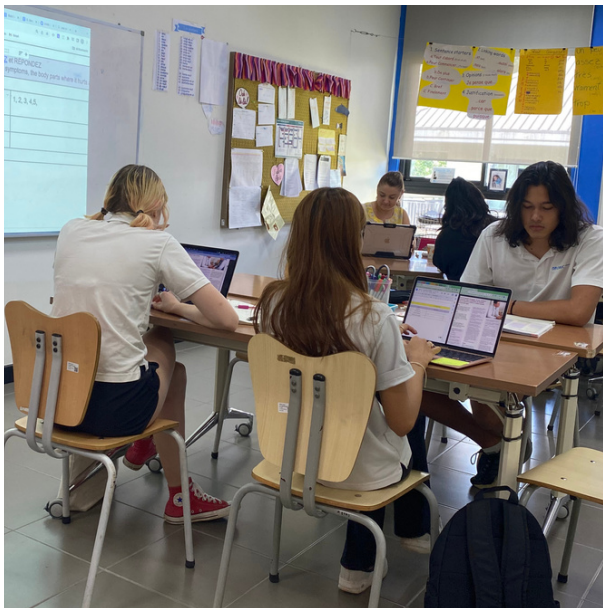
At UWC Thailand, while the primary language of instruction is English, we have an impressive linguistic diversity among our students. In our Diploma Programme, 51 students have opted for Self-taught Language A courses, embracing a wide range of languages from Serbian and Russian to Persian and Nepali, among others. In addition to nurturing their mother tongues, these students delve into the literature and language of their chosen language, enriching their educational experience.

Moreover, our Language ab initio class currently has 44 students learning Chinese, Spanish, or French, further testament to the linguistic diversity and global mindset encouraged at UWC Thailand.
In reinforcing the value of lifelong learning, the pursuit of self-taught languages perfectly encapsulates the IB programme's philosophy that education is not confined to the classroom but continues throughout one's life.

For a closer look at the linguistic diversity of our students, **click here to watch the video** where you can listen to some of the languages spoken by our student body.







Exploring local language and culture

The Middle Years Programme at UWC Thailand offers a Thai study course that immerses students in the vibrance of Thai culture. Through a diverse range of interactive activities, students cultivate an appreciation for Thai culture, and establish meaningful connections within the local Thai community.

This programme places an emphasis on encouraging cultural appreciation and facilitating intercultural connection. As an example, grade 9 students actively took part in the "Selfie Activity," a collaborative group project that challenged them to engage with Thai staff members and complete various missions while learning to communicate in Thai.







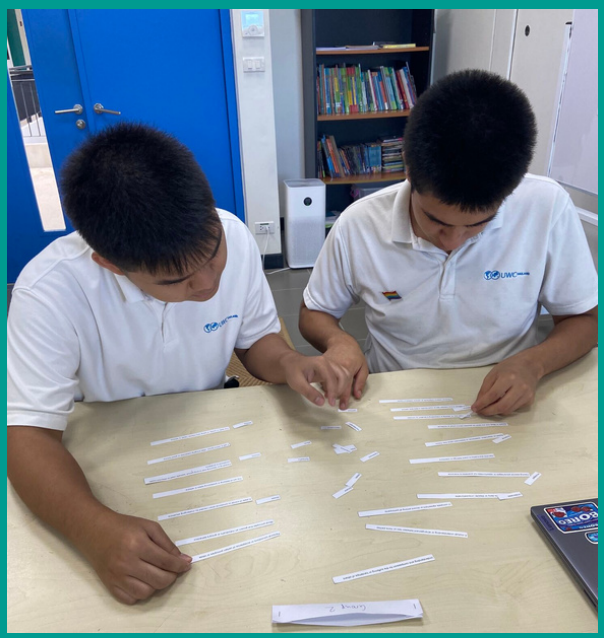


Vocabulary... but make it fun!

In the Language B (Higher Level) English class, our grade 11 students resumed their lessons after the October break with a vocabulary review activity. They engaged in a mix and match game in groups of three, encouraging English conversation and discussions. This activity enabled them to practice and enrich their vocabulary without experiencing significant academic pressure.

"Some educators might think that at grade 11, students are 'too old' for games and should be studying vocabulary independently. It is my belief, however, that we are never too old for fun and that by engaging in interactive and social activities, learning is actually enhanced."

Cara Templeton,
UWC Thailand English Language Acquisition Specialist







Exploring Thailand with a Purpose

During the October break, our grade 11 and 12 students set out on Student-Initiated Trips in Thailand with a distinct mission: to explore, connect, and make a meaningful impact on local communities. They divided into groups and engaged with various Non-Government Organisations (NGO) and initiatives, including **Earth Home in Chiang Mai, Yaowawit School in Phang Nga, All for Village in Koh Panyam, and Seeds of Change in Phuket**. Going beyond the role of traditional tourists, these students became educators and mentors, sharing their knowledge and skills to bring about positive change within these communities.







Click here for more photos









Primary Years Literacy Activities

Grade 3 literacy activities are designed to benefit students in many ways. English Language Acquisition teachers help students read and write words, while classroom teachers guide students in reading class novels. While Learning Support teachers focus on handwriting, other teachers support creative writing.

These activities promote active listening, comprehension, critical thinking, fine motor skills, and letter recognition. They create a holistic learning experience that equips students with essential skills for effective communication and future academic success.









Alum UK Meet-up and the IB Global Conference

Two ends of the same thread

Jonathan Field, UWC Thailand Secondary School Principal

> *Remember that time I took hotel slippers, added loads of Duct tape to the back and claimed they were closed-toe shoes…"*
>
> *Remember those three months locked down in the boarding house – and how much fun it was to be locked together with all our friends…"*
>
> *Remember that time on Project Week…. Oh, Kru Jon maybe we shouldn't tell you that story…"*

The UWC Thailand alumni meet-up in London was full of snippets of much longer stories. It was a gathering full of joy at seeing each other and sharing old stories, of laughter at collective experiences at UWC Thailand that span graduating classes, and a sense of gratitude that although many of our alum are at university (and some have graduated and have jobs) they all share a deep appreciation of their experiences with us.

The IB Global Heads conference in Dublin the week before the alumni meet-up was another chance to meet up with colleagues old and new from across the world. To share stories, ideas, and hopes for... **Read more.**



UWC Thailand Head of School, Lural Ramírez, and Secondary Principal, Jonathan Field, a the IB Global Conference and Heads World Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

> **"As a global community, it is so important that we are all involved in the conversation. Not just around diversity, equity and inclusion. But also, in seeking answers to the questions raised by the use of new technologies and of course the importance of sustainability and how all of this can contribute to brighter futures."**

Olli-Pekka Heinonen, IB Director General

If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand, 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





Emotions & Empathy

> **Empathy is a respectful understanding of what others are experiencing.**

Marshall B. Rosenberg, American psychologist, mediator, author and teacher

Mindfulness class for parents

In October, our Head of Mindfulness, Julia, introduced a new course for parents, available in both English and Chinese. This mid-week programme provides a welcome break for our community members to practice mindfulness, helping them pause, breathe, and cultivate compassionate awareness. The course covers a range of mindfulness practices, from basic concepts to guided meditation and mindful movements, including Zhineng Qigong.











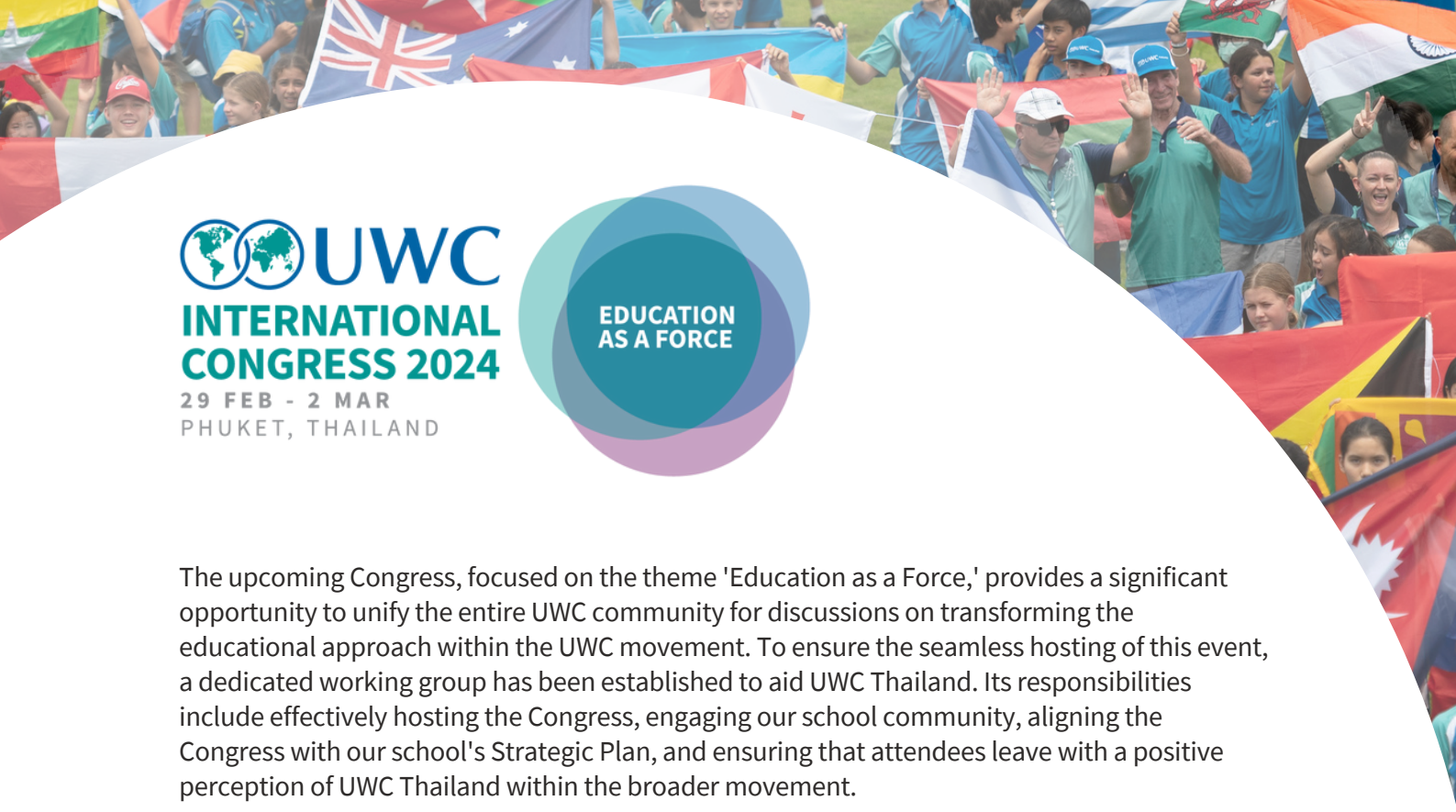




Phuket Discovery Tour

The Manta Parent-Teacher Association's recent 'Phuket Discovery Tour' was another resounding success!

The tour group set off to explore the Big Buddha's historical significance and enjoyed breathtaking views from Khao Rang in Phuket Town. They then relished a Michelin-rated Thai meal at Tu Kab Khao Restaurant and explored Phuket Town's Sino-Portuguese architecture.



UWC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2024
29 FEB - 2 MAR
PHUKET, THAILAND

EDUCATION AS A FORCE

The upcoming Congress, focused on the theme 'Education as a Force,' provides a significant opportunity to unify the entire UWC community for discussions on transforming the educational approach within the UWC movement. To ensure the seamless hosting of this event, a dedicated working group has been established to aid UWC Thailand. Its responsibilities include effectively hosting the Congress, engaging our school community, aligning the Congress with our school's Strategic Plan, and ensuring that attendees leave with a positive perception of UWC Thailand within the broader movement.

The UWC Thailand Congress Working Group consists of the following people:

Staff members

1. Lural Ramírez, Head of School
2. Nicki Robertson, Director of Philanthropy and Strategic Initiatives
3. Wambui Karenju, Secondary Teacher
4. Demeke Wondmagegn, Secondary Teacher
5. Kelsey Petersen, Comprehensive Counsellor
6. Laurie Stone, Comprehensive Counsellor
7. Claire Hutley, Senior Marketing & Communications Manager
8. Julia Feste, Head of Mindfulness

Student members

1. Lazar (grade 11, Serbia)
2. Ahmed (grade 11, Libya)
3. Doris (grade 11, China)
4. Isabel (grade 11, USA / Tanzania / Italy)
5. Mia (grade 11, United Kingdom)
6. Rabab (grade 11, Sudan)

Parent members

1. Katie Corner, Manta PTA Core
2. Marina Gorodetskaya, Manta PTA Ambassador Lead
3. Michelle Evans
4. Melinda Briend-Marchal
5. Amy Yuting Qian
6. Christina Lee, former Manta PTA Core Team
7. Yulia Sinelshchikova
8. Andrew Cunningham

Board member

1. Charlotte Meyer, School Board Co-Vice Chair

The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

ATHLETICS

UWC Runs

From Friday, 3 November at 6:30 am at Thanyapura's Running Track. Every Friday up until the December Break. Lace up your running shoes and join us!

Contact: Kru Kerstin

COMMUNITY

Regional Week

Join us for African, American, and Middle Eastern Culture Week from 6-10 November. Explore and celebrate these diverse cultures with our community!

Contact: Khun Tapiwa

STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES

24-Hour Race

From 13-14 January at Thanyapura Track. Run, jog, walk, or cartwheel to the finish line! Benefits NGOs working to end slavery. More details will be released soon.

PRIMARY

PISAC Primary Cross Country Championships

Wednesday, 1 November
From 3:45 – 5:45 pm
at British International School Phuket.

Contact: Kru Kerstin

Community

Lost & Found

Unclaimed lost and found items will be donated monthly. Check the lost and found outside the administration building to recover your belongings.

STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES

Plastic Free Phuket

Next beach clean-up: Saturday 4 November, 4:30 - 6:00 pm, Nai Thon with Team B.
Bring water bottle and tupperware for food and drinks afterwards.

Contact: Plastic Free Phuket

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Grade 4 & 5 Camps

Grade 5: 13-17 November at Thai Mueang National Park, Phang Nga.

Grade 4: 21-24 November at Spirit Mountain, Krabi

Contact: Kru Rob

MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness class for parents

On Wednesdays, we discover the benefits of mindfulness through the theme 'Introduction to different mindfulness practices'.

Contact: Kru Julia

COMMUNITY

Counsellors Coffee Morning

On Tuesday, 7 November, 8:00 - 9:00 am. Ask questions, meet the team, learn about Social Emotional Learning. All parents welcome.

Contact: Kru Aleka