ISSUE NO.25 / NOVEMBER 2023

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Photograph courtesy of Henry Tao, grade 5 parent.

"Let us stand together to make of our world a sustainable source for our future as humanity on this planet."

Nelson Mandela, Late Honorary President, UWC

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media









Loy Krathong Festival

The UWC Thailand community joyfully embraced the annual Loy Krathong festival, a nationwide celebration dedicated to honouring the Goddess of Water and the Buddha. Our campus was alive and welcoming as our students, staff, and parents adorned vibrant Thai costume c

Throughout the day, each student crafted their krathong, a beautifully decorated floating vessel, which they later released into the water during our Loy Krathong ceremony. The festivities included captivating dance performances, a delightful spread of Thai food, and a Thai play led by our grade 4 students.

It was indeed a day of joy for all of us at UWC Thailand, as we came together to celebrate and embrace Thai culture.



Click here for more photos

















Regional Week

Africa, The Americas, and Middle Eastern Cultures

Regional Week started with Sub-Saharan Africa Day, a kaleidoscope of colours and patterns showcasing the rich heritage of our students from the region. Traditional attire became a symbol of connection to our roots, a testament to our pride in our countries and cultures, and a means to share our unique traditions with one another.

As the week continued, we explored North America Day, savouring deep-fried Oreos and immersing ourselves in the sounds and colours of the continent. Our culinary journey then took us through the flavours of North Africa, where students prepared and shared authentic dishes, nurturing a sense of togetherness through the communal joy of food. Soon after, we celebrated Latin America Day, embracing its vibrant culture through dance, music, piñata, and a feast of traditional dishes.

These events have embodied our ethos of embracing diversity, exploring heritage, and encouraging a close-knit global community.





Click here to see a video about Sub-Saharan Africa Day.

Click here to see a video about North Africa Day.

Click here for more photos





Call to Earth Day

UWC Thailand consistently contributes to the global **#CalltoEarthDay** initiative, aiming to enhance the environment that surrounds us. Through initiatives such as mangrove planting, beach clean-ups, and support for wildlife conservation like the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project, we aim to instill a sense of responsibility and environmental consciousness in our students.

These actions reflect UWC Thailand's commitment to fostering a sustainable and healthier planet for all!

Beach clean-up

Layan Beach

Grade 4 students demonstrated remarkable dedication as they tirelessly collected a substantial amount of litter, including bottle caps, glass bottles, foam, lighters, flip-flops, sandals, shoes, clothing, rope, and chip bags. Their efforts successfully led to the removal of a significant quantity of trash.

For a closer look at this activity, click here to watch the video.









Gibbon Rehabilitation Project

Grade 11 and 12 students dedicate their Sunday afternoons to the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project, actively participating in essential weekly maintenance tasks in line with the global call for environmental responsibility. In addition to their volunteer efforts, these committed students are undertaking a significant long-term project, creating informative signs and brochures for the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project to introduce the gibbon rehabilitation process.

Mangrove planting

1. **Collecting mangrove seed pods**

   UWC Thailand's Mangrove and Gardening Club collect mangrove seed pods in the Paklok area for the school's mangrove nursery.

2. **Nurturing mangrove seed pods**

   By ensuring optimal water properties and a conducive growing environment, the Mangrove and Gardening Club is facilitating the transformation of seed pods into mature saplings ready for replanting in a suitable location.

3. **Planting mangrove saplings**

   Grade 1 students, accompanied by their grade 10 buddies and staff, planted mangrove saplings in an area on Phuket Island where the mangrove population was scarce.

Click here for more photos

Literacy Workshop

What is the likely progression of a reader? How do you know? So what? Now what?

Our primary school was privileged to welcome Tonya Gilchrist, a literacy expert with both an International Baccalaureate (IB) Certificate in Leadership Practice and an IB Advanced Certificate in Leadership Research, for a transformative visit!

During Tonya's visit, our teachers and primary students participated in learning lab sites, which included demonstration lessons, and literacy workshops. The workshops brought a wealth of knowledge and recent research evidence to our educators, enhancing their expertise in reading instruction. The goal of the workshops was to provide our teachers with the tools and insights they need to support our students on their reading journey.









Click here for more photos







Wheels Day

Filled with excitement, our Early Years Programme students practised self-management skills, prioritising safety and understanding the importance of wearing helmets while cycling.

They demonstrated their gross motor skills with finesse, showcasing their growing confidence and mastery. Wheels Day not only promotes healthy exercise but also creates a sense of community and encourages the development of new skills.





Click here for more photos

Grade 4 and 5 Outdoor Camps

Grade 5 students embarked on an enriching camping trip to Thai Mueang National Park, fostering strong bonds and a connection to the outdoors. Engaging in activities such as hiking, biking, kayaking, and immersing in Thai culture, they developed teamwork, problem-solving skills, and a deeper appreciation for nature.

Meanwhile, **Grade 4 students enjoyed a fantastic adventure at Spirit Mountain, Ao Nang.** Their activities centred around teamwork, environmental awareness, and outdoor exploration, including learning about permaculture, composting, and outdoor survival. The experience included exploring the mangrove ecosystem, participating in mangrove planting, and culminated in an invigorating hike to Tiger Temple.



















Click here for more photos









The Parent-Alumni Career Exploration Network Fair

The Parent-Alumni Career Exploration Network (PACE) hosted a career fair for our grade 11 students. The event, structured in a casual table-talk format, provided students with the opportunity to engage in conversations with diverse community members about various professions. It allowed them to learn about different career paths and understand that careers often take non-linear trajectories.

Thank you to all community members who participated in this fair and spent the morning inspiring our students and answering their career-related questions.

> "I am grateful to have had the opportunity to talk with the parents. I gained a lot of knowledge about various fields of work, understanding the challenges they have faced through their work experiences, and the best way to prepare ourselves for our dream job. It was so much fun and joyful."

Neo, grade 11 (Thailand)

Phuket Model United Nations 2023

Our students recently participated in the **Phuket Model United Nations (MUN) 2023** at the British International School Phuket, sharpening their global citizenship, leadership, and communication skills across four committees: Special Political and Decolonization, United Nations Human Rights Council, World Health Organisation, and United Nations Women.

We are incredibly proud to announce that Diego, grade 11 (Venezuela), and Josephine, grade 10 (China), were recognised as Best Delegates at the conference. Additionally, Lazar, grade 11 (Serbia), Janna, grade 11 (Morocco), Marsela, grade 11 (Afghanistan), and Aidan, grade 11 (Saudi Arabia) received honourable mentions for their enthusiasm, contributions and effort to the committees.

A special thank you to Yli, grade 12 (Spain) and Mehregan, grade 12 (Iran) for their exceptional leadership as co-leaders of our Model United Nations Co-curricular Programme.







SPORTS ROUND-UP

BISP Soccer 7's Tournament

UWC Thailand participated in the BISP Soccer 7's with three teams. The newly-formed under 15 boys team, mainly consisting of under 14 years old players, displayed resilience in a challenging group and gained valuable experience for the upcoming ASAC Junior Championships.
The over 15 years old boys team reached the Cup section for the second consecutive year, showcasing patient and controlled football but bowed out in the quarter and semi-finals of the plate competition.
The under 15 girls team had a strong tournament, outscoring opponents 17-1, reaching the quarter finals of the Cup competition and finishing 2nd in their group.





Pho3nix Kids Triathlon

UWC Thailand students demonstrated exceptional determination and sportsmanship at the Pho3nix Kids Triathlon, clinching victories across various categories. Their outstanding efforts resulted in an impressive tally of 6 gold medals, 3 silver medals, and 2 bronze medals.

Beginners Category

- **Erik Kirillov**, grade 4: 1st Place (8-9 years old)
- **Bertie Pinel**, grade 6: 1st Place (10-11 years old)
- **Arjan Kang**, grade 5: 2nd Place (10-11 years old)
- **Finn Grant**, grade 6: 3rd Place (10-11 years old)

Advanced Category

- **Alicia Siao**, grade 4: 2nd Place (8-9 years old)
- **Sophie Ang**, grade 6: 1st Place (10-11 years old)
- **Felix Fan**, grade 4: 1st Place (8-9 years old)
- **Yanke (Jayden) Wang**, grade 4: 3rd Place (8-9 years old)
- **Rhys Caygill**, grade 11: 1st Place (16-17 years old)
- **Vivaan Nichani**, grade 11: 2nd Place (16-17 years old)







Fun Run

- **Siena Milgate**, grade 9: 1st Place (14-15 years old)

Congratulations to all our Mantas!

Mindful Reading Week

This month, our community immersed themselves in a series of mindfulness practices aimed at enriching students' reading experiences. Through the exploration of mindful reading, we collectively embraced a deeper connection with literature, uncovering how it can transform our engagement with books. The practices ranged from cultivating present-moment awareness, to enhancing comprehension, thereby unlocking a profound understanding of the written word.

"I hope everybody sees how mindfulness can be concretely applied to an activity and will apply it to more specific activities in the future."

Julia Feste,
UWC Thailand Head of Mindfulness

For a closer look at this activity, click here to watch the video.

Click here for a full article















Proud to be UWC Parents! Series

UWC parents are an essential part of the UWC community, and they play a vital role in supporting their children's education and development. This series aims to equip our parents with the knowledge and tools to support and shape their children into global citizens.

Our 'Proud to be UWC Parents!' series is designed to celebrate and support UWC parents. In our first session, **'Raising Global Citizens: The UWC Parent's Advantage'**, we covered topics such as the importance of diversity and inclusion, how to support your child's cultural identity and development, the value of being part of the UWC movement, and the impact of an International Baccalaureate curriculum education.

Join us on **Friday, 8 December from 8:15 - 9:00 am** in the Boarding House lounge for the next session: **'Nurturing World-Changers: Partnering for Tomorrow's Leaders'.**

The Wishing Tree



The Wishing Tree is a project initiated by our Manta Parent-Teacher Association with individual Christmas wishes from 142 children from Good Shepherd Phuket Town, a learning centre that serves as a vital educational hub for migrants, providing support and empowerment to those in need.

Each star from The Wishing Tree brings joy to a child in need this festive season as their wish for a gift is fulfilled.

Your Gift, Their Future!

UWC Thailand is dedicated to offering a transformative educational experience to students from diverse backgrounds, irrespective of their financial status.

Donations to the **Manta Annual Fund** are crucial in turning this mission into reality. Contributions of any size can significantly impact the cause.

"The diversity that UWC Thailand has within the community is really powerful. There are so many traditions and cultures being introduced, and even though we are all so different, we all belong in one place, one community, one big family."

Bebe, grade 10 (Thailand)

Click here to give a gift!



1

People
Scholarship Fund

We are deeply committed to ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder any student's ability to experience the transformative education offered at UWC Thailand.



2

Place
Campus Upgrades

We are embarking on a series of campus upgrades that will enhance our facilities and create a welcoming and inspiring atmosphere.



3

Purpose
Unrestricted Use of Funds

Your continued support will empower us to address unforeseen challenges, seize new opportunities, and make strategic investments that align with our long-term goals.

If you would like to explore sponsorship opportunities as part of UWC Thailand's Annual Fund campaign, which focuses on **People: Scholarship Fund, Place: Campus Upgrades, and Purpose: Unrestricted Funds,** please reach out to Nicki, our Director of Philanthropy and Strategic Initiatives at nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th, or visit the **Donate Now** page on our website.



UWC THAILAND

Countdown to Congress 2024

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

EDUCATION AS A FORCE







As we prepare for the **UWC International Congress 2024**, which is focused on the theme **'Education as a Force'**, our students have begun engaging in thoughtful discussions around the UWC movement.

Hosted by our Congress Student Working Group, the discussions have covered a range of topics which included:

- unique learning opportunities at UWC,
- distinctive features of UWC Thailand compared to other UWC schools and colleges,
- the role of UWC in supporting the well-being of schools and students, and
- the impact of UWC on the current world and education.

Their thoughtful discussions provide an invaluable opportunity for the students to reflect on the **impact of their education at UWC and to consider how they can contribute to the broader UWC movement for the upcoming UWC International Congress 2024.**

Learn more about the UWC International Congress 2024

Click here

Take a look at the Agenda for Pre-Congress & Congress

Click here



The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

PERFORMING ARTS

Disney's High School Musical Jr.

Join the cast and crew for an amazing performance on **Thursday, 30 November,** or **Friday, 1 December**, at 4:45 pm.

Tickets are available at the reception and front gate.

COMMUNITY

Proud to be UWC Parents!

Session 2: 'Nurturing World-Changers: Partnering for Tomorrow's Leaders' **Friday, 8 December** from 8:15-9:00 am in the Boarding House lounge.

Contact: Kru Nicki

COMMUNITY

Festival of Light: Belonging

Witness the power of unity in our diversity! **Thursday, 14 December.** Musical performances start at 2:00 pm in the MPH and continues outside with the Festive Fair from 3:30pm.

LIBRARY

Meet Gail Clarke

Unique storytelling for Primary in the library with author Gail Clarke on **Thursday, 7 and Friday, 8 December.**

Parents welcome, **Thursday, 7 December,** 8:10-9:00 am

Contact: Kru Rebekka

PRIMARY

Primary Team Sports Day

Get ready for a day of exciting and cooperative team sports activities.

Join us on **Thursday, 13 December** and cheer on our Mantas!

STUDENT-LED INITIATIVES

Plastic Free Phuket

Next beach clean-up: **Saturday 2 December,** 4:30-6:00 pm, Nai Thon with Team B. Bring water bottle and tupperware for food and drinks afterwards.

Contact: Plastic Free Phuket

ATHLETICS

Secondary Team Sports Day

Don't miss out! Team up for a dynamic sports experience.

Join us on **Wednesday, 12 December** to support our Mantas!

Contact: Kru Mick

MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness class for parents

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

Contact: Kru Julia

WHOLE SCHOOL

School Holidays

Half day on Friday, **15 December 2023.**

See you on Wednesday, **10 January 2024.**

Enjoy the December break!

UWC THAILAND

INVITES OUR COMMUNITY TO JOIN US FOR THE

FESTIVAL OF Light 2023

CELEBRATING BELONGING

THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER

2:00 PM ONWARDS

