ISSUE NO.23 / SEPTEMBER 2023

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Shaping a Sustainable Future

UWC Day is the annual global celebration of the UWC mission and values, which takes place every year, to coincide with the UN International Day of Peace. On 21 September, all 18 UWCs join in to celebrate the strength and diversity of the UWC movement and our common mission for a more peaceful and sustainable future through connecting and mobilising UWCers globally.

> **"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."**
>
> **Nelson Mandela,** Late Honorary President, UWC

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media



UWC Day 2023

UWC Day 2023 was celebrated world wide under the inspiring theme of "Shaping a Sustainable Future".

At UWC Thailand, sustainable activities took center stage as students engaged in various activities focused on a greener tomorrow. From sustainable arts and crafts projects to grade 3 students hiking in the nearby national park, each activity aimed at promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices. Secondary buddies connected with Primary students through games and discussions on diversity, while Mini Manta buddies nurtured their gardening project. The 'Micro Magic Workshop: Growing Green Goodness' was fascinating, and in another workshop, we explored the origins of cocoa and its journey from bean to bar! Additionally, we learned about Permaculture (sustainable farming and gardening) and participated in many other on-campus workshops to enrich our UWC Day experience and contribute to our environment.











GRADE 4 & 5

Micro Magic: Growing Green Goodness

During the workshop, students were led through the travel miles of various foods, explored the nutritional benefits of microgreens, and even planted radish, mustard, rocket, and kale seeds. Staff and students enthusiastically collaborated, got their hands dirty, and gained insights into reducing their carbon footprint through sustainable food choices.

MINI MANTAS & GRADE 1

"Our Mini Mantas really love working and playing with their grade 1 buddies who provide leadership and role modelling to the younger ones, plus their enthusiasm for gardening was infectious. Together, we were able to weed and prepare the garden beds, as well as fill the new planter boxes with compost made from our own fruit waste and soil. It was a wonderful activity that would have taken a lot longer without the grade 1s lending us a hand."

Olivia (Liv) Symons,
UWC Thailand Junior & Senior Pre-Kindergarten (Mini Mantas) Teacher















GRADE 10 & 12

Sustainable Water Solutions: EM and Biological Fermentation

During this interactive workshop, our students explored the science and practical applications of eco-friendly techniques to combat water pollution, ensuring cleaner and safer drinking water for communities. They discovered the importance of Effective Microorganisms (EM) and learnt how biological fermentation can revolutionise water treatment.





Click here for the full article and more photos

Community Weekend

Our first UWC Thailand Community Weekend of this academic year was an impressive success! Students, parents, guardians, and community members all came together for a fantastic time. We enjoyed some delicious pizza and spent the afternoon chatting with teachers, staff, and, of course, each other. Alongside the mouthwatering food and great conversations, the Manta Parent-Teacher Association Table Top Sale kicked off the weekend, and our student-led United World Crust continued their fundraising in support of the Gibbon Sanctuary. It was a wonderful opportunity for our UWC Thailand community to come even closer together.

Click here for more photos









Blood Drive

Thank you to all the donors who participated in our Blood Donation Drive, organised by the student-led Red Cross Co-Curricular Programme and Red Cross Phuket on Tuesday.

This initiative had a significant impact as it aimed to increase the blood supply for our local hospitals in Phuket, which is essential for medical treatments and emergencies.





UWC Thailand Alum Ambassadors

We would like to introduce you to a few of our Alum Ambassadors who have been meeting regularly to explore new and exciting ways to strengthen the UWC Thailand alumni network. This group is dedicated to planning alumni get-togethers, finding innovative ways to share ideas within the UWC community and the global network, and ensuring the UWC Thailand alumni network remains vibrant and active.

We would love to expand this group. If you are interested, please reach out via Instagram, Facebook, or email at nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th.

@UWCThailandAlumni

uwcthailand_alumni



Susan Guo, 2017
Now in Beijing, China

"UWCTers unite! Be the change you wish to see!"



Jhanati Rajesh, 2019
Now at North Chicago, IL (USA)

"I miss Thailand and my UWCT family!"



Rutuja Bhoite, 2020
Now at Lake Forest College, IL

"I am happy to be part of the Alumni Ambassador because it gives me the opportunity to stay connected with the UWC Thailand community even after school!"

As we reflect on the past year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we've made education a powerful force for change and unity, inspiring future leaders and global citizens. Your contributions, whether through donations, volunteer hours, or your steadfast belief in our mission, have been pivotal and have made a significant difference, which you can read more about in our

2022/23 Impact of Giving Report





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.

New Science Laboratory

This summer, one of our Secondary classrooms underwent a major transformation, emerging as a state-of-the-art science lab that's sure to ignite scientific discovery. With brand new equipment and resources at their fingertips, our students will have the opportunity to dig deeper into the world of science, conduct hands-on experiments, and further experience transformative UWC education. This marks a significant step forward in our commitment to providing top-notch education.

"This dynamic space will make way for new advancements in Science by enriching the learning experiences for our young learners through efficient collaboration. The lab is a welcome addition to our facilities!"

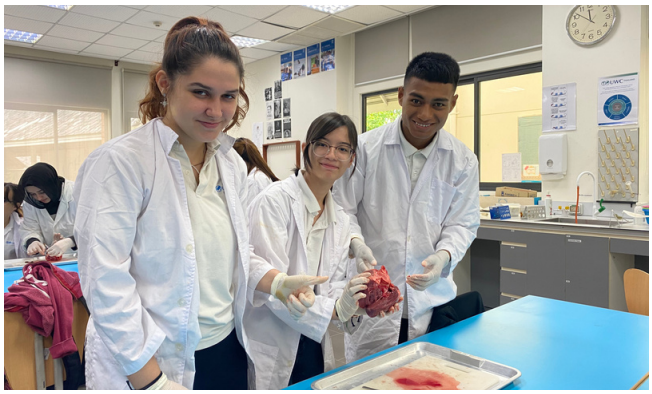
Rohini Salaskar,
UWC Thailand Secondary Subject Area Learning Leader - Science and Physics Teacher







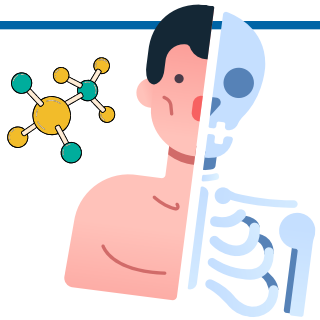








Exploring Anatomy



Learning by doing is truly the best way to grasp complex units. Our grade 12 students recently had a hands-on experience dissecting animal hearts to apply their understanding of the circulatory system. This practical exercise not only showcased the complexities of real organs compared to textbooks but also sparked an ethical discussion about using animal organs for educational purposes. It encouraged responsible thinking and consideration of the consequences of their scientific curiosity.

Click here to see a video



We are Superheroes!

This month, our grade 9 students explored various theatrical skills through an exciting superhero-themed unit. During this unit, students developed their performance skills, including body control, movement techniques, body awareness, and spatial utilisation. They created a physical theatre piece that drew inspiration from fictional superheroes.

"I believe there's a hero within each of us. I use research-based physiological exercises for students to tap into their inner heroes. Psychology Today reported that a lot of teens, especially girls, feel a sense of diminishing during adolescence. I try to prevent that by using theatrical strategies such as this one to build confidence in young people."

Hannah Northcott,
UWC Thailand Middle Years and Diploma Programme Theatre and Theory of Knowledge Teacher

For more information about the transformative power of theatre, take a look at Hannah's TedTalk here.

Clothing Swap

Our Middle Years Programme students took the initiative to collect, sort, and categorise more than 400 clothing items. The clothing swap event was a great success, with over 150 items finding new homes to be cherished once again.

In addition to promoting sustainable fashion, the students also fostered strong community connections to ensure any leftover clothing would be either recycled, upcycled, donated, or saved for our next swap event.









Outdoor Adventure on a Rainy Day!









Our Kindergarten students explored animal habitats in the national park as part of our outdoor education programme. While having fun the rain, they discovered spider webs, anthills, and snake holes, and discussed why animals chose these shelters.

Back in the classroom, they imagined how and where they would make their shelter in the jungle for the night. This outdoor experience deepened their understanding of animal habitats and ignited their curiosity and imagination.











Mathematics in Early Years

At UWC Thailand, we believe that the Concrete, Pictorial, and Abstract (CPA) approach is essential for developing strong number sense in the early years.

In a recent workshop for parents, Kru Caryl introduced the this approach and its benefits and shared practical tips and activities to help children build a strong foundation of number sense at home.

The Concrete, Pictorial, and Abstract approach is a hands-on approach to mathematics that helps children to understand and visualise concepts. It is a flexible approach that can be used to teach a variety of math concepts, from simple addition and subtraction to more complex concepts like fractions and geometry.

SPORTS ROUND-UP



Mantas for the win!

Congratulations!

Huge congratulations are in order for our junior basketball teams at the 2023 ASAC Junior Basketball Championship held in Phnom Penh!

Our junior teams have truly shone at the championship hosted by LOGOS International School in Cambodia. The boys' junior basketball team achieved an impressive 4th place, with a special mention to Kyle from grade 7 (Hong Kong), for winning the Most-Valuable Player Award.

And the excitement doesn't end there – our junior girls team emerged victorious, securing the top spot and claiming victory in the tournament!





Primary Cross Country

Our primary students sprinted like cheetahs! They followed the designated route, starting from the open space next to the admin office, winding around the campus buildings, making their way up to the boarding house, and then racing back to the finish line where it all began. Student teams were enthusiastically cheered on by classmates, teachers, staff and parents.

Click here for more photos

Community Volleyball

Recently, students, parents, and our senior boys and girls players came together for a friendly volleyball match. The game was filled with great plays, contagious laughter, and exceptional sportsmanship, serving as the perfect warm-up for the upcoming ASAC (ASEAN Sports and Activities Conference) Senior Volleyball Championship at UWC Thailand from 29 September to 1 October 2023.













UWC Outdoor Leaders Retreat

Collaboration across the Movement

Rob Carmichael,
UWC Thailand Director of Outdoor Experiential Education

In September 2023, UWC Thailand played a pivotal role in hosting the UWC Outdoor Leaders Retreat, an event designed to unite outdoor education leaders from various UWC schools across Asia. This retreat aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences, collaborative learning, and the enhancement of leadership skills in the realm of outdoor education. It was attended by delegates from UWC SEA, UWC Li Po Chun, UWC Changshu, and UWC ISAK Japan.

The event was a resounding success, exemplifying the power of collaboration within the UWC network. The retreat commenced with participants' arrivals and a warm welcome at the UWC Thailand campus. The first workshop session of the retreat focused on sharing outdoor education approaches and programmes from each participant's school. This exchange allowed attendees to engage in collective problem-solving and innovative thinking. It was followed by a short hike and river walk in the local National Park.

On the second day, participants arrived at the Outdoor Education Centre, where the retreat's learning sessions continued. Attendees discussed topics such as risk management and outdoor leadership strategies, highlighting the importance... **Read more.**

> **"Coming from UWC Li Po Chun, Hong Kong where we only have grade 11 and 12 students it was refreshing and inspiring to see such a wide range of students involved in a comprehensive range of activities. The Outdoor Education programme at UWC Thailand really is at the heart of the school and my experience there has really helped me to reflect upon how we can place a greater emphasis upon experiential education in Hong Kong."**

Carl Fowler,
UWC Outdoor Leaders Retreat Coordinator and
UWC Li Po Chun representative

Click here for the full article



UWC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2024

29 FEB - 2 MAR
PHUKET, THAILAND

EDUCATION AS A FORCE

Inspired by the words '**Education as a Force**', the UWC International Congress 2024 will bring together UWC's educational and governance leaders alongside partners, supporters, and representatives of all UWC stakeholder groups. Through a combination of keynote sessions, panel discussions, workshops and impact talks, we will re-energise our mission ***to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and sustainable future.***

The programme will include sessions across **five thematic tracks**:

01. Curriculum, Teaching & Learning

To enhance teaching and learning across UWC schools and colleges, there is a need to continually revisit UWC's educational offerings and invest in the capacity of teachers and staff to support students' learning journeys.

02. Admissions

To guarantee a seamless admissions cycle each year, there is a need to strengthen each step of the process and continually pursue alignment between national committees and UWC schools and colleges.

03. Wellbeing

To ensure the holistic wellbeing of students in the 21st Century, there is an urgent need to re-evaluate the predominant ideologies that have underpinned a UWC education.

04. Financial Sustainability

There is an opportunity to think differently about a UWC movement-wide funding strategy encompassing engagement of alumni and donors, and leveraging the unique capacities of national committees, schools and UWC International..

05. Educational Leadership & Partnerships

To continue to demonstrate educational leadership in the world, there is a need for UWC to strengthen its approach to working with partners including governments, multilateral organisations, educational organisations, donors and alumni.

Discover more about the five thematic tracks for Congress 2024 with Radha Pillay, UWC International's Director of Education here.

The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

ATHLETICS

ASAC Senior Volleyball

Come and support the Senior Volleyball Championship this weekend at UWC Thailand. See our website for more.

Contact: Kru Kerstin

CAMPS

October Camps Register Now!

Monday, 9 October to Thursday, 12 October 2023.
Registration closes:
Sunday, 1 October 2023, 5:00 pm

Contact: Camps

ATHLETICS

Secondary Cross-Counrty

Races for all MYP students. Parents welcome to support our athletes. Thursday, 5 October, from 8:45 am to 10:20 am

Contact: Kru Kerstin

PRIMARY

3-Way Conferences

Thursday, 5 October:
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and
Friday, 6 October:
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Contact: Kru Kurtis

SECONDARY

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, 5 October:
1:50 pm to 5:00 pm, and
Friday, 6 October:
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Contact: Kru Jon

WHOLE SCHOOL

School Holidays

Enjoy the October break!
9 to 20 October 2023.

Note: Monday, 23 October is a public holiday! See you on Tuesday, 24 October!

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!

MINDFULNESS

Emotions & Empathy

Explore Emotions and Empathy through our October Mindfulness theme.

Contact: Kru Julia

PERFORMING ARTS

Community Choir

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

Contact: Kru Frederick