ISSUE NO.26 / DECEMBER 2023

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



"Before giving, the mind of the giver is happy; while giving, the mind of the giver is made peaceful; and having given, the mind of the giver is uplifted."

Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media



FESTIVAL OF Light 2022

Celebrating Belonging

Mid-December at UWC Thailand is always distinguished by the Festival of Light celebration. This year, the theme "Celebrating Belonging" aptly reflected the diverse national identities within our vibrant community.

Our community wholeheartedly supported the student-led project stalls, where an array of items, including home-baked pastries, tote bags, clothing, bath bombs, and more, were sold.

These efforts successfully raised substantial funds for our community service partners and the Global Concerns Programme. In addition to this, the highlight of the day was the captivating performances by our students, staff, and community members. The day concluded with a mesmerizing fire show that left everyone impressed.

Click here for more photos





















Disney's High School Musical Jr.

Two shows were not enough to capture all the talent and spectacle that this year's UWC Thailand production of Disney's High School Musical Jr. brought to our campus.

We extend our heartfelt applause to our students, teachers, and support crew, as well as the entire school community, for your incredible efforts. **It truly was a show to remember!**

> **"I loved every minute of this production. The students and the rest of the team managed to entertain and provide us with a mesmerising experience that will leave me, and I am sure many others, with fond memories that will last a lifetime."**

James Hutley, audience member

> **"Amazing performance!"**

Jackie Miller, parent of a UWC Thailand student

> **"What an amazing performing arts team we've got! Thank you for making this musical happen! 🤩"**

Raquel Silva, UWC Thailand Director of Admissions, Marketing and Community Relations

Click here to see a full recording of the production.

Click here for more photos





















Early Years Picnic





Our Early Years Centre buzzed with parents, children, and staff, all enjoying a delightful breakfast picnic together. As part of the potluck, parents brought delicious foods from various cuisines and shared them while chatting away and playing with the children. Thank you to all the families who joined us for the picnic and made it truly special.

Exciting announcement: the Early Years playground is getting an upgrade, thanks to a generous donation by a small group of UWC Thailand parents!





Click here for more photos







Gail Clarke’s visit

Renowned author and illustrator, Gail Clarke, recently visited our library, captivating Early and Primary Years students with exciting storytelling sessions like 'The Chameleon Who Couldn’t Change Colour' and 'Cosmos the Curious Whale’. These engaging stories led to workshops on descriptive writing, character development, and finding inspiration for each grade.

Connected to our ongoing lessons on stewardship, kindness, and sustainable consumerism, stories like 'Jed’s Big Adventure' enriched our curriculum. **Gail Clarke's visit sparked curiosity, inspired positive contributions to our planet, and fostered creativity, creating a meaningful experience for our students.**



Sports Days

December is a month filled with spirited cheers as we celebrate our Sport Days. Early Years, Primary Years, and Middle Years students joyfully engaged in games, showcasing both their sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Our Primary and Middle Years Programme students displayed their abilities and determination through a medley of games including football, basketball, rugby, ultimate frisbee, and more.

Simultaneously, our Early Years students had an invigorating morning, divided into four teams for playful activities that emphasized teamwork and collaboration skills. Laughter filled the air, generating a strong sense of teamwork as students collaborated and revelled in spirited games.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended—your cheers significantly contributed to an unforgettable experience for our young athletes!



















[Click here](#) for more photos











Trigonometry in the real world

This month, in our grade 10 mathematics class, students actively applied trigonometry to measure the heights of various structures around the school. Using measuring tools and trigonometric principles, they determined the heights of buildings and trees, reinforcing their understanding of mathematics and problem-solving skills.

Did you know?

- *Our boarding house has an average height of 33.02 metres.*
- *The construction wall has an average of 15.89 metres.*
- *The Shaka Coffee Shop wall has an average height of 19.49 metres.*
- *On average, our canteen measures 15.38 metres long.*

These findings showcase the students' ability to apply mathematics to real-world scenarios.

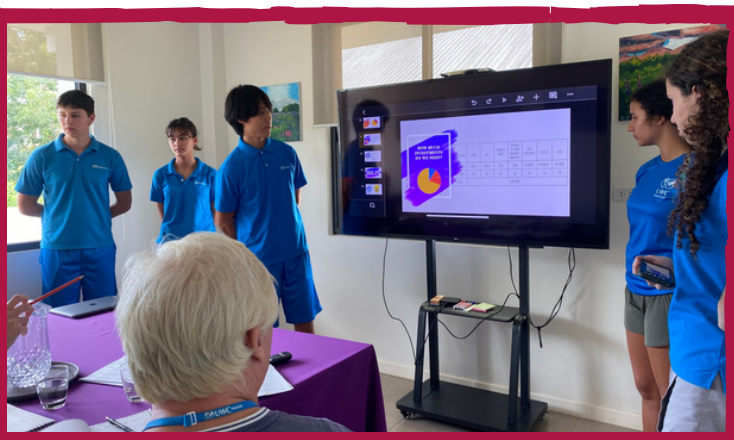
Dragon's Den

It was such a proud moment seeing our grade 10 students showcase their entrepreneurial flair in the Dragon's Den simulation!

They tackled challenges head-on, displayed teamwork, and improved their presentation skills. They demonstrated innovation in creating their financial plans, with each group bringing unique contributions.

A heartfelt thank you to the professionals from our community who served as the Dragons for their valuable feedback. Your insights helped our students improve their concepts and strategies for greater success at the Festival of Light.

Click here for more photos











Winter Gala

Our grade 9-12 students dusted off their best dress outfits and had a blast at the student-led Winter Gala. In the company of their friends, students spent a fun evening chatting away and grooving to their talented peers' music and dance performances. A night to remember!













Boarding families' dodgeball game

At UWC Thailand, weekends are not just about relaxation and downtime; they are also an opportunity for boarding house students to engage in a variety of enriching and fun activities that promote community building, personal growth, and exploration beyond the classroom.

December activities started with a lively and friendly dodgeball competition. Organised into family groups, students and boarding parents enjoyed a fantastic time dodging and aiming with precision. This engaging activity provided a refreshing break from academics, and highlighted the robust bonds that bring the boarding community together.







Your Gift, Their Future!

As the 2023 year draws to a close, we look forward to starting the new year with renewed energy and enthusiasm. We remind you of the opportunity to donate towards the **Manta Annual Fund**. We have been fortunate enough to begin some projects with donations already made, and look forward to continuing to enhance our campus.

Current upgrades planned for Congress:
- Primary Pond and Nature Area
- Butterfly Garden - "UWC International Congress Community Garden"
- Mindfulness Pods
- School Perimeter Trail
- Outdoor Lighting - trees, salas, boarding house

Join us today! Let's build the future of UWC Thailand together!

Click here to give a gift!

Salas




New playground




Library




Boarding House




Proud to be UWC Parents! UWC Thailand Series

Our 'Proud to be UWC Parents!' series is designed to celebrate and support UWC parents. In our second session, **'Nurturing World-Changers: Partnering for Tomorrow's Leaders'**, Lural Ramírez, Nicki Robertson and Aleka Bilan led an interactive presentation highlighting the vital role parents play in their children's holistic development.

Join us on **Friday, 19 January from 8:15 - 9:00 am** in the Boarding House lounge for the next session: **'Embracing the UWC Journey: Parenting for a Better World'.**





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









Lord Brahma Shrine

A special place to honour Lord Brahma and the Land Lord God, Phra Phum.

On Monday, 11 December 2023, our community gathered for an auspicious occasion. In the company of our students and staff, as well as supporters and community members, we consecrated our new Lord Brahma Shrine—a special place that honours Lord Brahma and the Land Lord God, Phra Phum. Lord Brahma, the creator in the Hindu religion, symbolises the start of knowledge and life, while the Land Lord God represents the protective spirit of our environment.



Together, these deities bring protection, good fortune, and intellectual growth to our community. The Lord Brahma Shrine stands as a profound symbol of our respect for these long-standing traditions and our unwavering commitment to the core values of our international community and local culture.

It was truly beautiful to witness our community coming together to reflect and pay respects to the protective spirits of our land. The shared reverence and a deep sense of unity and belonging truly enriched the occasion.



A heartfelt thank you goes to Khun Goi and the Education for a Sustainable Future Board for their invaluable guidance, unwavering support, and tireless efforts in bringing this sacred space to our campus and uniting our community.

> **The tree of wisdom grows in the soil of humility. The deeper the roots, the taller it stands.**
>
> **Hindu Proverb**





SPORTS ROUND-UP

Fobisia Under 19 Basketball Invitational Championships

Our Under 19 basketball teams demonstrated impressive sportsmanship and resilience at the recent Fobisia U19 Basketball Invitational Championships. Despite facing challenges, both teams secured victories, showcasing their talent and teamwork.

The boys' team displayed remarkable teamwork and individual efforts, while the girls' team achieved a noteworthy victory against experienced opponents, demonstrating exceptional skills in defence and tactics. The tournament provided valuable lessons for our teams as we prepare for future competitions, including the upcoming ASAC Championships in Vietnam.







GOAL!

Sportsmanship in the community

The 2023 year started with a visit to our friends at Youth Football Home and PK Academy. Since then, we have extended a warm welcome to Banpakrongcheep, Ban Bangrong, Ban Para, and Hongyok at UWC Thailand. **We have also scheduled visits from Ban Ao Por and Wat Mongkolwararam in early 2024.**









Kathu Half Marathon 2023

UWC Thailand students demonstrated exceptional endurance and skill at the Kathu Half Marathon 2023, achieving great results across multiple categories.

10.5 km Category
- **Siena**, grade 9: 1st Place (43.38 minutes)

16-29 Age Category
- **Risanga**, grade 11: 5th Place (51:34 minutes)

Open Category (21 km)
- **David**, grade 12: sub 2 hour time



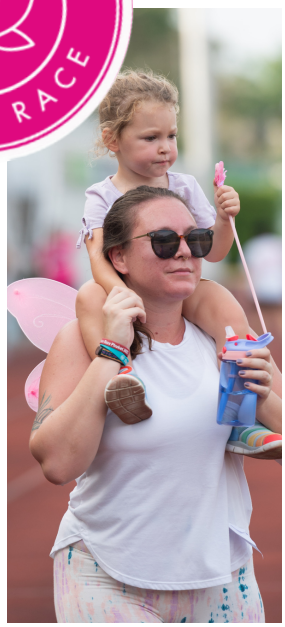
"I am so happy watching our students getting to compete in this very good event and watch them grow"

Brian Ross, UWC Thailand Running and Strength and Conditioning Coach










From 24-Hour Race 2023

[Learn more about the 24-Hour Race]

24-Hour Race

13-14 January 2024

Hosted by UWC Thailand at the Thanyapura track

Run it! Raise it! End it!

Join us and contribute to raising awareness and funds to end modern-day slavery. Every lap and mile run makes a difference and brings us closer to our goal. If you would like to participate, consider joining one of the following races:
- 24-hour race
- 24-kilometer race
- 24-minute race

Vendor Registration for the 24-Hour Race Night Market

If running isn't your forte but you still want to contribute and cheer on our participants, consider joining us for the **24-Hour Race Night Market.**

We are currently accepting vendor applications, offering you the opportunity to showcase your delectable delights and refreshing drinks.

Buy tickets
to participate in the 24-Hour Race events

Become a Vendor
at the 24-Hour Race Night Market

Sailing Squad Success!

Our talented sailors participated in this year's **Phuket King's Cup Regatta**, clinching medals in both Optimist and O'pen Skiff Classes! Our students not only embraced the competition but also navigated through the demanding conditions, showcasing their resilience and skill on the water. Experiences like these go beyond the podium; they instill commitment, discipline, and a passion for spending time in the outdoors engaging with challenge.

Congratulations to all our team for their incredible work and perseverance.



Photos Credit: Guy Nowell





Outdoor Education Work Experience Programme

The UWC Thailand Outdoor Education Work Experience Programme had its first official participant this month, having welcomed a number of guest visitors over the past year including: Ema Caires dos Santos, Mariya Georgieva, Gergely Lovász and Ge Wu.

This week, Sky, an outdoor guide and instructor, joined our school from one of our local partner organisations: Our Jungle Camp - Eco Resort.

Over the span of a few days, Sky had the chance to shadow Rob Carmichael, our Director of Outdoor Experiential Education, and a number of our team members participating in our outdoor programming, which includes kayaking, mangrove potting & planting, outdoor learning in the local jungle, risk evaluations on external venues, and planning meetings with our co-curricular sailing, kayak, and climbing teams.

It has been wonderful having Sky here to give insight into his perspective and ideas, allowing us to learn from one another.









Season of Giving

Reverse Advent Calendar

The Reverse Advent Calendar at UWC Thailand spanned the first 15 days of December. Each day, our community was asked to contribute a specific item: essential goods such as non-perishable foods, household items, and hygiene products, all aimed at assisting 200 families at the BanYa Literacy Centre. As always, when it comes to selfless generosity, our community heard our plea and contributed hundreds of individual items that have helped ensure a wonderful Christmas for those in need.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible community for your overwhelming support! Together we made this festive season a time of meaningful giving and support for those in need, spreading joy and kindness in our community.



















Wishing Tree

The UWC Thailand Wishing Tree once again showcased the generosity and care within our community. Many participated by selecting a star from the tree, securing a gift according to the wish written on it, and bringing joy to a child from Good Shepherd Phuket Town.

Thank you to all who contributed to spreading festive joy and bringing a smile to a young child's face this Christmas.

> **"Throughout your life you will need the capacity to believe in yourself, your family, your minds, and Santa"**
>
> **Michelle Wilson**,
> the parent in memory of whom the Wishing Tree is dedicated.

The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

COMMUNITY

New Family Orientation Day

On **January 9**, we are excited to welcome new members to our UWC Thailand family.

If you encounter new faces around campus, please say *Hi* and join us in creating a warm transition to our school.

STAFF

Professional Development Days

On **8 and 9 January**, our staff will gather to enhance their skills and stay abreast of the latest educational trends, contributing to the continuous improvement of education at UWC Thailand.

WHOLE COMMUNITY

Semester 2 begins

We look forward to seeing you all back at the UWC Thailand campus on **10 January, 2024**. Classes will resume as usual at 8:00 am.

We wish you a productive and happy semester 2.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

24-Hour Race

13 & 14 January at the Thanyapura Track.
Run, jog, walk, or cartwheel to the finish line! Benefits NGOs working to end slavery.
Vendor registration for the Night Market now open!

Contact: 24-Hour Race

COMMUNITY

Community Weekend

Join us for the first Community Weekend of the second semester. **13 to 14 January** at the Boarding House and Thanyapura Track.

Contact: Manta PTA

COMMUNITY

Proud to be UWC Parents!

Session 3: 'Embracing the UWC Journey: Parenting for a Better World'.
Friday, 19 January from 8:15-9:00 am in the Boarding House lounge.

Contact: Kru Nicki

COMMUNITY

Regional Week

Asia, Europe and Oceania Culture Week from **22 to 26 January**.

Join us in celebrating and learning about the cultures and identities that make up our diverse community. Details to follow in January.

MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness theme: Curiosity

Through a range of in-class and out-of-class activities, our students, staff, and broader community will explore the essence of curiosity.

Contact: Kru Julia

COMMUNITY

Holiday Snapshots

Email us your favourite holiday photos and their locations to share how you enjoyed your break.

Winners announced in the January Manta Pulse issue!

Email: Communications