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THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



"There exists within everyone a grand passion, an outlandish thirst for adventure, a desire to live boldly and vividly through the journey of life."

Kurt Hahn, UWC Founder

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media













Welcome back to school!

From the first day on 10 January to the culmination on 21 June, this semester offers a myriad of exceptional opportunities. The upcoming months promise a journey of continuous learning, engaging events, and the strengthening of our school community. The prospect of hosting the UWC Congress in March on our campus adds a unique dimension to our academic experience, offering opportunities for global exchange and collaboration with the whole UWC Movement.
With Graduation just around the corner, the semester holds the promise of both closure and new beginnings.

As we navigate through this period, we look forward to the challenges and triumphs that will shape our collective growth, making this semester a memorable chapter in our educational journey.

Semester 2 in numbers:

Total number of UWC Thailand students:	Number of languages spoken by students:	Number of student national identities:
575	50	85

New Family Orientation

Our New Family Orientation provided an opportunity for new students, parents, and guardians to connect with our leadership team, staff and teachers.
We were fortunate to have a group of current parents and students who played a big part in making the event successful by sharing insights and assisting in building connections for the new families.

It was wonderful to see many new faces on campus, and we look forward to having a fantastic semester together.
Welcome to our UWC Thailand Family!











International School Award



We're thrilled to share that UWC Thailand has been honoured with the 2024 International School Award in the Premium Schools Category!

Selected by an independent panel of ten international education experts, five winning schools were recognised for their excellence in education. The International School Award is produced annually by ISC Research.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following schools who were honoured with this award alongside UWC Thailand:

- British Vietnamese International School Hanoi - BVIS Hanoi
- Lincoln Community School, Accra
- Singapore Cambodia International Academy - SCIA
- St Andrews International School Bangkok.

UWC Thailand is being honoured for our exceptional 'Outdoor Experiential Education Programme,' which connects students with nature and enhances academic learning through real-world applications.

Thank you to Rob Carmichael, UWC Thailand Director of Outdoor Experiential Education, and all of our passionate teachers, staff members, and students who help make our Outdoor Education Programme what it is today.

This award celebrates excellence in premium international schools, and UWC Thailand International School stands out as a leader!

From our LinkedIn and Facebook feed:



Primporn
Congratulations & very well deserved. My son always said " Best School Ever"

Facebook | 26 January 2024



Aklil
Congratulations! Its indeed the best school! Although my daughter graduated last year as an international student, I still follow your page for the fact UWC Thailand left a huge impact on her and for the wonderful college she is in now. Am always grateful. A well deserved win for the entire school members.

Facebook | 26 January 2024



Preeti
Congratulations to the amazing teachers who make this an unique and special school.

Facebook | 26 January 2024



Andrea
These words are sweet music to my ears: "a love of the #outdoors and real life experiences as an essential part of a childhood well-lived!".
It is much harder to damage the environment as an adult, if, as a child, you have grown to respect and care for it. Bravo UWC Thailand!

LinkedIn | 26 January 2024



Pascale
What a recognition!
Congratulations UWC Thailand!

LinkedIn | 26 January 2024



Ema
Congratulations, so great to have your incredible efforts recognised! A pioneering program at a fantastic school 👏🏻 well deserved

LinkedIn | 26 January 2024



Carma Elliot CMG OBE
How wonderful Rob Carmichael - congratulations to you and all the team - well deserved recognition!

LinkedIn | 26 January 2024



This month, as we celebrated **National Teachers' Day**, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the dedicated teachers and support staff at our school. Your collective efforts create an innovative and transformative educational environment, making our school a beacon of learning and growth.

Your hard work, whether in the classroom or behind the scenes, ensures the smooth and efficient operation of our school, contributing to a positive learning atmosphere for our students.

Your commitment to creating a nurturing educational space is the foundation of our institution, inspiring our students and fostering a love for learning.

We are profoundly grateful for your dedication and passion, which significantly impact our students' lives and the broader school community.





















Enhancing Student Success with Occupational Therapy



Occupational Therapy is a cornerstone service in educational settings, focused on enriching students' engagement and success within their learning environments. By addressing and supporting students' learning and school-related activities, Occupational Therapy is dedicated to assisting children in achieving their educational goals.

This academic year, we were delighted to welcome **Merryn Atkins, a seasoned Occupational Therapist** from New Zealand, to our school community. Merryn has joined us as our dedicated in-school Occupational Therapist, bringing with her a wealth of experience and expertise in a broad spectrum of areas... **Read more.**

Stay tuned for our next Manta Pulse, where Merryn will share practical tips from an Occupational Therapy perspective, offering valuable insights for parents to support their children's development and success at school.

The Adventures of Heart, Mind, and Body











The Adventures of Heart, Mind, and Body is the latest creation by Margaret (Mega), a talented grade 11 student. As part of her International Baccalaureate Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) project, Mega chose to craft a children's storybook that pays tribute to UWC Thailand's motto, "Good Heart, Balanced Mind, Healthy Body". Through her engaging storyline, Mega sheds light on the school's community engagement programme and showcases various activities students participate in, emphasising the significance of these partnerships and helping others.

Just recently, Margaret was invited by our Early Years Programme students and grade 1 students to join them for a special "date with the author". During this event, she had the wonderful opportunity to read her story to the curious young minds of the students, capturing their interest in the adventures of her main characters.

In Maga's own words:
"For my readers, I hope they will be kind like Heart, be curious as Mind, and courageous as Body."

Click here to see a full interview with Margaret about *The Adventures of Heart, Mind, and Body*.

Student-Buddies Leadership Programme

Engaging in a dedicated buddies time promotes social development by encouraging ongoing interaction between students of different grades. This helps improve empathy, communication skills, social skills, and thinking skills, creating a stronger sense of community within the school.

The programme also provides leadership opportunities for our students as they will often take action on deciding how they will engage with their buddy class on a weekly basis. This develops a supportive network that extends beyond the classroom and contributes to a positive school culture.

"You regularly see our buddies going up to one another during break times, as well as before or after school on the playground to say hi, give a wave, a high five or a smile."

Jen Friske,
UWC Thailand Primary Years Programme Coordinator













Science lens

Have you ever wondered how your cells appear under a microscope?

Grade 6 students engaged in a practical session where they observed their cheek cells under a microscope, providing them with a hands-on learning experience. They explored the differences between light, transmission, and scanning electron microscopes, enhancing their comprehension of various cell structures. This investigative approach, combined with collaborative projects, reinforced their understanding and highlighted the significance of scientific inquiry. Such activities not only encourage inquisitiveness but also promote effective communication skills among students.



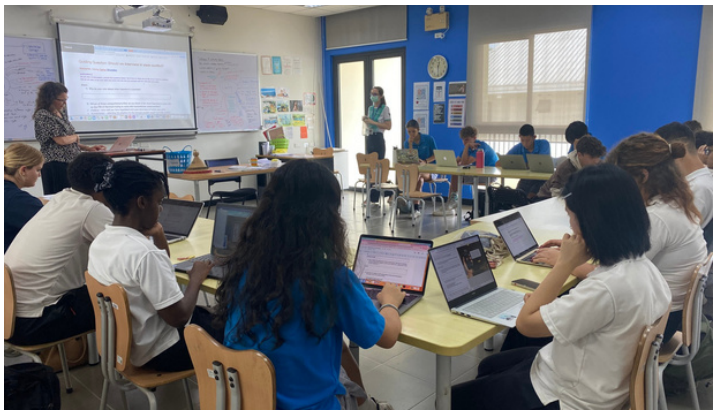


Click here for more photos











Peace and Conflict Transformation Day

Coordinated by Diploma Programme students and teachers, the Peace and Conflict Transformation Day featured a series of engaging activities. Participants embarked on virtual field trips to conflict zones, engaged in enlightening discussions and simulations, shared stories, watched documentaries with subsequent group reflections, and collaborated on large-scale art projects. The aim was to cultivate empathy and understanding of conflicts at personal, local, and global levels, while providing a platform for open dialogue and personal growth.

Click here for more photos

Extended Essay

Our grade 11 students wasted no time at the beginning of this semester and immediately jumped into finalising their Extended Essay ideas which they presented to their grade 12 peers and teachers. In a creative twist, the grade 12 students dressed up to embody their Extended Essays, adding a lively and fun atmosphere to the event. The feedback received was valuable and will help shape the research endeavors of the next cohort.

The extended essay is a crucial component of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme core, challenging students to conduct independent and self-directed research through a 4,000-word paper.









Become an Alum Ambassador

We warmly invite all of our UWC Thailand alumni to join our ever-expanding alumni network and consider becoming an Alum Ambassador. By reconnecting with our community, you can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our school and current students.

As an Alum Ambassador, you'll have the unique opportunity to share your experiences, contribute to our vibrant community, and help guide the next generation of students. We value the diverse paths our alumni have taken and would be honoured to have you share your journey and insights as part of our thriving network. **Join us in making a lasting impact and continuing the legacy of UWC Thailand.**

To express your interest, please send us an email.

Festive Alum gatherings

January break was filled with impromptu alumni gatherings all around the world. From warm Christmas celebrations to festive New Year's parties, our alumni showcased the strength of our network and proved that UWC friendships endure way beyond the UWC campuses.

It always warms our hearts to see our alum staying connected and keeping the UWC Thailand spirit vibrant.



@uwcthailand_alumni

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





Student Council

The start of the second semester also marked the formation of the new UWC Thailand Student Council assembly for 2024:

- **Co-Heads of Student Council**
  Isabel, grade 11 (Tanzania), and
  Lazar, grade 11 (Serbia)
- **Head of Homeroom Representatives**
  Rabab, grade 11 (Sudan)
- **Head of Academics**
  Raian, grade 11 (Bangladesh)
- **Head of Diversity**
  Imojen, grade 11 (Bermuda)
- **Head of Residential**
  Ahmed, grade 11 (Libya), and
  Areeba, grade 11 (Bangladesh)
- **Head of Sustainability**
  Juliette, grade 11 (Belgium)
- **Head of Wellbeing**
  Milana, grade 11 (United States)

The Student Council will work towards making student voices heard and represented in the school community.

We extend our warmest congratulations to all the newly elected members and wish them the very best in their new roles.

We would like to express our gratitude to the outgoing student council members for their hard work and dedication to the school. Your contributions have made a lasting impact on our community!

Click here for a full article

Host Families

Written by:
Cara Templeton,
UWC Thailand English Language Acquisition Specialist

The Host Family Programme at UWC Thailand enriches students' experiences by extending their sense of community beyond the campus. It allows students to either reconnect with their home culture or immerse themselves in entirely new cultural, religious, or lifestyle experiences they might not have encountered before.

Since joining UWC Thailand last August, I was lucky enough to be matched with Yliane, grade 12 (Spain and Paraguay), and Javier, grade 11 (Spain), and in five short months, words cannot express the absolute love I have for these kids.

Whether it's watching movies at home, trying new Thai dishes or playing with our cats, Yli and Javi are a joyous presence in my (and my partner's) lives. We have been able to learn more about them as unique and amazingly talented young people and also their home countries and cultures of Spain and Paraguay.

I am truly grateful to be a part of this school where relationships are just as important as academics.







24-Hour Race and Community Weekend

The 24-Hour Race Phuket 2024 was a resounding success! Congratulations to all our teams for their outstanding performances. We are proud to be part of something bigger than just a race; all the funds and runs were dedicated to **#endhumantrafficking**.

While the 24-Hour Race may be over, our mission continues. Together, we've raised more than

THB 178,000

Your ongoing contributions matter. Continue to be an agent of change by donating.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make the change.

Shout out to our student photographers: Nakhon, grade 12 (Canada); Maria, grade 12 (Colombia); Joanna, grade 11 (United States); and Steven, grade 12 (El Salvador), for their collaboration to capture these beautiful moments.



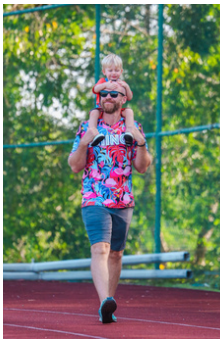
















Click here for more photos









Regional Week

Asia, Europe and Oceania

The second Regional Week of this academic year commenced with a vibrant display of colours and unique styles representing Asia. The atmosphere brimmed with excitement as students not only shared delicious dishes like Panipuri, Roti Sai Mai, Mantu, and more but also engaged in various cultural activities. From the Chinese pitch pot game to Thai-style lotus folding, everyone found something entertaining to participate in.



The week continued with a delightful culinary tour of Europe. Students prepared dishes that showcased the flavours of their hometowns, accompanied by interesting and lesser-known facts about their home countries.

Rounding out the week, Oceania and other cultures joined in a grand celebration, where students enjoyed in a variety of culinary delights from different regions, participated in engaging games, and showcased captivating performances.



Click here to see a video about Europe Day.

Click here to see a video about Asia Day.

Click here for more photos





SPORTING SUCCESS

ASAC Junior Football & Senior Basketball Championships

Australian International School and the International School of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Just a year ago, we participated as provisional members of the ASEAN Sports and Activities Conference (ASAC), marking our first entry into international competitions for these sports (basketball, football and volleyball). A year later, we officially established ourselves as confirmed members, competing alongside other established international schools in the region, some of which have student numbers more than double our own.

We are thrilled to share the outstanding results and three well-deserved trophies:

- **Junior Football Girls - 2nd place**
  - Coach Kelsey
- **Junior Football Boys - 6th place**
  - Coach Steve
- **Senior Basketball Girls - 1st place**
  - Coach Alejandro and Coach Mick
- **Senior Basketball Boys - 3rd place**
  - Coach Ron and Coach Mick

Our Mantas have made us immensely proud. **After the 22/23 win in Junior Girls Football and the 2023/24 win in Junior Girls Basketball, this is the third time that our Mantas are on top of the podium within just one year.**

Celebrating achievements like these goes beyond the sports field; it involves our dedicated team of coaches and the essential academic support that our students receive. The collaborative effort between our coaching team and academic staff ensures that our students excel in their chosen sports and maintain a balance in their overall development.

Congratulations, Mantas!



















Click here for more photos

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

EDUCATION AS A FORCE



Leadership in Action:
An Exclusive Interview with our Head of School

Aylin, grade 12 (Bulgaria)

UWC Thailand is preparing to host the much-anticipated UWC International Congress 2024, in a tranquil nook of Thailand tucked among beautiful flora. As the excitement grows, I had the honour of having a conversation about the significance of this international congress and how the UWC Thailand community is getting ready for the big day with Lural Ramírez, UWC Thailand's Head of School.

Bringing Perspectives Together

Lural began by emphasising the importance of the UWC International Congress in fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among the diverse members of the UWC movement. *"It's not every day that we are reminded that we are more than the school or college that we are in,"* Lural remarked. In her opinion, having those times when we come together as a group is crucial because we can't lose sight of the entirety of things. Our Head believes that magic happens when we bring everyone's perspectives together. The power of collective thinking and the exchange... **Read More.**

Intercultural Day
Friday, 1 March

We are thrilled to invite you to join us in celebrating the national identities that make our community vibrant. Intercultural Day, taking place on Friday, 1 March, is a dynamic event that honours our diverse cultural backgrounds through an exciting array of activities.

This day is not just a celebration but also an opportunity for all of us to showcase and revel in our unique heritages. Whether it's through food, dance, or music - every contribution adds to the richness of our event.

If you haven't already, join your cultural group(s) on WhatsApp

Let's come together to celebrate the diversity that strengthens and enlivens our UWC Thailand community.

We can't wait to see you there!









From Intercultural Day 2023

The Pulse Noticeboard

Here's whats coming up at UWC Thailand, and in our community!

COMMUNITY

Intercultural Day

Friday, 1 March
Come celebrate our rich cultural diversity with us. Don't forget to wear your traditional national attire or costume.

Contact: Manta PTA

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Expedition Weeks

Expedition weeks began at the end of January where our grade 6 to 10 students embark on outdoor adventures across the island, where they camp and engage in diverse activities.

Contact: Kru Rob

ACADEMICS

Grade 12 Mock Exams

29 January to **9 February**, our grade 12 students will sit their Mock Exams. Although just a practice run for their Final exams, we ask everyone to be quiet and respectful of the testing environment.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary Arts Week Showcase

Friday, 2 February, 1:40 pm to 2:30 pm, Gymnasium & Covered Court
Join us on for a showcase of art projects our students have been working on.

Contact: Kru Kurtis

COMMUNITY

Day of Friendship and Love

On **21 February**, join us as we celebrate the Day of Friendship and Love (DOFL) by showing your gratitude to peers, teachers, and other community members.

Details to follow in the Manta Weekly

COMMUNITY

Proud to be UWC Parents!

Friday, 23 February, 8:15-9:00 am in the Boarding House lounge.
Session 4: 'Fostering a Wellbeing Mindset: A Gift and a Responsibility'.

See you there!

SPORTS

Track & Field Days

Primary Track & Field Day
Tuesday, 27 February, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Secondary Track & Field Day
Wednesday, 28 February. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Contact: Kru Kerstin

MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness theme: Kindness

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

Contact: Kru Julia

UWC GLOBAL COMMUNITY

UWC Congress

Join us in welcoming the global UWC community to our campus starting on **29 February**, for the UWC Congress 2024 by participating in community events and proudly showcasing your culture at Intercultural Day.

Contact: Manta PTA

View the Manta Weekly to stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand.

UWC THAILAND