

ISSUE NO.29 / MARCH 2024

THE MANTA

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



Intercultural Day 2024

In a word, Intercultural Day 2024 was **spectacular**. It was a vibrant and colourful celebration of the diverse cultural identities that enrich our community, offering experiences for all the senses. From dishes prepared by our parent community and external food vendors, to the wonderful performances and mesmerising flag parade, the day left us in awe and filled with pride to be part of such a vibrant community.

Taking place during the UWC International Congress 2024, this year's Intercultural Day was grander and more diverse than ever before. With over 150 national identities represented on campus, the celebration showcased the power of peace, mutual understanding, cross-cultural collaboration, dialogue, and above all, education, which brought us all together.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this incredible day! We hope you thoroughly enjoyed the festivities and feel inspired and proud to call yourself a UWCer.

“

“Interacting with students from various backgrounds, trying diverse cuisines, and witnessing cultural performances deepened my appreciation for the richness of human cultures. I felt especially proud to showcase my own culture through music, dance, and the vibrant colours of my Afghan outfit, particularly at a time when these rituals of joy are severely restricted in my home country.”

Tahmina, grade 11 (Afghanistan)

“

“It's my first time experiencing Intercultural Day, and for me, it's magical because I got to see so many amazing dance cultures. Dancing and representing the Philippines was such an honour, and I am excited for next year.”

Debbie Mahinay, UWC Thailand Dance Coach



[Click here to watch the highlights video!](#)

[Click here for more photos](#) 



‘Maths Week’ Magic

‘Maths Week’ aims to spark a love for mathematics through an array of engaging and fun-filled events.

The week kicked off with the challenge of reciting π to the most number of digits, drawing enthusiastic participation from students keen to demonstrate their memorisation skills. A highlight was the "pie a teacher" event, an incentive where correct answers to math problems earned students a chance to pie their teachers. This event, particularly popular among primary students, filled the campus with laughter and fun.

In addition to these activities, students across all grades unleashed their creativity through various maths-related tasks, engaging in both the challenging maths art competition and the "get caught mathing" contest. The latter encouraged students to integrate math into everyday scenarios, capturing the imagination and excitement of the school community.

The combination of competition, creativity, and the opportunity for a light-hearted pie toss at their teachers made ‘Maths Week’ an unforgettable experience, promoting a deepened appreciation and enthusiasm for mathematics among students.

[Click here](#) for more photos 



Community Puzzle Station!

In recent weeks, our Innovation Librarian, Kru Rebekka, has introduced an exciting new addition to our newly refurbished library—the Community Puzzle Station.

In her ongoing efforts to promote wellbeing and decrease screen time among students, Kru Rebekka has introduced a collection of puzzles for collaborative engagement. Positioned on a circular table, these puzzles have quickly become a popular attraction in the library.

Kru Rebekka shared her enthusiasm, stating: **"Puzzling isn't just fun - it's scientifically proven to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance cognitive function. Moreover, it's an excellent way to foster a sense of community and collaboration among students and staff alike."**



Unlocking Potential:

The Benefits of Speech and Language Therapy for Primary and Secondary Students

In this month's newsletter, we shine a spotlight on our Speech and Language Therapist, Claire Banks! Claire, hailing from Australia, has spent the past 5 years working in Cambodia before bring her expertise to our UWC Thailand community.

The phrase "communication is key" is more than just a saying; it's the cornerstone of human interaction. At UWC Thailand, mastering speech and language skills can be a challenge for some students. A Speech and Language Therapist like Claire plays a vital role in fostering and supporting effective communication skills. Working in collaboration with educators, parents, and other professionals, Claire assesses, diagnoses, and provides targeted interventions for students facing communication challenges, focusing on issues such as speech sound disorders, language delays... [Read more.](#)

[Click here](#) for the full article 



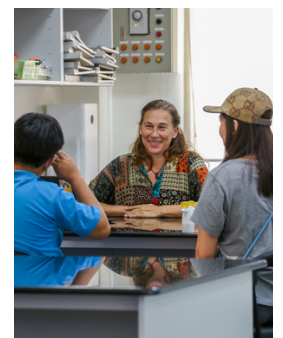
Student-Parent-Teacher and 3-Way Conferences

This month's Student-Parent-Teacher and 3-Way Conferences empowered students to lead discussions, celebrating their learning journey. By showcasing their work, students demonstrated ownership and responsibility for their education, reinforcing their belief in their capabilities and achievements. These conferences are pivotal in encouraging academic and personal growth, equipping students with the tools and support they need to thrive.

“

“The Student-Parent-Teacher and 3-Way Conferences serve as catalysts for student growth, equipping them with the tools and support needed to thrive academically and personally.”

Rohini Salaskar,
UWC Thailand Subject Area Learning Leader - Science and Design



Outdoor Adventure

Grade 3 camping Experience

Over three unforgettable days, our grade 3 students embarked on a camping adventure in the beautiful surroundings of Khao Sok National Park.

They participated in a variety of activities, from jungle treks and river explorations to practical learning experiences such as farming and constructing shelters. These activities not only deepened their appreciation for the environment but also cultivated essential skills like teamwork, critical thinking, and environmental stewardship.

As the sun set, evenings were filled with campfires and night safaris, creating opportunities for reflection, and the building of enduring friendships.

[Click here for more photos](#) 



Yoga for Parents

In our yoga sessions, participants engage in a blend of stretching, strength-building poses, and mindful breathing exercises, fostering both physical and mental well-being. Through a variety of postures, from supine to standing, we aim to strengthen muscles and joints while promoting relaxation and inner peace. Our sessions, held every **Monday and Friday mornings at 8:10 am**, amidst the serene backdrop of the campus lawn's big tree area, provide a tranquil space for parents to rejuvenate amidst their busy lives.

“

Every time after class, you can see smiling faces filled with joy. I hope to share the benefits I have gained from yoga with everyone and make progress together! You are welcome to join us.”

Xuefei (Fia) Chen,
UWC Thailand Parent and Yoga workshop facilitator



POSITIVE
mind



2024 UWC Cup Regatta

Rob Carmichael,
UWC Thailand Director of Outdoor Experiential Education

The much-anticipated 2024 UWC Cup Regatta took place on 16 March, leaving all with cherished memories and valuable lessons. With over 40 sailors registered across four race categories, the event was an exhilarating showcase of skill, determination, and sportsmanship on the water – and it certainly did not disappoint.

From the outset, the atmosphere was one of excitement as sailors geared up for the challenges ahead. A huge thank you to all that volunteered in helping the event run smoothly, from registration to boat rigging and launching.

Once all sailors were registered and briefed, it was time for the real action to begin. The races were fiercely contested, with competitors pushing themselves in pursuit of victory. The wind, the waves, and the spirit of competition combined to create a wonderful atmosphere on the water and for all those in attendance.

The events categories were; Green Fleet Optimists, Silver Fleet Optimists, Silver Fleet O'pen Skiff and Gold Fleet O'pen Skiff. The four categories allowed students to be best positioned to be competitive with peers of a similar level, from beginner sailors to our most advanced. Whilst all sailors did exceptionally well and are sure to have come away from the vent with memories made and... **[Read more.](#)**



[Click here](#) for the full article 



Passion in Action

UWC Thailand's programming and academic rigour, coupled with the IB curriculum, are organised and taught so that each student acquires the tools and skills needed to become an independent critical thinker capable of contributing to collaborative teams in all stages of a project, from conceptualising ideas to final execution. This was evident in our grade 10 students' Personal Project Exhibition, where they showcased the practical application of those skills.

Tasked with finding and developing a project related to their interests, each student spent months utilising learned skills and developing their ideas through research-informed development into a finalised project. Some students presented projects about robotics, gardening, sports, and fashion, each one as interesting as the previous one. By interacting with the UWC Thailand community at the Exhibition, students not only showcased their final products but also their passion and commitment to lifelong learning. They received feedback from their peers, parents, and teachers.

Congratulations to our grade 10 students for their outstanding exhibition and thank you to all supervisors for their support throughout the last 9 months.

[Click here for more photos](#) 





Go Make A Difference!

“Stars Under the Refuge” Project

Jimale’s journey to UWC is marked by his steadfast determination and drive to succeed. Joining UWC Thailand all the way from Hargeisa, Somaliland, Jimale has long endeavoured to do his best, for himself and for others. Driven to get the best education possible Jimale was first turned down by and then accepted into the Abaarso School of Science and Technology, where, upon arrival, he first began to learn English. His acceptance into UWC Thailand as he entered grade 11 has meant that his dreams have grown bigger and his horizon has expanded. With near perfect English after only a few years of study and with the backing of his strong Muslim faith and pride for his home country, Jimale has loved moving to Thailand and living on a tropical island so surrounded by green spaces.

While Jimale embraces life in Thailand and its lush surroundings, his heart remains with his community. **This sentiment sparked his entrepreneurial drive, leading to the creation of the “Stars Under the Refuge” project.** Collaborating with students from UWC ISAK Japan and Waterford Kamhlaba United World College, Jimale and his peers received the **GoMakeADifference Award for their initiative.** The project addresses poverty among children by offering comprehensive solutions, including education, shelter, and stability. Notably, it involves engaging the government, NGOs, and the community to ensure lasting impact.

We are incredibly proud of Jimale's initiative and commitment to making positive change!

[View the “Stars Under the Refuge” application](#) 

[Click here to view the 2024 Award Winners List](#) 

Post-UWC Graduation Pathways

Securing more than **USD 2 million** in university scholarship offers, our Mantas are setting new records year after year. As they prepare for their final IB exams, our grade 12 students spend days in anticipation as their university offers trickle in. With many dozens already in the mailbox, only a few are left to arrive, leaving many of our students with numerous options to choose from. Some have already accepted places in world-renowned universities and colleges, from the US and Europe to East Asia, while others are dedicating their post-grad year to military service, taking time to explore the world, work, or volunteer as part of their Purpose Year experience.

No matter the path they choose, we are extremely proud to see how our programming, care, and transformative education have shaped them into individuals capable of making waves and spreading the UWC mission across the world!

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

CEU
CENTRAL
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY

UCL

TU Delft

KING'S
College
LONDON

MACALESTER



Lewis & Clark
College



BATES

UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER

+ Many more!

UWC Nexus

The UWC Nexus project has a new chapter! After our Mantas visited the UWC ISAK campus, the hosting favour was returned as we had the pleasure of welcoming three UWC ISAK students to our campus. During the week, the students participated in various activities, including joining classes, meeting new friends and faculty members, and engaging in outdoor education experiences such as kayaking.

Aside from meeting new friends and participating in engaging activities, this visit and the entire UWC Nexus project have much greater importance. It is a student-led initiative that aims to unite the movement even further by establishing close relationships of collaboration and idea exchange between individual UWC campuses. It fosters cross-campus learning and also provides invaluable opportunities for cross-cultural exchange within our global community.

We are immensely proud to have students who are agents of change and dedicated promoters of this project—well done all!



“

“It was a wonderful experience; the campus is absolutely stunning. We learned a lot and hope that this visit is the start of a long journey of collaboration between our school and UWC Thailand.”

Mira, UWC ISAK grade 12 student from Belgium and India



Grade 12 Art Show

For this year's Diploma Programme Art Show, our budding artists displayed their incredible work over five days for the community to experience and understand the stories behind the canvas. Each student has spent the better part of two years choosing a theme that resonates with them and researching other artists to gain inspiration for their creations. Despite all the inevitable creative ups and downs, we are so proud of them for their expressive minds and technical abilities to go from conception to realisation. **Congratulations on the spectacular show!**

Thank you to our dedicated art teacher, Kru Dale, and the entire school community for supporting this event and our arts programme.



Krob Krua UWC Thailand



The UWC Thailand alum family gathering

March was marked by a heartwarming and foundational milestone for our Alum. It was the first time that our entire UWC Thailand alum community was invited to a Zoom call to reconnect, share stories, and create new memories together.

With more than 50 alum present and a handful of staff and faculty members, the virtual call felt like a family gathering. To break the ice and kick things off, Rutuja Bhoite, Class of 2020, and Garn Leangphibul, Class of 2022, volunteered as hosts and got the conversation started by reminiscing about moments spent together on the campus.

This was an amazing opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet other alum, network, and have fun while remembering the good old times. We cannot wait for the next one!

Thank you to Kru Len and Kru Katie for the question and answer session which brought about many fond memories!

“

“It was an incredible delight to see so many UWC Thailand graduates on the recent alumni meet. Each of them had a story, went through a unique, individual and collective experience in their time here. Seeing them now as young adults, remembering them as students, made me feel so grateful to have the privilege and opportunity to meet and work with such a remarkably diverse, curious, deeply caring group of young people.”

Len Peters,
UWC Thailand Head of Counselling &
Comprehensive Counsellor

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 Mantas in Motion

A recap of a thrilling sports month

Kerstin Bender,
UWC Thailand Director of Sports, Activities and Camps

Over the past weeks, we've been on a journey packed with excitement, achievements, and unforgettable moments.

This recent journey began with the **Primary and Secondary UWC Track & Field Meets**, where our students showcased their athleticism and determination, setting personal bests and breaking records along the way.

Following the track meets, we dove into a thrilling three-day swim meet, where our swimmers demonstrated their skill and endurance in the pool. We then attended the **PISAC Primary Track & Field Meet** and competed against participants from other Phuket schools in a friendly environment.

But the action didn't stop there! Next up was the **PISAC Secondary Track & Field Meet**, hosted by UWC Thailand, where our athletes once again showed their mettle, pushing themselves to new heights and supporting each other every step of the way.

And just when we thought things couldn't get any more exciting, our Senior Teams embarked on a five-day trip to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to participate in the **23/24 Football Championships of the ASEAN Sports and Activities Conference**. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to represent UWC Thailand on a regional stage, and they did us proud with their skill, sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

Throughout these events, I've been continuously impressed by the growth and resilience of our Mantas over the past two years. From personal bests to team victories, they've shown incredible spirit and determination, both on and off the field.

Congratulations to all our athletes, coaches, and supporters for making these past few weeks truly unforgettable. Let's continue to celebrate our achievements and build on the momentum.

Go Mantas!





ASAC Senior Football Championships



In a great showcase of skill and sportsmanship, our Senior Girls team clinched a well-deserved 3rd place, while the Senior Boys team secured an impressive 5th spot in the 2024 ASAC Senior Football Championships hosted by the Canadian International School of Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It was yet another memorable sports event for our Mantas. Setting off for an adventure filled with action-packed matches and cultural exploration, our Mantas spent an unforgettable four days competing, making friends and fine-tuning their skills on the field.

[Click here](#) for more photos 



BISP Swim Meet

The BISP Sea Eagles Invitational Swim Meet, a three-day event, witnessed our Mantas breaking all records and bringing home multiple medals. While competing against 15 other swim teams from across Asia, our Mantas set an outstanding **91 personal best times and secured top 8 finishes.**



[Click here](#) for more photos 





PISAC Secondary Track and Field Meet

On their home track, our runners once again left the audience in awe of their determination and skill. In the PISAC Secondary Track and Field Meet, hosted by UWC Thailand at the nearby track in Thanyapura, our Mantas achieved first place, ahead of all other local schools that participated. Organising such an event is never easy; it takes great determination and organisation from all involved, especially those who volunteer their time and skills to make this event happen. For that reason, in her reflection on the event, our Director of Sport, Activities, and Camps, Kerstin Bender, expressed her gratitude to:

- **The Physical and Health Education Team**, who trained the students during classes and breaks, helped with the set-up, and supported the event throughout.
- **Coach Brian**, who supported and coached our students.
- **Kru Lorraine**, who once again proved to be a fabulous addition to the team, even on her day off.
- **Kru John L**, who single-handedly managed the High Jump station.
- **Kru Emma N**, who came out to support our timekeepers together with our Grade 11 students.
- **Kru Laura W**, who helped with tabulating the points.
- **Khun Mook** and **Khun Tan** for their help behind the scenes.
- **Khun Vera**, who once again stayed late and captured pictures of the event.
- **The Athletics Council** for providing some cold drinks and popcorn.

As a school, it is a great honour to host such sports events and it is truly a pleasure having an excellent team as you all are. We are grateful for all your determination and time and cannot wait to see to what heights your leadership takes our students.

[Click here](#) for more photos 



The Pulse Noticeboard

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

MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness theme: Appreciation

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

Contact: [Kru Julia](#)

ACADEMICS

Grade 8 Science Fair

1 April, at 1:45 pm in the Multipurpose Hall.

Explore exhibition presentations and engage with various STEM experiments. Ask as many questions as you wish!

Contact: [Kru Stephanie](#)

SPORTS

UWC Thailand Aquatics Galas

Join us on **4 April** as our Primary students dive into competitive swimming, and again on **5 April** to cheer on our Secondary students in their swimming and water polo competitions.

Contact: [Kru Ali](#)

COMMUNITY

Songkran 2024

Join our community-wide celebration of Thai New Year on **5 April**, featuring a palm watering ceremony and a fun water games station!

EYP: 8:30 am to 10:00 am

PYP: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

MYP & DP: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Contact: [Kru Pum](#)

COMMUNITY

Earth Day 2024

On **22 April**, join our students in contemplating our collective impact on the local ecosystem and the significance of preserving Earth's biodiversity in line with our mission of creating a sustainable future.

LIBRARY

World Book Day

On **23 April**, renowned author , Nawal Karla, will celebrate World Book Day with us! Parents are encouraged to assist children in dressing up as their favourite literary characters.

See you in the Library!

Contact: [Kru Rebekka](#)

ACADEMICS

Grade 12 IB DP Exams Start

As our grade 12 students commence their final IB DP Exams on **Thursday, 25 April**, we kindly request everyone to be respectful of their study environments and maintain silence. **To all students, we wish you the best of luck!**

COMMUNITY

Proud to be UWC Parents!

Join us on **Friday, 26 April, 8:15-9:00 am** in the Boarding House lounge for the next 'Proud to be UWC Parents!' session.

[See you there!](#)

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

OFFSEAS Conference

On **27 & 28 April**, UWC Thailand will host over 200 educators for the OFFSEAS Conference focused on promoting and enhancing outdoor learning and education for students of all ages in South East Asian schools.

Contact: [Kru Rob](#)