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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

Delta Dinner

Celebration of appreciation

One of the most loved and heartfelt evenings marking the beginning of the Graduation festivities is the Delta Dinner. During this occasion, which gathers our graduating class and their teachers, students have the opportunity to pay tribute to and thank the incredible staff who have supported them throughout their UWC Thailand journey. As our graduates expressed their deep gratitude, tears of joy flowed, and laughter filled the room. To conclude the evening, our students wrote messages to their teachers and snapped a photo or two to keep with them as they transition into a new chapter of their educational journey.

Click here for more photos





















Transitions Week

Grade 12 Camp

During Transition Week, the grade 12 class embarked on an unforgettable camp experience at UWC Thailand's Outdoor Education Centre. The focus of their time was bonding as a cohort, challenging themselves once more through outdoor activities, and reflecting on their shared experiences. Throughout those few days, they engaged in various activities, including hiking, sailing, mountain biking, and practising mindfulness, as well as singing, playing board games, and simply spending quality time together.







Community Dinner

Another memorable evening that all members of our community hold dear is the Community Dinner. The dinner provided a unique opportunity for our graduating students to introduce their families to their peers, staff, and others, fostering a deep sense of connection between our local and global communities. The atmosphere was casual yet brimming with pride and happiness as everyone gathered, engaging in conversations and forming lasting friendships, with a sense of excitement in preparation for the next chapter.

Thank you to all who came and made this evening one to remember.




A New Chapter

Post-Graduation Plans

As we bid farewell to the UWC Thailand Class of 2024, we wish to highlight their remarkable successes in securing great opportunities for their future education and personal growth. While some chose to serve their countries or spend the next year exploring and discovering the world, others have secured fully funded places at some of the best universities in the world. **No matter what path they choose, we are immensely proud of their journey and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.**

University of Massachusetts Amherst
The George Washington University Washington, DC
CEU Central European University
UCL
King's College London
TU Delft
Purpose Year
Macalester
Military Service
Skidmore College
Lewis & Clark College
Cornell University Founded A.D. 1865
Ringling College of Art + Design
Bates
University of Rochester
+ Many more!

MANTAS ON THE MOVE

UWC Thailand Class of 2024 Graduation

What better sums up the graduation of the Class of 2024 than the words of their class representatives, Fariba and Ylianne: **“We made it. Take a second to look around and realise that the moment has come; it’s here. We are on stage, we are graduating. Today, we walked into the hall as UWC Thailand students, but we will leave the room as UWC alum.”**

The graduation of the UWC Thailand Class of 2024 was a celebration of this remarkable cohort's many successes. It also recognised the resilience, kindness, and enthusiasm that carried them through the past two years. Together, they braved numerous challenges and created countless joyful moments that will remain some of the most memorable of their lives. As they walked the stage and became alum, they were showered with love and pride from the audience, where their families, peers, teachers, and friends celebrated them. This ceremony not only marked the end of one journey but also the beginning of a new adventure, filled with endless possibilities and the warm memories of their time at UWC Thailand.

Click here to view the more photos

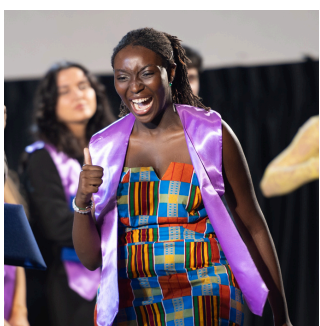


















Kru Wambui Karenju, Mathematics Teacher and Teacher Representative of the UWC Thailand Class of '24, reminded our graduates of their resilience and capabilities.

"I hope that this experience has shown you that you can do something hard, that you can sit in the struggle longer than you thought you could. And if you proved to us before you got here that you were brilliant, and our assumption held true, and you made it through the last two years, then by induction it holds true that you will be amazing and that you have what it takes."









LIVE

Watch this space for the recording of the ceremony





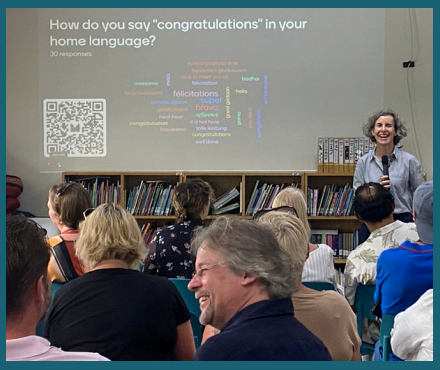
Kru Jonathan Field, Secondary School Principal, remarked that this class is his 25th graduating class and closed off the graduation ceremony with these words:

"Thank you class of 2024 for being a class I will not forget - thank you for looking after me and my family. It has been a real honour - Be well, stay safe, be kind and come back and visit us often."













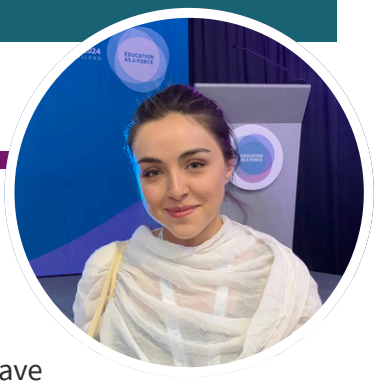
Proud to be UWC Parents!

Our last Proud to be UWC Parents! session of this academic year, titled **"The Alumni Journey,"** was led by Aleka Bilan, Director of Wellbeing, and Nicki Robertson, Director of Philanthropy and Strategic Initiatives.

The session focused on supporting students as they take the next step in their educational journey and transition from grade 12 students to UWC alum and become young adults.

Thank you to all the parents and community members who participated in our sessions and contributed with their ideas and active involvement.

A Journey of Growth and Gratitude



Catalina (UWC Thailand '19) homecoming

Three months ago, I returned to UWC Thailand for the Congress, five years after I graduated (2019). The last time I was there, I was a student; this time, I returned as the Vice President of the UWC National Committee of Chile.

Going back was incredibly comforting. It was reassuring to see that so many things remained unchanged. Students were still engaged in long conversations about politics and stood firm against violations of human rights. The teachers were as welcoming as I remembered them to be. The whole UWC Thailand staff made me feel like I was at home. At UWC Thailand, you can take off your shoes, dance like nobody's watching, sing karaoke, engage in deep and challenging conversations, and welcome new people with open arms. That is exactly how a home should feel.

UWC Thailand changed my life and I am sure it continues to change the lives of many others. It was there that I learned kindness and compassion. It was there that I found a community that supported me during my best and worst times, even after I graduated. I owe so much of who I am today to the experiences and the people I met there.

Without my experience at UWC Thailand, I wouldn't have graduated with honours from university, I wouldn't have overcome my fear of making mistakes and not always being "the best", I wouldn't have dared to come and live in Italy, I wouldn't be part of UWC Chile, and I wouldn't be giving other teenagers in Chile the same opportunity I had. I wouldn't be specialising in sustainability, I wouldn't have friends all over the world; in short, many things would be different.

Looking to the future, I aim to apply the invaluable lessons I learned at UWC Thailand to my career as an international legal advisor specialising in technology and sustainability. My aspiration is to contribute to a world where safety is paramount, smiles are abundant, and innovative solutions drive sustainable progress across all aspects of life.

I hope I won't have to wait as long this time to go back to UWC Thailand. **And when I am back, I look forward to sharing the simple pleasures of life—like enjoying watermelon under a tree—with my dearest friends once again.**

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



Empowering Students

Primary Student-Led Conferences Celebrate Year-Long Learning

Giving agency and empowering students to be confident and proud of their work was perfectly exemplified in the latest Primary Student-Led Conferences. On this day, students led the way, guiding their families through showcasing, reflecting on, and celebrating their year-long learning. The interaction between child and parent during the conferences was extraordinary, generating incredible excitement and pride in both parties, making it a memorable day for all.

Click here for more photos













Click here for more photos

Primary Years Programme Exhibition

In an effort to further engage with the local community, our grade 5 students connected with numerous community organisations to explore ways in which a mutually beneficial relationship could be formed, all of which they proudly showcased in the Annual Primary Years Exhibition.

After months of research, ideation, prototyping, reflection, and feedback implementation, our students presented their various initiatives and actions that brought our central idea to life: “Our values and strengths guide us to contribute to our community”. In their efforts, our students have shown immense commitment and a deep understanding of what it means to be aware citizens who care not only for their own well-being but also for the well-being of the community as a whole.

Congratulations on your extraordinary exhibition!

Click here to learn more







Empowering Independence

Mega's Eco-Friendly Sensory Boards for Phuket Special Education Center

Margaret (Mega), grade 11 (Philippines), spearheaded another ingenious Creativity, Activity & Service (CAS) project to create eco-friendly sensory boards for children at the Phuket Special Education Center in Kathu. After sending out a request for old zippers, belts, buttons, clasps, hooks, and fabrics in February, the UWC Thailand community responded with overwhelming generosity. The donated materials enabled Mega to assemble the sensory boards, which are designed to enhance fine motor skills and promote independence in daily living, such as learning to dress themselves. These completed boards are now ready for distribution, demonstrating the powerful impact of community support and collaboration, as well as Mega's great initiative to help differently abled communities.

We are proud of your achievements, Mega.

Click here for the full article

Sensory Play

Not just for kids!



Laura Worasaktayanan,
UWC Thailand Head of Learning Support

People often associate sensory play with young children. On weekends, my family spends plenty of time engaging in various sensory activities, from gardening to playdough and pottery making. While my daughter is 4 years old, the benefits of sensory play extend far beyond Mini Mantas! The activities we participate in are just as calming and beneficial for adults!
For special education teachers, sensory activities are invaluable in engaging learners of all ages. Sensory play serves as a powerful tool to support students of varying ages and abilities in many different areas of development. Even subtle sensory tasks, like fiddling with sticky tack, can help students stay regulated and calm during learning.

Sensory activities stimulate nerve connections, promoting cognitive development and improving information-processing skills.
This enables students to tackle complex tasks and excel in academics. Sensory activities also prove helpful when students are feeling overwhelmed. Providing a calming influence, sensory play can help students self-regulate and refocus, even up to grade 12 and beyond. Students can engage with calming textures, sounds, or smells to regain focus.

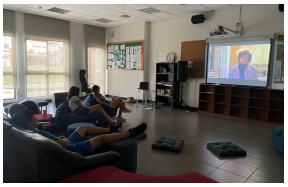
The beauty of sensory play lies in its adaptability. From building fine motor skills through playdough or carving clay sculptures to developing gross motor skills with physical activities, sensory play gets students active and their bodies coordinated. Here are a few things you could try at home:

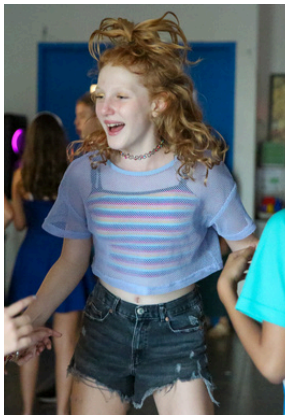
For younger ages:

- Homemade playdough is fantastic for strengthening hands and exploring textures. Add spices like cinnamon or cloves to enhance the smell.
- Water exploration is a great sensory activity for humid days in Phuket...

Click here for the full article

Middle Years Programme Social Evening




Our MYP students threw a vibrant celebration in 80s style on Friday, 10 May, which was divided into three exciting sections. In the dancing and karaoke section, students sang their hearts out to classic 80s hits and showcased their best dance moves. The cinema section screened the iconic film "Back to the Future," providing a nostalgic trip down memory lane. While outside, students enjoyed a spirited game of soccer under the open sky.

Amidst all the fun, there were delicious snacks and refreshing drinks to keep everyone energized. The students had an amazing time, engaging in dancing, singing, and socialising. Many of them sported fantastic 80s-themed outfits, adding to the lively atmosphere and making the celebration even more memorable.

Click here for more photos

Do revolutions always lead to progress?

Our grade 8 students recently explored revolutions in their Individuals and Societies class. They examined the causes, processes, and consequences of revolutions, culminating in a panel discussion on whether revolutions always lead to progress. Students studied specific revolutions in depth, showcasing their knowledge, critical thinking, and debate skills while examining if revolution equals progress.






Grade 11 Exams

"Practice makes perfect"

"Practice makes perfect" is a mantra integral to the IB Programme, exemplified once again by grade 11 as they undertake their yearly exams. Serving as a simplified version of their final IB exams, grade 11 students spent a week showcasing their knowledge and identifying areas that require further attention in the coming months.

We hope that this experience served as a valuable learning opportunity, enabling them to refine their skills and knowledge as they continue their academic journey in the grade 12.

SPORTS ROUND-UP



ASAC Junior Volleyball Championships 2024







UWC Thailand's Mantas participation in the ASAC Junior Volleyball Championships 2024 at ACG School Jakarta, Indonesia, ended with pride!

The girls' team secured 4th place, showing growth from last year. **Kudos to Captain Quetzal, grade 8 (United States), for her exceptional leadership, and to Most Valuable Player Anna, grade 7 (Finland), for her outstanding performance.** Meanwhile, the boys' team finished strong, showing significant improvement and leaving with invaluable lessons and newfound skills.

Well done, Mantas!

Click here for more photos









Early Years Splash

Our young swimmers had a wonderful time testing out the waters with a variety of activities and games, and we couldn't be prouder of their bravery, effort, and enthusiasm. **A big thank you to all the parents who came to cheer on and support our young Mantas, as well as a huge thank you to our student volunteers!**

Click here for more photos

SPORTS ROUND-UP

PISAC U16 Badminton Championships









The PISAC Badminton event was a day of impressive performance and sportsmanship from our students. Competing in numerous games, our players advanced to the semi-finals in most divisions. Their dedication and hard work in training sessions were evident in their improved skills and gameplay.

Despite some close matches, our team showed great resilience and teamwork across singles, doubles, and mixed doubles categories. We are proud of their achievements and look forward to more exciting competitions in the future.

Congratulations to Angela, Ava, Catherine, Clint, Ivan, Murphy, Santiago, and Abbas!









ISHCMC Swimming Tournament

The ISHCMC Swimming Invitational at the International School Ho Chi Minh City was a thrilling showcase of our Manta Swim Team's talent and dedication. With representation from 15 schools across 8 countries, our team of 18 swimmers made a significant impact.

Highlights included multiple gold, silver, and bronze medals in various events, with standout performances from **Isabel, Isabella (Grade 7), Martina, Siena, Isabella (Grade 9) and Een.**

Our team's success wasn't just measured in medals but also in the **35 top 8 finishes** and an impressive **57 personal bests** achieved.

Congratulations to our amazing team for their performances as well as being outstanding ambassadors for UWC and a pleasure to travel with.

Sports Awards Night

Celebrating Sports and UWC Thailand Mantas

The inaugural UWC Thailand Sports Awards Night was a great success, marking a significant milestone in our school's history. Hosted by our Athletics Council, the event celebrated the achievements of our student-athletes and brought the community together. The evening was filled with gratitude and celebration. Our host thanked everyone who attended and supported the event and presented awards for our most successful Manta athletes.

A highlight of the night was the announcement of raising THB 32,800 to support our National Committee student-athletes for the next academic year, a feat made possible by the community's generosity. Special thanks were given to our sponsors for their invaluable contributions, which played a crucial role in the event's success and the ongoing development of sports at UWC Thailand.

Congratulations to all our Manta athletes for their remarkable achievements this year.
We are incredibly proud to see you doing what you love, improving your skills, and being recognised for your success.

















The Pulse Noticeboard

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

MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness theme: Reflections and Collaborations

Our students, staff, and community will wrap up the year with mindful reflections and collaborative efforts.

Contact: Kru Julia

PRIMARY YEARS

Mini TEDx

Come and see our amazing grade 8 students for a Mini TEDx event in the Secondary building, where they will tackle global issues head-on with inspiring and thought-provoking presentations. **Wednesday, 5 June, 2 to 4 pm.**

Contact: Kru Heidi

MIDDLE YEARS

Sustainability Fair

Join our grade 7 students at the Sustainability Fair in the Secondary building, **room 5201, between 2 and 4 pm on 6 June** where they will showcase innovative ideas and products for a greener future.

Contact: Kru Heidi

ARTS

Whole School Art Exhibition

Experience the artistic brilliance and remarkable creative abilities of UWC Thailand's students. **Exhibition is open every day between 4 and 7 June in the Multipurpose Hall.**

Contact: Kru Dale

PRIMARY YEARS

Film Festival MiniX

After much hard work, our grade 4 students are thrilled to invite you to the screening of their author films at **8:30 am on 7 June in room 3103**.

Contact: Kru Jen

ACADEMICS

Grade 10 Work Opportunity Week

Between June 10 and 14, our grade 10 students will network and gain firsthand professional insights. **Thank you to all community members who volunteered to mentor our students.**

COMMUNITY

Talent Show

On **14 June**, join us in the MultiPurpose Hall for the UWC Thailand Annual Talent Show, celebrating the fun and creative talents of our students. **All are welcome from 3:45 pm.**

Contact: Kru Kurtis

COMMUNITY

Spirit Day

Join us in celebrating UWC Thailand **Primary School's** spirit and excitement **on 18 June starting at 9 am. Then, on 19 June at the same time, cheer on our Middle Years Programme** students in an action-packed day of sports competitions.

COMMUNITY

Moving-on Ceremonies

Join us in celebrating our students on **Thursday, 20 June**, as they complete an educational milestone and transition from Primary School to Secondary School and from the Middle Years Programme to the Diploma Programme.

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

UWC THAILAND