

ISSUE NO.32 / JUNE 2024

THE MANTA

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

Pulse

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



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"Education is the most powerful
weapon you can use to change
the world."

Nelson Mandela, Late Honorary President, UWC



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Learning Through Fun and Exploration

Wonderful weather equals exciting outdoor learning opportunities. During the month, our Kindergarten students took full advantage of the good weather and spent a day at the UWC Thailand Outdoor Education Centre, where they explored the concept of measurement.

The adventure began with a reading of "Actual Size" by Steve Jenkins, where students compared their hands and heads to the animals featured in the book. This interactive storytime set the stage for hands-on learning as students used 'unifix' cubes to measure and compare the sizes of various objects.

The learning didn't stop there. At home, students extended their measurement exploration by using everyday objects like pasta and Lego bricks to measure household items. They applied mathematical language, such as measure, long, tall, and compare, to describe their findings, further reinforcing their new skills.



Grade 4 Film Festival



How We Express Who We Are

The shared theme of "How We Express Who We Are" was central to all the self-created movies that our grade 4 students presented at their recent film festival. The students turned our Grade 4 classroom into a movie theatre for this unique occasion. Parents, along with students from the Early Years and Primary Years, came together to view the films. Adding to the excitement, our students sold tickets, popcorn, and drinks, with all proceeds going to charity.



Grade 2 Outdoor Education

Grade 2 students had a great morning at Naiyang Beach, drawing the scenery and building sandcastles with natural materials. They showcased creativity through their sketches and worked together on impressive sandcastle creations, fostering teamwork and problem-solving skills. It was a memorable experience that deepened their love for nature and each other.





Sustainability Fair

At UWC Thailand, sustainability is an integral pillar of our educational philosophy and a core component of the broader UWC mission. Our commitment to sustainability is reflected in the innovative practices and projects of our students, as demonstrated recently by our grade 7 students during the Sustainability Fair.

The fair showcased their creative ideas and products aimed at fostering a greener future.

Projects included a range of eco-friendly solutions such as recycled paper, chairs made from repurposed materials, and eco-cups designed to reduce single-use plastic waste, among many other inventive initiatives.

During the event, students presented their projects to parents and peers, showcasing their dedication to sustainability, which received enthusiastic reactions from all attendees!



[Click here for more photos](#)

Grade 10 Work Opportunity Week

Engaging in Real-World Learning

Our grade 10 students recently participated in the Work Opportunity Initiative, guided by teachers, staff, and local professionals. Students embarked on a career discovery journey, refining their resumes and receiving valuable feedback.

This year, students found their own placements, securing positions in fields such as hospitality, sports, arts, education, retail, medical, non-profit, and real estate. This initiative exposes them to the professional world, helping develop practical skills and knowledge for future career decisions. It also enhances Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills like communication and problem-solving.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the professionals and partners who generously guided and inspired our students during Work Opportunity Week.

[Click here for more photos](#)





Celebrating Milestones

Moving-on Ceremonies for Grade 5 and Grade 10

Our grade 5 and grade 10 students recently celebrated their Moving-on Ceremonies, marking their successful transitions in our academic programmes. Grade 5 students are moving from the Primary Years Programme (PYP) to the Middle Years Programme (MYP), and grade 10 students are advancing from the Middle Years Programme (MYP) to the Diploma Programme (DP) for the new academic year.

The event was a joyous occasion where students shared their treasured moments. They reflected on their favourite memories and celebrated the friendships they had built during their educational journeys. Additionally, students participated in a Transition Day, which introduced them to the practicalities of their upcoming sequential programmes, ensuring they are well-prepared for the next stage of their academic paths.

Congratulations to all our grade 5 and grade 10 students!
We are incredibly proud of you!

[Click here for more photos](#)

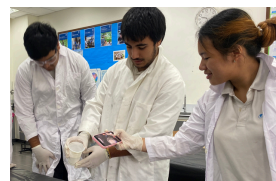


Grade 11 Collaborative Sciences Project

Students of grade 11 engaged in the Collaborative Sciences Project (CSP) on Wednesday, 19 June, and Thursday, 20 June. The focus of these days was not only to explore the intricate processes of rubber making but also to highlight the significance of sustainability in industrial practices, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) 8, 9, and 12: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

Wednesday morning began with a highly educational visit to a local rubber factory, giving participants an invaluable firsthand look at both the traditional and innovative processes involved in rubber manufacturing. This visit set the stage for the subsequent laboratory activities, allowing participants to draw direct comparisons between conventional methods and... [Read more.](#)

[Click here](#) for more photos



Additional Boarding House

The past few months have seen significant construction efforts on our campus, resulting in numerous upgrades and the creation of several new facilities. Among these developments, a striking new addition has emerged: the new boarding house. Set to welcome prospective students starting this upcoming spring, the boarding house is designed to provide a comfortable and supportive living environment. As construction nears completion, the focus now shifts to interior finishing and furnishing, ensuring that every detail aligns with our vision of fostering a vibrant and inclusive boarding community. Work will continue during the summer break, and we eagerly anticipate the progress when we return in August.





Grade 11 Project Week

To culminate a year filled with enriching experiences, our Grade 11 students embarked on a compulsory, transformative Project Week, breaking away from traditional classroom boundaries. This experience encourages self-reliance, initiative, and resourcefulness through independent, low-cost travel within Thailand. Students plan and execute projects in groups of 9-10, exploring diverse parts of the country and engaging with local communities, cultures, and histories. They work with NGOs, witness global concerns, and achieve essential CAS elements, while developing first aid skills and structured reflection practices.

This initiative empowered both our students and local communities alike, fostering opportunities for positive change and meaningful cultural exchange.



THANK YOU!

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all Service Partners and Project Week Hosts for your invaluable support and collaboration during our initiatives. Your dedication and hospitality have been instrumental in providing enriching experiences and learning opportunities for our students.

Thank you for opening your doors, sharing your knowledge, and inspiring the next generation. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, shaping their perspectives and fostering their growth.

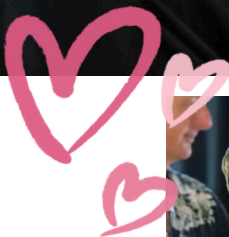


Developing Fine Motor Skills through Play in Kindergarten

Our in-house Occupational Therapist (OT) has been working weekly with our kindergarten children to develop essential fine motor skills needed for handwriting. Through engaging and fun activities, the children are improving their hand strength, coordination, and dexterity. These foundational skills not only enhance their handwriting abilities but also contribute to their overall academic and personal growth. We are proud of the progress our young students are making and excited to see their continued success!



A Heartfelt Thank You!



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers, supporters, and donors who joined us at our special Community Thank You Event. Your presence made the occasion even more meaningful, and we are truly grateful for your unwavering support. A special mention goes to the Manta PTA for their incredible dedication and contributions.

The significance of your contributions cannot be overstated, as they have a profound impact on the success of our students. Your time, talent, and resources have propelled us forward, making a substantial difference in supporting the UWC mission. Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity.



[Click here for more photos](#) 

The Journey of Marsela and Hamida

From Afghanistan to UWC Thailand

Marsela Siddiq's journey from Afghanistan to UWC Thailand has been a story of resilience and growth. Leaving her homeland was a difficult decision for Marsela, who had always been so attached to her family. The scholarship offer seemed both a blessing and a challenge; the thought of departing from her loved ones was overwhelming. Yet, her parents' support encouraged her to pursue her dreams. They saw the potential in her, urging her to take the opportunity for a better future.

At UWC Thailand, Marsela found an environment that surpassed her expectations. The diversity and vibrancy of the campus community left an impact on her. "UWC is amazing," she shared, "the people, the diversity, like everyone representing a new culture and representing themselves, and you go like 'wow!'" Her experience was enriched by friendships with peers from around the globe. The kindness and support from classmates, teachers, and peers in Thailand made her feel at home.

As Marsela prepares to embark on the next chapter of her journey at St. Olaf College in the USA, she reflects on her time at UWC Thailand. Initially, she feared her future would be confined to traditional roles with no prospects for higher education. Receiving the scholarship ... **[Read more.](#)**

Two years ago, **Hamida Eliacy** began a journey from Afghanistan to UWC Thailand on a scholarship supported by UWCSEA in Singapore. Reflecting on her transition, Hamida often contrasts her childhood with the scenes she witnesses at UWC Thailand. The difference between the play of children in Phuket and the realities of her upbringing in Afghanistan evokes feelings of sorrow. In her homeland, danger and security concerns often confine children, particularly girls, to their homes, depriving them of the pleasures of childhood. Despite these challenges, Hamida is determined to use her experiences to benefit her community, sharing knowledge and opportunities with friends and family back home.

Hamida's journey has been one of growth and responsibility. She has become a bridge between her new life in Thailand and her roots in Afghanistan, using her platform to advocate for education and gender equality. Speaking at the International Women's Day event in Phuket in 2024, she highlighted the plight of uneducated women in Afghanistan. At UWC Thailand, she has led the "Because I am a Girl" club and completed her book, "Bamyan Blossoms," which tells the stories of Afghan children. Her participation in the UWC community has equipped her... **[Read more.](#)**



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.





“The education I received at UWC Thailand was exceptional. The support and guidance of my teachers helped me not only to excel academically but also to grow personally and develop a strong sense of purpose and direction.

Your inspiring generosity and belief in the power of education have motivated me to strive for excellence and make a positive impact in the world. With your support, I am thrilled to share that I have been accepted into Cornell Engineering, a dream that I never thought possible.”

Alexandra Mastrogianni (UWC Thailand '24) from Greece

“The UWC Thailand community has played an instrumental role in shaping me into the person I am today, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunities that have allowed me to grow both academically and personally.”

Kato Van Der Pol (UWC Thailand '24) from The Netherlands



The Power of UWC Thailand's Transformative Education



"I look back at the person I was 2 years ago and am impressed by how much this school has made me grow. I look forward to the future, knowing I will cherish these moments as some of the best years of my life. The mix of emotions I feel now is like the beautiful sunset in Phuket. Though the sunset marks the end of a day, there are more days and sunsets to come, some colorful, some cloudy, but the sun will always rise again.

Thank you so much for giving me the chance to be here. It is difficult to describe how I feel, but I know that UWC Thailand has changed my life."

Steven Perla Blanco (UWC Thailand '24) from El Salvador

“During my time at UWC Thailand, I have had the opportunity to explore and develop new skills in sports, particularly biking and swimming. Learning to bike and swim not only provided me with enjoyable recreational activities but also enhanced my physical fitness and self-confidence. Representing UWC Thailand over the past two years has been a privilege and a source of pride for me.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my host family, Mengqi Yang, and Yixuan Huang, for the warmth and hospitality they have shown me during my time at UWC Thailand.”

Jimale Keyse (UWC Thailand '24) from Somaliland



Talent Show

A Showcase of Talent

To celebrate the diverse talents within our community, our students and teachers took center stage at the much-anticipated UWC Thailand Talent Show. The event was a cheerful occasion filled with soulful melodies, groovy dance moves, and entertaining comedy acts, where creativity and talent shone through every performance. The audience was captivated by the incredible displays of passion and skill, making the Talent Show a memorable highlight of the year.

We extend our heartfelt applause to all participants for their dedication and hard work, which truly made the Talent Show a resounding success. Bravo!

[Click here for more photos](#) 



Art Exhibition

The UWC Thailand Whole School Art Exhibition was a vibrant celebration of the creative journeys our students embarked on throughout the year. Our young artists explored different styles, materials, and techniques, expressing unique perspectives and talents. Each artwork was a testament to the creativity and dedication of our young artists, showcasing their growth and artistic development.

Congratulations to all our talented students for a remarkable exhibition that truly inspired all who attended!

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“It was wonderful to see our whole community united by a love of Art. Congratulations to all students and teachers for such a fantastic Art Exhibition.”

Jonathan Field,
Acting Head of School & Secondary School Principal



[Click here for more photos](#) 



Celebrating Spirit and Sportsmanship

UWC Thailand's Action-Packed Spirit Days

To end the school year with a bang, our Primary and Middle Years Programme students recently showcased their agility and determination during the exhilarating UWC Thailand Spirit Days.

Over two action-packed days, filled with cheers and high spirits, they demonstrated remarkable sportsmanship in a variety of competitions including football, basketball, capture the flag, and ultimate frisbee matches. Organised by the Student Council with support from the Physical Education team, the event featured a range of fun and energetic activities that fostered teamwork and camaraderie among the students. Laughter filled the air as they worked together and enjoyed the games.

A heartfelt thank you to our Student Council for orchestrating such an incredible celebration of spirited sportsmanship!

[Click here](#) for more photos 



SPORTS ROUND-UP

Touch Rugby

Over five engaging sessions, our grade 2 and grade 3 students demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm and teamwork in touch rugby. Led by Coach Axe and supported by dedicated parents, the programme focused on teaching basic skills like passing, catching, and positioning, all while emphasising fun, fitness, and fair play. Students not only developed their abilities on the field but also learned valuable lessons in teamwork and sportsmanship.

We are proud of how our young players embraced the sport and are eager to see their continued growth. As we conclude this successful season, plans are already in motion for the next round of touch rugby sessions in the upcoming academic year. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants, parents, and coaches for their generous contributions.

Together, let's continue nurturing the spirit of touch rugby within our school community!



Chess Tournament

This month, HeadStart School hosted a major chess tournament with over 100 participants registered. Among them were several students from our school, including Cecil, grade 9 (USA), who achieved an impressive 2nd place, and Ivan, grade 10 (Spain), who secured 7th place in the competition.

Well done, Mantas!



Triathlon Series

The **AmazingKids 2024 Triathlon Series**, hosted at Verso International School, challenges young athletes across swimming, cycling, and running disciplines. Alicia showcased her talent and commitment by securing an outstanding 1st place in her age group (9-10 years). Meanwhile, Felix demonstrated remarkable speed and perseverance throughout the races, embodying determination and sportsmanship.

Congratulations to Alicia and Felix for their inspiring performances!



Enjoy your holiday,
stay safe and be well!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Enter
to
Win



**Capture the
UWC Thailand
logo this
summer!**

Take a photo of the UWC Thailand logo this summer for a chance to win a fabulous goody bag!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your creativity and win exciting prizes! All UWC Thailand community members are invited to participate!

Show us your creativity and love for UWC Thailand! The winner will be announced in the next Manta Pulse at the end of August.

Email your photo to communications@uwcthailand.ac.th

View the [Manta Weekly](#) to stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand.

