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THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE











Together We Change

UWC Day is the annual global celebration of the UWC mission and values, which takes place every year, to coincide with the UN International Day of Peace. On 21 September, all 18 UWCs join in to celebrate the strength and diversity of the UWC movement and our common mission for a more peaceful and sustainable future through connecting and mobilising UWCers globally.

> **"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."**

Nelson Mandela, Late Honorary President, UWC

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media

UWC Day 2024

Together We Change

On Friday, 20 September, UWC Thailand celebrated UWC Day as a school and community, ahead of the global celebration, which takes place annually on 21 September. Embracing the theme 'Together We Change', we highlighted the power of collective action in addressing global challenges.

Despite the heavy rain, over 600 students gathered for a day filled with engaging workshops and activities. These included leadership discussions, learning about Sahrawi traditions, 'Because I'm a Girl' conversations focussing on sharing personal journeys, cultural games, and even Bollywood and Irish dancing. While these activities may seem distant from typical themes of peace and conflict resolution, they symbolise the broader essence of change—personal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and community building.
By coming together, the UWC Thailand community demonstrated that change starts with small actions, personal growth, and unity. This day reminded us that peace and change are not only about ending wars but about how we face new challenges, connect with others, and remain mindful of our planet.

600 students participated in workshops and activities

98 staff and faculty members actively contributed to the day's success.

86 grade 11 students ran sessions for the Primary Years Programme.

20 workshops were led by grade 11 and 12 students.

28 sessions ran successfully in the afternoon despite the weather.

















"UWC Day is an opportunity for us to celebrate the movement that so many of us have long dreamed of joining. We celebrate our diversity and each of our unique identities. In alignment with this year's UWC Day theme, 'Together We Change', I held a workshop with younger students to discuss leadership and our impact on the world. We drafted plans on how to achieve our goals and begin making change. Despite the poor weather, the energy on campus was vibrant with positivity."

Lazar, grade 12 (Serbia)







Watch this space for highlights of UWC Day!





Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who made UWC Day a success, from the students, housekeeping and catering teams to the drivers, medical staff, and all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Special thanks to the UWC Day committee for your dedication, and to the events team, photographers, and videographers for capturing the day so beautifully. Your collective efforts ensured a memorable and impactful event, and we truly appreciate all your hard work.











"I am filled with gratitude and inspiration. Despite the unpredictable weather, our community came together with incredible spirit. One of the highlights for me was witnessing the grade 11 students sharing their personal stories with their primary buddies. This day truly showcased our collective commitment to making a positive impact in the world, reminding us that together, we can embrace new experiences and inspire change in our communities."

Heidi Oxley-Whitnell
UWC Thailand Creativity, Activity & Service Coordinator





Click here for more photos



EDUCATION
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOUNDATION



ขอบคุณ คุณบุญ Thank you, Khun Boon

On 25 September, we were honoured to receive a generous donation of furniture from **Khun Boon Yongsakul,** Chairman of Boat Pattana Company Limited, and **Mr. Panupong Kritchanarat**, CEO. This donation, made through the **Education for a Sustainable Future Foundation (ESF)**, will greatly enhance our campus at UWC Thailand.

During a special handover at our school, representatives from Boat Pattana Co., Ltd., the Education for a Sustainable Future Foundation, and UWC Thailand came together to celebrate this meaningful contribution. The support we've received will help us continue to create an inspiring and nurturing environment for our students and teachers.

We are deeply grateful for this collaboration, which highlights the strong sense of community and shared commitment to education that underpins our school's values.

> **"We are delighted to support education by partnering with UWC Thailand and the Education for a Sustainable Future Foundation to help create an even better learning environment."**

Khun Boon Yongsakul,
Chairman of Boat Pattana Company Limited

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Marianne Buck

Marianne Buck (UWC Thailand, '21) continues to exemplify the UWC mission through her passion for veterinary science. As a Veterinary Nursing Representative, she advocates for her peers and organises events, all while pursuing a certificate in veterinary anaesthesia to enhance the care provided to brachycephalic breeds.

In her professional life, Marianne works at a large referral hospital and also trains horses at private stables. She remains closely connected with her UWC Thailand classmates, Elisa and Alisa, maintaining a strong bond that keeps the UWC Thailand spirit vibrant and alive.











Being a Host Family

The UWC Thailand Host Family Programme offers a unique opportunity for families to connect with boarding students, either helping them reconnect with their home culture or introducing them to new traditions. With just a once or twice a month commitment, activities can include hiking, sharing a meal, watching a movie, baking, or offering a quiet space to study.

It's a chance to broaden horizons, create meaningful connections, and make lasting memories.

If you'd like to host a student or need more information, please email hostfamily@uwcthailand.ac.th.

Click here to sign up for our Host Family Programme

TRANSFORMING LIVES AT UWC THAILAND

The Power of Giving

Philanthropy is essential to UWC Thailand's mission of delivering world-class education and fostering global responsibility. Thanks to contributions from parents, staff, alumni, foundations, and corporate partners, we provide scholarships, enhance programmes, and improve facilities that benefit our entire community.

Our Advancement Office nurtures these relationships, ensuring every donation supports meaningful initiatives and long-term engagement.

Explore the 2023/24 Impact of Giving Report to see how our community's generosity is transforming lives, from hosting the UWC International Congress to welcoming new scholarship students.

The support of our community empowers future changemakers and strengthens UWC Thailand's role in global education. For more information on philanthropy, please contact Nicki Robertson at nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th.

Together, we're making a difference!









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











Wai Kru Ceremony

At UWC Thailand, we recently celebrated the Wai Kru Ceremony, or Teacher Appreciation Ceremony, where students honour their teachers by presenting a Paan (พาน)—a traditional arrangement made from flowers, leaves, incense sticks, and candles that symbolises respect and gratitude. This year, we added a sustainable twist by using potted plants and eco-friendly arrangements in place of the traditional floral Paans. This meaningful adaptation allowed us to uphold the cultural significance of the ceremony while staying true to our commitment to sustainability.



Teachers are the cornerstone of our school, guiding and inspiring our students every day. Their unwavering dedication and leadership shape the minds and hearts of our future leaders, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such remarkable individuals fostering the growth of our students.



> **"The Wai Kru Ceremony is a beautiful reminder of the deep respect and gratitude shared between students and teachers. This year, with the use of potted plants, we embraced sustainability while honouring a meaningful Thai tradition."**

Kanokwan (Pum) Ongborirukkul
UWC Thailand Thai Teacher







Wheels Day

Wheels Day in the Early Years Programme was a day full of excitement as our young students showcased their self-management and gross motor skills. From bikes and scooters to rollerblades and skateboards, the young enthusiasts confidently navigated their wheels, all while prioritising safety by wearing helmets.

This fun-filled day not only promoted healthy exercise but also fostered a sense of community and encouraged the development of new skills, building both confidence and coordination.

Click here for more photos

















Lord of the Flies Shelter Building

Our grade 8 students recently stepped outside the classroom for a jungle-based shelter-building activity inspired by Lord of the Flies. This exercise challenged them to demonstrate leadership, teamwork, and resource management as they collaborated to construct a shelter. Adding a fun twist, grade 2 students, known as the "littleuns," joined in, bringing energy and engagement to the task. The partnership between the two grades was a great display of cooperation, with both groups fully immersed in the experience. Through this practical activity, our grade 8s applied classroom concepts to real-world challenges, gaining valuable insights into leadership and group dynamics.

We couldn't be prouder of their efforts!

Grow and Glow

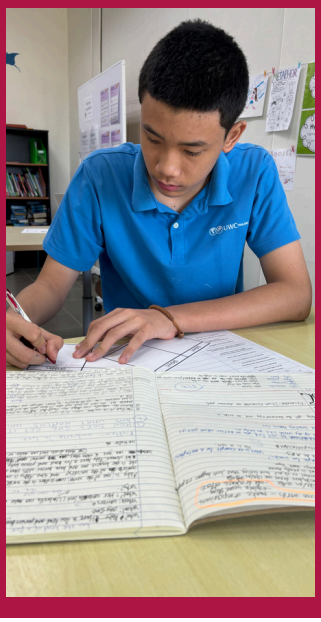
Our Middle Years Programme students took part in a powerful peer feedback session during their English classes to refine their narrative stories. Using the GROW & GLOW method, the session encouraged both constructive (GROW) and positive (GLOW) feedback, helping students recognise their strengths while identifying areas for improvement.

A focused checklist guided students to pay attention to key elements like plot, character development, and descriptive language. During timed rounds, students had five minutes to read each other's drafts and provide thoughtful comments—celebrating vivid descriptions and engaging dialogue (GLOW) while suggesting enhancements to plot structure and narrative voice (GROW).

In the end, the classroom buzzed with creativity and collaboration, with each student growing a little, glowing a little brighter, and their stories transforming from rough sketches into engaging tales.



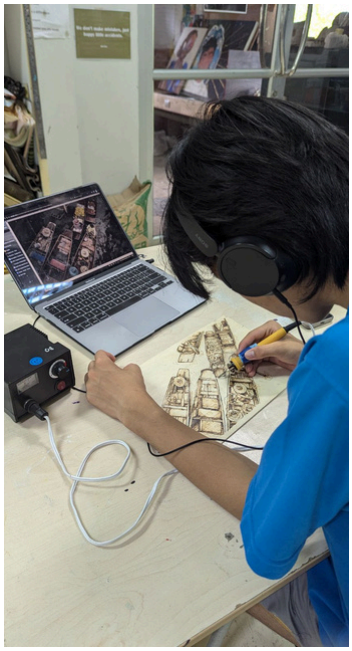














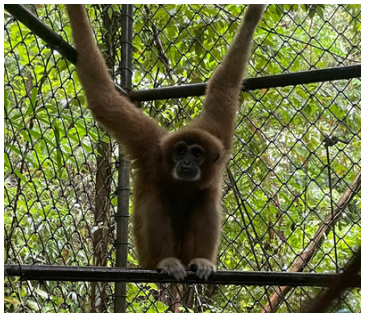
Drawing with fire

Recently, grade 9 students embarked on a creative journey to **explore Thai identity through visual culture**. By studying iconic elements of Thai heritage, often seen in traditional Thai fabrics, they gained a deeper appreciation for its cultural significance. Afterwards, under the close supervision of their art teacher, Kru Dale, and using the safest methods, tools, and protective gear, they practised the ancient art of pyrography, or "drawing with fire", to express their new found insights. This combination of cultural study and hands-on artistry not only enhanced their creative skills but also deepened their connection to life in Thailand.

"This unit, we used pyrography as our medium of creation to explore the ancient and mysterious culture of Thailand. It feels as if you're diving into history itself, experiencing the stories that shaped this society with each stroke."

Yaoying (August), grade 9 (Taiwan)

Gibbon Rehabilitation Project









As part of UWC Thailand's partnership with local organisations, our students actively participate in Community Engagement activities through the Co-Curricular Programme. One group recently worked with the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (GRP), contributing to important tasks such as cleaning and maintaining the gibbons' habitat in Khao Phra Thaeo, Phuket's last remaining rainforest.

Through these hands-on efforts, students are making a meaningful impact on environmental conservation while gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of wildlife protection and sustainability.









UWC Thailand Snake Awareness Day

At the beginning of September, UWC Thailand hosted Snake Awareness Days, an event designed to teach students and staff how to stay safe around snakes. Led by Vincent, a local expert known as the "Snake Guy" in Phuket, and Kru Rob, our Director of Outdoor Experiential Education, the event aimed to familiarise the community with the snake species found on the island and clear up common misconceptions about them.

The event featured hands-on learning opportunities, allowing participants to interact with a non-venomous snake while learning how to approach and handle the animal with care.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Vincent for sharing his expertise and making this important event one to remember.











Read a Book Day

Our school celebrated **Read a Book Day** with an exciting Buddy Reading event organised by the library. During homeroom, Middle School students from grades 6 to 10 paired up with our younger students from Mini Mantas up to grade 5, connecting through the magic of shared stories. They enthusiastically took turns reading aloud and rotated through different books, sharing their favourite tales.

Through this event, we strengthened our bond as one school, with older students mentoring younger ones and cultivating a shared love of reading across all ages.

> **"Through the simple act of reading together, we create a powerful sense of unity - where literacy becomes not just a skill, but a bridge that connects us all, fostering understanding, empathy, and a shared love for learning."**

Rebekka Pfaff,
UWC Thailand Innovation Librarian

Exploring Global Politics

Our Global Politics students had the privilege of welcoming **Dr. Rob Dayley**, Professor of International Relations and Political Economics from The College of Idaho, to their classroom. As part of the Fulbright Specialist Programme, which connects U.S. experts with institutions around the world, Dr. Dayley delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the causes and dynamics of the current conflict in Myanmar, focusing on the concept of political legitimacy. His insights provided our students with a valuable perspective on both regional and global political issues, significantly deepening their understanding of this important topic.





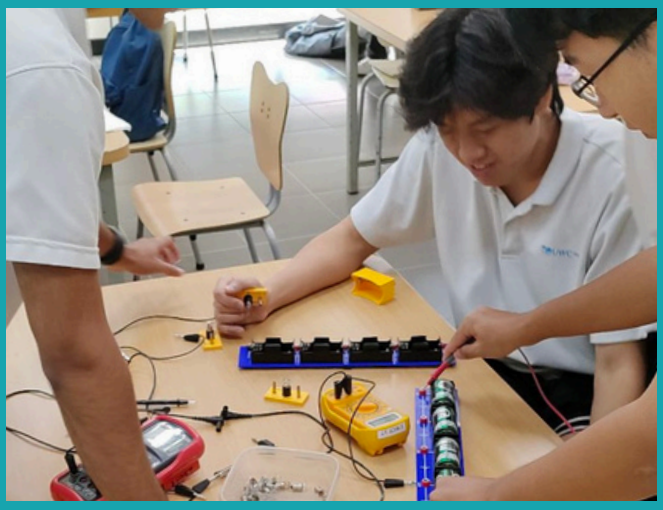




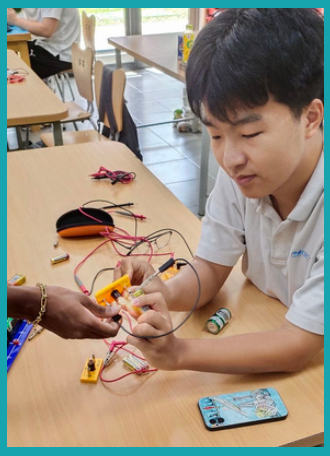
Science Behind Accuracy

Our grade 12 Physics students recently took on an inquiry-based challenge to explore the internal resistance of a battery. Armed with digital multimeters and various resistors, they measured voltage and current, using their data to calculate the internal resistance. Along the way, they faced the complexities of obtaining precise measurements, discovering how even minor inaccuracies can impact overall results—an eye-opening lesson in the realities of scientific research.

This experiment tied seamlessly into a broader Theory of Knowledge (TOK) discussion about how scientific models often simplify complex phenomena to make them more understandable, but at the cost of accuracy. Students discussed the trade-offs between precision and usability, considering how approximations, while often necessary, need to be carefully balanced to preserve the integrity of scientific conclusions.













Homework Club

By UWC Thailand Learning Support Team

This year, the Learning Support Team has expanded the Secondary Homework Club offerings, and it has been a resounding success! The club provides a welcoming space for students to complete or refine their homework tasks, with support and guidance available to them from varying members of the Learning Support team.

The Learning Support Team opens the doors to the Homework Club from Monday to Thursday during secondary lunchtime, ensuring that students have ample opportunities to seek assistance. This year we even have a student volunteer to strengthen the service. The club is open to all students, regardless of their academic level, and offers a range of benefits... **Read more.**

Learn more about Homework Club! Whether you're facing a tough subject or just need a quiet place to focus, we're here to help.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP











John (JP) Powell,
UWC Thailand Director of Sports, Activities and Camps

The Mantas have been back in action with official competitions against local schools and PISAC affiliated schools! It was a jam packed month regardless of the weather with Senior Volleyball and Junior Basketball starting official practices! We held 18 competitions throughout our program including a PISAC Basketball Championship!

The **Senior Girls and Boys Volleyball** teams recently welcomed Phuket Wit School for their first game of the year! In a spirited match, both teams displayed exceptional sportsmanship and camaraderie.

We have passed week five of 11 total weeks in Rotation 1 for our CCPs! The CCP Fair gave us the opportunity to showcase the offerings in August and our instructors and providers have delivered fun-filled educational experiences throughout this rainy season!

UWC Thailand Holiday Camp will return from 16-20 December 2024 and 17-21 February 2025 with Teems Global! Please see our brochure for more information on **registrations**!

The learning will continue - even on vacation!

PISAC Basketball Championships

We had an amazing day at the PISAC Under-14 Basketball Championship, hosting four schools, seven teams, 11 coaches, and 78 students!

Coach Ron led the girls to two wins over Headstart, showcasing grit and strong defense. The boys, guided by Coach Mick, bounced back from an early loss to reach the finals. Despite a brief power outage, they fought back from a 10-point deficit, finishing with a narrow 2-point difference.

A huge thank you to all involved: our dedicated coaches, housekeeping staff (especially Khun Tan), the PE team, energetic parents and MYP students, Brian Ross, Marco Del Porto, and Khun Thomas, Khun Keng, Khun Vera, Khun Ohm, Khun M, and Khun Mook, who made this event possible!









Click here for more photos



Primary School Cross Country

Despite the rain and mud adding an extra layer of challenge, our young runners in the Primary Cross Country event displayed incredible determination and spirit. Starting from the canteen field, they made their way around the campus, pushing through the course with unmatched perseverance. The event was filled with excitement as classmates, teachers, staff, and parents cheered them on, encouraging them at every step.

The weather may have been challenging, but the fun and laughter that filled the day made it truly memorable. A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended—your cheers and encouragement played a huge part in creating an unforgettable experience for our young athletes!



















Click here for more photos

The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

WHOLE SCHOOL

Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

Thursday, 3 October:
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and

Friday, 4 October:
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

COMMUNITY

Vegetarian Festival

Join us to celebrate community and culture through food.
3 November, 11:30-1:50 pm
All welcome to bring a dish.
Please sign up here.

Contact: The Events Team

SECONDARY SCHOOL

University Fair

Brown, Princeton & Penn
Universities information session on campus.
5 October. Click here to pre-register (required).

Contact: Kru Rebecca

COMMUNITY

Blood Donation Drive

Our annual Blood Donation Drive will take place in the Boarding House Lounge, **21 October.** Register here.

For more information,
click here.

SECONDARY

Banned Books Week

Celebrating the freedom to read. The Library & English teachers will explore thought-provoking stories to spark conversations. **1-4 October**

Contact: The Library Team

WHOLE SCHOOL

School Holidays

Enjoy the October break!
4 to 20 October 2024.

We wish all members of our community well over the break and we look forward to welcoming you back on **Monday, 21 October.**

COMMUNITY

Halloween Charity Event

"Play and Treat" Halloween Family Fun event. **26 October** at NH Boat Lagoon Phuket Resort. Benefits to Seeds of Change and Phuket Has Been Good To Us charities.

Contact: Khun Tina

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Grade 3 Camp

Jungle Camp at Khao Sok National Park offers students a unique and immersive outdoor experience, combining education, adventure, and environmental stewardship.

Contact: Kru Rob

SPORTS

ASAC Championships

Junior Basketball
24-26 October

Senior Volleyball
31 October - 2 November

Contact: Kru JP