ISSUE NO.37 / DECEMBER 2024

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



School Musical Production

An Amazing Performance of "The Addams Family"

Festive Fair 2024

UWC Thailand Annual Celebration of Giving Back

New Boarding House

A Milestone Achievement in School Development

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media





DECEMBER

FESTIVE FAIR

On 11 December, the UWC Thailand campus was alive with energy, creativity, and festive cheer during our annual Festive Fair. This much-loved event brought together our vibrant community for a day filled with connection, talent, and generosity.

Visitors explored a vibrant array of stalls offering everything from home-baked pastries to tote bags, bath bombs, handmade gifts, and more. Student-led stalls raised funds for the Global Concerns Fund, supporting meaningful initiatives with our community partners. Additional vendors contributed to the festive atmosphere, offering beautifully crafted goods and delicious food, adding even more variety to the market.

The day was further highlighted by captivating performances from students, bringing joy and energy to the event. It was a true celebration of community spirit and collaboration.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous volunteers and to everyone who supported and participated in this wonderful event. Together, we made this Festive Fair a memorable success!









“ I was in charge of managing the funds and keeping records of the money made by student stalls. Having this opportunity to volunteer at the event was an experience that sharpened my learning and improved my engagement and connection with other students.”

Brian , grade 11 (South Sudan)

Click here to see the Festive Fair highlights video

Click here for more photos















The Addams Family

School Musical 2024

December kicked off with a roaring success as our students brought *"The Addams Family"* musical to life on stage, captivating the audience with spooky charm and comedic flair. Months of dedication and hard work paid off, with each scene bursting to life through heartfelt performances, creating an unforgettable experience for all.

A huge thank you goes out to our talented students, dedicated teachers, tireless support crew and set-makers, and the entire school community who made this production possible. Your teamwork and passion brought this iconic story to life in spectacular fashion.
It was truly a show to remember!



> **This experience was nothing short of transformative. From endless rehearsals to perfecting every detail, I learned the importance of dedication and collaboration in creating something truly remarkable. Seeing the hard work of everyone involved come to life on stage was magical.**
>
> **Sofia**, grade 12 (Italy)



Click here for more photos





Young Entrepreneurs in Action

As part of their unit “Entrepreneurs Overcome Challenges to Achieve Their Purpose,” our grade 4 and 5 students put their business skills to the test at the Upper Primary Market.

With innovative ideas turned into reality, students offered a range of products and services to eager customers from across Primary. Shoppers explored, purchased, and pre-ordered items, sharing valuable feedback to help students improve their offerings in preparation for the Festive Fair.

This immersive experience was a true showcase of the students’ entrepreneurial spirit, determination, and hard work!

Click here for more photos

















Grade 2 & 3 Collaboration

Throughout their *How We Organise Ourselves* unit of inquiry, grade 2 and 3 students spent several weeks exploring the dynamics of teamwork and shared responsibility. Together, they completed meaningful projects that showcased their creativity and determination—constructing playground games, planting and enhancing gardens, raising funds through cooking, and sewing for a cause. These activities highlighted not only their impressive achievements but also the valuable lessons they gained in communication, problem-solving, and collaboration.

The skills developed during these projects—such as leadership, adaptability, and working towards a common goal—empowered students to become changemakers. These experiences will continue to shape their ability to tackle challenges and drive positive change, both now and in the future.

Click here for more photos



The Evolution of Language

by Cara Templeton,
UWC Thailand English Language Acquisition Specialist

This month, my Middle Years Programme Language B students explored the concept of 'Digital Communication' and examined how language evolves alongside technological advancements.

To spark their curiosity, we began by looking at how visual symbols and pictorial messages have been used throughout history and compared them to modern-day emojis or emoticons as tools for creative self-expression. This led us to reflect on some key questions: Can emojis be considered a language in their own right? And what do emojis allow us to communicate that words alone cannot?

We then explored how classic literature could be reimagined for modern audiences by simplifying complex language into visual representations. This opened up a discussion on accessibility, creativity, and the balance between traditional and digital forms of communication.

For their final task, students created their own short stories using only emojis, which we attempted to interpret together as a class. This engaging activity encouraged students to rethink a familiar form of communication and challenged their creativity in a whole new way.

Can you guess what this says?



Education unites people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.

A Young Author Among Us

Did you know we have a young published author in our UWC Thailand community?

Sai, grade 9 (India), has recently published a fictional novel titled "The Flood."

Set in a world where an unprecedented flood submerges London, the story follows Baraka Njoroge, who reunites with his family in London after a childhood in Kenya. Working as an UberEats driver, Baraka's life takes a dramatic turn when the flood forces his family on a perilous journey back to Kenya. Along the way, they face natural disasters, scammers, and their deepest fears, testing their resilience and the strength of their family bonds.

A powerful tale of survival, sacrifice, and hope, "The Flood" is available on Amazon.

Congratulations to Sai on this incredible accomplishment!

> **A brilliant book by a wonderful young author, inspiring other children who enjoy reading and writing. My kids aged 10 and 12 loved "The Flood".**

Reviewed in the United Kingdom, 2024









Grade 9 Musicians Share Their Passion

December truly is a month of community and the performing arts at UWC Thailand. Another wonderful event that brought us together was the grade 9 Music Performance, where our talented students showcased their instrumental skills to an audience of younger peers.

More than just playing notes and rhythms, our grade 9 musicians demonstrated their growth as artists by blending practical skills with their deepening understanding of music. Their performances left younger students in awe and, for some, even sparked inspiration to begin their own musical journeys.

This special moment highlighted how music encourages creativity, connection, and a shared passion—one note at a time!

For a recording of grade 9 music performances, click here to watch the video.

Static Electricity Experiment

Grade 7 students explored static electricity with a Van de Graaff generator, linking classroom concepts to real-world experiences. They observed static charges creating sparks and object attraction or repulsion, deepening their understanding of electrical phenomena while fostering critical thinking, inquiry, and problem-solving —key skills in the IB Middle Years Programme.







Baking & 3D Printing





Click here to watch the video



Grade 8 students recently brought their creativity to life by designing cookie cutters using CAD/CAM software. Their designs were transformed into physical objects with a 3D printer, which they then used to bake cookies.

This hands-on activity combined design, technology, and baking to showcase the power of learning through experience.

What would you create with a 3D printer?

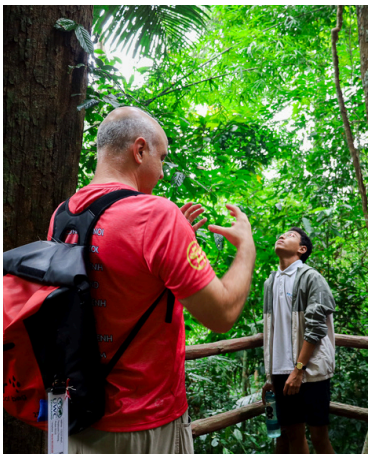
Ecosystem Insights at Ton Sai Waterfall

How can we make the most of our unique environment? Before the break, grade 11 Environmental Systems and Societies students took advantage of Phuket's tropical climate by visiting Ton Sai Waterfall.

This field trip provided a hands-on opportunity to connect their classroom learning with the local ecosystem, deepening their understanding of how tropical rainforests function and the importance of environmental conservation.







Learning Culture Through Salsa

Grade 11 Spanish Ab Initio students enjoyed Salsa lesson, conducted entirely in Spanish. This engaging activity allowed them to explore and connect with Latin American culture while practicing their language skills.

By learning dance-related vocabulary and movements, students experienced firsthand how language and culture go hand in hand. A memorable way to close the semester!



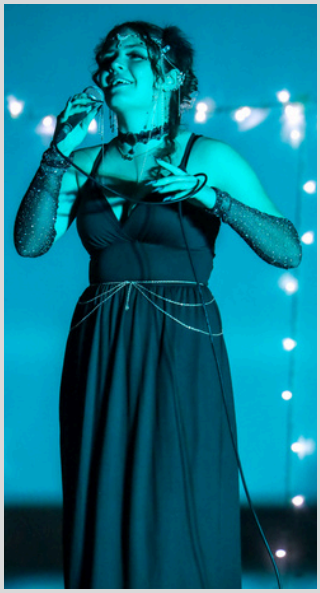




Winter Gala

Our Diploma Programme students dusted off their best dress outfits and had a blast at the student-led Winter Gala. In the company of their friends, students spent a fun evening chatting away and grooving to their talented peers' music and dance performances. A night to remember!













Click here for more photos









Celebrating the Opening of Our New Boarding House

We are thrilled to share the successful completion and opening of our brand-new boarding house—a milestone achievement for our school community. This exciting addition marks the beginning of a new chapter, providing a warm and welcoming space for students in the upcoming academic year.

The opening celebration, held on Tuesday, 10 December 2024, was a day filled with tradition, gratitude, and community spirit. This accomplishment was made possible through the invaluable support of the Education for a Sustainable Future Foundation and the Banyapura Limited Board, whose contributions helped bring this vision to life.

The celebration began with paying respects at the school's front gate, followed by a tour of the new boarding house. The day featured diverse prayers and blessings, including a merit-making ceremony with monk prayers in the morning and Muslim prayers in the afternoon, reflecting the unity and cultural diversity of our community.

This celebration was not just about a building but the growth of our community—a space where students will thrive and make lasting memories. **Congratulations to everyone who played a part in this success!**







Click here for more photos

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



Transforming Learning Beyond the Classroom

Student-Initiated Trips across Thailand

At UWC Thailand, Student-Initiated Trips (SITs) offer grade 11 and 12 students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in experiential learning during school breaks. Carefully planned and student-led, these trips take participants to eight diverse locations across Thailand, where they engage with local communities, explore sustainable practices, and develop essential life skills such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Designed to align with students' personal interests and UWC's mission of promoting global citizenship, SITs blend independence with support. While students take ownership of their itineraries, chaperones accompany them to ensure a secure and enriching experience. The goal is to transform school holidays into a time of growth, connection, and discovery.

This December, 47 students travelled to various locations:

- **Earth Home** (Chiang Mai): Focused on sustainable living, students participated in natural building workshops, permaculture, and organic farming while experiencing a homestay environment where nature and education are intertwined.
- **All for Villages** (Koh Phayam): A non-profit initiative supporting Moken and sea gypsy communities through education and sustainable development, fostering cultural understanding and resilience.
- **Yaowawit School** (Phang Nga): A holistic education centre for children aged 4 to 18, where students engage in agricultural and hospitality workshops while contributing to a programme that cultivates confident and caring individuals.
- **Khao Sok Eco Resort** (Khao Sok National Park): Offering eco-adventures such as nature hikes, river tubing, and cooking classes, this destination combines sustainable tourism with community-focused environmental education.
- **NatureMind-ED:** Dedicated to reconnecting people with nature, this programme combines environmental education, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity conservation, inspiring participants to explore nature-based solutions.

By tackling real-world challenges and engaging with diverse cultures, students deepen their understanding of global issues and their role in building a sustainable, interconnected world. SITs turn school breaks into impactful journeys of growth and discovery.











Bake Sale

by Red Cross and Red Crescent Society Co-Curricular Programme

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Society Co-Curricular Programme, a student-led initiative, recently organised a successful bake sale to support the Life Home Project Foundation, which cares for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. All proceeds were donated to help fund their essential services.

This initiative highlights our students' dedication to creating positive change, embodying the spirit of compassion and community both locally and beyond.

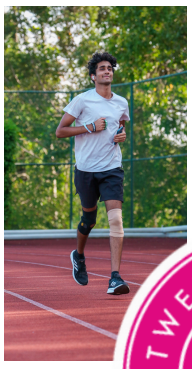
Click here for more photos





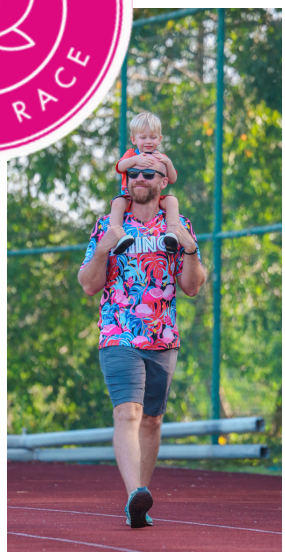


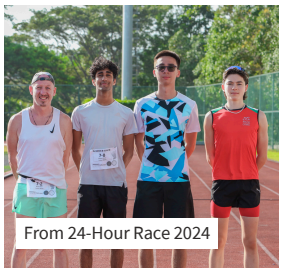












From 24-Hour Race 2024

Learn more about the 24-Hour Race

24-Hour Race

11-12 January 2024

Hosted by UWC Thailand at the Thanyapura track

Run it! Raise it! End it!

Join us and contribute to raising awareness and funds to end modern-day slavery. Every lap and mile run makes a difference and brings us closer to our goal. If you would like to participate, consider joining one of the following races:

- 24-hour race
- 24-kilometer race
- 24-minute race

Vendor Registration for the 24-Hour Race Night Market

If running isn't your forte but you still want to contribute and cheer on our participants, consider joining us for the **24-Hour Race Night Market.**

We are currently accepting vendor applications, offering you the opportunity to showcase your delectable delights and refreshing drinks.

Buy tickets
to participate in the 24-Hour Race events

Become a Vendor
at the 24-Hour Race Night Market

Rob Carmichael:
Recipient of the ACA Award for Excellence in Instruction 2024



Rob Carmichael, Director of Outdoor Experiential Education at UWC Thailand International School, has been honoured as the 'Instructor of the Year', winning the American Canoe Association: Excellence in Instruction Award 2024. This award recognises Rob's contributions to paddlesports education and his leadership in supporting outdoor experiential learning locally and across Southeast Asia.

The ACA is one of the world's oldest and largest professional accrediting bodies for sports and activities. It has over 15,000 members, 4,000 active instructors and 300 paddling clubs and affiliated organisations. The ACA education programme has an estimated reach of over 800,000 people per year in over 35 countries worldwide.

Since joining UWC Thailand in 2019, Rob has continued to develop the school's outdoor education programme, integrating paddlesports as a cornerstone of experiential learning. He led the establishment of the UWC Thailand Outdoor Education Centre, which has gained international recognition as an American Canoe Association Pro School. The Centre has since become a hub for outdoor learning and environmental stewardship, serving not only the school's community but also the broader region, with staff from other organisations receiving leadership training at this site. At the Centre, students from multiple grade... **Read More.**











Grade 1 Camp

Our grade 1 students recently embarked on an exciting overnight camp as part of our Outdoor Education programme. Spending the night on campus in tents, they explored the stunning Bang Pae Waterfall through an engaging river-jungle walk.

This adventure was more than just a fun outing—it provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop observation skills, practise teamwork while navigating the jungle, and build resilience as they embraced the challenge of camping away from home.

At UWC Thailand, Outdoor Education plays a key role in helping students connect with nature, gain confidence, and develop essential life skills that contribute to their overall growth and learning. This experience was a true reflection of the spirit of exploration and discovery!



Click here for more photos



Sports Days

December at UWC Thailand was energetic and exciting as we celebrated Sports Days across Early Years, Primary Years, and Middle Years. Our youngest learners in Early Years enjoyed a morning of fun, team-based activities organised by our grade 5 students. Divided into four teams, they embraced playful challenges that developed their motor skills, teamwork, and collaboration, with joyful cheers and laughter filling the air.

Primary and Middle Years students showcased their athletic abilities and sportsmanship through activities like floorball, ultimate frisbee, football, and basketball. Demonstrating teamwork and determination, they embodied UWC Thailand's motto: **Good Heart, Balanced Mind, Healthy Body**. Events like Sports Days not only encourage physical activity but also build resilience, camaraderie, and the joy of movement—an essential part of holistic development.

A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who attended—your cheers significantly contributed to an unforgettable experience for our young athletes!



















Click here for more photos

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP

















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

December marked the conclusion of an exciting first term for Sports, featuring basketball, football, running, and swimming competitions. Our Mantas shone brightly, showing both skill and continuous improvement.

This term included seven action-packed events, such as four Senior Basketball games, a Trail Run with our neighbours, a Primary Boys U9 Football friendly scramble, and a weekend-long swim meet for our Secondary Swimmers.

In 2024, our Mantas competed in a remarkable 118 competitions across five sports. A big congratulations to all our athletes and community members for their dedication and spirit!

Number of competitions by sport:

- **Volleyball: 22**
- **Swimming: 8**
- **Running: 5**
- **Football: 39**
- **Basketball: 44**

Here's to more milestones and memories in the upcoming term!

CCP Rotation 2: Exciting Choices and Enthusiastic Turnout

With over 168 unique offerings on our SchoolsBuddy menu, the Manta Office has successfully completed allocations and finalised class lists for the upcoming CCP Rotation, starting in January 2025.

“The overwhelming participation from Rotation 1, matched by the enthusiastic enrollment for Rotation 2, speaks volumes about the quality of our CCP offerings,” said John (JP) Powell, Director of Sports, Activities, and Camps. “These opportunities, conducted by our educators, faculty members, service providers, students, and volunteers, exemplify UWC Thailand’s holistic approach to learning. The extensive menu of choices helps prepare our students for well-rounded growth. Thank you to everyone who has embraced this opportunity to learn from our vibrant community.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025!”

The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

MINDFULNESS

January theme: Perseverance

In January, we focus on **perseverance**—staying focused and resilient through challenges. It's about pushing forward, learning from setbacks, and growing stronger with each step.

COMMUNITY

24-Hour Race Phuket

Join us for the UWC Thailand 24-Hour Race at Thanyapura Sports Running Track on **11-12 January 2025**, as we unite to end modern slavery through endurance and teamwork.

Contact: 24-Hour Race Team

COMMUNITY

Teacher's Day

On **16 January 2025**, Thailand will celebrate Teachers' Day, honouring educators with jasmine garlands and special events. Students will express appreciation through speeches and performances.

Contact: Kru Yui

PRIMARY

Grade 5 Camp

The grade 5 annual 5-day camp at Thai Mueang National Park, from **13-17 January 2025**, included activities such as hiking, biking, and kayaking.

Contact: Kru Rob

SECONDARY

Extended Essay Day

On 17 January 2025, grade 11 students will present their Extended Essay ideas to teachers and grade 12 for feedback, while grade 12 will creatively "dress as their Extended Essay."

Contact: Kru Katie

SECONDARY

Personal Project Day

On **21 January 2025**, grade 10 students will present their Personal Projects in the MPH, showcasing their self-directed work. All community members are invited to visit the exhibition.

Contact: Kru Chantal

PRIMARY

Counsellors' Coffee Morning

Join us for the Counsellors' Coffee Morning on **22 January 2025**, from 8:00 to 9:00 am, to explore strategies for supporting developmental milestones in children aged 6 to 9 years.

Contact: Kru Paco

SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

CCP Rotation 2: Week 1

On **13 January 2025**, we begin CCP Rotation 2: Week 1, with over 168 unique offerings for students to join and develop their skills.

Contact: Kru JP

SECONDARY

Conflict Transformation Day

On **24 January 2025**, join us for Conflict Transformation Day, focused on peace, understanding, and positive change through workshops and storytelling.

Contact: Kru Amanda