ISSUE NO.41 / APRIL 2025

# THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



## Songkran Celebration

Honouring Thai Tradition Through Water

## Primary School Open House

Welcoming Families to our Primary School

## Earth Day 2025

“Our Power, Our Planet” Sustainability in Action

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media










# Songkran Celebrations

In the days leading up to the April break, UWC Thailand came together to celebrate Songkran—the traditional Thai New Year and one of the country's most meaningful and joyful cultural holidays. Rooted in the values of respect, renewal, and community, Songkran provided our students, staff, and families with an opportunity to engage in rich cultural learning while celebrating the spirit of togetherness.

At its heart, Songkran is a time for reflection and appreciation. On our campus, this was symbolised through the traditional palm-watering ceremony, where students gently poured water over the hands of teachers and staff—a gesture representing respect for elders, blessings for the year ahead, and the passing down of wisdom. It was a quiet yet powerful reminder of the deep cultural values that Songkran embodies... **Read More.**

Click here for more photos
















# Primary School Open House

Last week, we were delighted to welcome families to our Primary School Open House. The event gave attendees a chance to meet our dedicated teachers, explore our learning spaces, and see how the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) shapes every aspect of student learning at UWC Thailand.

Through classroom visits and conversations with our team, families gained insight into how we nurture curiosity, agency, and international-mindedness in our Primary students.

> **" If you are in Phuket, Thailand, and you are looking for a school, I strongly suggest coming and having a look at UWC Thailand. This is such an ideal environment for kids and for learning, and aligned with a lot of the philosophies I had around education, and what I wanted my children to experience."**
>
> **~ Kelly,** a parent who attended the event







# Mini Mantas Playgroup

**Our Friday morning Mini Mantas Playgroup has already begun welcoming little ones aged 1–3 and their caregivers** to a warm, engaging environment in the Early Years Building. Led by Kru Guia and Kru Amy, each session offers opportunities for young children to explore, play, and begin developing social connections through sensory activities, music, movement, and free play. For caregivers, it's also a chance to connect with others in a relaxed, supportive setting.

The Playgroup runs every Friday from 8:30 am to 9:30 am during the semester and is open to both UWC Thailand families and those from the wider community.

Click here for more photos

# DocuMantaRay Journey







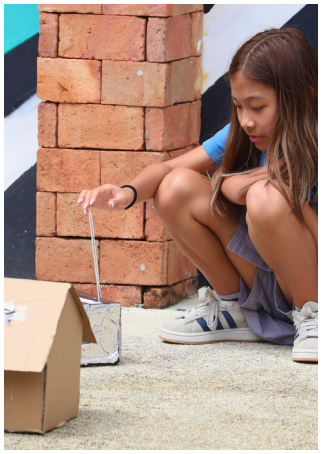




As we count down to the **DocuMantaray showcase** on Wednesday, 28 May, our grade 6 students are deep into the final stages of their documentary journey. With their visits to local organisations complete, they're now focused on editing footage, shaping their narratives, and beginning to add original musical scores.

This interdisciplinary project draws on learning from Individuals and Societies, English Language Learning, Design, Music, Exploration, and Manta—helping students use storytelling to inspire positive action and develop their voices as changemakers. We can't wait to celebrate their creativity, collaboration, and hard work.





# Exploring Insulation Efficiency

**Grade 6 students have been building model houses to test the efficiency of various insulating materials as part of their energy unit.** Throughout the project, students focused on data collection, engineering design, and applying principles of fair testing. They explored conduction, convection, and radiation to understand how heat moves and how insulation can control these energy transfers.

This hands-on project not only deepened their understanding of energy principles but also showed the benefits of effective insulation in creating more sustainable, energy-efficient buildings.





# Hands-On Science
## in Khao Phra Thaew

**Grade 11 Environmental Systems and Societies students** recently visited Khao Phra Thaew to study biodiversity in a Tropical Rain Forest. Using transect lines and quadrats, they learned how to systematically collect data on the various species in the area. This field practice is a valuable opportunity for students to develop their skills in data collection, interpretation, analysis, and evaluation, all of which will be crucial for their Grade 12 Internal Assessment.

The visit provided an immersive learning experience in one of Thailand's most important conservation areas.













# Mindfulness Retreat at Thanyamundra

**Our grade 12 students recently had the opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with themselves during a mindfulness retreat at Thanyamundra.** Surrounded by the beauty of nature, they engaged in meditation, silence, mindful movement, and self-inquiry—preparing their minds and hearts for the journey ahead.

We extend our gratitude to Khun **Klaus Hebben** our Education for a Sustainable Future Foundation Board Member, for providing this meaningful opportunity for students to explore their inner selves in the serene setting of Thanyamundra.

**"For three days, it felt like living in a dream. The meditations were calming, and the retreat helped me settle my mind into a mindful state—just what I needed as I prepare for my grade 12 exam revision. I would return a thousand times over."**

**Sofia,** grade 12 (Italy)

# Autism Acceptance Month

## Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion in Action

**By Laura Worasaktayanan,**
UWC Thailand Head of Learning Support

**In recognition of Autism Acceptance Month, the Learning Support team — along with the Celebrating Differences Club — have been busy spreading the word of inclusion!**

We wanted to take a moment to share some information about **Autism Spectrum Disorder** (ASD) and offer suggestions for how our whole community can get involved in improving inclusion.

Autism is a developmental difference that affects how a person perceives and interacts with the world. It presents in a wide range of ways, with each individual experiencing unique strengths and challenges. Autism is not an intellectual disability, and many autistic people have average or above-average intelligence. There is no single "cause" of ASD, and it is a lifelong difference. The official definition changes all the time, as it is a complex one to get right! You can read more on
👉 What is Autism?

All teachers at UWC Thailand receive regular training so that they know the best strategies for inclusion in school. Recently, our staff community completed training provided by Autism Speaks (a US-based charity). Autism Speaks offers a selection of training programmes. You can also complete a 30-minute free online training and support our community commitment to inclusivity.
👉 Click here to do the training yourself.

Once you complete this training, you'll receive an email containing your Autism Friendly Ally Badge. PLEASE forward your completion... **Read more.**

Click here for the full article

# EARTH DAY

## Our Power, Our Planet

In celebration of Earth Day, the Sustainability Committee led a range of activities under the global theme "Our Power, Our Planet." From hands-on projects like making rubber bands from old fabric to painting plastic bottles for reuse as plant pots, students across the school engaged in creative ways to reflect on their role in protecting the environment.

Homeroom games sparked thoughtful discussions, while our Kindergarten students joined in by planting seeds in their garden—learning not just how plants grow, but how small acts of care can make a difference.

Click here for more photos



















# A Decade of Action and Restoration

Over the April break, Grade 11 and 12 students joined a mangrove planting trip near Cape Yamu, contributing to a decade-long restoration effort.

With 350 new mangroves added during this trip, the total number planted by our community has now reached an incredible

**45,000!**

Coordinated through MANTA Mangrove and supported by the UWC Thailand Global Concerns Fund, this initiative reflects our long-standing commitment to sustainability and community engagement. These hands-on experiences allow students to take meaningful action and contribute to environmental efforts that have lasting local impact.




# Community Engagement in Action

**At UWC Thailand, Community Engagement is more than just a pillar of our curriculum—**it's a meaningful expression of our values in action. Through hands-on experiences, students and staff connect with local communities and the natural world, learning the importance of empathy, service, and collaboration. The April break offered two opportunities for such engagement: one in partnership with a local school in Phuket, and another led by students in the mangroves and coral reefs of Krabi.

In Phuket, our students and staff **supported the renovation of Ban Pa Klong Cheep Primary School** by joining a school-wide painting activity. Working side by side with students and staff from Phuket Rajabhat University, they helped brighten the school grounds in preparation for the new academic year.

This collaboration not only improved the learning environment for local children but also strengthened the bonds between our communities. It was a clear reflection of the compassionate spirit at the heart of UWC Thailand—a school where good hearts and a commitment to service shine through.

Click here for more photos













**Meanwhile, a student-initiated trip took a group to Nature Mind Ed in Krabi,** where the focus was on environmental stewardship. Students planted mangroves, built footbridges, and participated in coral conservation dives. Murphy, grade 11 (China) reflected, "Krabi showed me how powerful it feels to give back to nature—planting mangroves, building bridges, and diving with corals made me realise how connected everything is. It wasn't just a trip, it was a reminder of how much the planet needs us, and how much we need it too."

This powerful experience reinforced our students' sense of responsibility to the planet and the importance of taking action to protect it.

Click here for more photos



# Global Impact

## Sharing UWC Thailand's Outdoor Education Programme in Uzbekistan

**By Rob Carmichael,**
UWC Thailand Director of Outdoor Experiential Education

Earlier this month, I had the privilege of travelling to Tashkent International School in Uzbekistan to lead an American Canoe Association (ACA) kayak instructor training course. While the trip's primary focus was to certify new instructors and support the development of their outdoor education programme, it also highlighted the growing recognition of UWC Thailand's outdoor education as a model of excellence.

Over five days, we completed an ACA Instructor Certification Course, bringing together educators from diverse backgrounds. We focused on high standards of technical skill, safety, group management, and instructional techniques, all grounded in internationally recognised best practices.

What stood out was not only the enthusiasm of the participants, but also their decision to seek guidance from UWC Thailand. Our outdoor education programme is increasingly seen as a leader in the field—respected for its quality of instruction, robust safety protocols, and holistic approach to learning. Schools across the region are reaching out to us for...**Read more.**

Click here for the full article

# Sailing to Success: Songkran Advanced Sailing Camp

**By Yod Duangngern ,** UWC Thailand Outdoor Education Centre Manager & **Rob Carmichael,** UWC Thailand Director of Outdoor Experiential Education

During the April break, we hosted our first Advanced Sailing Camp, where students explored not only the technical aspects of sailing but also the underlying principles and strategic thinking behind the sport. Designed to challenge and inspire, the camp helped our young sailors refine their skills and immerse themselves in the world of competitive sailing.

A standout feature of this year's camp was a visit to the Rolly Tasker sail-making factory—an industry leader in high-performance sails. The tour transformed our sailors' understanding of the sport, bridging their on-water experiences with the science of sail design and manufacturing. They observed the full process: from material selection to the shaping of sails for specific boats. Particularly fascinating was the deep dive into Optimist sail design, where they learned how details such as batten tension and leech twist impact speed and handling. This hands-on experience sparked genuine curiosity and brought a new level of insight to their sailing practice.

Back on the water, the camp focused on advanced racing techniques. Sailors honed their race starts, practised efficient...**Read more.**




Click here for the full article













# First University Fair

Our first-ever UWC Thailand University Fair welcomed representatives from over 30 universities, both international and local, offering students a valuable opportunity to explore their future academic pathways. From learning about degree programmes and application timelines to discovering what makes a strong applicant, students engaged in meaningful conversations that will shape their next steps.

University representatives also offered insights into what sets UWC Thailand students apart. A representative from the University of St Andrews noted, *"What makes UWC Thailand students end strong when applying to university is their IB Curriculum—the depth of subjects they study and the extensive extracurricular activities they take part in. It truly prepares them well for university life."*

This event was not only a celebration of academic potential but also a reflection of the strong foundation and holistic growth that defines a UWC Thailand education. As students look ahead, they do so with clearer direction, motivation, and a world of opportunity within reach.

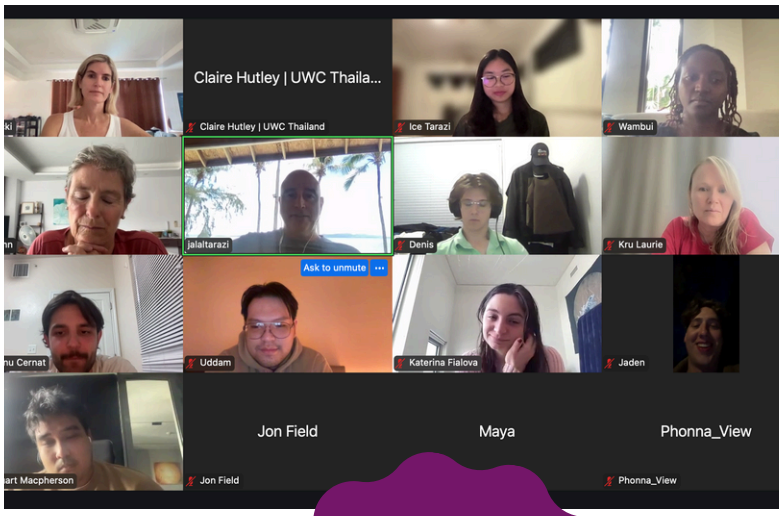
> **"This University Fair has been very helpful. Speaking with university representatives helped me identify which university aligns with my interests and what grades I need—motivating me to work harder. Thank you to Kru Rebecca, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes."**
>
> **Brian,** grade 11 (Uganda & South Sudan)

Click here for the full article

## Where They're Headed after UWC

With final exams underway, most of our graduating students have received their university offers and committed to the next chapter of their academic journey. **From arts and sciences to business and engineering, they'll be attending top institutions worldwide,** many with merit-based scholarships recognising their achievement, leadership, and service.
These offers reflect not only their dedication but also the strength of a UWC Thailand education—marked by rigorous academics, real-world learning, and a deep commitment to global citizenship.




# Krob Krua UWC Thailand

UWC THAILAND ALUMNI

## The UWC Thailand Alum Family Gathering

In April, we had the wonderful opportunity to bring our UWC Thailand alum community together for a virtual reunion call. Students from around the world, along with familiar faces from staff and faculty, joined us, filling the space with laughter, reflection, and that unmistakable UWC spirit.

The call was hosted by Jurarat Tarazi (Ice) (Class of 2022), who created a warm and welcoming space for everyone to reconnect and share memories.
**A special thanks to Kru Ann and Kru Jalal for leading an engaging Q&A session that sparked plenty of conversation and brought back great memories.**

From favourite Green Shop moments and Booster Bar stories to reflections on the challenges and rewards of the IB journey, the call sparked meaningful conversations and plenty of smiles. It was a heartfelt reminder of the strong and supportive UWC Thailand family—whether reconnecting with old friends or meeting new ones. We're already looking forward to the next one!

> **"It was so nice to catch up with students and hear what they are up to. Some are moving on to their master's programmes, and others are even pursuing doctorates—amazing! Sharing stories from our time at UWC Thailand really brought a smile to my face.**
>
> **It was humbling to hear how much the students appreciated the support and dedication of our staff."**

**Jalal Tarazi,**
UWC Thailand Secondary School
Science Teacher

**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



# SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP



## Secondary Track & Field Championships

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











The **PISAC Secondary Track & Field Championships** brought together student-athletes from across Phuket for a day of exciting competition.

Hosted by UWC Thailand, the event featured a wide range of events—from 100-metre sprints to 1500-metre runs, as well as field events like discus, long jump, high jump, and shot put.

It was a record-breaking day with 37 new records set—12 of them by our Mantas! With over 50 students competing, UWC Thailand finished 2nd overall among the five participating schools. **Coach Brian Ross** led the team with strong support from **Sandra Vasques, Paco Vazquez, Bianca Starck, and many enthusiastic Manta supporters —including our incredible Manta SPA.**

Beyond the medals and rankings, the event was a chance for students to challenge themselves, develop perseverance, and experience the power of teamwork through sport.

**Way to go, Mantas!**

Click here for more photos






## Holidays Camps with TEEMS Global

**Registrations are live and sign-ups are growing!**

Don't delay! Register for our **2025 Summer Camps** which will take place on the following dates!

- **Week 1:** Monday, 23 to Friday, 27 June 2025
- **Week 2:** Monday, 30 June to Friday, 4 July 2025
- **Week 3:** Monday, 7 to Friday, 11 July 2025
- **Week 4:** Monday, 14 to Friday, 18 July 2025

**Register today to secure your spot!**
**Don't miss out on a fun and enriching summer experience.**

For more information, contact us at camps@uwcthailand.ac.th.












# Parent Workout Sessions with Coach Brian

At UWC Thailand, we believe in nurturing a **Good Heart, Balanced Mind, Healthy Body**, and our Parent Workout Sessions with Coach Brian are a wonderful way to support this philosophy.

These sessions are designed to foster a sense of inclusion and community, offering parents an opportunity to be an active part of the school's vibrant life. Focused on **general fitness and Strength & Conditioning**, the workouts provide parents with a chance to prioritise their own health and wellbeing, while connecting with others in a positive and supportive environment. Through these sessions, parents can not only strengthen their bodies but also build deeper connections with the UWC Thailand community, creating a holistic approach to personal and collective growth.




# Rising Legacy

## Our Senior Girls' Football team looks to the future

**By Steve Wallace,**
UWC Thailand Football Coach

In the 2025-26 season, the senior girls' football team will aim for a fifth consecutive podium finish in the ASAC tournament. However, they will face a new challenge as several grade 12 students graduate, including two of our longest-serving players, who are moving on to new opportunities.

Siena, grade 10 (Australia) and Anchalita (Lita), grade 10 (Thailand) will be moving overseas this summer to continue their studies in Switzerland and Wales, respectively. Having been key players in the girls' football programme from a young age, their departure marks the end of an important chapter for the team.

Reflecting on their time in the programme, both players shared what football at UWC Thailand has meant to them.

**Siena, grade 10 (Australia):** "Football at UWC Thailand has grown a lot since I joined. It's great to see more girls involved, and the team is now taken more seriously. The effort we put in shows in our results. Being part of the UWC Thailand football team has been important to me. I've played for years, and it's amazing to see the sport develop and gain more recognition. Football is about much more than just the sport itself; it's the connections and memories you make with your team. It's a fantastic way to meet ... **Read more.**

Click here for the full article

# The Pulse Noticeboard

**Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand**

COMMUNITY

## Counsellors Coffee Morning

You're invited to discuss the Netflix series "Adolescence" and explore puberty, digital life, and how to talk openly with children.
**Tomorrow morning, room 3101, 8:10 - 9:30 am.**

**Contact:** Kru Paco

PRIMARY

## Grade 1 Mini Exhibition

On **Friday, 2 May**, our Grade 1 students will showcase their inquiry projects, celebrating their curiosity, creativity, and growth as young learners. 5:30-7:00 pm in the Canteen.
**All are welcome!**

**Contact:** Kru Caryl

COMMUNITY

## Manta Golf Day

Don't miss the inaugural UWC Thailand Manta Golf Day! Enjoy a fun-filled day of golf, food, and laughter! **Saturday, 3 May**, at Mission Hills Golf Club. *#UnitedOnTheGreen!*
**Register here and join us on Saturday!**

**Contact:** Manta Golf Day

PRIMARY

## Early Years Splash

Come and cheer our students on as they take to the water, showcasing their swimming skills through fun and engaging aquatic activities. Help us celebrate their growth, confidence, and joy in the pool!
**Thursday, 22 May**

**Contact:** Kru Ali

PRIMARY

## Grade 5 Transition

Grade 5 parents gain insights into the MYP curriculum, including similarities and differences as compared to the PYP, and how we assist students in their transition from Primary to Secondary. **Thursday, 22 May, room 5210.**

**Contact:** Kru Chantal

SPORTS

## Sports Awards Night

Join us on **Thursday, 22 May** for the Sports Awards Night, an evening dedicated to celebrating the sporting achievements of our students throughout the year.

**Contact:** Kru JP

PRIMARY

## PYP Exhibition

The Grade 5 PYP Exhibition, where students will showcase their community-focused projects and inspire others to take meaningful action. The **Community Showcase** will be held on **Friday, 30 May.**

**Contact:** Kru Jen

SECONDARY

## DocuMantaRay

This grade 6 project integrates knowledge, concepts, and skills from multiple disciplines to create meaningful, action-driven work. Join us on **Wednesday, 28 May** in the Multi-purpose Hall.

**Contact:** Kru Chantal

COMMUNITY

## Graduation

On **Saturday, 31 May**, we will come together as a community to celebrate the UWC Thailand Class of 2025. Graduation is a moment to honour our students' achievements, reflect on their journeys.

**Contact:** Kru Jon