ISSUE NO.42 / MAY 2025

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Class of 2025 Graduation

Honouring our grade 12s

Manta Golf Day 2025

United on the green!

Sports Awards Night

Celebrating student athletes

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media

Delta Dinner

Gratitude and Connection

As part of this year's graduation celebrations, our Class of 2025 came together for the beloved Delta Dinner—an evening dedicated to honouring the teachers and staff who have guided them through their UWC Thailand journey.

With heartfelt speeches, shared memories, and plenty of laughter over a delicious meal, the dinner was a moving tribute to the deep bonds formed over the past two years. It was a chance for students to reflect, express their appreciation, and celebrate the people who helped shape their growth, both in and out of the classroom.

The Delta Dinner continues to be one of the most meaningful moments of graduation week—a night of connection, celebration, and sincere thanks.









Click here for more photos













Transitions Week

A Final Outdoor Adventure Together

As part of Transition Week, the Grade 12 Class of 2025 embarked on an unforgettable experience at UWC Thailand's Outdoor Education Centre. The camp offered students the chance to reconnect as a cohort, challenge themselves through outdoor adventures, and reflect on their shared journey.

From hiking and sailing to mountain biking, mindfulness, and late-night games, the week was filled with moments of laughter, growth, and meaningful connection—marking a memorable close to their time at UWC Thailand.





Community Dinner

Closing the Year, Together

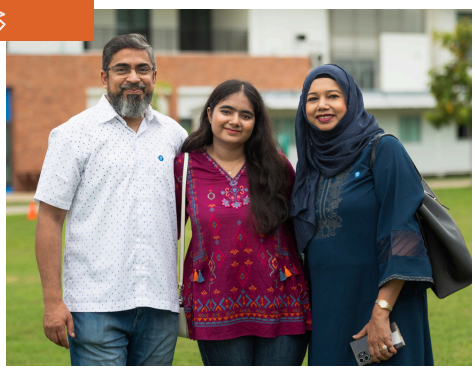
Our final Community Weekend of the academic year was marked by the beloved Community Dinner, held on the boarding house deck. This special evening brought together Grade 12 parents, host families, staff, and students for a relaxed gathering filled with conversation, connection, and celebration. It was a chance for our graduating students to introduce their families to the people and place that have shaped their UWC Thailand journey, building bridges between local and global communities.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this meaningful and memorable evening.

Click here to view the more photos







Stepping into the Future

As we say goodbye to the UWC Thailand Class of 2025, we celebrate the diverse paths they are taking—from joining top universities around the world, often with prestigious scholarships, to pursuing gap years focused on service, travel, or personal growth.

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the values they carry forward. Wherever their journeys lead, we know they will continue to make a positive impact.

BROWN
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Northwestern University
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
McGill
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Universiteit Leiden
KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN
MANCHESTER 1824 The University of Manchester
CITY ST GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
Middlebury College

2025 Graduation

Mantas on the Move

> **“One class. One last time that we are all in the same room together. Look around you—make sure that you remember this.”**

Jonathan Field,
UWC Thailand Secondary School Principal

The graduation of the UWC Thailand Class of 2025 was more than a ceremony—it was a heartfelt celebration of identity, growth, and community. As their teachers, families, and friends watched proudly, 80 graduates crossed the stage, marking the end of one journey and the beginning of countless others.

Secondary Principal Jon Field reminded the class that this was “one last time we are all in the same room together,” encouraging them to take in the moment and carry it forward. Head of School Mark Beach reflected on the importance of kindness, purpose, and using one’s education to uplift others. And Teacher Representative Kru Chris MacLean urged students to embrace struggle, seek diverse perspectives, and prioritise meaningful connection.

Throughout the evening, there was laughter, music, and a sense of shared achievement. As the Class of 2025 begins their next chapter, we know they’ll carry with them the courage, empathy, and global-mindedness that defines a UWC Thailand education.

Congratulations, graduates—you made it!

Click here to view the more photos

Make sure to keep checking back - photos will be uploaded as we receive them from the community.



















> **"You're about to step away from the familiar rhythms and supportive structure of school life into a world characterized by uncertainty and change. But the friendships you've formed here, the challenges you've overcome, and the perspectives you've gained—these are the tools you need to navigate what comes next."**

Chris MacLean, UWC Thailand Global Politics Teacher and Teacher Representative of the UWC Thailand Class of '25





LIVE

Click here to watch the live stream from the day!





> **"The time is now [...] to draw from who you are as a person as well as all your UWC Thailand experiences, and take responsible action to continue to live the UWC mission—not because you have to, or because the school, the IB or UWC requires it, but because you want to."**

Mark Beach,
UWC Thailand Head of School













Manta Golf Day 2025

On 3 May, the stunning greens of Mission Hills Golf Course played host to a milestone event for our community—UWC Thailand's inaugural Manta Golf Day. This spirited scramble brought together parents, staff, sponsors, and friends in a celebration of sport, connection, and purpose.



More than just a morning of great golf, the event raised essential funds for the Manta Sports Fund, a newly established initiative launched in 2024 to ensure scholarship students—many from refugee and underrepresented backgrounds—can access the full athletic experience at UWC Thailand. From travel to regional tournaments and competition uniforms to essential gear, the fund helps students step onto the field or court fully prepared, confident, and proud to represent their school.



The atmosphere was electric—from the Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive challenges to the camaraderie among teams. Every swing made a difference, supporting not just a game, but a greater goal: empowering students through sport.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our incredible players, volunteers, and sponsors whose generosity made this event possible, including:







Together, we made history—and took a powerful step toward a more inclusive sports programme where every student has the chance to compete, grow, and shine.











Book Week Round-Up

A Celebration of Stories, Imagination, and Learning

From April 28 to May 2, UWC Thailand celebrated the joy of reading during our annual Book Week, transforming the campus into a hub of literary excitement and creativity.

The week kicked off with surprise Stop, Drop, and Read moments, where students and staff paused their day to dive into a book—a simple but powerful reminder that there's always time for reading. The energy continued with book-themed challenges, games, and our much-loved pop-up library and outdoor reading picnic under the big tree.

A definite highlight was the Dress-Up Day, where characters from beloved stories walked the halls, brought to life by students and staff alike.

Beyond the fun, Book Week plays an important role in nurturing a love of reading, building literacy skills, and engaging imagination. Through activities that encouraged exploration, problem-solving, and creative expression, students connected with stories in meaningful ways. Events like the Character Escape Challenge and Reading in Unusual Places inspired curiosity and helped develop critical thinking, empathy, and communication—core skills that support learning across all areas.

We ended with a round of applause for our competition winners, including:

Reading in Unusual Places

- **Tomas,** grade 5
- **Demid,** grade 3
- **Noah S,** grade 1

Character Escape Challenge

- **Shwe Pyi,** grade 3
- **Henley,** grade 4
- **Hannah,** grade 5
- **Nya,** grade 5



Masked Reader:

- **Gabriel,** grade 3
- **Ariella,** grade 8

I Spy:

- **Alden Francisco,** grade 6

Best Dressed Class

- **Grade 4** (Primary)
- **Grade 7.1** (Secondary)

Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and helped make Book Week a joyful, enriching celebration of storytelling and learning.

Click here for more photos













Community Sailing

Who says outdoor education is only for students?

At UWC Thailand, we believe that learning through adventure and connection with nature should extend to the entire community—including parents. That's why, during May, we opened up our Outdoor Education Centre to host Community Sailing sessions especially for UWC Thailand parents.

Led by our experienced staff, parents had the opportunity to get out on the water, try something new, and experience the same spirit of exploration that shapes our student programmes. Whether they were sailing for the first time or building on past experience, the sessions offered a refreshing and rewarding way to connect with the natural environment—and with each other.

Community Sailing is part of our commitment to making outdoor education more inclusive. By offering opportunities like this, we bring parents into the heart of the UWC Thailand experience—where learning happens at every age, on land and sea alike.

Raising Happy Kids with Dr. Penny Tok



We were pleased to welcome Consultant Psychologist Dr. Penny Tok to UWC Thailand for an insightful session on "Raising Happy Kids." Using a science-based approach rooted in developmental psychology, she offered valuable strategies for supporting children's growth, including how to navigate the positive and challenging impacts of screen time.

The session offered both practical tools and meaningful reflection. As Khun Bee, a Grade 6 parent, noted: **"To raise a happy child, their needs have to be met, as each child's needs are unique."**

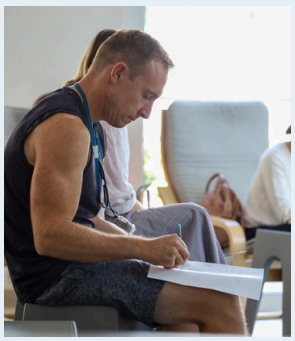
We are grateful for the opportunity to engage in thoughtful dialogue around wellbeing and continue building strong foundations for our students' development.











Building Calm, Focus, and Awareness

Mindfulness in the Early Years

At UWC Thailand, Mindfulness is woven into the daily lives of even our youngest learners in the Early Years Programme, including Mini Mantas and Kindergarten. Through simple, age-appropriate practices like breathing exercises, mindful listening, and gentle movement, children learn to pause, check in with their emotions, and focus on the present moment.

These regular moments of calm help support self-awareness, emotional wellbeing, and focus—essential skills that grow with our students and set a strong foundation for life and learning.







Little Swimmers, Big Smiles

Early Years Splash

Our Early Years students recently enjoyed a joyful morning at the Early Years Splash, diving into a range of water-based activities designed to support physical development and confidence in the pool.

With playful games and independent water exploration, students showed energy, enthusiasm, and a growing sense of comfort in the water.

A big thank you to the parents who came along to cheer them on—your support made the morning even more special. The event was a wonderful reflection of our commitment to Healthy Body, a core part of the UWC Thailand motto.







Click here for more photos











Primary Programme Exhibition

Each year, the Primary Years Programme Exhibition (PYPX) marks a significant moment in the learning journey of UWC Thailand's Grade 5 students. This culminating experience challenges students to apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they have developed throughout the Primary Years Programme to a real-world context —and this year was no exception.

Guided by the transdisciplinary themes ***Who We Are*** **and** ***How We Express Ourselves***, students explored the central idea: Our values and strengths guide us to contribute to our community. With this as their foundation, students embarked on a learning experience that helped them reflect on their personal strengths, understand their responsibilities as members of a global community, and take meaningful action in partnership with local organisations.

Rather than beginning with topics or group names, students applied for roles based on...**Read more**

> **I'm very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication the kids are showing.**

Marc, UWC Thailand Grade 5 Parent

Click here for the full article

Grade 1 Mini Exhibition

"Space has some unique stories waiting to be discovered and shared" — and our Grade 1 students did just that in their recent Mini Exhibition.

As part of their Unit of Inquiry under the theme Where We Are in Place and Time, students explored the central idea that space holds fascinating stories. Building on their year-long journey through How We Express Ourselves, they combined storytelling and research to share what they learned about the planets.

From posters and games to interactive exhibits, their presentations showcased creativity, curiosity, and a growing sense of confidence. It was a powerful reflection of the IB Learner Profile, especially in their roles as Thinkers and Inquirers, with strong development in research, communication, and social skills.

> **"Thanks for an awesome MiniX experience. They were clearly very well prepared in all aspects—from how to enter the stage, sing, speak, run a game, and talk about their topic. I especially liked that every child had a chance to dance and speak on the microphone."**

UWC Thailand Grade 1 parent









Click here for more photos



DocuMantarays



As part of their Interdisciplinary Unit (IDU), our Grade 6 students explored the powerful question: "How does storytelling allow students to connect to their community and create solutions, empowering them to be global citizens?"

This collaborative project brought together six subjects—Individuals and Societies, English Language Learning, Design, Music, Exploration, and Manta—allowing students to integrate ideas and skills in a way no single subject could achieve alone. The result: original documentaries that reflect thoughtful research, creative storytelling, and meaningful engagement with real-world issues.



Click here to watch our students' DocuMantarays.

Families joined us for a cinematic screening and awards ceremony, celebrating the creativity, collaboration, and global thinking that went into each film. We're proud to share this year's

Best Introduction: **Leo** for *Strays of Siam*
Best Original Sound: **Cy** for *Lotus's Story*
Best Narrative: **Xianyun (Cathy)** for *Swing through the Jungle: Tam's Story*
Best Exposition: **Reiley** for *The Shattering Shell*
Best Film Editing: **Linn** for *Behind the Scenes*
Resilience Award: **Ting Xuan Narumi (Nana)** for *New Beginnings*
Best Cinematography: **Yitong (Olivia)** for *The Gibbons on the Edge*
Best Call-to-Action: **Henry** for *Mai's Story*
Best Community Engagement Award: **Arpaporn (Bonus)** for *Equality*
Best Picture: **Tamara David** for *Ocean Saviours*

Congratulations to all our Manta filmmakers for their outstanding work and inspiring messages.







Click here for more photos

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP













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

PISAC U16 Badminton

This tournament took place at HeadStart with 8 students from UWC Thailand competing! Both Girls' teams made it to the Doubles Final, along with one of our Boys' teams! In Singles, George came in 2nd and Noshin an unlucky 3rd.

UWC Manta 3k/5k Run

The Running team had an internal 3k/5k this past weekend with runners from the team members and UWC staff! The effort and enjoyment was a pleasure to see on a beautiful morning together!

Well done to all participants!

PISAC Basketball
U13 Girls, U13 Boys, U16 Boys

In our last basketball competition of the year the U13 Girls took home PISAC Gold at BCIS on 26 May. The following day at the same location our U13 Boys and U16 Boys took on the field with no prior training together and held their own!

Thank you to Coach Ron, Coach Mick, and Coach Chris for all their hard work in preparing our teams!

CCP Rotation 3 coming to a close

We have completed 8 of 10 weeks in our CCP for Rotation 3! Attendance remains steady and our learning remains at the forefront!

A gentle reminder that this Rotation ends on **Friday, 13 June.**





Mantas Swimming Success!

PISAC Swimming Championships

The Mantas had an excellent final local meet of the year showing our fans and themselves all the progress made!

PISAC Records:

- **Isabella**, grade 8 (United Kingdom) - 100m fly, 50m fly and 50m free

130 Personal Bests

48 Medals:

- **10 Golds**
- **14 Silvers**
- **24 Bronze**

Finalists from every age group showing the depth and improvement from throughout the whole team!

Age Group Champion

- **Isabella,** grade 8 (United Kingdom)

Age Group Runners-up

- **Isabella**, grade 8 (United Kingdom)
- **Raya**, grade 10 (United States)

ISHCMC Swim Invitational

Congratulations to our 17 Mantas that competed in the ISHCMC Swim Meet this past weekend! There were over 700 swimmers from 20 participating schools and the Mantas set numerous personal best times, had multiple medals won, earned podium appearances, and had a lot of fun!

3rd Place Overall School Award

64 Personal Bests

22 Medals:

- **8 Golds**
- **8 Silvers**
- **6 Bronze**

Overall Age Group Champion

- **Raya,** grade 10 (United States)

3rd Place Overall Podium

- **Isabella**, grade 10 (United Kingdom)

This success wouldn't have been possible without the guidance and support of Coach Ali, Kathy, and Siaji.

Thank you for coaching our Mantas!























Sports Awards Night

Celebrating Sports and UWC Thailand Mantas

The annual Sports Awards Night honoured our programme on many levels. This was the first year Primary Sports were recognised across their competitive teams while our Secondary Sport teams were showcased

The student-athletes that have given their all, the coaches that have dedicated so much time to improving skills and building teams, the parents for their dedication to a healthy body lifestyle, and various community members for different acts throughout the year that had the Mantas shining bright on this evening in the MPH!

All competitive teams were honoured on stage and each coaching staff selected 3 winners from their teams. The awards were Most Improved, Manta Spirit, and Most Valuable Player/Runner/Swimmer. The night was full of excitement, motivational and humorous stories, prizes donated to raffle off, and a moment to come together and enjoy a snack at our reception!

Click here for more photos













The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

COMMUNITY

Table Top Sale

Join us for a fun opportunity to browse, buy, and connect with our community.

See you on **Friday, 6 June, from 2:30 pm,** in front of the Admin area.

Contact: Manta SPA

SECONDARY

Project Week

From **7 – 14 June**, Grade 11 students will spend a week off campus engaged in meaningful service-learning projects across Thailand. This experience is a core part of their learning journey and community engagement.

Contact: Kru Heidi

WHOLE SCHOOL

Whole School Art Exhibition

From **Monday, 9 – Friday, 13 June**, enjoy a vibrant display of student creativity in the Multipurpose Hall.
All are welcome to attend and celebrate the artistic talents of our young creators.

Contact: Kru Dale

SECONDARY

Grade 10 Work Experience Week

Grade 10 students will step into the professional world through internships, job shadowing, or service projects. This valuable experience helps them build real-world skills and explore future career interests.
Monday, 9 – Friday, 13 June

Contact: Kru Chantal

COMMUNITY

Community Thank You Event

Taking place in the Male Boarding House Lounge to celebrate and thank our wonderful community for their support throughout the year. All are welcome.
Monday, 9 June 2025 from 8:15 – 10:30 am

Contact: Kru Nicki

PRIMARY

Student-Led Conferences

Primary school parents are invited to spend the day on campus as their children lead conferences, sharing and reflecting on their learning journey.
Friday, 13 June 2025

Contact: Kru Jen

SECONDARY

Grade 11 Future Prep Week

This week helps students prepare for life after secondary school through workshops and career guidance.
Monday, 16 - Friday 20 June

Contact: Kru Katie

WHOLE SCHOOL

Spirit Days: Primary & Secondary

Dedicated to celebrating school spirit and community through fun activities and team challenges.
Primary: Tuesday, 17 June
Secondary: Wednesday, 18 June

Contact: Kru Ali

COMMUNITY

Moving-On Ceremonies

Thursday, 19 June marks the special event where students celebrate important milestones as they transition to the next stage of their education.
Grade 5: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Grade 10: 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Contact: Kru Jen & Kru Chantal