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THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Voices for peace

UWC Day

21 SEPTEMBER 2025

Peace in Action

Celebrating UWC Day: Voices for Peace

Wai Kru Ceremony

Students honouring their teachers

Sports Round-Up

A busy September for Mantas on the Move!

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media











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Peace in Action

UWC Day 2025: Voices for Peace

This September, UWC Thailand joined schools, colleges, and alumni across the globe to celebrate UWC Day — the annual tradition that coincides with the United Nations International Day of Peace.
This year's theme, ***"Voices for Peace,"*** called on us to use education, creativity, and dialogue as powerful tools to foster peace and understanding across cultures and communities.

At UWC Thailand, the spirit of the day came alive through a diverse programme of student- and staff-led sessions and workshops.
The afternoon was carefully designed to reflect the theme, offering our community the chance to explore what peace looks like in practice — in our classrooms, in our relationships, and in the wider world.

Workshops ranged from conflict resolution simulations and Model UN debates to mindfulness practices, music, theatre, and even zero-waste cooking. These experiences showed that peacebuilding is not only about international diplomacy; it also starts with the choices we make, the way we listen, and how we work together. Sustainability and sport added further dimensions, highlighting the importance of trust, responsibility, and collaboration in shaping a better future.

Highlights included:

- **Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding:** simulations, debates, and role-plays that encouraged dialogue and negotiation.
- **Mindfulness & Inner Peace:** exploring how emotional intelligence, reflection, and calm can support peace in daily life.
- **Creative Voices for Peace:** theatre, music, comedy, and video-making as platforms for expression, bridge-building, and amplifying positive messages.
- **Sustainability & Action:** hands-on eco-activities linking care for the planet with care for people.
- **Sports & Community:** celebrating how fair play and collaboration strengthen connection and resilience.

What made the day especially powerful was the way students and educators worked side by side — leading, facilitating, and participating together. Each session offered a different perspective, but the common thread was clear: peace is built through shared effort, mutual respect, and the courage to try new approaches.

As the afternoon unfolded, our campus buzzed with conversation, laughter, creativity, and moments of quiet reflection. It was a vivid reminder that the UWC mission is not just something we talk about — it is something we live, together, every day.

UWC Day

Changemakers in Conversation

UWC Impact Forum, London

On 27 September, alongside UWC Day celebrations worldwide, the **UWC International Office** hosted the ***Innovation for Impact Forum*** in London. The event brought together alumni, volunteers, and friends of UWC to celebrate the mission in action and explore how education can continue to serve as a force for peace and sustainability.

Speakers included **Ffiona Rowland Deasabai** (UWC Atlantic), **Suni Hiranandani** (UWC Mahindra), and **Ka Ling Wu** (Li Po Chun UWC of Hong Kong), who shared insights on leadership, entrepreneurship, and the role of technology in shaping the future.

The forum highlighted stories of impact, opportunities for collaboration, and the power of the UWC mission to connect and inspire people across generations and geographies.

Click here to read more





One Song, Many Voices

Global Collaboration: World of Peace

As part of this year's UWC Day theme, ***"Voices for Peace,"*** we are delighted to share World of Peace, a collaborative musical project directed by *Brendan McGibbon* and performed by over 400 voices around the globe.

The song encourages us not only to recognise the struggles around us, but also to come together, listen deeply, and take steps toward peace in our own lives and communities. It is a reminder that when we unite in creativity and purpose, we amplify the message of peace far beyond what any one voice can achieve alone.

Click here to listen



Exploring Restorative Practices





SLT Coffee Morning

Parents joined the **Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Coffee Morning** to explore ***Restorative Practice*** — a positive approach to managing conflict and building respectful relationships within our school community.

The session highlighted the importance of consistency: reinforcing the same messages of respect, responsibility, and repair at school and at home.

When children experience this alignment, they develop stronger self-awareness, emotional regulation, and communication skills. Parents also reflected on the role of listening, dialogue, and collaboration in nurturing a safe and supportive environment, sharing experiences and ideas for applying these approaches in daily life.

It was a morning of reflection and meaningful conversation, equipping parents with tools to support constructive relationships in the UWC Thailand community.







Shaping the Future, Together

Town Hall Meeting

On 30 September, our Senior Leadership Team, School Board, and ESF Board representatives hosted a Town Hall in the MPH for parents and community members. With an excellent turnout of around 130–140 attendees, the session provided an open space to address questions, share updates, and outline our vision for the future of UWC Thailand.

Leaders reflected on the progress made over recent months, discussed upcoming initiatives, and reaffirmed the school's direction as we continue working towards our mission. While a range of perspectives were shared, it was clear that our community cares deeply about the school and values the transparency and open conversation this forum provided.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to this discussion — your presence and engagement are vital as we shape the future of UWC Thailand with our shared commitment to the journey ahead.

A Tradition of Gratitude

Wai Kru Ceremony

The annual **Wai Kru Ceremony** offered a heartfelt moment for our Secondary students to honour and thank their teachers for their dedication, guidance, and care.

Students presented decorated fruit baskets and took part in the traditional **บทสวดไหว้ครู** (Wai Kru Chant), a revered Thai practice where students pay respect to their teachers, acknowledging their role in sharing knowledge and wisdom. The ceremony also included a poem reading in multiple languages, celebrating the diverse voices of our community and the universal importance of recognising and thanking those who guide our learning.

Meanwhile in Primary, students brought their appreciation to life through a variety of thoughtful, hands-on activities. They created handmade thank-you cards, flower garlands, and flower sticks, served refreshing herbal drinks, and even offered gentle Thai massages to help teachers relax. Some students prepared unique herbal inhalers, carefully fermented and beautifully designed by the children themselves.

This meaningful tradition celebrates respect, humility, and gratitude, values at the heart of the UWC Thailand community. The week was filled with warmth, reflection, and shared appreciation, highlighting the significance of recognising and valuing those who inspire and support our learning journey.

> **The Wai Kru Ceremony is a beautiful reminder of the values at the heart of UWC Thailand — respect, gratitude, and the deep bond between teachers and students that nurtures learning, growth, and community."**

Phatcharaphorn (Yui) Phermkaew, School Director













Click here for more photos

A Gift of Creativity



A Generous Donation from Mediawok Co., Ltd.

A heartfelt thank you to UWC Thailand parent **Alex Grawe** and his Bangkok-based production company, **Mediawok Co., Ltd.,** for their generous donation of professional film equipment to our programme.

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From **cinema LED and Fresnel lights to a sound mixer, gimbal, and drone,** these tools now give our students hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment, expanding the ways they can bring their creative visions to life. This donation will support the development of students' technical skills and nurture the creativity of UWC Thailand filmmakers for years to come.

We are deeply grateful for this generosity, which enriches our programme and empowers students to explore, create, and inspire through film, turning ideas into real cinematic experiences.



Sharing Education, Building Connections

Ministry of Education Visit



UWC Thailand had the honour of welcoming over **90 visitors from the Ministry of Education, Pattani Province,** to our campus. They were greeted by our **Head of School, David Griffiths, and Dr. Phatcharaphorn (Kru Yui) Phermkaew,** Representative of the School Licensee, School Director, and School Manager.



During their visit, guests learned about UWC Thailand, the UWC movement and mission, and the International Baccalaureate curriculum, before joining a tour of our learning environments.

The visit was a valuable opportunity to showcase the joyful learning, collaborative spirit, and strong sense of community that make UWC Thailand unique, while also engaging with a wider network of schools and educators committed to educational excellence.





Partners in Growth

A Parent's Guide to Specialist Support

Earlier this month, parents gathered for a Coffee Morning centred on **"Navigating Your Child's Development with Confidence"**, an insightful session designed to support families in understanding the specialist services available at UWC Thailand.
The session focused on the distinctions between **Occupational Therapy (OT) and Speech & Language Therapy (SALT),** helping parents gain clarity on which approaches are best suited to their child's needs.

Through practical examples and discussion, parents explored real-life scenarios, learned strategies for accessing services, and considered how different support approaches can work together to achieve the best outcomes. The session provided a space for questions, reflection, and the sharing of experiences, helping families feel more confident and informed in supporting their child's development.

It was inspiring to see such engagement and curiosity from our parent community, demonstrating the strength of partnership between families and school in nurturing the growth, wellbeing, and resilience of our students.

Parents in the PYP Coffee Mornings

This month, our Primary parents participated in the Parents in the PYP series — three coffee mornings designed to support learning at home and at school. The sessions included **Learning at Home – Part 1 & 2** and **Zones of Regulation,** offering practical strategies to nurture children's learning, wellbeing, and self-regulation.

Parents explored how to encourage curiosity, independence, and critical thinking through everyday activities at home, while also gaining a deeper understanding of classroom practices. **The Zones of Regulation** session provided valuable guidance on helping children recognise and manage their emotions, promoting positive interactions and self-awareness.

These mornings also created space for parents to connect with teachers, share experiences, and ask questions in an open, collaborative environment. It was inspiring to see such enthusiasm and engagement from our parent community, reflecting the strong partnership between families and school. **The sessions continue to support student growth and celebrate our shared commitment to nurturing the whole child in the Primary Years Programme.**





Mindfulness Strategies for Young Learners



We are proud to share that **Kru Bianca Starck** had an article on Mindfulness in the Early Years published by **Edutopia in August.**

The article explores practical strategies for introducing mindfulness practices to young children, supporting their emotional regulation, focus, and overall wellbeing.

Kru Bianca's work highlights the importance of nurturing mindfulness from an early age and reflects UWC Thailand's commitment to fostering wellbeing, reflection, and growth in all learners.



Click here to read the full article





Leadership in Action

Our Grade 5 students recently participated in a **Community Engagement** project with **Ban Pa Klong Cheep,** developing valuable self-management, leadership, and teamwork skills through interactive and collaborative activities.

By engaging in icebreaking exercises and team-building challenges during the initial visit on campus, students built confidence, strengthened communication, and learned how to support one another effectively in a group setting.

Later, our Grade 5 students visited the Ban Pa Klong Cheep community, facilitating a range of interactive activities that encouraged leadership, self-management, and teamwork. This reciprocal exchange allowed students to apply their skills in real-world contexts, fostering empathy, confidence, and meaningful connections.

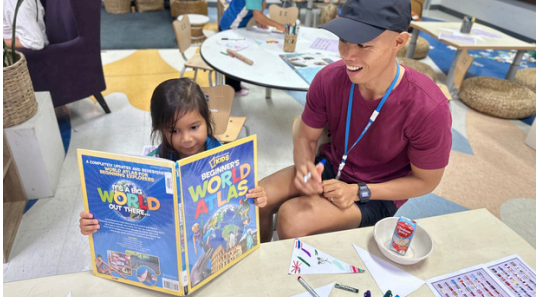
Through these visits, our students experienced the value of active engagement, collaboration, and community impact, strengthening both their personal growth and their understanding of leadership in action.







Click here for more photos







Joyful Learning in Action

Our Early Years community came together for a delightful picnic celebrating creativity, play, and connection. Families enjoyed a variety of free-flow activities, including playdough, art, peace banners, ribbon dancing, water play, and shared food.

The morning concluded with a heartfelt song performance, capturing the spirit of the day and celebrating the creativity, curiosity, and meaningful connections that define learning in the Early Years.

It was a wonderful reminder of the power of play and the importance of community in supporting children as they explore, express themselves, and connect with others.

Click here for more photos

Hands in the Soil, Hearts in the Mangroves

Grade 2 Mangrove Learning Experience

Earlier this month, Grade 2 students and their parents ventured into the mangroves for a hands-on learning experience. With hands in the soil and feet in the mud, they discovered how mangroves protect coastlines, shelter wildlife, and help combat climate change.

By planting new mangroves, students deepened their understanding of ecosystems and embraced their role as young environmental stewards. Supported by **Dream for Trees,** a UK-based nonprofit, this activity blended outdoor learning with meaningful reforestation efforts in Phuket.

Through the experience, students built ecological knowledge alongside teamwork, responsibility, and observation skills, strengthening their connection with nature and their commitment to sustainability.

Click here for more photos










Sustainability Leaders

PHIST 2025, Angsana Laguna Phuket

On 1 September, seven UWC Thailand students joined the PHIST 2025 event at Angsana Laguna Phuket — **Asia's largest sustainability gathering for hospitality and tourism.** The day explored regenerative tourism, climate resilience, marine conservation, circular economies, and zero-waste food systems.

Students returned inspired to bring new ideas into our community, from zero-waste cooking to youth-led sustainability initiatives. As Umair reflected: ***"I learned that hotels and the new Thai generation are passionate about sustainability. I aim to use this knowledge to build more connections for our Plastic Free Phuket event."***

The experience highlighted the power of collaboration between education and industry and reinforced UWC Thailand's commitment to sustainability and community impact.

Students Rising to the Challenge

Celebrating Student Success in IAP and ASDAN

We are pleased to share recent achievements from our ASDAN and International Award Program (IAP).

Following the 2024–25 external moderation, **Paul successfully passed the GOLD IAP,** supporting his next steps toward a foundation course in Hospitality in Switzerland.

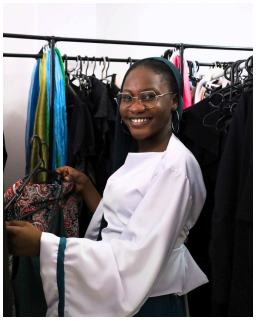


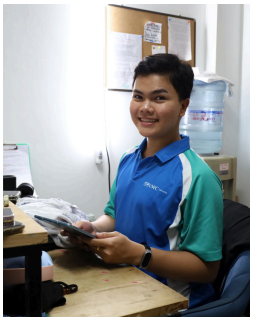


Koko also celebrated success, with both his Bronze and Silver work moderated and approved just before the deadline. He is now working toward his Gold IAP as part of his UWC Thailand Diploma. Currently, four students are enrolled in the IAP, one of the minimum four courses required to graduate with the UWC Thailand Diploma. Alongside the IAP, UWC Thailand continues to offer ASDAN short courses, including Gardening, Foodwise, Expressive Arts, Key Steps, and Mathematics.

These results highlight the perseverance and commitment of our students, and we look forward to sharing more successes in the future. To learn more about how our ASDAN and International Award Program (IAP) pathways support diverse learning journeys at UWC Thailand, **read our full story here.**











Do you know...

what our students get up to on the weekends?

While some might imagine it's all study and relaxation, our Grade 11–12 students are actively involved in community projects that make a difference.

Recently, they spent time supporting the **Phuket Elephant Sanctuary** — helping with animal welfare tasks, cleaning, and even building elephant pens. Others rolled up their sleeves at our **Preloved Shop**, organising inventory, managing sales, and keeping this community resource running smoothly. Meanwhile, another group joined a **beach clean-up**, caring for Phuket's natural environment and reducing waste along our shores.

These weekend engagements reflect UWC Thailand's values in action — where students learn the power of service, teamwork, and responsibility beyond the classroom.

Welcoming Our Host Families

Earlier this month, UWC Thailand welcomed our host families for an introduction session designed to support the upcoming hosting experience. The session provided families with important information about their roles, expectations, and best practices for supporting students living away from home.

Participants had the opportunity to meet our staff, connect with fellow host families, and gain practical guidance on how to create a welcoming, supportive, and enriching environment for students. Discussions included tips on communication, routines, and cultural considerations, helping ensure that both students and host families are prepared for a positive and meaningful experience.

This session reflects UWC Thailand's commitment to providing a caring, connected community, where students feel supported both academically and personally, and host families are empowered to provide the best possible environment for student growth and wellbeing.

To learn more about our host family programme, please reach out to **Kru Len** or **Kru Rachelle** at **host.families@uwcthailand.ac.th**.













Talent Takes the Spotlight

Our very first Open Mic Thursday (OMT) filled the campus with music, energy, and creativity as students, staff, and parents took to the stage, sharing their talents with the UWC Thailand community. Performances included singing, instrumental music, and collaborative acts from across our community, showcasing a wonderful mix of artistry and expression.

The event was not only an opportunity to celebrate musical talent but also a chance for performers to demonstrate courage, confidence, and self-expression in front of a supportive audience. Students and parents alike enjoyed cheering for one another, sharing smiles, and experiencing the joy that comes from creating and enjoying the arts together.

Open Mic Thursday has quickly become a vibrant celebration of community and creativity, highlighting the value of taking risks, trying new things, and supporting one another. It reminds us that the arts are a powerful way to connect, inspire, and bring joy to everyday life at UWC Thailand.

We look forward to the next Open Mic on Thursday, 30 October.

We can't wait to see more incredible performances and share in the excitement of our community's talent.

Click here for more photos

Student Voice on the Global Stage

We are proud to share that Thanwarat "Bebe," Grade 12 , was the only student speaker at the ***RISE 2025: Reshaping Hospitality by Empowering Women Conference*** held in Phuket.

Bebe led the session ***"Global Movement: Education – a Force for Peace and a Sustainable Future,"*** where she spoke about how her UWC experience has taught her that education is rooted in empathy, responsibility, and building bridges across cultures.

Her creativity and leadership have already made an impact — from designing murals with local NGOs to contributing to TEDxYouth and serving as a Student Council Representative — and her voice at RISE reflects the power and potential of the next generation of changemakers.









Freedom to Read, Freedom to Think

This month, UWC Thailand marked **Banned Books Week**, an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and the importance of intellectual curiosity. Students explored a selection of books that have faced challenges or bans in different parts of the world, engaging in discussions about the power of literature to provoke thought, inspire dialogue, and reflect diverse perspectives.



Through classroom activities and library displays, students examined the reasons why certain books have been challenged, considering themes of censorship, creativity, and the role of storytelling in society. The week encouraged **critical thinking, respect for differing opinions, and reflection on the value of open access to ideas.**

By participating in Banned Books Week, our students deepened their understanding of literature as a tool for learning, empathy, and social awareness, reinforcing the importance of freedom of expression and the right to explore ideas through reading.

Stories That Connect Us

Students from Grades 6–10 joined Primary Years for a **Buddy Reading event,** sharing stories, ideas, and a love of reading across the school. This cross-grade activity built friendships and mentorship opportunities, strengthening bonds throughout UWC Thailand.

Older students mentored younger peers with strategies and encouragement, while younger students gained confidence and pride in their reading. The shared experiences also promoted empathy, active listening, and meaningful conversations between age groups. Teachers noted the joy as students read, discussed, and celebrated together — showing how reading nurtures curiosity, connection, and community at UWC Thailand.













Leading the Way in Outdoor Learning

We are proud to share that **Kru Rob Carmichael**, Director of Outdoor & Experiential Education at UWC Thailand, has been awarded the prestigious status of **Leading Practitioner of the Institute for Outdoor Learning (LPIOL).**

This recognition is reserved for experienced professionals who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of outdoor and experiential learning. The rigorous process involves reflective practice, professional coaching, and peer endorsement, ensuring that those who achieve LPIOL are not only highly skilled but also shaping the future of the outdoor sector through innovation, leadership, and the mentoring of others.

The **Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL)** is the UK's professional body for outdoor education and experiential learning. Its mission is to raise standards, champion best practice, and support practitioners in creating safe, meaningful, and transformative experiences in nature. LPIOL is the Institute's highest individual professional recognition, demonstrating excellence in practice, thought leadership, and influence across the wider field.

Rob's achievement reflects his dedication to empowering young people through purposeful adventure, fostering a love of nature, and supporting educators worldwide in delivering high-quality outdoor learning.

> **It is a privilege to be recognised by the Institute for Outdoor Learning. This award reflects the importance of outdoor and experiential education in shaping young people's lives and preparing them to meet the challenges of the future with confidence and compassion.**

Rob Carmichael, UWC Thailand Director of Outdoor Experiential Learning

Learning Beyond the Classroom

At UWC Thailand, the **Outdoor Education Centre** is central to our holistic approach to learning. It gives students opportunities to explore the natural world in ways that nurture curiosity, resilience, and collaboration.

From the early years through to the diploma programme, the Centre hosts experiences ranging from environmental studies and mangrove restoration to kayaking, sailing, and team-building challenges. These activities build life skills such as leadership, responsibility, and problem-solving, while fostering a respect for nature and sustainability.

Students leave the Centre with new skills, confidence, and empathy, and a stronger sense of global citizenship.









Exploring Life Beyond UWC

Future Pathways Programme

This month, our **Grade 10, 11, and 12 students explored life beyond UWC Thailand through our Future Pathways programme,** engaging in a range of opportunities to help them make informed decisions about higher education and future careers.

Students participated in three online sessions:

- Future Pathways: General Overview
- Future Pathways: USA and the Davis Scholars Programme
- Future Pathways: UK Higher Education Information Session

These sessions allowed students to connect with experts and alumni, gaining valuable insights into academic programmes, scholarship opportunities, and studying abroad.

On campus, students also met with visiting college representatives, discussing course options, application processes, and the realities of university life.
These conversations offered personalised guidance, allowing students to ask questions, reflect on their strengths and interests, and consider the pathways best suited to their goals.

A highlight of the month was the **BISP University Fair** in Phuket, the largest in the region, where over **130 universities from around the world — including the UK, Hong Kong, Spain, Canada, Thailand, Australia, and the USA** — were represented. Students met directly with university representatives, gathered detailed information on programmes and admission requirements, and gained a deeper understanding of campus life and academic culture in different countries.

Experiences like these are invaluable in preparing students for the next steps in their educational journey. They complement the guidance provided through the Future Pathways programme, helping students build confidence, explore options, and make informed decisions about their futures. From Grade 10 through 12, these opportunities encourage curiosity, reflection, and preparation, supporting students as they navigate the exciting transition from UWC Thailand to higher education and beyond.















Upcoming Events to Remember

20 October	Bard College, Lake Forest College, University of Richmond, RCSI & UCD Malaysia Campus Visit
3 November	PACE Fair
30 March	UWC Thailand

Peacebuilding Society

Throughout October, the Peacebuilding Society led a series of activities for **Migrants Month,** inviting our community to pause, listen, and reflect on the stories of migration.

Guided by the theme ***"Every journey carries a story worth hearing… this month, we listen,"*** students explored perspectives through simulations, listened to experiences shared by migrants, and engaged with cultural films and discussions.

Other creative initiatives included Tuesday Thoughts reflections, student-led workshops, and a community food experience featuring home cooked Burmese dishes. Together, these activities reminded us that our UWC Thailand community is strengthened by diversity — and by the willingness to listen and learn from one another.

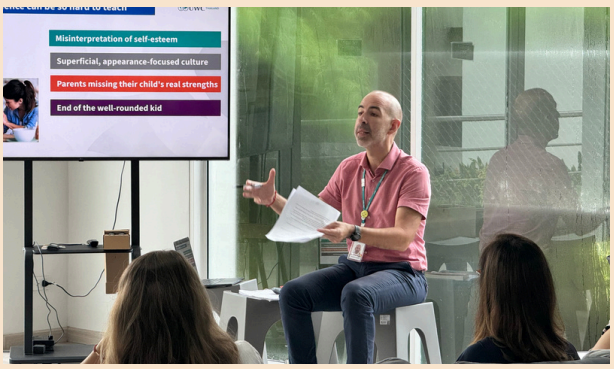


Thriving Together

Parents joined the first session of our **Book Discussion Group** on *Thrivers,* focusing on self-confidence. In a supportive space, they explored ways to help children develop resilience, take on new challenges, and build belief in themselves.

The discussion highlighted practical strategies such as modelling confidence, celebrating achievements, and encouraging healthy risks at home and in school. Parents shared experiences and insights, strengthening both their understanding and our UWC Thailand community.

Thank you to all who participated. Stay tuned for Part 2: Empathy, on Tuesday, 21 October.





Before We Forget

On Tuesday, 16 September, Grades 11 and 12 students attended a special screening of **Before We Forget** in the Multi-Purpose Hall. Directed by UWC alum ***Juan Pablo Di Pace*** with Oscar nominee ***Andrés Pepe Estrada***, the award-winning short film has been described as a "cinematic love letter" to the UWC experience.

We were honoured to welcome Executive Producer Gonzalo López Jordán (UWC Adriatic alum), who shared insights and joined a Q&A after the screening. Made available through early access for the UWC community, the film also supports scholarships for future students via the Patagonia Bright Futures Foundation.



Meet the Manta SPA

At UWC Thailand, the **Manta Staff-Parent Association (SPA)** plays a vital role in strengthening our community. This dedicated group of parents and staff work together to support the school, lead events, and create opportunities for connection and engagement across the community.

Together, the SPA team helps bring our community to life — from supporting school programmes to leading beloved events like the upcoming Vegetarian Festival. Their work fosters a welcoming environment where families, staff, and students feel connected, supported, and engaged.

We are especially pleased to welcome **Andrew Cunningham** as our new Chair, **Steve Good** as Treasurer, and **David Mansel** as a new committee member this year. Their leadership and fresh ideas will help strengthen the SPA's role in building partnerships and celebrating the diversity of our UWC Thailand community.

SPA 2025 Committee Members

- **Andrew Cunningham** – Chair
- **Kathy Mendis** – Vice Chair
- **Diana Brender** – Secretary
- **Steve Good** – Treasurer
- **Shemaine Sebastian** – Communications
- **Charlotte Kuratle** – Communications Assistant
- **Amy Qian**
- **John (JP) Powell**
- **Naomi Kyaw Thaung**
- **David Mansel** – New Member
- **Panuwat (Thomas) Simons**
- **David Griffiths** – Head of School

Meet Our OPUS Music Teachers

Our talented OPUS music team brings a wealth of experience and creativity to UWC Thailand:



Stefan Forbus
Piano & Saxophone
An international saxophonist and educator from Nashville, Tennessee, Stefan has performed worldwide and hosts live music and art events in Phuket, including Jazz & Strokes at Three Monkeys Restaurant.



Rannze Davies
Drums & Vocals
Half Thai, half British, Rannze brings over 10 years of professional experience, performing and teaching vocals, drums, and piano. Her lessons focus on expression, creativity, and enjoyment for all skill levels.



Colin Hill
Guitar, Bass & Ukulele
A professional musician and qualified teacher, Colin has performed over 10,000 gigs worldwide and produced multiple albums. He combines extensive performance experience with technical expertise in live sound and music production.



Caden Proctor
Drums & Beginner Guitar
Originally from South Africa, Caden has been drumming since age 8. He has worked as a recording engineer, producer, and session musician, bringing both technical skill and artistic vision to his teaching.

Our OPUS team inspires students to explore music, express themselves, and develop confidence through performance and creativity.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP





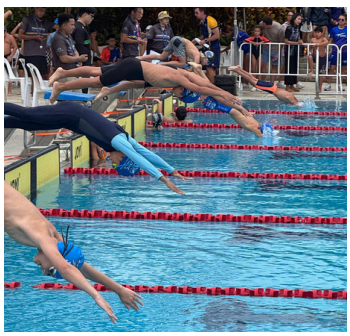












by John (JP) Powell,
UWC Thailand Director of Sports, Activities and Camps

From Gold Medals to Record-Breaking Swims — A Month of Manta Pride

Mantas on the Move

The season kicked off with energy and enthusiasm across multiple sports. U11 girls enjoyed a fun scramble at KIS, while the U11 boys secured a confident 5–1 win. Senior volleyball teams showed determination at home, improving with every set and building strong momentum for the season.

This year, interest in sport has surged, with more students eager to join teams under the guidance of our dedicated coaches. With record participation, teamwork, and resilience already on display, the Mantas are set for an exciting year ahead. **It's clear that the spirit of competition and camaraderie is alive and well at UWC Thailand.**

Inspiration in the Pool

The Manta Swim Team met **Canada's Paralympic Swim Team** at Thanyapura, sharing experiences of resilience and dedication. The Canadian athletes' achievements inspired our swimmers to push themselves further, both in and out of the pool.

These exchanges created a spirit of respect and motivation that will stay with the athletes long beyond this season. **Special thanks to parent Chris Morash for helping make this event possible!**

Moments like these remind our athletes that sport is about much more than results — it's about **connection, learning, and growth.**

Making Waves

At the **Back to School Swim Meet,** 46 swimmers represented UWC Thailand, earning 3rd place overall and setting nine new UWC records. Their performances reflected not only individual effort but also the strength of the team as a whole.

Beyond the results, the meet was filled with encouragement, celebration, and plenty of proud moments for our swimmers and their families.

The meet set a powerful tone for the season, showing that the Mantas are ready to rise to every challenge in the water.

Thank you to Kru Geoff, one of our Boarding House Parents, for sharing his photos with us.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP















The Mantas Shine Bright!

The **Secondary Running Team** trained in Koh Samui, covering 30 km of running and hiking alongside strength and recovery sessions. The team enjoyed bonding experiences and positive recognition from both visiting teams and resort staff.

Commended for their conduct and effort, the 10 athletes showed focus and teamwork throughout, guided by **Coaches Brian and Bianca.** It was a weekend of pushing limits while building trust and camaraderie.

The camp not only developed fitness but also reinforced resilience and team spirit that will carry into competitions ahead.

Mantas Take the Gold!

At the **PISAC Volleyball Co-Ed Championships**, UWC Thailand teams shone. **In U15,** UWC Thailand Light edged out Dark in a thrilling final, while HeadStart claimed 3rd against BCIS. **In O15**, our Mantas triumphed over BCIS 2–1 in another close contest.

The tournament was a true celebration of the sport, showcasing not only competition but also the growth of volleyball in Phuket. Our players displayed resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the two-day event.

These results stand as a proud reflection of both athletic excellence and the values of fair play that define our community.

Beyond the Classroom

September's Co-Curricular Programme offered 165 activities across sports, arts, service, and innovation. Students explored new passions, built life skills, and stepped outside their comfort zones while enjoying shared experiences.

This balance of challenge and fun is helping students grow as leaders and collaborators. With Rotation 1 running until January and Rotation 2 sign-ups in February, there is much more to look forward to.

The programme continues to strengthen the connection between classroom learning and real-world experiences, making education both meaningful and memorable.

Click here for more photos

Running Together, Growing Together

Students across **Primary and Middle Years** recently came together for the **Primary Cross Country and Middle Years Fun Run,** bringing energy, determination, and enthusiasm to the track. From our youngest runners to older students, everyone gave their best effort, showing not only athletic skill but also team spirit, encouragement, and support for one another.

The events highlighted the joy of physical activity, healthy competition, and community engagement, providing opportunities for students to challenge themselves and celebrate their achievements. We also extend our gratitude to the parents who joined us — your presence and encouragement contributed to the wonderful atmosphere and made the day even more special.

These events are a testament to the enthusiasm, resilience, and camaraderie within the UWC Thailand community, **reminding us all of the power of sport to bring people together, promote wellbeing, and celebrate every student's effort and determination.**

Click here for more photos

















Coaching, Learning, Leading

We are delighted to share that **Marco A. Del Porto** recently completed his **Professional C Football Coach License from the Brazilian Football Confederation in August.** The U11 boys' football team he leads is already benefiting from the knowledge and insights gained through this advanced training.

Marco is also working towards his **AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety (TSW) certification,** which includes an online component, a two-day course in Bangkok, co-teaching, and preparing lesson plans. He is currently applying these skills at UWC Thailand alongside Kru Ali (Head of PE), enhancing both student learning and teaching expertise.

Looking ahead, Marco will attend the **PHASE Conference** in Singapore this November to engage with professionals across Asia. His focus will be on Inclusion in Physical and Health Education, Approaches to Learning (ATL) in PE, and sharing best practices with peers — further enriching the UWC Thailand PE programme.

The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

COMMUNITY

SPA - Vegetarian Tour

Join us as we kick off our **Phuket Tours!** Our first tour celebrates the Vegetarian Festival, with the chance to enjoy sampling delicious festival dishes along the way.
Tuesday, 21 October.
Click here to sign up

Contact: Manta SPA

WHOLE SCHOOL

Parent Book Discussion Group: Empathy

Join our parent discussion group on Thrivers by Dr Michele Borba on **Tuesday, 21 October**, to explore the character strengths that help children thrive.

Contact: Kru Paco, Kru Len, or Kru Laurie.

SECONDARY

Parent Coffee Morning: Demystifying PEAK

Wednesday, 22 October.
Explore the unique approaches of our PEAK programme and see how it fosters inquiry, creativity, and real-world connections in student learning.

Contact: Kru heidi

SECONDARY

MYP Assembly

Our MYP Assembly brings Middle Years students together for updates, student showcases, and activities led by the MYP Student Council.
Friday, 24 October.

Contact: Kru Chantal

PRIMARY

PISAC Primary Cross Country

UWC Thailand U9 and U11 students will join the PISAC Cross Country at the British International School Phuket (BISP).
Tuesday, 28 October.

Contact: Kru JP

SECONDARY

PISAC Secondary Cross Country

U13, U15, and O15 students will represent UWC Thailand at the PISAC Cross Country at the British International School Phuket (BISP).
Wednesday, 29 October.

Contact: Kru JP

WHOLE SCHOOL

Open Mic Thursday

OMT is a chance to share your creativity and talent with the community. Performances can include singing, playing an instrument, dance, poetry or spoken word, comedy or drama, and more.
Thursday, 30 October.

Contact: Kru Frederick

PRIMARY

Mystery Day

A mystery box appears in the library! PYP students solve clues to unlock it. Join the fun and discover how teamwork, reading, and curiosity lead to great rewards.
Thursday, 30 October.

Contact: Kru Rebekka

WHOLE SCHOOL

SPA - Table Top Sale

This is a wonderful chance to declutter by selling your pre-loved or unwanted items and perhaps discover new treasures from others in our community!
Sign up here!
Friday, 31 October.

Contact: Manta SPA