ISSUE NO.49 / JANUARY 2026

THE MANTA Pulse

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



Intercultural Day

Celebrating our Shared Humanity

Whole School Open Day

Welcoming Prospective Families

Celebrating "Brave Spaces"

Peace & Conflict Transformation Day

Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media



Intercultural Day 2026

Celebrating our Shared Humanity

Intercultural Day was a vibrant celebration of the diversity, connection, and shared values that define the UWC Thailand community. Bringing together students, parents, and staff, the day transformed our campus into a living expression of **global citizenship**, where cultures were not only represented but actively shared, explored, and celebrated.

From beautifully presented **cultural stalls and traditional clothing to music, dance, and performances** from around the world, the atmosphere was one of pride, curiosity, and togetherness. **A particular highlight was the food,** with cultural groups generously preparing and offering dishes from their home countries, allowing our community to experience culture through taste as well as story. Students, parents and staff took centre stage as ambassadors of their cultures, confidently sharing traditions and flavours from home, while families contributed time, creativity, and care to make the day such a success.

More than a celebration, Intercultural Day reflected our commitment to understanding across difference. It reminded us that **diversity is not just something we acknowledge, but something we live and learn from every day at UWC Thailand.**

Through conversation, collaboration, and shared experiences, the event strengthened connections across our community and reinforced the values of respect, empathy, and inclusion.

Thank you to everyone who contributed — through stalls, performances, preparation, and participation — for making Intercultural Day such a meaningful and memorable highlight. It was a powerful reminder that while we come from many places, we are united by a shared purpose and a shared sense of belonging.







Click here for more photos

**More photos will be added very soon. Be sure to come back and check them out.












AUSTRALIA

















New Family Orientation

We were delighted to welcome new families joining UWC Thailand for semester 2 through our New Family Orientation. The session provided an opportunity for families to connect with one another, meet key members of staff, and gain an introduction to life at UWC Thailand.

Through conversations and shared information, families learned more about our learning programmes, community values, and the support available to students as they begin their journey with us.

We look forward to seeing our new families settle in and become an active part of the UWC Thailand community.




Whole School Open Day

Learning, Community, and Belonging

Our recent Whole School Open Day offered prospective families more than an introduction to our campus — it was an opportunity to experience what learning and belonging look like in practice at UWC Thailand. **We were pleased to welcome more than 60 guests to campus for an afternoon shaped by conversation, curiosity, and connection.**

Throughout the Open Day, families met staff and students, explored classrooms and learning spaces, and engaged in thoughtful discussions about our educational approach, values, and the lived experience of being part of the UWC Thailand community. These moments of dialogue allowed families to move beyond information-sharing and into a deeper understanding of how learning, wellbeing, and global citizenship are woven together in daily school life.

Many families stayed on to join our **Intercultural Day** celebrations, experiencing first-hand the diversity, openness, and shared humanity that sit at the heart of our community.

It was a powerful extension of the Open Day experience — one that reflected not just what we teach, but how we live our values together.





Peace and Conflict Transformation Day



Peace and Conflict Transformation Day was a powerful, student-led event organised by the **Peacebuilding Society**, centred on the theme of "*brave spaces*". Students took the lead in planning and facilitating workshops that encouraged honest dialogue, reflection, and empathy around peace, conflict, and understanding.





Throughout the day, students and staff engaged in meaningful conversations, shared personal stories, and explored how conflict can be transformed through courage, listening, and compassion. A guest speaker from our parent community also joined the programme, adding valuable real-world perspective to the discussions.



This day showcased the leadership, maturity, and commitment of our students to peacebuilding and reflects the values at the heart of a UWC Thailand education.

> **We are incredibly proud of the hard work of students, staff and our admin support team that pulled together a day that serves as a powerful reminder of why we are proud to be a UWC. This is not something that happens at other schools around the world. We are humbled by the stories of our students and colleagues and the effort that went into each and every workshop. "**

Kru Amanda, Julian and Dan, Peace Building Society leads and organisers of Peace and Conflict Transformation Day

> **Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is the courage to sit next to someone we were taught to fear — and to let the ruler fall."**

Khun Khosi, boarding houseparent and speaker at Peace and Conflict Transformation Day

Click here for more photos







Supporting Sustainable Design Learning

Precious Plastics UWC Thailand is launching! Our plastics shredder and injection moulding equipment, made possible through the generous support of the Manta SPA group, has been delivered!

This shared resource will support Design Technology projects across the school, enabling students to shred, melt, and mould plastic into new, purposeful forms.

From established sustainability projects that involve collecting plastic waste, students can now take the process further by transforming materials through design and making. At UWC Thailand community contribution, student-led learning and sustainability are embedded in how students design, create, and problem-solve.





Learning Spotlight – Patterns in Nature

As part of their unit on animal homes, **Junior Kindergarten** students explored spider webs and discovered how patterns appear in nature. Through close observation, they learned how spiders carefully create webs using silk and repeating designs.

This inquiry developed into a **hands-on STEM experience**, where students worked in small groups to problem-solve, test ideas and refine their thinking. Building on this learning, students then explored mandalas, examining patterns found in flowers and in different cultures. Using loose parts, teams designed their own mandalas and shared their thinking with peers, strengthening collaboration, creativity and early STEM skills.

Click here for more photos




The Heart of the Classroom Literacy Rotations in Primary

Step into a Primary classroom at UWC Thailand during a literacy block and you will see learning in motion. Rather than one whole-class lesson, students rotate through purposeful learning stations, working independently, collaboratively and in small guided groups with teachers. This rotation model allows us to meet every child where they are in their literacy journey, supporting confident readers and writers at all stages of development.

Through carefully planned groupings, teachers tailor instruction to individual needs, whether that means focused phonics work, guided reading, handwriting practice or building fluency with Heart Words. Literacy learning is closely aligned with the **Unit of Inquiry, IB concepts and Approaches to Learning**, ensuring students develop communication, self-management and collaboration skills alongside reading and writing.

Rotations also help maintain engagement, breaking the literacy block into manageable, high-focus sessions that reflect how young learners learn best. Beyond literacy skills, students build independence, resilience and responsibility as they manage their learning stations and support one another.

This approach is very much a team effort, with homeroom teachers working closely with English Language Acquisition, Learning Support staff and teaching assistants to ensure every child is seen, supported and challenged.

When literacy rotations work well, learning becomes joyful, purposeful and deeply meaningful.

Click here for the full article

ASAC ISHMC Model United Nations

A group of UWC Thailand students recently travelled to Vietnam to attend the **International School of Ho Chi Minh City Model United Nations (ISHMUN)**, gaining a powerful first-hand experience of diplomacy, debate, and personal growth. Inspired by the Vietnamese proverb ***"Ăn no mới biết đói…"*** — loosely meaning ***"one only truly understands after experiencing"*** — the trip proved to be a meaningful example of experiential learning in action.

For many delegates, ISHMUN was a step into a more rigorous MUN environment. Students challenged themselves through substantive debate, careful preparation, and the **"positive struggle"** that comes with learning something new. Over the course of the conference, confidence grew visibly as students moved from initial nerves to active and assured participation in committee sessions.

Beyond the conference halls, the experience extended into shared moments exploring **Ho Chi Minh City**, where conversations continued long after formal sessions ended. From reflective discussions to lively debates on a city night tour, students demonstrated curiosity, open-mindedness, and a genuine willingness to listen to one another — hallmarks of both MUN and the UWC ethos.

This trip marked the first time a UWC Thailand MUN cohort travelled abroad to attend a conference, and the group represented the school with professionalism, energy, and mutual support. Special congratulations go to **Fiona** (Best Delegate), **Manuela** and **Giulia** (Most Influential Delegate), alongside **Haruki**, **Cyrus, Marianne, Chan (Jessie), Sophia, Samara, and Josabeth.**

With the support of **Khun Mook, Kru JP, Kru Shannon, and Kru Brandon**, the experience highlighted how powerful learning becomes when students step beyond the classroom — engaging with the world, with one another, and with themselves.













Author Visit - Daniel Merza

We were pleased to welcome author Daniel Merza to UWC Thailand, where he spoke with students across age groups about the ideas at the heart of his book, *Get Your Monkeys Off Your Back*. Through **engaging** and **age-appropriate sessions,** Daniel explored how everyday worries, self-doubt, and emotional pressure can affect young people — and how these *"monkeys"* can be recognised and managed.

Drawing directly from the themes of the book, **Daniel shared practical strategies for building confidence, emotional awareness, and resilience,** encouraging students to reflect on their own experiences. His visit offered a valuable opportunity for students to connect literature with wellbeing in a way that felt relevant, accessible, and grounded in real life.





Sustainability Corner

Eco-Bricking for Impact

Over the past two weeks, MYP students in **Grades 6 - 10** took part in eco-bricking activities during homeroom and ma ruam gun. Students packed single-use plastic waste into bottles to create eco-bricks, learning first-hand about upcycling and waste reduction. A total of 39 completed eco-bricks will be taken to Spirit Mountain in Ao Nang, Krabi, during the Grade 8 camp, where they will be used to build garden beds.

This student-led initiative, shared by **Sophie (Grade 8)**, highlights meaningful learning in action, with plans to expand eco-bricking to homes and Primary classes in the future.

Reducing Waste at School Events

Thank you to our community for supporting more sustainable practices at Intercultural Day by bringing reusable utensils from home and using school-provided reusable options. As part of our ongoing commitment to reducing waste, food stall events will no longer provide single-use utensils. Families will continue to be encouraged to bring reusable plates, bowls, cups, and cutlery, helping model responsible choices for our students... Read more!





Home Away from Home

It has been a great start to the term in Boarding, with students returning from the December break and the houses quickly filling with energy, stories, and reconnections. Whether students stayed on campus, travelled home, or joined student-initiated trips, it has been wonderful to see the boarding community come back together and settle into the new term with such warmth and enthusiasm.

This month also saw the election of the **new DP Student Council**, giving students a strong voice in boarding and school life, alongside active engagement from the Residential Committee through student surveys to help shape future activities. Creativity has been on full display too, with boarding students taking part in a **fast-paced 48-hour film challenge**, while social events such as evening activities and **swimming sessions** continue to strengthen connection, wellbeing, and a strong sense of belonging across our boarding community.

We are also pleased to see growing interest in our **occasional and flexible** boarding options, which offer day students the opportunity to experience boarding life in a supportive and flexible way — further strengthening connections across our wider school community.

Click here to learn more





From the Classroom to the Coast

Grade 9 Paddle Making

Grade 9 students recently designed, tested, carved, and shaped their own Greenland-style paddles as part of camp preparation, taking learning well beyond the classroom. Through hands-on making and refinement, students explored function, balance, and problem-solving across design, science, and outdoor education.

The project comes full circle as each paddle is put into real use during a **90-kilometre sea-kayaking expedition,** where students experience first-hand how their design decisions perform over time, distance, and challenge. It is a powerful example of interdisciplinary, experiential learning at UWC Thailand — where thinking, making, and doing are meaningfully connected.

Sailing at the Thailand Boat Show

Our **UWC Thailand Sailing Squad** recently took part in a regatta held alongside the **Thailand Boat Show at Yacht Haven**. Competing in front of a lively audience, our sailors demonstrated confidence, teamwork, and strong seamanship as they represented the school with pride.

The event provided a valuable real-world racing experience and an opportunity for students to showcase their skills within the wider sailing community. **Well done to all our sailors for their enthusiasm and professionalism on the water.**







IAP Car Wash Initiative

Throughout January, students participating in the **International Award Programme (IAP)** organised a series of car washes during pick-up and drop-off times, **turning service into meaningful action.** The initiative was student-led from start to finish, with students planning, promoting, and running the car washes with energy and teamwork.

Funds raised will support **student-identified improvements around campus,** highlighting how IAP encourages responsibility, collaboration, and real-world problem solving. The car washes are a strong example of students taking initiative and making a positive contribution to the UWC Thailand community.

There is one remaining car wash on **Thursday, 12 February,** from **8:00 am to 10:00 am.** Families can bid to secure a spot **here**.











MYP to DP Transition Session

Click here to view the recording.

Grade 10 (MYP) to Diploma Programme (DP) Transition

We recently welcomed families to a **Transition Coffee Morning** focused on supporting students as they move from the **Middle Years into the Diploma Programme**. The session provided an overview of what to expect in the DP, including pathways, wellbeing support, and how students are guided through this important transition.

Thank you to all families who joined the conversation and shared thoughtful questions. For those who were unable to attend, **the recording and presentation are available on the Parent Portal for reference.**





Leading with Purpose

How Grade 8 students planned and led meaningful community engagement

In grade 8 PEAK (Practical Experience and Applied Knowledge), students took on leadership roles as they worked collaboratively to build community through team-building and problem-solving activities.

As part of their exploration of philanthropy, students learned how giving time, talent, or treasure can create meaningful impact. In preparation for a visit from the **JaiDee Children's Centre,** they designed respectful needs-assessment surveys and led thoughtful, age-appropriate activities during the visit, fostering connection and responding to identified needs.

Table Top Sale

A big thank you to everyone who joined the Manta SPA Table Top Sale!

Earlier this month, our Manta SPA hosted a lively Table Top Sale, bringing families together around sustainability and community. Parents and students enjoyed browsing pre-loved items, giving much-loved belongings a second life.

The event reflected the strong sense of connection at UWC Thailand, and we look forward to the **next Table Top Sale after the April break.**





SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP















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

Sports and Activities Highlights

It has been a busy and rewarding period for our Mantas across sport and activities. At the PISAC Football tournament earlier this month, our U9, U11 and U13 teams showed resilience, teamwork and growth across a series of competitive fixtures. While results varied, coaches highlighted strong effort, improving composure and excellent sportsmanship, with many matches offering valuable learning moments.

At **PISAC Cross Country** on Sunday, 12 January, 23 secondary runners competed on a challenging course at **BISP** and delivered an outstanding team performance. Podium finishes were achieved across all age groups, including individual wins and first-time PISAC appearances. The Mantas were crowned **Secondary PISAC Champions and placed second overall** when combined with Primary results – a testament to the depth of our running programme.

Our **Senior Girls Basketball** teams competed in **PISAC** with two UWC Thailand squads producing exciting, high-energy games, including a thrilling all-Manta final. Teamwork, determination and spirit were evident throughout the tournament.

Click here for more photos

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES ROUND-UP



ASAC Champions

For the third consecutive year!

Our Senior Basketball teams also represented UWC Thailand with pride at **ASAC in Hanoi** from Wednesday, 29 – Friday, 31 January.

The girls team secured their **third consecutive ASAC Championship, remaining undefeated,** while the boys team finished 5th after a spirited campaign, with individual awards recognising leadership and performance across both teams.



In swimming, the **UWC Thailand Manta Swim Team** impressed at the **FOBISIA 2026 Swim Meet** from Thursday, 23 – Saturday, 25 January.

Competing against 27 schools, the Mantas finished 4th overall, earning multiple age-group titles, relay medals and setting several FOBISIA records.

Congrats!



Click here for more photos

The Pulse Noticeboard

Stay informed and engaged with what is happening at UWC Thailand

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Istituto Europeo di Design

Join us for the next college visit on **Friday, 6 February from 11:45 am - 1:00 pm** to meet representatives and talk about applications, admissions, and programmes.

Contact: Kru Rebecca

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary Arts Week

Join us for the Primary Arts Week showcase, which will be held on **Friday, 6 February from 1:40 - 2:30 pm** in the Gymnasium & Covered Court.

Contact: Kru Jen

WHOLE SCHOOL

Grade 1 to 10 Camps

Students set off on their camps and expeditions around Phuket and surrounding provinces and partake in a variety of activities.
9 - 13 February

Contact: Kru Rob

COMMUNITY

Manta SPA Coffee Morning

Join us on on **Tuesday, 10 February from 8:10 - 9:00 am** in the Male Boarding House Lounge. Parents are warmly invited to drop in to meet and chat with the members.

Contact: Manta SPA

WHOLE SCHOOL

Parent Book Discussion Group

Join us for the next Parent Book Discussion Group on *Thrivers* which will take place on **Wednesday, February 11, from 8:10 - 9:10 am** in the Male Boarding House Lounge.

Contact: Kru Paco

WHOLE SCHOOL

IAP Fundraising Car Wash

Bids for **Thursday, 12 February** spots are now open, and we warmly encourage the community to support this student-led initiative.
Click here to enter your bid.

Contact: Kru Laura

WHOLE SCHOOL

Sustainability Coffee Morning

Join us in the Male Boarding House Lounge where we'd love to share what our school has been working on and hear your ideas too.
Monday, 23 February

Contact: Kru Zhenying

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Years Wheels Day

Please ensure your child has proper safety equipment (helmets and protective pads for knees and elbows) in order to participate.
Wednesday, 25 February

Contact: Kru Jen

COMMUNITY

SPA - Lunar New Year

Expect food, activities, and performances! The canteen will serve special holiday meals, and the celebrations will highlight the rich cultural traditions. **Friday, 27 February**

Contact: Manta SPA