

ISSUE NO.17 / 2023

# THE MANTA

THE UWC THAILAND COMMUNITY

INTERACTIVE E-MAGAZINE



## Education Beyond the Classroom

Outdoor education is an integral part of UWC Thailand's curriculum, offering experiential learning opportunities for students. Through activities such as hiking, camping, kayaking, and rock climbing, students learn to overcome challenges, develop resilience, and gain a sense of independence. This programme helps students develop skills such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking. Outdoor education also fosters a sense of environmental stewardship and provides interdisciplinary learning opportunities. Overall, it prepares students to become global citizens capable of making positive contributions to the world.

“

**Students should be encouraged to compete, not against each other, but with their own personal best and rigorous standards of excellence.**

Kurt Hahn, Founder of UWC



Learn more about UWC Thailand and follow us on social media





# UWC THAILAND'S OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

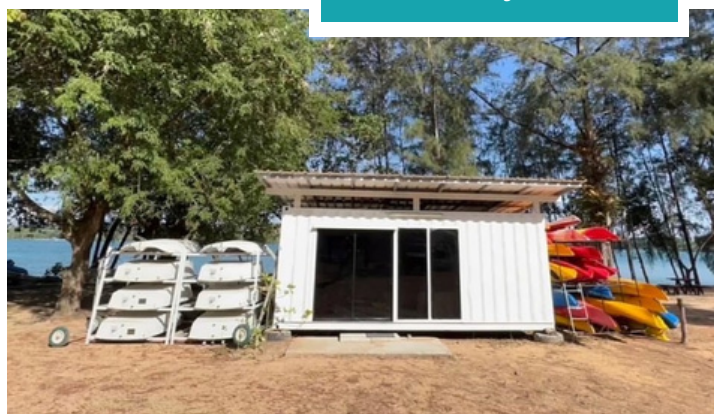
## ONE YEAR LATER

By Rob Carmichael, Director of Outdoor Experiential Education

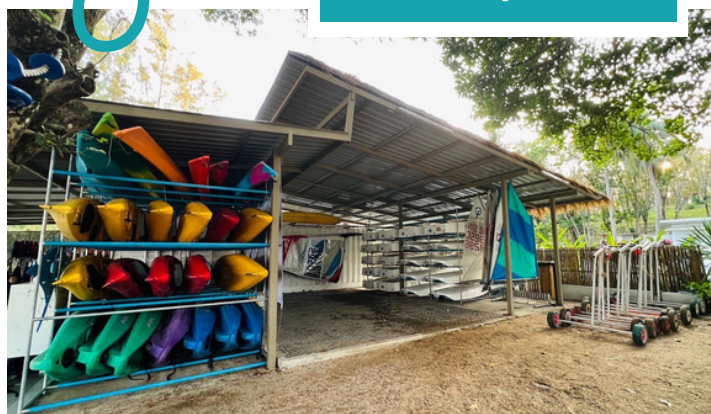
The opening of UWC Thailand's Outdoor Education Centre in Mai Khao was met with excitement by students, parents and staff alike just over a year ago. Located in the north of Phuket, the centre offers students the opportunity to experience an alternative to the traditional classroom setting and engage with the natural world.

The Mai Khao region, known for its lush mangrove forests and impeccable access to local waterways, provides the perfect backdrop for outdoor education. Students can participate in a variety of activities such as kayaking, sailing, mountain biking and camping, allowing them to challenge themselves and push their boundaries in a safe yet supportive environment... [Read more.](#)

February 2022



February 2023



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# Paddling Towards High-Quality Outdoor Education



## UWC Thailand hosted a successful Kayak Instructor Workshop

The American Canoe Association's (ACA) workshop was attended by teachers and instructors from UWC Thailand, UWC Changshu China and several other activity programme providers based in southern Thailand. The participants were given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills in sea kayaking instruction and learn how to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for their students. The workshop covered various topics, including risk management, group management, and effective teaching techniques.



One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the instructors' ability to develop a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities presented by sea kayaking as an outdoor activity. Participants were able to learn from the incredible experience of Ge Wu, ACA Instructor, Trainer and Educator, and gain a better understanding of how to create engaging and challenging sea kayaking experiences for their students. This knowledge will help ensure that UWC Thailand students continue to have access to high-quality outdoor education experiences for the foreseeable future... [Read more.](#)



“

**I am excited to continue the partnership between our school and the ACA. I look forward to offering additional opportunities for students and teachers to acquire new skills and knowledge while developing a greater appreciation for our local environment.**



Rob Carmichael, UWC Thailand  
Director of Outdoor Experiential Education



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# Building Resilience and Independence



## UWC Thailand's Outdoor Education Programme

By Ema Caires dos Santos, UWC Maastricht, Outdoor Education Teacher

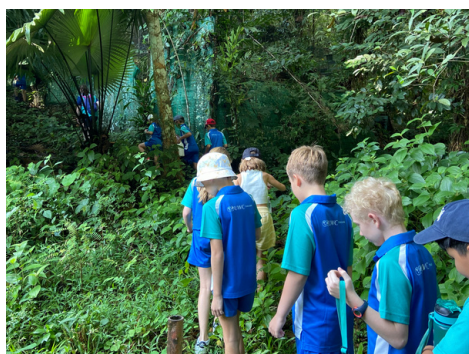


I had the privilege of visiting UWC Thailand in December 2022 to experience their Outdoor Education programme. The dedication that the coordinator, Rob Carmichael, has put into this programme is visible throughout the school. Something that stood out to me was how well the staff worked together... [Read more.](#)

“  
If you want to see  
what a world-class Outdoor  
Education programme looks like,  
UWC Thailand is leading the way.

Ema Caires dos Santos

[Click here](#) for the full article 





# CAMPS & EXPEDITIONS

Annual trips designed to give Secondary students a unique and enriching experience beyond the classroom.



## GRADE 6

### Unforgettable experience at Khao Sok National Park

Grade 6 students had an amazing experience staying in basic cabins at Khao Sok National Park's: Our Jungle Camp. They participated in various outdoor activities, including hiking through the jungle, learning survival skills, kayaking, and swimming in the river. A highlight of the trip was the night safari, where students observed nocturnal animals in their natural habitats.

[Click here for more photos](#) 



## GRADE 7

### Sailing at Koh Lon Island

Grade 7 students had an adventure camping on Koh Lon Island, where they learned fundamental sailing skills and put them into practice on a short sailing voyage. The camp provided an opportunity for students to develop teamwork and communication skills while engaging in fun activities and appreciating the natural beauty of the island. The experience culminated in a friendly race, allowing students to put their newly acquired skills to the test in a fun and engaging way.

— “

**This camp was unlike any other I'd been on! We learned how to sail, which was new to me. Doing something different was exciting! Sailing every day was fun but also pretty tiring. I was so happy to receive a Bronze Certificate for sailing!**

Ashley,  
Grade 7 (South Africa)

[Click here for more photos](#) 





## GRADE 8

### Climbing at Spirit Mountain Camp

Our grade 8 students had an unforgettable experience at Nature Mind: ED at Spirit Mountain in Krabi. They participated in various outdoor activities, including hiking, coral restoration, swimming, mountain biking, and kayaking. The primary activity focus of the camp was climbing, and the students had the opportunity to develop their skills and techniques in a safe and supportive environment. They also learned about eco-friendly practices and the impact of modern life on the environment.

— “  
**While at camp, I had the opportunity to try new things and appreciate activities that are not part of my usual routine. It was refreshing to take a break from my devices and enjoy a digital detox.**

Anchalita,  
Grade 8 (Ireland)

[Click here](#) for more photos 



## GRADE 9

### 70 km Paddling Coastal Expedition

Grade 9 students went on a kayaking and camping expedition along Phuket's coastline, covering over 70 km with stops along the way. They used the paddles they crafted in their Design technology class. They also participated in a mangrove planting service project and a day trip to Phang Nga's islands. The journey was a culmination of their training in camping, kayaking, and leadership skills.

[Click here](#) for more photos 

## GRADE 10

### Memorable Sailing on Platu Boats

Grade 10 students had a memorable 10-day camp focused on developing their sailing and maritime skills, culminating in a 5-day sailing expedition on Platu boats. They spent four days training in preparation for the journey and participated in a day of service with a local partner. The expedition took students through the beautiful islands around Koh Yao Yai and taught them important teamwork and problem-solving skills.

[Click here](#) for more photos 



[Click here](#) for the full article 





# ALUMNI GATHERING

**Our Head of School, Lural Ramirez, had the privilege to meet with a dozen of our alums in New York City for our first Alumni reunion.**

Despite the harsh Arctic blast that swept through the region, alums from universities such as Brown, Columbia, Berklee College of Music, Penn State, and George Washington University braved the elements to come together to spend a lovely morning reconnecting and remembering the cherished memories made at UWC Thailand.

Our alums make us proud, and we are honoured to have been a part of their journey to becoming responsible global citizens and driving forces of positive change worldwide.

— “

**I am immensely proud of our alum accomplishments as they become responsible change-makers. We are truly fortunate to play a role in their life journey.**

**Lural Ramirez,**  
UWC Thailand Head of School



## Class of '17 Reunion

Last month, we celebrated the 5-year anniversary of our 2017 class graduation. It was a heartwarming evening filled with laughter and joy as they shared anecdotes and reminisced about the wonderful memories from their days at UWC Thailand. The alumni talked about their experiences, and how UWC Thailand has impacted their lives and careers.

We are grateful for the alumni who joined us, and we look forward to staying connected with them in the years to come.



**If you wish to discuss sponsorship opportunities here at UWC Thailand, please contact Nicki, our Chief Advancement Officer:**  
**[nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th](mailto:nicki.robertson@uwcthailand.ac.th) or go to the [support us](#) page on our website.**



CELEBRATING OUR LOVE OF

# LITeRATURE



Throughout February, the 'Love of Literature Month' at UWC Thailand, students had many opportunities to engage in reading.

The month kicked off with a visit from guest author and illustrator James Hewison, who held read-aloud sessions and writing and illustrating workshops for the students.

From Drop Everything and Read sessions in class and during lunchtime, mystery readers in Kindergarten, to guest readers ranging from staff, secondary students, and parents, all in various languages, the love for reading has been shared by all. We also held a whole school reading challenge and book fair to add to the excitement.



Writing Workshop



Reading with James Hewison

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



### African Diaspora Literacy Sharing Circle

- **Ace of Spades, Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé**  
- Young adult novel about a high school experience
- **Long walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela**  
- Autobiography of the politician and activist
- **Born a Crime, Trevor Noah**  
- Autobiography of the comedian
- **Americanah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**  
- The story of a young Nigerian woman, Ifemelu, who immigrates to the USA to attend university
- **The Hate U Give, Angie Thomas**  
- Young Adult Novel about being part of two worlds

### Not for younger readers (adult content):

- **Act Your Age, Eve Brown: A Novel, Talia Hibbert**  
- Romance novel exploring themes of identity
- **Black Leopard, Red Wolf**  
- Fantasy novel based on African mysticism and folklore



Drop Everything and Read



Reading with Kru Kim, our Director of Mindfulness



Reading with David, grade 11 (USA)







# SPORTS DAYS

## Early Years Programme

By Caryl Medilo Crisóstomo, Early Years Programme Learning Leader

It was a fun-filled day for the Early Years Programme students, as a group of young children took to the field to show off their skills. The children played with enthusiasm, determination, and, most importantly, teamwork, making for a thrilling game that was enjoyed by all... **Read more.**



[Click here](#) for the full article and more photos

## Primary Years Programme

Primary Years Sports Day was a fantastic day filled with many exciting games and activities, including floorball, race and track, and capture of the flag. Students gave it their all, leaving nothing on the field. But what made the day truly special was the incredible support that the parents showed. They showed up in droves, cheering students on and making them feel like true champions.

**Special shoutout to our Grade 10 student helpers who were amazing!**



[Click here](#) for more photos





# GLOBAL SCHOOL PLAY DAY

By Jen Friske, Primary Years Programme Coordinator

## The Importance of Unstructured Play in Education

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to focus solely on our traditional idea of academics and forget the importance of play in a child's development. However, the value of play in education is well-established, and Global School Play Day is a celebration of this concept. As a school, we wholly embrace the opportunity to have our students engage in unstructured play... [Read more.](#)

[Click here](#) for the full article and more photos 



# 100

Days  
of School

We hit the 100th day mark in our Early Years Programme, and it was a day to remember! Students and staff wore creative costumes, enjoyed delicious treats, and participated in exciting activities. They even put their teamwork skills to the test and almost built a 100 cup tower, an impressive feat that brought big smiles to everyone's faces.



# STUDENT INITIATED TRIPS

Student Initiated Trips are a unique and meaningful way for our Diploma Programme students to engage in service projects and connect with communities across Thailand. These trips are entirely planned and organized by students, providing an opportunity for them to take ownership of their service experience and develop leadership skills.

“

## Journey of Coral Conservation

Many of my friends, including myself, were motivated by the remarkable efforts of the organiser, Andy, and the work being done for coral conservation. My friend, Vivianne Lemay, said, "This experience has ignited a passion for marine biology, and I am now considering pursuing it as a career". The trip also motivated me to inspire others and carry on the legacy of the Manta Coral Co-Curricular Activity. I aspire to launch a coral restoration initiative at UWC Thailand, enabling students to continue making a difference and aiding in the preservation of our oceans.

Indra,  
Grade 11 (Canada)

UWC THAILAND, PHUKET



AONANG, KRABI



“

## Teaching English and Learning Life Skills Along the Way

During our trip, we travelled to Chiang Mai, where we taught English to around 100 underprivileged students at Wat Suan Dok School. Our motivation for choosing this trip was to immerse ourselves in the richness of the northern culture, explore local places, and positively impact the community. Through planning the entire trip, we learned valuable skills in independence and teamwork that are especially useful in the IB programme.

Pariyakul (Fren),  
Grade 11 (Thailand)

UWC THAILAND, PHUKET



WAT SUAN DOK SCHOOL, CHIANG MAI

“

## Lessons in Perseverance and Service

I firmly believe that the most important lesson we learned on this trip was perseverance. Despite the challenge of juggling our mock exams with trip planning, we were able to successfully experience Bangkok and the mission of the Mirror Foundation, which aligns with the UWC values of courage and care.

As we prepare to graduate, the lesson we will take with us is to work hard and be grateful for the opportunities and challenges that come our way.

Andrea,  
Grade 12 (Ecuador)

UWC THAILAND, PHUKET



BANGKOK

