

**Hello Washington! Volume 2 /
Special Edition: Holidays at
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Natacha Trebucq

Special Edition: Holidays at Washington



Washington Academy Christmas Bazaar

Washington Academy began looking a lot like Christmas on Saturday, November 19th during our traditional fundraising event: WA's Christmas Bazaar. Vendors came together to sell their products on stands under our covered court roof. This affair was organized by a school's administrative staff committee who worked very hard to coordinate: invitations, payments from sellers, collection of donations from Washington families, activities for our students, and lots of food and beverage options for visitors. This traditional occasion gathered, from 10 am to 5 pm, parents, students, teachers, faculty, staff, family and friends from our broader social network.



The bazaar is a win-win situation for all our stakeholders. It is originally organized as a fundraising event for local charities: *Casa Hogar La Esperanza* and Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. However, it also provides our community with an opportunity to buy Christmas presents in one place, bringing together talented emerging artisans, up-and-coming food entrepreneurs, and reputable independent sellers. Among them we welcomed:

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|-------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Abadia | Ceromeses+ | Mon Lapin | Sweet and Salty |
| Azuki Store | Chon's | Panacea Cafe | Vidrio Basics |
| Beca Un Pana | Colorice Helados | Panini | Yellow Star |
| Bimba Toys | Estilo AlCubo | Pastichitos | Zumbidos Shialmi |
| Bordarte | Heart's Jewelry | Pates ABO | |
| Cacao Santa Clara | Mensana Store | PBCollections | |





Christmas Tree Trimming



On Friday, December 2nd, students, faculty and staff gathered at our school's covered court and stage for our customary private Christmas Tree Trimming event. In this gathering, we listened to students sing and perform Christmas songs, while our Seniors decorated our WA's Christmas Tree with ornaments done by the students from PK to 8th Grade. This affair also provides students with a chance to rehearse for their upcoming Christmas concert. Since it is our Seniors' last Tree Trimming, it becomes a very special occasion where they come in their pajamas and have their picture taken under the Christmas Tree with all our PreK class. In addition, Sofia Ferreira and Daniela Mamán, from 8th Grade gave a marvelous performance playing "All I want for Christmas is You" in the piano and guitar respectively. An early dismissal was granted for students to go home and rest before coming back for the *Patinata*, which started at 4pm in school grounds.





Patinata



In spite of the rain and bad weather on December 2nd, Washington family enjoyed a very special afternoon roller-skating at our traditional *Patinata* organized by WA Seniors (12th Grade) and SPRAW (*Sociedad de Padres y Representantes Academia Washington*). This year, a very well-attended event included several bouncy castles and a trampoline which were located in the covered court and soccer field. We all savored delicious treats such as: dutch pancakes, hot dogs, snow cones, shawarmas, pork sandwiches, *tequeños*, and popsicles. We are so glad our *Patinata* is back and here to stay!



Preschool and Elementary Holiday Celebrations

On December 12th, our holiday celebration continued with our traditional Preschool and Elementary parties, organized by Room Mothers and Coordinators of each level. Preschool (PK - 1st Grade) had a very special visit from Santa Claus, who personally delivered each student a lovely gift. Afterwards, they enjoyed delicious snacks and beverages delightfully decorated with holiday garnishes. Lower (2nd - 4th Grade) and Upper Elementary (5th - 7th Grade) students enjoyed snacks and beverages as well. They met *Mi Guarimba* camp counselors at the covered court, where they participated in lots of recreational activities. An early dismissal was scheduled and all students left at noon.





Christmas Concert



Parents and close relatives joined us on December 13th, for our timeless Christmas Concert. Students from PK - 7th Grade dressed up in fancy clothing and sang classic American and Venezuelan Christmas carols. Each class went above and beyond in their performance. We all enjoyed watching the little ones singing and dancing, the 6th Graders' "Last Christmas" in French, and 7th Graders performing gaitas as an extraordinary participation. As a traditional and delightful closing act, our Seniors sang and danced to the "Twelve Days of Christmas". We want to express our deepest gratitude towards Eduardo Behrens, a WA parent, for providing the audio equipment in order to make our event a very successful one.





Modeling a Generous Christmas Spirit

Our School's generous Christmas spirit was felt at Washington and shown through different donations. Our Board of Directors' President and Vice President, Mili and Gina, organized the traditional toy drive, held throughout the month of November. Families demonstrated their kindness and support by bringing lots of toys that were donated to our maintenance staff's children, and other institutions such as *Casa Hogar Jose Gregorio Hernandez* in *Macarao, Municipio Libertador*. Our Principal, María Elena Abreu, on behalf of Washington Academy donated new toys for *Operación Juguetes 2022*, a local charity organized by *Baruta's Town Hall*. In addition, two baskets with materials and ingredients needed to prepare *Hallacas* were donated to *Baruta's Municipal Police*.





Faculty and Staff Closing Ceremony

On December 15th, our Board of Directors invited SPRAW members and employees, WA Faculty and Staff, including maintenance and surveillance, for a delicious lunch in our covered court area which was set up as an elegant dining hall. The opening ceremony was a speech by our Principal Maria Elena Abreu, and by the Board's President, Mili Bello. They gave thanks to everyone for their hard work throughout our first trimester and motivated everyone to continue striving for excellence in everything that we do. Towards the end of dessert, a group of teachers and staff got together in a *Gaitas* ensemble as everyone followed with singing and even dancing. A wonderful way to wrap up and leave for our holiday break.

Last but not least, we want to give a special thanks to **Natacha Trebucq**, a WA mom, for taking and sharing beautiful pictures with us.

