

**Hello Washington! Volume 2 /
Special Edition: Valentine's
2023 / March 28th 2023**



On Tuesday, February 14th, Washington Academy celebrated Valentine's Day. Preparations started weeks in advance as teachers and students worked together to decorate our hallway's bulletin boards with love and friendship themed classwork. Furthermore, students from Preschool through Upper Elementary worked on the importance of values such as friendship, love, empathy, and kindness. Writing letters to their friends or family and getting to know the history behind Valentine's Day are some of the activities our students did to commemorate this holiday.

Our Seniors organized their traditional fundraising event. In a sea of red and pink shirts, our hard working 12th graders coordinated the delivery of roses, cards, balloons, serenades, and sweets around WA's campus. Our *Promo 33* students also offered a special delivery service by Cupid himself and organized a decorate-your-car Valentine's Day competition.







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.

**Hello Washington! Volume 2 /
Special Edition: WA's Spirit
Week 2023 / March 17, 2023**



WASHINGTON ACADEMY'S SPIRIT WEEK 2023

WA Picnic

Our traditional picnic was held this year on Sunday, January 29th, from 10 am to 4 pm. As usual, this event inaugurates our Spirit Week (Monday, January 30th - Friday, February 3rd), a fun-filled week where faculty, staff, students and their families, Room Mothers, CEAW (*Centro de Estudiantes Academia Washington*), Class of 2023, and SPRAW (*Sociedad de Padres y Representantes Academia Washington*) unite efforts to celebrate WA's joyful family spirit.

The Picnic's main purpose is to create an opportunity for our stakeholders to meet, engage, share, strengthen relationships, and grow as a family. It took place in our covered court and soccer field. Tables were set up with tablecloths and picnic baskets. Some families decided to sit on the margins of the soccer field for a more old-fashioned type of picnic and a nicer view of the Ávila.



This event was planned in advance so that families and staff were able to organize groups and plan their menus. Some collaborated to make sandwiches, tacos, etc. Others ordered pizzas, sushi, or arabic food.

SPRAW asked vendors of popcorn, cotton candy, ice pops, and hot dogs to come and sell their products. Class of 2023 asked cinnamon rolls and *tequeños* vendors. SPRAW also asked *Mi Guarimba* camp counselors to organize games for our students. Among the activities we had were: games with balloons, mini golf, and soccer. The SPRAW shop was also selling beautiful WA's baseball caps and sun visors that parents have been wearing to support our extracurricular games.

Our Washington family shared a wonderful time outdoors with delicious food and amazing weather. Students had fun with their friends playing soccer, and parents had more face time with other families, faculty, and staff.



SPIRIT WEEK BEGINS!



For Spirit Week, our School Principal and Coordinators reviewed the CEAW (*Centro de Estudiantes Academia Washington*) proposals for all the activities to be carried throughout Spirit Week. A list of all the activities and specifications for each grade level was sent out by the Principal's office the week before so all our stakeholders would be able to participate in different ways.



Monday, January 30th

Pajama & Movie Day

On Monday, students, faculty, and staff came to school wearing their pjs. Many brought pillows, teddybears, blankets, among other. Some grades ate popcorn and treats while watching a movie of their choice. Preschool students, with the help of our wonderful Room Mothers, decorated a t-shirt, with a version of WA's logo, to use for Sports Day on Friday, Feb. 3rd



Lower Elementary Goes on a School Tour

Lower Elementary's Coordinator and teachers came up with a great idea to help our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th get to know and appreciate their school even more. They took our kids on a school tour. The tour included not only areas they were familiar with, but also sections some of them did not know about, like high school classrooms and laboratories, among others. A brief explanation in English or Spanish of what is done in each of the places they visited, was provided by either teachers or working staff.



Tuesday, January 31st

Color Day

On Tuesday, faculty, staff, and students from PK to 12th Grade were allowed to come with a t-shirt of their favorite color. CEAW had the idea of inviting Preschool, Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, and High School students at different times throughout the day. Students of each level were asked to stand or sit on lines set up as our school's logo with tape on the floor. CEAW's President took drone pictures of students standing in formation of the WA logo, and throwing different color chalk powder to the air. In addition, throughout the day, all our Preschool students and teachers worked on a beautiful hand print poster to decorate our preschool hall walls.



Wednesday, Feb. 1st



Superhero & Princess Day

Our school grounds witnessed a day of fantasy and fun as our students from PK to 1st Grade dressed up as superheroes and princesses. Boys and girls dressed up respectively as a superhero or princess of their choice. Organized by grade level and led by their teachers, students went around the school in a parade to high-five or shake hands with older kids from elementary and high school. This activity allowed our little ones to get to know our school a bit better and interact with older students making them less intimidating.



Twin Day

On this same day, students from 2nd to 12th Grade, in sets of 2 or 3 kids, came to school dressed as twins or triplets. Some groups came with similar or identical clothes, but others went a step further and dressed up as: a police squad, hula dancers, baseball and soccer teams, a bandits squad, Thing 1 & Thing 2 from Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat, ballerinas, The Ghostbusters. Even teachers used their abundant creativity and dressed up as: a Salt & Pepper set, Women in Black, and last, but not least, our Counseling Department came in emoji costumes that depicted different feelings and emotions. We could say imagination and creativity were definitely the theme of the day.



Rally

From 10:30 to 11:30 am, CEAW hosted, in our soccer field, a set of crazy games and activities for all our Elementary students. This allowed high schoolers to connect with Elementary kids in a fun and entertaining way.





Family Feud

This year, our CEAW, organized a "Washington's Family Feud" for high school teachers and students. This activity was inspired by Family Feud, the American television game show that premiered on July 1976. It features two families who compete to name the most popular answers to survey questions in order to win cash and prizes. In our Washington's version, high school students played against each other and vs. a group of teachers on the school's stage. What an amusing and original way to spend the afternoon! Wednesday, Feb. 1st was a very busy and delightful day for everyone at WA!



Thursday, February 2nd



Retro Day

Retro day was a celebration of past times. We were able to look back to the 50s with a student dressed as Elvis Presley, to the 60s with hippies, headbands, and peace signs, to the 70s with bell bottom pants, tie-dye, and platforms, to the 80s with neons, fishnets, legwarmers, and shoulder pads, and to the 90s with grunge looks, black leather jackets, and cargo pants. We had so much fun trying to guess what retro look was going on on each of our Elementary and High School students. Some classes were also able to watch a video of our founder Kathy Tugendhat who addressed the entire school for WA's 50th anniversary more than 10 years ago.





Talent Show

Thursday was the day to celebrate our students' talents. Preschool and Elementary held two separate shows. Preschool's took place in our small preschool stage and the Elementary's at the covered court's stage. All Preschool and Elementary students were asked to think about a talent they would like to showcase, and prepare it in advance. Lots of students were brave enough to stand up in front of an audience, and we were able to appreciate a myriad of abilities and gifts such as: dancing, singing, stand-up comedy, divination, ballet, gymnastics, martial arts, drum-playing, among many others. Overall, the Talent Show was a wonderful example of the artistic and comedic talents our WA students possess.



Sports Day



It is traditional for WA to close its Spirit Week with Sports Day. During this day, a series of recreational games and activities happened around campus. This year, it all started with a schoolwide parade at our soccer field. The field was flooded with a sea of blue and orange colored t-shirts, as students dressed up to honor their teams. Preschool students came with the shirts they painted on Monday which had a slight variation of our WA logo. Throughout the day, soccer, volleyball, kickingball games, among sack, relay, and obstacle races were happening in all of our courts. Students against students and in some cases against teachers. A joyful atmosphere of pep talks, cheering, laughing, and movement was felt across our school. Preschool had an early dismissal, while Elementary and High School had a few more hours of fun and excitement. Sport's day closure gave way to the end of 2023's Spirit week.









Spirit Week Video

High School and Elementary Coordinators and Teachers created an opportunity for students to watch a video in which our alumni tell our current students how the IB Diploma has helped them in their higher ed studies, professional and personal life. It also portrayed what they value or miss most about Washington Academy. This video was shown to all our Elementary and High School students, in their respective classroom's high-resolution LED TV monitors. The video brought some of our most tenured teachers to tears. They were amazed at their former students' achievements and comments. Please watch the video with your family to discover some of the benefits our school and programs have. It is our hope that this video helps our students value, appreciate, and take advantage of all the resources and opportunities our school has to offer. In an age where dissatisfaction is the norm, it is important to focus on what is real and positive to foster motivation and hope.

[Click here to watch video.](#)



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