

**Hello Washington! Volume 3 /
Special Edition: Halloween
Celebration / October 2023**

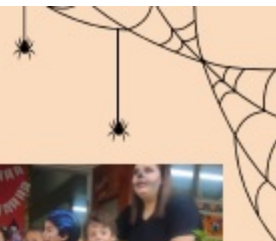


Special Edition
HALLOWEEN

TRICK OR TREAT



PRESCHOOL PARTY



On Friday, October 27th, our preschoolers had a spooktacular Halloween party! They trick-or-treated around the school, played fun games, and enjoyed delicious treats.



ELEMENTARY COSTUMES

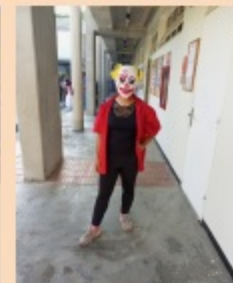




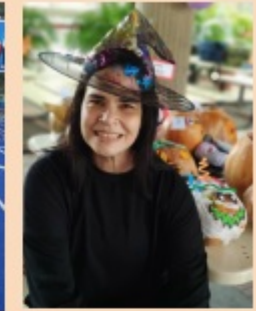
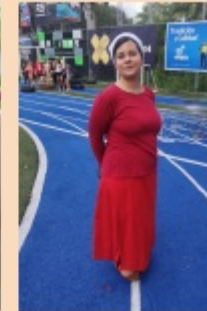
HAUNTED HOUSE



Our Seniors also hosted our highly anticipated traditional Halloween Fair from noon to 2:00 pm. Students from 2nd to 11th Grade enjoyed the Jack O' Lantern competition, Haunted House, Game Zone, Splash, and Slide. They also feasted on pizza, bubble tea, hot dogs, and spooky donuts.



ADULTS HAD FUN TOO!



CARNIVAL GAMES AND SPLASH ZONE



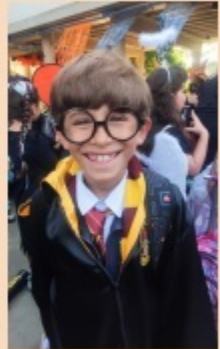


AND OUR TRADITIONAL JACK O' LANTERN CONTEST



EVERYONE HAD SO MUCH FUN!





SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!!!

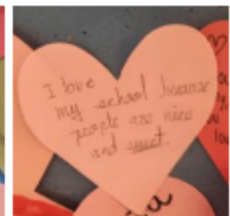
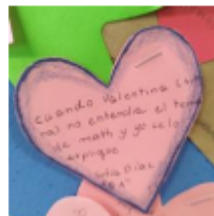
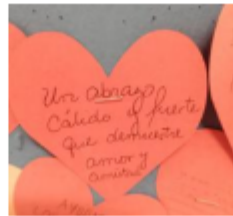
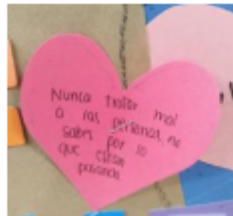
**Hello Washington! Volume 3 /
Issue # 2 / October 2023**



From Breast Cancer Awareness to Neurodiversity: A Kaleidoscope of School Happenings

Counseling Department invites the WA Family to celebrate UN's International Day of Non-Violence

This year, our counseling department promoted the celebration of International Day of Non-Violence. This is observed throughout the world on October 2nd, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi, who helped lead India to independence, has been the inspiration for non-violent movements for civil rights and social change across the world. Throughout his life, Gandhi remained committed to his belief in non-violence even under oppressive conditions and in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. Kindness is a natural expression of non-violence, that is why our counseling department created a Kindness tree bulletin board where all our students, faculty, and staff were invited to brainstorm ideas on different and concrete actions that reflected kindness and love. The kindness tree fully bloomed with action/ leaves at the entrance of our school.



Extracurricular Activities Start

At Washington Academy, we believe that extracurricular activities are an essential part of a well-rounded education. That's why we partner with outside organizations to offer a variety of activities for students of all ages and interests on campus. On Monday, October 2nd our extracurricular activities started. This year, we started with the following organizations that offer a variety of activities for students in WA grounds after school is over:

- **Renato Renauro's Organization:** Renato is the main coordinator for the following sports: Soccer, Gymnastics, Track & Field, Volleyball, Basketball. He works with a group of coaches for each of the different sports, buys all the materials needed for student training, and organizes our school's participation in different leagues and tournaments around the city.
- **Kurios Academy:** Previously known as Teknikids, offers Programming and Robotics to all students from Pre-K to Upper Elementary (up to 7th Grade).
- **Academia Nacional de Ajedrez:** Offers chess classes to students from Pre-K to Upper Elementary (up to 7th Grade).
- **Grupo Fábula:** Provides bilingual theater / acting classes for Elementary students. However not many students signed up, so Fabula will offer them again in January 2024.

If you want to contact any of them for more information, please do so to the following contacts. Remember to let your School Coordinator know that your kid will be joining any of these activities.

Extracurricular Activity Organization	Activity Coordinator	Contact	Email
 Renato Renauro's Organization	Renato Renauro (Coordinación General) Jennifer Pérez (Asistente a la Coordinación General)	Renato Renauro (0424) 266 26 48 Jennifer Pérez (0412) 573 20 30	renauroriusrenato@gmail.com
 Kurios Academy	Claudia Maurette Blasini (Coordinadora)	(0414) 027 94 63	claudia.maurette@kuriosedu.com
 Academia Nacional de Ajedrez	José Javier Cuello Jesús Gordillo (Coordinador)	José Javier Cuello (0412) 605 56 71 Jesús Gordillo (0424) 205 43 28	jcuello@anaj.org.ve
 Grupo Fábula	Josie Idrogo Mila Casanova	Josie Idrogo +57 (319) 753 62 55 Mila Casanova (0412) 859 0649	Grupo Fábula info@grupofabula.com grupo.pc.fabula@gmail.com

Sagarmatha is Becoming a Traditional Field Trip for Juniors



Architect Marcus Tobia, a renowned Venezuelan mountaineer and founder of Proyecto Cumbre (PC), has inspired many students at Washington Academy with his remarkable achievements. In a tradition that has spanned three years, our Juniors (11th Grade) embarked, from October 5th to the 11th, on an unforgettable field trip to Sagarmatha, Tobia's mountain refuge and climbing school nestled amidst the breathtaking peaks of the Venezuelan Paramo.



This year, the Juniors had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of mountaineering, guided by Tobia himself. The week-long adventure began with acclimatization exercises, preparing the students for the ascent of Gavilan Peak, reaching an elevation of approximately 4,200 meters. Along the way, they engaged in teamwork and leadership activities, including rock climbing, mountain biking, camping, hiking expeditions, geographical orientation, and arts and crafts.



Four dedicated teachers accompanied the Juniors, aligning the field trip with the Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) component of the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. The students also extended their service by visiting the local public school, Jose Victoriano Lobo, where they led recreational activities and donated Spanish books and educational resources provided by Washington Academy.



Courses that actively participated and integrated the field trip experience into their curriculum included CAS, Visual Arts, Chemistry, Language and Literature, and Physics. The field trip proved to be a transformative experience for our Juniors, fostering a deep appreciation for the challenges and rewards of mountaineering, while also instilling the values of teamwork, leadership, and service.



Open Houses from PK to 12th Grade



On October 9th, WA's High School warmly welcomed parents of 8th through 10th graders for an Open House, providing a glimpse into the dynamic learning environment that fosters academic excellence. Parents had the opportunity to engage with teachers, explore the well-equipped classrooms, and gain insights into the rigorous curriculum.

The school's Open House for 11th and 12th graders and Elementary students followed on October 10th, offering a comprehensive overview of the educational journey that awaits these young minds. Parents were welcomed into the engaging classrooms, met with dedicated teachers, and gained a deeper understanding of the curriculum that nurtures intellectual curiosity and academic growth.

On October 16th, WA's Preschool flung open its doors to welcome parents for an Open House, fostering a deeper connection between families and the school community. Parents had the opportunity to stroll through their children's classrooms, meet their teachers, and gain a richer understanding of the curriculum. They explored the vibrant learning spaces dedicated to computer science, art, library, physical education, music, reading, counseling, and homeroom classes. Preschool staff proudly showcased their students' remarkable achievements, while Elementary teachers provided parents with the opportunity to review their subject syllabi in advance, enabling them to come prepared with questions. This Open House served as a valuable platform for fostering stronger connections between teachers and parents.

These events are the cornerstone of Washington's strong family bonds.





General Assembly Election: Board of Directors SPRAW



Every year in October, Washington Academy (WA) holds a general assembly for all school parents and guardians and the Board of Directors of Washington Academy's Foundation. In this assembly, the previous parent association, which at WA is called SPRAW (Sociedad de Padres y Representantes), passes the baton to the newly elected members who will form the new SPRAW. During the assembly, the Board of Directors of the old SPRAW presents the monetary funds they received when they were elected, gives an overview of the projects and expenses they have worked on, names the projects that will continue under the coming administration, introduces new projects, and shares the amount of money that is left for the new SPRAW. After this, parents and guardians vote for the candidates. There is a special electoral committee that takes attendance, collects the ballots, and counts the votes. The results are later announced by SPRAW via email.

This year, the assembly took place on October 17th, a very special new project was introduced. This was named Kathy Tugendhat Library: "Picking up where we left off" Renovation Project. The project consists of a well-deserved revamp or makeover of WA's school library. Beautiful renders were shared, and it was announced that some of the project's cost will be provided by SPRAW, and the rest will be collected through different events organized by a Library Committee made up of staff and parents. The passing of the baton is a tradition that ensures that SPRAW continues to be a strong and effective organization.



WA Toasted for a Wonderful Experience for its New Families in the Years to Come



With open arms and a toast on our beautiful school grounds, WA Foundation Board of Directors (BOD), SPRAW BOD, and some Faculty & Staff enthusiastically welcomed our new families to Washington Academy on Thursday, October 5th. We understand that transitioning to a new school environment can bring a mix of excitement and apprehension. Our Principal, Academic Principal, our Preschool Coordinator, SPRAW's President, and alumnus Arnaldo Issa addressed the gathering and assured our new families that they are not alone in this journey. WA's Faculty and Staff are here to extend unwavering support to both parents and students every step of the way.



We are proud to see alumni among our new families, especially when they are excited about the opportunity for their son or daughter to have the same positive experiences that they had at school.





Once again, WA and SenosAyuda Team Up to Fight Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among women, claiming more lives than any other. It is estimated that one in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime. Early detection and treatment are crucial for improving survival rates.

Washington Academy (WA) is home to many inspiring breast cancer survivors, including Bolivia Belisario de Bocaranda, a WA alumni mother, grandmother, and the President of SenosAyuda.

SenosAyuda is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to individuals in need of breast cancer detection and treatment. Countless lives have been transformed thanks to SenosAyuda's unwavering efforts.

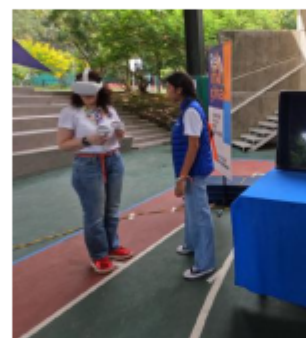
On October 19th, Breast Cancer Awareness Day, Bolivia Belisario, WA grandmother, WA's students, faculty, and staff gathered at the covered court, where WA parents Viviana Gibelli, a public speaker; Victor Acosta, a mastologist; and Marcelis Velasquez, director of Lancome-Lóreal Venezuela, collaborated to raise awareness about breast cancer, early detection, and treatment. Students grasped the life-saving impact of early detection and were inspired by Carolina's story, our Math Department Head.

Later, WA's 9th Graders organized a fundraiser in their MYP's Action & Service (A&S) class to support SenosAyuda. During school entrance and exit, students and their A&S teacher stood together to collect donations. Their goal was to raise enough funds to provide mammograms for as many women as possible, with each mammogram estimated to cost around \$20.

The event was a resounding success, raising awareness about breast cancer and generating significant funds for SenosAyuda. WA's commitment to supporting the community and promoting breast cancer awareness is truly admirable.

We are deeply touched by the generosity of our incredible community for their unwavering support in the fight against breast cancer. Your contributions will make a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals facing this challenging journey. Thank you for standing with us in making a difference.





WA hosts 6th College Fair and University Presentations

On Saturday, October 21st, WA hosted its 6th College Fair, welcoming an even larger number of students and their parents than ever before, surpassing attendance expectations. Organized by a dedicated school committee, the Fair aimed to guide students through their transition from high school to college and explore a diversity of higher education options. Over 70 national and international institutions were invited to participate, including representatives from universities, embassies, and counseling companies. Renowned institutions such as Navarra University, The Embassy of Japan, Universidad Metropolitana, Jansen Au Pair, Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, Embassy of the United States (Education USA), and Campus France were among the presenters. The event started at 10 am with an opening address by our Principal and continued through the day until 3 pm. Presenters had ample time to inform students and parents about their academic programs, campuses, and answer any questions. Topics covered included living abroad as a student, admission requirements, scholarship opportunities, and visa programs. Universidad Metropolitana even brought a Virtual Reality set to provide a campus tour!

In the week following the Fair, Washington Academy continued to host sessions with admission representatives from universities such as Anahuac, Lynn, and IE, providing students with even more opportunities to explore their higher education options.

Fieltrip to Candilejas Beach

Environmental Awareness is a crucial issue, and here at Washington, we take it seriously. That's why our IBDP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme) Biology and Environmental Systems and Societies (ESS) teachers organized a field trip for Seniors to Candilejas beach in La Guaira state.

On Wednesday, October 11th, at 8:30 am, the group departed from school grounds, arriving at Candilejas midmorning. Students divided into groups and embarked on hands-on tasks aligned with the IBDP's practical scheme of work for their respective subjects.

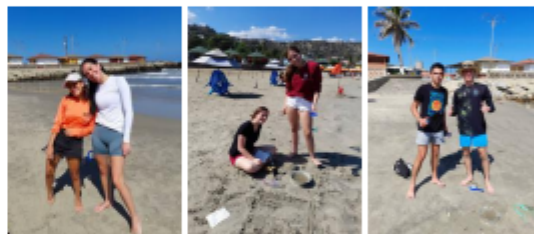
For Biology, students delved into an analysis of environmental variables, including temperature, atmospheric pressure, ocean currents, wave and tidal movements. They gained a deeper understanding of the intricate interplay between these factors and their impact on the marine ecosystem.

Meanwhile, ESS students undertook an inventory of solid waste, meticulously documenting the types and quantities of debris found on the beach. They also learned how to measure microplastic content in the beach's sand, a technique that provided a tangible measure of the pervasiveness of plastic pollution in the area.

Seniors were guided through the process of sand sampling, creating a 50 x 50 cm quadrat to extract a representative sample of the beach's substrate. Through this hands-on experience, they gained firsthand insights into the alarming extent of plastic pollution in our coastal environments.

The field trip to Candilejas beach served as a powerful reminder of the pressing issue of environmental pollution. The first hand exposure to plastic contamination in the marine ecosystem is expected to instill a sense of environmental stewardship among the participating students, encouraging them to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

We hope that this awareness will translate into behavioral changes not only among our students but also within their families, collectively contributing to the preservation of our natural resources and the well-being of our planet.



Talks: Global Politics, Neurodiversity, and Neurology

Throughout the vibrant month of October, Washington Academy's multipurpose room was transformed into a hub of knowledge, welcoming a series of esteemed guests who engaged our students with thought-provoking talks and workshops.

On October 17th, our Juniors delved into the intricacies of global politics as they welcomed Dr. Jorge Orellano, a PhD in Social Sciences and a professor at Universidad Nacional Hermilio Valdizán in Perú. His online presentation, titled "Del Estado Liberal al Estado Totalitario," provided a comprehensive overview of the transition from liberal to totalitarian states, sparking lively discussions and broadening the students' understanding of political systems.



On October 31st, the focus shifted to neurodiversity as María Isabel Pereira, a psychologist from Autismo en Voz Alta, addressed 8th through 10th graders. Through an interactive talk, she encouraged empathy and a more inclusive perspective among our high school students, challenging them to embrace the richness of neurodiversity. To further illustrate her message, she shared a heartwarming video titled "Por Cuatro Esquinillas de Nada," a powerful reminder of the importance of tolerance and acceptance.



In keeping with the spirit of fostering inclusive learning environments, Autismo en Voz Alta, located conveniently on the same street as Washington Academy, has partnered with our school to provide a series of online professional development courses for our teachers on differentiation and inclusion. These courses will equip our educators with the necessary tools and strategies to create classrooms that are welcoming and supportive of all learners.

Rounding off this month of intellectual enrichment, Dr. Ernesto Wydh, a neurologist, conducted a workshop for our 7th graders (MYP Year 2) on "How to Maintain a Healthy Nervous System." This workshop aligned seamlessly with the MYP Science Curriculum, which currently covers the Nervous System. Dr. Wydh's expertise provided valuable insights into the intricacies of the nervous system and its crucial role in overall health and well-being.

At Washington Academy we are immensely grateful for the opportunity to have hosted these esteemed guests and to have provided our students with a wealth of knowledge. Their contributions have undoubtedly enriched our learning environment and fostered a deeper understanding of global politics, neurodiversity, and our nervous system.

Updates on Infrastructure: Chairs and Tables

In a steadfast commitment to fostering a positive and welcoming classroom environment, our Board of Directors (BOD) has implemented a 5-year strategic plan to overhaul our classrooms with brand-new furniture. This transformative initiative aims to create a more conducive learning space for students of all ages, fostering a sense of pride and engagement.

On Wednesday, October 11th, our school grounds were graced with the arrival of 10 new tables for Pre-K, 88 chairs for Pre-K and Kindergarten, 60 individual desks for High School, and 20 vibrant chairs for our High School Computer Lab. This influx of new furniture marks a significant step towards realizing our vision of a school where every student feels supported and inspired to learn.

Our new furniture is designed with student well-being and academic success in mind. Each piece is crafted to provide:

- **Comfort and Ergonomic Support:** Our new furniture prioritizes student comfort, ensuring that they can focus and stay engaged in class without experiencing physical strain.
- **Adaptability and Flexibility:** The furniture's easy-to-move design empowers teachers to effortlessly rearrange their classrooms, creating dynamic learning environments that cater to a variety of activities.
- **Inviting Aesthetics:** The vibrant colors and visually appealing design of our new furniture infuse our classrooms with a stimulating and engaging atmosphere, fostering a positive learning mindset.





At WA, we firmly believe that when students feel their needs are met and that they have a comfortable and supportive place to learn, they are more likely to be engaged, motivated, and ultimately successful. Our investment in new furniture is not merely an aesthetic upgrade; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing our students with the best possible learning environment. We are confident that this strategic initiative will play a pivotal role in shaping our school into a beacon of academic excellence, where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

School for Parents: WA Online Platforms

To help parents stay informed about the educational platforms used in Washington, our tech-savvy First-Grade teacher, María Lorena del Castillo, hosted a Zoom workshop on Wednesday, October 25th.

Parents learned about Epic!, a digital library with over 40,000 titles, and IXL, a subscription-based learning site that offers comprehensive K-12 curriculum, personalized guidance, and actionable analytics. They also got an overview of Seesaw, a platform for student engagement where teachers can empower students to create, reflect, share, and collaborate. Additionally, the workshop covered Google Workspace for Education, a suite of easy-to-use tools that provide a flexible and secure foundation for learning, collaboration, and communication. While Google Classroom is primarily used from 3rd Grade up, parents were able to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the platform.



Google Classroom

This workshop provided parents with valuable insights into the digital tools used to support their children's learning journey. It is essential for parents to stay informed about the latest educational technologies used at WA to ensure they can effectively support their children's academic progress.