

**Hello Washington! Volume 3**  
**Issue # 5 January 2024**



## Celebrating Excellence, Innovation, and Growth!

### Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Honoring Dedication at Washington Academy

Teachers' Day is celebrated in Venezuela every Jan. 15th. On this day schools are closed as teachers get a day off work. At Washington Academy we celebrate big time, and we commemorate not only our beloved faculty, but our wonderful staff, because teamwork is what makes our little world spin.

Days before, the curriculum in many subjects centered on this theme, and many activities, projects, and even bulletin boards featured many of our teachers. Throughout the rest of the week, Tuesday through Friday, students stood up in our small podium to express their gratitude towards their teachers. Poems were recited, touching letters were read, and spontaneous speeches were made by students from different grade levels. On Friday, January 19th, our students got an early dismissal, and our Admin, Faculty, and Staff got together in the covered court for a special seniority recognition ceremony. In this event, educators and administrative staff, with five or more years of continuous service at Washington Academy, were honored with beautiful pins. Faculty and Staff are given pins when they reach 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years of continuous work at our school. With 5 and 10 years, they receive a silver or golden pin. After 15 years, the pin is made of gold. At 20, 25, and 30, a small diamond is embedded into their gold pin. In addition, SPRAW also gives a token of appreciation to the awardees.





This year we celebrated the following:

### 5-year seniority



María Alejandra  
Arias



Sandra  
Bubregg



Mariangélica  
Casanova



Gabriella  
López



Valentina  
Monsalve



María Eduviges  
Pedriquez



Teresita  
Pérez



Silvia  
Russo



Carolina  
Serrano



Carola  
Silva



Tony  
Useche



María Elisa  
Vásquez

### 10-year seniority



Patricia  
Pérez



Teresita  
Gutiérrez



Melicia  
García



Ivette  
Liscano



Raquel  
López



Valentina  
Antakly

### 15-year seniority

### 20-year seniority

### 35-year seniority

After the pins were awarded, all teachers and staff's hard work was recognized with special gifts and a delicious Mexican-themed luncheon provided by our Board of Directors (BOD) and SPRAW.

Furthermore, many Washington families donated a variety of gifts that were raffled among everyone. We want to express our gratitude to the BOD, SPRAW members, and the following families for these gifts:

- Benarroch Cifuentes
- Bravo Alonso
- Cappellin Montilla
- Gómez Cedeño
- Hernández Rosales
- Moser Galavis
- Paz Hernández
- Ramírez Asa
- Ramos Morgado
- Renda Gil
- Somogyi Giardina
- Tálamo Peña
- Tannous Kassar
- Uranga Chebly
- Valladares Rodríguez
- Youssef Wehbe
- Zhang Wu

This week was a testament of gratitude, a celebration of the heroes who shape our tomorrow, one smile, one lesson, one heart at a time.









## Washington Academy Embarks on Thrilling HMUN Journey

The Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) is one of the oldest and most prestigious Model UN conferences in the United States. It's a four-day event where high school students like ours delve into the world of international relations by simulating the workings of the United Nations and other international bodies. Students take on the roles of diplomats, debating pressing global issues and crafting resolutions to address them.



Since May 2023, our Washington Academy delegation has been preparing for this year's HMUN. The culmination of their hard work came to life from Thursday, January 25th in the Opening Ceremony, 'til Sunday, January 28th.



It was an incredible journey for our 2024 team. Their dedication went beyond the classroom, from researching and practicing speeches at Boston's Public Library to exploring the vibrant campus of Harvard University. This dedication paid off, as eight of our 16 students returned home with well-deserved recognitions for their performance.



This isn't Washington Academy's first foray into the world of Model UN. For over 30 years, our school has proudly sent students to navigate the diplomatic landscapes of prestigious conferences like PAMUN, NHSMUN, and many more across the globe. We are continuously fostering global awareness and critical thinking skills in our young leaders.

We extend heartfelt congratulations to all of this year's HMUN participants, their supportive parents, dedicated teacher(s), and insightful coaches. Your hard work, dedication, and resilience throughout this journey are truly inspiring. We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing your continued growth as global citizens.



Clementina and Ana Elisa Haydon



Sofía Cases and Victoria Fernández



Sofía Cartolano and Ana Lorena Peuchert



Fabiana Berroterán and Carlota Ledezma



Alejandro Vásquez and Nikolett Bacopulos



Sophía López



Isabella Márquez



Antonella De Santolo



Clementina Márquez



Daniela Youssef



Alessa Van Woerkom







## Baruta's Public School Receives New Playground Thanks to SPRAW's contribution

The *Alcaldía de Baruta*, in partnership with the Parent Association SPRAW, is thrilled to announce the completion of a new preschool playground at *Jermán Ubaldo Lira* public school. SPRAW President, Luis Gómez, joined students and officials for the inauguration on January 30th, celebrating this exciting investment in the recreation and development of our future generations.



We believe this new addition will be a source of joy and enjoyment for these children for years to come, contributing to their physical and social development. Thank you to SPRAW and *Alcaldía de Baruta* for their dedication to our public school community.

## New After School Program: Fostering a Love for Learning!

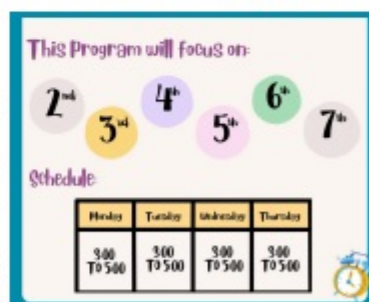
We are thrilled to announce that a new extracurricular program started on Tuesday, January 16, 2024! This program is led by our dedicated teacher, Maria Teresa Canzanese. The After School Program (ASP) aims to make homework time a special, meaningful, and fun experience for our students.

This program offers a variety of flexible monthly plans and runs Monday through Thursday, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. More than just assisting with homework, ASP is designed to:

- Foster a love for learning: By blending education with fun and engaging activities, ASP seeks to ignite curiosity and creativity in our students.
- Promote academic success: The program provides personalized assistance and resources to address individual learning needs, ensuring each student receives the support they need to excel.
- Develop essential skills: Students will develop valuable skills like time management, organization, and critical thinking through the program's activities.

Ultimately, ASP empowers students to take ownership of their education, cultivate a positive attitude towards learning, and build a strong foundation for future academic success.

If interested in learning more, please contact Maria Teresa Canzanese at [awafterschoolprogram@gmail.com](mailto:awafterschoolprogram@gmail.com) for further information and enrollment details.



Time	Activity
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Arrive, Check-In
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Homework Session 1
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Short Break Socialment and Skill-Building Activities (Including Reading)
4:30 PM - 4:55 PM	Homework Session 2
4:55 PM - 5:00 PM	Wrap-Up
5:00 PM	Dismissal

\*This schedule is subject to change. Parents will be notified of the progress the student made during our program hours. This will depend on the workload the student has at the time.



## Exploring Geopolitics: 11th Grade Learns About the Essequibo Territory

On Thursday, January 18th, our 11th Grade students had the opportunity to dive into the complex geopolitical issue of the Essequibo Territory. Mr. Estrada, who holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and is currently pursuing a Master's in Political Science, led the engaging talk. Mr. Estrada, also a university professor, provided valuable insights into this disputed territory.

The informative session, held in the multipurpose room from 2:00 - 3:20 pm, was coordinated by our IBDP Global Politics teacher. Students learned about the Essequibo Territory, a region currently controlled by Guyana but also claimed by Venezuela. They explored the historical roots of this ongoing dispute, including the Geneva Agreement, and why the Essequibo Territory's location and resources make it strategically significant.

We're excited to provide our students with opportunities to engage with real-world issues and broaden their understanding of global affairs.



## Recycling Innovators Visit WA

On the morning of Monday, January 22nd, our 8th and 9th Grade students enjoyed a fascinating presentation on "Recycling in Venezuela and its Implications." The talk, held in the multipurpose room, was delivered by Gabriel Santana and Alberto Alfonso, founders of the innovative entrepreneurship *Taller Neo* (@taller.neo). This event was coordinated by our IB MYP Action and Service teacher and our Biology Department Head.

*Taller Neo* specializes in transforming waste into valuable objects. They work with plastics like polypropylene and high-density polyethylene, creating a remarkable array of usable items including t-shirts, backpacks, shoes, eyeglass frames, wallets, plastic pots, and more. Students learned about the importance of recycling and were inspired by *Taller Neo's* creative approach.

This engaging talk wasn't just informative, it provided valuable insights for our 8th and 9th graders. They gained a deeper understanding of the impact of recycling on the environment, and were motivated by the possibilities of transforming waste into useful objects. Seeing *Taller Neo's* innovative approach firsthand sparked their creativity and encouraged them to think critically about their own environmental impact, both at school and in their daily lives. This aligns perfectly with the school's commitment to fostering environmental awareness and responsible citizenship in our students.