

**Hello Washington! Volume 3 /
Issue # 7 / March 2024 PART 2**



WA Monthly Buzz (March Part 2): Soaring High in Academics, Arts, and Community!

7th Graders Take Flight in our Traditional Career Fair!

On Thursday, March 14th, the covered court area buzzed with excitement as our 7th graders presented their "Yo soy un Profesional" (I am a Professional) MYP Spanish project!

Working alongside their MYP Design and Art teachers, the students transformed their career aspirations into a multifaceted display. In Design class, they crafted dynamic video CVs, perfect for highlighting their skills and accomplishments in the digital age. In Art class, they channeled their creativity to design professional logos and informative tri-fold display boards that complemented their presentations.

But the project wasn't just about visuals! Students embarked, guided by their MYP Spanish teacher, on a comprehensive research journey. They explored universities offering their chosen careers (both national and international!), interviewed professionals in the field, and investigated job market trends. From salary expectations to specialization opportunities, they gained valuable insights into their chosen paths.



The variety of aspirations on display was truly inspiring! We saw students passionate about engineering, medicine, journalism, and architecture, alongside those drawn to fields like veterinary science, economics, psychology, and music. Whether it was data science or gastronomy, piloting or physiotherapy, these young minds showcased their diverse interests and eagerness to learn.

"Yo soy un Profesional" is a testament to the well-rounded education offered by our school. It pushed students to hone their Spanish language skills while also developing essential research, presentation, and design capabilities.

Congratulations to our fantastic 7th graders! Their dedication and creativity were truly impressive. We can't wait to see what incredible things they achieve as they continue their professional journeys!



Get Your Slice of Math: WA Celebrates Pi Day!

On Thursday, March 14th, WA joined the global celebration of Pi Day!

What's the Pi about, you ask? Our amazing 6th graders took center stage during Morning Announcements to break it down for us. Pi (represented by the Greek letter π) is a special mathematical constant that pops up everywhere in the world of circles. It tells you the ratio between a circle's circumference (the distance around it) and its diameter (the line straight through the center). Pretty cool, right?

Why March 14th? It's all about the digits! The first three digits of pi are 3, 1, and 4 – a perfect match for the date, March 14th (written as 3/14 in the US). As an added bonus, it also happens to be Albert Einstein's birthday – a true coincidence for a man known for his brilliant mind!

the 6th graders didn't just tell us about Pi, they showed us! They brought out some awesome props and even performed a Pi Day skit to make learning fun.

Plus, to keep the celebrations delicious, their math teacher baked a delicious pie – the perfect way to end a day all about Pi!

Whether you're a math whiz or just enjoy a good slice of pie, Pi Day is a fun reminder that learning can be both tasty and engaging. Keep an eye out for more exciting math explorations throughout the year at WA!



Washington Academy Invests in Teacher Development!

Here at WA, we understand that our teachers are the heart of our school's success. That's why we were thrilled to offer a unique professional development opportunity for fifteen of our faculty members. These dedicated educators recently participated in a full-day Teacher Development Seminar hosted by the Venezuelan Chamber of Private Education (CAVEP) at Colegio Henry Clay here in Caracas.



The jam-packed day, held on a Saturday from 8am to 5pm, featured a diverse group of presenters, including psychologists, experienced teachers, a medical doctor, and even a Doctor of Philosophy in Education. This esteemed panel covered a wide range of topics specifically chosen to equip our teachers with the latest strategies and knowledge.

The seminar delved into crucial areas that directly impact our students' well-being and academic achievement. Sessions explored the importance of fostering self-esteem in teachers themselves, a vital foundation for a positive classroom environment. Attendees also gained valuable insights into emotional intelligence and how to effectively address disruptive behaviors. Strategies for tackling bullying and fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment were also on the agenda.

The seminar didn't shy away from important but sometimes challenging topics. Teachers gained practical tools for navigating the complexities of sexual education in the classroom, ensuring our students are appropriately informed and empowered. Additionally, the session on working with students with neurodevelopmental disorders provided educators with valuable approaches to create a supportive and successful learning experience for all.

We at WA are incredibly grateful to our teachers who embraced this opportunity to further develop their skills and knowledge. By investing in their professional growth, we are investing in the future success of our students and fostering a truly exceptional learning environment.

4th Graders Score a Touchdown at the Math Fair!

On Friday, March 15th, our amazing WA 4th graders showcased their impressive projects at the annual Math Fair. This year's theme was a slam dunk: Mathematics in Sports!

Led by our dedicated Elementary Math Department Head and enthusiastic 4th Grade Math Teacher, students embarked on a months-long journey to explore the connection between math and their favorite sports. Working in teams of 3, they chose a sport and dug deep to discover how math plays a vital role on the field, court, or track.

Here's the game plan:

First, a special meeting equipped parents with the tools to support their young mathematicians throughout the project.

Then, students received a guideline to help them develop their projects. This questionnaire encouraged them to reflect and explore different mathematical concepts like graphing, measurement, data analysis, and more, all within the context of their chosen sport and their math knowledge.

For example, a team that chose track and field went for the gold, researching world records in long jump, hurdles, and pole vault. They created bar graphs to compare achievements between men and women, and even charted the progress of these records over time with line graphs – proving that math is a true champion!

Another group, inspired by ice skating, delved into the icy world of rink dimensions, calculating areas and distances with precision worthy of a gold medal performance.

This year's Math Fair boasted an impressive line-up of sports, with teams tackling everything from Formula 1 racing to horseback riding, American football to tennis – showcasing the vast variety of ways math plays a role in athletic endeavors.

Each team presented their findings on a captivating triptych (a three-paneled display board) and a stand overflowing with creative visuals. It was a true display of teamwork, problem-solving skills, and of course, a love for math!

The WA 4th graders proved that math isn't just about numbers on a page – it's the foundation for so many amazing things, even the competitions we love to watch.

Congratulations to all the participants on a truly winning performance!



Track & Field Cup 2023-2024

The Washington Track & Field Cup 2023-2024 held on Friday, March 15th and Saturday, March 16th, saw over 400 students from 10 different schools compete in a variety of track and field events.

The schools that attended were:

- Academia Merici
- Instituto Educacionales Asociados (El Peñon)
- Colegio Simón Bolívar
- Colegio Los Arcos
- Colegio Canigua
- The British School of Caracas
- Colegio San Agustín del Paraíso
- Colegio Humboldt

The following students won medals in their respective age categories

- | Mini-Mini | Mini 2017 | Mini 2016 | Pre A | Pre B |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santiago Navarro • Valeria Romero • Matteo Napoletano • Paulina Neri • Juan Diego Goncalves • Nicole Contreras • Ignacio Gordon • Lara Paz • Juan Pablo Suriani • Bettina Ravicini • Pia Romani | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodrigo Doce • Camille Kabchi • Ignacio Morales • Evelyn Zhang • Matteo Talamo • Ana Fernanda Subero • Alejandro Yehia • Clarisa Bravo • Lorenzo Luces • Valentina Romero • Martina Tudares • Ana Mercedes Contreras • Claire García • Anna Federica Rodríguez • Sophia Moya | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignacio García • Manuela Grillo • Nicolás Martínez • Miranda Frangie • Ingrid Benedetti • Ma. Victoria Ortega • Irune García • Estefanía Mussa • Leticia Romero • Letizia Suriani • Fabiana González • Lara Ravicini | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cristóbal Blanco • Sarah Tavares • Fabrizio Tempestini • Avril Jara • Luis Canelón • Miranda Juncal • Sebastián Ramos • Anabella Chen • Martín Soriano • Angelina Ha • Victor Acosta • Clara Uranga • Matías Araujo • Julieta Pérez • Daniel Bahachille • Valentina López • Diego Romero • Daniela Goncalves • Felipe Berroterán • Ela Rivero • Aitor Álamo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Chen • Amanda Ubieta • Julián Mendoza • Ana Margarita Naranjo • Eduardo Renda • Ivanka Radesca • Samuel Viera • Belén García • Tomás Paz • Valeria Bramanti • Leonardo Chacín • Simón Zerpa • Nicolás Hernández • Matteo De Prisco • Alejandro Álvarez • Roberto Pestana |
| Infantil | Menor | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elias Abilahoud • Fabiana Tavares • Sebastián Akinin • Alesia Delfino • Alberto Espinoza • Ema Ramírez • Matías Leoni • Constanza Martins • Martín Guerrero • Victoria Bacopulos • Alejandro Vázquez • Martina Ubieta • Juan Vázquez • Andreína Moreno • Ignacio Ríos • Fabiana Bramanti • Yossef Soleman • Samuel Sánchez • Santiago Ramírez | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José Mendoza • Valerie Gallegos • Rafael Moscatel • Fabiana Gallo • Aitor Aguiar • Caridad Guerrero • Diego Ramírez • Daniela Mamán • Gonzalo Veloz • Clarisa García • Gabriel Cartolano • Marcello De Prisco | | | |





The Washington Track & Field Cup is a great opportunity for our students to compete against other schools and to showcase their athletic skills. We are proud of all of our students who participated in this year's event! Special thanks to the PE Department for organizing this event.

Egg-cellent Easter Fun Kicks Off Our Spring Break!

On the Friday before Holy Week, our Preschool and Lower Elementary got into the Easter spirit with a delightful celebration!

Preschoolers and Lower Elementary students enjoyed an exciting chocolate egg hunt! Held at the spacious Preschool park, the hunt was designed with our younger students in mind. They hopped along (bunny ears optional!), searching for treats hidden by their teachers and room mothers. No need to worry about bigger students here – the Preschoolers had their own dedicated hunt, ensuring a safe and fun experience for all!

Meanwhile, the Lower Elementary students also embarked on their own egg-cellent adventure! The thrill of the hunt was followed by a delicious meal enjoyed by everyone. A big shout-out of thanks goes to our amazing Room Mothers who decorated the space beautifully and helped organize the festivities.

But the fun didn't stop there! Our English Head of Department addressed all the students, sharing interesting stories about the history and traditions of Easter.

Preschoolers truly embodied the Easter spirit by wearing adorable bunny ears and hopping with joy during their hunt. Room Mothers even added to the cuteness with some fantastic bunny face painting!

After a fantastic celebration filled with laughter, chocolate, and learning, our entire school happily embarked on their well-deserved Holy Week vacation.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter break filled with joy and relaxation!





Fieldtrips

Museo de Los Niños: A Blast from the Past Inspires Young Minds!

On March 13th, our incredible Lower and Upper Elementary students (Grades 2 - 6) embarked on an exciting adventure to the reopened Museo de Los Niños! This field trip, organized by our dedicated Elementary Coordinators, Faculty, and Room Mothers, was a fantastic opportunity for our young learners to ignite their curiosity and delve into the wonders of science and nature through interactive fun.

Remember that amazing museum from our own childhood? Well, it's back! The Museo de Los Niños offers a captivating world where children become the active participants. Imagine engaging demonstrations, workshops, and exhibits that come alive with touch, sound, and sight! Our students got to experiment with science concepts, worked on papermaking, and explored a variety of topics closely aligned with their current curriculum.



The joy and excitement on their faces as they explored these interactive exhibits solidified the importance of this trip. It wasn't just a fun day out; it was a springboard for fostering a love of learning that will stay with them for years to come.

We are thrilled to have provided our students with this enriching experience, and we can't wait to see what discoveries await them next!



Beyond the Books: Cultivating Justice at Washington Academy



Washington Academy isn't just about raising academic stars; we're building well-rounded individuals with strong character and a deep understanding of positive values. Led by our dedicated Counseling Department, we've launched a program that integrates these values into the very fabric of our school life. Each month, we focus on a specific concept, weaving it into announcements, counseling sessions, and even the environment itself. Here at Washington Academy, we don't just teach values – we live them.

This month, we embark on a thrilling quest for JUSTICE: a cornerstone for a thriving and harmonious world. Why is justice so important? It's the foundation for developing responsible, honest, and empathetic individuals who genuinely care about the well-being of others.

Studies by renowned psychologists Piaget and Kohlberg reveal that the understanding of justice evolves with age. Young children often rely on rules and fear of punishment to define what's fair. As they mature, they begin to grasp the importance of equality and ensuring everyone gets their due. So, how can we nurture this concept in our children?

Building a Foundation of Fairness:

We believe fostering justice starts early. Here are some ways we can support children of different age groups:

Up to 9 years old: We create clear agreements and ensure consistent follow-through. We teach the importance of playing by the rules, fostering honesty, respecting others' possessions, and valuing everyone's needs and rights.

Ages 9 - 13: We continue to emphasize fair behavior. We discuss and explain the concepts of justice and injustice, helping them understand the importance of fairness. We encourage them to take responsibility for their actions, rectify mistakes, and extend this sense of fairness beyond the family, into the wider community.

Leading by Example:

Remember, children are keen observers. The most impactful way to teach justice is by demonstrating it ourselves:

Strive for fairness in our interactions with children.

Be objective when giving instructions or addressing behaviors.

Temper justice with warmth and affection.

Justice is the bedrock of a peaceful and prosperous society. By instilling this value in our children, we empower them to create a more just world for all.

Let's embark on this journey together!

***“Injustice
anywhere is
a threat to
justice
everywhere.”***

Martin Luther King Jr.

***“Justice is
truth in
action.”***

Benjamin Disraeli

Lower Elementary's Student of the Month



Every first Friday of the month, our Central Courtyard fills with cheers and applause! This is where we celebrate our Lower Elementary (2nd - 4th Grade) students who've been putting in a superhuman effort throughout the previous month.

The "Student-of-the-Month Award" isn't for the students with the highest grades, but for those who have shown a determined spirit to improve in any area, big or small! Maybe they're conquering their multiplication tables, consistently participating in class discussions, or demonstrating a newfound love for reading.

Here's the amazing part: On Mondays, your child's teacher and the Lower Elementary Coordinator huddle up to discuss all the fantastic progress they've seen. By the end of the month, they pick one or two students from each grade section (A or B) who truly exemplify sustained effort and dedication.

This award is all about celebrating the journey, not the destination. It's about acknowledging the hard work, the "never give up" attitude, and the constant steps every child takes to be better than they were yesterday.

A big round of applause for our fantastic March Students of the Month! We're incredibly proud of their commitment to learning and growth. Keep shining, stars!

This monthly award paves the way for our End-of-Year Star Student Awards, recognizing the same incredible spirit throughout the entire school year.

Remember, students – keep striving, keep learning, and keep being your awesome selves!



Micaela Leonett Ignacio Tudares Vincent Zhang Antonella Hannawi Mia Shadah Joseph Wehbe Melanie Chen Santiago Torrealba Jim Chen

Capturing WA Memories in Style

This past March, a fantastic initiative took root, thanks to the vision of one of our very own yearbook collaborators, Natacha Trebucq (mom of students in 2nd and 6th Grades). Natacha, along with a dedicated group of mothers – some professional photographers, others passionate amateurs – joined forces with WA's Communications Department. Their mission? To capture the essence of WA life through stunning, high-resolution photos!

Imagine a treasure trove of images showcasing the breadth and depth of our school's activities. From academic achievements to thrilling co-curricular events and joyous celebrations, these photos will bring our vibrant school community to life. This visual library will be a valuable resource, especially for printed materials like the newsletter and the yearbook.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to these amazing volunteer moms who generously share their talent and time. They, along with WA Communications Department, are the ones behind the lens, capturing those special moments that tell our school's story:

- Natacha Trebucq (mom of 2nd and 6th grades)
- Jeanny Depablos (mom of Kindergarten)
- Mariana Mazzeo (mom of 2nd grade)
- Gabriela Mariani (mom of 2nd grade)
- Andrea Cifuentes (mom of 2nd and 5th grades)

We are incredibly grateful for their dedication to preserving our school's memories in such a special way. Keep an eye out for their fantastic work in upcoming newsletters and yearbooks!

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WA Monthly Buzz (March Part 1): Soaring High in Academics, Arts, and Community!

"*Perspectivas*": A Year of Artistic Exploration on Display!

Did you know that our very own IB Diploma Programme (DP) Visual Arts students recently culminated a year of creative exploration in a stunning exhibition titled "*Perspectivas*," Spanish for perspectives?

This wasn't just your average art show. Since the beginning of their junior year in September 2022, these dedicated Seniors have poured their hearts and artistic vision into their individual pieces. The week leading up to the March 8th event buzzed with activity as they transformed the halls around our Central Yard into their personal galleries.

On the big day, guests were treated to a warm welcome with appetizers, followed by an introduction from the IBDP Visual Arts teacher and a speech by our school Principal. Then, the moment everyone had been waiting for – the unveiling of "*Perspectivas*"!

This exhibition wasn't just about showcasing stunning artwork; it was a journey into the minds and creative processes of these talented students. Each piece offered a unique "*perspectiva*," a glimpse into the world as they see it.



Meet the Artists and Their Visions:



Alejandro Vasquez: "Life is a Highway"



Andrea Aguiar: "Behind the Scenes"



Andrea Lucy: "Corpus"



Camila Baldini: "Lo Femenino"
(The Feminine)



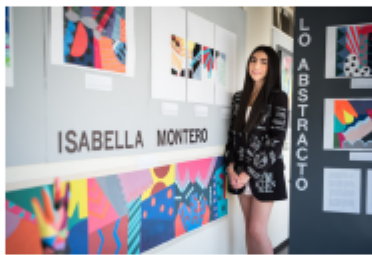
Diego Méndez: "El Color" (The Color)



Gabriel Chacon: "No Son Una, Son Tres"
(They Are Not One, They Are Three)



Gabriela Rodríguez: "Un Viaje a Través del Color"
(A Journey Through Color)



Isabella Montero: "Lo Abstracto"
(The Abstract)



Ivana Meneses: "The Art of Making Art"



Julia Puig: "Derreténdose con el Tiempo"
(Melting with Time)



María Victoria Machín: "Color is Alive"



Mariana Sánchez: "Cuadrado" (Square)



Simón Muñoz: "Trópico Puro"
(Pure Tropics)



Sofía Meneses: "Journey"



Victoria Phillips: "Raíces" (Roots)

A Huge Applause!

We at Washington Academy are incredibly proud of these students' creativity, perseverance, and artistic achievements. A heartfelt thank you goes out to their dedicated IBDP Visual Arts teacher for guiding them throughout this year-long project.

The "*Perspectivas*" exhibition was a true feast for the eyes, enjoyed by students, teachers, and parents alike. Even though the formal event has passed, the artwork remained on display in the hallways near the Central Yard for several weeks. So, hope you were able to explore these unique perspectives, and see the world through the eyes of our talented artists!



Building Bridges of Knowledge: WA Partners with *República de Indonesia* Public School

Calling all future world changers! This past February and March, our amazing 11th graders taking the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) put their passion for helping others into action through their Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) project.

Here's the incredible story: Our 11th graders, under the guidance of our dedicated CAS teacher, teamed up with *República de Indonesia* public school to offer free tutoring sessions to their Elementary students!

Our CAS teacher coordinated with *Republica de Indonesia's* teachers to identify students who could benefit most from extra support. These eager learners then visited Washington Academy during designated hours, where our 11th graders transformed into superstar tutors!

The tutoring covered a variety of subjects, including Math, Reading, and – of course! – English language skills. This not only helped the *Republica de Indonesia* students, but also provided our 11th graders with valuable leadership and communication experience.

This CAS project is a shining example of how Washington Academy fosters a spirit of service and citizenship. We're incredibly proud of our 11th graders for making a positive impact on their community!



7th Grade Gets Dirty for a Greener Future!

Throughout March, our awesome 7th graders (that's our 2nd MYP year students!) took a deep dive into the world of composting at WA's very own Compost Heap! As part of their Science and Action and Service unit on Ecology, they learned all about the magic of turning food scraps into something amazing – nutrient-rich compost!

But why is composting such a big deal?

- **Waste Warriors:** Composting cuts down on what goes into landfills, keeping our planet cleaner.
- **Greenhouse Gas Busters:** It reduces harmful greenhouse gasses, which is good news for our atmosphere.
- **Food Waste Fighters:** Those leftover apple cores and veggie peels? They become super beneficial compost, a.k.a. hummus!
- **Soil Superheroes:** Compost revitalizes the soil in our schoolyard and community, making it perfect for growing healthy plants.
- **Grow Your Own!:** Rich, healthy soil thanks to composting means more opportunities to grow delicious food!

The 7th graders got down and dirty (in a good way!), mixing the compost and adding their own home-brought food scraps. They even grabbed magnifying glasses to become super compost detectives, searching for decomposers like worms, beetles, and ants – all playing a vital role in the composting process!

Composting is a simple yet powerful tool for a healthier planet. By composting in our school community, we're reducing waste, boosting sustainability, and protecting our water sources.

So, here's the call to action! Let's all join hands and make composting a part of our daily lives. Together, we can create a cleaner, greener world for ourselves and future generations.

Remember, the power to make a positive impact is in our hands! Let's compost for a brighter tomorrow!





Hooray for Reading! A Seuss-ational Celebration in Preschool!

On Friday, March 1st, our Preschoolers celebrated the birthday of the one and only Dr. Seuss, also known as Theodor Seuss Geisel. Dr. Seuss wrote amazing children's books filled with silly characters, catchy rhymes, and fantastical worlds. You might know some of his most popular works like "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," and "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday (which is actually on March 2nd!), our Preschool Coordinator gathered our littlest learners (from PK to 1st Grade) at the mini amphitheater. They snuggled in for a delightful read-aloud session, where they journeyed with a curious critter in "Where's My Mother?" and explored the tasty world (would you try green eggs and ham?) in the classic "Green Eggs and Ham."

But the fun didn't stop there! Inspired by the mischievous Cat in the Hat, our 1st graders got creative and designed their very own rhyming hats! They were a sight to see – a fantastical display of colorful creations! To top it all off, they even worked on a special book report about everyone's favorite trouble-making feline.

We at WA believe reading is a magical adventure, and Dr. Seuss's books are the perfect springboard to ignite a love for storytelling and learning.

Looking for more Seussian fun? Check out Seussville: <https://www.seussville.com/> for tons of educational resources for parents and teachers, all year round! Let's keep the spirit of reading alive, just like Dr. Seuss would have wanted!



Gearing Up for Great Thinking: Students Tackle the Recreational Math and Language Olympics!



From March 4th to 8th, our 4th to 7th graders participated in a stimulating challenge – the 32nd *Olimpiadas Recreativas de Matemática* (Recreational Math Olympics) and the 3rd *Olimpiadas Recreativas de Lengua* (Recreational Language Olympics)!

These Olympiads, organized by the *Motores por la Paz* foundation, are all about making learning fun! Our students, who took the tests right in their classrooms (tests picked up from Universidad Metropolitana, no less!), got to flex their mental muscles in a playful way.



But what exactly are these Olympiads all about? Well, they're designed to:

- **Boost Brainpower:** These challenges help students develop their logical-mathematical and linguistic thinking skills. Think solving puzzles, thinking critically, and using language in creative ways!
- **Teacher Teamwork:** The Olympiads also work with universities and other educational

institutions to create awesome training programs for teachers. This ensures our educators are top-notch at helping students develop these crucial thinking skills.

- **Setting the Standard:** The Olympiads even collaborate with the government to set national standards for what students should know in math and language at different grade levels.
- **Building a Brighter Future:** Ultimately, the Olympiads aim to improve the quality of education in Venezuela. By encouraging these valuable thinking skills, they're helping prepare our students for a brighter future!

We're so proud of all our students who participated in these Olympiads. Keep up the fantastic work, brainiacs!

WA Delegation Shines at Humboldt's Model UN!

Our school delegation recently made waves at Colegio Humboldt's Model United Nations (HUMUN) conference, held from Friday, March 1st to Sunday, March 3rd! This dedicated group of 19 students, spanning Upper Elementary and High School, tackled global issues under the guidance of their Global Politics teacher. A big shout-out to:

- Antonio Tannous 7th
- Emilia Anzola 7th
- Lauren Jiménez 6th
- Gerard Servat (Honorable Mention!) 6th
- Alessia Magdaleno 8th
- Martin Guerrero 8th
- Paula Spuches (Verbal Mention!) 8th
- Almudena López 8th
- Sofía Archila (Outstanding Delegate - 2nd Place!) 8th
- Matías Leoni 7th
- Constanza Martins 7th
- Sebastián Araujo 7th
- Sabrina San Llorente 8th
- Martina Ubieta 8th
- Mariángeles Adrianza 8th
- María Soler 7th
- Paula Soriano 7th
- Oriana Marco 7th
- Salim Frangie 7th
- Gabriela San Llorente 7th

The conference kicked off at 2:30 pm on Friday and continued throughout the weekend, providing an incredible opportunity for students to develop their research, public speaking, and negotiation skills. We're incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication!

But wait, there's more! Four of our delegates received special recognition for their outstanding participation:

- Sofia Archila (8th Grade) brought home the Outstanding Delegate (2nd Place)!
- Gerard Servat (6th Grade) earned an impressive Honorable Mention (3rd Place)!
- Ángel Inciarte (7th Grade) and Paula Spuches (8th Grade) received verbal mentions for their contributions.

Congratulations to all our delegates! Your passion for global issues and commitment to diplomacy is truly inspiring.



Soaring to New Heights: 7th Graders Gear Up for High School!



March saw our incredible 7th graders take a giant leap forward as they began preparing for their transition to High School (HS).

This exciting process, guided by our dedicated High School Coordinator and supported by their Counselor, took place within their *Creciendo Juntos* class time. Here, students had the amazing opportunity to:

- **Meet the High School Team:** They got to know the friendly faces of their future High School Coordinators and Teachers!
- **Explore the Halls:** They took a sneak peek at the HS hallways and classrooms, getting familiar with their new learning environment.
- **Level Up!** They learned all about the upcoming changes in their daily routines, including new schedules, uniforms, and the expectations for subjects, agreements, and policies.
- **Mastering the Schedule:** No more mysteries! Students explored how their schedule will differ in HS, including managing late arrivals, assessments, and grading systems.

- Ready, Set, Thrive! They also learned about the vital skills they'll need to succeed in HS, feeling prepared and confident.
- To answer all their burning questions about life in the HS halls.

A big round of applause to our HS Team and Upper Elementary Coordinator for taking this proactive step towards a smooth and successful transition! We at Washington are incredibly proud of your initiative and deeply appreciate the support provided by our school Counselors and Coordinators to make this a positive and informative experience.

Get ready to soar, future 8th graders! The sky's the limit!

Blast Off to the Past: 9th Graders Take Us on a Time Traveling Adventure!

On March 6th, our incredible 9th graders took us on an epic journey through history with their annual "Time Tunnel" presentations, masterminded by their MYP Individuals & Societies: World History Teacher.

Starting at the beginning of the school year, these students divided into groups, rolled up their sleeves, and dove headfirst into history. They chose their eras, from the grandeur of Ancient Greece to the awe-inspiring moon landing, and then brought them to life! It was a whirlwind of scriptwriting, costume-designing, set-building, and of course, rehearsals.

On the big day, the covered court transformed into a portal through time. From 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, attendees were transported to witness:



The dramatic end of the Romanov family



The mythical Golden Apple and the Olympian gods of Greece



The epic tale of Jacob and Esau from the Bible



The chilling story of the Titanic, complete with a survivor's perspective



The giant leap for mankind with the first moon landing



The life and legacy of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb"

Each presentation was a testament to the students' hard work and dedication. They not only honed their English skills, but also mastered teamwork, creativity, and even stage presence!

A huge thank you goes out to our phenomenal 9th graders for their incredible performances. You transported us all through time, making history come alive with your passion and dedication.

This wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of their Teacher, who guided and supported the students throughout the project. And of course, a big shout out to the parents for their unwavering encouragement!

The "Time Tunnel" was more than just a school project; it was a time travel adventure we all got to share. Congratulations, 9th graders, you did an amazing job!

Hooray for 100 Days of School! Preschool Celebrates in Style!

On March 8th, our school buzzed with excitement as we celebrated a huge milestone: 100 Days of School! Our amazing preschoolers went above and beyond to mark this special occasion.

Preschool Teachers and Coordinators whipped up a day packed with fun and educational activities. Imagine building a tower with a whopping 100 plastic cups! They also got their wiggles on with a 100-exercise circuit that included jumping jacks, push-ups, and more! Counting to 100 felt like a breeze with dot marker stamping by tens, and who could resist putting 100 dots on a playful Dalmatian?

Our preschoolers unleashed their inner artists by building fantastic creations with 100 blocks, and even hopped their way through a special 100-day hopscotch course. The fun didn't stop there! Preschool Room Mothers deserve a big shoutout for decorating the park beautifully and providing delicious snacks and drinks for everyone to enjoy.

Why Do We Celebrate 100 Days?

But why is 100 Days of School such a big deal? It's a chance to celebrate how much our amazing preschoolers have learned and grown since the very first day! Teachers and coordinators used this exciting theme to make learning numbers a blast. Counting to 100, recognizing groups of 10 – it was all part of the celebration!

Plus, reaching 100 days is like reaching a mini-milestone! It's roughly halfway through the school year (around 180 days total). That's right, we're officially on the downhill race to summer break!

Preschoolers weren't the only ones celebrating!

While we focused on this article on our fantastic preschoolers, it's important to note that some of our elementary classes also used the 100-day theme for creative learning experiences. For example, our third graders flexed their writing muscles by imagining themselves as 100 years old! Read a sample at the end of this issue!

Let's celebrate how much ALL of us have learned and grown so far this year! Here's to being 100 Days Smarter & Prouder!



WA Celebrates Women All Month Long!

Did you know? March 8th is International Women's Day, a global celebration of women's achievements and a call for continued progress towards gender equality.

Here at Washington Academy, we went above and beyond a single day of recognition! Throughout the entire month of March, we embarked on a special project to honor the incredible women in our school community.

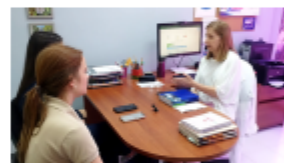
Student Voices Take Center Stage

Each morning during announcements, students from 10th and 11th Grade had the opportunity to share their perspectives. Some read heartfelt letters dedicated to all women, while others presented insightful reports based on interviews with a remarkable group of working women at our school: Mili, Gianna, Mónica, María Elena, Gina, Carmen Elena, Yajaira, and Luisa. These interviews, guided by their IBDP CAS teacher, offered a glimpse into the diverse experiences and valuable contributions of women in various roles within Washington Academy.

A Sweet Gesture of Appreciation

On International Women's Day itself, our 11th graders went the extra mile! They baked delicious homemade cookies and presented them as a small token of appreciation to all the amazing working women who keep our school running smoothly.

This month-long celebration served as a powerful reminder of the strength, dedication, and positive impact women have on our school community. We are proud to celebrate their achievements and empower the next generation of female leaders at Washington Academy!



WA Shines at Academia Merici's Track and Field Cup!

On Saturday, March 9th, WA's talented young athletes took the track by storm at the Academia Merici's Track and Field Cup!

A huge congratulations to all our participants and winners! Your dedication and countless hours of practice were on full display!

We're also incredibly grateful to our coaches, our PE Teacher and Department Head, for their hard work and guidance in making this event a success.

Now, let's celebrate our podium finishers!

Mini Division

40 Meters:

1st Place: Ma Victoria Ortega

2nd Place: Manuela Grillo

3rd Place: Ingrid Benedetti

Relay:

2nd Place: Mini Relay Team (Congratulations!)

Pre-Infant A Division

Long Jump:

3rd Place: Angelina Ha - Keep leaping high, Angelina!

Shot Put:

1st Place: Miranda Juncal - Showing off that throwing power, Miranda!

3rd Place: Elena Bennedetti - Great work, Elena!

Relay:

2nd Place: Pre-Infant A Relay Team (Way to go!)

Pre-Infant B Division

60 Meters:

1st Place: Amanda Ubieta - Blazing past the competition, Amanda!

2nd Place: Ana Margarita Naranjo

Shot Put:

2nd Place: Ana Margarita Naranjo

Long Jump:

1st Place: Amanda Ubieta - Double gold for Amanda!

2nd Place: Ivanka Radesca

Relay:

1st Place: Pre-Infant B Relay Team - Champions!

Infant Division

80 Meters:

1st Place: Fabiana Tavares

2nd Place: Andreina Moreno

Long Jump:

1st Place: Fabiana Tavares - Taking home another gold medal!

Relay:

1st Place: Infant Relay Team - Fantastic job!

We're so proud of each and every one of our WA athletes! Keep up the fantastic work!



A Sneak Peek into Our 10th Graders' MYP Personal Projects!

Throughout March, a group of our 10th graders showcased the amazing results of their MYP Personal Projects! These projects are a chance for students to explore their passions and develop important skills like research, communication, and critical thinking. Let's take a look at a few of the incredible presentations that took place:



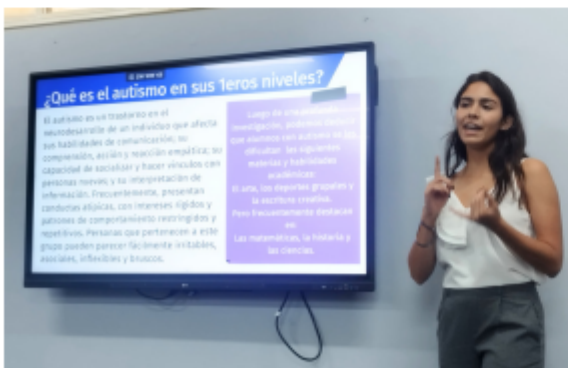
Mariángel Gómez brought the magic of inclusion to the covered court theater on March 12th at 4:30 pm. She wrote, produced, and directed an inclusive adaptation of **The Wizard of Oz!** Imagine Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion all speaking their lines in English alongside American sign language. With a cast of around 20 actors, Mariángel's play lasted 30 minutes and was a heartwarming example of creative expression for all.



Music filled the air on March 13th at the covered court theater from 4:30 to 6:00 pm thanks to Carlota Ledezma. Her project, **"Make Venezuela the Soundtrack of Your Life,"** was a personal exploration of her love for the traditional Venezuelan harp. Carlota not only played beautifully, but she also hired a group of musicians to join her! The cuatro, maracas, and even an electric guitar added depth to the sound. A special guest, professional singer Rumi Olivo, captivated the audience with traditional Venezuelan criollo music. The evening ended with delicious Venezuelan treats and a chance for the audience to request their favorite songs!



Caridad Guerrero took a different approach, presenting an informative talk for teachers on March 19th at 9:00 am in the multipurpose room. Titled **"Findings on Neurodiversity in the School Setting,"** Caridad's project stemmed from a personal desire to raise awareness. Her talk covered ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, and Autism, providing teachers with practical strategies to create inclusive classrooms for students with diverse learning needs. The talk even included valuable tips applicable to all students, making it a win-win for everyone!



A big congratulations to Mariángel, Carlota, Caridad, and all the 10th graders who participated! Their dedication and hard work were truly inspiring. All the other 10th graders will have their chance to present their project in the MYP Personal Project Exhibit, coming up May 23rd!

Valentina Lopez 38

CELEBRATING 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

When I'm 100 years old...

I would like to walk by my self.

I would like to have grandkids.

I would like that all things that I do were by myself.

I would like to have money but be kind with the poor people like always.

I would like that my sister and brother stay there for me and me to them.

I would like that my family dad and mom of course have health like my brother and sisters.



I would like a big family

I would like that my teachers have health

I would like that all

new things that I learn in the school don't go

I would like to live with my friends

Hello Washington! Volume 3
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WA's February: Field Trips, Friendship & Founder's Day!

WA Picnic: A Roaring Success!

What a fantastic way to kick off Spirit Week! The Washington Academy Picnic on February 4th was a resounding success, bringing together our amazing school community for a fun-filled day.

Held from 10 am to 4 pm, the picnic served as the perfect launchpad for a week brimming with school pride. Families, faculty, staff, and friends enjoyed delicious food from vendors, from classic hamburgers and pizzas to delicious Mexican and shawarma options! The covered court and soccer field transformed into hubs of community, buzzing with laughter as children bounced on castles, played on the foosball and air hockey tables, and emerged with dazzling face paint creations.

The picnic was all about creating lasting memories and fostering a strong sense of community. Families enjoyed spreading out on blankets or using the provided tables to share meals, laughter, and games (don't forget, board games are always welcome!). The music set the perfect scene for a relaxing and joyful day.



We want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped make this event possible, especially SPRAW for their fantastic organization and food and game selection. The Grand Raffle was a hit, with all proceeds benefiting our beloved Kathy Tugendhat Library.



Thanks to everyone who came out and celebrated our school spirit! Remember, keeping the event space clean is a team effort. A big thank you to those who helped us leave the grounds pristine for the next day's activities.



The Washington Academy Picnic truly embodied the spirit of our school – a place where we come together as a family, celebrate our differences, and create lasting memories. We can't wait for the next one!

Spirit Week

What a week! We recently celebrated our annual Spirit Week, a time to unleash our school pride and create lasting memories. This year, the Student Council planned a fantastic week filled with themed days, activities, and pure school spirit!

From Pajama Day to Sports Day, every day offered a unique way to show our enthusiasm. Students strutted in pajamas, channeled their inner athletes, and even brought their favorite characters to life!

Among the daily themes we had:

Pajama & Movie Day: Cozy PJs and a fun movie made for a relaxing and enjoyable day.



Color Day & Beach Bash: A splash of color filled the Preschool hallways, while the rest of the school enjoyed a beach-themed rally, and High School organized Washington's 2nd Family Feud!



Kathy Tugendhat Day: We honored the legacy of Washington Academy's founder with a day of cowboy/cowgirl attire, a pet parade, and other fun activities. Students engaged with Kathy's values in unique ways. Kathy believed in teamwork and community, and all the SW activities fostered just that. The adorable Pet Parade was a heartwarming reminder of the kindness and compassion she embodied. Spirit Week showed us that even though she's no longer with us, her spirit lives on in every Washington student, teacher, and staff member.



Talent Show, Twin, Favorite Character Day & Murder Mystery: Students showcased their talents and creativity in the talent show, while twins (and even triplets!) doubled the fun from 2nd to 12th Grade! In Preschool our students came dressed as their favorite characters, and in High School students had fun with a Clue-inspired rally across campus.



Sports Day & Early Dismissal: School spirit soared as students donned shirts with team colors, participating in a sports parade, games, and competitions.



A Huge Thank You to Our Amazing Student Council!

This fantastic week wouldn't have been possible without the incredible efforts of our 2023-2024 Student Council. From the dedicated members who jumped right in after their HMUN trip, to everyone who brought their creativity and enthusiasm, a heartfelt thank you! Your hard work brought our school closer, fostered a sense of community, and created memories that will last a lifetime. Especially touching was seeing you dance the hokey pokey with the preschoolers – a truly joyful way to honor Kathy Tugendhat's legacy.

Washington Academy – WE ARE ONE!

This Spirit Week proved that our school spirit is alive and well! Thank you to the Student Council, faculty, staff, families, and of course, our incredible students for making it such a memorable week!





Preschoolers Tie-Dye Their Way to School Spirit!

Just before our electrifying Spirit Week, our amazing Preschool Room Mothers teamed up with teachers and our Coordinator to create a tie-dye extravaganza for our youngest students!

On February 1st, the PK, K, and 1st graders got messy and creative, making tie-dye masterpieces! These creative shirts, featuring our very own school initials, were perfect for showing school spirit during Sports Day, the grand finale of Spirit Week on February 9th.

The results were tie-dye-lightful. The shirts came out beautifully, and the fun didn't stop there! Our dedicated Room Mothers even went the extra mile and created shirts for the teachers and staff too!

A huge shout-out to our Room Mothers for bringing this colorful project to life and fostering school spirit in our preschoolers. We can't wait to see what creative ideas they come up with next!



Francisco de Vitoria University Visits WA!

On February 1st, our very own campus turned international. All while a whirlwind of activities filled the day, we were lucky to host representatives from Francisco de Vitoria University, a prestigious private institution all the way from Madrid, Spain!

These friendly faces crossed the Atlantic specifically to chat with our curious 11th graders. The talk wasn't just a virtual postcard from Spain, though. The Francisco de Vitoria team came prepared to delve into the exciting world of their academic offerings! They shed light on the programs they offer, the path to admission, and most importantly, answered all the burning questions our 11th graders had about their future careers.

Junior year is a prime time to explore options. By connecting with international institutions, our students get a head start on planning their academic futures. They discover new programs, gain insights into global career trends, and most importantly, build the confidence to explore the world with their education.

Judging by the lively Q&A session, it seems our Juniors were eager to explore possibilities!



4th Graders Take a Trip Through the Digestive System!



On Thursday, February 1st, our awesome 4th graders embarked on a fascinating journey – a trip through their very own digestive system! But this wasn't your typical bus tour. This expedition involved science, teamwork, and a whole lot of fun! Their mission was to crack the digestive code! The goal? To understand how our bodies break down food and use it for energy.



Our young scientists learned about two key players in this process: mechanical and chemical digestion. Imagine chomping down on your favorite snack. That's mechanical digestion in action! Your teeth mash and grind the food into smaller pieces.



Now, it was time to get hands-on! In a super cool experiment, students placed food in a ziplock bag (representing the mouth) and added some water (like saliva). They then became human blenders, squishing and mixing the food, mimicking chewing. This yummy mush was then transformed into a "bolus," just like the food entering the stomach.



The stomach is where things get interesting! Here, both mechanical and chemical digestion take place. Just like in our experiment, students added pretend digestive juices to further break down the food. This mixture became "chyme," ready for the next part of its adventure.

The chyme then traveled to a special tube with a sticky surface, representing the small intestine. Imagine all the important nutrients being absorbed through these sticky walls, giving our bodies the energy to run, jump, and play!



Finally, the leftover material entered cups symbolizing the large intestine. Here, water is absorbed, and solid waste forms. This waste is then eliminated from the body, just like in our experiment.

This interactive activity gave our 4th graders a fantastic visual representation of the digestive system's incredible journey. They learned that even though some parts of digestion might seem "gross," they're all essential for keeping our bodies healthy and strong!

A huge thank you to our 4th Grade Science teacher, for guiding our young scientists on this exciting exploration of the digestive system! Their enthusiasm and creativity made learning about digestion a blast!

6th & 7th Graders Dish Up Delicious Health!

Get ready to have your taste buds tantalized and your healthy-eating game leveled up! Our amazing 6th and 7th graders, led by the MYP Physical and Health Education teachers, completed in the month of February a project called "Healthy Living." It was a culinary adventure that combined creativity, knowledge, and, of course, deliciousness!

Our 7th graders showcased their inner pastry chefs, whipping up healthy desserts that were both tasty and good for you.

The 6th graders tackled the most important meal of the day, crafting healthy breakfast options to fuel up your mornings with a very special ingredient: microgreens! They didn't just cook, they planted and nurtured a variety of microgreens, tiny powerhouses packed with nutrients.

Each grade level held presentations, with separate events for our girls' and boys' groups. Before the culinary delights arrived, a student kicked things off by explaining what microgreens are and the characteristics of a healthy breakfast and dessert. Then, the fun began!

Organized into smaller teams, students presented their creations. They explained the ingredients, nutrients, and total calories, making healthy choices easy and delicious. They even showed off the materials and procedures needed to whip up these healthy wonders at home!

But the learning didn't stop there! Each team also explained why their dish was considered healthy and how they incorporated the attributes of the IB Learner Profile into their project. Talk about well-rounded young chefs!

The 6th graders were particularly impressed with their microgreen mastery. They grew a diverse selection, including chia, kale, sunflower, radish, and even black bean microgreens! These tiny plants are packed with a nutritional punch, adding a vibrant touch and a boost of vitamins to any dish.

This project was a delicious success! It showcased the creativity, knowledge, and teamwork of our students – all while promoting a healthy lifestyle. Who knows, maybe you'll be inspired to create some healthy culinary masterpieces of your own!

Look for the 6th Grade digital breakfast recipe book at the end of this issue!





Spreading Love and Friendship: A Heartfelt Valentine's Day at WA!

This Valentine's Day, buzzed with love and friendship from Pre-K all the way to 12th Grade! Here's a glimpse into the heartwarming festivities:

Seniors Take the Lead!

Our fantastic Class of 2024 (Promo 34) spread the love and entrepreneurial spirit with a two-week fundraising sale. With the support of their families and our amazing Room Mothers, they offered a sweet selection: heart-shaped popsicles, cuddly teddy bears, charming necklaces, delicious cookies and brownies, serenades, and beautiful roses. They even added a cupid service, delivering love letters within the school and to other Caracas private schools! On Valentine's Day itself, a dedicated delivery committee ensured smiles bloomed across the faces of students, teachers, and staff.





Preschoolers Get Crafty and Curious!

Our littlest learners celebrated love and friendship through engaging activities. They donned their creative hats, decorated heart-shaped cookies, even practiced their English by writing step-by-step instructions on how they made their cookie masterpieces. Science took center stage too, with preschoolers experimenting by dropping Skittles and marshmallows into water, soda, and vinegar. First graders joined the fun, recording their observations and crafting adorable headbands, valentine letters, and even "name caterpillars" with heart-shaped letters.



Elementary Spreads the Love with Cards and Kindness!

Elementary students channeled their artistic talents to create beautiful and meaningful valentine cards. Their heartfelt messages surely warmed the hearts of their recipients!



A Teddy Bear Tradition!

Kindergartners brought Valentine's week to a delightful close on Friday, February 16th, with a beloved tradition: a Teddy Bear and Movie Day! Cuddling their favorite stuffed companions and enjoying a heartwarming movie – the perfect way to end a week filled with love and friendship!

History Came Alive: 7th Graders Deliver Engaging Yo Caudillo Presentations!

Get ready for a trip through time! From February 19th to 23rd, our 7th graders transformed their classrooms and multipurpose room into historical hotspots. This wasn't your average history lesson – it was the culmination of the exciting MYP Individuals and Societies' Yo Caudillo project.

What's Yo Caudillo?

Imagine stepping into the shoes of a powerful leader! In *Yo Caudillo*, students did just that. Each received an assigned historical leader, from the inspiring likes of Mahatma Gandhi to the controversial figures like Adolf Hitler.



Dress Up, Speak Up!

The fun didn't stop there. Students came to class transformed! Dressed in period attire, they embodied their assigned leader. But the real test wasn't the costume – it was the first-person presentations. Facing their classmates as historical interviewers, students answered questions about their leadership style, the challenges they faced, and the impact they left on their countries.

Our MYP Coordinator kicked off all presentation by explaining the MYP assessment criteria. After this, students introduced their characters and tackled questions like:

- "What kind of leader were you?"
- "How did you rise to power?" (democratically elected or a self-proclaimed leader?)
- Imagine your country without you. How would it be different?
- Knowing what you know now, what would you change about your time in power?"

These thought-provoking questions pushed students to think critically about historical figures and the complex decisions they made. Imagine having to justify your actions as a historical leader – talk about pressure!

Whether it was Winston Churchill's wartime determination or Salvador Allende's fight for social justice, *Yo Caudillo* brought history to life.

Our 7th graders not only learned about these international and national iconic figures, but also developed valuable research, communication, and critical thinking skills. It was a week of learning, imagination, and a whole lot of "living history!"



10th Graders Visit UCAB!

On February 2nd, our 10th graders and a group of teachers visited Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (UCAB) to see the Techo Verde (green roof), a thesis project done by UCAB students. It is called green roof because a garden was built on it to help improve the graduate studies building's overheating issues. Solar panels were installed to provide electricity to the rooftop and some classrooms in the building. This green roof currently lowers the building's core temperature 5 degrees celsius, decreasing the need for air conditioning. After the green roof tour, the students were invited to explore the university's new areas. A total of five new areas have been opened in the last few years, and our students had the opportunity to visit them all with a guided presentation. These are: ESportsUCAB (game programming and developing), Academia Costura+Moda (fashion and design), Academia LAGA (gastronomy and cuisine), and the Prototipista e Impresión 3D laboratory (prototyping and 3D printing).



They also visited 3 other labs from the Architecture Department: one for materials and architectural technology, one for digital media, and one for experiential learning. These laboratories are equipped with cutting-edge technology and equipment and are available to the more than 300 students enrolled in the architecture program at the university, as well as to the rest of the UCAB student and faculty community.

In addition, 10th graders also visited art exhibits and the main library. Students arrived at UCAB at 8 am, and a tour that was meant to last just one hour, extended until noon. This visit to Techo Verde, as a field trip organized by IBMYP (International Baccalaureate's Middle Years Programme) Biology and Action & Service, taught our students about sustainability, care for the environment, and about how to maximize resources we already have. Furthermore, it showed students that it is possible to turn projects (MYP's Personal Project or DP's Extended Essay) into realities that impact our communities.

8th Graders Explore Cuevas del Indio

On Thursday, February 15th, our intrepid 8th Grade set off on an exciting adventure to Cuevas del Indio, a hidden gem right here in Caracas! Organized by our dedicated school counselor, this wasn't your ordinary field trip. It was an outdoor expedition designed to build teamwork and social-emotional skills.

Led by their trusty guides – including their counselor, MYP Design, Math, and PE teachers – the 8th graders donned their spelunking spirit (well, maybe comfy shoes!) and ventured into the caverns. They explored a fascinating section of the caves, uncovering the secrets hidden beneath the surface.

But adventure doesn't run on an empty stomach! After their subterranean exploration, the crew emerged into the park's gardens for a well-deserved snack break. Here, surrounded by nature, they had a chance to chat about their discoveries and bond with their classmates.

With a special shout-out to the 6 amazing mothers and 1 fantastic father who volunteered their time to join the trip, this field trip was a resounding success! It offered a unique opportunity for our 8th graders to connect with nature, each other, and themselves. We can't wait to hear all about their subterranean escapades!





Lower Elementary's February Student of the Month Award

Every first Friday of the month, our Central Courtyard transforms into a place of celebration for our 2nd through 4th graders. We honor students who have demonstrated outstanding effort throughout the previous month with the Student of the Month Award.



Julieta
Luces

Francisco
Calvo

Guillermo
Ramírez

María Victoria
Urdaneta

Andrea
Costa

Daniela
Goncalves

Ann Marie
Kasabdjí

Martina
Archila

Julieta
Pérez Prada

This award goes beyond grades. We recognize students who have consistently pushed themselves to improve in any area, big or small. It's about dedication, perseverance, and a love for learning!

Grade level teachers and the Lower Elementary Coordinator nominate students each week based on their observations. Final selections are made at the month's end.

The Student of the Month Award is about acknowledging the journey, not just the destination. We celebrate students who strive to be better than they were yesterday, inspiring them to reach their full potential!

Cultivating Values, Building Character: The Spotlight is on Responsibility!

This February, our amazing Counseling Department focused on a key value that helps us become well-rounded individuals.



And guess what? It was responsibility!

Throughout the month, responsibility took center stage. During morning announcements, we heard inspiring stories about responsible students who made a difference. In classrooms across all grade levels, from our energetic elementary schoolers to our focused high schoolers, responsibility became a springboard for engaging lessons and activities.

But the learning didn't stop at school! We also sent out helpful tips to parents, offering guidance on how to nurture responsibility at home. After all, working together as a school community is the best way to help our students thrive.

So why is responsibility such a big deal? Because it's the foundation for so many other important skills! It teaches us to be accountable for our actions, manage our time effectively, and contribute positively to our environment. When we raise children who understand the importance of responsibility, we're setting them up for success in school, in their relationships, and in life!

Stay tuned for next month's value reveal! We can't wait to see what positive character trait shines next!

Empowered Parents, Empowered Teens: Drug Prevention Talk Recap!

On Thursday, February 1st, our school partnered with the NGO *Venezuela Libre de Drogas* Foundation to bring our parents a powerful presentation on:

- Understanding drug trends
- Keeping our teens safe

The informative and interactive session, held at 8:00 am, addressed critical topics relevant to all parents. Our guest speaker, a representative from *Venezuela Libre de Drogas*, shed light on the current landscape of drug use among teenagers.

Key takeaways from the session included:

- **Understanding current drug trends:** The talk explored the types of drugs teenagers may encounter and the evolving trends in substance abuse.
- **Identifying risk factors:** We learned about the warning signs to watch for in your teen that could indicate potential drug use.
- **Building protective factors:** The discussion focused on how to strengthen your teen's resilience and equip them to make healthy choices.
- **Navigating the effects of drug use:** The speaker provided valuable insights into the physical and mental health consequences of drug use in teenagers.
- **Mastering assertive communication:** We learned effective communication techniques for fostering open and honest dialogue with your teen about drugs.

By equipping our parents with knowledge and communication tools, we can work together to create a safe and supportive environment for our teens.

Remember, open communication is key! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our school's counselor or the school administration.



Decoding Division: Helping Hands for 5th Grade Parents!

Did you know that there's more than one way to conquer division? On February 1st, our very own 5th Grade Math Department Head and 5th Grade Teacher, held a special workshop to shed light on this very topic!

Here's the scoop: the way we teach division at Washington Academy (using the American method) might differ from how parents learned it in school (likely the European method, common in Venezuelan schools). This can lead to some confusion at homework time for both our 5th graders and their parents!

To bridge this gap, their teacher offered a fantastic workshop, "Understanding Your Child's Division Homework." In it, they unpacked the American method, making it clear and easy to follow.

But that's not all! The workshop also equipped parents with valuable tips and tricks to support their children's math journey at home. Now, you'll be able to confidently:

- Grasp your child's division assignments: No more feeling lost deciphering!
- Become a whiz at answering their questions: Empower your child's learning by providing clear explanations.
- Boost their math confidence: Your support builds a strong foundation for future math success!

By working together, parents and teachers can create a fantastic learning environment for our 5th graders. If you missed the workshop but are eager to learn more, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's math teacher. Remember, there's no wrong way to ask for help, and together we can ensure all our students become division superstars!

