

Hello Washington! Volume 3 Issue # 9 May-June



A Blast from the Past: Celebrating Caracas de Antaño 2023-2024!!

On May 31st, our school transformed into a vibrant snapshot of Venezuelan history with our annual Caracas de Antaño celebration! This cherished tradition, running since 1983, is a chance for our 6th graders to become not just students, but historians and icons!

The day unfolded like a captivating story. Our 6th graders, dressed in period attire (think fancy suits and dazzling dresses!), took center stage. They'd spent the year researching and creating presentations on legendary Venezuelans. From Teresa Carreño, the musical maestro, to Francisco de Miranda, the revolutionary leader, the booths buzzed with fascinating facts and creative displays.



But the learning didn't stop there! After their presentations, the students showcased their moves with a delightful performance of traditional Venezuelan dances. The lively music filled the air, making everyone want to join in!

And of course, no celebration is complete without delicious food! Students, faculty, staff, 5th and 6th Grade parents all feasted on a delectable spread of Venezuelan treats. We're talking chicha, sweet cocada, crispy churros, and so much more!

Caracas de Antaño is more than just a fun day; it's a deep dive into Venezuelan culture and a testament to our students' dedication. They honed their research, public speaking, and presentation skills, all while learning about the incredible figures who shaped their country.

Speaking of incredible, did we mention the costumes? They were phenomenal! The stands overflowed with creativity, and the Communications team's live stream captured the infectious energy of the traditional dances.

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing students, faculty, staff, and parent volunteers who made this event unforgettable. Here's a special shout-out to our 6th graders for their hard work and enthusiasm!

And a round of applause for the students who brought Venezuelan history to life!



Julieta Alvarez
Teresa Carreño



Michelle Buyat
Luisa Richter



Santiago Casas
Alfonso "Chico" Carrasquel



Leonardo Chacín
Oscar Yanis



Andrew Chen
Juan Vicente Gómez



Da In Chon
Carolina Herrera



Fabian De Oliveira
Joaquín Crespo



Belén García
Lya Imber



Alejandro Jara
Juan Félix Sánchez



Isabela Mamán
Josefa Camejo



Ana Margarita Naranjo
Jacinto Convit



Victoria Revenga
Rómulo Gallegos



Sebastián Serenelli
Johnny Cecotto



Amanda Ubieto
Oswaldo Vigas



Matías Vázquez
Rafael Santana



Simón Zepa
Teodoro Capriles



Alejandro Álvarez
Simón Rodríguez



Julián Álvarez
Simón Bolívar



Helena Bacopulos
Sofía Imber



Ignacio Capellán
Antonio Guzmán Blanco



Nicolás Chacín
Simón Díaz



Lauren Jiménez
José Gregorio Hernández



Asdrúbal Mata
Manuel Palacio Fajardo



Julián Mendoza
Dr. Félix Oletta López



Andrea Morales
Manuel Cabré



Martina Oliveros
Margot Benacerraf



Ivanka Radescia
Jesús Soto



Rodrigo Riverol
José Antonio Páez



Victoria Sandoval
Rafael Urdaneta



Gerard Servat
Marcos Pérez Jiménez



Lorenzo Simon
Francisco Fajardo



Luis Sue
José Félix Ribas



Ricardo Vieira
Francisco de Miranda



Our Students Take Center Stage at MUN Conferences!

Throughout May and June, a dedicated group of WA students from 6th Grade upwards took their talents to the world stage – well, the Model United Nations (MUN) stage, that is!

MUN conferences are incredible events where students act as delegates from different countries, tackling real-world issues through debate, negotiation, and teamwork. It's an amazing opportunity to develop research, public speaking, and critical thinking skills, all while making new friends from other schools.

Our WA representatives were busy bees, participating in MUNs held across Caracas in different private schools, typically running from Friday to Sunday (with a few exceptions). Here's a closer look at their impressive journey:

May MUN Madness:

- **CLAYMUN** (Colegio Henry Clay, May 3-5): Congratulations to Martín Guerrero, Luis Daniel Sue, Ricardo Vieira, Gerard Servat, Matías Leoni, Ricardo Vieira, and Andrew Chen for representing WA! We're especially proud of Gerard Servat for winning Outstanding Delegate and Matías Leoni for receiving an Honorable Mention.
- **VIMUN** (Colegio Santiago de León, May 4-5): Sofía Archila, Martina Ubieta, Paula Spuches, Martín Guerrero, and Mariangeles Gómez showcased their diplomatic skills at VIMUN held in Ciudad Banesco.
- **CIAMUN** (Colegio Integral El Avila, May 17-18): Martina Oliveros, Matías Leoni, Andrew Chen, Gerard Servat, and Angel Inciarte aced their roles at CIAMUN. A round of applause for Gerard (Best Delegate!), Matías (Outstanding Delegate!), Martina, Andrew, and Ángel for receiving Verbal Mentions.
- **SIMUN** (Colegio San Ignacio, May 17-19): Mariangeles Gómez, Martina Ubieta, Adriana Sanchez, Sofía Archila, Martín Guerrero, and Paula Spuches tackled global issues at SIMUN.

June MUN Victories:

- **CREYMUN** (Colegio Cristo Rey, June 7-9): Gerard Servat, Angel Inciarte, Matías Leoni, Martín Guerrero, Ricardo Vieira, and Andrew Chen continued their MUN conquering at CREYMUN. All three musketeers – Gerard, Matías, and Angel – received Honorable Mentions, with Martín earning a Verbal Mention.
- **LCIMUN** (Colegio Los Campitos, June 13-15): The dynamic duo of Angel Inciarte and Matías Leoni represented WA at LCIMUN. Matías shined once again, taking home the Outstanding Delegate award, while Angel received a Verbal Mention.





WA Volleyball Serves Up Second Place Finish!

A big congratulations to our fantastic Infantil girls' volleyball team who brought home an impressive second place trophy at the recent Colegio Los Campitos Volleyball Cup held towards the end of May!

These dedicated athletes – Andreina Moreno, Emilia Anzola, Emiliana Guánchez, Alessia Hernández, Isabella Lozinski, Samantha Abecasis, Ema Ramírez, Clarisa Sogbi, Mía Rojas, Aranssa Araque, and Gabriela San Llorente – displayed incredible teamwork, skill, and determination throughout the tournament.

We are incredibly proud of their accomplishment and the fighting spirit they brought to the court. Their hard work and dedication to the sport truly paid off!

Congratulations again, ladies!



Washington Academy Triumphs at Track and Field!



The Washington Academy community is bursting with pride after our incredible student athletes dominated at the Colegio Simon Bolivar Track and Field Cup on Saturday, June 1st!

Our amazing young competitors brought home a staggering 33 medals across all age categories, showcasing their talent, dedication, and pure athletic spirit. From the Mini Category all the way up to the Juniors, WA was a force to be reckoned with!

Congratulations to our Medal Winners!



A special shout-out goes to our medalists who brought home the hardware:

- **Mini Category:** Ignacio García (3 medals), Ignacio Tudares, Nicolás Martínez (2 medals), Santino Serenelli, and Miranda Frangie.
- **Pre-Infants A:** Matías Araujo (3 medals), Anabella Chen, Felipe Berroterán, Alessandro Baldini (2 medals), Miranda Juncal, Elena Benedetti, and Angelina Ha.
- **Pre-Infants B:** Andrew Chen (2 medals)
- **Infants:** Martina Ubieta (2 medals), Victoria Bacopulos (2 medals), Fabiana Tavares (2 medals), Martín Guerrero, Matías Leoni, Sebastián Akinin, Ema Ramírez, Michele Volpe, and Nicola Santini.
- **Juniors:** Caridad Guerrero (2 medals), Andreina Moreno, Fabiana Gallo, and Federica Machado.



These victories wouldn't be possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated PE Department and all the fantastic parents who cheered on our athletes. We are incredibly proud of the entire Washington Academy team, both on and off the track!



Harvard Model UN 2025 Awaits!



Get ready, WA! Next year, Washington Academy is returning to the biggest stage in Model UN: the #72 Annual Harvard Model United Nations in Boston, Massachusetts! This prestigious conference, taking place from January 30th to February 2nd, 2025, brings together over 4,000 students from 100 high schools and 50 countries.

Remember our incredible performance this year? We secured a 43.33% triumph percentage (14 out of 33 points!), the best ratio among Venezuelan schools, and racked up awards in 7 out of 11 committees!

This year, we're building on that success. Led by our amazing faculty advisors – María Antonieta Fernández (Psychologist), Alejandro Rivas (Economist), Tomás Parra (Business Administrator), and the new addition, Enrique Leizaola (Production Engineer and Faculty of MetroMUN 2024) – we're preparing a team to shine.

Here's some skills that participating students expect to develop or sharpen:

Hone your English speaking and writing, become a confident leader and negotiator, develop your public speaking skills, and conquer stage fright. Learn to be adaptable, solve problems, manage your time, and build lasting friendships while stepping outside your comfort zone.

The Journey Begins...

The selection process for the 17-member team is already underway! In May, students applied through a rigorous process, including paperwork, activities, and formal interviews. The lucky few, including returning HMUN veterans and exciting new faces, were announced on June 24th.



Meet the Team!

Leading the charge is Head Delegate Sofia Cartolano (11th Grade).

Joining her are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Aiskel Salazar (9th Grade) | • Elias Abilahoud (8th Grade) |
| • Alejandro Vásquez (8th Grade) | • Fabiana Berroterán (11th Grade) |
| • Almudena López (8th Grade) | • Fernando De Ornelas (11th Grade) |
| • Ana Elisa Haydon (11th Grade) | • Juan Diego Peña (11th Grade) |
| • Camila Hernández (11th Grade) | • Paula Spuches (8th Grade) |
| • Clementina Haydon (11th Grade) | • Sofia Archila (8th Grade) |
| • Daniela Youssef (11th Grade) | • Sofia Cases (11th Grade) |
| • Diego Ramírez (9th Grade) | • Valeska Hannawi (11th Grade) |



Follow the Journey!

Want to stay updated on our HMUN 2025 WA Delegation progress? Follow the team's dedicated Instagram account at @wa_hmun and keep an eye on our school's Instagram page at @washingttonacademy.ccs.

Let's cheer on our future diplomats as they prepare to conquer the world stage!



WA Debaters Make a Splash in Caracas!



Our very own Washington Academy Debate Team was recently created to embark on an exciting adventure – our first ever debate competition! Read on to learn about their journey and how you can be a part of the action next year.

The British School of Caracas (TBSC) invited us to join their prestigious COBIS Debate Championship, a competition known for challenging students to think critically and argue persuasively. This format involves two teams of four, aged 12 and above, debating a pre-determined motion.

Before the competition, on April 20th a group of our brave students attended a Debate Training Workshop hosted by TBSC. From the attendees a WA Debate Team was created.



Recognizing this fantastic opportunity, 7 brave WA students attended two special workshops. The first took place at TBSC on April 20th. From the workshop participants a WA Debate Team was created. The Team then took part of a second workshop led by Mr. Enrique Arriaga, a seasoned debater with three years of national and international experience. Under his guidance, our debaters honed their skills in constructing arguments, public speaking, and teamwork.

The Championship weekend (May 18th and 19th) was a whirlwind of activity! Our team, composed of five 7th graders and two 9th graders, competed in four intense debate rounds.



While they didn't take home the top prize this year, our Debate Team warriors impressed everyone with their grit and determination. They battled their way to the semifinals, ultimately falling to a strong team of older high school students. This is a testament to their hard work and the valuable lessons learned during training.



The experience was truly invaluable. Not only did our debaters gain invaluable competitive experience, but they also developed essential skills like public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork.

A huge round of applause for our amazing team members: Sofía Ferreira, Diego Ramirez (9th Grade); Aranssa Araque, Constanza Martins, Salim Frangie, Sebastián Araujo, and Santiago Ramírez (7th Grade). Your dedication and courage are inspiring!

This is just the beginning of the WA Debate Team's story. We are actively looking for new members to join us next year. If you're interested in developing your voice, sharpening your mind, and becoming a champion debater, be sure to look out for information about upcoming sign-ups!



Washington Academy Celebrates Moms and Dads in Style!

This past May and June, WA buzzed with activity as we celebrated two important holidays: Mother's Day and Father's Day. Our goal? To recognize and appreciate the amazing moms and dads in our school family!

Moms Take Center Stage

The festivities kicked off weeks before Mother's Day with our Pre-Kinder students preparing adorable oral presentations about their moms. They proudly shared these with their classmates and teachers.

On May 9th, the energy was high in the covered court as our Lower Elementary Coordinator hosted a special "Mom and Me Yoga Class" for 4th graders and their moms. This fun-filled session, led by a qualified yoga coach, was a fantastic way for moms and students to bond and get some exercise together.

Later that morning, 3rd graders and their moms joined in on a special Physical Education (PE) Class. The goal? To give moms a firsthand look at what a typical PE class is like for their children. Moms came prepared in their workout attire and had a blast participating in obstacle courses and other fun activities organized by our PE teachers.



The highlight of Mother's Day week was undoubtedly the traditional Mother's Day Concert. Pre-K through 1st Grade students, along with their mothers, grandmothers, and even some great-grandmothers, filled the covered court / theater. Dressed in their party best, the children sang their hearts out in English and Spanish. From classic favorites like "You Are My Sunshine" to heart-warming songs about moms, the concert was a true celebration of family. The beautifully decorated stage, courtesy of our dedicated Preschool Room Mothers, created a magical atmosphere.

After the concert, everyone enjoyed a delightful get-together with snacks and beverages in the beautifully decorated Preschool's Big Park. Our very own WA Photography Mom, Jeinny Depablos, generously offered her professional photography services. She captured beautiful pictures of students with their moms, creating lasting memories for families.

To wrap up Mother's Day week, 2nd graders celebrated with a Sports Day organized by our Lower Elementary Coordinator. Students and their moms came decked out in team colors, with some moms even rocking their own "Cool Mom's Club" t-shirts! The fun started with a Zumba warm-up, followed by a series of engaging activities like dressing up in costumes, balloon games, karaoke, and exciting obstacle courses. These activities were organized by our enthusiastic 10th graders, adding another layer of inter-school bonding.



Dads Get Their Due

Father's Day saw similar enthusiasm, with Pre-Kinder students once again preparing heartwarming presentations about their dads. With the help of our amazing Preschool Room Mothers, the little ones also created beautiful tie-dye t-shirts for their fathers on June 4th. These shirts were further personalized with the word "Dad" in iron-on vinyl, making them a truly special gift.

On Father's Day itself, all Preschool fathers were invited to join their children at school. Dads proudly sported their tie-dye t-shirts and comfy clothes, while students wore their matching shirts from Spirit Week. Divided into color-coded teams, dads and students participated in a fun-filled circuit of activities organized by the staff of Mi Guarimba Camp (MG).



A Huge Thank You!

These events were a resounding success, thanks to the tireless efforts of our teachers, staff, coordinators, room mothers, and of course, our amazing families! We look forward to creating more heartwarming memories like these in the future. Be sure to check out the pictures – they perfectly capture the joy of celebrating our Washington families!

10th Graders Shine at MYP Personal Project Showcase!



Congratulations to our fantastic 10th graders (IB MYP Year 5) who presented their culminating MYP Personal Projects on May 23rd and 24th! This project is a chance for students to delve into a topic that truly ignites their passion, conducting a self-directed, in-depth exploration that blends learning with taking action.

Why is the MYP Personal Project so important?

This project offers a wealth of benefits for our students:

- It hones a range of essential skills, from research and communication to critical thinking, creativity, self-management, and time management. These skills are crucial for success in both academics and beyond.
- Students get to choose their own project topic, allowing them to explore their unique passions and interests. This fosters a deep sense of ownership and motivation in their learning journey.
- The project allows students to apply the knowledge and approaches to learning (ATL) they've developed throughout the MYP program. It's a fantastic opportunity to see how these skills come together in a real-world context.
- Completing a long-term, independent project is a true confidence builder. Students gain a powerful sense of accomplishment and a belief in their ability to tackle any challenge that comes their way.
- The project encourages students to reflect on the learning process itself, and how they can continue to learn and grow throughout their lives.

Overall, the MYP Personal Project is a valuable experience that equips students with important skills and knowledge while fostering a love of learning.

Curious to see the amazing work our 10th graders accomplished? Head over to our website's link https://aw.edu.ve/proyecto_personal/ to explore project titles and abstracts.

Videos of the presentations are still being edited and published, but some are already available! We'll keep you posted on when all the videos are ready.

This year's MYP Personal Project presentations were truly outstanding. A big thank you goes to our dedicated IB MYP Coordinator and our amazing IB MYP PP Coordinator and students for all their hard work and organization.

The culmination of the MYP Personal Projects also marked a special milestone for our 10th graders. To celebrate their transition to the IB Diploma Programme, parents organized a wonderful toast with appetizers – a perfect way to recognize their accomplishments!



Unveiling the Mysteries of Knowledge: A Look Back at the 11th Grade TOK Exhibition!



On June 5th, the Washington Academy (WA) community was buzzing with intellectual curiosity as our bright 11th graders from the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) held their Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Exhibition. This unique event, held in the preschool amphitheater, showcased the culmination of their exploration into the very nature of knowledge itself.

The TOK Exhibition is a chance for students to go beyond textbooks and delve into the real world. Each student tackled one of 35 thought-provoking prompts related to TOK themes. But the twist? They had to connect this prompt to three real objects. Imagine using a family dinner to explore the role of culture in shaping knowledge, or analyzing Google's database to understand the impact of information access!

The creativity on display was truly inspiring. Students presented objects as diverse as HeLa cells (raising questions about scientific objectivity), the Hydrogen Bomb (prompting discussions about ethics and knowledge), and even Yuval Noah Harari's book "Sapiens" (exploring our place in the human story). These objects became springboards for engaging presentations and discussions.

Why is the TOK Exhibition important? It's not just about cool objects! This project is designed to hone critical thinking skills like never before. By analyzing real-world examples, students learn to question assumptions, identify biases, and ultimately, become independent thinkers ready to tackle life's biggest questions.

Faculty, staff, and students all came together to celebrate this intellectual journey. It was a fantastic opportunity to gain insights into the TOK curriculum and witness firsthand the incredible critical thinking skills our 11th graders are developing.

A big congratulations to all the participants! Your curiosity and creativity were truly inspiring. We can't wait to see what intellectual adventures await you next year!



Future Engineers on Display: Simple Machines Exhibition a Huge Hit!

On Wednesday, June 12th, the covered court at WA transformed into a showcase of ingenuity as our amazing 3rd graders hosted their annual Simple Machines Exhibition! This year's event, the culmination of their biggest science project, did not disappoint.

For weeks, these young scientists, guided by their dedicated teacher, have been delving into the fascinating world of levers, wheels and axles, pulleys, wedges, screws, and inclined planes. But this wasn't just about memorizing terms – it was about putting knowledge into action!



Working in groups of 3, students channeled their creativity to design and build incredible compound machines – machines that combine two or more simple machines – to solve real-world problems. Imagine watering plants from afar, crushing aluminum cans for recycling, sorting objects with ease, or delivering materials effortlessly. These are just a few of the clever inventions that have been displayed over the years!

The exhibition wasn't just about the end product; the journey itself fostered valuable skills in our 3rd graders. They honed their public speaking abilities, flexed their creative muscles, learned to work independently and collaboratively, tackled problems head-on, and developed reflective thinking habits.

From mind-boggling LEGO roller coasters and functional drawbridge models to fascinating parking lot designs, bubble gum delivery systems, and even a miniature skateboard park, the variety and ingenuity on display were truly inspiring!

A huge thank you to our fantastic 3rd graders, their supportive families, and the dedicated science teacher for making this event such a success. Students from all grade levels (PK-12!), teachers, staff, and even 3rd Grade parents were treated to this amazing exhibition, leaving everyone impressed by the power of science and the boundless creativity of our young minds.

Be sure to check out the pictures to see some of these incredible inventions up close!



10th Graders Set Sail with Miranda: A Recap of the Wonderful 10th Grade Play

On Wednesday, June 19th, the energy at Washington Academy was electric! Our talented 10th graders presented their highly anticipated, student-driven play under the expert guidance of their IB MYP Spanish Teacher. This annual tradition is a culmination of months of work and dedication, and this year did not disappoint!

The play, an original musical based on the writings of Venezuelan playwright Karin Valecillos, took audiences on a thrilling journey with the legendary Francisco de Miranda. The audience, a full house for both the student and afternoon presentations held at our covered court stage, was captivated by the story of Miranda's historic voyage on the *Leander* from New York. This captivating tale unfolded, showcasing themes of liberation and the fight for freedom, culminating in his arrival on Venezuelan shores.

From crafting the script and directing the action to creating costumes, makeup, scenography, and even promoting the play, the 10th graders truly owned this project. Their collaboration and creativity shone brightly throughout the performance. Witnessing their dedication and bringing this "student-driven masterpiece" to life was a truly inspiring experience. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible 10th graders and their dedicated teacher for their immense effort and talent! They've created a memory that will stay with the WA community for a long time.



Peter Pan Takes Flight at WA!

A sprinkle of fairy dust and a whole lot of heart transformed our covered court theater into the magical world of Neverland as our 1st graders brought the classic tale of Peter Pan to life. Rekindling a cherished tradition, Washington Academy was once again enchanted by the young talents on our stage.

On Thursday, June 27th, the curtain rose on two enchanting performances of Peter Pan. Our morning show was a delightful treat for our Preschool and Elementary students, teachers, and staff, while the afternoon performance was a magical experience shared with proud parents and family members.

Under the expert guidance of our dedicated 1st Grade Reading teacher, and with invaluable support from our teachers, Coordinator, and Room Mothers, the students transformed into beloved characters. From Peter Pan and Wendy to the Lost Boys and Captain Hook, every role was brought to life with enthusiasm and charm. A unique touch was the double casting of characters, allowing both 1st Grade sections to shine on stage.

The magic was amplified by the captivating music and sound effects provided by Todo Music, creating an immersive experience for the audience.

As the final curtain fell, it was clear that this year's Peter Pan production was a resounding success. We are incredibly proud of our young performers and the entire team behind the scenes. Their hard work and dedication brought joy to everyone involved.

Let's give a round of applause to our amazing 1st graders for sharing their talents with us!



Second Graders Take Center Stage as Storytellers!

On Friday, June 21st, these young storytellers held the entire school spellbound with their first-ever presentation for the entire school population, "The Storyteller!" From 8:30 to 11:00 am, the stage belonged to them as they transformed into iconic characters from classic tales.

Imagine the thrill of hearing the daring adventures of Robin Hood straight from the hero himself, or the heart-wrenching tale of Beauty and the Beast from Belle's perspective! This wasn't your average story time. Our second graders went above and beyond, retelling beloved stories from the viewpoint of their chosen characters!

Here's what made this event so special:

- **Creative Retellings:** The second graders didn't simply read the stories; they breathed new life into them! We got to hear classic tales through fresh eyes, like the close call of Peter Rabbit with Mr. McGregor from the rabbit's point of view, or the fascinating secrets of Wonderland revealed by Alice herself!
- **Fantastic Costumes:** The excitement wasn't just in the words! Our second graders brought the stories to life even further with fantastic costumes. The stage must have looked like a scene straight out of a fairytale book!
- **Amazing Presentations:** Storytelling wasn't all. These creative minds also crafted awesome tri fold displays to visually complement their narratives.

We couldn't be prouder of our second graders! Their imagination, presentation skills, and storytelling abilities truly shone through. This impressive project wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the Lower Elementary team. Special thanks to their English teacher for guiding them in crafting these retellings, and to their hardworking reading teachers who supported them in smaller groups throughout the process. The magic didn't stop there! Our second graders even used their computer skills to recreate their stories digitally with programming software!

Congratulations to our amazing second graders for a spectacular performance! We are so excited to see what future storytelling adventures await them!



A Splashing Good Time and Farewell to Our Preschoolers!

The week of June 24 - 28th was a whirlwind of fun and excitement as we bid adieu to our amazing preschoolers (PK-1st Grade) and sent them off to enjoy a well-deserved summer break!

The festivities kicked off on Tuesday with a SPLASHtastic Wet & Wild Day! This beloved tradition, originally known as "La Manguerada," has evolved into a water-filled extravaganza that our little ones look forward to every year. Our dedicated Room Mothers transformed our Big Park into a watery wonderland with vertical water slides, squirt guns, and a giant slip-and-slide. From 8am to 11am, our PK, Kindergarten, and 1st graders cooled off and laughed their hearts out.

On Wednesday, we brought the farm to us! Our preschoolers transformed into adorable farmers for a petting zoo experience featuring ducks, chickens, rabbits, goats, tortoises, and piglets. It was a truly unforgettable day!

The fun continued on Thursday with a magical trip to Neverland thanks to a delightful performance of Peter Pan by our talented 1st graders.

And finally, on Friday, we celebrated our preschoolers with end-of-year class parties filled with delicious treats, magical performances, and heartfelt goodbye gifts from their teachers.

We are incredibly proud of everything our preschoolers have accomplished this year and wish them a fantastic summer filled with fun, relaxation, and adventure! We can't wait to welcome them back to Washington Academy in September!

A special thank you to our amazing Room Mothers, Preschool Coordinator, and teachers for creating such a memorable and special week for our preschoolers. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated!



WA Students Shine at UNIMET Recreational Olympiads!

Washington Academy is thrilled to announce the outstanding performance of our students in the Recreational Mathematics and Language Olympiads organized by Universidad Metropolitana (UNIMET).

Throughout March, our dedicated 4th to 7th graders tackled challenging district-level exams in both math and language arts within their classrooms. These exams tested their numerical and verbal prowess, setting the stage for potential advancement to the regional level.

The regional competition took place at UNIMET on May 11th and 18th. Our students rose to the occasion, with several securing coveted gold medals that propelled them to the national stage!



On June 15th, the national spotlight shone on our young champions as they competed in the National Recreational Math and Spanish Language Olympiads. Their exceptional skills and unwavering determination culminated in a remarkable achievement: 2 gold and 2 silver medals in Spanish Language!

We are incredibly proud of Valeria Liliana Bramati Martinez (Silver), Amanda Sofia Ubieta Culina (Gold), Ana Margarita Naranjo Boccassini (Gold), and Leonardo Ignacio Chacin Garrido (Silver) for their extraordinary accomplishments. These brilliant students were honored at the National Award Ceremony on June 29th at the Auditorio de Empresas Polar.

All participants received well-deserved medals and diplomas for their outstanding efforts. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our students for their hard work and dedication.

WA is immensely proud of our students' achievements and looks forward to celebrating many more successes in the future!

Washington Academy Celebrates Student Excellence

The 2023-2024 school year at Washington Academy was marked by exceptional student growth and accomplishments. We are delighted to highlight the outstanding achievements of our students, recognized through various awards ceremonies.

End-of-the-Year Awards Ceremony

On Friday, June 28th, WA held its annual End-of-the-Year Awards Ceremony in the covered court theater. This special event honored students who demonstrated exceptional effort, achievement, work habits, self-discipline, sportsmanship, and citizenship. Coordinators and Teachers carefully selected one student per grade (or two in case of a tie) based on their overall performance throughout the year.

- Outstanding Effort: Recognizing students who consistently strive for improvement.
- Outstanding Achievement: Honoring significant academic growth and development.
- Outstanding Work Habits: Acknowledging students with excellent organizational and teamwork skills.
- Outstanding Self-Discipline: Celebrating students who demonstrate self-control and maturity.
- Outstanding Sportsmanship: Recognizing students who excel both on and off the field.
- Outstanding Citizenship: Honoring students voted by their peers for kindness, respect, and positive contributions.

We extend our sincerest congratulations to all award recipients! Your hard work and dedication are an inspiration to your peers.



Outstanding Effort



Outstanding Achievement



Outstanding Work Habits



Outstanding Self-Discipline



Outstanding Sportsmanship



Outstanding Citizenship

Star Student Awards

Our Lower Elementary students (Grades 2-4) also shone brightly this year. On Monday, July 1st, we celebrated the Star Student Award recipients and their families in the covered court stage. These students embody Washington Academy's values, demonstrating excellence in academics, behavior, responsibility, attitude, and citizenship. This award highlights their potential to become well-rounded individuals.



External Recognition

We are incredibly proud to announce that Washington Academy students have also been recognized for their outstanding achievements by the Alcaldía de Baruta and the Concejo Municipal de Baruta.

- **Premio a la Excelencia:** On Wednesday, July 8th, at 4pm, the top eight GPA students in each grade (at the moment GPAs were provided), along with one student for Artistic Excellence and one for the Value of Empathy, were honored at a special ceremony at Centro Asturiano de Caracas.
- **Premio al Mérito Académico:** On Tuesday, July 16th, at 3:30pm, the top two GPA students in each grade (at the moment GPAs were provided) were recognized at a ceremony hosted by the Concejo Municipal de Baruta at Colegio Emil Friedman.

We are immensely proud of all our students for their hard work and dedication. Your successes inspire us, and we look forward to another fantastic year ahead!



A Sweet End to a Fantastic Year at WA Elementary!

The final weeks of the school year were filled with excitement, celebration, and a touch of nostalgia as our Elementary students wrapped up another successful year. Our dedicated coordinators, teachers, and Room Mothers pulled out all the stops to create an unforgettable experience for our young learners.

Following the conclusion of final exams, the countdown to summer vacation began with a bang! Our students enjoyed a delightful performance of Peter Pan by our talented first graders, a mouthwatering hot dog day, and the much-anticipated End-of-the-Year Awards ceremony. To cool down, Room Mothers treated everyone to an icy ice cream day and plenty of opportunities for friendly competition with board game tournaments.



Our central courtyard transformed into a Star-studded arena as we celebrated the last Students of the Month. And, in a heartwarming tradition, our 7th graders marked their transition to high school by signing their white polos, symbolizing the exciting chapter ahead.

Our incredible 7th graders not only conquered their final exams, but also conquered their nerves as they officially became high schoolers! The symbolic transformation from white to blue polos was a powerful moment, capturing the essence of growth and new beginnings. As a keepsake of their elementary journey, they cherished their signed polos, filled with messages from friends and teachers.

To celebrate their achievements and bid farewell to elementary school, our 7th graders embarked on an unforgettable adventure at Mi Guarimba Camp.



Our 4th graders also had a day to remember as they transitioned to Upper Elementary. A special movie created by our Lower Elementary faculty and coordinator took them on a nostalgic journey through their elementary years, filled with laughter, learning, and cherished memories. They said goodbye to the familiar hallway and excitedly met their new 5th Grade teachers and coordinator, getting a sneak peek at their amazing new space. The day concluded with fun activities, delicious treats, and the excitement of what lies ahead.



As the school year comes to a close, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff for creating a nurturing and inspiring learning environment. We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements and wish them a fantastic summer filled with joy, exploration, and relaxation.

Lower Elementary's Student of the Month: May and June

Every first Friday, our Lower Elementary students (Grades 2-4) take center stage in our Central Courtyard. It's a time to applaud their incredible growth and hard work throughout the month.

We don't just celebrate perfect scores or top grades. Instead, we honor our "Growth Gurus" - students who've shown exceptional determination and courage in tackling challenges. Whether they've mastered multiplication, become confident speakers, or discovered a love of reading, their efforts are celebrated.

Our teachers carefully observe each student's progress, selecting one or two per grade who truly exemplify a "never give up" attitude. It's about acknowledging the journey, not just the destination. We believe in celebrating small victories and the continuous process of learning and improvement.

Let's give a huge round of applause to our amazing Growth Gurus! Your dedication inspires us all. Keep climbing high and reaching for the stars!

May



Martina Bouanes

Sarah Tavares

Luis Larrazabal

Rodrigo Neri

June



Eugenia Guglielmelli

Ignacio Brito

Carlota Grisolia

Natalia Juncal

Martin Guerra

Felipe Berroterán

Andrés Díaz

Talks

Soaring to New Heights: 9th Graders Discover Venezuela's Biodiversity

On Monday, May 6th, our 9th graders embarked on an unforgettable journey without leaving the covered court! Thanks to our incredible High School Science Department Head and the expertise of **Garras del Aire** (be sure to follow them on Instagram @garras.del.aire), students were immersed in the breathtaking world of Venezuelan biodiversity.

Did you know that Venezuela is ranked the seventh most biodiverse country globally? It's a staggering fact that underscores our responsibility to protect this precious natural heritage. Our students gained a deep appreciation for the intricate balance of ecosystems and the vital role each species plays.

The highlight of the morning was undoubtedly the up-close encounters with a Barn Owl and a Harris Hawk. These magnificent creatures captivated everyone with their grace and power, inspiring awe and respect for these apex predators.

Beyond the thrilling animal encounters, students delved into the fascinating world of birds of prey, learning about their adaptations, hunting techniques, and ecological importance. They also explored the crucial distinction between night and day predators, understanding the complex interplay of life in different environments.

This enriching experience extended beyond the natural world. Students learned about the significance of wildlife conservation in urban planning, emphasizing the need for harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our High School Science Department Head for organizing this extraordinary event. It was an eye-opening experience that ignited a passion for environmental stewardship in our students.



Financial Literacy Focus for WA's Future Leaders

On Tuesday, June 11th, WA's 11th graders were treated to an enlightening and empowering session on financial literacy. Our esteemed guest speaker, Professor Rafael Alvarez, a seasoned business administrator with a wealth of experience in the financial sector, shared his invaluable insights with our students.

Professor Alvarez, known for his expertise in navigating complex financial landscapes, transformed intricate concepts into easily digestible knowledge for our young minds. By employing real-world examples and providing practical tools, he equipped our students with the essential skills to confidently manage their personal finances.

His talk emphasized the significance of financial literacy as a cornerstone for future success. Professor Alvarez highlighted the challenges that today's youth face and offered practical strategies to overcome them. From budgeting and saving to investing and planning for the future, our students gained a comprehensive understanding of financial well-being.

This informative session was more than just a lecture; it was an investment in our students' futures. We believe that by empowering them with financial knowledge, we are setting them up for success in all aspects of their lives.

Washington Academy remains committed to providing our students with opportunities to learn and grow beyond the classroom. We are grateful to Professor Alvarez for sharing his expertise and inspiring our students to become financially savvy individuals.



Sparkling Smiles at WA!

Our youngest Washington Academy students learned the importance of dental hygiene in a fun and informative workshop on Tuesday, June 18th. From 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM, our preschoolers (PK-1st Grade) enjoyed engaging presentations led by the talented and dedicated Isabel Hernández.

A proud SPRAW member and a skilled prosthetic dentist, Isabel is also the loving mother of two of our students. She expertly tailored her dental health talk to our little ones, providing essential information in Spanish and demonstrating proper teeth cleaning techniques. Each class had the opportunity to visit the PS multipurpose room for this special session.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Isabel for sharing her expertise and contributing to our students' overall well-being. Her commitment to our school community is truly inspiring!

With this workshop, we hope to instill healthy habits early on and help our students develop a lifelong love for oral care.



Fieldtrips

An Unforgettable Encounter: WA High Schoolers Meet a Survivor

On Wednesday, June 12, our high school students embarked on a truly extraordinary journey. They left the familiar grounds of WA to step into the world of one of history's most incredible survival stories.

Our students traveled to Colegio Emil Friedman for a heart-pounding encounter with Eduardo Strauch, a survivor of the infamous 1972 Andes plane crash. You know the story – a Uruguayan rugby team's plane plummeted into the icy clutches of the Argentinian mountains.

For 72 days, Eduardo and his companions endured unimaginable hardship. Temperatures plummeted to -30°C, food and water were scarce, and hope seemed a distant dream. Yet, against all odds, they persevered.

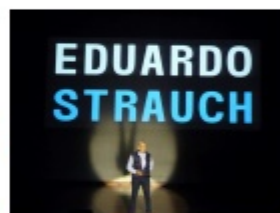
Eduardo's firsthand account of their ordeal was nothing short of mesmerizing. Our students were captivated as he shared the raw details of their struggle, the unbreakable bonds of camaraderie, and the indomitable human spirit that fueled their survival.

Beyond the thrilling narrative, Eduardo imparted invaluable life lessons. His emphasis on perseverance, teamwork, and inner strength resonated deeply with our students. The opportunity to ask him questions directly made the experience even more impactful.

To top off this unforgettable day, Colegio Emil Friedman, renowned for its exceptional music program, treated everyone to a stunning performance by their school orchestra. It was a perfect complement to the day's theme of human resilience and the power of the arts.

This extraordinary event aligns perfectly with WA's core values. We are incredibly grateful to Eduardo Strauch for sharing his story and inspiring our students.

Want to learn more about this incredible tale? Check out the book "Alive" or the recent film "Snow Society" for a deeper dive into this inspiring story of survival.



Infrastructure Updates

A New Chapter Begins: The Katherine Tugendhat Library

We are thrilled to announce the grand opening of our state-of-the-art Katherine Tugendhat Library on Friday, May 3rd! This momentous occasion marked a significant milestone for Washington Academy (WA).

The inauguration ceremony, a vibrant celebration attended by our Board of Directors, SPRAW members, students, faculty, staff, and invited parents, transformed our library into a hub of knowledge, creativity, and inspiration. Students eagerly skipped their first period to witness the ceremonial ribbon-cutting and embark on a guided tour of our stunning new space.

Heartfelt speeches by Board members and esteemed faculty members, Miranda de Silvestri and Gina Salas, filled the air with gratitude and anticipation. We extended our sincere thanks to all those who contributed to this remarkable project, transforming our library into a welcoming and functional haven for learning and exploration.

Overcoming numerous challenges, we have created a space that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of reading. We invite all members of our WA community – students, parents, and staff – to explore, discover, and enjoy the new Katherine Tugendhat Library.

Let's embark on this exciting journey together and build a future filled with readers and curious minds!

Library Hours

Students and Staff: Monday to Thursday, 7:10 AM to 4:30 PM

Parents and Guardians: Monday to Thursday, 2:10 PM to 4:30 PM

Fridays: Until 3:00 PM for the entire educational community



Value of the Month

Building Strong Character: A Look Back at May & June at WA

Washington Academy isn't just about top grades – we're dedicated to nurturing well-rounded individuals with strong character. That's why our incredible Counseling Department has developed a program that integrates core values into the very fabric of our school life.

May: A Celebration of Loyalty

Loyalty – it's a fundamental building block for a strong character. It allows children to develop honesty, responsibility, and a commitment to others. Throughout May, we explored this concept both in classrooms and at home. Here's a recap for families:

Some practical tips to help parents nurture loyalty in their children include: building strong family bonds, establishing clear expectations, and encouraging responsibility within the household.

We emphasized the importance of loyalty to a team, helping students understand how working together leads to success, both on the field and in the classroom.

June: Perseverance Takes Center Stage

June was all about perseverance – the ability to keep pushing forward even when things get tough. As David Isaacs (2000) reminds us, perseverance is key to success in everything from academics to extracurricular activities.

Why is Perseverance Important?

- Life is full of hurdles! Perseverance equips our children with the tools they need to face them head-on, turning obstacles into opportunities for growth.
- Everyone makes mistakes! We teach students that failures are simply stepping stones on the path to success. Perseverance motivates them to keep trying and ultimately reach their goals.
- Perseverance is vital for building strong bonds with family and friends. It involves commitment and consistent effort – qualities that strengthen any relationship.

How Can We Foster Perseverance?

- Acknowledge the Effort: Celebrate their achievements, big or small! Recognizing their dedication reinforces the idea that hard work pays off.
- Be Their Cheerleader: When faced with challenges, encourage them to keep going and help them brainstorm strategies to overcome obstacles.
- Lead by Example: Children learn by observing adults. Showcasing perseverance in your own life demonstrates its importance.
- Talk it Out: Discuss the importance of not giving up on their dreams, and how perseverance can help achieve them.

Remember, parents are a child's first teacher. By instilling loyalty and perseverance from a young age, we equip them with the tools they need to navigate life's challenges with courage and achieve their goals. Let's work together to build a future filled with success and fulfillment for our Washington Academy family!



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