

**Hello Washington! Volume 4 /
Special Edition: Halloween /
October 2024**



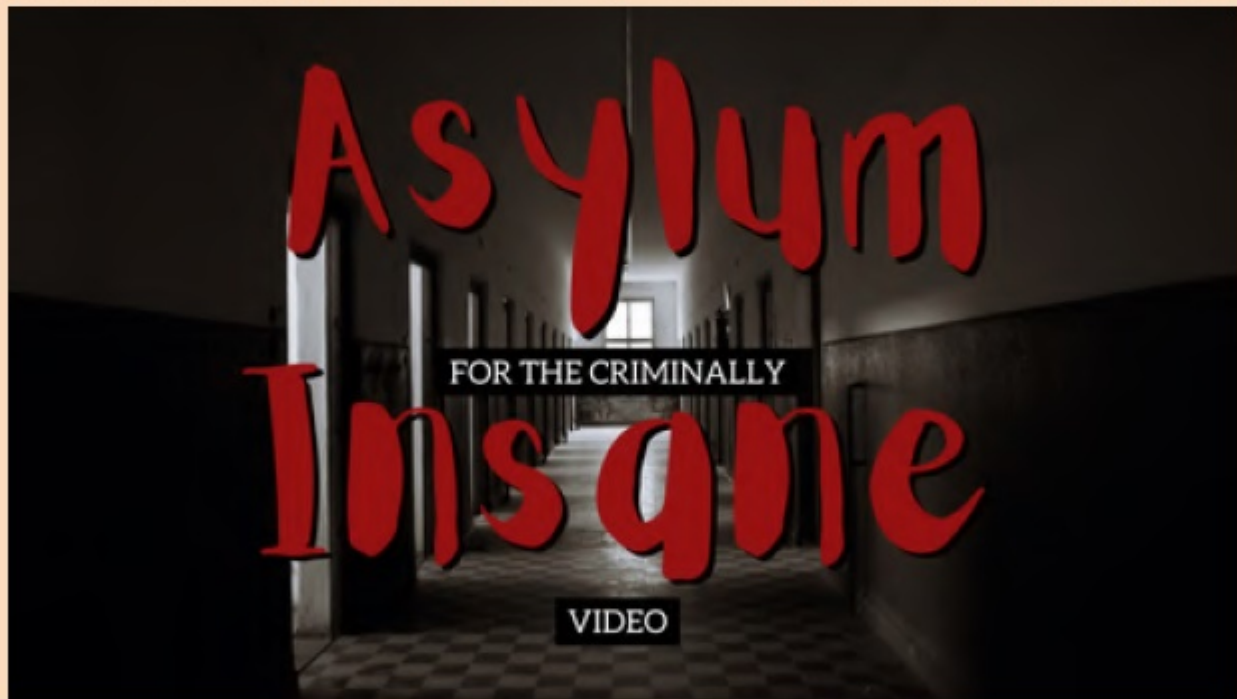
WA's Spooktacular 2024 Halloween Celebration: A Hauntingly Good Time!

This year, Washington Academy (WA) kicked off the Halloween season on Friday, October 25th with a series of thrilling events that captivated students of all ages. Most of these are traditional activities. However, this year the organizers gave it a special touch.



Class of 2025's Halloween Fair

Our seniors, the Promo 35, transformed WA into a spooky wonderland on October 24th and 25th. They decked the halls with eerie decorations, organized a spine-chilling haunted house titled "Asylum for the Criminally Insane", and hosted a variety of fun-filled activities for students in 2nd Grade and up:



Spooky games in the Game Zone with wonderful prizes.



Delicious Halloween-themed treats such as crazy tequeño fingers, spellbound popcorn, insanity brownies, demented cookies, mini mad burger, creepy shakes, and asylum soda.



Jack-O-Lantern Competition: Students showcased their creative pumpkin carving skills. On Monday, October 28th, the winners were announced during Morning Announcements. Prizes were given to all who participated as they were all incredible. Some had special sound effects, others funny quotes like *"Ugh, Christmas so early?"*, we even had a Clock Jack-O-Lantern that actually worked!



Water Games: Students cooled off with refreshing water games like a bucket splash and a slippery slide.



There was something for everyone! It was a fun afternoon for students, teachers, seniors' parents, faculty, and staff as they participated in some or all activities!



Preschool Halloween Extravaganza

Preschoolers kicked off their Halloween festivities on Tuesday, October 29th, by crafting and decorating their own Trick or Treat parade baskets.



On Thursday, October 31st, the traditional pumpkin-carving event took place. Our beloved Gina, a 50-year veteran of the school and Vice President of the Washington Academy Foundation, expertly carved the iconic Jack-O-Lantern while Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade students sang festive songs.



Friday, November 1st was a day of fun and frights! Preschoolers arrived in their most creative costumes and participated in engaging classroom activities. Meanwhile, dedicated Room Mothers transformed the Big Park into a Halloween wonderland, complete with festive decorations, delicious snacks and beverages, and a healthy snack section.



After a group photo for each grade, around 9am, the Trick or Treat parade began. Preschoolers marched through the Lower and Upper Elementary hallways where all Elementary students had candy for them, and even the Library, where they encountered friendly high school students also with candy to hand out.



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The party continued in the Big Park with a feast of tequeños, sandwiches, fruits, sweets, and refreshing beverages. Children played happily in their decorated playhouse and enjoyed exciting activities set up by the Room Mothers, such as a makeup stand, a red jello body-part hunt, and guessing games.



Due to scheduling conflicts, particularly the Universidad Metropolitana placement test for seniors on November 1st, the Halloween Fair and Preschool's Halloween Party were celebrated on separate days this year.

This year's Halloween celebration was truly unforgettable. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our seniors, parents, coordinators, teachers, and staff, we created a magical experience that will be cherished for years to come.

**Hello Washington! Volume 4 /
Issue # 1 / September**



A New Chapter Begins at WA!

We're thrilled to welcome back our vibrant community of students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and friends to the 2024-2025 school year. After a summer of rest, we're buzzing with excitement to watch our students embark on a new academic adventure.

At WA, we believe in fostering a nurturing environment where learning thrives. We're committed to providing our students with the tools and support they need to reach their full potential. We're grateful for the partnership we share with our parents, as together, we can create a truly exceptional educational experience.

This year, we're excited to continue many of our beloved traditions, including the Spirit Week Picnic, Patinata, Christmas Bazaar or Fair, and our milestone 21st Caminata. These events are a wonderful opportunity for our new families to experience the unique spirit of WA and connect with our community.

Let's make this school year one to remember, filled with laughter, growth, and unforgettable memories. Together, we can create an inspiring learning environment where every student feels valued and empowered.



A Warm Welcome to Our New Families!

We're thrilled to extend a heartfelt welcome to our newest WA families:

Behrends Quintana
Bentata Rodríguez
Buffardi Morantes
Cazorla Boschetti
Celis Domínguez
Correa Fontiveros
Da Silva Clotet

De Freitas Carrero
Domínguez Hernández
Dugarte Marín
Espinosa Whaite
Gomes Requena
Herrera Servat

Lara Ramírez
Lehmann Conejeros
López Narváez
Méndez Ceballo
Méndez Ochoa
Otaola Court

Reis Romero
Russo Trujillo
Serrano Conte
Solorzano Rivas
Soto Alberdi
Valles López

Starting at a new school can be both exciting and a bit daunting, but remember, you're not alone in this journey.

Whether you're feeling a mix of excitement and nerves, or simply curious about your new surroundings, know that our school community is here to support you. We've planned a series of fun and engaging events to help you connect with other families, get to know your child's teachers, and explore all that WA has to offer.

As you settle into your new routine, take time to connect with other parents and students. Building relationships will make your transition smoother and more enjoyable. Trust in our dedicated staff, and remember, we're all here to help you and your child thrive.

We're eager to get to know you and your family better throughout the first trimester. Welcome to the WA family!

SPRAW



Established in 1983, the Washington Academy Parents and Representatives Association (SPRAW) is a formal organization in our WA community. SPRAW works hand in hand with Washington Academy Foundation. It is responsible for enhancing the school's facilities, organizing extracurricular activities, and fostering a strong school-community relationship. It is governed by an elected board. Election for 2024-2025 **SPRAW's Board of Directors 2024-2025** is coming in November.

We invite all parents and guardians to get involved and help make a positive impact on our school community!

Its objectives are:

- To establish close relationships between the school and the community.
- To be responsible for the maintenance, development, and improvement of the educational infrastructure.
- To promote extracurricular activities of an educational, recreational, sporting, and interpersonal nature among members of the educational community, such as courses, talks, artistic events, excursions, and meetings of students, educators, and representatives.



2023-2024 SPRAW Board of Directors

President: Luis Gómez
Treasurer: Vanessa Arreaza
Secretary: Bettina Kovar
1st Member: Natacha Trebucq
1st Alternate Member: Isabel Hernández
2nd Member: Juan Martínez
2nd Alternate Member: Sebastian Alarcón
CEDE Member: Alberto González

Greeting our Faculty and Staff with Open Arms

On Monday, September 9th, our school community came together to kick off the new academic year with a Welcome Breakfast. Organized by our dedicated Board of Directors, this annual tradition provides a wonderful opportunity for our faculty and staff to reconnect, share experiences, and set the tone for a successful year ahead.

As the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and food filled the air, our Principal, Maria Elena Abreu, and Board member Teresa Bigott, warmly welcomed our returning faculty and staff. Their heartfelt words expressed gratitude for their commitment to our school and their excitement for the year to come.

The breakfast also served as a time to introduce new members of our WA family. We were delighted to welcome our new faculty and staff and extend our best wishes for a fulfilling and rewarding experience at WA.

As we gathered around tables, sharing laughter and conversation, it was evident that these types of events play a vital role in fostering a positive and supportive school culture. Such gatherings help to build strong relationships, boost morale, and create a sense of belonging among our school community. By coming together as a team, we strengthen our commitment to providing an exceptional learning environment for our students.

We are grateful to our Board of Directors for their continued dedication to organizing events that bring our school community together. Here's to a wonderful and successful year ahead!



Welcome to the Washington Academy Family!

We're thrilled to introduce several new members to our school community! These talented educators have joined our team and are already making a positive impact.

Returning:

- **Rosa Flores** has been enriching our school since last year, but was not formally introduced as she started mid school year. Rosa is our 2nd - 6th Elementary Art Teacher.
- **Donato Ficarella** is returning after some years absent as our new IB MYP Language Acquisition Teacher.
- **María Fernanda López** is also returning as our new Operations Manager.

New Faces:

- **Paulina Álvarez** is our new 1st Grade Teacher Assistant.
- **Dinis De Brito** has joined us as our IB DP Business Management Teacher.
- **Graciela Yañez** has joined our team as an IB DP Language and Literature Teacher.



Rosa Flores



Donato Ficarella



María Fernanda López



Paulina Álvarez



Dinis de Brito



Graciela Yañez

Please join us in welcoming this dynamic group of educators to Washington Academy. We're excited to have them contributing to our school's success and look forward to the positive impact they will make on our students and community. Let's make them feel at home and ensure they have a wonderful experience at WA!

Getting Everything Ready

As the new school year dawned for WA Staff on September 2nd, our dedicated administrative team hit the ground running. From Management and Communications to IT, Infrastructure, and beyond, their tireless efforts ensured a smooth start for all.

Our hardworking faculty, meanwhile, were equally committed to creating a welcoming and inspiring learning environment. In the weeks leading up to the first day of school, they meticulously prepared their classrooms, ensuring they were clean, organized, and ready for students. With curriculum review and creative lesson planning in full swing, our teachers were eager to spark curiosity and foster a love of learning.

To make our students feel right at home, our hallways and bulletin boards were adorned with vibrant decorations.



To provide personalized attention to each student and family, we staggered the start of classes based on grade level:

- **Seniors:** Thursday, September 12th
- **Juniors:** Monday, September 16th
- **Preschool:** Thursday, September 19th. They were accompanied by Seniors and their parents to their new classrooms.
- **2nd Grade:** Friday, September 20th. At Washington, Elementary level starts in 2nd Grade. Subject specialist teachers, lockers, more responsibilities and independence are some of the exciting changes that await them! Our brand new 2nd graders came to school accompanied with their parents and seniors gave them "Welcome to 2nd Grade" stickers. They also participated in a fun-filled popcorn activity with 12th graders.
- **3rd to 10th Grade:** Monday, September 23rd.

We are thrilled to receive our students back at Washington Academy and are excited to see what the new year will bring!





A Last First Day to Remember: Promo 35's Farewell

Last Thursday, September 12th, WA hosted a heartwarming farewell for its graduating class of 2025, also known as Promo 35. This special event was organized by the IB CAS teacher to make the seniors feel appreciated and wish them luck in their final year at WA.

The day began with a lively gathering in the Central Yard. All students arrived wearing their signature Promo 35 shirts, while faculty and staff sported the class colors of navy blue and white. Stickers with the Promo 35 logo were distributed to everyone, creating a festive atmosphere.

Our principal, María Elena Abreu, gave a welcoming speech, expressing her pride and excitement for Class of 2025. Each school department contributed to the celebration by offering special treats and tokens of appreciation. These included candy, heart-shaped chocolates, pictures of the seniors' godmothers and godfathers, a \$1 bill for economic prosperity, and a Carpe Diem wish card.

To evoke fond memories, the students were guided on a nostalgic journey. They danced the hokey pokey in the big park with Gina, our beloved preschool coordinator with over 40 years of service. The Lower Elementary welcomed them with a heartwarming speech, recalling their Storytelling, Simple Machines, and Math Fair presentations. One of the students, Tuti, delivered a touching speech that resonated with everyone.



The event continued with a feast of music, colorful lights, and props. Promo 35 then returned to the Central Yard to participate in the traditional Caracas de Antaño dances with the Upper Elementary Coordinator. The Upper Elementary staff generously offered delicious Torontos.

The journey continued to the library, where the librarians extended their support and encouragement for this year's IB DP Extended Essays. The Infrastructure Maintenance Supervisor and Oswaldo, a security staff member with 19 years of service, shared words of wisdom and well wishes. Rosita from the cleaning staff expressed her love and reminded the seniors to keep their minds and hearts clean.

Promo 35 finally arrived at the High School hallway, where they were greeted with more love and cookies. They then joined the PE Department Head for a fun team-building activity called Basket Ludo. After this, they received delicious snacks and beverages provided by WA. Finally, it was time for the students to head to their classes, carrying with them the warmth and support of the entire WA community.

This memorable event was a fitting send-off for Class of 2025, reminding them of their journey at WA and the love and support they have received. As they embark on their final year, the Class of 2025 is equipped with cherished memories and the best wishes of their school family.





Remembering Our Purpose: Vision, Mission, Values, and IB Learner Profile



As a WA family, we have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on each other and the world beyond. Let's remember the importance of our school's values and strive to live them out every day.

Vision

Aiming for Excellence

Mission

Give Students the tools they need to cope with life

Values

Respect, Honesty, Responsibility, Justice, and Loyalty

Community Profile: **All our WA family members strive to be...**



Inquirers



Knowledgeable



Thinkers



Communicators



Principled



Open-Minded



Caring



Risk-Takers



Balanced



Reflective



Donation to Colegio Parroquial San Bernardino

On Tuesday, September 10th, WA made a significant impact on the lives of young students in Caracas. In a heartwarming gesture of solidarity, WA donated a substantial amount of used, but high-quality, preschool chairs and furniture to Colegio Parroquial San Bernardino, a school that serves low-income families and is supported by the Asociación Venezolana de Educación Católica.

The donation, which was officially received by the school's principal, aims to enhance the learning environment for countless children in the community. By providing comfortable and functional seating, WA hopes to contribute to a more conducive atmosphere for education and growth.





WAMUN 2024: A Global Stage for Young Leaders



Last Academic Year, a new chapter in WA's history began. On May 3rd, the seeds of the 2024 WAMUN (Washington Academy Model United Nations) team were planted. Since then, these dedicated students have been tirelessly working to uphold and expand upon this cherished WA tradition.

What is WAMUN?

It's an immersive educational experience that simulates the United Nations. Students from various schools come together to represent different countries, engaging in debates, negotiations, and addressing pressing global issues. By stepping into the shoes of diplomats, they gain a deeper understanding of international politics and develop essential skills like persuasion, negotiation, and public speaking.

A Tradition of Excellence

WAMUN has been a cornerstone of WA's co-curricular offerings since 2006, organized entirely by our talented high school students. This year's event promises to be even more exceptional, with a diverse range of topics and a dedicated team of organizers. Isabella and Clementina Márquez our esteemed Secretary Generals, have been instrumental in leading the charge.

Behind the Scenes

The WAMUN team has been working tirelessly to ensure a seamless event. From creating engaging committee topics to designing eye-catching promotional materials, they've left no stone unturned. Their commitment to excellence is evident in every detail, from the carefully crafted agendas to the vibrant social events.

Join the Conversation

To stay up-to-date on the latest news and excitement surrounding WAMUN, follow our student-led Instagram account, [@heyitswamun](https://www.instagram.com/heyitswamun).

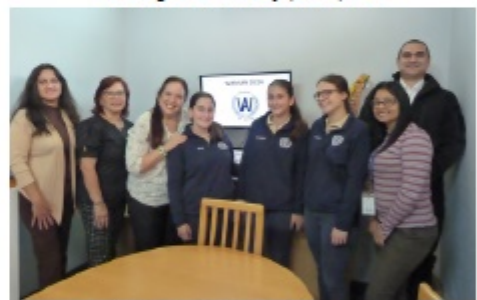
As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming WAMUN conference, we invite you to join us in celebrating this remarkable event and supporting our talented students.



Staff gathering



Meeting with WAMUN Jr participants



Sponsorship meeting with Mercantil



Handing out event materials

Meet the WAMUN Staff!

Secretary Generals



Isabella Márquez



Clementina Márquez

Deputy Secretary General

Camila Fernández

Logistics Chief

Victoria Fernández

Social Media, Design and Advertisement (Instagram, website, graphic design)

Sofía Cartolano (chief)
Sofía Cases (chief)

Press

Nathalia Serra (press chief)
Salma Pacheco (HUMBOLDT - helper)
Mike Rotundo (HUMBOLDT - helper)

Admin Staff

Luis De Zabala (chief)
Juan Andrés González (co-chief)
Andrés de Sousa (co-chief)

Committee	Chairs	Topics
DISEC Futurista (español)	Mariangel Gómez Rafael Moscatel Caridad Guerrero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> La militarización del espacio. Una nueva crisis de misiles y los riesgos de detonar la tercera guerra mundial.
International Court of Justice (crisis)	Clementina Haydon Alessia Pinto Valeska Hannawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reappearance of Adolf Hitler
Supreme Court of Justice (crisis)	Sofía Abdul-Hadi Diego Domínguez (HUMBOLDT) Alejandra Abilahoud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donald Trump's federal indictment for election fraud The Irishman (inspired by award winning Netflix movie)
Historical Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) (crisis)	Sofía Cartolano Ana Elisa Haydon Fabiana Gallo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/11 crisis
Human Rights Council (HRC)	Daniela Youseff Ana Lorena Peuchert Julio Daoud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Israel and Palestine Conflict Abortion bans
Security Council (SC)	Fabiana Berroterán Emiliana Reinoso (BRITISH) Juan Diego Peña	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rise of a new nuclear power plant in Russia Addressing the unintended consequences of UN Peacekeeping Operations
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)	Nikoletta Bacopulos Alessa Van Woerkom Diego Linares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Female Genital Mutilation in Sub-Saharan Africa Gender Inequality in the Workplace and the Participation of Women in Politics
World Health Organization (WHO)	Ariadna Gómez Armando Alvarez (HUMBOLDT) María Valentina Rojas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preimplantation Genetic Testing Reducing maternal and child mortality rates in developing countries
Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)	Antonella de Santolo Sofía Cases Rodrigo Gonzales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing unified IVF monitoring and documentation The effect of automation and UBI
HRC Jr.	Carlota Ledezma Martina Ubieta Fabiana Matos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child soldiers in war zones Freedom of speech within journalism
DISEC Jr.	Sofía Archila Sophia Meneses Aiskel Salazar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of nuclear weapons The use of drones as a weapon

Extracurriculars Kick Off at WA!

We're thrilled to announce the start of our academic and non-academic extracurricular programs at Washington Academy! As we embark on this new school year, we're committed to providing our students with a well-rounded education that goes beyond the classroom.



ASP: After School Program (organized by María Teresa Canzanese, 1st Grade teacher)

ASP is designed to create a conducive environment for students to complete their homework and develop essential skills. Open to students from 1st to 7th Grade, ASP offers a flexible schedule with two time slots to accommodate students involved in other extracurricular activities.

We've partnered with renowned local organizations to offer a diverse range of non-academic extracurricular activities. From the exciting world of robotics and programming to the strategic thinking of chess, there's something for everyone!

kurios

Robotics/Programming: Explore the fascinating world of technology with Kurios Education.



Chess: Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills with the National Chess Academy.



Theater in English: Unleash your creativity and confidence with Grupo Fábula.



Sports: Participate in a variety of athletic activities, including basketball, soccer, volleyball, track and field, and jiu-jitsu, led by experienced coaches coordinated by Valor y Deporte (Renato Renauro). Jiu-jitsu is offered in partnership with Total Elite Training.

Important Dates and Information

ASP: Started on Monday, September 30th.

Non-Academic Extracurriculars: Pre-K to 1st Grade began on September 30th, while 2nd to 12th Grade started on October 2nd.

English Theater: Begins on Monday, October 7th.

Registration: Please refer to the emails sent on **September 18th and 26th** for detailed information and registration procedures.

Hosting these extracurricular activities on our school grounds offers numerous advantages, including:

- **Convenient Location:** No need for transportation, making it easier for students to participate.
- **Safe and Secure Environment:** Students can enjoy their activities in a familiar and supervised setting.
- **Strong Community:** Foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie among students.

We encourage all students to explore the exciting opportunities offered by our extracurricular programs. By participating in these activities, you'll have the chance to learn new skills, make friends, and discover your passions.

IB MYP Personal Projects: A Successful Start for WA's 10th Graders

Last month, our 10th-grade students were treated to a special meeting hosted by the IB MYP Coordinator and the IB MYP Personal Project Coordinator. The purpose of this gathering was to introduce them to the most significant project of their MYP journey: the Personal Project (PP).



The PP is an independent research endeavor that allows students to dive deep into a topic of personal interest. This year-long project is a chance for them to develop essential skills like research, critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving. It's more than just a school assignment; it's a platform for students to explore their passions, discover new perspectives, and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.



Key aspects of the Personal Project include:

- **Independent Research:** Students choose a topic that excites them and conduct their own research to learn more about it.
- **In-depth Exploration:** The project requires students to delve into their chosen topic, analyzing information, evaluating sources, and drawing meaningful conclusions.
- **Creativity and Innovation:** Students are encouraged to think outside the box and find unique ways to present their findings.
- **Global Perspective:** The Personal Project can help students develop a global outlook by connecting their research to broader issues and trends.
- **Personal Significance:** Students should choose a topic that is personally meaningful to them, reflecting their interests, values, and aspirations.



The PP is a valuable experience for our students as it prepares them for future academic and professional endeavors. It also provides an opportunity for them to explore their passions and interests in a meaningful way.

As we eagerly anticipate the presentation of these projects on **May 28th and 29th**, we encourage our school community to keep an eye out for updates and progress. Let's celebrate the creativity, dedication, and growth of our talented 10th Grade students as they embark on this exciting journey of personal discovery.



Infrastructure Updates

A New Look for WA!

Washington Academy is excited to announce a series of significant improvements to our school infrastructure, thanks to the collaborative efforts of our finance and maintenance department and SPRAW team. Over the past few months, we've been hard at work transforming our learning spaces to provide a more modern, comfortable, and secure environment for our students and staff.

Key enhancements include:

- **Classroom Upgrades:** High school desks and chairs have been replaced with brand-new models, and six new Smartboards have been installed across different grade levels.
- **Teacher Lounge Refresh:** Our teachers now enjoy a more comfortable and inviting space with new furniture.
- **Schoolwide Beautification:** The entire school has received a fresh coat of paint, ensuring a bright and cheerful atmosphere.
- **Enhanced Security:** High-resolution 4K cameras have been installed for improved security, and the local network has been segmented for enhanced protection.
- **Technology Advancements:** We've invested in a state-of-the-art Dream Machine, which serves as a router, firewall, DHCP server, and switch. Additionally, we've purchased 4 48-port switches, 2 24-port switches, new wireless access points, 21 9th generation iPads for Lower Elementary, 24 Chromebooks, and 3 new computers for the counseling department.
- **Library Renovation:** SPRAW's budget has been allocated to significant improvements in our library, including a renovation and upgrades to the main breaker electrical panels.
- **Preschool Park Updates:** Our preschool parks have received a much-needed makeover, with new swings, slides, and fresh paint. Even our beloved tiny train has been given a fresh coat of paint!

We're confident that these improvements will enhance our students' learning experience and create a more enjoyable and engaging environment for everyone.



Talks

Empowering Parents for a Successful School Year

WA is committed to ensuring a smooth transition for our youngest learners. To that end, our Preschool and 2nd Grade coordinators and teachers host, every year, parent meetings before the start of the school year.

Preschool Parent Meeting

On Wednesday, September 11th, our Preschool team welcomed parents of Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade students to a series of informative meetings. These sessions provided an opportunity for parents to:

- Meet their child's teacher and discuss expectations for the upcoming year.
- Ask questions and address any concerns about their child's transition to school.
- Learn about the school's policies and procedures.
- Hand in necessary school supplies.



Lower Elementary Parent Meeting

On Thursday, September 19th, our Lower Elementary team hosted a meeting specifically for parents of 2nd Grade students. This meeting focused on:

- Guiding parents through the important transition from 1st Grade to 2nd Grade.
- Explaining the new challenges and responsibilities that 2nd graders will face, including subject specialist teachers, lockers, and increased independence.
- Providing parents with a tour of the Lower Elementary hallway and classrooms.
- Collecting school supplies.



These parent meetings are essential for fostering a strong partnership between parents and teachers. By providing parents with information and support, we can create a positive and nurturing learning environment for all our students. We are grateful for the participation and enthusiasm of our parents as we embark on another exciting school year.

Professional Development

Water Crisis: A Wake-Up Call from Biologist Ernesto J. Gonzalez Rivas

On September 16th, our faculty and staff had the privilege of attending a thought-provoking presentation by biologist Ernesto J. Gonzalez Rivas. Dr. Rivas, with a distinguished career at the Instituto de Biología Experimental and Programa de Aguas del IANAS, shared his expertise on the pressing issue of global water scarcity.



His insightful talk provided a comprehensive overview of water reservoirs, the detrimental effects of pollution, and the critical importance of water quality for human consumption. Dr. Rivas delved into the specific challenges faced by our community in Caracas, shedding light on the factors impacting the quality of our local water supply.

By highlighting the worldwide crisis of water scarcity, Dr. Rivas urged us to become more conscious of our water usage and to support efforts aimed at preserving and protecting this precious resource. His presentation served as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of our planet and the urgent need for sustainable water management practices.

Lower Elementary Team Kicks Off the School Year with Professional Development



WA's Lower Elementary (LE) team had a productive and inspiring start to the school year. On Tuesday, September 17th, the team, led by their coordinator, wrapped up a series of professional development sessions designed to equip educators with the latest tools and strategies for effective teaching and learning.

Participants, including teachers from Grades 2-4, counselors, librarians, communications staff, and department heads, gathered in the 4th Grade English classroom to delve into the importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) and explore innovative approaches to elementary education.

Workshops focused on a variety of topics, including:

- *Permiso para Sentir, Observo, Escucho, Pregunto y Empatizo* - strategies for fostering emotional awareness and understanding.
- Best teaching practices - evidence-based approaches to enhance student learning.
- Self-care for educators - strategies for maintaining well-being and preventing burnout.
- Avoiding procrastination - techniques for improving time management and productivity.
- The LE coordinator also shared inspiring books and TED Talks on topics such as the importance of social-emotional learning and creating a positive and supportive learning environment.



These sessions were a great opportunity for the LE team to connect, learn, and prepare for a successful and rewarding school year. By investing in their professional growth, the team is committed to providing the highest quality education and support to their students.