



SEPTEMBER 2025

Spiritual Emphasis Week:

From September 15 through September 18, Wesleyan Academy celebrated Spiritual Emphasis Week. This is an activity we have been observing for many years. On this occasion, we learned about various themes, including the importance of staying on the right spiritual path. To begin each chapel, we had the opportunity to enjoy beautiful worship songs performed by the Wesleyan Academy Worship Band.

Among other guests, Irmario Andino and her husband, Victor Nales, from El Taller, shared with us inspiring spiritual topics that led us to meaningful reflection. To better convey their message, our guests presented several interactive activities that helped us gain a deeper understanding of the topics. In addition, the testimonies shared enriched their message and, in some cases, spoke to us on a very personal level.

We sincerely thank the administration and our chaplain, Mrs. Abella, for organizing this event. We are grateful that each year, through Spiritual Emphasis Week, we can strengthen our connection with God and continue to learn more about His grace.

Did you know? Spiritual Emphasis Week originated at LeTourneau University (Texas) in 1946.

Maratón de lectura

The Maratón de Lectura has been celebrated for 20 years by the University of Puerto Rico, in collaboration with the Faculty of Education CELEL. Every year, they invite public and private schools from Puerto Rico and beyond to help students develop a love and appreciation for reading. It is celebrated on September 8, and this year's theme was Share stories, give joy. Students from all different academic levels can participate, including university students from public and private institutions.

This year, they read many diverse books, mostly from Puerto Rican authors of different genres such as lyrical poetry, dramatic theatre, short stories, novels, and essays. Some of the authors that were read include Luz Bonilla, Tere Marichal, Lara Mercado, Armando Valdés, and María de los Ángeles, among others. The following books were read during this activity: ¡Peligro, nuestras especies se extinguen!, Cuentos Folklóricos de P.R., Un cubito en el lineal, Generosa la gallinita agricultora, Las manchas de Daniela, Un coquí de Borinquen canta aquí y allá también, La fiesta de las abejitas, Así es la vida, among others.

This event was organized by teacher Mildred Noriega, along with other teachers from the Spanish Department. With the Maratón de Lectura, students are expected to continue developing their love for reading and to understand the power it has in their lives. They will be able to recognize the importance of reading as a tool for learning, imagining, enjoying, and expanding their knowledge and values.

See you at the Pole

Throughout Wednesday, September 24, we had a morning filled with blessings and prayers. This was called See you at the pole. You may be wondering, what is that about? Well, it's a student-led movement that began in the 1990s when a group of ten students gathered to pray at their school. Through prayer, we see the wonders of God and how even a tiny prayer can change many things around the world, no matter its circumstances—because with God, everything is possible. Together, we prayed over Puerto Rico and over the whole world: praying for goodness, seeking protection for communities in danger, finding hope and peace during hard times, and asking for forgiveness of personal sins and struggles. It was such a special moment—being united in prayer as a group, and not just individuals.

Clemente Day

On Monday, September 15, 2025, our Eagles honored the legendary Roberto Clemente! The students came to school wearing any shirt that represented either Clemente or the Pittsburgh Pirates, the baseball team he played for. As Puerto Ricans, we commemorate one of the most inspiring figures in our history. Not only did Clemente represent our country as one of the best athletes in the major leagues, but he also left a legacy as a humanitarian with a huge heart, doing everything he could to help others. His impact will continue to inspire all of us for generations to come.



School Field Trip

As part of Spiritual Emphasis Week, on Tuesday, September 16, high school students enjoyed a field trip to Caribbean Cinemas at The Outlets at Montehiedra. Students watched Light of the World, an animated Christian film that tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of the apostle John. The film offered a different perspective on a story that many of our students know by heart. Not only was this an enriching and educational experience, but it was also a fun way for students to bond with their classmates, teachers, and others outside their class. Furthermore, on Thursday, September 11, elementary students also enjoyed the movie during their own field trip.



Book Fair

During the week of September 22-September 26, Wesleyan Academy celebrated its annual Book Fair, where students from all grade levels came to visit the school's library to discover the essence of literature and find books from all genres and ages that fit best with their interests. The main purpose of the Book Fair is to promote the love of reading by allowing students to discover a wide variety of books that showcase their different ages, reading levels, and interests that the school's library has to offer. The Book Fair came together as an initiative to encourage students to read beyond the classroom and to bring the excitement of discovering new books into our school community. It first started as a yearly tradition in 1988, and it has brought excitement and support from the Wesleyan Academy community, which has helped it grow into one of the most anticipated events of the school year.

The fair offered something for everyone, from picture books for young readers to thought-provoking novels and non-fiction for mature readers. By being exposed to such a wide variety of genres and authors in one singular place, students are encouraged to explore new areas of literature that they might like or never have considered before. Who knows?! Maybe one has never picked up a book, and by the process of exploring and consideration, maybe one's interest in literature could commence.

Organized by our school librarian, Mrs Juliemar Rivera and Mrs Karla Vidal, their major goals for this fair were to spark curiosity, broaden perspectives amongst students, and help find books that truly connect with them. The Book Fair also aims to strengthen our schools' reading culture by making reading feel fun, personal, and shared, and good news! Their goals were successful! Many students found titles that excited them and recommended books to one another, which is exactly the kind of reading community that we strive to build in this community. The fair also highlighted the library's resources, encouraging students to visit more often and make reading a consistent habit beyond this event. Though always remember this event does not mean that students cannot go out to borrow books to enjoy after the book fair, we want students to walk away with the understanding that reading can be a lifelong source of expanding joy and knowledge, at any time of the school year.

Featured Senior

For September, we have chosen to feature Laura Mendez. I'm sure she is a familiar name or face to most of you, but if not, let this article help you get to know her a little better: she is this school year's student council president and a part of this year's senior class. Laura's fond memories at Wesleyan Academy are mostly from elementary school, especially supporting and being there for her classmates when Hurricane Maria hit. Her favorite activities in the school have been the fundraisers at Chili's or P.F. Chang's and Puerto Rican week. Once Laura graduates, she wishes to study biomedicine and become an obstetrician-gynecologist. Some of Laura's advice for people just starting their high school years is the following: pay attention in class and enjoy these years because they go by fast!



Monthly Awareness

More than 740,000 families are affected by suicide worldwide; yet it remains a taboo subject in many communities. Did you know that for every suicide, there are more than 20 attempts? This is why, during September, we focus on spreading awareness about this issue. By talking openly about mental health, learning to recognize warning signs, and showing compassion to those who are struggling, we can help break the cycle of isolation and despair. Some warning signs to watch for include:

- Expressing hopelessness (There's no point, Things will never get better)
- Withdrawing from friends, family, or activities once enjoyed
- Sudden mood changes – extreme sadness, anger, or even unexpected calmness after a crisis

To anyone experiencing these feelings, please remember: you are not alone. Whenever you feel at your darkest, you can call or text 988, or chat via 988lifeline.org free of judgment and cost, with trained professionals ready to help.

8th Retreat

Did you know?

Jesus often stepped away from the crowds to pray and rest with God, almost like a personal retreat. He did this to renew His strength, seek guidance, and prepare for important moments in His mission.

This month, from September 2 to September 3, our school's 8th-grade students got to experience a reflective, joyful, fun, and renewing time at their retreat. They got to enjoy a space away from their daily distractions to reconnect with their faith and reflect on their lives. This retreat encourages students to deepen their connection with God, and not only that, they also participate in many fun activities such as Icebreaker, worship, games, pool, sports, bonfire, preaching and ministry. This retreat, organized by our chaplain, Mrs. Abella, was held in Centro de Retiro La Senda Casona in Toa Alta.

This year our school's retreats are organized under the theme Walk the Talk. All the resources that attended this retreat and the activities that were organized focused on the topic and the verse of Colossians 3:23. This Bible verse says: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" and it encourages Christians to approach all their tasks wholeheartedly and with effort and dedication. Overall, this experience showed the students that we do not need to do anything to impress God, we simply need to live for Him.



Did you know?

... that as of September 15th, it's officially Hispanic Heritage Month!

Hispanic Heritage Month originated as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, introduced by Congressman George E. Brown. Brown wanted to highlight the efforts and accomplishments of the Latino and Hispanic communities throughout American history. Later in 1989, it was officially declared that Hispanic Heritage Week would be changed to Hispanic Heritage Month.

But have you ever wondered why it specifically starts on the 15th of September? The reason is interesting: on that same day in 1821, five separate nations declared their independence from Spain. These nations are Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. But it's not just that, on September 16th, 1810, Mexico declared independence from Spain, then two days later, Chile also proclaimed its sovereignty. Finally, on September 21st, 1981, Belize declared independence from Great Britain. So, as you can see, the month of September holds a lot of significance in Hispanic history and culture, and it was chosen for a very specific reason.

This Hispanic Heritage Month, we encourage you to strive for excellence in every aspect of life and never stop pursuing your goals. So that one day you can become an inspiration to other kids who were just like you.



Volleyball Tournament

This volleyball tournament was one of the most meaningful moments of the year because it was the last chance for the seniors to represent Wesleyan Academy on the court. For them, every game carried extra weight, knowing these were their final moments playing alongside their teammates and showing their school pride.

The pep rally, led by Student Council president Laura Méndez, was the perfect farewell, featuring a tribute that truly honored the seniors and their parents while highlighting how special this tournament was.

All of our teams—from JV girls and boys to Varsity girls and boys—gave everything on the court. Each team finished in second place, which is a huge accomplishment and a testament to the effort, unity, and determination they bring to our school.

The energy from the crowd and the support of classmates, teachers, and families made the tournament unforgettable. It will be remembered not just for the scores, but for the spirit, pride, and emotion that defined Wesleyan sports this season.

Student voices



The beginning of autumn brings shorter days, drifting leaves, and the feeling that the year is slowly winding down. I wanted to capture that moment by drawing a detailed sunset, using only warm tones and bright highlights. There's something beautiful about a stylized sunset like this—deep reds and purplish shadows make the yellow highlights glow even more, setting the perfect mood. Even though the day is ending, the sense of fun lingers. I'm especially proud of how the piece turned out—stylish, vibrant, and full of life, with the leaves and the coin on the left adding that final touch I really love.