

NOVEMBER 2025

Puerto Rican Week

Written by: Nicamar Piñeiro (10th) & Camila Rivera (11th)

During the past week of November 16–21, at Wesleyan Academy, we got the chance to learn more about our culture and our heritage. Not only that, but we were also able to participate in many fun and exciting activities throughout the week, which allowed us to dive a little deeper into what makes Puerto Rican traditions so meaningful. Fun fact: El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the entire U.S. National Forest System, which is one of many examples of what makes our island unique.

The main topic this year was *Somos más que una isla*. It represents how we are so much more than just a tiny island in the Caribbean; we have so much more to offer, such as our vibrant culture. In every activity we did this week, this topic was present even in the classroom, reminding us that we have an amazing culture to celebrate and be proud of. The activities we were able to participate in included a devotional to start the week in which the winners for the design of the Puerto Rican Week shirt were announced, the turkey race, the *Vuelcita por Puerto Rico* activity in which students were able to visit and interact with different areas designated to each grade which were decorated with elements that represented their topic, and at the end of our week we had our Puerto Rican night, in which students got to present dances, songs, and other things that they prepared for this very special week. This week has taught us how important being proud of our island and our culture truly is, and it also reminded us to thank God for blessing us with a heritage that is rich, vibrant, and worth celebrating.

Close Up

Written by: Jorge Rotger (11th)

On November 9th, 12 of our 11th-grade students traveled to Washington, D.C. as part of the Close Up trip. During the program, the students visited various memorials and monuments, such as the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the WW2 Memorial. Here, they learned all about their history and cultural significance to America. They exercised their citizenship skills by partaking in debates, workshops, and even a Mock Congress, where they had the opportunity to argue for or against an actual bill that was proposed by the real Congress. Later, they went to Capitol Hill, and got to have a conversation and ask questions to our Representative Pablo Jose Hernandez. They would then pay their respects at the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and then get to witness the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Finally, they ended their trip with a final speech and dinner. These students learned to never underestimate their power as citizens and to always let their voices be heard.



Drawn by: Gustavo Melendez (10th)



Spanish Language Week

Written by: Camila Negrón (12th)

During Spanish Language Week, each grade explored an assigned story by their Spanish teacher that was connected to our culture and traditions. Students transformed their readings into creative projects that were displayed throughout the hallways, turning the walls into a gallery of art, history, and language. Every grade showcased their view on Puerto Rican and Hispanic heritage, with the common goal of celebrating the Spanish language.

Kinder Bike Ride

Written by: Amaya Hernández (10th)

On November 14, our students from Kindergarten participated in an experience full of joy, movement, and learning. This event, known as the Kindergarten Bike Racing, allowed students to develop various benefits while enjoying this one-of-a-kind experience as part of reinforcing the letter B for their Spanish class. From bilateral coordination and responsibility, confidence building, emotional awareness, safety, language, and literacy, it helps our students develop in a more outside environment that reinforces a meaningful message through a memorable activity.

We also want to share some gratitude to our juniors and seniors from our Sports Management Elective and our beloved school nurse, Paola, for their contribution, support, leadership, and always being aware and attentive towards our cyclists with much care.

Veterans Day

Written by: Olga Cancel (12th)

Every year on November 11, people celebrate Veterans Day in honor of the men and women who have served in the U.S. military. After World War I, the holiday was first observed as Armistice Day to celebrate the end of fighting in 1918. Over time, it changed to honor veterans from all branches of the armed forces. This day is observed nationwide by many to honor the bravery, commitment, and sacrifices of those who have protected our country. Understanding the origins of Veterans Day allows us to appreciate those who defend our rights and freedoms. It serves as a meaningful reminder of the strength and determination that veterans contribute to our communities and country.

Puerto Rican Day Shirt Design Winner

Written by: Fabiola Santos (12th)

This year's Puerto Rican Day shirt design winner, Dahiana Ortolaza, says she was motivated by her history teacher and her classmates to enter the competition. After talking with her parents about important Puerto Rican figures like Tito Trinidad and our Miss Universe winners, she pulled together different symbols that show what makes Puerto Rico special. I loved my drawing, but I didn't want to get my hopes up since I didn't know who I was competing against, Dahiana admitted. When she won, she felt incredibly grateful, especially since she was surrounded by those who had always loved and supported her. I realized I CAN do this (trying new things), and I don't have to limit myself just to the things I know I like (what's comfortable). Her design is a reminder of Puerto Rican pride and the confidence you gain from creating new things and putting yourself out there.

10th Retreat

Written by: Amanda Torres (10th)

On November 4, 10th graders left the school for an overnight spiritual retreat at Senda Casona in Toa Alta, Puerto Rico. The theme was Walk the Talk, based on Colossians 3:23, which says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. During the retreat, a diverse group of guest speakers shared their testimonies and how God transformed their lives in various ways, both spiritually and physically. Throughout the day, students enjoyed the pool and participated in different activities designed to strengthen their relationship with God. At night, they gathered around a beautiful campfire and experienced God's presence. The retreat came to an end on November 5. We hope to enjoy this meaningful time and be able to grow closer to one another and, most importantly, God.

Turkey Race

Written by: Ambar Roche (11th)

On Tuesday, November 18, Wesleyan Academy students participated in our annual Turkey Race. This year, the event took a new turn as it was sponsored by the Athletics Department, making the race accessible to every student at Wesleyan Academy. Students competed in groups by grade level, boys and girls separately, for our traditional prize: the turkey. It was a wonderful activity, supported by the Sports Management Team.



Thanksgiving

Written by: Adriam Rohena (11th)

Thanksgiving, a day to express gratitude for blessings such as family and friends. We frequently commemorate it with a feast, and many also distribute food to communities and charities. It also gives us a moment to reflect on the past year and recognize our progress. Thanksgiving may be a time for Wesleyan Academy students to express spiritual expression and worship, giving thanks to God for blessings such as health. To be able to fully respect and value the importance of Thanksgiving, all Wesleyan Academy students will have the opportunity to have the whole week free, allowing us the chance to spend more time with our families, whether at home or perhaps on a trip, and these are moments we should hold dearly.

Did you know?^{Written by: Amanda Robles (10th)}

Have you ever wondered what education is like in other countries? How do schools in other places differ from ours? Is there such a thing as a school that has been around since 597 AD, or a school with over 32,000 students? Well, yes, and you're going to find out! The school founded in 597 AD, which holds the title for the world's oldest school, is the King's School in Canterbury, England. The largest school is City Montessori School, in Lucknow, India, which, as previously mentioned, has over 32,000 students. Most children start schooling at around the ages of 5 or 6, but in Finland, children start at age 7. In Chile, it seems summer is truly loved, because their summer break lasts from mid-December and ends in early March. Some schools have even attained world records, like the Guru Nanak Public School in India, which hosted the largest simultaneous Rubik's Cube solving event. Another school, New Trier High School in Illinois, holds the record for the most twins in the same academic year with 44 pairs.



Upcoming events:

- English week
- Christmas Spirit Days
- NHS activities

Featured Senior^{Written by: Carlos Berroa (10th)}

In this edition, we want you to meet a senior who has been part of Wesleyan Academy since PPK, which essentially means that he has spent his entire life as part of our school community. His name is Jan Andres Ramirez. Jan, among other activities, is part of our school's basketball team, one of his biggest passions. His exceptional interest in sports has motivated him to wish to pursue a sports management career in his future. He has also participated in school-related activities like the Summer 2025 Europe Trip. He remarks that he learned many things from his trip about broadening your view of the world and knowing that there are many different people and cultures. Recently, he has decided to actively participate in the Shave a Senior fundraiser. He shared with me that the main reason why he wants to collaborate with this initiative is because of his father, who was unfortunately suffering from cancer. We encourage you to cooperate with Jan and the rest of the participants so that this can be a successful fundraiser. To conclude this segment, he wanted to share this advice with all of the student community: You should try to live your life to the fullest because life won't wait for you, and because of that it's important to appreciate every moment, taking advantage of every minute.

Student voices^{Written by: Ariana Galliano (10th)}

Wesleyan Academy is always proud to display its students' many talents and their versatility. This month, we celebrated Spanish Week, where students across all grades got the opportunity to express their creativity through art based on literature. Here is a drawing made by Amandah Negrón from 10th grade. This drawing is based on the story *Otra maldad de Pateco*, written by Ana Lydia Vega.

