

# The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme at Westland Middle School



Spring 2019

## THE WESTLAND WARRIORS COMPETE IN THE COUNTY-WIDE BOOK WARS COMPETITION

Westland sixth, seventh, and eighth graders have prepared themselves to compete in a book trivia contest against other middle schools in Montgomery County. This is the sixth year that students across MCPS have read ten core books, three book series, and three compilations of short stories in order to test their knowledge and bring home the county-wide Book Wars trophy. This was Westland's second year participating and although we put up a good fight, the Westland Warriors were defeated. We can't wait to try again next year when we can celebrate our 8th graders who will have participated in all three years of competition. Go Wildcats!



## WESTLAND STUDENTS HOLD A CLOTHING DRIVE TO SUPPORT CASA RUBY

Westland students banded together to support a non-profit organization, in Washington D.C., Casa Ruby, with a lofty goal. Casa Ruby, founded by a transgender Latina immigrant, is the only bilingual and multicultural organization that provides social services and programs for LGBTQ+ youth in need.

Westland students were inspired by the drive and vision of founder Ruby Corado and wanted to help in any way they could. Students created advertisements, morning announcements with facts about LGBTQ+ youth, and a Wake-Up Westland segment to get the word out. By the end of the drive, Casa Ruby was thrilled to receive a hefty bounty of clothing for those in need. We are thankful for all of the Westland families who donated.



## WE'RE NOT JUST CONSUMERS, WE'RE ALSO CREATORS!

Westland Design students learned how to use coding programs to develop a product that would reach a global audience. Students learned to use code to develop timers, quizzes, and games. Throughout the unit they used their imagination to create an innovative and universal app. They culminated the unit by designing and developing a unique app that would help solve a problem or provide support to their target audience.



# CELEBRATE ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE DC AREA

## SPANISH STUDENTS COMMUNICATE AND CREATE!

Alicia Fuentes enhanced learning in her Spanish Immersion classroom by having the students create the content. Spanish Immersion students learned about influential Spanish Motorbike Champion, Ana Carrasco. Using clues about vocabulary and information about Ana herself, students created crossword puzzles to challenge their classmates' thinking.



Student Artifacts



In Spanish 3, students studied ancient artifacts to learn what they can tell you about a culture. Next, students designed their own artifact and described how the artifact might be interpreted years in the future. It was fun to see all of the students use their creativity and their Spanish language skills. Way to go Wildcats!

## SIXTH GRADERS EXPERIENCE A DAY AT THE MARKET!

Sixth graders in Jan Bufkin's class experienced a day in the life of a tea buyer or seller. Students received a role and a card that explained how high or low they could sell or bid on the product. The goal was to walk away from the simulation with the most profit. Students also came away with an understanding of the economic system in ancient China. What a fun experience for the students.



## DIGITAL LITERACY STUDENTS STUDY REAL WORLD ISSUES AND THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Digital literacy students will culminate their year designing a campaign to address a local or global issue. In order to find their passion, students are learning about the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals that were set by the United Nations in 2016. The goals cover global issues such as hunger, poverty, access to clean water, climate change, gender equality, health care, and education. Who better to work on changing the world than these great minds?



## THE FREER AND SACKLER GALLERIES

Visit the Freer and Sackler Gallery in Washington D.C. to see one of the country's finest collections of the arts of the Islamic world such as illustrated manuscripts, ceramics, and much more.

[www.freersacklersi.edu](http://www.freersacklersi.edu)

## THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress is home to a variety of documents, photographs, cartoons, and architectural designs from places like Iran, North Africa, Libya, Tunisia just waiting to be discovered.

[www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

## THE WALTERS ART MUSEUM

The Walters Art Museum is located close by in Baltimore, MD. Visit the nearby art museum in order to see all representations of Islamic art in media ranging from the 7th century to present day.

[art.thewalters.org](http://art.thewalters.org)

## SULTAN QABOOS CULTURAL CENTER

The Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center has dedicated itself to educating people in the United States and Oman about the richness and beauty of both cultures in an attempt to gain a better understanding of one another. You can visit the exhibition hall to see displays highlighting the Omani culture and experiences.

[www.sqcc.org](http://www.sqcc.org)