

SPOTLIGHT

What does it mean to be a leader?



"A leader at Wando is one who is involved in extracurricular activities and [shows] school spirit throughout the entire year," **Olivia Renedo**, 10, said.



"Being a leader at Wando, it really sets yourself apart from everyone else because you have to be able to do the right thing even though the people may not support you," **Israel Pendleton**, 11, said.



"To be a leader at Wando, you need to be yourself. You need to make your own decisions, and don't listen to what anyone says unless you need to," **Jace Sheridan**, 9, said.

LAUGH IT OUT: (below) During a FLOW club meeting, **Jacelyn Porcher**, 10, and **Licole Smith**, 10, get advice from one another on how to resolve conflicts. "We're all getting much closer as we progress in the club and I think it's really helping us stop a lot of drama and beef that's going on in the school," Porcher said.
NO INTERRUPTION: (bottom) Towards the end of a meeting, **Vinyet Burns**, 10, reflects on the impact FLOW club has had on her confidence and becoming a leader. "FLOW club helps me become a leader because it provides a strong platform to talk to other people about problems without being interrupted, giving each member time to lead a conversation and be more open about issues. It especially helps me build confidence for my future and having the ability to talk to people," Burns said.



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By Emma Lambert & Jonnay Perkins

Club develops empowering environment for students

FLOW AS ONE

72 SUMMER

Eleven percent of Wando's population is African American. Two percent Hispanic. Three percent Asian.

Eighty-three percent white.

To bridge the gap of the limited diversity, Spanish teacher, **Caroline Campbell**, staff, created Future Leaders of Wando, otherwise known as FLOW, to bring a sense of unity, familiarity, and positive environment between a group of black students.

Campbell had aspired to create a safe environment and a judgment-free zone from the time she started working as a school teacher. She wanted to help African American

students voice their opinions about the disciplinary and academic gap between different ethnicities. This year, the club was finally started after a few years of contemplation and has been a prominent club in the Wando community. **Lore**

Harvin, 12, has seen the impact that FLOW is making on students from all social groups and ethnicities.

"We have had a great turnout for our meetings, so it leads us to believe that many people can relate to the issues we discuss. So far the response to the club itself has been amazing," Harvin said.

FLOW helps students keep in check and do their best with support from other club members and sponsors. Member **Chelsea Cayetano**, 11, believes that having a support system is helping students achieve their academic and life goals.

"A lot of kids these days aren't too worried about getting good grades, so it's nice to have teachers and leaders behind you to keep you on track," Cayetano said.

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FLOW meets a couple of times a month and their meetings consist of groups of students lifting each other up and discussing sensitive topics that they usually do not get the chance to discuss in school, something **Alana Anderson Pickney**, 11, could relate to.

"I think that people who feel like they have nobody to talk to have finally found people to discuss these topics with, including me," Pinckney said.

When they meet, they discuss topics like being the only African American student in the classroom, racism issues, and stereotypes. Being a part of this club has given many students clarity of how widespread some of these issues are.

"It is nice to hear people who can relate to the same problems that you are going through in school," Harvin said.

FLOW teaches African American students how to overcome problems that pertain to them, specifically in school, but FLOW is also geared

towards teaching students life lessons that will stick with them beyond their years here.

"I think it'll teach them some things, not just school stuff but other things about life, and help them feel more comfortable and try harder," Pinckney said.

Harvin decided to mentor other students to help keep them on their feet and work hard. She hopes to be a role model for other African American students who are looking to push back the stigma around their success in both life and school.

"I am looking forward to keeping others on track through FLOW," Harvin said. "I want to help people work towards their goals."