



WMS FAMILY ALLIANCE

TOGETHER...We Build a Community

WMS Family Alliance Newsletter – March 2023



The Family Alliance strives to connect families and strengthen our wonderful Woodinville Montessori community. Please join us!

About Family Alliance

Family Alliance (FA) is the link connecting all families so that we may feel the joined synergy and community of Woodinville Montessori School (WMS). Please visit the [FA webpage](#) to learn more about FA, its committees, and its leadership team.

Community Reminders

FA would love to have your help in planning, organizing, and executing community-building events. Find opportunities [here](#) or [contact us](#) with your ideas. Please also look out for regular communications from your Room Parents. In addition to coordinating class-related activities, Room Parents help FA distribute information and solicit volunteers.

Auction and Gala

SAVE THE DATE for the **WMS Auction and Gala!** Planning is well underway for this very special evening that will be celebrating 40 years of WMS! The gala will be held Friday, May 12, at Sparkman Cellars in Woodinville. We hope to see you there for this event honoring our school and its extended community. If you have any questions, want to donate an auction item, or become an event sponsor, please contact the [Gala Committee](#).

Lantern Festival

FA is hosting a **Lantern Festival in the WMS Community Room (North Creek Campus Bldg. 2) on Sunday March 19 from 11 am to 1 pm**. This festival will highlight Ramadan and the Muslim traditions for our WMS community. If you are interested in helping to plan or volunteer for this event, please reach out to [FA](#). [Register here](#) for this free event to the WMS community.

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Community Appreciations

FA has been hard at work bringing back much-loved events this school year! We could not do this without the help of our community of volunteers. We have hosted several events throughout the fall and winter, both on campus and off. For several events we have been lucky to be able to gather in the Community Room at the North Creek Campus.

Fall Festival

FA hosted this year's **Fall Festival at Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm in Snohomish** Farm activities included pumpkin patches, Bobby's Back 40, the play barn, corn mazes for all ages, hayrides, cow train, trike tracks, slides, and FA held special activities at the Grain Bin Gazebo.

We would like to thank all who helped make this event happen, including the Fall Festival Committee led by Mary Picardal, along with Giulia Cevenini, Yuanfang Zhou, and Stegin O'Neill, and day of the event volunteers: Yitu Xu, Fuyu Liu, Rajni Aulakh, Brandon Orr, Sriram Krishnamoorthy, Chitra Nigam, Kun Pan, Jing Zhao, Kristina Kern, Erwin Harijadi, Chandrika Sivaramakrishnan, Deepa Dwivedi, Gloria Lang, Yun Liu, Huijuan Chen, Mona Kathuria, Eva Chen, Arijit Basu, and Dawei Ouyang.

Diwali Celebration

FA hosted a **Diwali Celebration** in October 2022. Attendees enjoyed crafts, activities, and dancing at this first community celebration of Diwali.

We would like to thank Chitra Nigam, Nisha Shah, and Andrea Karim for planning the event and the following volunteers for helping to make the event a success: Mona Kathuria, Reggie Aulakh, Reena Eshwar, and Karuna Sharma.

Upper El Book Exchange

WMS Parent Darcy Hardy organized a Book Exchange for Upper El students in October 2022. Students were excited for this opportunity to swap books amongst the Upper El community. If you are interested in organizing a similar exchange, please reach out to [FA](#).

We are grateful to Darcy, and Julie Adams, Anette Kinley, Kayti Rea, and Krista Wolf for help in this effort!

WMS Winter Food Drive

FA hosted a **Winter Food Drive** supporting Hopelink, a local non-profit that provides essential services to communities in need. Hopelink was most appreciative of the donations from WMS.

We would like to acknowledge the following volunteers for helping collect food and transport it to Hopelink: Yuanfang Zhou, Jiaqi Shen, Farin Rahman, Trina Bayard, Katherine Kempf, Reilly Ochs, Kristin Duin, Tim Gruner, Nathan Wright, Saurin Shah, and Ryan Dralle.

Winter Festival

FA hosted a **Winter Festival** in December 2022. Activities included sugar cookie decorating, winter arts and crafts, a creative Middle School Student Farmers Market, and a fabulous WMS student choir performance.

We would like to acknowledge the following volunteers for helping to make the event a success: Brandon Orr, Chunyang Li, Claire Tu, Daniel Salas, Elaine Secilmis, Erica Thomas Chen, Hiromi Yoshida, Hongli Feng, Hongli Feng, Huijuan Chen, Jodi Krause, Johanna Whit , Katherine Kempf, Kemi Porto, Laura Yang, Lily W, Mona Atallah, Mona Kathuria, Nikolett Bacso, Pooja Katti, Priyamvada Govil, Rajni Aulakh, Rebekah Sandusky, Shelby Roscher, Trevor Nesbitt, Trina Bayard, Yi Yang, and Yuanfang Zhou.

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Lunar New Year

FA held a **Lunar New Year Celebration** welcoming the Year of the Rabbit in January 2023. The WMS Community room was transformed into a beautiful and festive space where families and students enjoyed many activities celebrating and learning about the Lunar New Year traditions. Children were given a “passport” to collect stamps at each activity station which included visiting a beautiful cultural display, hands-on dumpling making, learning Chinese calligraphy, sampling Chinese cuisine, fun and intricate art making, and sports. Upon collection of all stamps, students received a red envelope or “hong bao” to take home! Families also got to watch a special musical performance with Chinese Tanggu drums and erhu instrument along with song and dance performances by students.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to this year’s Lunar New Year Committee chaired by WMS Parents Eva Chen, Yuanfang Zhou, Fei Ao, their families, and the many volunteers who spent many months and evenings planning this amazing event for our community! It was wonderful to finally be able to bring this beloved tradition back on campus! We would also like to acknowledge the following volunteers for their hand in making the event a success: Adam Acampora, Amanda Liu, August O., Carol Zhou, Cathy Nickell, Charul Aggarwal, Chen Li, Chuyang Li, Claire Tu, Eva Chen, Fei Ao, Feng Zhang, Flora Sun, Gloria Liang, Grace Lee, Haiyun Ying, Hayley Ellis, Hongli Feng, Huijuan Chen, Jialu Yan, Jiankai Dang, Jie Gui, Jiesheng Wei, Kun Sun, Kun Pan, Laura Yang, Le Yu, Leslie Crossan, Lily W., Mei Jin, Minhua Wang, Peng Bian, Pete Peterson, Qingmei Lin, Ryan Dralle, Susie Zhang, Wei Huang, Wensheng Yu, Yi Yang, Yi Tang, Yi Zhang, Yin Cai, Yuanfang Zhou, Yue Tan, Zejiang Guo, Zhibo Dai, and Zhongkai Mi.

Group Outing: Everett Silvertips

WMS parent, Sandi Nagata, organized a group of WMS families to watch the Everett Silvertips game at Silvertips Arena in February 2023. We hope the 37 parents and students who attended had fun and we look forward to many more WMS group outings to come. We thank Sandi for organizing, and if you are interested in spearheading a similar sports outing, please reach out to [FA](#).

TSA Luncheons

Our amazing community came together to support two **Teacher-Staff Appreciation Luncheons** so far this year. Thank you to the volunteers who brought in delicious dishes, drinks, and treats for teachers and staff, and to those who also helped with decorations, set up and clean up. Your contributions were all very much appreciated!

We would especially like to acknowledge the following volunteers: **November 2022 Homemade Theme:** Sriba Rajendran, Jenn Horenstein, Laura Yang, Jinju Song, Sathiya Gopalakrishnan, Zhongkai Mi, Nisha Shah, Meena Jadhav, Aseil Jaber, Sangeeta Venkatachalam, Roma Zins, Leslie Crossan, Chris Merryman, Deepa Srinivasan, Chandrika Sivaramakrishnan, Bryant Ng, Mona Kathuria, Ambreen Salman, Rebekah Sandusky, Sahar Pa, Sola Ajala, Jared Boundy, Yuanfang Zhou, Jeehae Han, Alyssa Floyd, Farin Rahman, Gloria Liang, Alicia Vigeland, Hao Wu, Erin Beall, Amy Sagona, Anna Marie Farmer, Yitu Xu, Heather Smith, Katilin Dralle, Cristina Podlusk, Kun Pan, Fuyu Lin, Edwin Aquino, Desiree Briel Rodi, Charanya Srinivasan, Jialu Yan, Yiyang Zhou, Huijuan Chen, Kemi Porto, and Yukiko Shiraki. **February 2023 Winter Theme:** Erin Beall, Eunji Cho, Shahnoor Kassamali, Mona Kathuria, Chitra Nigam, Frances Ju, Nisha Shah, Sara Morsy, Kayti Rea, Hiromi Yoshida, Andrea Karim, Hayley Ellis, Reilly Ochs, Priyamvada Govil, Camilla Woolley, Machiko Carroll, Nalin Singal, Andy Deines, Shanta Boddapati, Jenn Horenstein, Elise Tumbas, Kayleigh Bauer, Meena Jadhav, Darshita Dalal, Michal Anderson, Rebekah Sandusky, Katherine Lencioni, Laura Yang, Yukiko Shiraki, Anna Waismeyer, Yun Liu, Alyssa Floyd, Christina Wei, Gloria Liang, Cathy Nickell, Yiyang Zhou, Kaitlin Dralle, Marci Sweet, Adam Acampora, Heather Smith, Katie Henneberry, Anjali Menon, Giulia Cevenini, Shaweta Malik, Darshita Dalal, Anjali Teckchandani, Sudeep Balasubramanian, Farin Rahman, Brittainy Reilly.

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Ways to Get Involved

FA is so excited to be building community at WMS. We would love to have your help with existing events or building new traditions.

Volunteer Opportunities

Family Alliance is looking for motivated volunteers to join our leadership team as well as assist with all-school events next year. If you would like to find out more about the possibilities, please visit our [sign-up page](#) or contact the [FA executive committee](#).

In-person volunteer opportunities are back!!! Our school thrives with parental involvement. Please reach out to [Laureen Ng](#) to inquire about getting clearance to volunteer in person (field trip chaperones, reading parents, etc.).

Share your ideas for community building!

Do you have a cool idea for a community event? FA would love to hear your ideas for any fun, safe, family-focused ideas. For interest, please contact the [FA executive committee](#).

Share your culture with the WMS community!

Family Alliance invites families to share their culture and traditions with the community! If you are interested, contact the [FA executive committee](#) about creating a short video on cooking a dish, dance performance, art making, or any tradition from your culture!

Woodinville Montessori School Family Facebook Page

Looking for a way to connect with other WMS Families? Come join the [Woodinville Montessori Families Facebook Group](#) to plan outings, share upcoming events, and promote our sense of community.

Family Alliance Communications

Family Alliance shares information about events and volunteer requests through Room Parents, direct emails, [The Grapevine](#), and Facebook. We would love to hear from you if you have ideas or would like to find a way to help. [Contact us!](#)

Supporting WMS

Logging Volunteer Hours

Every volunteer hour you put in helps our school! Did you know that many companies will match your volunteer time as well as funds?

Directions to log service hours in Family Portal

1. Sign into [Family Portal](#)
2. In your account, find Family on the left sidebar, expand the arrow and click on Family Home.
3. On the Family Home screen, the service hours module will be the **center top** panel on your screen.
4. You may see a dropdown above the module to select your name or your partner's name, if you wish to specifically credit the service hours.
5. Click "Add+" on the upper right of the module.
6. Choose a description of your service from the dropdown. (If unsure, choose "Other.")
7. Add a brief note to add detail (if desired).
8. "Verified by" can be the person in charge of the task or leave it blank.
9. Save the entry.
10. To record more than one occasion of service hours, save and return to the previous "enter volunteer hours" page. Otherwise, you will be editing (over-writing) the current entry.
11. Contact [Laureen Ng](#) with any issues or questions about recording your volunteer hours.

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