



TOGETHER...We Build a Community

WMS Family Alliance Newsletter – October 2022



Welcome Back! The Family Alliance is looking forward to continuing to connect families and strengthen our wonderful Woodinville Montessori community. We hope you will join us!

About Family Alliance

Family Alliance (FA) welcomes all families to a new school year at Woodinville Montessori School (WMS). We are so excited to be back to 'regularly scheduled programming' this year! Family Alliance is the link connecting all families so that we may feel the joined synergy and community of WMS. Please visit the [FA webpage](#) to learn more about FA, its committees, and its leadership team.

Community Reminders

FA is hard at work bringing back much-loved events and looking forward to building new traditions! We would love to have your help. Find opportunities [here](#) or [contact us](#) with your ideas. Please also stay-tuned for regular communications from your Room Parents. In addition to coordinating class-related activities, Room Parents help FA distribute information and solicit volunteers.

Quick Links

- [FA Webpage](#)
- [FA Contact](#)
- [School Calendar](#)
- [Volunteer Signup Form](#)
- [WMS Family Facebook](#)

Coffee with Sunita

Coffee with Sunita meets from 8:50-9:30 am on Wednesdays. Come join in, talk with Sunita, staff, and volunteers. Meet at the North Creek Campus or join via [Zoom](#).

Fall Festival

FA is hosting this year's **Fall Festival at Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm in Snohomish on Saturday October 2 from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm**. Purchase tickets [here](#) (for everyone over 2 yrs old) by Thursday, October 13. Farm activities include pumpkin patches, Bobby's Back 40, the play barn, corn mazes for all ages, hayrides, cow train, trike tracks, slides, and all other kids' activities. Special activities will also be planned by FA and held at the Grain Bin Gazebo, which is reserved for WMS families. Pictures by level are planned starting at 12:15p. We are looking for volunteers to help and you can sign up [here](#).

Diwali Celebration



Join FA on **Saturday, October 22 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to celebrate Diwali!** This event will be held at the WMS North Creek Campus, Community Room in Building 2. There will be crafts, activities, and dancing. Free to attend but [registration](#) is highly encouraged for planning purposes. If you can volunteer to help, please contact [Chitra Nigam](#).

Gingerbread Festival



After two years of virtual Holiday Craft Festivals, FA would love to bring back our beloved Gingerbread Festival (OR a reimagined in-person winter festival). If you are interested in helping with this event, please reach out to [FA](#).

Lunar New Year



Save the Date!!! FA will be hosting a **Lunar New Year celebration on Saturday January 28 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**. We are excited to welcome the year of the rabbit with food, crafts, and other fun activities.

Ways to Get Involved

FA is so excited to be building community at WMS. We would love to have your help.

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- [FA Webpage](#)
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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. A tip: to record more than one occasion of service hours, save and return to the previous "enter volunteer hours" page. Otherwise, you will be editing—and over-writing—the current entry.
11. Contact [Laureen Ng](#) with any issues or questions about recording your volunteer hours.

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