Each spring, WMS holds an auction and gala as an opportunity to come together as a school community and support the school that we all love. Every dollar is raised through a fun and exciting program that includes a live and silent auction, class art from our students, dessert dash, student performances, and finally, a Raise-the-Paddle going to a very special need.

We thank our WMS families, friends, faculty, staff, alumni, grandparents and students for their time, effort and generous support of this major event for our school!

ATTENDING THE AUCTION

Online registration will be available in March, and we anticipate that over 200 friends of WMS will attend this year. Ticket prices will be $100 per person at the early bird rate and will increase to $125 per person thereafter. Opportunities to sponsor tickets for our amazing faculty and staff are welcome and greatly appreciated! Included in your ticket are drinks, dinner and a guaranteed great time! New this year is a special Kids Night Out run by our high school class, for childcare needs of children ages five and older. Stay tuned for ticket registration dates to be announced.

RAISE-THE-PADDLE

Each year, WMS chooses a priority need that cannot be readily met through the regular operating budget. Examples of past paddle raises include support for outdoor education and new playground structures, tuition assistance, creation of the innovation design lab, and more. All of the support from previous families before us have helped to create the incredible opportunities that make our community and school what it is today.

This year, the Raise-the-Paddle focus will be dedicated to investing in faculty excellence, supporting our school’s most valuable asset, our Montessori teachers. With an increase in professional and personal development opportunities, AMS certification for core subject instructors, social-emotional learning training, and more, we are driven by the opportunity to provide the highest level of financial support for this critical benchmark of teacher quality.
**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

First and foremost, we hope you will join us there! If you are excited to do more, you might consider donating items to the live or silent auctions, desserts for the dessert dash, wine for the popular wine wall, or becoming an individual or corporate sponsor to help underwrite costs.

Finally, many hands make light work! Opportunities to help out for the Gala before, during and after the event will be posted online for anyone to sign-up. As we rely on countless volunteers for this event, it is the greatest way for parents to fulfill their yearly volunteer requirements.

**GALA COMMITTEE**

Countless WMS parents and friends volunteer their time and lend their expertise and creativity to make our Gala and Auction a successful event year after year. The 2020 Gala Committee includes:

Gena Schirer, Chair
Julie Adams, Volunteer coordinator
Jenifer Alyazdi, Procurement
Maria Arroyave, Class Art Project
Traci Fischer, Dessert Dash
Darcy Hardy, Sponsorships
Jamie Holland, Marketing and Communications
Pooja Kohli, Décor and Entertainment
Lindy Liles, Procurement and Operations
Christina Podlusky, Procurement and Dessert Dash
Nicolette Stocker, Décor

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Laureen Ng, Director of Development at LNG@woodinvillemontessori.org for more questions or interest in getting involved.