



TOGETHER...We Build a Community

WMS Family Alliance Newsletter – October 2020



Happy Fall! The Family Alliance is looking forward to connecting families and strengthening our wonderful Woodinville Montessori community.

Introductions

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

Fall “Choose your Adventure” Orienteering Event a Success!

The Family Alliance’s first Fall Orienteering Event was a great success! Thank you to everyone who came out despite the occasionally soggy weather. The photos uploaded to the Padlet site are wonderful examples of our school spirit; from the scary faces at Marker 1, to the community mandala “remodeling”, to pictures of everyone just outside enjoying the fresh air and exercise.

Special thanks to the Weygandts, Gruner-Duins, Reeds, and Ngs for their help making the event happen. From creating the questions for the markers and laying out the course, to making the maps and coming up with different activities, this volunteer crew made the first event happen. Would you like to see more events like this in the future? [Let Family Alliance know!](#)

Halloween is right around the corner!

Did you know that Halloween is one of the world’s oldest holidays? From Dia de los Muertos, to Samhain, to Pangangaluluwa, the Kawasaki Halloween Parade, and Pitru Paksha, the world celebrates this day in different ways. What is your family’s Halloween tradition? There’s a new page on the [Padlet app](#) for everyone to post and share what we’re doing this month. Let’s see how many different culture’s traditions we celebrate! (the Padlet site requires password: **FA2020**).

Gingerbread Festival Coming Soon

Our annual Gingerbread Festival is tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2020. This year will, of course, be different than it has been in the past, but some things will remain the same! Stay tuned for more details!

Quick Links

[FA Webpage](#)

[FA Contact](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Volunteer Signup Form](#)

[WMS Family Facebook](#)

Community Reminders

While school and social events look different this year, FA is hard at work reimagining current traditions and building new ones! We would love to have your help.

Coffee with Sunita

The next ***Coffee with Sunita*** meeting is 10 AM Wednesday, October 21 via Zoom. Come join in, talk with Sunita, staff, and volunteers. Zoom link is in your email.

Share your ideas for community building!

Do you have a cool idea for a virtual community event? Family Alliance is working hard to build a calendar of fun, safe, family-focused ideas for the Fall and early Winter and would love to hear your ideas. For interest, please contact the [FA executive committee](#).

Share your culture with the WMS community!

Family Alliance would like to invite families to share their culture and traditions with the community! If you are interested, contact us about creating a short video to share. For interest, please contact the [FA executive committee](#).

2020 Teacher Staff Appreciation (TSA) Luncheons Update

Every fall brings with it colorful leaves, pumpkin spice lattes and our first WMS Teacher Staff Appreciation committee luncheon of the year. This year, we will not hold the traditional TSA luncheons that we have always had. We are in the process of evaluating how to safely transition into a more practical model for this pandemic and will reach out once we are able to do so. You do not have to wait for the luncheon to express your appreciation - I encourage you to acknowledge the teachers and staff you encounter with a note or an email during this time. We can all use more cheerful words around us. Personally speaking, my appreciation grows when my lower elementary student gets that twinkle in her eye as her teacher gives a lesson on the stamp game, and she gives us lessons on it for the rest of the evening. Or when my upper elementary student's teacher sends him engaging book recommendations along with class-related reading. I hope you will join me in continuing to acknowledge the wonderful WMS teachers and staff, and all of their efforts in creating this nurturing school community for our students.

- Labiba Khan, Chair - Teacher Staff Appreciation Committee

Family Alliance 2020-21 Committee Chairs/Leadership Members Needed

Looking to be more involved at WMS in a fun and exciting manner? Consider joining the Family Alliance Leadership team. We plan events, coordinate communications, encourage volunteerism, and build community.

There are several open positions for the 2020-21 school year including the executive committee, event specific leads, and topic chairs.

To learn more or discuss interest, please contact the [FA executive committee](#).

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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.

To access the group, you can send a request to [Emily Irwin](#), our Communications and Marketing Manager.

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!](#)

You can also find some current school-wide opportunities to volunteer here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b48aea823aafa7-wmsvolunteer>

Logging Volunteer Hours

Every volunteer hour you put in helps our school!

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 you are 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, Laureen Ng (Director of Development), 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 overwriting—the current entry.
11. Contact [Laureen](#) with any issues or questions about recording your volunteer hours.

If you have any feedback regarding the logging system, [please let Laureen Ng know](#).

Did you know that many companies will match your volunteer time as well as funds?

Support WMS through AmazonSmile



Did you know Amazon has a feature which allows you to support our school while shopping at Amazon? The site will donate .5% of eligible purchases to WMS every time you use it. Simply shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1212740 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon shopping app!