



WMS FAMILY ALLIANCE

TOGETHER...We Build a Community

WMS Family Alliance Newsletter – January 2021



Happy New Year! The Family Alliance is looking forward to continuing to connect families and strengthen our wonderful Woodinville Montessori community.

Introductions

The 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 the FA, its committees, and its leadership team.

Winter Donation Drive Recap - November

Thank you to our community for contributing generously to the winter donation drive held last November! The response was overwhelming and the FA was thrilled with the amount of food, clothing, and toys donated to support both Mary's Place and Northwest Harvest.

Special thank you to our parent, staff, and student volunteers in this effort, which took place over multiple days, sorting, packing, and loading the donations: **Shay Chapman, Kristin Duin, Emily Irwin, Jared Walls, Jared McSorley, Zoe Sibthorp, Tane Koh, and Sachin Ingle.**

Teacher Staff Appreciation

Thank you to our wonderful Teacher Staff Appreciation committee, chaired by Labiba Khan, for leading a recent effort to show appreciation for our teachers and staff with Amazon gift cards. At this time, when the usual TSA Luncheons cannot be held, WMS staff and teachers were appreciative of the kind gesture!

Holiday Craft Festival

The first WMS Holiday Craft Festival was held on Saturday, December 19th, in lieu of the traditional Gingerbread Festival, and was a great success! Thank you to all ninety families that joined us online to learn, from WMS' own art and music specialist and parent, Christina Bernal, how to make garlands, ornaments, and 3-D snowflakes. The event also featured a speaker from Babies of Homelessness, as well as lovely holiday performances from several WMS students. It was a wonderful way for the WMS community to connect before the holiday break.

Special thank you to the volunteers who helped put together 300 craft bags and distribute them to our students to enjoy: **Christina Bernal, Suzi Axe, Vickie Castaneda, Susan Lee, Lindsay Nason, Anna Waismeyer, Carli McSorley, Shannon Long, and Jared Walls.**

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[Volunteer Signup Form](#)

[WMS Family Facebook](#)

Looking Ahead

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year is Friday, February 12th, celebrating the Year of the Ox. If your family celebrates the holiday and would like to share some of your traditions with WMS either in the form of a video, photos or other media, please reach out to the [FA executive committee](#).

Community Education Workshop Series

FA leadership is planning the Community Education Workshop Series: online lectures or workshops on various topics to connect and benefit our parent community. Please stay tuned for more information.

Call for volunteer speakers: If you are interested in speaking on a topic or hosting an online workshop that you think will resonate with the WMS community, please reach out to the [FA executive committee](#).

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

Coffee with Sunita meets at 10 AM on Wednesdays 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? FA is working hard to build a calendar of fun, safe, family-focused ideas for the Spring 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 the [FA executive committee](#) about creating a short video to share.

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, send a request to [Emily Irwin](#), our Communications and Marketing Manager.

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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!](#)

Volunteering

Volunteer Opportunities

You can find current school-wide volunteer opportunities 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 over-writing—the current entry.
11. Contact [Laureen Ng](#) with any issues or questions about recording your volunteer hours.

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 0.5% 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!

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