



TOGETHER...We Build a Community

WMS Family Alliance Newsletter – April 2021



Happy Spring! 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.

Community Education Events

To give our hard-working teachers a break, FA leadership is organizing the Community Education Workshop Series this year: online lectures or workshops on various topics to connect and benefit our parent community.

Thank you to WMS Parent, Sean Kramar, for sharing his insights into brain health and how it relates to our kids, Montessori learning, and pandemic processing. We had a great turnout and positive feedback. A recording of this talk is linked [here](#).

Thank you to guest speaker Kristen Richter who provided a workshop on Positive Discipline Workshop before the break. For those who missed it or are still interested, a recording of the workshop is linked [here](#).

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](#).

Show your Acts of Kindness in celebration of Ramadan

This year, in lieu of an in-person gathering, the Lantern Festival Committee would like to invite the WMS community to a 30 day challenge for acts of kindness. Kindness and generosity are the spirit of Ramadan. Look for a dedicated post in the [WMS Families Facebook](#) group to share your contribution. We are excited to have the community send waves of positivity all around us! Ramadan Mubarak!

Amany Hasan and Labiba Khan

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Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up the week of May 3rd this year! As we are not holding any luncheon events this year, we have the following ideas families and students are welcome to use to express appreciation for your teachers:

- Write a poem or create artwork that can be given.
- Write a thank you letter.
- Do some planting in your teacher's honor.

Be creative and have fun!

If your student(s) still want to show gratitude to their teachers in a special video for the upcoming Gala where we will Raise the Paddle for Teachers, please have them send a video or photo sharing their appreciation to our [Dropbox](#) or email gala@woodinvillemontessori.org with questions!

WMS Gala

The "Where the Wild Things Are" themed WMS Auction and Gala is being held May 15. Family Alliance and the Gala Committee are planning a school-wide take-home craft kit for students to support the gala festivities. We will likely need volunteers to put the kits together. If you can help, please email 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 would love to hear your ideas for any fun, safe, family-focused ideas for the Spring. 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!

We are grateful to those who have shared a part of their culture with WMS. Check back through our social media feeds for links to making arepas, Venezuela's most popular dish, and for an English / Spanish story time.

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.

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Volunteering

Please remember to record your volunteer hours via the Family Portal. Any amount of time you spend helping the school, including attending any of our recent community education workshops counts as service time!

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.

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 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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