



WMS FAMILY ALLIANCE

TOGETHER...We Build a Community

WMS Family Alliance Newsletter – January 2022



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

Introductions

Family Alliance 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.

Community Reminders

Please join WMS and FA as we celebrate community and culture!

Lunar New Year

The Family Alliance is hosting a **Lunar New Year Celebration** online on Sunday, January 30th from 10:30am – 11:30am. Students of all ages will be able to make Lunar New Year paper art and crafts guided by WMS parents. Students will listen to Lunar New Year stories and learn more about the Lunar New Year traditions. There will also be fun videos, including one for a special “dumpling craft” that parents and children can make at your own pace! Register [here](#) by January 24 but hurry, only a limited number of kits remain! **Volunteers needed:** The committee is seeking 2-3 volunteers to help with distributing craft kits at the North Creek Campus on Thursday, January 27 from 3:30 – 4:00 pm. If you are available, please reach out to FA@woodinvillemontessori.org. Thank you in advance!

Quick Links

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

Community Appreciations

Teacher Staff Appreciation

Many thanks to the WMS community (both the TSA committee and everyone who contributed) for coming together to ‘stock the lounges’ for our teachers and staff in early December! The treats, snacks, and beverages were much appreciated! We are planning a couple more TSA events, so be on the lookout for ways to participate.

WMS and the Family Alliance is grateful to everyone who contributed, including: **Suchi Agarwal, Ellen Beecroft, Florence Bernhard, Aubrey Blosser, Anusha Chikodi, Monica Chin, Kaitlin Dralle, Kaige Zhang-Gantz, Rabia Gul, Christine Hernandez, Jenn Horenstein, Aseil Jaber, Sneha Katyal, Renae Kochel, Susan Lee, Qingmei Lin, Shaweta Malik, Mohammed Mehkri, Emma Murray, Cathy Nickell, Anna-Lisa Notter, Sukanya Pani, Nisha Shah, Saurin Shah, Heather Smith, Jinju Song, Dessa Tampio, Anjali Teckchandani, Renu Yadav, and Yuanfang Zhou.**

Holiday Craft Festival

Students of all ages were able to make their own holiday crafts guided by WMS parent Krista Wolf. The December celebration included fun video clips of holiday songs and stories shared by the WMS community! Special thanks to Krista for organizing and hosting, and to the following parent volunteers for assembling and distributing the craft kits and making this event possible: **Mona Atallah, Christina Bernal, Aubrey Blosser, Vickie Castaneda, Erica Thomas Chen, Anusha Chikodi, Wei Huang, Anette Kinley, Katie Lencioni, Shaweta Malik, Jason Murray, Shruthi Sheshagiri, and Jiasheng Wei.**

Winter Donation Drive Recap

Thank you to our community for contributing to the winter food drive held in December! The response was overwhelming, and FA was thrilled with the amount of food donated to support Hopelink. Special thanks to our parent volunteers in this effort, collecting and delivering the donations: **Lupita Cardenas and Mary Picardal.**

Ways to Get Involved

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Due to COVID-19, we are continuing to restrict in-person parent volunteer opportunities that work directly with students (field trip chaperones, reading parents, etc.). However, there may be several in-person opportunities within our buildings that will be announced in the spring so stay tuned! We still have offsite opportunities within FA and you can find current volunteer opportunities [here](#).

We would love to have additional volunteers for the Lantern Festival, highlighting the celebration of Eid and Ramadan around the world; we are planning on teaming with Friends of North Creek Forest for a day of service in our local community; and we are hoping to be able to host our All-School Picnic in June.

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 Winter/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!

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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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.

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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