



Dear Families,

On behalf of the Westmont-Parent Organization (WPO) at the Westmont Montessori School, we are delighted to extend a warm welcome to you and your child as we begin this exciting new school year! Whether you are returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our vibrant and supportive family.

For most of us, Westmont is our first educational experience. This can be exciting and a bit overwhelming at the same time. The WPO can help ease this transition. We are a parent and caregiver volunteer group that is dedicated to enhancing our children's first years in school by fostering strong connections between parents, teachers, and the broader community. We aim to build a network that parents can lean on for support and friendship. There are many chances to get involved, both very low commitment, such as donating a toy to the toy drive, to very involved, like chairing an event. The great thing about the WPO is you can make it what you want!

What the WPO Does:

- **Help the Broader Community:** We arrange various food and toy drives to help those less fortunate. Our children gain a sense of pride when they help our community.
- **Fundraises:** We coordinate fundraising efforts, like our Wine Night (October 18, 6pm) and Celebration of Children (TBA) to support school programs and fund special projects that benefit all students.
- **Organizes Events:** We plan a variety of parent socials, such as yoga night and flower arranging classes. We also host school-wide events such as fall family fun night. These events provide opportunities for families to connect, engage, and enjoy time together.
- **Supports Teachers and Staff:** We work to support our teachers and staff by organizing appreciation events and helping with classroom needs.

How You Can Get Involved:

- **Join Us:** We encourage all parents and caregivers to become involved with the WPO. In fact, all families are *already* members! Whether you can volunteer your time, skills, or just attend meetings, your participation makes a difference and strengthens our community.
- **Attend Meetings:** Our monthly WPO meetings are open to all families. These meetings are a great way to meet other parents, stay informed, share your ideas, and learn how you can contribute. No meetings are required, but always encouraged!
- **Stay Connected:** Make sure to read the "News and Happenings" emails for updates, event information, and volunteer opportunities.

Upcoming Events: We have a fantastic lineup of events planned for this year, including our Back to School Social at 10am on September 14th and Burnt Mills Family Fun Day on September 22nd! *Also, please join us for our kick off WPO meeting on Friday, September 20th at 9am, after drop-off.*

Once again, welcome to a new school year at Westmont! We are excited to work together with you to make this year a memorable and successful one for all our students. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in the dropoff line!

Sincerely,

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