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أو على البريد الالكتروني الخاص بك x1345 اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستوود "الخدمات الطلابية في 781 326-7500 لك. لطلب كنتشكرا mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us

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Growing by . . . . . .

Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones Elementary School Newsletter

Issue 11 | December 2, 2011

Dear Families:

The morning routine at Martha Jones will be different next Wednesday. Rather than enter the building when the bell rings, faculty and students will gather on the blacktop to begin our **7th annual Rosa Parks walk**. We will be remembering the 56th anniversary of the day seamstress Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Alabama. This event has become an annual event at Martha Jones to commemorate the beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott that led to greater "liberty and justice for *all*." You and your family are invited to join us for a symbolic walk around the Martha Jones neighborhood. The Enrichment Committee has also arranged for the WHS chorus, along with our 5th grade chorus, to join us again this year to raise our spirits through song.

The Rosa Parks walk has become a tradition at Martha Jones that reflects our values. The education at Martha Jones is grounded in reading, writing, mathematics and the many Westwood learning standards. But that's not the only education our students need for the 21st century. Our mandate - as it is for every public school - is also to prepare children for thoughtful participation in our democracy. That means an understanding of American history, the role of courageous individuals, and the part we each must play living up to the ideals of our democracy. Making those grandiose statements have meaning for young children is easier said than done. This is one reason we do the walk.

One way is to help our students recognize this connection between their challenge to *live* our school motto and the challenge every American faces trying to live up to the ideals of our democracy. The Rosa Parks walk provides an opportunity to make a connection between the choice made by a poor, black seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, who with dignity and courage refused to obey an unjust law, and choices they can make on the playground, in a football game, in their classrooms, at a birthday party. Even at a young age, children can begin to learn that one person can make a difference. That's an essential value at Martha Jones.

The tradition of academic excellence continues at Martha Jones. Our December 7th Rosa Parks walk reflects our commitment as a community to remember, honor and celebrate the strength of our democracy - not because it is perfect, but because it continues to evolve for the better. We want our children to be part of making that "more perfect Union," one person at a time - beginning at Martha Jones.

Hope you can join us next Wednesday
Sincerely,
Peggy Scott

p.s. **December 7th** will also be the morning of our second **walk-to-school**. If you are able, please start walking from the Tamarack Path, synagogue parking lot, or at Buckmaster Pond. The *Rosa Parks* walk will begin at 8:45 with the entire school.

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December 2011 Calendar

Early Release:
Grades K-5 dismissed at 11:50 AM (no lunch)
December 7 & 14

Kindergarten Schedule
M,T,TH,F 8:50 AM - 3:10 PM; W 8:50 - 11:50 AM

No School:
Dec 26th - 30th December Vacation

School resumes Tuesday January 3, 2012

Meetings:

December 2	Conversation with the Principal 8:30 am in MJ library
December 2	PTO Meeting 9:00 am in MJ Library
December 9 & 16	*The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* book club 9:15-10:15
December 15	School Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm

Events:

December 7	Walk to School Day /Rosa Parks Walk with WHS Chorus
December 5 - 9	Inclusive Schools Week
December 23	PJ School Spirit Day
December 23	Grade 5 Winter Concert 2:00 pm
December	Anton Coat Drive - until December break

Looking Ahead:

January 4 - 18	Winter Mini-Course Registration
January 23rd	Mini-Courses Begin
January 17	Art Matters Training (location TBD - 7:00-9:00)
February 6-10	Scholastic Book Fair

Martha Jones News

When is my child marked tardy?

This is a question that was raised at this morning's PTO meeting. The school bell rings at 8:45; with the official start to school at 8:50. **Any child who enters the building after 8:50 is marked tardy** and the information appears on the Report Card. If your child is absent, please call school at any time (voice mail is available 24 hours/day), **but before 8:45 AM**. Mr. Cianciarulo calls home if we have not heard from you. Our job is to make sure your child is safe! If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please ask.

Inclusive Schools Week

Westwood Public Schools will be celebrating Inclusive Schools Week during the first week in December! Inclusive Schools Week is celebrated annually by families, schools and organizations around the world. The Week highlights and celebrates the progress that schools have made in implementing inclusive practices to ensure a quality education for an increasingly diverse student population. The Week provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children. It is an occasion to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of teachers, administrators, students, and parents in making their schools more inclusive, and, thereby, significantly contributing to the development of a more inclusive society. Now in its 11th year, Inclusive Schools Week is celebrated by thousands of school districts in every state in the U.S. and internationally. In addition, more than 50 educational and cultural associations and media outlets support the Week. Inclusive Schools Week is organized by the Inclusive Schools Network. Learn more at www.inclusiveschools.org Next week we will provide an update of events that took place at Martha Jones

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Professional Development Day

On November 28th, the staff across the district convened at Westwood High School for a day of ideas entitled *Learning in a Networked World.* This was not a technology how-to day. Rather, it was an opportunity to reflect on our teaching practices, how adults and students learn in a digital age, and how we can adapt and capitalize on this rapidly changing environment. Next week's *Leaps and Bounds* will fill you in on the details.

PTO News

5th Grade Bake Sale - a big success!

Thank you to all those who baked goodies for the 5th grade bake sale held during the Martha Jones Marketplace. All money raised will go towards purchasing a gift for the Martha Jones School from the graduating 5th grade class to mark their wonderful time at Martha Jones.

Original Works

We would like to give a special thank you to **Deena Hughes** and **Sylva Yeghiayan** for their time in coordinating the Original Works fundraiser this year.

Collecting Winter Coats For People in Need

The ***MJ Kids Care Committee*** has a box set up in the school lobby to accept your old winter coat donations. The collection is for ANY winter coats you might have (kids, women's men's, babies). Anton Coats cleans the coats and distributes them to people in need. So they don't have to be clean, but they should have enough life in them to be helpful. We will be collecting coats through the end of the year. Clean your closets and help someone in need! Thank you!

Teach a Mini-Course

Do you have a special skill or talent you would like to share with the students at Martha Jones? Do you want to make a little extra money? Consider teaching a mini-course. Parents are compensated at the rate of $60 per class/per day. The Winter Mini-Course session will run from the week of **January 23rd** through the week of **March 19th**. Online Registration will open **January 4th**. If you are interested in teaching a class, please contact **Stacie Reiser** at stacie@stacieresier.com by **December 23rd**. Thank you!

WESC - 18th Annual Event

Westwood Elementary Schools Coalition (WESC) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization which raises funds through one annual fundraiser for the Parent Teacher Organizations of the five elementary schools within Westwood. Traditionally, a dinner and auction is held in March and over the last seventeen years WESC has raised over $875,000 through the generosity of local businesses and families. These funds enrich and support the educational opportunities of all our young students.

Planning for the 18th annual event to be held on Saturday, **March 17, 2012** is underway and you will not want to miss being a part of this year's successful evening!! We need your help with this incredibly valuable event. It is a great opportunity to help enrich our children's education as well as meet people from the other elementary schools. We are looking for help soliciting auction items.

Also, we are currently in the process of soliciting items for donation. Our goal for the auction is to offer over 100 items and to raise $50,000. Do you have a talent or expertise (financial planning, home improvement services, cooking)? A vacation home you can spare for a week? Coveted sports tickets? If so, please consider donating them to the WESC auction.

Please contact **Leigh Wasserman**; lawasserman@yahoo.com or 781-255-0605 if you are interested in helping solicit items or you would like to donate to the auction. Thank you so much. We count on your support!

Quick Links

Martha Jones Website Marth Jones PTO

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