If you need this document translated, please call the Westwood Public Schools' Student Services Department at 781 326-7500 x1345 or email your request to mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us Thank you.

如果您需要翻译本文档，请致电Westwood的公立学校的学生服务部在781 326-7500 x1345或电子邮件您的要求 mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。

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

Если вам нужен этот документ переводится, пожалуйста, позвоните Вествудгосударственных школах "Студенческие службы Департамента по 781 326-7500 x1345или по электронной почте запрос на mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.

Growing by . . . . . .

Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones Elementary School Newsletter

Issue 12 | December 9, 2011

Dear Families:

Although school was closed for students on the Monday after Thanksgiving, teachers were immersed in professional development focused on technology. I thought you might be interested in knowing the details.

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.

The morning began with a keynote speaker, Will Richardson, who gave a talk titled Learning in a Networked World, What changes? He addressed several key questions:

- How do we define learning in the new digital age?
- What does it mean to be a learner versus being learned?
- How does the web and our virtually instant access to content and teachers outside the school walls change what schools do?

The keynote was followed up by discussions in small groups. In the afternoon faculty were given three options. They could attend workshops with Will Richardson on the topics How reading and writing is changing in the digital age and Creating Personalized Learning Networks. Teachers also had the choice to attend an "un-conference" around questions, concerns, and 'aha' moments that were generated during the keynote. The third option was for teams of teachers to work in their buildings to further explore technology as a tool for teaching and learning.

Professional development is one essential way to improve instruction and learning in Westwood. November 28th was a day for every teacher to reflect on the impact of a networked world and look for ways to adapt and utilize the technological changes of the 21st century to benefit our students. We are all grateful to work in a town that values the education of the adults as well as the students. Thank you!

Have a wonderful weekend. Hope you are surviving the December frenzy!
Peggy Scott

p.s. Thank you to Steve Ouellette, Director of Technology, for his contribution to this article

December 2011 Calendar

Early Release:
Grades K-5 dismissed at 11:50 AM (no lunch)
December 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 9 & 16	*The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* book club 9:15-10:15
December 15	School Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm

Events:

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

Thank You SEPAC

Thank you to SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) and the Student Services Department for providing the faculty with *thank you* coffee and donuts on Monday and Thursday during Inclusive Schools Week. Thank you also for the *Inclusive Schools Week* pencils, stickers, and bookmarks that were given to students.

Streamlining *Leaps and Bound*

During the second half of the school year, January - June, Leaps and Bounds will be published on the first and third Fridays of each month. Our hope is to continue to provide you with updates about what is going on at Martha Jones without overloading your email account. If your committee needs to update families during an off week, please contact either Kara Johnsen at kjohnsen@verizon.net or Phyllis Musto at musto@verizon.net. If necessary, we will publish Leaps in an off week. Please remember that if you ever have comments or suggestions (or compliments!) about Leaps please be in touch. Ongoing thanks goes to Elaine Beattie who formats and sends you Leaps on Fridays and to Kara Johnsen who compiles the monthly calendar.

When is my child marked tardy?

This is a question that was raised at last week'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. The start to the day is an important time to review the schedule, preview lessons, and get focused for the day ahead. Please help your child get to school on time. 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 has a good start to the day and is safe! If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please ask.

From the Health Room

The holidays are upon us. Before you plan any classroom parties, please remember that classroom celebrations should focus less on food and more on activities that follow a curriculum unit. It is our responsibility to keep the children safe throughout the school day. We do not want to exclude any student with food allergies or dietary restrictions from participating. **Any and all "menus" must be cleared by both the classroom teacher and the school nurse prior to the day of the party**. Any foods that are delivered to school, but have not been cleared, will have to be sent home.

Hand washing is the single most important thing we can do to prevent the spread of germs. We should all practice the **4 principles of hand awareness** for good health, according to henrythehand.com. Theses are:

1. Wash your hands when they are dirty. Use soap and water, washing for at least 20 seconds. Try singing "Happy Birthday" twice.
2. Do not cough into your hands. Use your elbow.
3. Do not sneeze into your hands. Use your elbow or a disposable tissue.
4. Above all, do not put your fingers in your eyes or mouth.

Grade 3 PHYSICALS

I still have not received **20** of the **Grade 3 physical forms**. I am waiting for:

9 from Mr. Feintuck's class
6 from Mrs. Luskin's class
5 from Ms. MacDonald's class

If you are unsure if you have sent it in, please check with me.

Please forward your child's to me as soon as possible and by **February 1, 2012**. Any grade 3 student who does not have an updated physical exam form submitted by 02/01/12 will not be able to attend school until it is submitted.

Thank you.
Celeste Mahoney, School Nurse
(T) 781-278-0275

PTO News

Fundraising Opportunity

We would like to thank **Mike Kusmin** and **Michelle Picot** for bringing a fundraising opportunity to the Martha Jones PTO. Through their contacts with musician James Taylor's organization, we have been offered proceeds from an auction of a personalized "*Sweet Baby James*" printed vocal/solo cello part from Mr. Taylor's personal set of orchestral music. This item is currently being auctioned off via charitybuzz.com through December 19, 2011. If you are interested, you may view the item at http://www.charitybuzz.com/catalog_items/2751227. Thank you again to Mike and Michelle!

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!

Inclusive School Week

This has been Inclusive School Week at Martha Jones. Following is an update of a few highlights from two Student Council representatives.

Last Wednesday Student Council representatives from grades 3-5 led an assembly to introduce Inclusive School Week. Three reps (**Peter Papavasiliou, Kira Hobson, and Riley Murray**) read a book called Stripesabout a girl who tries to fit in with her classmates by pretending to be like other people and not herself. This backfires and she gets a "bad case of stripes" until she stops trying to copy others and is herself. Other reps (**Declan Burke, Cal Guarino, Enahm Oscar-Phoenix, and James Johnson**) reminded everyone about why it's important to include at recess, on projects, during partner work, and all over Martha Jones. Representatives **Andy Cutler & Kelly Wong** showed posters they had made about Inclusive School Week.

This week an announcement was made every morning to remind people about Inclusive School Week and to give people ideas about one particular way to include. It was also really lucky that this was the week of our *Rosa Parks walk* because it reminded us that our whole country had to get better at including.

Just because this is Inclusive School Week this isn't the only time to include. We try to include every day throughout the year. No one should ever feel excluded.

*This article was written by **Kira Hobson & Riley Murray**.*

2nd Grade Visitor

On November 30th, **Annawon Weeden**, a Native American educator, visited each second grade classroom. Annawon presented an Enrichment Program that shared Wampanoag history and stories that captivated the children. They also enjoyed seeing traditional Native American clothing and jewelry. The presentation ended with a hands-on activity where the students made their own corn husk action figures, a favorite pastime for generations of Native American children.

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

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU/ALLERGY INFO

Westwood Public Schools

Town of Westwood Join ListServe

Join Our Mailing List!

Forward email

SafeUnsubscribe

Trusted Email from Constant Contact FREE
Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to jcianciarulo@westwood.k12.ma.us by emdbeattie@yahoo.com | Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

Martha Jones | 80 Martha Jones Road | Westwood | MA | 02090