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.

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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 mmartin@westwood.k12.ma.us كنتشكرا لطلب .لك

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 13 | December 16, 2011

The perfect is the enemy of the good. Voltaire

Dear Families,
It is no surprise that this quote resonates during December - at home and at school. Over the weekend my husband and I had our annual holiday spat. We could not agree on whether we had bought enough, decorated enough, or socialized enough. The illusion of a perfect Christmas kept getting in the way. Luckily, we finally sat down and put aside the ideals and thought through choices that would be good enough for our family. What a relief!

Perfection can get in the way at school as well. The faculty and I constantly try to balance the needs of students, with the implementation of the many important Westwood initiatives in technology, literacy and math, and at the same time establish a pace and climate that is conducive to learning. It is easy to think we are not doing enough or that there should be a perfect solution. We too need to set aside the ideals and prioritize the choices that are just right for our students and our school.

In the midst of this busy season, this message comes with my best wishes for a holiday that is just right, not perfect, but good enough for you and your precious, fun-loving, exuberant, thoughtful, imperfect children, who are always good enough for us every day - even in December.

Sincerely,
Peggy Scott

December 2011 Calendar

NOTE: December 23 is a full day of school. Dismissal is at 3:10 pm

No School:

Dec 26th - 30th December Vacation

School resumes **Tuesday January 3, 2012**

Events:

December 21 PJ School Spirit Day - WEDNESDAY

December 23	Grade 5 Winter Concert 2:00 pm
December	Anton Coat Drive - until December break

January 2012 Calendar

Early Release:
Grades K-5 dismissed at 11:50 AM (no lunch)
January 11th & 18th

No School:

January 1st	New Years Day
January 16th	Martin Luther King Day

School resumes** ***Tuesday January 3, 2012

Meetings:

January 6th	Conversation with the Principal 9:00 am in MJ library
January 13th & 27th	"The Blessing of a Skinned Knee" book club 9:15-10:15 a,m,
January 17th	Art Matters Training (7-9 pm) location TBD
January 19th	School Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm

Deadlines:

January 4th - 18th	Mini-Course Registration

Events:

January 18th	Math League participants (grades 3-5) - math meet
January 19th	Grade 5 Band Concert 7:00pm WHS
January 23rd	Grade 5 - Beatnik Cafe
January 23rd	Mini-Courses begin through the week of March 19th
January 27th	Report cards mailed home

Looking Ahead:

February 6th -10th	Scholastic Book Fair
February 6th -17th	Read-a-Thon
February	Art Matters presentations in the classrooms

Martha Jones News

Lost & Found

The Lost and Found has once again grown by *Leaps and Bounds.* All unclaimed items will be donated to the Salvation Army over vacation. Please, please label your child's belongings. The Student Council representatives sort the clothing each month and return any labeled items to the owners. Thank you!

Friday, December 23rd is a full-day of school with a 3:10 dismissal. The Grade 5 Chorus performance will take place at 2 PM for grade 5 families. Students in other grades will see the dress rehearsal on Wednesday, December 21st.

Happy Holidays

This is the last *Leaps and Bounds* of 2011. Best wishes from all of us at Martha Jones for a relaxing holiday and peaceful, healthy start to the New Year. This is the time of year when around the globe we are united by the universal need for light in times of darkness. At Martha Jones we are especially grateful for the many ways you support our work. In classrooms, Dining Room, copy room, library,

and as room parents, PTO officers, School Council members and math volunteers, or through Kids Care, Faculty dinners, Art Matters, Mini-courses, Family Night, the Halloween Party, and most of all by sending your child off to school each day ready to learn and to be a good friend - you each help us do a better job. Here's to 2012!

Streamlining Leaps & Bounds

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.

PTO News

Collecting Winter Coats For People in Need - Final Reminder

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!

SCRIP Shopping Cards

Thank you to everyone who purchased SCRIP shopping cards. Please be sure to pick up your order in the main office if you haven't already. We would like to thank **Phyllis Musto** and **Kate Rufo** for organizing and running this fundraiser.

Fundraising Opportunity

Through 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 Kusmin** and **Michelle Picot** for making this possible!

Thank You from the PTO

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all of the parent volunteers who have given their time to help the Martha Jones School and PTO this year. Without your support and help, the PTO would be unable to run its many programs. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year! 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!

Student Council Update

Spirit Day

The next Student Council led Spirit Day will also be a community service project. On Wednesday, December 21st it will be Pajama Day. All students are invited to wear their pjs to school. We will also be collecting new pajamas and new story books for the Pajama Program. A non-profit organization that donates books and pajamas to children in foster care. The students do not have to donate in order to wear their pajamas to school.

Capri Sun Recycling

Student Council representative **Hanna Matthews** has brought back the *Capri Sun recycling project* to Martha Jones. There are collection bags in all the classrooms, as well as a large recycling bin in the diningroom. The drink pouches are sent back to the company and recycled into new products. The school can earn money in return for each pouched recycled.

2012 Spelling Bee

Calling all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders!

Teams of third, fourth or fifth grade students are invited to register for the 2012 WEF Spelling Bee, to be held in the Sheehan Elementary School Cafeteria

Wednesday, March 7th	4th grade 2:00 - 3:30pm
Wednesday, March 7th	5th grade 4:00 - 5:30pm
Thursday, March 8th	3rd grade 4:00 - 6:00pm

Each team must consist of three or four members from a single grade. The cost is $12 per team member.

Spelling Bee Rules, Registration Forms, and Media Permission Forms may be downloaded from The Westwood Educational Foundation website at www.wefwestwood.org

Registration will be first come, first served. A maximum of 32 teams will be accepted per grade.

Registration will be held:

Saturday, January 7, 2012
9:00 am to 12:00 noon
at the Westwood Senior Center

Please Note: This will be the ONLY Registration Date!

Any questions? Contact **Donna Kutzer** at donna.kutzer@comcast.net

Foreign Language Survey

During the 2011-2012 school year, a curriculum review committee of teachers, administrators, and parents are examining our foreign language program. As part of this process, we would appreciate your taking a few minutes to complete a brief survey. The information collected will assist us to think about the direction of the program.

To access the survey, go to the following web address: http://tinyurl.com/csq9kzv The survey will be open until December 19th.

Quick Links

Martha Jones Website Marth Jones PTO

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU/ALLERGY INFO

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