**John Cianciarulo <jcianciarulo@westwood.k12.ma.us>**

# Leaps & Bounds

1 message

**Martha Jones <emdbeattie@yahoo.com>** **Fri, Feb 3, 2012 at 2:26 PM**
Reply-To: kjohnsen@verizon.net
To: jcianciarulo@westwood.k12.ma.us

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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

**New publishing schedule for LEAPS - next edition February 17, 2012**

Issue 16 | February 3, 2012

Dear Families:

New Year's resolutions were in the air as students returned from vacation last month. In many classrooms children were asked to set achievable academic and personal goals for the months ahead. Two themes predominated: paying more attention in class and fighting less with siblings.

One fifth grade class added a challenge to their resolutions. The students in 5T were asked to write their resolutions in the form of a persuasive essay - one of the writing genres that is an expectation in the upper grades. This meant that the children were asked to begin with a claim, add urgency, provide evidence or facts, and play to the emotions of the reader. What better audience than writing to oneself about why a resolution should be kept?

I was lucky enough to read many of the essays and they were compelling and inspiring. One student wrote about why he should spend more time with his aging grandparents, "Wouldn't you feel sad if they passed and you realized that you barely knew them?" Another student wrote to herself with this admonishment, "I (as your inner self) would like you to keep your desk clean at home and at school. I can hardly see where stuff is!" For another student the resolution was, "to choose not to instigate fights at home. Remember your last year's resolution not to get in fights. Try to keep this one!"

Many of us have already broken or forgotten the goals we set in January. I was reminded of the writing of one wise fifth grader, "You should have monthly resolutions so you don't forget them....More resolutions will make you a better person which is always a good thing." So here's to trying again in February and to staying in touch with our loved ones, fighting less with family, taking greater care with our belongings, and recognizing that we will probably all need monthly tune-ups.

Good luck!
Peggy Scott

## February 2012 Calendar

**Early Release:**
Grades K-5 dismissed at 11:50 AM (no lunch)
February 15th

**No School:**
February 20th - 24th February break

Leaps Publication Dates for February:
February 3rd & 17th

**Meetings**:

| | |
|---|---|
| February 3rd | Conversation with the Principal 9:00 am in MJ library |
| February 10th | "The Blessing of a Skinned Knee" book club 9:15-10:15 a.m. |
| February 16th | School Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm |

**Enrichment:**

| | |
|---|---|
| February 8th | Skylab - Gr. 4 |
| February 9th | Discovery Museum Sound Program - Gr. 2 |
| February 9th | Boston Children's Theater field trip - Gr. 1 |
| February | Art Matters presentations in the classrooms |

**Events:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **February 6th - 10th** | **Scholastic Book Fair** |
| **February 6th -17th** | **Read-a-Thon** |

**Looking Ahead**:

| | |
|---|---|
| March 17th | WESC Social |
| March 23rd | PTO Meeting 9:00 AM |
| March 30th | Family Night |

## MCAS DATES

Parents of students in grades 3-4-5, please note the MCAS dates scheduled for this year and avoid any appointments on these days. Thank you for your help!
March 20 - ELA comp (March 29 - make-up)

ELA *Grade 5:* 3/21 & 3/22 *Grade 4:* 3/26 & 3/27 *Grade 3:* 3/29 & 3/30

Math *Grade 5: 5/7 & 5/8* *Grade 3: 5/9 & 5/10* *Grade 4: 5/17 & 5/18*

Science & Technology/Engin. *Grade 5: 5/14 & 5/15*

## From the Health Room

**Valentines Day will be here soon**.
Please remember that classroom celebrations should focus less on food and more on activities that that follow a curriculum unit. We have 32 students and 2 staff members with Epi-Pens. It is our responsibility to keep everyone safe throughout the school day. **We would prefer that you do not send in candy with your child's valentines.** We do not want to exclude any student from participating because s/he has a food allergy or a dietary restriction. Any and all "menus" must be cleared by both the classroom teacher and the school nurse in advance of any celebration. Thank you!

Celeste Mahoney RN
781-278-0275
cmahoney@westwood.k12.ma.us

## Scholastic Book Fair NEXT WEEK!

The PTO will hold its annual Scholastic BOOK FAIR, **February 6-10, 2012**. The students will attend the book fair during their regularly schedule library class time. There will also be an opportunity for families to shop. This is a really fun event for the children and the parents.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Lauren Murray at jlmurray1@verizon.net or Elaine Beattie at emdbeattie@yahoo.com

# MJ NEWS

## Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year was celebrated last week with help from **David Wang**, father of Brendan (1D/T) & Kiernan (KS). Here are some key facts on the way many celebrated the holiday:

- Chinese New Year (CNY) celebrations
  - Span 15 days - from CNY to the Lantern Festival - this makes Chinese New Year celebrations among the longest of holidays around the world
  - Leading up to and including CNY
    - Children should help the parents clean the house (sweep away the bad luck)
    - Children should take special care to honor their elders/ancestors (that includes us parents!)
    - Families, like traditional New Year, should endeavor to start the year with a "fresh start"
    - Notably, parents often give a nominal gift in a "red envelope" to the younger generation for good luck.
  - Leading up the Lantern Festival there can be many celebrations, including this year's Chinese New Year celebration in Boston China Town - this took place last Sunday

Thank you, Mr. Wang!

## Valentine's Day thought

Has any one at Martha Jones made a positive difference in your child's life? Please consider sending a Valentine's Day note of thanks to your child's teacher, or one of the specialists, or special educator, or nurse, or psychologist, or secretary, or custodian. Your words of thanks make a huge difference in our world and a Happy Valentine's day!

## JAZZ Night

Thursday, **February 9th @ 7 PM**
in the Westwood High School Cafeteria
featuring....
The **Westwood Jazz Band, Jazz ensemble**
and Faculty / Student Big Band (with Mrs. Labedz, Mr. Yennior and Mrs Goldman performing together!)

# PTO News

**Please join us on March 17th at Moseley's in Dedham for the WESC Spring Social Fundraiser**

Let's have fun raising money for our beloved Westwood elementary schools. Maybe you'll have the luck of the Irish with the auction!

**The school with the most ticket sales gets $250 toward their school. (GO PATS!, Ummm, I mean GO MJ!)**

Click here to print the form to purchase tickets. Return the attached form to school in an envelope addressed to: WESC Ticket Sales. We will deliver the tickets to you! If you can't attend but would like to make a donation, please send your check to: WESC, PO Box 474, Westwood, MA 02090. All donations are tax deductible. For more information: http://www.wesconline.org/

Westwood Elementary School Coalition (WESC) is a non-profit volunteer organization that raises funds for all 5 Westwood elementary schools, and their respective PTO's/PTA's.

## Read-a-Thon

This year's Read-a-Thon will take place the weeks of **February 6th & 13th**. This event is designed to encourage children to read beyond their current daily amounts and team up with the whole school to stress the importance and fun in reading.

Certificates will be sent home on this Friday. As your child completes one hour of reading, either independently or with an adult, we ask that you sign one of the certificates and send it to school. These will be collected by the teachers and sent to the main office. We will then tally the amount of reading on a daily basis and create a chart in the hallway showing the children's progress by class. Extra certificates can be printed by clicking here.

The class that logs the most hours of reading through the two week period will receive a pizza party. There will be one winning class for grades K&1, one winning class for grades 2&3 and one winning class for grades 4&5. The winning classes will be announced on Friday, February 17th.

If you have any questions regarding the Read-A-Thon, please feel free to contact Karina Adourian (karinaadourian@yahoo.com) or Amy Cocivera (acocivera@gmail.com).

## Birthday Book Program

It's not too late to sign up for the very popular birthday books program for this school year. If anyone is interested please contact Natalia McDonough, Viviana Champagne, or Karen Gerrior-Mariani.

## Quick Links

Martha Jones Website  Marth Jones PTO

**SCHOOL LUNCH MENU/ALLERGY INFO**

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