

# Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.  
Issue 11 - Feb. 8, 2019



[Westwood Public Schools](#) | [Martha Jones School](#) | [Martha Jones PTO](#)

## Important Dates

<b>Thu., Feb. 14</b>	Gr K Enrichment: Fire Safety  Gr 4 Enrichment: MOS Classroom Visit - Geology  Jazz Band lunch jam -
<b>Fri., Feb. 15</b>	Math League, 7:45AM  SPIRIT DAY - Sports Day
<b>Mon. - Fri., Feb 18 -22</b>	February School Vacation NO SCHOOL
<b>Tue.,Feb.26</b>	All School Share Enrichment: Crabgrass Puppets
<b>Mon., Jan. 21</b>	Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL
<b>Thu., Feb. 14</b>	Gr K Enrichment: Fire Safety  Gr 4 Enrichment: MOS Classroom Visit - Geology  Jazz Band lunch jam - 2nd & 3rd lunches
<b>Fri., Feb. 15</b>	Math League, 7:45AM  SPIRIT DAY - Sports Day
<b>Mon. - Fri., Feb 18 -22</b>	February School Vacation NO SCHOOL
<b>Tue.,Feb.26</b>	All School Share Enrichment: Crabgrass Puppets
<b>Wed., Feb. 27</b>	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am.
<b>Fri., Mar. 1</b>	Math League, 7:45AM

A complete list of upcoming dates is available [online](#).

## Message from the Principal

**Black History Month** - As part of our celebration of Black History Month, the Martha Jones school jazz band will be performing Jazz music during our 2nd (grades 1 & 4) and 3rd (grades 2 & 5) lunch periods on Thursday. We hope our students will enjoy sharing their music with their schoolmates, while recognizing the history of Jazz music. Students will also be reading books and poems by Black authors, learning about the many contributions that Black men and women have made to our country, and learning about famous Black people. Please know that I recognize that Black history should not be confined to one month a year and we continually work to ensure that our curriculum and instructional materials and practices are representative and inclusive throughout the school year. If you have suggestions on ways to celebrate Black History month, please let me know.

One thing that I've been doing is reading about the lives of famous Black American's in the "Overlooked" project by the NY Times. In [this installment of "Overlooked."](#) the writers celebrate Black History Month by taking a look at several remarkable black men and women whose stories were not told in the NYT obituary page at the time of their deaths. It's an interesting read about some impressive people. Superintendent Parks shared the link with staff last week and I've read about many interesting people since.

**Illness** - The past two weeks have taken a toll on students and staff in terms of illness. Please be sure to keep your child home if he or she is exhibiting signs of flu or the stomach bug. Children should be fever free for 24hours (unmedicated) before returning to school. The custodians continue to be extra vigilant washing desks, doorknobs, and common areas and we continue to remind students to wash their hands throughout the day. Thank you.

# MJ & District News

## **FAMILY HEALTH AND FITNESS NIGHT IS BACK!! *Friday March 29, 2019 from 6:00-7:30pm***



The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Martha Jones Family Health and Fitness Night will be held on Friday, March 29, 2019 from 6:00-7:30pm. This will be a fun night of education and activity. We are in the process of planning many different interactive booths and fun fitness stations ranging from reaching your target heart rate, jumping on a moon walk, to the importance of family skin care. These activities are scheduled to be held both indoors and outdoors. Our goal is to emphasize the importance of keeping your body healthy and fit to promote lifelong wellness. Please contact Dawnmarie Shu ([dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us)) or Patrick Foley ([pfoley@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:pfoley@westwood.k12.ma.us)) if you are interested in helping us with this event. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks. Get ready to get moving!

Dawnmarie Shu and Patrick Foley


### **Attention Martha Jones Parents:**

Do you have any specific knowledge or skills in the area of **health, wellness, or fitness**? Please consider having a booth at the health fair. Examples from past fairs include PT/backpack safety, Nutrition/healthy eating habits, and skin safety among others. We would love to talk to you about this opportunity.

Please contact Dawnmarie Shu at [dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us) .

Thank you!

Dawnmarie Shu and Patrick Foley



**Birthday Books** - Does your child have a spring or summer birthday? It's not too late to participate in the [Martha Jones Library Birthday Books program](#). The cost to participate is \$15 per student. Your child may choose a brand new book for the library during his or her birthday month. A commemorative bookplate will be placed inside the front cover of the book with your child's name, age and birthday month (specific birthday is not included for privacy purposes). He/she will enjoy being the first to borrow the Birthday Book and students for years to come will enjoy seeing their friend's name inside the book. Mrs. Swinning keeps a list of books children ask for to ensure that the Birthday Book shelves are always full of books students have been requesting. We appreciate your interest and support in the [Birthday Book Program!](#) It is a great way to ensure our library has a wonderful and varied collection. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Amatangelo at [amyamatangelo@yahoo.com](mailto:amyamatangelo@yahoo.com) or Maureen Grealish at [momolloy@aol.com](mailto:momolloy@aol.com).

Thank you - The Souper Bowl was an all-around success! Not only did the New England Patriots win the Superbowl, *who had any doubt?!*, but the Martha Jones school contributed hundreds of cans of soup and other non-perishable food items to the Westwood Food Pantry. Thanks so much for your generosity.



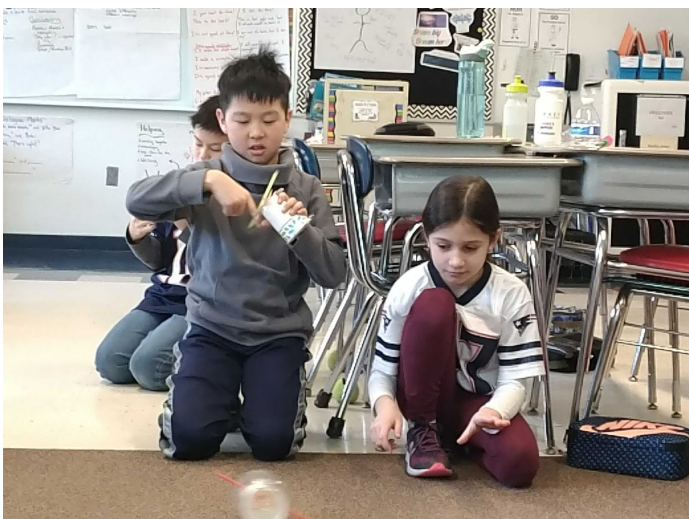
# Classroom Happenings

## **News from 4W (Mrs. Waldner)**

In 4w, we have learned about potential and kinetic energy and investigated forms of energy that help us move, create light, heat, makes technology work, and things grow. Then last week, we explored the idea of what else could power cars. The students created rubber-band cars that they wound-up to power the car's movement. This investigated the relationship between energy and speed.

The first challenge was to create a car that actually moved! Many students problem solved through engineering challenges. The goal was for students to power their cars enough to reach a targeted area but not too much that it goes through the zone.

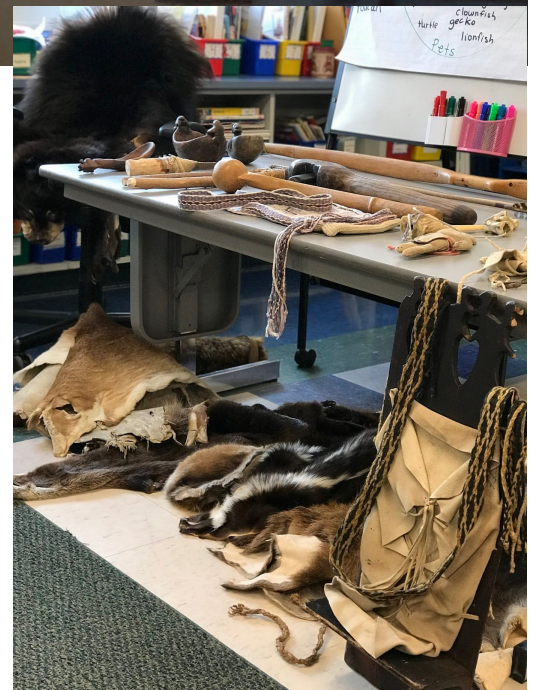
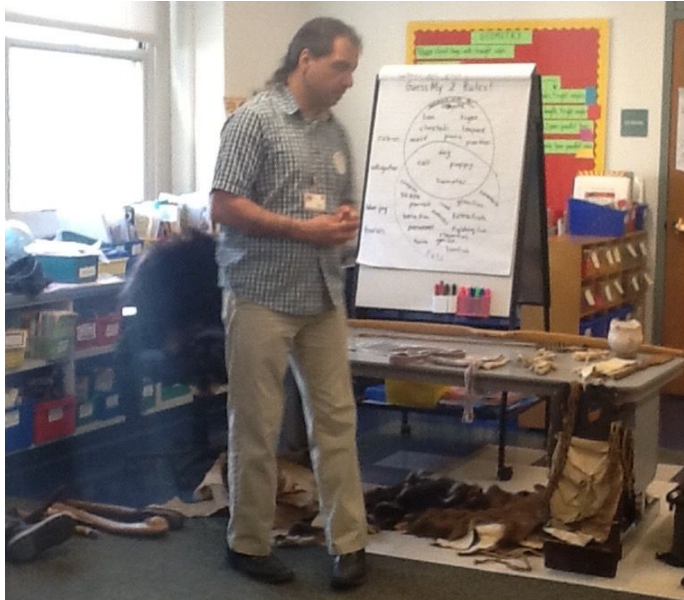
As scientists, students used repeated trials to reach their goal. When one car did not travel far enough, we wound up the car less and vice versa. Through teamwork, students achieved the task, and we were able to power their rubber-band cars successfully into the target zone. They did great! After we met our class challenge, students were all able to play with their cars and use the engineering design process with their knowledge of energy and speed to hit the target zone individually. Not only were we able to get into the target zone, a few students actually hit the target within the zone! It was a lot of fun to play with science while learning! Great job scientists in 4W.



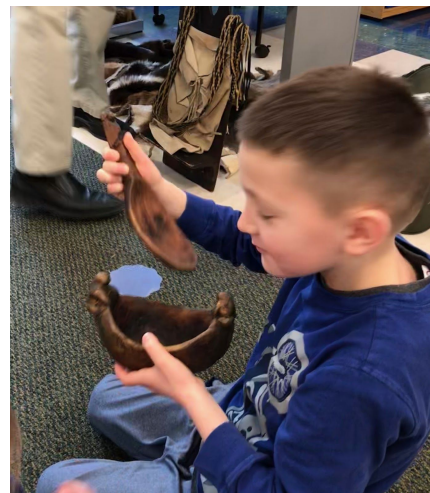


## News from 2H (Ms. Hartwell)

Wampanoag Visit - The students of Martha Jones are so lucky to have enrichment programs. The programs extend and add to the various curriculum areas. Recently, Second Grade had a visitor from Plimoth Plantation who spoke of the Wampanoag tribe. He is a native person who teaches children how the native people lived long ago. Our children explored four areas that supported the survival of the Wampanoag people: food and water, shelter, tools, and clothing. What was exciting about the visit was, not only the interactions and discussions, but also the objects the children got to touch and explore. The children were able to feel furs, handle tools, and look at pottery. Hearing our visitor talk, the children further understood the effects of the seasons and how people long ago adapted to the land where they lived. It was a presentation 2H completely enjoyed.



## 2M Enrichment Program Wampanoag Visit





**News from PE (Mr. Foley)**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION!**



recently started a unit on physical fitness. The unit focuses on four major components: cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility.

The Martha Jones students have recently started a unit on physical fitness. The unit focuses on four major components: cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and flexibility.

Fitness education/concepts are taught and introduced using a variety of activities including: circuit training, yoga, and fitness games. All of these activities emphasize the importance of being/staying physically fit. The students are learning about how to strengthen their heart and other body muscles.



My goal is for children to learn about important fitness concepts and have fun at the same time. Learning to enjoy physical fitness is one of the most important motivational factors for staying physically fit. It is a pleasure to be your child's physical education teacher.

**News from Ms. Mulhern**

This winter in the Learning Center we have been focusing on kindness and inclusion. We celebrated World Kindness Day and Inclusive Schools Week in the upstairs Learning Center. We completed English Language Arts lessons, incorporating books and writing assignments, into our celebration of kindness. Students were asked to spend some time outside of the Learning Center

completing random acts of kindness towards their peers and teachers. In the Learning Center we live by two major rules: "Treat others the way you want to be treated" and "Do the right thing even when no one is looking."



# PTO News

## **MARTHA JONES BOOK FAIR - Tuesday March 12th**

We are once again working together with **Park Street Books** for one fabulous day of shopping!

The fair will include:

Morning Bagels and Books, Classes shop the fair at designated times during the school day, Family Shopping Night - [Click here for more details](#). A google doc volunteer opportunity list will be sent out shortly!

Hope to see you there!

## **WINTER BOX TOPS COMPETITION**



We are excited to announce our winter classroom Box Top competition! Please send in your unexpired Box Tops by using the [attached collection sheet](#) or in a plastic bag. Box Tops will be collected in each class. The class with the most Box Tops **collected through February 13th** will win a popsicle or hot chocolate party (depending on the weather)! Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for our school.

Martha Jones can use this money to help pay for school supplies, fund field trip expenses and other fun events! In addition to a Fall and Winter competition, we collect Box Tops year-round, so please feel free to send them in whenever you have them!

## **5th GRADE PARENTS—WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Yearbook committee is collecting photos and needs your help:

- If you haven't already submitted your child's baby picture, please email your child's high resolution baby photo to [2019mjyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:2019mjyearbook@gmail.com) by March 1. Please have just your child in the picture. Please include your child's name and teacher in the subject line. If you are unable to email it, please send an original photo in your child's backpack with their name and teacher written on the back to be turned into the teacher. Originals will be returned to you.
- We are also collecting your highest quality pictures of your child and his/her classmates from grades K-5. Only photos taken at MJS or photos taken at a school function will be accepted. Group photos are encouraged!

Please contact me Kathy Hannon at [kchop67@gmail.com](mailto:kchop67@gmail.com) or Lucy Maroun at [marounFamily42@gmail.com](mailto:marounFamily42@gmail.com) with ?s.

## **2019 MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL: [Tickets on sale now](#)**

Have cabin fever?? The Martha Jones Apres Ski Party is the remedy!! The party will be held **Saturday, March 2 from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm**. at The German Club on Route 109. There will be a DJ, cash-bar, silent auction and teacher experience auction. This is a kid-free event, so book your sitters now!

Please make sure to have your donated basket items to your room parents no later than Feb. 1.

Here is the [link to buy tickets](#)

## **MARTHA JONES PTO FACEBOOK GROUP**

Did you know Martha Jones PTO has its own Facebook group page? Join the Facebook group to get the latest PTO news and updates delivered right to your news feed! [Click here to join!](#)

## **PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:**

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to PTO Co-Secretary Erica Howe at [erica.gregg.howe@gmail.com](mailto:erica.gregg.howe@gmail.com).

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# Visit the Martha Jones Book Fair

Sponsored by MJ PTO & Park Street Books



**ONE DAY FAIR  
ONLY**

TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH

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## BAGELS AND BOOKS

**8:15 AM - 8:45 AM**

Come early for our grand opening and enjoy some light breakfast refreshments while shopping. Students can bring mom, dad, grandparent, or special person to shop with them. Please note that this is not a drop off event and all students must be supervised by an adult.

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## CLASS VISITS

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

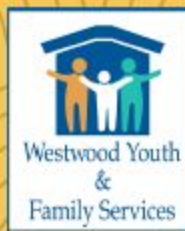
All students will visit the book fair and shop with their class. Parents may volunteer during their child's visit to help select books or count money/change.

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## FAMILY SHOPPING NIGHT

**4:30 PM - 6:00 PM**

Come shop our special evening hours. Students can bring mom, dad, grandparent, or special person to shop with them. Please note that this is not a drop off event and all students must be supervised by an adult.



## Structured Play Group

### 2018-2019 Group Description

These 8-week groups for K - 5th graders emphasize the development of social skills as well as building self-esteem and confidence. Organized play and activities are used to reinforce topics such as initiating and developing friendships, working cooperatively, and recognizing personal strengths. All groups are free of charge and run 4:00 - 5:00 PM.



**Spring 2019 Groups now available!**

### Kindergarten/1st Grade

- Wednesdays, March 27 - May 22, Islington Community Center
- Thursdays, Feb. 14 - April 11, Islington Community Center

### 2nd/3rd Grade

- Tuesdays, March 5 - April 30, Martha Jones Elementary

Contact: Nina Banozic, LICSW  
781-320-1006 or [nbanozic@townhall.westwood.ma.us](mailto:nbanozic@townhall.westwood.ma.us)

**Register online at:**

<http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/yfs/default.htm>