

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 6 - Nov. 21, 2018



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

Important Dates

Mon., Nov. 26	In-service - NO SCHOOL
Thu., Nov. 29	Gr 3 Enrichment Program: David Coffin Recorder
Fri., Nov. 30	Math League, 7:45AM
Tues. Dec. 4	Science Workshop for Parents 6:30 to 7:30
Tue., Dec. 4	PTO Meeting 7:30PM
Wed., Dec. 5	Student Council 8AM Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am.
Fri., Dec. 7	Math League, 7:45AM
Thu., Dec. 13	School Committee Meeting, 7:00PM, WHS
Fri., Dec. 14	Math League, 7:45AM Winter Concert, 9:30AM 5th Grade Play, 6:30PM
Wed., Dec. 19	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am.
Fri., Dec 21	Spirit Day - Pajama Day
Mon., Dec 24 - Tue., Jan 1	Holiday Break - NO SCHOOL
Fri., Jan 4	Math League, 7:45AM

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

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:
Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

Message from the Principal

Happy Thanksgiving! I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving happens to be my favorite holiday. It is the perfect day to honor traditions, eat too much, watch too much football, play games, and take catnaps on the couch after eating all that turkey. I am headed to my brother-in-laws for dinner, which is our tradition, and there are many little new ones to be thankful for. Many of my nieces and nephews are now starting to have babies, so the next generation of families is just beginning. It really is very nice to see them growing up with kids of their own. And of course, I get lots of babies to snuggle with, which I love!



As you think about all the things that you have to be thankful for, please take a moment to remember all the men, women, and children who are not as fortunate as many of us, those who may not have a family to spend the day with, or a warm meal to eat. Remember the veterans and active service members and all of the people affected by war, poverty, and illness.

Professional Development - Monday is a district-wide professional development day for staff (no school for students). This year we have a wonderful keynote speaker, David Johns. David J. Johns is the director of the National Black Justice Coalition and is known for his passion, public policy acumen and fierce advocacy for youth. He is an enthusiast about equity—leveraging his time, talent and treasures to address the needs of individuals and communities often neglected and ignored. He is a recognized thought leader and social justice champion ([NBJC.org](#)). Teachers will have the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops specifically designed around helping teachers talk about racism and race.

MJ & District News



Inclusive Schools Week - December 3rd - 7th Inclusive Schools Week. - Inclusive Schools Week is held each year during the first full week in December. Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference and other factors. The Week also 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 (inclusiveschools.org). While at Martha Jones we strive to be an inclusive school every day, the special focus during inclusive schools week gives us an opportunity to ensure that our curriculum, activities, and materials are reflective and inclusive of all members of our school community and beyond.



Extended Day will be starting their annual Toys For Tots collection after the Thanksgiving Break so if you are out shopping this weekend, please consider picking up a toy for our collection. Each year they try to beat the year before!

If you donate a toy that needs batteries, please include them. Toys should be given to Eliza Yee at the Extended Day office. Used toys/stuffed animals will not be accepted. No used toys, please!

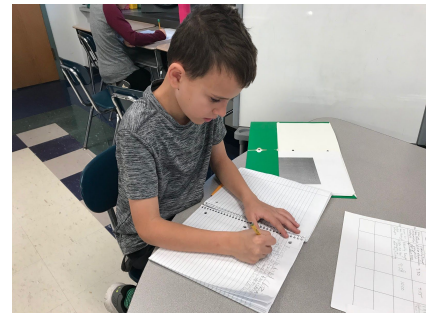
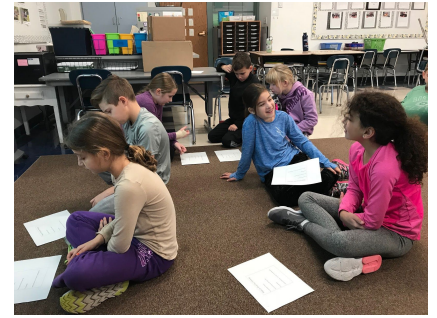
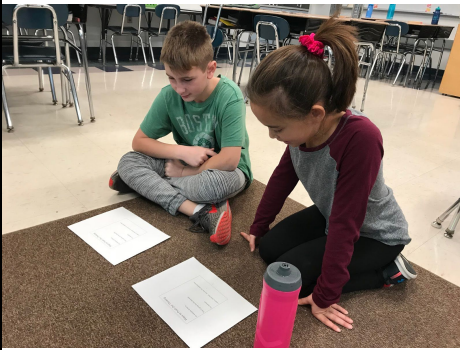
Spirit Days - Each year the students on the Student Council pick a number of spirit days. This allows all students in the school to engage in one fun theme. This year's spirit days are listed below. Mark your calendars :).

Spirit Day Theme	Date
 <p>Pajama Day Dress in your comfiest pajamas</p>	December 21, 2018
<p>80's Day Dress up in 80's fashion</p> 	January 25, 2019
<p>Sports Day Dress up in support of your favorite sports team</p>	February 15, 2019
<p>Color Day Wear your favorite color from head to toe</p>	March 29, 2019
<p>Fancy Day Dress up in your fanciest clothes</p>	April 26, 2019
<p>Spirit Day Day Dress up as your favorite spirit day from the year</p>	May 31, 2019

Classroom Happenings

News from 4B (Ms. Bass)

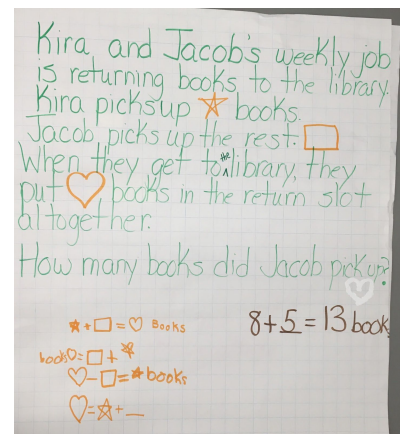
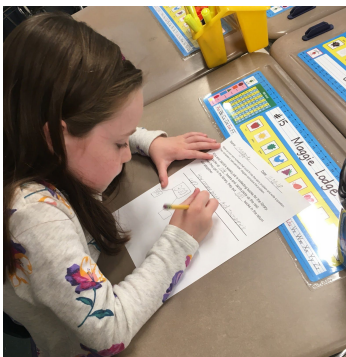
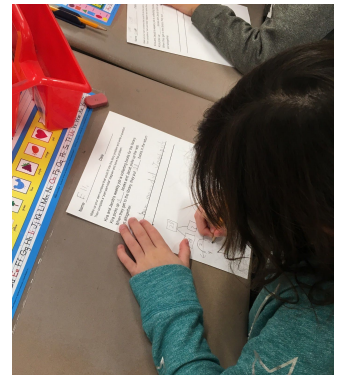
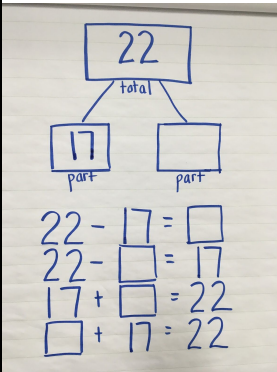
In 4B, the students have embarked on their next writing unit: the composition of personal essays. Before the students take on the challenge of writing these essays, though, it is critical that they participate in the exercise of "prewriting" to develop and nurture ideas. The fourth graders have learned a number of strategies to assist in the task of prewriting: thinking about life issues, reflecting on the individuals who matter in their lives, studying samples of "free writing," and using elaboration prompts to push their thinking toward novel insights. Just this week, the fourth graders returned to previously written notebook entries to "mine for ideas" and ask questions such as "what does this teach me about life?" and "what do I want readers to know about this?" In doing so, the students were pressed to look for the common, underlying themes that will ultimately be developed into more extensive personal essays.



News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)

The students in Ms. Mundy's class have been doing some deep thinking about addition and subtraction story problems and how these problems relate to one another. Addition and subtraction problems can be written in many different ways and they can also be solved in more than one way. The most important part of problem-solving is figuring out what information is known and what information we need to figure out. Students have learned that mathematicians carefully follow a number of steps to help them accurately solve problems. Mathematicians read the problem more than once to gather and identify information.

Then they visualize the problem to figure out what information is known and what information is missing. Most problems are made up of a "part/part/total". If we are given two parts, we can add them to find the total. If we are given the total and one of the parts, we can either subtract the part from the total or start with the part and see how far we have to "add up" to get to the total. With some help from Mrs. Aaron, we have even started some work with algebra problems! These problems may contain no numbers at all! Being mathematicians is hard work, but lots of fun!

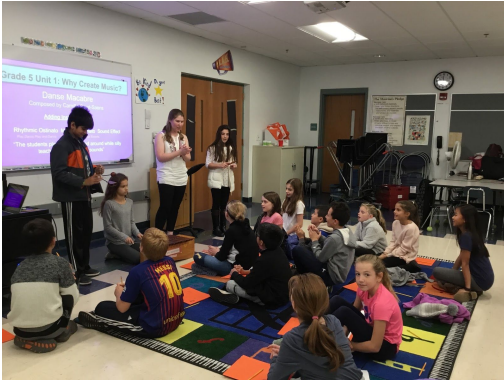


News from Music (Mrs. Pickering)

The Martha Jones 4th grade musicians have been focusing on

Instrument Exploration.

The students are understanding that musical instruments can be grouped into families due to their material, how you play them and how they sound. Each instrument has its own special sound described as its Tone Color.



The students worked with a partner or small group to create their own verse for the "Orchestra Song". The 4th graders chose an instrument to write about and tried to imitate the instrument's Tone Color with their voice. Finally, the students recorded themselves singing their verse.



Finally, the students recorded themselves singing their verse.

News from Art (Mrs. Pasquan)



Kindergarten students have been exploring shapes, colors, printmaking, and painting in the art room. Last week we discussed circles, and where we can find them in our environment. Plastic cups, marker tops, and masking tape rolls were a few examples mentioned that we dipped into paint to make abstract circle prints. During the second class, students used liquid watercolors to add color to their prints.



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PTO News



ORIGINAL WORKS FUNDRAISER

Time is running out... Place your Orders Online by Thursday November 29th!

Students have completed their art masterpieces, and the final artwork and ordering instructions was sent home last week. *All orders are placed online, and all orders must be placed by Thursday, November 29th.*

Original Works is an art program that ties directly into Mrs. Pasquan's Art Curriculum at Martha Jones, designed to encourage creativity and student self-esteem. The pride and excitement that our students get from seeing their artwork transformed into special keepsakes is truly wonderful. Whether it's something you treasure for years to come, or give as a unique and special gift, Original Works products are fun and practical for any season or occasion--and they make GREAT holiday gifts for your entire family!

Proceeds from the fundraiser come directly back to Martha Jones and fund our PTO sponsored programs. Last year our profits raised over \$2000, and we are hoping we can meet or rise above that this year!

Please check out our display case in the Martha Jones school entrance where you can see samples of the products that you can order (new items too). For more information about the Original Works program, please

visit www.originalworks.com, or contact Nancy Blessing at nancynap@yahoo.com or Portia Hennessy at portia.hennessy@gmail.com.

2019 MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL: *Save the Date*

Please save the date for this year's MJ Parent Social! The party will be held Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm. at The German Club is on the Westwood/Walpole line. There will be a DJ, cash-bar, silent auction and teacher experience auction. This is a kid-free event, so book your sitters now!

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.

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