

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 8 - Dec. 21, 2018



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

Important Dates

Mon., Dec. 24 - Tue., Jan. 1	Holiday Break - NO SCHOOL
Fri., Jan. 4	Math League, 7:45AM ----- Westwood Spelling Bee - WHS, Start times: Gr 3- 3:30p Gr 4- 5:15p Gr 5- 6:45p
Wed., Jan. 9	Student Council 8:00AM Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am.
Fri., Jan. 11	Math League, 7:45AM
Mon., Jan. 14	PTO Winter / Spring Mini-course enrollment opens
Thur., Jan. 17	School Committee meeting, 7PM WHS, Small auditorium
Fri., Jan. 18	Math League, 7:45AM
Mon., Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL
Wed., Jan. 23	Early release: 11:50am.
Fri., Jan. 25	SPIRIT DAY - 80's Day Report Cards mailed home
Mon., Jan. 28	Gr 2 Enrichment: Plimoth Plantation Classroom Visit PTO Winter / Spring Mini-courses begin
Fri., Feb. 1	Math League, 7:45AM

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

Message from the Principal

Happy Holidays - As I think about the holidays and reflect on the year, I'm very thankful for all of the special people in my life. It is such a pleasure getting to work with your child(ren) each day. This is a special time of year for children and I hope you get to enjoy their excitement of the holiday season. For those of you who celebrated Hanukkah, I hope you had a peaceful and light filled week with family and friends. For those of you celebrating Christmas and/or Kwanza may you head into the holiday period with peace and joy. My family celebrates Christmas and it is always fun to have the three boys home together for at least a few days. We get together for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews and I just love seeing them all together, growing up and having families of their own. If you are traveling to see family this vacation week, may all of your travels be safe and may you have great moments with family and friends. Merry Christmas 🌲

Winter Break - We are all ready for the winter break. A number of students and staff have been down and out with colds, fevers, and just plain not feeling well. I hope that we all get some time this winter break to relax, sleep in, read a good book, or do some fun activities. Parents, remember to take some time for yourself. You spend so much time taking care of your families, helping in school, working, and ensuring everyone else had a great holiday season, be sure to be good to yourself, too!



MJ & District News



Parent Programs: *Talking About Race with Our Children*

Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 7:00PM, High School Little Theater

Target Audience: PreK - 12

Featuring Dr. Carroll Blake, Lead Executive Coach for Male Educators of Color (MEOC) in the Boston Public Schools and former administrator and METCO Director for the Wellesley Public Schools

Follow-up discussion opportunities on Wednesday, January 23 at 7:00PM and Monday, February 11 at 7:00PM in the District Administration Professional Development Room at Westwood High School.

Westwood Public School - Integrated Preschool Program

Open House and Registration for 2019 - 2020 School Year

The Westwood Integrated Preschool will hold an **Open House** for the 2019 - 2020 School Year on **January 2, 2019 at 9:30AM**. Parents are welcome to visit and explore our preschool before registration begins on January 5, 2019.



Each year our 5th grade students participate in the Stock Market Game. The Stock Market Game is a program of the SIFMA Foundation, which introduces students to the stock market through "virtual investing and real-world learning."

For the Fall 2018 session, Martha Jones School had both 1st and 2nd place winners at the state-wide elementary level. Congratulations to Dylan Kaplan and

Jacob Daly for their 1st place win and Delia Bride and Josie Stewart for their 2nd place finish. It is pretty amazing that out of the entire state we took 1st and 2nd place. Way to Go MJ! This is very exciting news for them. The students and a parent will get to travel into Fidelity in Boston this May to receive their awards and learn about the stock market from real investors. After watching my own stocks take a serious dive over the past few months, I'm thinking I might need to forget Vanguard and turn to our own 5th graders for investment advice!



If you are cleaning out your closets over winter break (doesn't sound like fun) and have any old snow pants or boots that you would like to donate to the school, we are often looking for extras during the winter months. Also, our Savers Fundraiser was such a success, we are going to do another round in the late Spring. If you end up gathering clothes for donations, please consider hanging on to them until our next fundraiser. Thanks so much!

Classroom Happenings

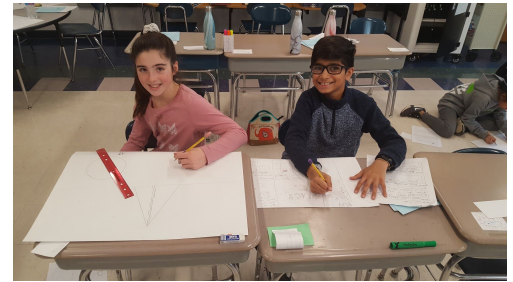
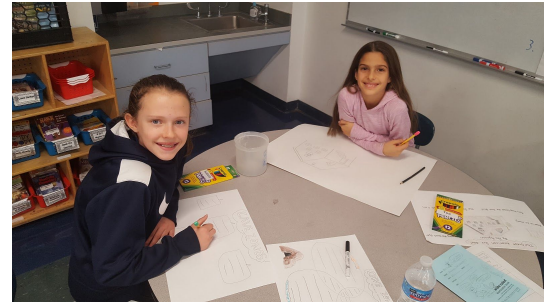
News from 5P (Mr. Parkhurst)

Students in Mr. Parkhurst's 5th grade class just finished the Lucy Calkins nonfiction reading unit of study titled Tackling Complexity: Moving up Levels of Nonfiction. In this unit, students were able to

choose a topic to research in depth. They kept a reader's notebook and took notes on the main ideas that they discovered, tracked key vocabulary, worked hard on noticing text structures, and made connections across multiple sources.

As a culminating activity, students took their notes and organized them in a creative way. They created a visual note-taking poster.

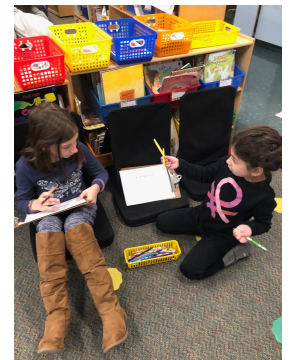
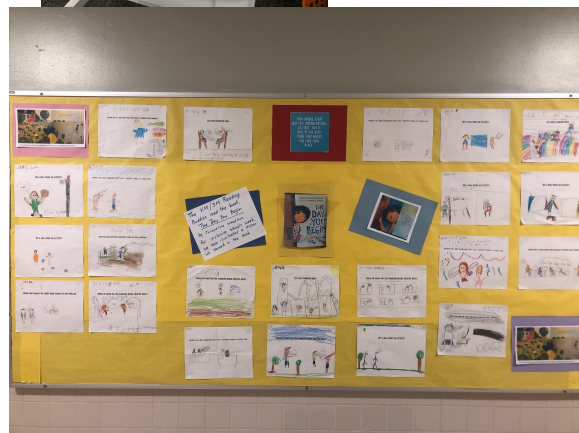
Students had to decide which ideas about their topic were the most important to be displayed on the poster. They had to figure out the best way to layout these ideas, and they had to be creative with sketches, titles, headings, and colors. Students had a great time with this. It was a great way to show off all of the students hard work during this unit.



News from KM (Mrs. McDonough)

As part of Inclusive schools week KM read The Day You Begin by Jaqueline Woodson, with their reading buddies in 3M. The many lessons in the book were discussed. Each student in both kindergarten and grade 3 choose one of the lessons to illustrate. Some of the lessons included were:

Include someone who is left out, Try a new sport or activity, Speak up when you see someone being treated badly, Sit with someone new, and Raise your hand and speak confidently. We created bulletin boards out of the work. They can be found



in the main hall outside of the office and in the dining room.

News from 1F (Mrs. Fader)

1F has been traveling around the world learning about different holiday traditions. Each day we receive a package from a different country. Inside the package there is a souvenir for us to make and a travel journal teaching us all about the country and how they celebrate this time of year. The students are noticing similarities between holidays in different countries and the ones we celebrate in the United States. This week we traveled to India. This time of

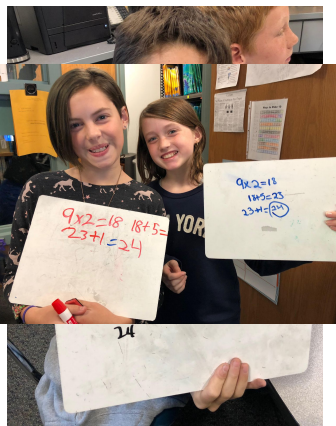


year people in India celebrate Diwali which means "Festival of Lights". It is the the celebration of the New Year. To celebrate people in India light lanterns and hang them in their homes and outside. We got to make our own lanterns to help celebrate the new year while we were visiting India! We have also traveled to Germany where we decorated gingerbread men, Israel where we played dreidel and Italy where we wrote napkin notes promising to be good in the new year. These are all fun traditions that we have learned about so far during our travels.



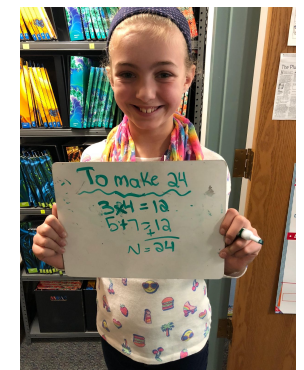
News from Mathematics Specialist - Ms. Size

In case you missed it, the Westwood math program was highlighted recently in the Hometown Weekly newspaper ([link here](#)). The article regards the use of math tools known as Stern Math which we use in conjunction with our everyday Investigations curriculum.



Over the years we have been able to purchase these tools through generous FWE grants. Last year, all Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms received Stern Math materials and teachers came together to learn how the visual approach enhances mathematical ideas in the classroom. In older grades, students have enjoyed practicing fluency through a game called 24. In this game, you are given 4 numbers to use exactly once in

conjunction with any of the 4 operations to produce the number 24. In one of the picture below, the two girls were given 9, 2, 5, and 1. Their solution was to do $(9 \times 2) + 5 + 1$. The fun part about this game is that there are multiple ways to 24 using the same numbers and there is also a version for younger children. Here are some for you to try out: (1, 7, 8, 8) (2, 2, 6, 8) (1, 2, 4, 9).



In case you are still looking for some fun holiday gifts, we can recommend some of our favorites: SET the game (also has a younger version); Blokus, a spatial strategy game; and our new favorite: Tiny Polka Dot, a fun collection of cards that can be used to play many different games with young students and their older siblings.

PTO News

CALLING ALL 5th GRADE PARENTS

Keeping with tradition for the Martha Jones 5th graders, there are a number of end of year activities that take place, and we need volunteers to make all of these special memories happen for our 5th graders. Please consider donating your time. If we can all pitch in there will be little work for everyone. Please sign up on the links below for each committee. If you are willing to be committee chair, please put your name in one of the first two slots. Donna Tobin and Mr. Bartlett (Grade 5 Rep) would like to meet with Committee Chairs on Friday, December 14th at 10:30am, immediately following the 5th grade winter concert.

[Click Here for Celebration Committee](#) – Need 5-6 parents

This committee is responsible for organizing the end of the year celebration held for all the MJ 5th grade students. This event will be held on Wednesday, June 6th (last ½ Wed.).

[Click Here for Yearbook Committee](#) – Need 2-3 parents

This committee is responsible for helping the Grade 5 teachers collect photos for the yearbook. Responsibilities include gathering photos (including baby photos from parents), taking pictures at events, etc. The yearbook will be given out to students on the last few days of school allowing them to have a signing party.

[Click Here for FUNdraising/Class Gift Committee](#) – Need 4-5 parents

This committee is responsible for organizing FUNdraisers (bake sales, raffles etc...) throughout the school year raising money for the 5th grade class year end events and class gift (Martha Jones Scholarship Award), given on behalf of the 5th grade class. All 5th grade parents are encouraged to help support this committee by baking goods, etc. The next bake sale will be at the 5th grade play. The play has a pirate theme, so any related goodies might be fun to sell.

There will be additional opportunities to help out throughout the year if you are not directly on any of these committees; we hope we can count on you when the time comes. Thank you!

Please contact Rachel Lipton at rlipton@akamai.com or Donna Tobin or Mr. Bartlett with any questions.

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.

Westwood Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.

If you need this document translated, please call the Westwood Public Schools' Student Services Department at 781-326-7500 ext. 1346 or email your request to jlouffe@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 ext. 1346 或电子邮件您的要求 jlouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。 أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك ext. 1346 إذا بحاجة إلى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 7500-326 781 لك. لطلب كنتشكر jlouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us

Если вам нужен этот документ переводится, пожалуйста, позвоните Вествудгосударственных школах "Студенческие службы Департамента по 781 326-7500 ext. 1346 или по электронной почте запрос на jlouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.