

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 9 - Jan. 11, 2019

”
LIFE’S MOST
PERSISTENT AND
URGENT QUESTION IS,
‘WHAT ARE YOU DOING
FOR OTHERS?’

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

POINTS
OF LIGHT

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

Important Dates

Mon., Jan. 14	PTO Winter / Spring Mini-course enrollment opens
Tue., Jan. 15	School Committee meeting, 7PM WHS, Small auditorium
Wed., Jan. 16	Gr 1 Enrichment: Meteorologist Visit
Fri., Jan. 18	Math League, 7:45AM (check with your grade level coordinator)
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
Wed., Feb. 6	Student Council 8:00AM Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am.
Thu., Feb. 7	Gr 2 & 5 Enrichment: Discovery Museum - Matter School Committee meeting, 7PM WHS, Small auditorium

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

Message from the Principal

THANK YOU!!! - I want to thank all of the parents/guardians who recognize me and the staff during the holiday season. From a simple thank you, to a special note, to homemade cards, family photo cards, student made gifts, home-baked goodies, store bought yummys, gift certificates (under \$50. to comply with ethics rules :), to a few bottles of wine, or a special mug, it is very kind to be recognized at this special time of year. I want to thank each and every one of you, not only for your recognition and gifts, but for your support, patience, understanding, openness, and commitment to our school community all year long.

This week the Westwood Public schools sponsored two wonderful events:

Courageous Conversations About Race with Dr. Carroll Blake and Dr. Patricia Kelly. This interactive presentation helped us to become more comfortable discussing difficult topics and raised our awareness of how seeing things from another's perspective might open us up to new ideas or opportunities for growth.

The Westwood Public Schools along with SEPAC also hosted a screening on Intelligent Lives - "From award-winning filmmaker Dan Habib comes *INTELLIGENT LIVES*, a catalyst to transform the label of intellectual disability from a life sentence of isolation into a life of possibility for the most systematically segregated people in America." We had the special privilege of having Emma Fialka-Feldman' join us for the presentation. Emma is the sister of Micah, one of the stars of the movie. Emma was able to give us first hand information about supporting a path to independence for a young adult living with disabilities. She also updated us on the young adults in the film, which was a wonderful treat.

MJ & District News

Mini Courses - Mini Course registration will open at 7:00 am on Monday, January 14th and run through January 18th. Courses will start on January 28th. The link registration link will be sent via school messenger at 7:00 am on Monday and will be posted on our Facebook page. Many classes fill up quickly, having registration start at 7:00 am seemed to give the most people access at the same time. Thank you for supporting these fun and engaging courses for students. There are a few new offerings this time, check them out.

Report Cards - Report cards will be mailed home on Friday, January, 25th. Teachers put a tremendous amount of time into making sure the report card provides you with a snapshot of how your child is doing in school. However, report cards can not capture everything. If you have any question, concerns, comments, or input regarding your child's success in school, please reach out to your child's teacher. Fostering each child's individual growth for successful academic, social, and emotional outcomes in a safe learning environment is our number one priority and requires strong parent partnerships. Your input is welcomed and valued.

Budget - Superintendent Parks will present the FY' 20 budget at the school committee meeting on Tuesday, January 15th. The budget aligns with our district priorities and allows for us to offer outstanding educational opportunities to all students. We continue to focus on ensuring strong academic outcomes; kind, creative, and curious students; innovative teaching and learning; support programs and enrichment activities for all; and highly qualified staff who care deeply about our students. As always, school committee meetings are open meetings with opportunities for citizen input and I encourage you to attend.

Carpool - As the winter approaches fewer students walk and bike to school, which means more cars in carpool. Remember to have your child's name printed largely on a piece of paper in the passenger side window to help carpool move along quickly. If your child needs assistance getting in and out of the car, please park and pick up your child and wait until carpool cars have exited to exit the parking area. No parking on Spruce Drive or in the cul-de-sac to pick up. You must pick up in the carpool lane or park in the front on the school. We want to keep all areas safe for walkers.

Lost and Found is Filling Up - All students should be wearing winter clothing for outdoors. This means hats, coats, mittens, and snow pants and boots when snowing. All students go out for recess, expect for on the rare occasion it is below 20 degrees outside at the time of recess. PLEASE label all clothing/boots.

Smart Watches and other Devices - Hopefully you saw my previous email, but a number of students received Smart watches and other electronic type jewelry and watches for Hanukkah and Christmas. These items should be kept at home. The school can not be responsible for these devices. Young children tend to misplace items easily. In addition, many of these devices allow for texting and taking photos. Students are not allowed to photograph or record on private devices at any time during school or on the way to and from school (the bus, etc.). If your child must have a device in school (i.e. some of our older students have cell phones to allow them to contact parents when they get home from school, or in case of an emergency walking to and from school), the device should be kept in his/her backpack at all times.

Classroom Happenings

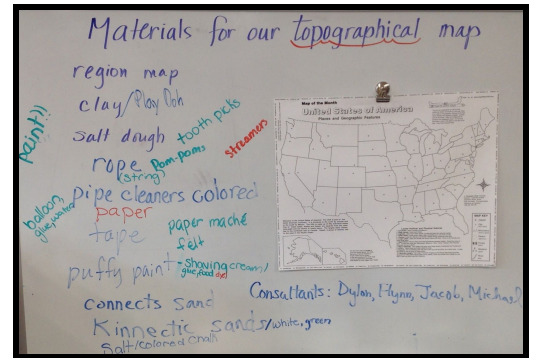


News from 40 (Ms. O'Toole)

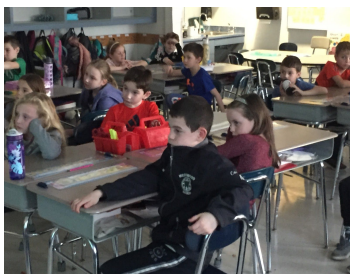
4-0 readers are utilizing the features of several nonfiction texts as they delve into the various geographic regions of the United States. Together, we research the landforms, economy and culture of the Northeast. Each class team is then becoming an expert on one geographic region. Team 1: the Midwest, Team 2:

the West, Team 3: the Southwest and Team 4: the Southeast. As we research each region, we are taking informative notes by finding the main idea of the paragraphs we read. We are recognizing important nonfiction text structures like: description, cause and effect, compare and contrast and problem and solution. Noticing these text structures deepen our reading comprehension, and promote a sense of organization to our notes. Besides the social studies texts and atlases available to us in class, the following online sites will be utilized in our research: EPIC Books for Kids, Scholastic Trueflix ebooks and Mr. Nussbaum's interactive website. Access to more than one resource will encourage us to build upon previous learning and synthesize new information we acquire.

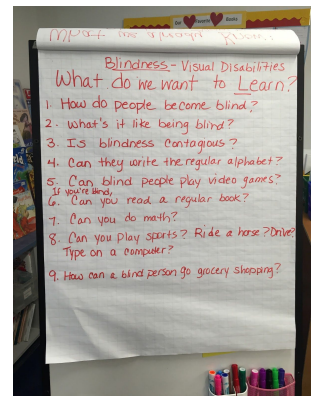
Our first research topic focuses on the major landforms found in each region of our country. As we learn more about these landforms, we plan to build them on a topographic map! Check out the material list 4-0 students have generated based upon the reading we have completed so far.



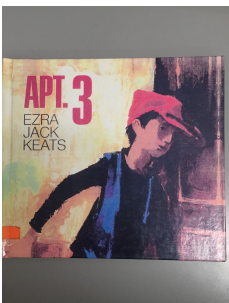
News from Speech and Language (Mrs. Tuccheri)



On December 14th, second grade teachers Ms. Hartwell and Ms. Mundy and I launched the first of a series of lessons in our **Same and Different Like Me** curriculum. These lessons are designed across all grade levels to address a variety of disabilities including physical, sensory, cognitive, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorders. Second graders are exposed to lessons on sensory disabilities (i.e., visual and hearing impairments) in order to help them attain a better understanding of the



challenges students with blindness/visual impairments and hearing loss/deafness face in their daily lives. Students also learn that despite the differences that people with these disabilities have, they also have a lot in common with them. In the first lesson about visual impairments, students brainstormed what they already knew about the subject and what they would like to learn. Ms. Mundy read a book entitled Apt. 3 by Ezra Jack Keats about a boy named Sam who befriends a man in his apartment complex who is blind and Sam discovers that the man knows a lot about the tenants just by listening. Many of the second graders acknowledged that when one sense is lost, the others are heightened and that was why the man knew so much about the people living around him through his sense of hearing. Future lessons will include videos of students from the Perkins School for the Blind



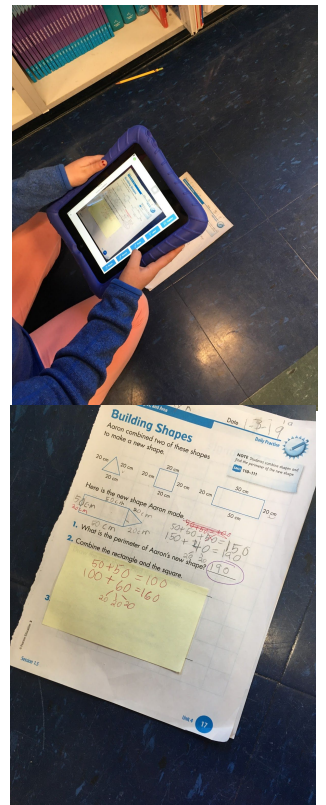
taking skiing lessons and playing a ball game with Bruins players as well as centers where students can experience reading Braille, walking with canes and learning about the anatomy of the eye and ear. We will be looking for volunteers to help facilitate the centers so get ready parents of second graders!

News from 3L (Mrs. Luskin)

3L's Brainiacs are ringing in the new year by setting goals and learning from mistakes.

Each student has identified a word that has captured his/her goal. Some examples are organize, friendship, motivate, and courage! Then, each student listed specific actions to take in order to reach that goal. Brainiacs are also learning that there will be bumps in the road. One of the routines we added to our classroom is recording a "favorite mistake" in See Saw. Students take a picture of the mistake and explain what they learned from it. This way students learn from mistakes and

understand that making mistakes is an essential part of the learning process. Each student in Mrs. Luskin's class is learning how to grow his/her brain. Now do you understand why we are called the Brainiacs?



News from the Library (Mrs. Swinning)

There's never a dull moment in the Martha Jones Library!

Before the Winter Break, every class participated in a week of "fine dining" in our MJ Winter Wonderland Cafe where we "tasted" a wide selection of great books from all different genres in fiction.



The following week, all classes honed their skills in innovation, cooperation, problem solving and more! We celebrated mistakes and wow'd at the successes during our Makerspace Week!



If you'd like to follow along and see what else is happening in the Martha Jones Library, you can follow us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/marthajoneslibrary>

PTO News

Winter/Spring MINI COURSES

The Martha Jones PTO is pleased to announce that registration will open on Monday, January 14th for the Winter/Spring session of the after school Mini-Course Program! Mini Courses will begin on January 28th and run through April 5th, with the week of April 8th reserved for make-ups. The session is ten weeks, but there will be 9 classes because of February vacation:

- M - 10 weeks (No class 2/18); 9 class sessions
- T - 10 weeks (No class 2/19); 9 class sessions
- Th - 10 Weeks (No class 2/21); 9 class sessions
- F - 10 weeks (No class 2/22); 9 class sessions

Please note that Registration will open on Monday, January 14th, and run through January 18th. Mrs. Tobin will send out an email with a link to the registration site at 7:00am on January 14th, and a link will also be posted on the PTO Facebook page.

[See the following link](#) to find out more about the mini courses on offer this session

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.

[The link to buy tickets is here.](#)

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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