

# Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.  
Issue 7 - Dec. 6, 2019



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

## Important Dates

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Mon. Dec. 9th</b>                 | School Building Education Plan Presentation 7 PM<br>Thurston Middle School Cafe  |
| <b>Tue., Dec. 10</b>                 | PTO Meeting - 7:00PM<br>MJ Library<br>(Rescheduled from Tuesday, Dec. 3)   |
| <b>Thu., Dec. 12</b>                 | Gr. 2 Enrichment - Plimoth Plantation Classroom Visit<br><br>School Committee, WHS<br>6:30 pm Thurston Middle School Cafe. Followed by School Building Education Plan Presentation at 7:00 |
| <b>Fri., Dec. 13</b>                 | Math League 8:00AM<br>Gr. 3 - Library<br>Gr. 4 - Art Room<br>Gr. 5 - Room 202<br><br>Gr. 5 Winter Concert - 9:30AM<br><br>Gr. 5 Play - 6:30PM<br>All Are Welcome to Attend                 |
| <b>Wed., Dec. 18</b>                 | Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. No lunch served.  |
| <b>Mon. - Wed., Dec. 23 - Jan. 1</b> | Holiday Break<br>NO SCHOOL   |
| <b>Fri., Jan. 3</b>                  | Foundation for Westwood Education - Spelling Bee - WHS   |

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

### Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:

Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

ext. 6261: Diane Santangelo

ext. 6262: Donna Tobin

ext. 6263: Dawnmarie Shu

## Message from the Principal



It's hard to believe we've already had our 1st snow day. Let's hope it is one and done. While it is nice to have a surprise day off in the winter, making it up in June is no fun.

Professional Development Day - As you know, on December 2nd we had a full day of professional development. The elementary staff spent part of the day working with the architects learning about and sharing ideas for the school building project. As you know, there have been a number of community meetings, with two more this week, as well as meetings with principals and administrators. The project coordinators are working to ensure they get input from all stakeholders and it was great for the teaching staff to have a chance to share their ideas, hopes, suggestions, and concerns about the building project. For the remainder of the day, the teachers worked to identify and develop professional practice learning groups. Group topics were developed based on teacher input and interest. These professional learning groups will come together over the next few months to focus on specific areas of learning and growth. Staff identified 25 different focus areas and groups were formed based on teacher interest. A sampling of the topics included are: The Impact of the Physical Environment on Learning and Well-Being, Best Practices for Student Learning in Special Education Programs, Strategies for Improving Math Fluency, Using Reading Response Journals in Strategy Reading Groups, Toolkits for Literacy Interventions, Effective Coaching and Mentoring, Keeping Students Engaged During Instruction, Strategies for Managing Stress and Anxiety, and The practices of the "Workshop" Style Instruction Across Content Areas.

## MJ News



**5th Grade Play - Character Matters 3** - A musical comedy that is sure to delight. A number of our 5th grade students are participating in the 5th Grade Play mini-course. The final production will be on Friday evening, December 13th at 6:30 in the school cafe. All parents and students are welcome to attend (students must be accompanied by an adult).

### School Committee Building Project Forum

The School Committee is holding its second set of School Building Project Community Forums this Monday, December 9, and Thursday, December 12, both at 7 pm in the Thurston Middle School cafeteria. These forums will focus almost entirely on next generation educational practices that will play a crucial role in the design of the new school. You will hear about current best practices and research in child development, teaching, and learning, and will then be able to participate in an educational visioning activity that will help inform our design team's work. Please join us to provide your input on our children's educational programming! Both Community Forums will have similar formats, so feel free to attend either session.

### Message from the MJ Student Council



The Student Council would like to announce its first spirit day of the year. Pajama Day will take place on December 20th, the last Friday before the school vacation. Students are welcome to wear everything from sweatpants and a sweatshirt to a pair of pink, fluffy, bunny slippers! Happy Holidays and Merry Pajama Day!

**Outdoor Play** - At Martha Jones, we go outside everyday, even in the winter, unless it is raining or less than 20°F. We ask you to please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor weather. This means coats, hats, mittens, and pants or leggings, as well as snow pants and boots when it is snowing. Be sure all clothing is labeled, many students have black winter boots, similar coats, and the same hats and mittens.

**Lost and Found** - It's that time of year, when clothes start piling up. PLEASE be sure your child's coats, boots, and snowpants are labeled with his or her name.



There are already some beautiful and expensive winter coats in lost and found. All items left in lost in found over the holiday break will be donated to charity, so please stop by and check it out.



# Classroom Happenings

## **News from 3Le (Ms. LeBlanc)**

Students in 3Le have enjoyed exploring our first science unit, Objects and Motion. Over the past few weeks students have been investigating the question, "How do balanced and unbalanced forces affect objects?" Students had the opportunity to engage in hands on learning during 6 different motion stations. The students worked in small groups to complete various tasks that tested how changing the height, mass, or distance of an object affects its motion. At one learning station, students built ramps of varying heights and conducted multiple trials to observe how changing the height of the ramp affects the distance a toy car travels. This



activity supported the learning that students have been engaging in during a new math unit on measurement, and allowed students to practice measuring height and distance in centimeters with rulers. At another station, students were instructed to roll a golf ball then a ping pong ball down a ramp to hit an empty crayon box. Students again practiced their measuring skills by using a ruler to calculate and compare which ball pushed the box further. Following the stations, students participated in discussions about their findings and what patterns they noticed. Students in 3Le have also been utilizing a class favorite website,

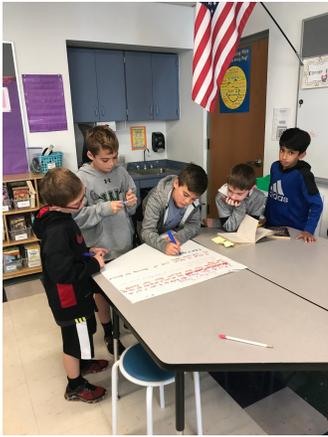


Quizlet Live, to review key vocabulary and findings from the learning stations. We are looking forward to continuing our learning as we explore how friction and magnetic forces can also have an impact on objects and motion.

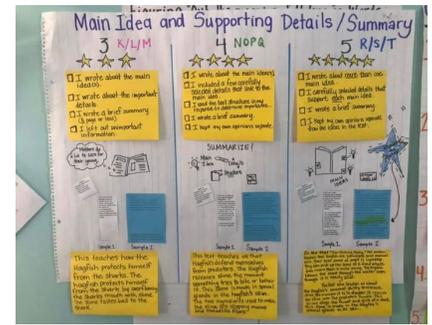
**News from Ms. Eaton** In the Learning Center, we are taking the initiative to incorporate more purposeful movement into the academic lessons. In a course entitled *Move to Learn* presented by two Westwood teachers, the importance and effectiveness of **active learning** was highlighted. Through participation and discussion of the four levels of active learning, it was made evident, the positive impact that exercise and movement have on executive functioning. Given work with basic sentence structure (**subject + predicate**), second graders were tasked with distinguishing between the two by choosing cards that had either a subject (noun) or predicate (verb) printed on them. After reading the chosen word aloud, the students had to state whether the word was a subject or predicate, locate the corresponding column and then choose an exercise to perform for 10-15 seconds (**strength training** for **subjects** and **cardio** for **predicates**). Not only did the students learn and apply these concepts, they

were fully engaged and had fun at the same time!

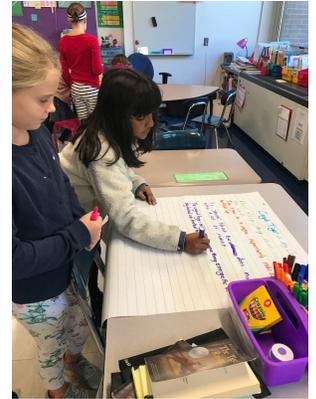
## **News from Literacy (Ms. Wyler)**



In Readers' and Writers' Workshop, students in all grades are continually working to "make their good reading and writing even better". One way that students are learning to lift the level of their work is through the use of progressions. Progressions are descriptions and examples of thoughts about books and/or samples of writing. The children are learning that they can use these samples and descriptions to identify things they are already doing well and what goals they can set for themselves to improve.

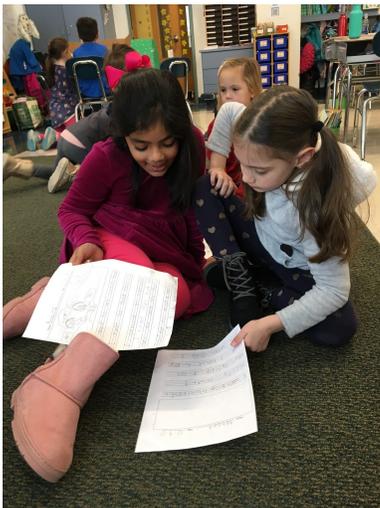


Using these resources allows the children to take ownership over their learning and reinforces a growth mindset in recognizing that no matter where your work falls along the progression, there are always steps to take to grow your thinking.



## **News from 1K (Mrs. Kyvelos)**

The first graders in 1K have been living 'readerly' and 'writerly' lives since the beginning of the school year. Something they have worked really hard on is learning with partners to reinforce reading and writing strategies.



Partner time during Reader's Workshop occurs after a short strategy-based mini-lesson, for example, breaking tricky words into more manageable and recognizable parts. This is followed by private reading time to apply learned strategies on independent texts, and finally partner time to enjoy texts together and to share feedback on how things are going.



One of the students' favorite routines is the partner 'fishbowl,' which means that the class chooses a partnership that has worked hard to integrate reading strategies, including carrying on a back-and-forth conversation about their reading. The partnership sits in the center of the circle with their books, inside the 'fishbowl,' and the students on the outside look in to notice how the partnership works together.

The students on the outside of the circle pay careful attention to how the partners remind each other of strategies to solve tricky words or to understand the text. This format excites the readers and reinforces their reading journey. Finally, these same reading partners can also meet up during Writer's Workshop to use their own published texts to strengthen their writing through the eyes of a reader. It's been great fun to witness partnerships sharing in the joys of reading and writing together!

# PTO News

## **GENERAL PTO MEETING**

***Rescheduled - Tuesday, Dec 10 @ 7pm - MJ Library***

Please join us for the second General PTO Meeting of the 2019/2020 school year. The original date was snowed out, so it has been rescheduled for **Dec.10** @ 7pm. Everyone is welcome and we are always happy to see new faces. Hope to see you there!

## **PARK STREET BOOKS & TOYS**

***In-store shopping - Monday, Dec. 16***

*504 Main Street, Medfield 9am-6pm*

This year, Park Street Books & Toys is offering the Martha Jones community a special day for holiday shopping. On **Dec. 16**, Park Street Books & Toys will **donate 20%** of your qualifying purchase to the Martha Jones PTO. They have a great selection of books and toys, you are sure to find the perfect gift! Please take advantage of this generous offer and support a local small business and the Martha Jones PTO.

## **MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL**

***Save the Date - Saturday, March 21, 2020***

### **The Roaring 20's**

*"Come as a flapper or come as you are, dress as a gangster or a silent screen star. It's going to be fun, no matter the dress. Just bring yourself, and we'll take care of the rest!"*

Please join us for the Annual Martha Jones Parent Social on Saturday, **March 21, 2020** from 7:30-11:30pm at The German Club in Walpole. (Rt. 109 Westwood/Walpole town line)

As in the past, there will be a DJ, cash bar, teacher experience and silent auctions along with a healthy dose of fun and dancing! This is an **adult only** event, so book your sitters now!

## **SHOP AmazonSmile**

***Support Martha Jones with every **HOLIDAY** purchase***

Support the Martha Jones PTO while you do your Amazon shopping by using **AmazonSmile**. AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support the Martha Jones PTO every time you shop, at no cost to you.

The Amazon logo, featuring the word "amazon" in a lowercase, sans-serif font with a curved orange arrow underneath it, pointing from the letter 'a' to the letter 'z'.

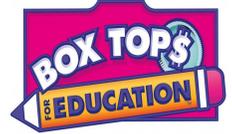
You will find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Martha Jones PTO. Just log onto [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), choose Martha Jones PTO as your charity of choice and shop away!

### **Amazon shopping with an iPhone?**

You can use AmazonSmile just like an App by following a few simple steps. Open [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) in your browser, tap the "share/forward link" button then tap the "Add to Home Screen" icon (you may need to swipe left to see this). You will now have an AmazonSmile icon which can be used in exactly the same way as the Amazon App **but now** all of your purchases support the Martha Jones PTO.

### **BOX TOPS - COLLECTION ONGOING**

***Download the App and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase***



Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for Martha Jones. This money will be used to help pay for school supplies, fund field trip expenses and other fun events! In addition to the Fall and Spring classroom competitions, we collect Box Tops year-round, so please feel free to send them in whenever you have them.

We recently sent home information about **important changes** to the Box Top program, please take note of these changes and continue to support the Box Top program. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **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 Denise Cahill at [denise Cahill@gmail.com](mailto:denise Cahill@gmail.com).

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

**General PTO Meeting (Rescheduled due to snow):** Tuesday, **Dec. 10** @ 7pm - MJ Library

**Dining Out:** Wednesday, **Jan 15** - Bamboo Restaurant

**MJ Parent Social:** Saturday, **Mar. 21** @ 7:30-11:30pm - The German Club

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# WESTWOOD Public Schools

Join the conversation about Westwood's School Building Project and help us determine the future of our schools.

The Westwood School Committee is holding two sets of community forums this Fall to share information about the School Building Project and gather input from the community.

## 1) Initial Information Presentation and Feedback Session

October 23 and November 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Thurston Middle School cafeteria  
(participants can attend either session)

- Review the School Building Project process and receive a "current status" update;
- Meet the design team (project manager and architect); and
- Participate in small break-out groups to discuss project priorities.

## 2) Education Plan Presentation

December 9 and December 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Thurston Middle School cafeteria  
(participants can attend either session)

- Identify project priorities;
- Review the School District's roadmap for educational excellence in Westwood; and
- Understand the next steps for the School Building Committee.

## NEXT SPRING (dates to be announced):

The School Committee will continue community engagement sessions on the following topics:

- Review of the pros and cons of the School Building Project plan with the design team;
- Obtain input from the community on the School Building Project plan; and
- Determination and presentation by the School Building Committee of the preferred solution for the School Building Project.



Educational excellence is our top priority. The Westwood School Building Project will help us modernize our schools and enhance student learning. We look forward to your participation!



# Community News You Can Use

## Westwood SEPAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



## Understanding the IEP

Monday January 13, 2020  
6:30 -7:00 PM-Parent Networking  
7:00-Presentation

This presentation will delve into the Individual Education Program (IEP) document, its development, the breakdown of each section and understanding how the document will support a student.



### Workshop Topics:

- Why the IEP is Important
- Who is eligible for an IEP
- How the IEP is Developed
- Strengths and Concerns
- Vision Statements
- IEP Sections including PLEP A & B, Annual Goals and Service Delivery Grid
- Differences between Accommodations and Modifications
- Response, Placement and Consent
- Procedural Safeguards and more!

All are welcome! If you haven't been able to attend a Basic Rights Workshop this year, now is a good time to learn or update your knowledge about your child's rights to special education.

This workshop is presented by Faith Morgan from **The Federation for Children with Special Needs**

RSVP: [westwoodsepac.org/event-reg](http://westwoodsepac.org/event-reg) or in our [Facebook Group](#)

Location: Westwood High School, 220 Nahatan Street  
Park in the front horseshoe parking lot off Nahatan Street. Go through the doors marked "District Administration". Once inside follow signage to Professional Development Room.