

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 10 - Jan. 22, 2021



Thank you for continuing to work to keep our students and staff safe.

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

Important Dates

Date	Event
Fri., Jan 29th	Report cards
Thu., Feb 4th	School Committee Meeting 7PM
Thu., Feb 11th	School Committee Meeting 7PM
Mon - Fri., Feb. 15 - 19	February Vacation Week NO SCHOOL

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



The end of the first half of the year is coming to an end and as you know from Supt. Parks' letter, we have a few students who were fully remote this year and will now be joining the hybrid model and others who were hybrid and have chosen to go fully-remote for the second semester. This change will happen on February 1st so if your child mentions that a "new" student has joined his/her class, this is why. As always, we ask that you encourage your child to welcome any new or former classmates back and be supportive of his/her transition to in-person schooling. Some students have been home since March, so coming back to school for the first time in almost a year may bring mixed emotions. Getting a friendly, *welcome back*, can always make it better.

Valentine's Day - While we know that Valentine's Day can be a special day for students, due to COVID precautions, **students will not be able hand out Valentines to classmates this year.**



MJ & District News

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING REPORT CARDS:

After remote learning last spring, report cards were released in June with comments only and no ratings. This year, we have been working to update report cards so that the language is clearer and provides an accurate representation of the learning standards and skills that have been the focus of our classroom instruction. Items for these core areas will be evaluated by teachers with the 1 - 4 scale used in the past.

At the top of each core content area (literacy, mathematics, social studies and science) there is an overview section that provides information about some of the broader skills and habits that students are developing over time. The specific line items that follow this section have been revised to reflect the major focus areas for the grade. Finally, specific language within the lines has been revised to be clear and concise.

Here are the literacy sections of grade 3 report from this year and last year as an example:

2019- 2020	2020 - 2021
<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Reading Literature & Informational Text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Answers questions in writing and refers to the text to support ideas ● Retells and explains important ideas and details of a text ● Applies grade level phonics and word analysis skills to decode and determine the meanings of unfamiliar words ● Reads grade level texts with accuracy, pacing and expression ● Determines the main idea and supporting details in informational text <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Writes opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with relevant reasons ● Writes informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly ● Writes narratives to develop real or imagined experiences, logically ordered, using descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings ● Develops and strengthens writing by planning, revising and editing <p>Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uses knowledge of standard English grammar and conventions when writing and speaking ● Spells high-frequency words and taught spelling patterns correctly in daily work ● Acquires and uses academic and content specific vocabulary 	<p>Literacy</p> <p><i>In all grades, students learn to read texts representing diverse periods, cultures & views; listen and speak in formal & informal settings; write for a specific audience/purpose; and apply knowledge of grammar/mechanics in speech & writing.</i></p> <p><i>Focus areas for grade 3 are listed below.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knows and applies grade level phonics and word-analysis skills to multisyllabic words. ● Reads grade level text with accuracy and fluency. ● Asks and answers questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. ● Determines the central message or main idea and recounts the key details to explain how they support the main idea. ● Aligns structure and organization of writing to audience and purpose. ● Uses appropriate capitalization, end punctuation, and quotation marks.

In our arts/specials classes this year (art, music and physical education), the deployment of staff, changes to the schedule, and adherence to safety protocols have necessitated substantial changes to curriculum. Information about the focus on learning for the course is still included in the top section, but teachers' feedback will focus primarily on students' engagement and participation instead of domain-specific skills.

Finally, the "Status Report" section of the report card--the part that reflects student work habits and behaviors--has been revised. The specific line items will not appear in report cards this year, although teachers will still be able to communicate about student development in these areas in the write-in section.

These changes will be in place for the January and June report cards this year, and we anticipate a few additional changes next year, including updates to the Social Studies section after the completion of the curriculum review, the addition of a Social Emotional Learning section to reflect students' progress in these critical competencies, the return to more detailed arts/specials sections and, ideally, improved layout and readability.

Your child's report card will be available for you to review through our Aspen/X2 portal on January 30. [Directions for accessing the report card are linked here.](#) (Need support? You can visit [the Aspen self-help site](#) or email our Aspen support team at aspen@westwood.k12.ma.us with questions.) Report cards will not be mailed home this year; they are printable through Aspen should you desire a hard copy. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Reporting an Absence or Change in Dismissal

Just a reminder... If your child will be absent, tardy, or has a change to his/her dismissal routine (bus to carpool, walker, etc.) please call the school office at 781-326-7500, ext. 6321 or send an email to: dsantangelo@westwood.k12.ma.us and to your child's teacher. If your child is out due to symptoms related to COVID or because of recent travel out of state, please remember to contact the COVID team at wpscovidteam@westwood.k12.ma.us Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Drop Off and Pick Up Thank you for your care and caution during drop off and pick up. There are many more cars dropping off and picking up than in past years and I appreciate your attention and patience. Please also pay careful attention as your child is entering and exiting your car to ensure the safety of all students.



PTO News

MABEL'S LABELS SALE

mabel's labels®

From now until January 25, Mabel's Labels is having a sale on its [Custom Clothing Stamp](#). This stamp works on tagless clothing and items like hats and mittens. Each stamp is good for 1,000 applications and will last on your clothing for approximately 40 washes. The stamps are currently on sale for \$29.60, 20% off its regular price.

Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and enter "Martha Jones PTO" as the fundraiser you would like to support. By purchasing the custom clothing stamp or **any** of the labels via our fundraiser, you will receive free shipping (labels are mailed directly to your address) and the PTO will receive 20% of your purchase.

UPDATE ON BIRTHDAY BOOKS

The Birthday Books Committee had hoped to be able to assign last year's unassigned birthday books this spring. Unfortunately with Mrs. Swinning remaining at the Deerfield this semester, the library being used as a classroom and parent volunteers unable to go into the school, we will not be able to do this. The Birthday Books program supplies the Martha Jones Library with brand new library books. **The books purchased for the 2019/2020 Birthday Books program already have been donated to the Martha Jones Library.** However, we will not be able to provide children who signed up for last year's Birthday Books program and had birthdays from April-August 2020 the opportunity to pick out a book and put their special donation label into the book of their choice. If you signed up for last year's Birthday Book program and the shutdown occurred before your child(ren) had the opportunity to place a birthday books label in the birthday book of their choice, the \$15 will be considered a donation to the Martha Jones library. If you would prefer not to make a donation, the PTO will refund you the \$15. Please contact Amy Amatangelo at amyamatangelo@yahoo.com if you would like a refund. Thanks to everyone for your support of the Birthday Books program. We look forward to resuming it in the 2021/2022 school year!

ELECTRONIC BOX TOPS - COLLECTION ONGOING

Download the Box Top App and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase. Click [here](#) for more information about how to download the Box Top app and scan your receipts. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for our school.

SHOP AmazonSmile ON THE APP

Support Martha Jones with every purchase

The Amazon Shopping app now supports Amazon Smile! Simply download the newest version of the Amazon Shopping app, go to settings, turn on Amazon Smile and choose the Martha Jones PTO as your charity. After you've done that, every purchase you make will automatically support the Martha Jones PTO at no cost to you.

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.

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 Amy Amatangelo at amyamatangelo@yahoo.com.

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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 jplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us. Thank you.

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لك. لطلب كنتشكرا jplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us

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