

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 8 - Dec. 18, 2020



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

Important Dates

Date	Event
Wed. Dec. 23rd	½ Day Dismissal at 12:00 Noon
Thu. - Mon. Dec. 24th - Jan. 4	Holiday Break NO SCHOOL
Mon. Jan 4th	Students Return from Winter Break
Mon. Jan 18th	MLK Day NO SCHOOL

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:
Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321
ext. 6261: Diane Santangelo
ext. 6262: Donna Tobin
ext. 6263: Dawnmarie Sh

Message from the Principal



It is hard to believe that the winter break is right around the corner. To those of you celebrating Christmas and/or Kwanzaa next week, I hope you have a wonderful holiday. I have loved driving around seeing all the lights and decorations and it feels like people are trying to get into the holiday spirit, even during these most difficult times. And, while many of us won't be celebrating in your typical fashion, I have high hopes that next year's holidays will be that much more appreciated. As we head into the New Year, I am thankful to say good-bye to 2020 and have high hopes that 2021 will bring great things and the end to COVID-19.



Dedham Savings
Community Foundation

A huge THANK YOU to Dedham Savings Community Foundation and the MJ PTO. Dedham

Savings Community Foundation has donated funding to purchase backjack chairs for each child to use when sitting outside or in open spaces on the floor. These seats will keep students from sitting on the ground and provide a cushioned seat and backrest to make it easier to sit for lessons, breaks, lunch, and/or snack. While we will be eating inside on cold winter days, we will still work to get students outside each day for breaks, outdoor lessons, and to play in the snow (as was the case today).

MJ & District News

Vacation Travel and Staying Safe- Please remain vigilant over the winter break in maintaining practices to reduce the likelihood of you or your child getting COVID 19. As a community we have all done an amazing job of keeping our schools open and students safe by mask wearing, physical distancing, and handwashing. If you must travel out of state over the holidays, please remember to contact the COVID team wpscovidteam@westwood.k12.ma.us, at least 24 hours in advance, for clearance for your child to return to school. Thank you.



Dress in Layers - Just a reminder that we keep the windows open to help rotate fresh air through the classrooms. All classrooms have windows and our ventilation systems rotate air. We also have air purifiers in any spaces that do not have windows (a few offices, small group spaces, etc.). Because classroom windows will be kept open, even when the heat is on, the rooms can become chilly. Please be sure your child has a sweater or sweatshirt with them that they can wear during the school day, if needed. In addition, students should have appropriate outside wear each day including, coats, hats, mittens and snow pants when weather requires them. Label, Label, Label



Masks - Students have been truly wonderful about keeping their masks on. Please remember that students need to arrive at school each day with a mask. Masks need to be at least two ply and cover from the bridge of the nose to under the chin.

COVID Dashboard

The district has a COVID dashboard that is updated weekly to track any cases in the schools. It can be accessed via the district website at www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/covid19. As a reminder, the Westwood Public Schools' COVID-19 Monitoring and Response team is available to provide consultation and answer any questions. They can be contacted via email at wpscovidteam@westwood.k12.ma.us or by phone at 781-214-8154.

Keep scrolling to check out fun snow-day pictures.

Here's Ailsa getting ready to throw a huge snowball. I wonder if her brother is going to be on the receiving end.



SNOW HAPPENINGS

SLEDDING FUN - WHAT A GREAT WAY TO SPEND THE DAY



Sammy D looks happy to be outside.



Gracie conquers the slope one-handed.



Wow Oli, good job carrying that sled in such deep snow!



Molly, Nick, Katherine, and Charlotte enjoy the day. The only thing better than a snow day is a snow day with friends.



Fenna built a great snow fort to hang out in while Paige climbs the highest mountain.

Elise enjoys cross country skiing behind the Martha Jones School.



The Gaffin brothers find time to enjoy each other's company.



Alexa enjoys making snow angels. One of my favorite snow activities as a kid.

Kristy, Yaqub, and Joey work hard to dig out their families. I wish I had these helpers at my house yesterday. I think they deserve another snow day :).



Making Snow Angels is fun for all - here is Jonas making his snow angel.

PTO News

UPDATE ON WESTWOOD GEAR

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Westwood Gear sale! All Westwood Gear items, except for the tumblers and the water bottles, have been shipped. The tumblers and water bottles should ship out early next week. If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact Rachel Lipton at rachelalyson@gmail.com

TEACHER WISH LISTS

As a small token of our thanks to our Martha Jones educators, we reached out to all teachers and specialists right before Thanksgiving to ask them for their wish lists. We have spent the last few weeks fulfilling their lists! An example of some of the items the PTO has purchased include art easels, magna tiles, wobble chairs, headphones, and power cords. These are items that will benefit our children and their classrooms not just this year but for years to come.

DEDHAM SAVINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

We are delighted to announce that we received a grant from Dedham Savings Community Foundation to purchase portable stadium/backjack seats for every student at Martha Jones. These seats will allow the children to have a comfortable place to sit when outside for classes, lunch, snack and mask breaks. These seats also have great indoor use as teachers often use them inside the classroom as well. We are so appreciative of Dedham Savings generosity.

TEACHER PONCHOS

The PTO was so happy to purchase fleece lined ponchos as a special holiday gift for the Martha Jones staff. These brightly colored and warm ponchos will keep them warm while they are working the carpool line and monitoring recess. And with the windows open year round, they will also hopefully keep them warm inside the classroom as well! We think these teachers look quite fashionable!



PARK STREET BOOKS SHOPPING DAY

Thank you to everyone who shopped at the Martha Jones Park Street Books shopping day! Our purchases raised \$386 for the PTO and supported a very beloved local business. We look forward to making the Park Street Books shopping day an annual tradition.

DONATION TO THE WESTWOOD SENIOR CENTER

In addition to the socks, hats, gloves and crossword puzzle books our families so generously donated to the Westwood Senior Center, the PTO donated snowman mugs, hot chocolate packets and candy canes that were given out as holiday gifts to seniors in our community. These mugs were donated by Kendra Resha last year and now have provided two years of joy. Thank you Kendra!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Happy Holidays from the Martha Jones PTO Board. Thanks for all your support this past year. We are looking forward to a better and brighter 2021!

MABEL'S LABELS- NOW WITH THE MJ LOGO!

mabel's labels.

We are excited to announce you can now order the Mabel's Label combo pack with the Martha Jones logo. Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and enter "Martha Jones PTO" as the fundraiser you would like to support. The "combo label pack" is available at the top of the menu bar. By purchasing the MJ combo label pack 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.

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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