

# Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.  
Issue 1 - Sept. 3, 2021

*We are ready to have a great year!*



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

## Important Dates

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Fri. Sept. 3rd</b> | No School Labor Day Wknd                           |
| <b>Mon. Sept 6</b>    | Labor Day NO SCHOOL                                |
| <b>Tue. Sept. 7</b>   | Rosh Hashanah NO SCHOOL                            |
| <b>Wed. Sept. 8</b>   | Full Day Kindergarten Begins                       |
| <b>Wed. Sept. 15</b>  | Early Release 11:50AM                              |
| <b>Thur. Sept. 16</b> | Yom Kippur NO SCHOOL                               |
| <b>Fri. Sept. 17</b>  | PTO Family Picnic                                  |
| <b>Thu. Sept. 23</b>  | Picture Day<br>-----<br>Curriculum Night - VIRTUAL |
| <b>Wed. Sept. 29</b>  | Early Release 11:50AM                              |
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|                       |  |
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Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:  
Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321  
ext. 6261: [Diane Santangelo](#)  
ext. 6262: [Donna Tobin](#)  
ext. 6263: [JoEllen Doyle](#)

## Message from the Principal

**Welcome Back** - We had a great two days and it was so exciting to see students back in the building. The weather cooperated today with lots of unexpected sunshine and the students all got to eat outside and have outdoor recess. We were able to get in a little outside time yesterday, but not as much as we wanted.

**Please welcome new faces** - This year we have 39 new kindergarten students at Martha Jones and 9 new families with 13 students in grades 1 through 5. If you see a family in your neighborhood that you don't recognize, please be sure to reach out and say, "Hello" and "Welcome." It is very important to me and part of our school culture at Martha Jones School to have a warm, friendly, welcoming environment where everyone feels included. It was very difficult for new families to get acquainted with the school community during physical distancing but your welcoming attitude can help. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to support you in this area.



**To All Our Families Celebrating Rosh Hashanah - Happy New Year.** May you have a wonderful holiday and a year filled with love, warmth, health, and happiness.

**Reporting an Absence or Change in Dismissal:** If your child will be absent or tardy, please call the school office at 781-326-7500, ext. 6321 or send an email to: [dsantangelo@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:dsantangelo@westwood.k12.ma.us).

[Here is a copy of my the summer letter that you all should have received.](#) If you haven't read it, please take a peek.

# MJ News



**What to Bring Each Day** - Children should have a snack and a water bottle labeled with his/her name on it. We will be going outside every day (except in extreme weather conditions) so please be sure your child is dressed appropriately. ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE LABELED. We will not keep items left behind for more than a few days, but donate items to charity if they are not picked up by the end of each month.

**Lunch Ordering** - School lunch is free for all families this year, if you would like your child to have a school lunch we ask that you pre-order so we can get a sense of how many lunches to prepare. The pre-ordering feature is not working at this moment but should be fixed by next week. Here is the link to the [Food Services Site](#).

**[Bus Stops Are Now Posted on the district site.](#)** Be sure to locate the routes associated with Martha Jones (scroll down to find our school). Students will be assigned a seat when they enter the bus.



**Item Drop Off** - Visitors to the school will be extremely limited this year. While we typically love having parents in our school community, unfortunately we will not have parent volunteers at this time. If your child forgets an item and you need to drop it off, we ask that you ring the bell, identify yourself, and leave the labeled item in the student drop off box located in the lobby. This will limit the number of people coming into the office. We hope to return to a more fully involved school community once vaccines are available for younger students.

**Math and Literacy Support** - Last year our math and literacy specialists were deployed to classrooms to teach due to the reduced class sizes at some grade levels. This year, they will be back providing interventions to students in need of support and to coach and support teachers.

**PICTURE DAY IS COMING** - Thursday, September 23rd is picture day. Lifetouch pictures has been our school picture vendor for the past few years. They take time with each student and offer a variety of different packages and on-line registration and purchases. They are not offering outside photos this year, but one of the background options will be the tree outside the MJ school. More information will be coming soon. Lifetouch gives a generous donation back to the school for every photo purchased.



**[Carpool Directions](#)** - Please follow these carpool directions if you are picking up your child at school. **Also, please note, if you are walking your child to school, please remember that dogs are not allowed on the Martha Jones School property during school hours, including at drop off and pick up.**

**Curriculum Night** - Please hold the evening of Thursday, Sept. 23rd for Curriculum Night. We will be holding a virtual curriculum night again this year. Details and links will be coming in the next week or two.

**Aspen Portal** - If you haven't already done so, please be certain to go into the Aspen portal to review and update all information. This includes renewing permissions each year. I encourage all of you to select "yes" for media permissions. This allows your child to be in school photographs on our website and participate in photos during special events. In addition to media permission, permission to release directory info to the PTO/PTA is included in the contact verification and permissions. The Martha Jones student directory is available to all members of the PTO. I encourage you to allow your information to be put into the student directory. It is a great resource for arranging connecting with other students in your child's class, even if it is virtually. If you have any questions about the media or directory permissions, please see me. Changes may be made by [updating your Aspen account online](#).

# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PHOTOS

A few First Day of School Photos for You To Enjoy



# PTO News

## **PTO Update 9/3/2021**

### **WELCOME BACK AND WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES**

We hope everyone had a great summer and want to extend a special welcome to the incoming Kindergarten students and families and our new students and families joining the Martha Jones community.

The PTO is committed to supporting our students and teachers and providing fun, enriching experiences for all our students to help build and support our community during this unprecedented time. Much more information will be coming out in the next few weeks with details on how to join the PTO and get involved through various initiatives which continue to make Martha Jones a wonderful place to learn and grow.

### **JOIN THE MARTHA JONES PTO**

Support of the PTO through a PTO membership helps fund events, special projects, and educational programs throughout the year. Now more than ever we want to make sure we provide fun, engaging activities to help your children feel connected. We will send out a note soon explaining how you can join online.

### **FIRST PTO MEETING: October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

This meeting will be held Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. TBD if in-person or via Zoom. A link for the meeting will be sent out closer to the date. We hope you can join us!

### **SCHOOL DIRECTORY**

Martha Jones PTO uses AtoZConnect as our school directory. AtoZConnect is a secure web-based system that allows parents to verify and edit their own directory listings. *We will be sending out additional information and the specific link/info to access AtoZConnect in the next two weeks once the system has been updated with this year's info.*

Once you have verified your information in AtoZ, you will also be invited to join the Martha Jones PTO. The cost of a PTO membership is \$45 for families with one child and \$55 for families with two or more children. A PTO membership gives you access to the full Martha Jones directory on AtoZConnect. You will be able to register for the PTO, sign up for various committees / volunteer opportunities, receive the 'digital backpack', access the school directory and many more useful, informative tools (with PTO membership). AtoZ also has an app you can download and access to communicate with the MJ community.

### **ROOM PARENTS AND COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS**

Once you are in AtoZ, please take a moment to click on the "event sign up" tab and volunteer to be a room parent in your child's classroom or to join one of our committees. Room parents help coordinate the teacher gift and organize any volunteer activities that may arise during the year. It's a great way to get to know your child's teacher and support the great work they are doing.

This year there will be a new committee called the School Site Council that will need 3-4 volunteers. It meets four times a year and makes recommendations on school improvement plans/goals and reviews the annual school budget.

## **ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT MARTHA JONES**

mabel's labels.

Now more than ever it's important to label all your child(ren)'s belongings - water bottles, backpacks, jackets, the list of what can get lost at school is endless! The Martha Jones PTO has partnered with Mabel's Labels to make it easy to label everything your child(ren) bring to school. Go to [campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com) and enter "Martha Jones PTO" as the fundraiser you would like to support. You can even order the "combo label pack" with the MJ logo. By purchasing **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.

### **SHOP AmazonSmile Now 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 Cat Sonis at [catkell23@yahoo.com](mailto:catkell23@yahoo.com)

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أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك ext. 1346 إذا بحاجة إلى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستودود الخدمات الطلابية في 781-326-7500  
لك. [لطلب كنتشكر](mailto:lplouffe@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 [lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) Спасибо.