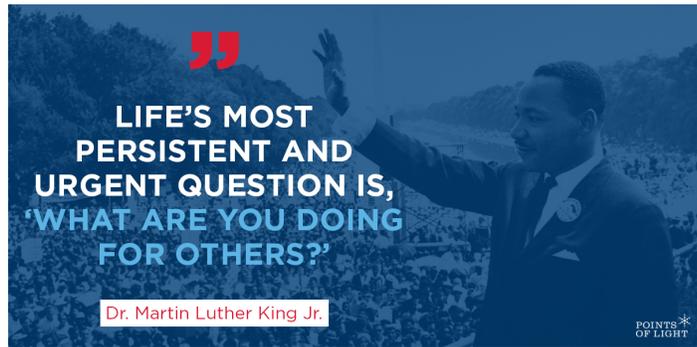


Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 10 - Jan. 14, 2022



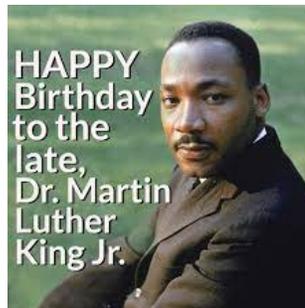
[Westwood Public Schools](#) | [Martha Jones School](#) | [Martha Jones PTO](#)

Important Dates

Mon. Jan. 17	NO SCHOOL - MLK Day
Wed. Jan. 19	Early Release 11:50AM
Thu., Jan. 20	Gr. 3 Enrichment: Plimoth Patuxet Colonial Families
Wed. Feb 2	Early Release 11:50AM
Thu., Feb. 3	Gr. 3 Enrichment: Discovery Museum Magnetism

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



As we celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., I think about our school motto: Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Courageous. I hope that you will take a minute this weekend to live our motto is the spirit of MLK and his tremendous legacy as an exceptional leader, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, and amazing human being.

Budget Process - Supt. Parks presented the proposed FY'23 budget at Thursday's School Committee meeting. Westwood continues to do a tremendous job supporting its schools and I appreciate the commitment of the entire community in ensuring that we continue to meet the vision, mission, and core values of WPS. An overview of priorities and budget items are outlined in [FY'23 Budget Executive Summary](#). And full details are available on the [district webpage](#).

VISION:

Graduates of the Westwood Public Schools are skilled, confident, curious, and kind:
excited for their futures and ready to contribute to their communities

MISSION:

To prepare students for college, career, and civic life by providing rich and challenging curriculum, high-quality instruction, and authentic educational experiences

CORE VALUES:

Academic excellence and a commitment to improvement
Curiosity and tenacity
Respectful relationships in a caring, collaborative community

MJ & District News



Birthday Books Are Back! - One of the many fun offerings through the PTO is birthday books. For a donation of \$15, your child may choose a brand new book from the library during his or her birthday month. A commemorative bookplate will be placed inside the front cover of the book with your child's name and birthday. He/she will enjoy being the first to borrow the Birthday Book and students for years to come will enjoy seeing their friend's name inside the book. While the program was on hold as part of our COVID precautions, it is back up and running. A special thank you to the volunteers that make this program so successful for our students. Sign up Here: <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/store/7716>. We appreciate your interest and support in the Birthday Book Program! It is a great way to ensure our library has a wonderful and varied collection. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Amatangelo at amyamatangelo@yahoo.com



Lost and Found - We are already starting to gather boots, coats, hats and mittens in the lost and found. Please remember to label your child's clothing so we can be sure it is returned to the proper student. Clothes not claimed are donated to local clothing drives. As I was leaving on Friday, I noticed 3 pairs of boots in lost and found and I know someone may be looking for them this weekend, so please label, label, label.



Join Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council for our upcoming parent groups and meetings!

- Jan 18: Neurodiverse Profiles Parent Group
- Jan 20: Language Based Learning Difference Parent Group
- Jan 26: Autism Parent Group
- Feb 8: Westwood SEPAC General Meeting

Visit us at www.westwoodsepac.org/events for more information.
SEPAC Liaison for Martha Jones: Megan Brenk mbrenk@gmail.com



Westwood Youth & Family Spring 2022 Group offerings! Groups are now open for registration on a first come, first served basis. Please see the linked flyers.

Girls' Group for 4th- 6th graders

Structured Play Group for 2nd & 3rd graders

Calm & Cope (Anxiety Support Group) for 2nd & 3rd graders.

Here is a link to our website that has more information and details to register:
<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services/programs-for-youth>

Classroom Happenings

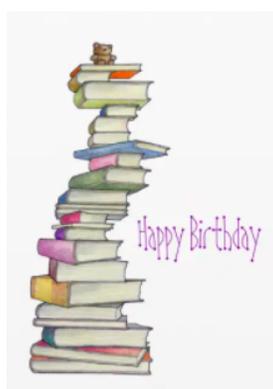
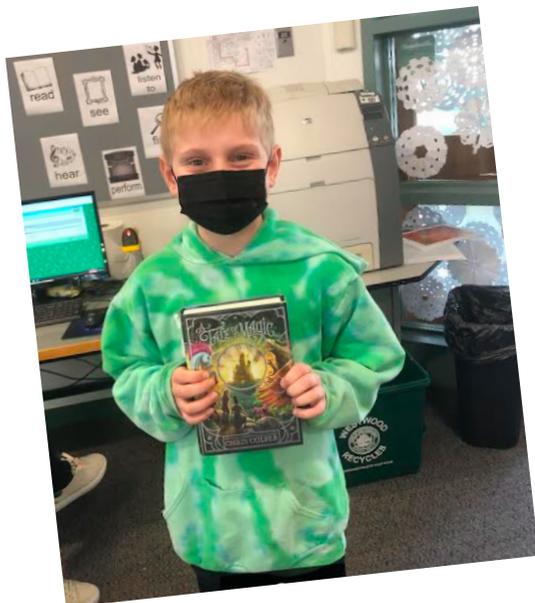
News from the Library (Mrs. Swinning)

All grades are learning the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Library!

Fifth graders are listening to his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Grades K-3 are discussing what we know about him already and learning new facts as we explore picture books, eBooks and biographies about this amazing person in our history. We are also highlighting others who have and are working hard to make a difference in our world. Students are being encouraged to spend Monday finding a way to help someone or show someone an act of kindness.

Martha Jones eBooks are available in our OPAC, which can be found on the [Martha Jones Library](#) website. Just click on the little blue person and type "lightbox" in the search bar! We have amazing interactive

eBooks about many subjects that can be explored on any device that has an internet connection by following the above steps.



Our Birthday Book Program is back up and running. Here are a few of our students picking their birthday books.

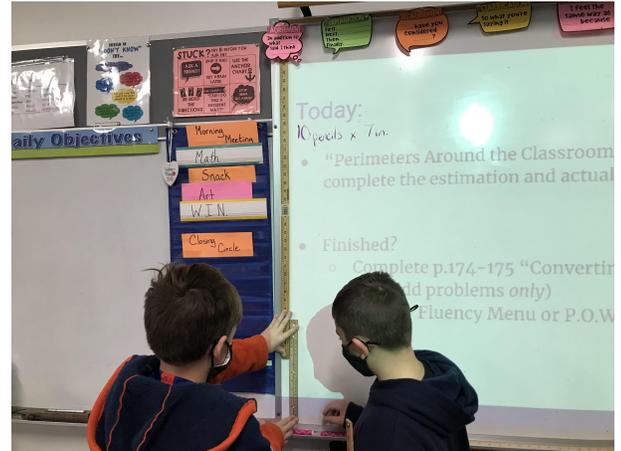


News from 4L (Mrs. Luskin) - Fourth graders have begun their Geometry unit! The unit consists of four investigations: linear measurement, classifying polygons, measuring angles, and symmetry and area. The past week in 4L, students were investigating linear measurement by estimating using unit benchmarks and measuring items in the room using U.S. standard and Metric tools. Students discovered that measuring accurately takes teamwork and real-world problem-solving.



Discussions ranged from what tools would be appropriate to measure with, how to measure accurately and to keep track of the segments measured, and how to convert

measurement units. Our students have advice for anyone who is measuring, "Measure *at least twice* and measure with a partner!"



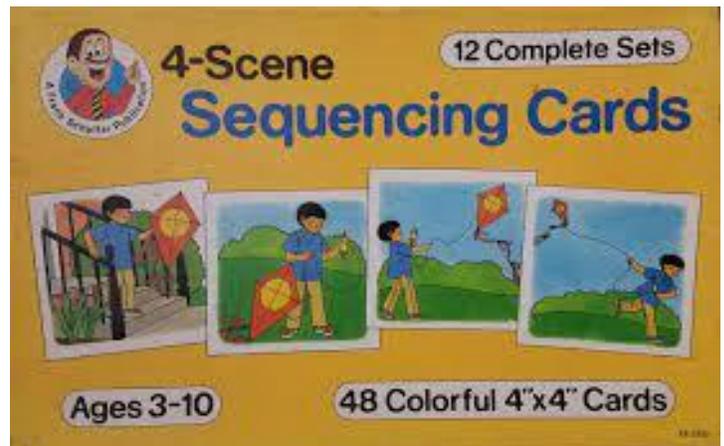
News from 5G (Ms. Gross) -5th graders in Ms. Gross's class have focused on building their research skills. Most recently, the class has been researching the original thirteen colonies. Each student is focusing on one of the colonies. They are learning about when/why the colony was founded, the geography and climate of the colony, and the people of the colony.

In order to learn about the people of the colony they are researching, they are discovering what religions were practiced in the colony, what the government was like in the colony, and what the economy was like in the colony. After they complete their research, they are working on representing their information on a poster which they will use to teach others about the colony. Their goal is to convince others to want to come to their colony. This gives us the opportunity to practice presentation skills, as well!



News from the Speech & Language Corner, Sharyn Tucceri, MS, CCC-SLP

Sequencing is one of the many skills that is targeted with students in speech therapy. This skill contributes to a student's ability to comprehend what they read and is a key component of problem-solving across the curriculum including the subjects of math, science, social studies and writing. In the area of reading, sequencing refers to the identification of the components of a story — the beginning, middle, and end — and also to the ability to retell the events within a given text in the order in which they occurred. Sequencing events is a crucial comprehension strategy, especially for narrative texts (Reading Rockets, 2015). Having students sequence picture cards in the correct order and then tell the narrative using the time-order words *first*, *next*, *then*, and *last* helps them to practice the skill of organizing their thoughts in an efficient manner. This skill is an easy one to practice at home by having your child explain how to perform various tasks around the house such as sequencing the steps for a cooking project, brushing their teeth, or getting ready for school. You can also take 3-4 pictures of your child performing different activities and then have them describe the tasks in sequential order by starting each sentence with a time-order word (e.g., *First*, I got the soccer ball and put it on the ground. *Next*, I dribbled it toward the net with my feet. *Then*, I kicked the ball with all of my might toward the goal. *Last*, I scored!). Have fun sequencing!



PTO Update 1/10

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Looking for a resolution you can stick to and make a difference at Martha Jones? Check out some of the PTOs featured volunteer opportunities.

ADULTS ONLY - Book the babysitter it's time for the MJ Parent Social! Help us plan and run an adults-only night out! <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/84863>

Love Pi? - We are creating a new Math Club program, by grade-level for Martha Jones and need your help dreaming it up and making it a reality.

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/84864>

Passionate about **grant writing, gardening, outdoor play, literacy** – we got a committee for you: <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/72765>

JANUARY 28th... WE GOT SPIRIT, YES WE DO!

Mark your calendars, the last Friday of the month is SPIRIT DAY. Join us wearing green or your favorite Westwood gear on Friday, January 28th. Now sanitized hands in the middle...1-2-3- Goooo Westwood!

MINI-DELAY ON MINI-COURSES

Out of an abundance of caution regarding an uptick in COVID cases, mini-courses will be delayed. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and share updates as soon as possible.

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

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لك. لطلب كنتشكر lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us

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