

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds



Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 13 - Mar. 4, 2022

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

Important Dates

Tue., Mar. 8	Gr. K Enrichment: Curious Creatures
Wed. Mar. 9	Early Release 11:50AM
Thu., Mar. 10	Gr. 2 Enrichment: Discovery Museum Matter
Thu., March. 10	School Committee Mtg. 7pm WHS - Little Theater
Tue., Mar. 15	PTO Meeting 7PM
Wed. Mar. 26	Early Release 11:50AM

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:

Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

ext. 6261: [Diane Santangelo](#)

ext. 6321: [Donna Tobin](#)

ext. 6263: [JoEllen Doyle](#)

Message from the Principal

Masks Optional - Students and staff returned from February vacation to our new mask optional environment. It was nice to see students being kind, respectful, and supportive of each other as families and students made their own individual choices about masking. It was a great week, the weather cooperated so we were able to get outside most days and we are really looking forward to Spring time and getting rid of this cold, snowy weather (sorry all you ski lovers, I know that it's a sad time when ski season ends).

Talking with students about the Ukraine Russia War and supporting Ukrainian Refugees - Last week I sent out [this letter with some resources on talking with your children about the Russia Ukraine war](#). If your child is impacted and struggling at school, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, your child's classroom teacher, or our School Psychologist, Mrs. O'Connell. I've had a number of students and families reach out asking how we can support the large number of Ukrainians fleeing Ukraine for Poland and other countries. There are many organizations collecting medical supplies and other items that are needed. Some local organizations have stated that they are currently overwhelmed with the number of items coming in, but will be looking for donations in the future, once they have the resources in place to organize and ship all of the items. In the coming weeks, I expect to work with students to have a drive for items that refugee children and families are seeking. Please stay tuned.

MJ & District News

MJ Welcoming School Committee (MJWSC) update -

The MJ WSC met again at the beginning of March to continue its work to ensure we are an inclusive, welcoming, anti-racist school community where every feels valued, respected, and a sense of belonging. The committee has a number of sub-committees that will focus on family events, parent workshops and information, and teacher workshops and knowledge building. The Committee hopes to get at least one or two initiatives rolled out before the end of this school year as well as develop a comprehensive plan for the upcoming school year. As part of the planning process the committee will be looking for feedback from the MJ community for parent workshops and family events so be on the lookout for an upcoming questionnaire/survey. In the meantime, please reach out to me if you have ideas or suggestions for the committee.

welcoming & belonging

School Site Council Update -



The school site council recently met to review the district goals, the draft of the MJ School Improvement Plan, and discuss the FY 23 budget item requests that were discussed at the school committee meeting. Once the School Improvement Plan is finalized it will be shared with the school community.

Bus Registration is now open for the 2022-2023 school year!

The District kindly asks families to register between March 1st and June 30th (so our bus coordinator can work on fine tuning the routes.) While the district prefers online registration ([here is the link](#)), a paper flyer can be found [here](#) for those who prefer to complete a paper form and send in a check.



Kindergarten Registration is now open for the 2022-2023 school year!

Do you have children or know a neighbor who has children who will be starting kindergarten in the fall? Kindergarten registration is now open online. Here is the [link](#) that reviews the [online registration](#) process. If you are not planning to send your child to Kindergarten in the Westwood Public Schools in September, please let us know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. Please feel free to contact John Cianciarulo by email at jcianciarulo@westwood.k12.ma.us or by phone at 781-326-7500, x1341, if you have any questions. We look forward to getting to know your family in the months ahead and to partnering with you in providing an outstanding education for your child.



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



- March 9: SEPAC Board Meeting
- March 16: Emotional/Mental Health Parent Group
- March 17: Language Based Learning Difference Parent Group
- March 24: Neurodiverse Profiles Parent Group

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

Classroom Happenings

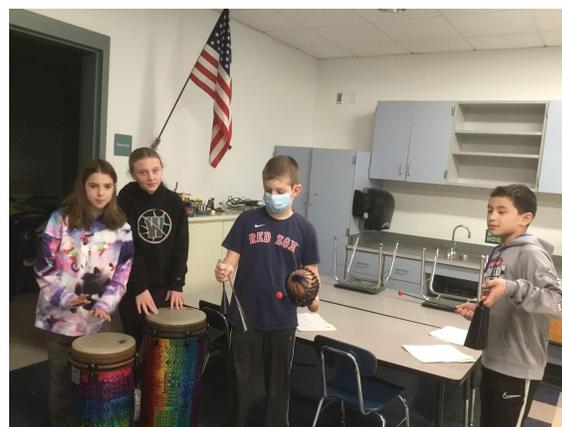
News from Music (Mrs. Saada-Smith)

5th Graders in Mrs. Saada-Smith's music class have been learning about rhythm. They began the unit, "How Does Music Unite Us" by drumming African rhythms together using many different percussion instruments in the music room such as djembes, gangkogui and shakeres. After they learned to play as an ensemble, the students learned an uplifting



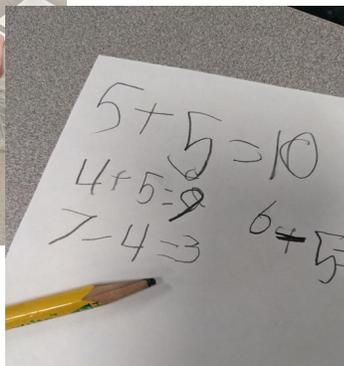
song, Sansa Kroma, a song often sung by children in Ghana that goes along with a stone passing game (which they played in small groups). The song is a reminder that the whole village is there to take care of them. This past week, the students put together a percussion ensemble, and created their own

complementary rhythms, which they will perform for the class next week. Pictured are students from Mr. Parkhurst's Class, practicing their projects. Next we will begin learning some African Dance!



News from KL (Mrs. Layton)

This week during math, we played a game called Build It/Change It. Our math focused on adding to or subtracting from one quantity to make another quantity. Using the primary number cards, one card was flipped over and the number was built on a ten frame. Next, another card was flipped over. Students were encouraged to talk about their math thinking out loud. Did they have to add more to build the second number or did they have to subtract or take away, etc.? This game can easily be played at home by drawing your own ten frame, using a deck of playing cards and pennies!

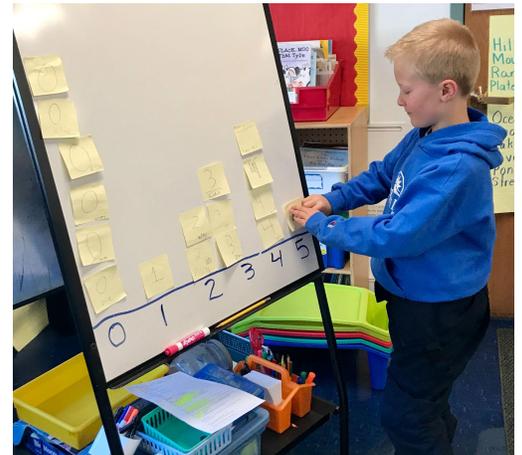
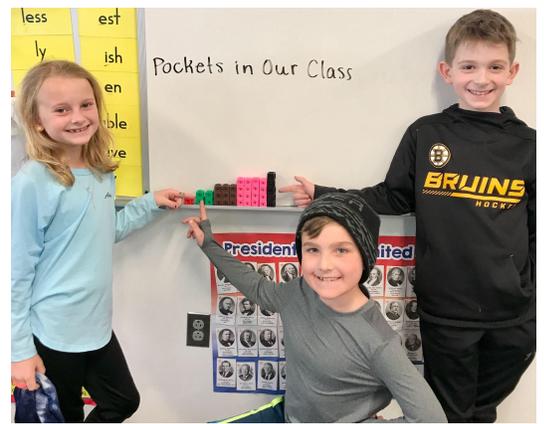


News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)

Second graders have started a new math unit about data. We learned that data is the facts or information we collect about people and things in our world. We have been busy posing questions, collecting and sorting information, and making representations of the data in order to share our findings with others.

In a recent lesson in Ms. Mundy's class, we posed the question: How many pockets are you wearing today? Students first used sticky notes to keep track of our numbers of pockets, and arranged them into a bar graph.

We also built cube towers to represent our number of pockets, and arranged the towers from smallest to largest. The students then used this data to create their own bar graphs. We learned that the range of pockets in our class was 0-5 and the mode (most common number) was zero pockets.

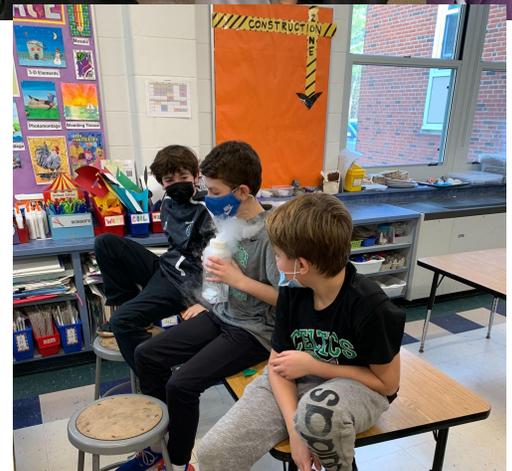


News from 5G (Ms. Gross)



In fifth grade science, students learn about physical changes of matter. As an exciting way to preview the upcoming physical matter unit, we had a special presentation by Mrs. B from the Discovery Museum. She taught vocabulary words such as matter, gas, liquid, solid, melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation, and sublimation. Mrs. B demonstrated the transitions of water from solid to liquid to gas. The highlights of her presentation were the dry ice and liquid nitrogen! Students were able to pour and hold the evaporated

dry ice as it reached its **sublimation** point. We watched as Mrs. B froze and shattered a carnation and banana after dipping them into liquid nitrogen, and heard a hammer constrict as it made contact with the freezing items. We had the best time learning about the physical changes of matter!



PTO News

PTO Update 3/2/22 SAVE THE DATE...

THIS SATURDAY: FAMILY ICE SKATING

Saturday, March 5 at 4:30 PM at the [Skating Club of Boston \(Norwood\)](#). Wear your Westwood Gear or green/black/white and look for the kids and parents wearing name tags. Skate rentals are available. The Skating Club of Boston is located at 750 University Ave in Norwood. Skating will take place at the performance rink accessible through the front entrance.

Please note, this is first come first serve basis as we are unable to privately rent the rink or reserve tickets in advance during a public open skate. Tickets have to be purchased onsite day of the open skate. Masks are optional.

PTO MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 15 AT 7:00 PM

Details will be sent out one week prior to the meeting. Room parents meeting starts at 6:30 PM. with the full PTO meeting starting at 7:00 PM.

TRANSFORMING ART INTO KEEPSAKES: MARCH 21

Just in time for Mother and Father's Day... The Art Department and MJ PTO are partnering with [Square 1 Art](#) to transform your little artist's creations into coffee mugs, tote bags, beach towels, note cards and more.

Ordering instructions will be sent home on March 21 with an order deadline of **April 1**.

The pride and excitement that our students get from seeing their artwork made into special keepsakes is truly wonderful, and proceeds help fund PTO sponsored programs. For more information on the program, please contact Katy DiMare katy.dimare@gmail.com.

MARTHA JONES 2022 PARENT SOCIAL: ROARING 20s – APRIL 30

Saturday, April 30 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at The German Club on the Westwood/Walpole line.

[Purchase tickets here](#)

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.

There will be a DJ, cash-bar, silent auction and teacher experience auction. Please be on the lookout for donation requests for our auction baskets.

This is a kid-free event, so book your sitters now!

We are still looking for volunteers to help make this event possible. Sign up to volunteer today!

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/84863>

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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