

# Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.  
Issue 6 - Nov. 12, 2021



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

## Important Dates

<b>Wed. Nov. 17</b>	Early Release 11:50AM
<b>Wed., Nov. 24</b>	12:00 Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break
<b>Mon., Nov. 29</b>	In-service - NO SCHOOL
<b>Wed., Nov. 24</b>	12:00 Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break
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### 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



The Halloween Event was a huge success. A special thank you to Jamy Sesselman and her entire team for going the extra mile for our students. I know that there were a number of parents who volunteered to make this event happen (too many to name individually), please know that your time is appreciated. We had a great turnout and the students were certainly having a good time (and I saw some parents really enjoying the

Haunted Driveway too :). It was fun to see the school community come together for this fun event.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are underway with the last conferences finishing up this Wednesday, November 17th. I hope you were able to connect with your child's teacher and learn a little more about how your child is doing this year. Parent/teacher conferences are just one way for teachers and parents to stay connected. Remember, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns at any time, remember to always feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or to me if your concern, question, suggestion, or comment is more school community related.

# MJ & District News



**School Lunch Choices** - The Food Services Program works hard to ensure that all items listed on the lunch menu are available to students. However, please note, there have been a few times when a menu choice has not arrived from our vendors for distribution. When this happens a substitute lunch is always available. We do our best to ensure that what we have listed is what is offered, but not unlike other supply chain issues you may be hearing about, there are some items that have not been available to us. For example, there have been a few times when chicken nuggets are listed on the menu but not available that day so we have substituted pizza or crispy chicken patties when this has happened. Thank you for your patience and understanding. And please remember to order lunch for your child each day, having correct lunch counts is critical to a smooth operation.



**The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)** is excited to announce our diagnosis specific parenting groups. We currently have the following groups up and running.

- Language-Based Learning Differences (Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia, Auditory Processing Disorder)
- Aspergers/Autism (or similar social profile)
- Autism (higher support/WABA profile)
- Medically Complex Disabilities-Coming Soon!

If you are interested in a particular topic or diagnosis that is not listed please reach out to the Martha Jones SEPAC liaison Megan Brenk [mbrenk@gmail.com](mailto:mbrenk@gmail.com). The SEPAC website and closed Facebook Group are the best places to find up-to-date information on all of these groups and how to get connected.

[Westwood SEPAC Website](#)

[Westwood SEPAC Facebook Group](#)

**Not Feeling Well?** - Please remember that if your child is not feeling well or your child is presenting with any of the following symptoms, please keep your child home and contact our school nurse, JoEllen Doyle and WPS COVID Team, [wpscovidteam@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:wpscovidteam@westwood.k12.ma.us).

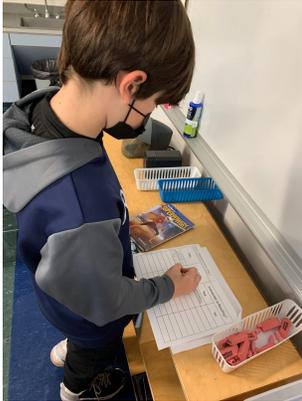


Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills -  
Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath -  
New loss of taste or smell -  
Muscle aches or body aches -  
Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough) -  
Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms -  
Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea when in combination with other symptoms -  
Headache when in combination with other symptoms - Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms  
Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

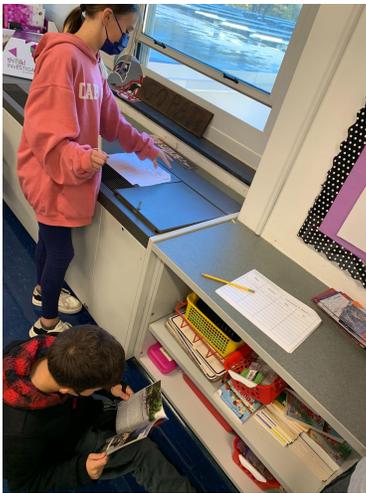
[Parent Guide to Deal with COVID-19 Issues](#)

# Classroom Happenings

## News from 5G (Ms. Gross)



5th graders in Ms. Gross's class completed their personal narrative stories and celebrated by comparing their first narrative to their last, and by sharing their stories with a partner. We have now moved onto reading complex nonfiction texts! With one final year before the kids head off to middle school, it's important to build up strategies that will help students tackle the more complex texts that they'll be encountering. We launched the new unit by "getting to know" lots of different nonfiction books. The class took some time to go around the classroom and check out the cover, table of contents, and back blurb of books that looked interesting to them. The topics ranged from the history of comic books to beauty and costume design. After they wrote down a few books that seemed interesting and complex, they chose one to get started with.



Since then, we have been working on how to use strategies that help us understand these more challenging texts. So far, we have focused on what makes a text complex, how to interpret headings and subheadings that can be vague or misleading, and how to use text features to help us understand the main idea. Next, we will move onto identifying the main idea(s) of texts, vocabulary, text structure, and summarizing. This unit is a great way to build strategies, while also learning some really interesting information about a vast range of topics!



## News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)



In second grade, the students are learning about 3D Geometry. Second graders have learned about rectangular and triangular prisms, and how they can be distinguished by the number and shape of their faces. Students are also learning to identify the vertices and edges of prisms.

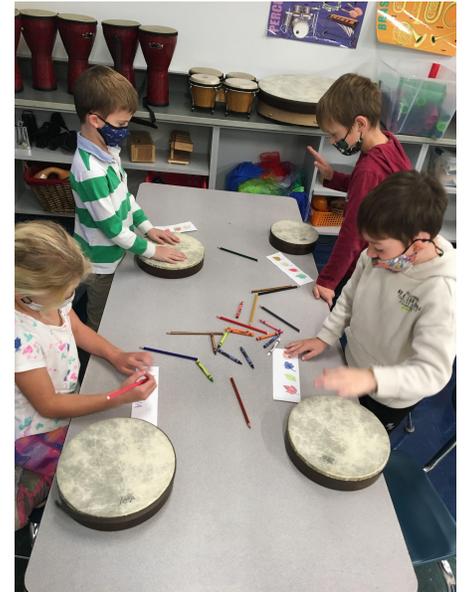
In a recent lesson in Ms. Mundy's class, students worked together to apply their geometric knowledge in order to identify a variety of prisms using cards containing the outline of their faces.



## News from Music (Mrs. Saada-Smith)



First grade students in Mrs. Saada-Smith's music class learn about quarter notes and eighth notes. They colored their leaves different colors then said the name of the color while playing the rhythm on the drum. Pictured are students from Ms. Brock's 1st Grade.



Second grade students in Mrs. Saada-Smith's music class are busy. One week we learned a fun song about a pumpkin turning into a jack-o-lantern. The song was represented by pictures of jack-o-lanterns that looked like music! The students transferred the song to instruments and played it on different types of xylophones and metallophones around the music room. The students also learned about the celebration of Diwali and had fun dancing to some music! Pictured are students from Ms. Mundy's 2nd Grade.



### **News from Music (Mrs. Saada-Smith - Con't)**

Third grade students in Mrs. Saada-Smith's music class learned a fun song titled Skin and Bones. They learned to play part of the melody on xylophones using BAGE. The students also started to learn how to read musical notation and wrote their own compositions! Pictured are students from Ms. LeBlanc's 3rd Grade.



### **News from Art (Mr. Hagel)**

The art room has been filled with excitement and artistic expression since the first day of school this year! I am fortunate to be able to pass my knowledge and enthusiasm for the arts on to the 1st and 3rd grade students here at MJ. The students have been learning about the elements of art (line, space, color, value, form, texture & shape) and the principles of design (pattern, unity, emphasis, balance, movement, contrast & rhythm). So far we have been utilizing collage, drawing and painting techniques through a variety of mediums such as watercolor/tempera paints, mixed media and more. Enjoy these pictures of the 3rd grade students sharing their impressive masks and tessellations and the 1st grade students sharing their whimsical owls.



# PTO News

## **THANKS MJ PARENTS!**



It may have looked a little different this year, but the Halloween Costume Party was a big success. We wanted to extend a sincere **THANK YOU** to the Halloween Committee, the parent volunteers and everyone who attended. The food drive was also a big success and know the folks at Westwood Food Pantry were very grateful.

## **BIRTHDAY BOOKS PROGRAM RE-LAUNCH**



We are so excited to announce the relaunch of the Birthday Books program. This year the program will run from January to June as we celebrate birthdays and half-birthdays. This is a great opportunity to celebrate your child's birthday and provide the Martha Jones Library with brand new library books. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Birthday Books program and click [this link](#) to sign up.

## **THE MARTHA JONES SCHOOL DIRECTORY**



The PTO wanted to extend a big thank you to all of the families who have already joined. Turnout has been impressive so far, and we hope that you're finding the app a helpful way to receive messages and stay up to date on school events. If you haven't already joined, registration is still open.

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

***Find it in the AppStore under "Membership Toolkit" for use on your phone***

If you have any questions or problems accessing the AtoZ program, please email Mary Jason ([maryjason06@gmail.com](mailto:maryjason06@gmail.com)) or Amy Amatangelo ([amyamatangelo@yahoo.com](mailto:amyamatangelo@yahoo.com)).

## **HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**



The PTO will be running a Winter Sock Drive in December to benefit Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program. Stay tuned for further details! We appreciate the generosity of the MJS community!

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

### **MJS MAGNETS**



Show your MJS school spirit with an MJS Magnet. Find them at the link below while supplies last  
<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/store/7404>

### **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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