

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 8 - Dec. 10, 2021



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

Important Dates

Tue., Dec. 14	K Enrichment - Dental Visit ----- PTO Meeting 7PM
Wed., Dec. 22	Early Release 11:50AM
Fri., Dec. 24	NO SCHOOL - Start of Holiday Break - School resumes on Monday, Jan. 3rd
Mon. Jan 3	Welcome Back from the Holiday Break
Wed. Jan. 5	Early Release 11:50AM

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

We had great turnouts at both of our vaccination clinics and many of our students are in the process of getting fully vaccinated. After winter break, when families who wish to be vaccinated have had the opportunity to do so, we will return to eating in the cafeteria, together, as we have done in the past and as the high school has been doing this year. Up until the winter break, we will continue to spread out in the cafe, gym, and classrooms when it is too cold to eat outside. It's supposed to be in the 50s and 60s a few days next week, so we may get to squeeze in a few more days of eating outside, but we'll see if the forecast holds true.

Some of you have also asked about the masking policy and any changes that might be made due to younger students getting vaccinations. Currently, the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires masks. However, if 80% or more of the staff and students are vaccinated, then school committees can apply for an exemption so that vaccinated individuals can go unmasked. This DESE policy remains in effect through at least January 15th. The school committee did discuss potential changes to the WPS mask policy and will revisit the discussion at their January meeting.

In addition to thinking about COVID-19 and working to keep students protected, we are also in the mist of flu season. Please be sure if your child is not feeling well, he/she remains at home and you reach out to our school nurse, JoEllen Doyle, and the WPS Covid team.

MJ & District News

MJ FAMILIES GET INTO THE SPIRIT OF GIVING:

All MJ families are welcome to participate in the Extended Day Toy Drive

First batch was collected. Time to fill up again!

We have 5 more days until our Toys For Tots collection ends on Wednesday December 15th.



We are rounding the corner...

There are a few ways you can help out and donate to the cause.



You can pick up a toy and drop it at one of our collection boxes at the various Extended Day sites.

You can pick something from our Boing! Toy Shop wishlist.

Use the code "Toys4Tots" and save 15% on your order. Select curbside and I will pick it up:

https://www.boingtoys.com/index.php?option=com_wishlist&task=viewWishlist&wishlist_id=105

You can pick something from our Amazon wishlist. Make sure delivery date is no later than December 15th: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/279LERRLK9F08?ref=wl_share

You can pick something from our Target wishlist and if Westwood or Roslindale has it in stock, you can list Michael Fagone as a pickup. Delivery may not make it in time:

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/35804d80-2f9b-11ec-8be5-651c3e7df015>

You could send money through Michael's Venmo account

(@michael-fagone-1) and I will take care of the shopping for you:

Thank you!

Michael Fagone and the Extended Day Staff

PTO SOCK DRIVE: LAST CALL! Winter Sock Drive



Please help us support Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program (BHCHP) by bringing in a NEW pair of white adult socks by next Wednesday, December 15th. Your donation will help BHCHP serve patients at more than 40 shelter-based clinics. For questions, please contact please contact Mary L. Jason maryjason06@gmail.com or Kimberly Chase kimenfuego3@gmail.com

Lost and Found - It's that time of year, when clothes start piling up. PLEASE be sure your child's coats, boots, and snowpants are labeled with his or her name. There are already some beautiful and expensive winter coats in the lost and found. All items left in lost in found, that are not clearly labeled, will be donated to charity over winter break, so if your child is missing items, please tell him/her to stop by and check it out. You are also welcome to pop in and check out the lost and found.



Classroom Happenings

News from 3Le (Ms. LeBlanc)



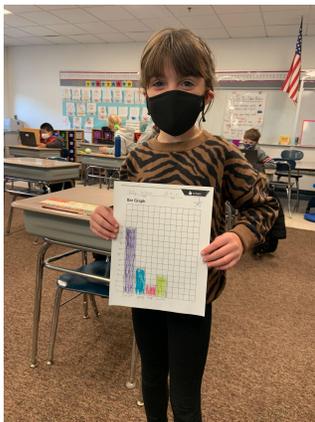
The students in 3Le have been working hard in math! We recently began a new math unit called "Graphs and Line Plots!" To kick off the unit, students have been analyzing sets of data, and organizing the information into categories. First we surveyed the class to collect data about our favorite places to eat, read, spend time with family, and exercise. Then, we looked at the data to determine which pieces of information go



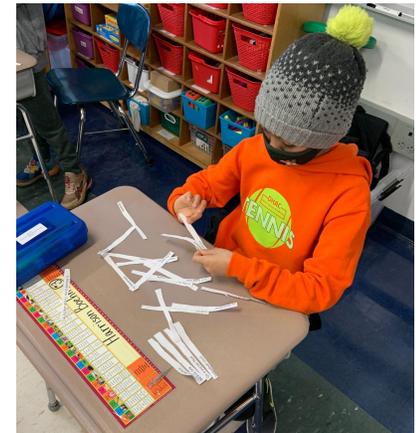
together to create different categories and to see if there were multiple different ways to organize it. For example, data could be organized into the categories of *inside* or *outside*, or also organized into *places in Massachusetts* or *places out of the state*.



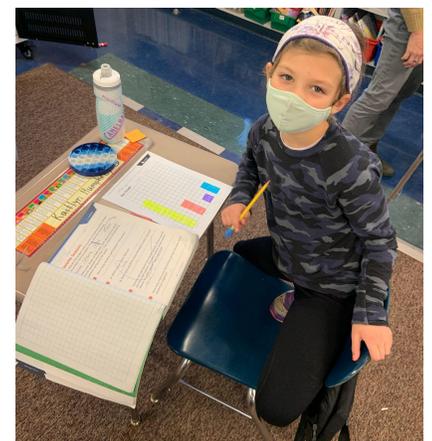
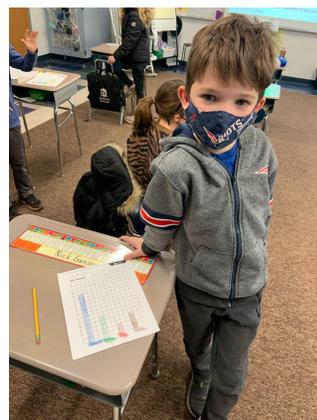
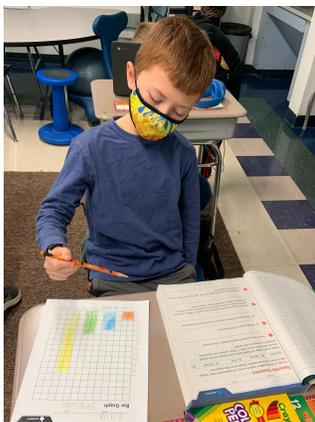
After spending a few days organizing information, we then transferred sets of data samples into a **bar graph**! We are practicing determining the scale of the graph, and labeling each interval. We have also learned how to represent information on **pictographs** by creating a key for how much each symbol represents. Students enjoyed being creative coming up with their own unique symbol and key!



Then it was time to investigate a question of their own! Students created a Google Survey to poll their classmates about a topic of their choice. Next, we will use that data to create both a bar graph and



pictograph and analyze each graph. We are enjoying getting to know more about each other's preferences while incorporating technology into our learning!



News from 1B (Ms. Brock)

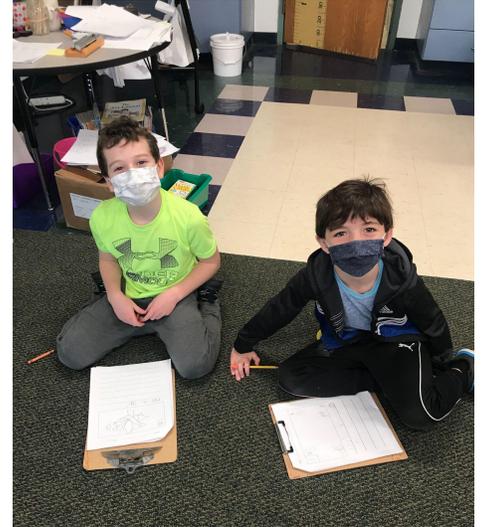
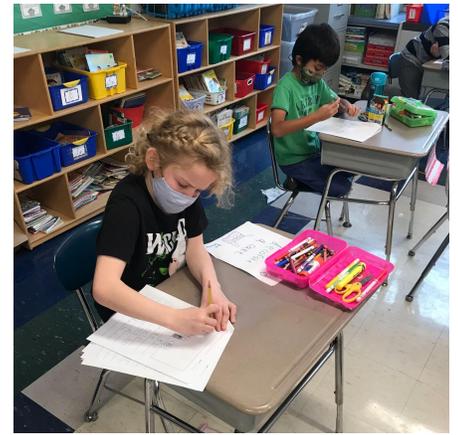
First graders in Ms. Brock's class have been hard at work writing "how-to" books and are excited to teach others through their writing! Students studied mentor texts to learn about this type of writing and observed that how-to books teach their readers how to do something in clear, detailed steps. As a class, we then brainstormed a list of things that we know how to do, which could be topics for our books. From playing games and sports to making crafts or preparing special foods, first grade writers can teach their readers how to do so many different things!



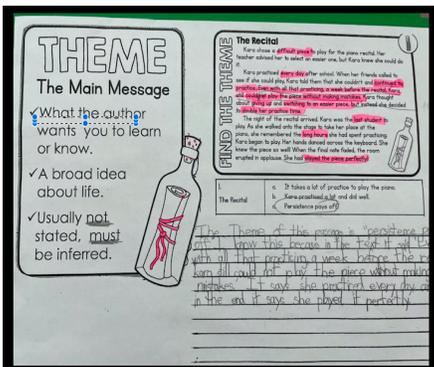
After choosing their topics, students wrote their directions, step by step, across the pages of their books. They defined words that their readers may not know and reread their writing with a partner to make sure

that the steps were clear and easy to follow.

How-to writers also teach through their pictures. Writers teach even more information by drawing detailed diagrams and labeling them with precise words. We are looking forward to elaborating in our writing more and adding introductions and conclusions to our books!



News from Ms. Eaton

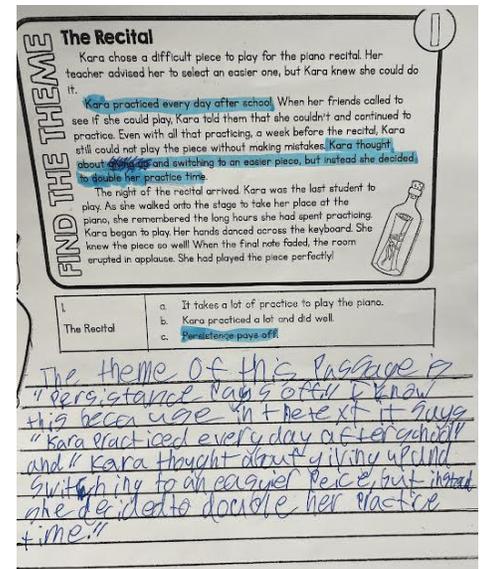


In the Learning Center, we are beginning a unit of study on *theme*. Students are working hard to understand that the theme in a story is a "broader lesson and/or message that you can apply to your own life." It is the broad idea that the author wants the reader to learn.

Having done a previous unit of study on inferencing, this has helped the students to better understand and identify theme, as it is something to be inferred based upon the evidence within the text.

Theme was initially introduced through the viewing of short cartoon films. After analyzing what they had watched through discussion with the teachers, students worked to identify the theme embodied within the videos. Asking the question, "how does the character respond to a challenge" can often help to reveal the theme.

Students continue to practice the skill of identifying theme given a multiple choice format. They are reading short passages, choosing the appropriate theme and then supporting their claim by highlighting important, relevant evidence within the text. From here, the students are choosing a few passages that they enjoyed and are composing short, cohesive written responses that state the theme in their topic sentence and provide evidence in grammatically correct sentences that incorporate the skills of paraphrasing and direct quotes.



PTO News

PTO Update 12/9

PTO MEETING: Tuesday, December 14th at 7pm

Please join us via Zoom and hear more about exciting enrichment events in the new year and opportunities for you to get involved and stay connected to the Martha Jones community. Details will come out the week before the meeting. [Agenda can be found here.](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86415539807?pwd=TVh3aTI1RFZ6WVU5OGx5YVRvTmпуZz09>

Meeting ID: 864 1553 9807

Passcode: 148399



LAST CALL! Winter Sock Drive

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Your donation will help BHCHP serve patients at more than 40 shelter-based clinics. For questions, please contact please contact Mary L. Jason maryjason06@gmail.com or Kimberly Chase kimenfuego3@gmail.com

SCRIPTS Orders Are In!

Please check your child's backpack and/or pick up your orders at the school office if you requested that option. Thank you for your continued support!

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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