

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

Donna Olson, Interim Principal

Martha Jones Motto:
Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

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

Issue 1 - September 1, 2022



Principal's Message

Welcome back to school!

We had a wonderful start to the school year. I am so pleased to lead Martha Jones School for the 2022-2023 school year.

I have had a long career in education in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, most recently serving as an elementary principal in Medfield and Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. I have been a grade 2 and grade 8 classroom teacher and I am a reading specialist, K-12. A Rhode Islander for all of my life, I still live in RI with my husband and our mini poodle, Gracie. I am a proud Mom of a 30 year old son, who lives in Brookline, MA. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you this year.

As we look ahead to the new school year, we hope for more a more normal school year. With “normalcy” comes *opportunity: Opportunity* to celebrate everyone’s unique characteristics; *Opportunity* to build a community where students feel included; *Opportunity* for the Martha Jones Staff to work with families to ensure our students reach their highest potential and goals. We are excited for the *opportunity* for a new beginning!

Please welcome new faces - This year we have 34 new kindergarten students at Martha Jones and 9 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 that our school culture at Martha Jones School has a warm, friendly, welcoming environment where everyone feels included.

[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.

Have a wonderful year!
Warmly,
Donna

Donna Olson
Martha Jones School
Interim Principal

Important Upcoming Events

Fri. Sept. 2

No School Labor Day Wknd

Mon. Sept 5

Labor Day NO SCHOOL

Wed. Sept 14

Family Picnic 5:30-7:00

Wed. Sept. 15

International Dot Day

First Day of National Hispanic Heritage Month

Thu. Sept. 22

Picture Day

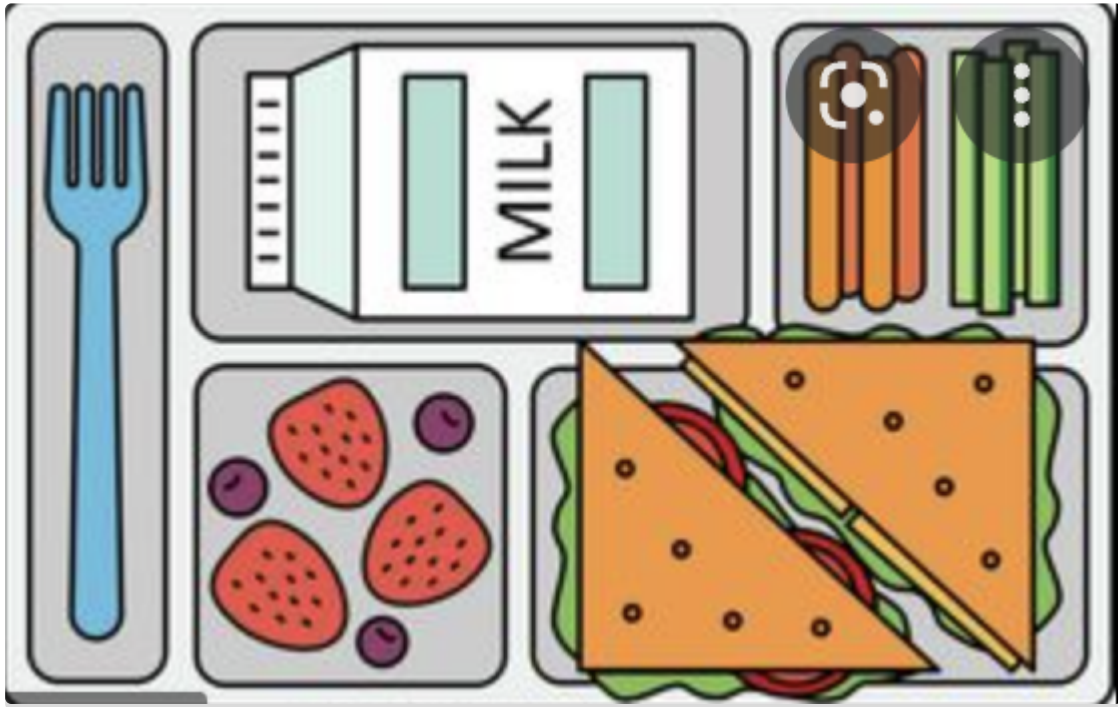
Curriculum Night

Mon. Sept. 26

Rosh Hashanah NO SCHOOL

Wed. Sept. 28

Early Release 11:50AM



A Message from Food Services

Food services would like to share...

- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has decided to extend free school meals for all students through the 2022-2023 school year! This means that every student is eligible to receive one free lunch each day.
- *MySchoolBucks* IS NOT where lunch menus are viewed (menus are viewable [here](#))
- *MySchoolBucks* is where funds are deposited for the purchase of a la carte and extra items (i.e., milk alone)
- We are serving lunches to students in their building cafeteria
- Families are encouraged to reach out to Food Services with any dietary restrictions
- Families may no longer pre-order lunches for their student
- Here is the link to the [Food Services Site](#)



School Dismissal Manager

Thank you to everyone who has already logged into SDM to get a glimpse of our new dismissal tracking system.

- This year Martha Jones School has joined all other Westwood elementary schools and utilize School Dismissal Manager (SDM). [Click the link](#) to read more about it. The SDM notifies the school when your child's attendance/dismissal needs a change. You will no longer need to call or email the office regarding attendance, tardy or other dismissal changes. Just enter these changes in SDM.
- Regular dismissal begins at 3:10 pm. Please be sure to update SDM should you have any change to your normal or default dismissal preference. The cut off time will be 11:00AM for any changes to your child's dismissal.
- Extended Day students are dismissed first followed by Bus, Walkers and CarPool students. [Please review the linked carpool instructions](#) to help dismissal run smoothly. All students who are picked up, must be picked up from the carpool lane. Please DO NOT park on Spruce Drive or Locust Drive to pick up your child. If you must park to pick up your child, please park in a school parking spot. SDM may require some small tweaks to the process. If any changes need to be made, we will inform you.

Here is an important piece of information to note:

- All changes for the current day need to be entered by 11:00AM on regular release days and on early release days at 10:50. After the cut-off time you will need to call the school office to make any changes for the current day. *Please note you can enter any future dismissal changes at anytime (i.e. if your child has a Dr appointment scheduled for October 17th and will be late that day you can enter that change anytime up to the morning of the 17th.)*
- All families need to log in to SDM to set your student's dismissal schedule including "Recurring Dismissal Exceptions" - these types of exceptions need to be identified separately in each child's dismissal profile. For example if your child has the following varied dismissal routine: Mon & Thu carline, Long Wed and Fri bus, Tue & short Wed extended - these dismissals need to be created separately. See bullet point 8 in the original SDM instructional letter [\(linked here\)](#).

[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).

[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.**



At Martha Jones this year...

In an effort to resume a more normal school year, we will be bringing back various school based activities to enhance the school experience for your children. To that end, we will be implementing morning announcements which will be led by Grade 5 students on a rotating basis. Morning announcements set the tone for the day and provide important updates for students and staff. They will be very brief, thus not impacting instruction.

To support the Martha Jones motto, Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous., we will be implementing character words for the month to begin in October including Cooperation, Gratitude, Respect, Kindness, Responsibility, Perseverance, Curiosity, Courage. Embedding character words into school culture builds a sense of belonging and community. Students will be recognized throughout the year, earning Victory slips, starting soon, when they demonstrate any of the traits for the month or our school core values.

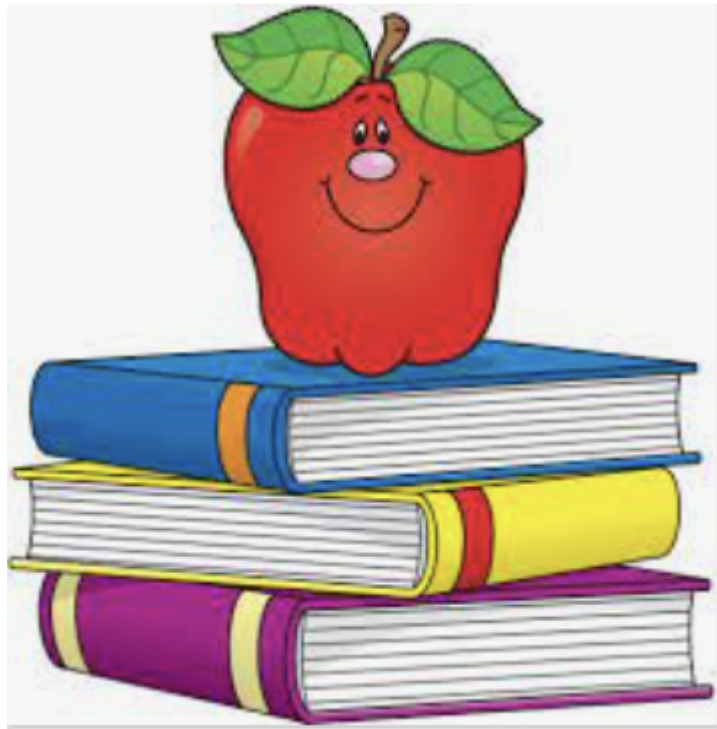
A bulletin board in the cafeteria will display the slips monthly. Parents will receive a copy of the slip when it is earned by their student. Our goal would be for each student to earn a slip by the end of the school year. Any staff member will be able to "catch" a student demonstrating the traits/core values during the school year for doing something above and beyond.

We also plan to bring back the Student Council. All 5th graders are invited to participate in Student Council. There will be no election. The Grade 5 teachers and I will be holding an assembly soon to explain the expectations of the Student Council. Students who wish to participate will be asked to agree to a commitment to uphold the responsibilities of the role. I am excited to work with these students along with their advisors. These students will assist me as we also bring back school-wide assemblies as possible. Again, bringing the children together for a common purpose builds community.

For our first month of school, creating and building a community and developing a sense of belonging among our students and staff is so important to help our children feel connected to their peers and safe adults while in school. During the first month of school the teachers will also be developing classroom routines, expectations and teaching common language. At our first All School Meeting (ASM) at the end of September, we will focus on our school-wide expectations and assembly protocols for the year.

"Those who have a strong sense of love and belonging have the courage to be imperfect.

~ Brene Brown



Beginning of the School year Information

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.

Item Drop Off - 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. The staff will get the item to your child.

Picture Day Is Coming! - Thursday, September 22nd 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.

Curriculum Night - Please hold the evening of Thursday, Sept. 22nd for Curriculum Night. We will be holding an in-person curriculum night this year. Details will be coming home soon.

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 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

K-12 Covid-19 Fall 2022 Update

The MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and MA Department of Public Health issued updated guidance to schools for this year related to COVID. The protocols this year are quite different from last fall. A couple of key points:

- Similar to last spring, there is no requirement to mask (other than in the health office). Students are still welcome to mask, if they choose.
- The WPS no longer has any COVID testing programs.
- Last spring, our WPS COVID Monitoring and Response Team was disbanded. The Westwood Public Health Department is able to provide consultation to residents.

As always, in order to keep everyone healthy, please keep your student home if they are symptomatic. According to current public health protocols, individuals who test positive for COVID should isolate for 5 days and wear a mask for an additional five days upon return to school. If the child has a negative test on Day 5 or later, they do not need to mask. If the individual is unable to mask, they may return to school with a negative test on Day 5 or later.

A Note from the School Nurse - Mrs. JoEllen Doyle



Important Notes from the MJ Health Office

Welcome back to the 2022/2023 school year!

Below are a few reminders as we start the school year:

- Please make sure that the Emergency Contact Information we have on file in our system is correct. This information is used to contact you when necessary during the school day. If both parents are going to be away, please assign responsibility to another adult and then notify the nurse and office.

- Physical exam documentation in the School Health Record needs to be provided for all NEW students and updated at a minimum of every 4 years. The documentation should be requested from your primary care physician by a parent/guardian.
- Medications may be dropped off to the NURSE by a parent/guardian. Medicine SHOULD NOT be brought to school by your child. Parents must bring any/all medication to the school nurse, which must be in its original, labeled container. At the start of every school year, all medications require a Medication Order Form to be signed by both MD and parent. This also applies to EPIPENS/Allergy Action Plans, inhalers and Diabetes Treatment Plans. These forms may be requested from your child's primary care physician.
- If your child is not feeling well, kindly keep them home so that they may rest and recuperate. Please notify the School Dismissal Manager and input your child's information.
- Per CDC guidance and the MA Department of Public Health, masks are required to be worn in the Health Office.
- ***For all kindergarten families***-your child's immunizations and physical exam must be up-to-date in order to start school this fall. Also, please consider sending an extra set of clothes in your child's backpack in case of an occasional accident.

I am here to help our school community be as healthy as possible, so that students can thrive!
As always, please feel free to call or email me with any questions. Nurse Doyle

Welcome to
Kindergarten!

We Love Our Kindergarten Students!



**Kindergarten
Popsicle Party!**



**Mrs. Olson joined
the children on the
structure. Can you
find her?**



**Kindergarten taking
the bus! How
grown up!**

Fun Kindergarten Pick Up!



First Day of School!



School Site Council

Parents and community members join our Martha Jones School Council each year. Three to four parents are elected to the committee. As an advisory body, the school council works to provide ideas and opinions to help the principal. Each year, the group reviews/creates the School Improvement Plan and engages in WPS District Priorities. In this context, council members assist by:

- providing information and recommendations relevant to the educational needs of students;

- reading and discussing the budget with the principal to understand the implications for goals and activities in the school improvement plan; and
- participating actively in the process of analysis and planning that results in the identification of annual goals, activities, outcomes, and resources that will lead to school improvement.
- Elections will be held at September PTO Meeting on the 27th.



PTO News

Many thanks to the Martha Jones PTO for the wonderful support as we started the new school year. The PTO purchased a new refrigerator for the staff room and provided us with many wonderful treats and beautiful flowers for our back to school luncheon. We really appreciate all of our families' support. Thank you!!

The first PTO meeting will be on September 27th at 7:00pm. Room Parents will meet before at 6:30. At the meeting, the election for School Council will be held.

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 LIBRARY 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 volunteer in our school library. 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.

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 - Beth Klaene, Mary Jason

Martha Jones PTO Board 2022-2023

[Lauren Bent](#), Co-President

[Katy DiMare](#), Co-President

[Gina Szigety](#), Co-Treasurer

[Kirsten Bulger](#), Co-Treasurer

[Beth Klaene](#), Co-Secretary

[Mary Jason](#), Co-Secretary

[Aamina Chowdry](#), Co-Social Media

[Megan Mahan](#), Co-Social Media

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates and Agenda

September 27, 2022, 7pm

November 29, 2022, 7pm

February 28, 2023, 7pm

May 9, 2023, 7pm



Other Ways to Support Martha Jones School

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 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.

School Calendar

[Click the link](#) for the Westwood 2022-2023 school calendar.

Westwood Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.

If you need this document translated, please call the Westwood Public Schools' Student Services Department at 781-326-7500 ext. 1346 or email your request to lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Thank you.

如果您需要翻译本文档，请致电Westwood的公立学校的学生服务部在781 326-7500 ext. 1346 或电子邮件您的要求 lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。

7500-326 781 ext. 1346 اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 781 326-7500 لك. لطلب كنتشكر lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك

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 lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.

