

GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

MARTHA JONES SCHOOL-WESTWOOD, MA



Traditionally Memorial Day is viewed as a time of honor and remembrance of those who died while serving our country. Memorial Day, previously known as Decoration Day, became an official federal holiday in 1971. Throughout the United States it is common to visit cemeteries, particularly military ones, and decorate graves of the deceased with flowers, small flags and wreathes.

June Character Word

Our June Character Word again be taken from our Motto: Be Kind; Be Curious; Be Courageous. This month we focus on Courage. Our Character Word is Courageous. We will define courageous as another term for brave. Courageous means to not let fear hold us back from exploring new opportunities, developing our skills, and doing what is right.



Principal's Message

Greetings Martha Jones Families!

Last week, the school enjoyed a wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to Aamina Akram, and all of the volunteers who worked to create such a delightful celebration for our teachers and staff. We appreciated it!

This past week we completed MCAS Science, so the school is finished with our State Assessments for this year. We just have a few makeups for next week. Our students took the assessment seriously and worked hard.

This time of year brings many activities for our students. It is a busy, hectic time but full of fun and excitement. I hope you are having a terrific spring with your families.

Warm regards,
Donna

Donna Olson
Interim Principal
Martha Jones School



Reminder Martha Jones Kindergarten
Parent/Caregiver Information Night!

Our annual Parent/Caregiver Information Night will be held at Martha Jones on May 23rd at 6:30 in the cafeteria. We hope to see you there!

On May 24th, Martha Jones will host a Kindergarten Open House. Please check the email reminder sent to you to determine if you are scheduled for 1:00-2:00pm or 2:00-3:00pm. Thank you!



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. The AAPI umbrella term includes [cultures](#) from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of 2019, there were about [22.9 million people](#) of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), AAPI people are a diverse and growing population that make up about 7 percent of the total U.S. population. AAPI Heritage Month 2022 will take place from Sunday, May 1 to Tuesday, May 31.

MCAS CALENDAR

WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elementary MCAS Schedule 2023

ELA: March 27 - April 28 (2 sessions, grades 3, 4 & 5)

Math: April 24 - May 26 (2 sessions, grades 3, 4 & 5)

STE: April 25 - May 26 (2 sessions, grade 5)

| MON. 3/27 | TUE. 3/28 | WED. 3/29 | THU. 3/30 | FRI. 3/31 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | MJ ELA 3-5 | MJ ELA 3-5 |
| MON. 4/3 | TUE. 4/4 | WED. 4/5 | THU. 4/6 | FRI. 4/7 |
| MJ ELA Make-up | MJ ELA Make-up | | | Good Friday (No School) |
| MON. 4/10 | TUE. 4/11 | WED. 4/12 | THU. 4/13 | FRI. 4/14 |
| | | Early Release | | |
| MON. 4/17 | TUE. 4/18 | WED. 4/19 | THU. 4/20 | FRI. 4/21 |
| School Vacation Week Passover ends 4/23 | | | | |
| MON. 4/24 | TUE. 4/25 | WED. 4/26 | THU. 4/27 | FRI. 4/28 |
| | | Early Release | | |
| MON. 5/1 | TUE. 5/2 | WED. 5/3 | THU. 5/4 | FRI. 5/5 |
| | | | | |
| MON. 5/8 | TUE. 5/9 | WED. 5/10 | THU. 5/11 | FRI. 5/12 |
| | MJ Math 3-5 | Early Release | MJ Math 3-5 | MJ Math Make-up |
| MON. 5/15 | TUE. 5/16 | WED. 5/17 | THU. 5/18 | FRI. 5/19 |
| MJ Math Make-up | | MJ STE Gr 5 | MJ STE Gr 5 | |
| MON. 5/22 | TUE. 5/23 | WED. 5/24 | THU. 5/25 | FRI. 5/26 |
| MJ STE Make-up | MJ STE Make-up | Early Release | | |

Look Who Came to Visit!

Thank you to Chief Kelleher for visiting Grade 1 on Wednesday; the children loved your visit!

Helen Kelleher also visited Grade 2 on Thursday! She was a hit!

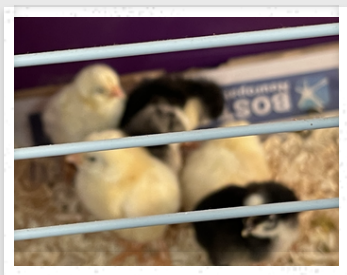


We have baby chicks!

Here is a quick [7 minute video](#) of our first chick hatching! Her name is MJ, she worked hard all day, the video is the exciting conclusion. Thank you, Mrs. Swinning!
Enjoy!



MJ's brothers and sisters!



Ms. Santangelo provided lunch to the "Lunch with Ms. Santangelo" Winner and Friends!



Bus Registration for 2023-2024 is Now Open



Bus registration for 2023-2024 began on Monday, May 15th. Please note that the fees have increased to \$270 per student with a \$750 family cap.

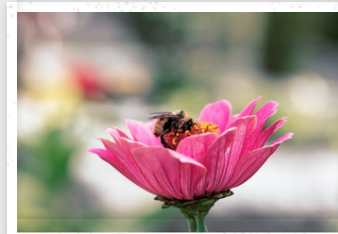
When they go online to register you will need your children's 6 digit student ID # ready (you may find this in Aspen). You should also have a method of payment on hand. As always, we prefer parents to [register and pay online](#), but if you choose not to, the completed form and payment may be sent to Jennifer Gleavy's attention at jgleavy@westwood.k12.ma.us.

For your information, acceptable online payments are ACH, Mastercard or Discover.

Side note: Whereas families in the University Station area were previously unable to register online, they may now do so directly through the online registration form.

Attached please find a bus registration [announcement](#) and the [Bus Registration form](#).

LEARNING ABOUT SPRING



Top Secret Science Visits Grade 3

On Tuesday, students in grade 3 learned some engineering and design techniques.



Fisher School Trip with Grade 3

Mrs. Lane's Class had a great time at the Fisher School today!



COMING UP!

IMPORTANT DATES

May 22 MCAS Science Gr 5 Make up
May 23 Body Safety Theater Grade 3 - 9-9:45AM; Kindergarten Parent Night 6:30PM
May 24 Early Release Day; Kindergarten Open House 1-2 OR 2-3
May 25 STEM Fair 6:00-8:00 PM
May 26 3 Luskin, Fisher School Visit 8:50-11:10AM; **Spirit Day - Red, White and Blue Day**
May 31 Gr 3 Recorder Concert 2:15; Gr 2 Enrichment Animal Adaptations; Gr 4 Enrichment - Sound Waves; Grade 5 Parent Night at Thurston Middle School 6:00PM
June 1 Grade 3 FieldTrip - Plymouth Plantations; Auction Item Police Visit with Sirens 8:30-8:45
June 2 Field Day; rain date June 9th
June 5 & 8 Grade 5 Water Conservation Program
June 6 Gr 5 Hale Reservation Field Trip
June 7 Early Release Day; Grade 5 PTO Activity 1-3PM; All Grade 5 Band Concert WHS 5:30 meeting 7:00pm concert
June 8 Kindergarten Discovery Museum: Bubbles 9-11:15; Gr 5 Pt 2 Water Conversation; Grade 4 Music Concert; School Committee 7:00pm
June 9 Field Day Rain Date
June 12 Fire Safety Program K-5
June 13 Wheels on the Bus WHS Little Theater 6:00pm
June 14 Last All School Meeting 2:20 (Staff and Students)
June 15 Gr 5 Visit to Thurston Middle School
June 16 Gr 5 Moving Up Ceremony 10:00AM
June 20 ER 12:00pm; Gr 5 Yearbook Signing

Welcoming Schools Update

Thank you to the following Welcoming Schools Committee members for a fantastic and productive year: Parents/Caregivers- Robin Leahy; Shannon Mastropaolo, PTO Liaison; Lauren Bent, PTO Co-President; Meg Lutze, Susan Paik; Staff - Chelsea Santos-Friberg, Equity Leader; Erin Aaron, Christine Size, Jill Luskin, Donna Olson, Principal.

Thank you to the PTO for all of your support. We address our work around three groups: students, staff and families.

Thanks to the PTO, Susan Paik and Meredith Balint were able to book assemblies aligned with our goals to provide students with cultural exposure. All of the assemblies this year supported inclusivity. From the school, we added a character program, All School Assemblies and

morning announcements. Through these opportunities we were able to send out positive messaging about our monthly character words, celebrate holidays and and share books.

For our staff, we were able to utilize faculty meeting time to develop strategies to foster belonging in our classrooms. We provided two presentations for staff by Rabbi Karen during the holiday season to discuss celebrations and we hosted Danielle Murray who spoke about changing families and inclusion.

For our families, the PTO supports our Buddy Family program, increasing inclusive events and next year, and support for some type of International Night to highlight all of the cultural diversity within the MJ community. Through the Parent Engagement Committee led by Lateefah Franck, Director of Equity, the district brought Sara Monteiro to provide workshops for families around belonging and diversity.

Next year, we expect the District to direct and align the activities among all Westwood Schools. It is a goal to have groups such as MJ's Welcoming Schools in all Westwood Schools next year. We look forward to MJ's Welcoming Schools Committee's continued work to increase recognition of DEIB in our community. Thank you for all of your support!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Thurston Welcome Club

The Thurston Welcome Club is hoping to draw in a few caregivers to the Welcome Club as they transition to TMS over the next few months.

Click the link to learn more:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nJKZJiKCFjuDC5kj5ub30fFkhJ3caJCEQyPknI2qwak/e dit?usp=sharing>

Water Bottles

As the days get hotter we like to keep students hydrated. Refillable water stations are available in the cafe and hallway. Please be sure to label your child's water bottle with his/her name. This is true for sweatshirts, coats, etc. The mornings are chilly, but by recess there are coats all over the playground and lost and found fills up quickly. Please label all clothing so it gets back to your child and not donated to charity.

Attire

As it gets warmer, please ensure the students wear appropriate attire to school. Flip flops, in particular, are dangerous on the stairs and are not allowed for running games or climbing the structure. If your student does wear shoes that could prove dangerous at recess, please ensure your child brings sneakers or something safer to change into at that time. We want our students to have fun and not suffer an injury.

Can children be dropped off at a different stop on the way home?

Students may only ride their assigned buses. Transporting students to an alternative, yet existing, stop on the student's same route may be granted if done so on a regular basis (example: three days per week). Requests for alternative stops should be made in writing to Scherie Ciarrocchi, Bus Coordinator and sent to Westwood Public Schools, 220 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090. **Transporting students for play dates, lessons, or other reasons is not permitted.**

See this link for frequently asked questions:

http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/district_administration/business-office/bus-transportation.cfm#11

Mental Health Awareness FYI

DMH Behavioral Health Help Line

The Department of Mental Health launched a new [Behavioral Health Help Line](#) that people can call or text at 833-773-2445. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The help line can help individuals and families navigate the behavioral health system and access treatment, including mobile crisis services. District and school leaders are asked to please share this resource with staff, families, and students, where helpful. For more information, please see the [FAQ](#). Anyone with questions or concerns about the help line can email the help line director at Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov.

Important Preschool News

Re: Change in Enrollment Practice

Enrollment in the Westwood Integrated Preschool takes place via an annual lottery of interested families. Starting with the enrollment process for the 2023-2024 school year, the District is changing how the lottery is conducted. Specifically, new families who are enrolling in the Preschool for the fall of 2023 will no longer be guaranteed future slots for siblings. (Families who previously enrolled students in the Preschool with the expectation that siblings will be guaranteed a slot will be "grandfathered.") This change in practice reflects feedback we have received from the community and our desire to create more equitable access for all residents we serve. We understand that decisions about preschool involve many factors and want to make sure that families have this information now to assist with future planning.

Please see [WIP Enrollment and Tuition Guide](#) for more information about the Westwood Integrated Preschool.



Health Office

News from the Health Office

Spring is quickly approaching and keeping these key tips in mind can be helpful in staying healthy and safe this spring season!

Spring Allergies

Allergies are caused by the body's reaction to substances called "allergens," which trigger the immune system to react to harmless substances as though they were attacking the body.

Allergic rhinitis is an inflammation of the nasal membranes and eyes caused by certain particles in our environment (like, pollen and molds, or dust mites and animal dander).

The symptoms of allergic rhinitis

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Itchiness of the eyes, nose and throat
- Headache and fatigue can be symptoms sometimes

How can you minimize exposure to seasonal allergy triggers?

- Wash hands and face when coming inside come from playing outside so pollen is not rubbed in eyes and nose
- Take a shower at night before bedtime to wash off any pollen
- Do not bring items from outside into the bedroom
- Keep windows in your home and car closed when possible
- Check the forecast for pollen levels, and limit outdoor activities when pollen counts are higher

For more information regarding Spring Allergies please click [here](#) to [healthy children.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)

Time for Tick Checks:

Everyone living in the New England area where ticks are common should perform nightly tick checks during the warm months. Rapid discovery and removal prevents ticks from transmitting diseases. Keep in mind that ticks are very small and love to be in warm dark places like the armpit, groin, around the ear and on the back of the neck.

Bike safety:

Wearing a helmet is one of the most important ways to stay safe on a bike!


Bike riding is a great way for families to get some outdoor exercise; however, it's also a leading cause of injuries in children.



May Student Council News

This month the Student Council will be supporting our school recognition of Memorial Day. Friday, May 26th will be the next all school Spirit Day. It will be Red, White and Blue Day. The Student Council will be making and hanging posters that teach about the importance of the holiday and why it is not just about cookouts and parades.

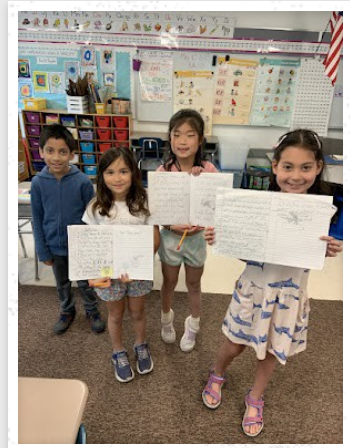
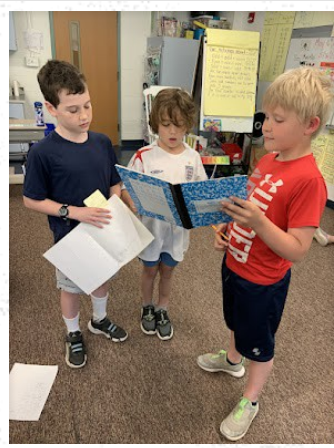
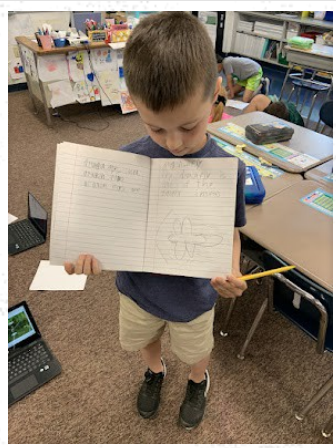
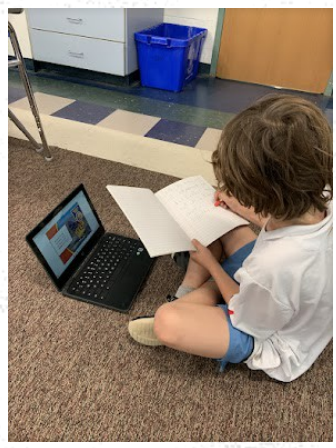
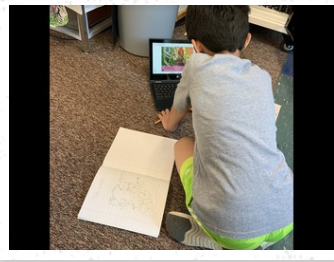
CLASSROOM NEWS

| My Main Character | | |
|---|--|--|
| Character's Name Ally |  | Character's Strengths ~AMAZING at skating ~really fast ~great at hockey and volleyball. ~really good at styling hair ~has amazing style in clothes |
| Character's Wants ~Wants to be a hero like her parents. ~wants to be a hair styler ~wants to be a pro hockey and volleyball player. | | Character's Weaknesses/Flaws ~scared of the dark ~scared of failing her parents ~not very smart and tries to hide it |
| Character's Needs ~To find her superpower ~a new hairbrush ~get an A on her math test next week | | Character's Description ~curly/wavy blonde hair ~pretty hazel eyes ~straightens her hair sometimes ~athletic ~pretty |
| | Character's Likes ~hair styling ~her dog named Tilly ~her best friend harper ~volleyball and hockey ~taylor swift ~the beach/pool | |



News from 5P (Mr. Parkhurst)

Students in Mr. Parkhurst's class are taking part in a fantasy reading and writing unit. To begin the unit, students studied many elements of fantasy such as mythology, magic, and medievalism. Students then chose one of 4 fantasy stories to read (*Harry Potter*, *Land of Stories*, *Rowan of Rin*, and *The Lightning Thief*). Alongside the reading, students just began writing a fantasy story. This week they focused on developing their fantasy character. They had to develop a name, physical description, and think about the character's strengths and flaws. They seem to be enjoying this last language arts unit of the school year.

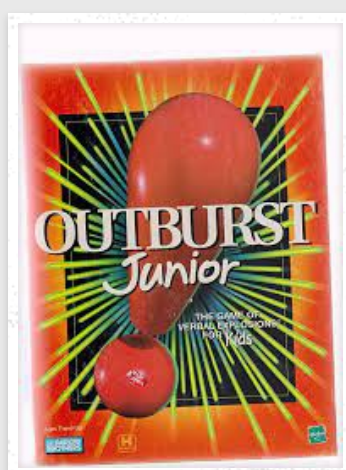


News from 2L (Ms. LeBlanc)

Students in 2L have transformed into entomologists in reading! An entomologist is a scientist who studies bugs. The students are working in partnerships or small groups to research and take notes on an insect of their choice. They are enjoying putting all of their nonfiction reading and researching skills to work to read texts, look at pictures, and watch videos. We have also been making connections between our reading and our current science unit on animal biodiversity to understand what qualifications an insect must have.



1F has been learning all about the pumpkin life cycle. In February, we planted a few pumpkin seeds in hopes to grow a pumpkin. In March we started to notice flowers blooming! We learned that we need both a male and a female flower to grow a pumpkin. This brought up wonderful conversations about how to pollinate without bees. After both a male and female flower bloomed, 1F pretended to be bees and hand pollinated. Over the weekend our pumpkin began to grow! We are excited to watch it grow over the next couple of weeks!



News from Mrs. Tucceri - Speech Pathologist

It is that time of year when I am often approached by parents who are interested in learning about what they can do to develop their child's language skills during the summer months. Summer is a great time to naturally work on language skills when you are on vacations, taking a day trip to a museum or aquarium or just spending time at the beach. Here are a few ideas:

Vocabulary Development/Narrative Skills:

- *Never underestimate the importance of good conversation and information to the development of vocabulary. Your child's brain can absorb much more than you can imagine, so be sure to speak at a higher level and they will assimilate more words and advance quicker.
- *Read to your child and talk about the unknown vocabulary words in the stories.
- *Ask your child questions as you read about the characters, setting and problem.

*Have your child make predictions about what might happen next and how the problem might get solved.

*Have your child retell the story and make sure they understand that stories have a beginning, middle and end.

Making Connections:

*When you are taking a trip to a destination, bring your child to the library to borrow books on the areas you plan to visit or research the information online. This will activate your child's background knowledge on a subject which will help him/her to integrate new information that is learned when you take the trip. For example, if you are planning a trip to Washington DC, look up the White House, the Washington Monument and other sites to prepare your child for what he/she will see on the vacation. It will make the trip more meaningful.

*Ask your child questions about the places you visit or have your child prepare questions ahead of time so that there is a purpose for the trip.

*Have your child keep a journal of what he/she has seen on the vacations you take by writing and/or drawing pictures and including photographs of his/her experiences. This will be a nice memory and it will give your child practice integrating the information in writing.

Word Retrieval:

Word retrieval means a person's ability to think of the right word when he/she needs it, such as during conversation. We all have those moments when we can't think of the right word, and in that instant, we're having a word retrieval difficulty. Some children have a wonderful vocabulary but in conversational speech they have trouble coming up with the right words. This may cause them to have unnecessary pauses, use filler words like "um" and "like", or use non-specific words like "that thing" or "that stuff". Here are some games that you can play with your child that will improve his/her word retrieval:

***Scattergories Junior** (There is a board game but there is also a card game that is sold at Stella Bella Toys at Legacy Place).

***Hedbanz Game** by Spin Master Games

***Taboo Jr./Taboo for Kids** (you can adapt this game so that you can use the words on the card when describing the target word rather than having those words be "taboo")

***Bingo Picture Recognition** (by Frank Schaffer Publications-sold at Lakeshore Learning in Newton). The child can describe the pictures to his opponent by telling the category, shape, size, color and function. This gives him/her a strategy to use when he cannot find the word he wants. By describing the word (by labeling its category, etc.), that can help to retrieve the word or at least communicate it to his/her conversational partner. When it is his opponent's turn, the opponent describes the pictured word to your child and he/she has to try to retrieve it.

***Mystery Garden** (Ravensburger): This game is like 20 questions but you can talk about categories and items that belong to the category before asking questions to figure out the mystery picture (e.g., Is it an animal? Is it a pet?).

***Outburst Junior** (Parker Brothers): ages 7 and up

***Buzzword Junior**: ages 7 and up

***Blurt Junior**

Working on **categories and associations** as well as **synonyms, antonyms, multiple meaning words, homonyms and analogies** can help with how the brain organizes and files information which can in turn help with retrieving it.

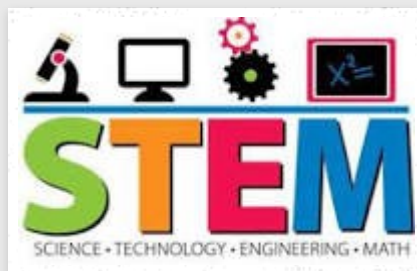
Good Luck and Have a Wonderful Summer! Sharyn Tucceri, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist

PTO NEWS



MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.



STEM FAIR MAY 25th! It's Confirmed!

To make this event a success, we need your help. Please sign up to volunteer in the [Membership App](#).

This year students will compete against their classmates as they present individually or in groups of up to three teammates. This is a great opportunity for the students to practice critical thinking and presentation skills.

In addition to the student projects and awards, we will also have experiments by Top Secret Science and the Westwood High School Robotics team will be there with their nationally recognized robots to do demonstrations. **All are welcome to attend regardless of participating in the student competition.**



FIELD DAY JUNE 2

It's BAAAAAACCCK! Field Day 2023 is right around the corner.....This year it is scheduled for Friday, June 2nd (rain date Friday, June 9th). The success of the day depends largely on our volunteers. This is the most fun day of the entire school year!! You are guaranteed to be surrounded by smiling faces and loads of laughter and fun. We need your help to man the game stations and to assist in serving lunch and clean-up so please consider [volunteering today](#). You won't be sorry!



SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE - TIME TO LABEL

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.

More PTO News

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!

MARTHA JONES PTO WEBSITE

We have our own website at mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com. Log in to stay informed on all PTO related news and events. All current events are posted on the Homepage for easy access. Volunteer, learn about our programs and events, purchase a membership, provide feedback, and much more.

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 at baklaene@gmail.com or Mary Jason at maryjason06@gmail.com.

