

GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

MARTHA JONES SCHOOL-WESTWOOD, MA

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

Issue 19 - June 2, 2023



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings Martha Jones Families,
June is a very busy month at Martha Jones. Teachers are working hard to complete instruction and assessments for the year. Sprinkled in between the hard work are opportunities for fun! We look forward to concerts, assemblies and of course, Field Day. Later, we will celebrate our 5th grade class as they prepare to leave us for the Middle School.

June is also Pride Month. At Martha Jones and at all Westwood schools, we celebrate diversity with respect and support. On June 14th we will recognize Flag Day. On Juneteenth, June 19th, we celebrate the emancipation of enslaved Americans. Please see the sections below which highlight some of the district's resources for Pride Month and Juneteenth.

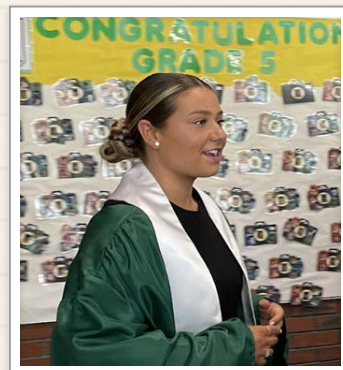
Later in the month, we celebrate Father's Day and some of our families celebrate [Eid al-Adha - June 28th](#)

To all who celebrate we wish you a joyful June!

Warm regards,
Donna
Interim Principal



LOOK WHO CAME TO VISIT? It's OUR WPS
SENIORS. CONGRATULATIONS!



JUNE CHARACTER WORD - COURAGE

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.

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH!



Each June, we have the opportunity to celebrate Pride Month in recognition of our LGBTQ+ students, families, and community members. It is a time for us to affirm our commitment to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all children and adults regardless of their age, race, color, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, qualifying disability or religion. One of the many strengths of our community is its diversity.

There are many Pride Month activities that take place during June in our community and beyond. Students will see rainbow flags, may attend or see Pride parades and celebrations on television, and hear people discussing Pride Month and support for the LGBTQ+ community in school and beyond. You can find resources on the [District's Equity, Integration and Community Partnerships](#) page.

If you would like more information on how you can support LGBTQIA+ youth and/or how to talk with your child about Pride Month, information is available on [GLSEN](#), an organization founded by a group of teachers in 1990 to create affirming environments for LGBTQ youth; [Care.org](#), which has Tips for Talking About Pride; and <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>, an organization that supports LGBTQIA+ youth and families.

Early next week, I will be sending out additional information, more specific to Martha Jones' plan for Pride Month and resources supporting Pride Month.



JUNETEENTH JUNE 19TH

After 155 years, [Juneteenth](#), a celebration of the emancipation of enslaved Americans, is being acknowledged as a holiday by corporations and state governments across the country. Today, we consider why, throughout its history, Juneteenth has gained prominence at moments of pain in the struggle for black liberation in America.

[Juneteenth - June 19th](#)

Podcast Episode: [The Daily: The History and Meaning of Juneteenth](#)

Article: [Juneteenth is now a national holiday. How did it come to pass?](#)

Article: [Teaching Juneteenth](#)

[5 ways to celebrate Juneteenth 2023 in Boston](#)

Book: [All Different Now by Angela Johnson](#)

Book: [Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper](#)

[Juneteenth - All About the Holidays - PBS Kids](#)

DON'T FORGET, DISMISSAL ON 6/20, THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, IS AT 12:00PM!

IMPORTANT DATES 📅

June 5 & 8 Grade 5 Water Conservation Program

June 6 Gr 5 Hale Reservation Field Trip; Music Open House with Mrs. Pickering:

Mrs. Dunn's 1st grade- 9:50-10:35

Ms. LeBlanc's 2nd grade- 10:40-11:25

June 7 Early Release Day; Music Open House with Mrs. Pickering: Ms. Hartwell's 2nd grade- 9:40-10:20 Mrs. Fader's 1st grade- 11:10-11:50

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 Morning; Grade 5 Clap Out

Shout-Outs

Auction Item at Bubbling Brook

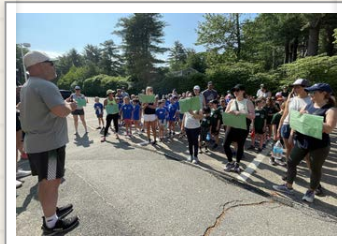
Mrs. Olson enjoyed visiting with two friends at Bubbling Brook! Bubblegum was the flavor of the day!



FIELD DAY 2023

Thank you to Mr. Foley and Mrs. Collins for all of their hard work. We appreciate all of the support from the PTO and all of the volunteers who came out to help on June 2nd to enjoy the day.



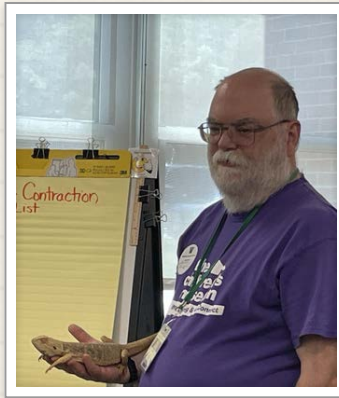


THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING 5TH GRADERS!

HOT AND WET, OUR RESILIENT STUDENTS WERE A BIG HELP TO MR. FOLEY AT THE END OF FIELD DAY!



GRADE 2 - ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS



FROGS

Did you know that frogs secrete a white liquid that is poisonous to animals and can make a human ill if it gets into the bloodstream?

Frogs mainly use these poisons as a defense mechanism against predators, making them dangerous to be swallowed.

GRADE 5 BAND HARD AT WORK! CONCERT JUNE
7TH!

THANK YOU, MR. YENNOR AND MRS. LABEDZ!



GREAT GRADE 3 RECORDER CONCERT

THANK YOU MRS. SAADA-SMITH, MRS. PICKERING AND MS. MATSUMURA!



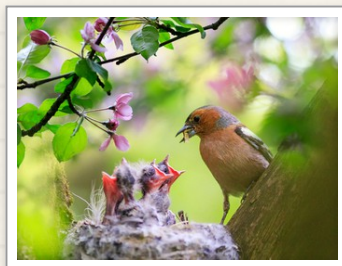
WE CELEBRATED MEMORIAL DAY WITH A RED,
WHITE AND BLUE DAY!



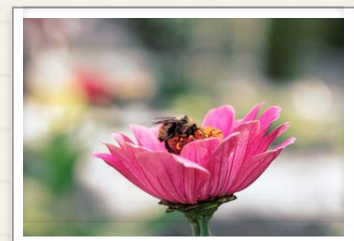
🌱 SPRING/SUMMER LEARNING



FROGS



BIRDS



BEEES

LEARNING ABOUT SUMMER

KINDERGARTEN RULES!

We had a great day welcoming our new Kindergarten students to Martha Jones on Wednesday, May 24th. We held a wonderful meeting their parents and caregivers the night before!





GLOBAL PLAY DAY

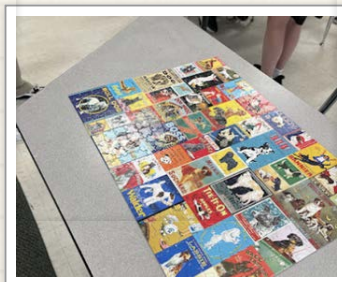
Global School Play Day is celebrated in February every year and while we missed the February date, we thought holding later in the year on a half day after MCAS had concluded would be a great time to celebrate this event.

February 4, 2015, was the first annual Global School Play Day for students in schools around the world. In year one, over 65,000 students participated! Since 2015, over a million and a half students from 75 Nations were given the gift of unstructured playtime. Can we reach 2,000,000 students in 2024? We think so!

In his [TEDx lecture](#), Peter Gray clearly argues the case that today's kids do not grow up playing and this has negatively impacted them in many ways. It's time we return the gift of play to this generation.

At Martha Jones celebrating Global School Play Day is with purpose. It allows our teachers to observe the students apply social emotional learning skills in an unstructured way. Many teachers set expectations for the day and the information gathered helps inform our assessment of social emotional skill needs.

Here are some pictures of our version of Global School Play Day. It was a pleasure to watch our students play cooperatively, solve problems and make plans. It was a very successful day!



DON'T FORGET: TIME CHANGE NEXT YEAR!

Next year the elementary school hours will be 10 minutes later. See the chart below for all the new school times.

NEW SCHOOL HOURS FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

School Hours & Calendar Observances

High School 8:15am-2:55pm (Dismissal at 1:40pm on Early Release Days)
Middle School 7:45am-2:22pm (Dismissal at 1:10pm on Early Release Days)
Elementary Schools 9:00am-3:20pm (Dismissal at 12:00pm on Early Release Days)
Preschool 4-day 8:45am-12:45pm or 8:45am-2:30pm
Preschool 5-day 8:45am-2:30pm (Dismissal at 11:15am on Early Release Days)

INFORMATION FOR RISING GRADE 6 FAMILIES

Click the links to view information from the Middle School.

- [Slides for Rising 6th-8th Graders](#) (for teachers)
- [TMS Summer Reading Overview](#) (for families)

💡 REMINDERS

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 you 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](#).

💡 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/1nJKZJiKCFjuDC5kj5ub30fFkhJ3caJCEOyPknI2qwak/edit?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



THANK YOU, MRS. DOYLE, FOR KEEPING US SAFE DURING FIELD DAY!

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Spring is here and keeping these key tips in mind can be helpful in staying healthy and safe this spring and summer.

Medication Pick-Up

In preparation for closing of the Health Office for the summer, all student medications must be picked up by a parent or guardian on the last day of school (6/20/23).

Medications cannot be given to the student to carry home!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Health Office.

JoEllen Doyle, RN, BSN
(781) 326-7500 x.6263

jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us

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 [healthychildren.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.

Body Safety Theater GRADE 3

Shay Lonergan and students from WHS visited grade 3 classrooms to present skits addressing keeping ourselves safe. The high school students did a great job and MJ third graders were a wonderful audience.



JUNE STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

May

May Student Council members focused on teaching MJ students about Memorial Day. Student council members researched information about Memorial Day by reading articles and watching videos, and learned that it is much more than a long weekend filled with cookouts! It is a time to honor those who have lost their lives fighting for the U.S. Student Council

members created posters using the information they collected and decorated with American Flags. ~ Ms. Gross

June

Student Council members have planned a week of Spirit Day Activities. We hope everyone will join us as we celebrate the last full week of school - June 12-15. We are skipping June 16th due to the Moving Up Ceremony.

Monday, June 12 - Color Day: Wear Your Favorite Color

Tuesday, June 13 - Crazy Hair/Hat Day

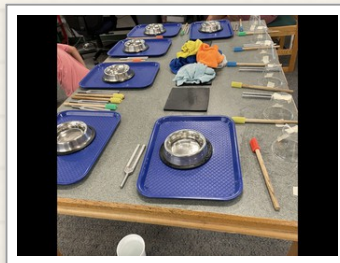
Wednesday, June 14 - Flag Day: Red, White and Blue Day

Thursday, June 15 - Westwood Day: Wear green and/or your Westwood items

A big thank you to Mrs. McDonough and Ms Gross for serving as our Student Council Advisors this year. You did a great job and we appreciated it!

CLASSROOM NEWS

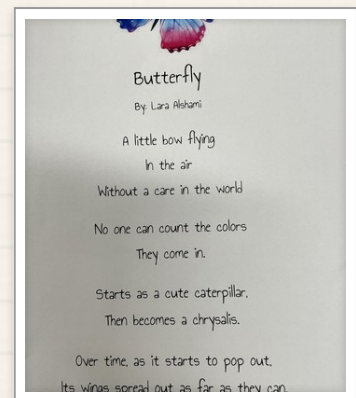
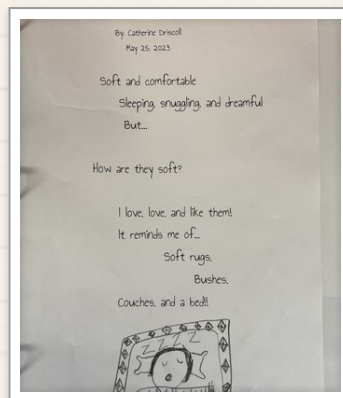
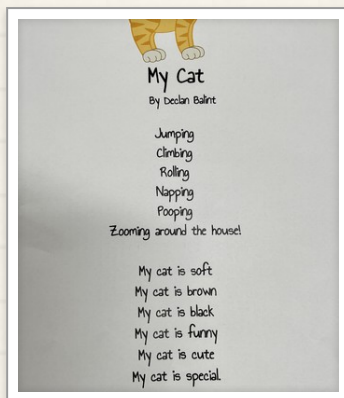
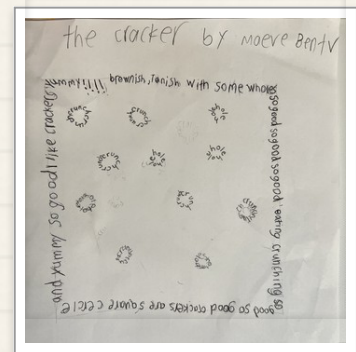
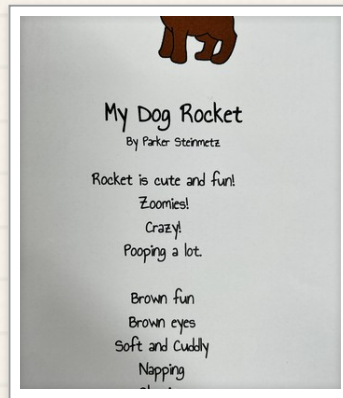
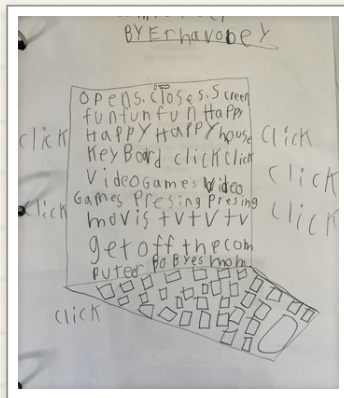
ENRICHMENT IN GRADE 4 - SOUND EXPERIMENTS



NEWS FROM 4W (MRS. WALDNER)

The fourth grade has been learning about sound energy. Last week, 4W made paper cup telephones to explore the relationship between sound and vibrations. Using the "phones,"

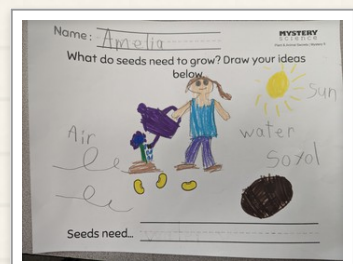
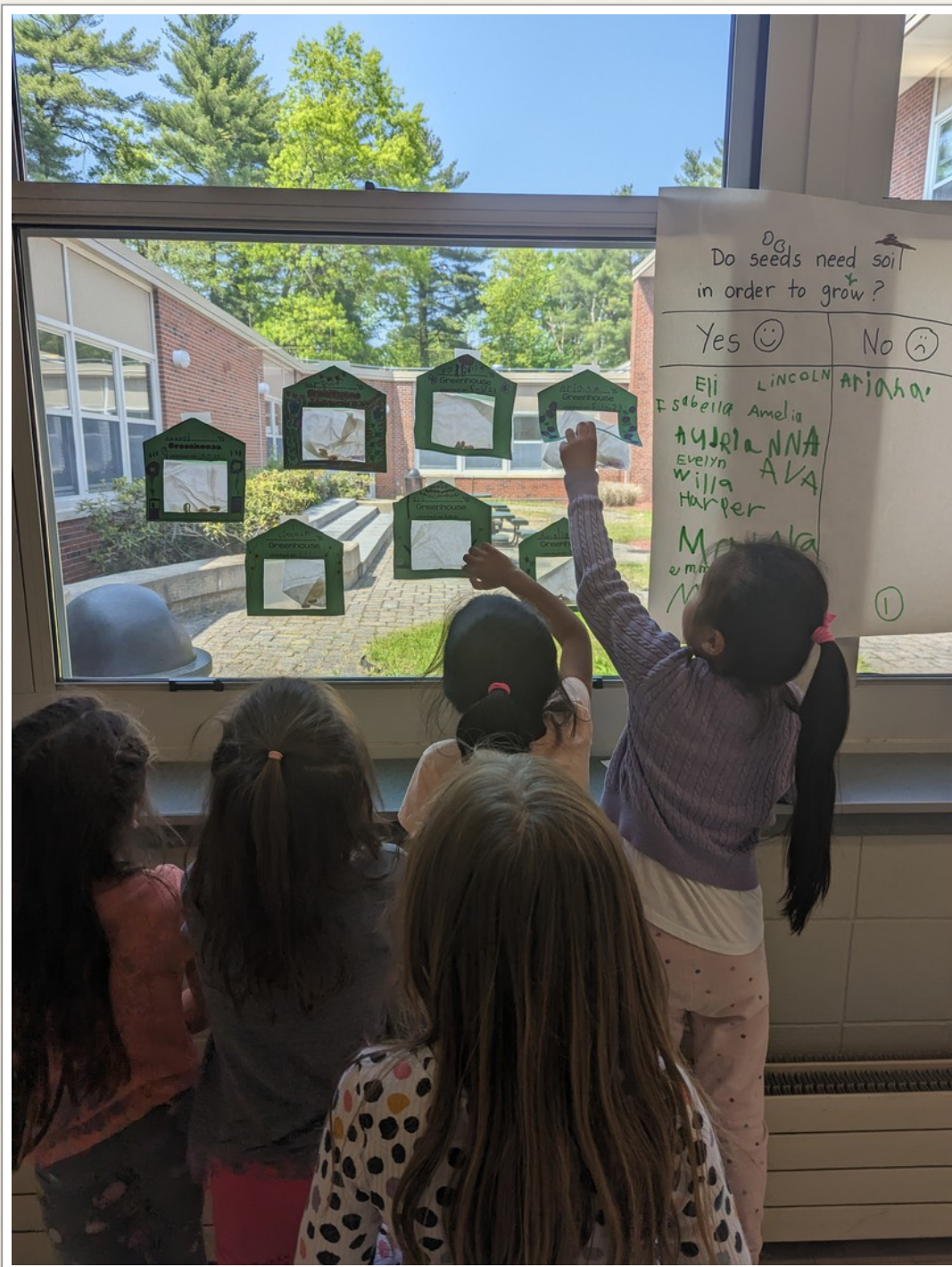
students played Guess the Number as they spoke into their side of the phone to test if the other person could hear them! This week, the Discovery Museum visited us to provide more hands-on experiments with sound. The kids had a blast testing sound energy through solids, liquids, and more!

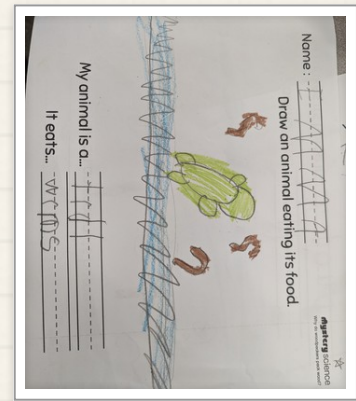
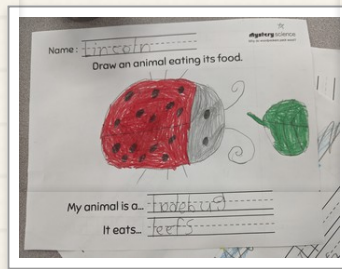
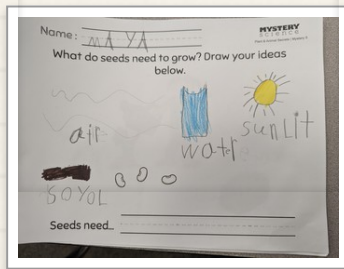


NEWS FROM 2M (Ms. Mundy)

Ms. Mundy's second-grade class has been enjoying a Poetry Reading and Writing unit. Students have been learning about how poetry differs from other genres, and how poets create imagery through the use of figurative language like alliteration and onomatopoeia, and create rhythm and music through repetition and rhyme.

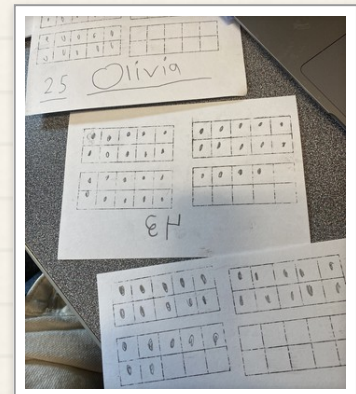
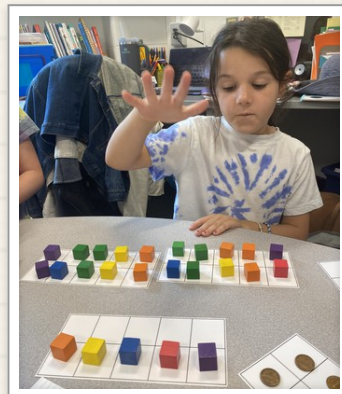
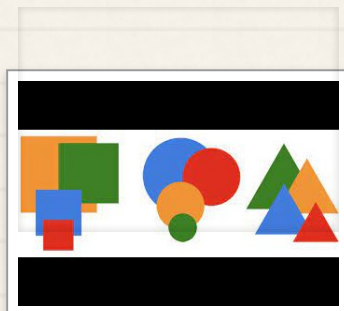
The students have been reading a variety of poems, and have enjoyed creating their own poems about special objects, animals, and even food. We have also created some list poems and concrete (shape) poems as well!





NEWS FROM KL (MRS. LAYTON)

The Kindergarten students have been learning that all living things need air, water, food and light to live and grow. All living things need resources from their environment and they live in habitats that have the things they need. The kids created animal habitats and set up seeds in both soil and without soil to observe what would happen.



NEWS FROM MRS. AARON - MATHEMATICS

Kindergarteners are learning how to group items to make counting collections easier. Here they are noticing the power of groups of ten!



NEWS FROM SEPAC

Join Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for our upcoming parent groups and meetings! You may be just starting your journey or be years into an IEP/504. All are welcome.

Visit us at www.westwoodsepac.org/events for more information.

SEPAC Liaison for Martha Jones: Frank and Caitlyn Jurczak caitlynp82@yahoo.com



WESTWOOD SEPAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

End of The Year Popsicle Social

Sunday June 4th 2023

1pm-3pm

Downey Elementary School
Playground

Please join us for popsicles and
fun!

Connect with other Westwood
families who have children with
unique learning needs. The kids
can play while we socialize.
Join us even if your kids don't!



All ages welcome!

Join our closed Facebook Group: [Westwood SEPAC-Special Education Parent Advisory Council](#)
To volunteer, questions, or submit ideas [email: westwoodsepac@gmail.com](mailto:westwoodsepac@gmail.com)

Westwood SEPAC www.westwoodsepac.org

PTO NEWS



MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

A very special thank you to all the parents and caregivers that volunteered their time to make the STEM Fair and Field Day a success. We appreciate all you do to help build the Martha Jones community.

In the spirit of fostering a larger Westwood community, we also want to thank the WHS Robotics team for coming to our STEM Fair. If you missed their demonstrations or are looking for more, please check out their June 10th Challenge and Open House at the Westwood Public Library

A green poster for the First LEGO League Challenge. At the top, it says "Learn about" in white. Below that is the First LEGO League logo, which consists of a stylized 'A' made of red and blue geometric shapes. To the right of the logo, the words "FIRST LEGO LEAGUE" are written in bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text is a red rectangular button with the word "CHALLENGE" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath the button, it says "with WHS Robotics" in white. A horizontal line separates this from the event details: "June 10th, 1-2:30 pm" and "Westwood Public Library" in white. To the right of the text is a small stack of four LEGO bricks in blue, red, yellow, and blue. Below the event details, it says "learn more:" in white. To the left of this is a QR code. To the right of the QR code is a paragraph of white text: "FLL is a unique opportunity for students in grades 4-8 to learn about programming, design, and entrepreneurship by constructing a robot and completing research on a project."

Learn about



**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**

CHALLENGE

with WHS Robotics

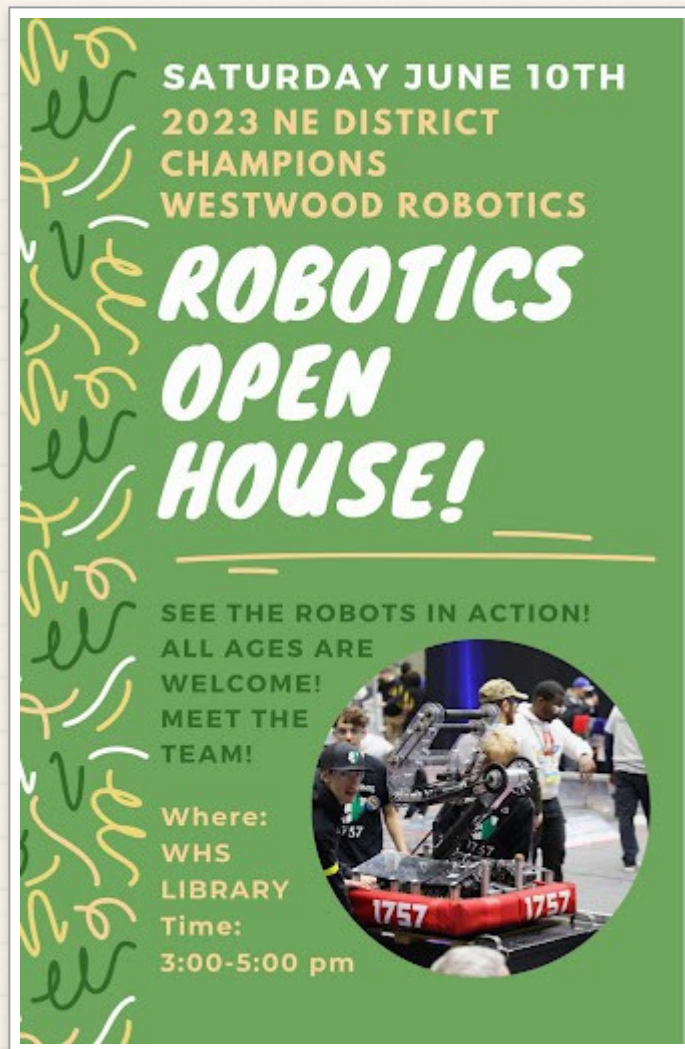
June 10th, 1-2:30 pm
Westwood Public Library

learn more:



FLL is a unique opportunity for students in grades 4-8 to learn about programming, design, and entrepreneurship by constructing a robot and completing research on a project.





PTO NEWS UPDATE

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.

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.