

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

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

Donna Olson, Interim Principal

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

Issue 2 - September 16, 2022



Cafeteria Spirit Day Fun!

Principal's Message

Dear Martha Jones Families,

It was so nice to meet families at the Martha Jones School PTO Family Picnic. I appreciated the opportunity to have conversations with some of our families. Thank you to our PTO, and our families, for supporting Martha Jones School!

This week, students have continued to be busy learning classroom and school routines. We have been hard at work practicing these routines and expectations so we can set a strong foundation and create focused learning environments. The students are doing a great job learning about our expectations.

In addition to classroom routines Martha Jones Faculty & Staff have been focused on getting to know your child(ren). Students have shared about themselves, family traditions, and all their favorites - including foods, activities, and places. I have loved visiting classrooms and getting to know your children. They are getting to know me too! At Martha Jones we believe that no significant learning can happen without a sense of belonging to the community.

This past week and in the next two weeks of September, we will continue to build community by focusing our school's core values to students:

- Be Kind.
- Be Curious.
- Be Courageous.

To support our efforts we encourage you to talk to your child about what it looks like and sounds like to show kindness, be curious, and be courageous.

Warmly,
Donna

Donna Olson
Martha Jones School
Interim Principal

Important Upcoming Events

Thu. Sept. 22

Picture Day
Curriculum Night
Grades 3-5 6:00-6:30pm Classroom Visits
6:30-7:00pm Cafeteria/Gym Principal's Welcome
7:00-7:30pm Grade K-2 Classroom Visits

Mon. Sept. 26

Rosh Hashanah NO SCHOOL

Tue. Sept. 27

PTO Meeting - MJ Library 7:00PM

Wed. Sept. 28

Early Release 11:50AM

Wed. Oct. 5

Yom Kippur NO SCHOOL

Mon. Oct. 10

Columbus Day NO SCHOOL

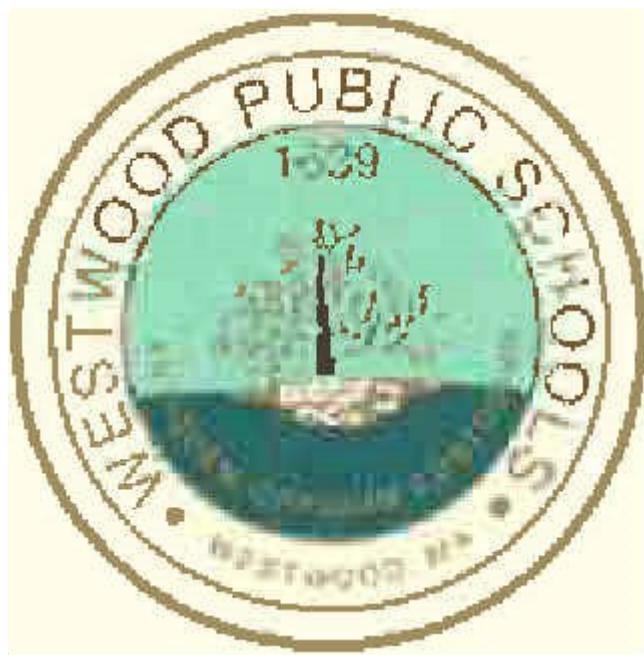
Tues. Oct. 11 Welcoming Schools Committee Mtg. 3:30

Wed. Oct. 12

Early Release 11:50AM

Thu. Oct. 13

School Committee Meeting - WHS 7:00PM



District and Noteworthy News...

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

Health Office REMINDER:

If a student is diagnosed with a ***communicable disease***, please contact the School Nurse. This is vital for control measures, as well as for protecting students and staff who may be medically at risk from exposure to these illnesses. Children need to remain home until they are no longer contagious. This limits the spread of the disease and allows the child to recover more quickly.

Most common communicable diseases:

Chicken Pox/Shingles

Strep Throat

Conjunctivitis

COVID

Fifth Disease (Hand Foot and Mouth)

Influenza (Flu)

Mono

Vomiting/Diarrhea

Head Lice/Pediculosis

Please refer to the Elementary Handbook for further information.

Thank you for supporting a healthy learning environment at MJ! Nurse Doyle



MJ SEPAC

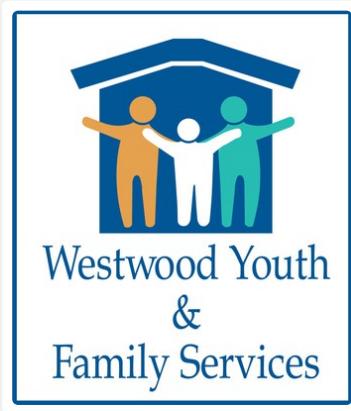
Join Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for our upcoming parent groups and meetings! You may be just starting your journey or be years into an IEP/504. All are welcome.

- Sept 20: Parent Coffee
- Sept 23: Visually Impaired and/or Rare Syndrome Parent Group
- Oct 2: Family Popsicle Social

- Oct 17: Parent Coffee
- Oct 18: SEPAC Community Meeting
- Oct 20: Neurodiverse Profiles Parent Group
- Oct 27: Language Based Learning Difference Parent Group

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

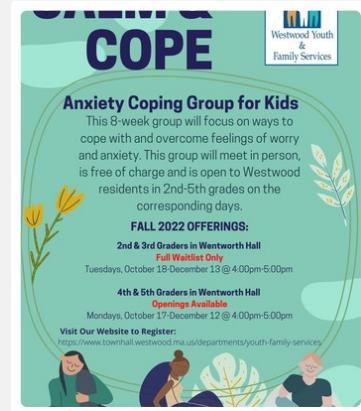
SEPAC Liaison for Martha Jones: Megan Brenk mbrenk@gmail.com/Frank and Caitlyn Jurczak



WYFS



Friends Network



Calm & Cope

Westwood Youth and Family Services News

Registration is now open for **Friends Network**, a program for 3rd-5th graders through Westwood Youth and Family Services!

The Friends Network matches 3rd-5th graders with high school aged residents in 1:1 pairs that meet weekly on Thursday evenings from November – April to engage in games and activities in a relaxed setting. This is a great way for children to engage with a positive role model while forming a special friendship and having fun! We think of it like a big sister/big brother type program. Registration is currently open and will be open until October 13th. Here is the online registration link:

<https://forms.gle/pQEYg6ijsnNki6ev7>

Registration is also open for **Calm & Cope**, a program for 3rd-5th graders through Westwood Youth and Family Services!

Calm & Cope is an 8 week group that focuses on ways to cope with and overcome feelings of worry and anxiety. This program runs from the week of October 17th through the week of December 12th. Here is the online registration link: <https://forms.gle/rZEWZia6hwriXJFRA>



Grade 5 Student Council

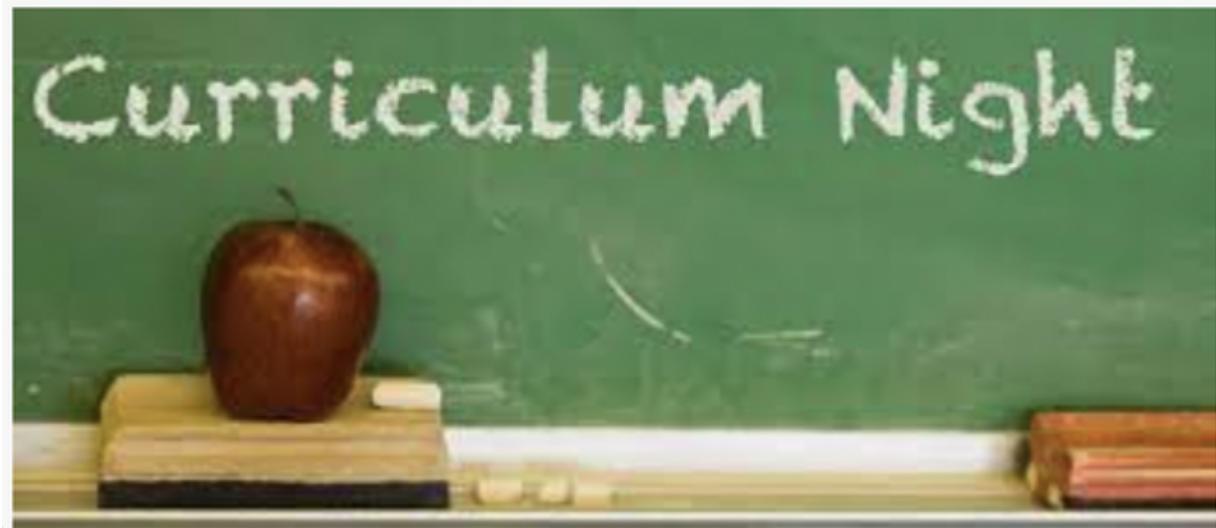
This year all fifth graders are invited to participate in Student Council. We will not be holding elections. Any fifth grader may participate. Today we held an assembly to explain how Student Council will run this year. Mrs. McDonough and Ms. Gross will be the Student Council advisors. Most Student Council members will only be responsible for one month this year. Meetings will be held on Thursday, twice per month, from 8:00AM-8:30AM. Participants will need to secure transportation to school on the two mornings during the month they choose.

Students were asked to consider whether or not they wished to make the commitment to become a Student Council Member. We encouraged the students to discuss Student Council with their parents. Student Council members are expected to uphold Martha Jones, core values and demonstrate role model behavior.

On Monday, students who wish to participate will select three months that contain topics of interest. The advisors will try to match the students to one of their preferred months. If we don't have enough students participating, we may ask if any students wish to participate in more than one month.

We hope that many of our students will choose to participate in Student Council. Some activities that may occur include making posters to advertise activities, collecting canned good within the school during a food drive and organizing them for pick up, helping to plan Spirit Days, the Thanksgiving Feathers Activity, Kindness Week, and Healthy Habits Month, among other activities.

Thank you to Mrs. McDonough and Ms. Gross, for serving as Student Council Advisors this year.



Curriculum Night

On Thursday, September 22nd, Westwood Elementary Schools will host our annual Curriculum Night. We are so excited to welcome you in person!

This year Grades 3-5 will meet with teachers from 6:00-6:30. We ask you to remember it is important for our Grade 3-5 parents/guardians to follow your teacher's lead to come to the gym at 6:30 for our Principal's presentation and staff introductions. K-2 parents/guardians will visit classrooms at the conclusion of the presentation.

This evening is an opportunity to see your child's classroom and to hear about your child's day. If you have many questions, or specific concerns about your student, please reach out to your teacher to schedule a call or meeting. Our teachers respect your children's privacy and it is uncomfortable to have a conference about a specific student during this short time among other parents/guardians.

We are so pleased to welcome you to Martha Jones School and we are looking forward to this great evening!



Family Picnic



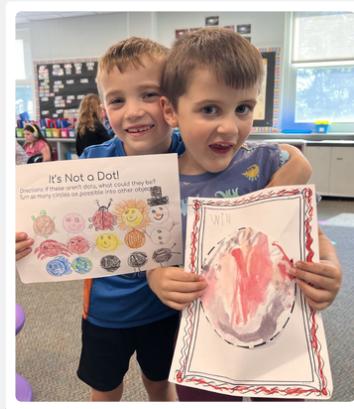


Dot Day

Throughout the school, classrooms celebrated Dot Day. September 15th marks the anniversary of the publication of best-selling author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot*, a "story book for all ages."

The Dot tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkably creative way. In Peter's book, the teacher dares a very resistant Vashti to "make her mark." Vashti's

breakthrough begins with a simple dot on a piece of paper. Encouraged by her teacher she sets off on a journey of self-discovery, letting her creativity bloom and, ultimately, inspire others.





All Dots Are Unique, Just Like Each Of Us!

Thank you to Mrs. Lutz, Ms. LeBlanc and Mrs. Fader, for sharing!

MJ Spirit Day





Welcoming Schools Committee

Martha Jones School Welcoming Schools Committee's goal is to focus on initiatives to ensure that all Martha Jones families and students feel welcome, supported and a sense of belonging.

Please [click the link](#) to read more about this committee. Please consider becoming a part of Welcoming Schools. If interested, please click this link to complete [this form](#) indicating your interest. Thank you!

News from 5B (Mr. Bartlett)

Students in 5th Grade have recently started learning all about investing. While there are many ways to 'invest', our focus is on the Stock Market and how people use this to invest over the long term.

Over the course of the next 3 months, students will learn how the stock market works by investing a simulated \$100,000 in stocks and bonds while participating in the national [Stock Market Game](#).



News from 4B (Ms. Bass)

The fourth graders have been learning about the many different ways in which scientists document (and reflect upon) the world's phenomena. Here, 4B students are observing, diagramming and asking questions about leaves, pinecones and other objects collected from our school playground!



Observing



Diagraming

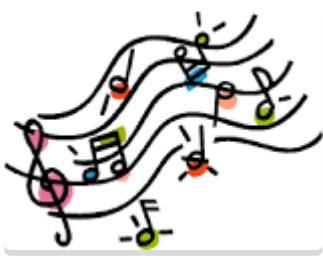


Asking questions

News from 1B (Ms. Brock)

First graders in 1B are having fun learning new math games! We are practicing counting and comparing quantities while playing Dot Bingo and Double Compare.





News for Fourth Graders

We have been enjoying working with our very musical 4th graders in our initial Instrumental Music classes this year. In just a few short weeks, we will begin playing our new instruments together in school!

Parents are asked to please complete our online **Grade 4 Instrument Selection Form** by this Friday, 9/16: <https://forms.gle/ntRyyT1m99S1f3Hu6>



MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News (updated 9/14)

ALL ARE WELCOME! 9/27 at 7:00 PM PTO KICKOFF MEETING

We will discuss the exciting events planned for this year, how to use the Membership Toolkit App to meet new families, and how you can get involved in a way that fits your schedule and leverages your talents.

Please join us in-person at the Martha Jones School Library or virtually at the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81520451497?pwd=RWJsdlpLQzFIK092bTlaQjVVRWIUzz09>

Meeting ID: 815 2045 1497

Passcode: 157550

Mini Courses

The mini courses link was shared by Mrs. Olson on Wednesday, Sept. 14th at 7:00AM. Here is the link:

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/store/9489>

Please contact the PTO directly for questions about the mini courses or any technical glitches. Mary Jason created a waitlist in the system. If people didn't get a class, they can either email mjminicourse@gmail.com or use the system to register for the waitlist.

Also, if your child is signed up for a mini course please be sure you update their dismissal routine in the SDM app. Thank you



Membership has it's perks!

Sign up today at: <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/198140>

PTO Members get exclusive access to the full school student directory, including guardian contact information and voting privileges. Plus, your membership fees help fund our programs like field trips, enrichment activities, playground equipment and our larger signature events.



Back to School Label Time

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.

Other ways to connect with the MJ PTO

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

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