

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

Matt Kuklantz, Principal

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

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

Issue 1 - September 8, 2023



Principal's Message

Welcome back to school!

I am excited to lead the Martha Jones School for the 2023-2024 school year. Thank you to everyone for welcoming me as I entered this community.

Please welcome new faces - This year, we have 55 new kindergarten students at Martha Jones and 15 students in grades 1 through 5. If you see a family in your neighborhood you don't recognize, please 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. In addition to the new students, we also have a number of new teachers joining us this year at MJ:

Ms. Elizabeth Krumsiek has joined us as a third grade teacher. Ms. Krumsiek comes to us with a background in classroom teaching and as a special educator.

Mrs. Emily Harrison has joined our special education team as a Special Educator working with our Kindergarten, 3rd, and 4th graders.

Mrs. Shannon O'Rourke has also joined our special education team as the Special Education Teacher who oversees the new **P**romoting **E**ducation and **E**ffective **R**elationships (PEER) program at Martha Jones. This is an expansion of the successful PEER program at the Downey School. Students within the PEER program are important members of the school community. The program's goal is for students to increase their independent skills in all areas, including academics, communication, social skills, self-care, and behavior management. These skills are reinforced in a substantially separate setting and the general education settings to promote the generalization of skills.

Additionally, we have the following new staff joining the MJ:

- Ms. Jaida Alvarez, Special Education Assistant
- Ms. Bridget Dunn, Lunchroom Monitor
- Ms. Jen McKenna, Lunchroom Monitor
- Ms. Debby Morrison, General Education Assistant
- Ms. Marie Paul, Applied Behavior Analyst Tutor
- Ms. Jennifer Stallings, Special Education Assistant
- Ms. Nateia Wright, Special Education Assistant

Here is a copy of the [Grade 1 - 5 Welcome Letter](#) or [Kindergarten Welcome Letter](#) you should have received on August 18th. If you haven't read it, please take a peek.

Have a wonderful year!

Matt

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones School
Principal



Leaps and Bounds

Communication between schools and families is vital. The purpose of the Leaps and Bounds is to give you an insight into the daily successes of our school. We plan to publish this every two weeks, highlighting different classrooms' accomplishments. In addition, we will continue to update you on upcoming events within the school day and PTO events. I believe that it is easy to get overwhelmed with the day to day communications in email and I will strive to make the newsletters informative, digestible, and full of pictures of smiling students.

That said, this first one is a doozy. It's chock full of information from Food Services, Nurse Doyle, School Dismissal Manager, PTO, and offerings through the town. Thanks for taking the time to read it!

I firmly believe that communication between home and school is very important. If you have a concern, please reach out to me at muklantz@westwood.k12.ma.us or I can be reached at 781 326 7500 xt 6261.

Matt

Important Upcoming Events

Thu. Sept 14

Family Picnic 5:30-7:00

Mon. Sept. 18

Picture Day

Wed. Sept. 20

Early Release - Noon (no lunch served)

Thu. Sept. 21

Curriculum Night 6:30-8:00

Mon. Sept. 25

Yom Kippur NO SCHOOL



School Dismissal Manager

Thank you to everyone for embracing the technology! SDM is designed to give you control over your child(s) dismissal, late arrival, absence.

- Martha Jones School will continue to utilize School Dismissal Manager (SDM) along with the other elementary schools in the district. [Click the link](#) to read more about it. SDM will notify the school when your child's attendance/dismissal changes based on your input. You should only call or email the office regarding attendance, tardy or other dismissal changes if you miss the 11:00AM cutoff. Otherwise, please enter your child(s) changes in SDM directly.
- Regular dismissal begins at 3:20 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 regarding SDM:

- All changes for the current day need to be entered by 11:00AM on regular and early release days. 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.

The District sent out notifications on 8/25 regarding Bus routes. These routes are now posted on the [District website](#). 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.**

First Day of School!



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 2023-2024 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)
- Families are encouraged to reach out to Food Services with any dietary restrictions
- Here is the link to the [Food Services Site](#)

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! - Monday, September 18th is picture day. The district has made arrangements with Coffee Pond so there will be a uniform picture package offered for all schools. Coffee Pond takes time with each student and offer a variety of different packages and on-line registration and purchases. Please see [Picture Day flyer here](#). Coffee Pond also offers a [scholarship program](#) - please find additional information on this program [here](#).

Curriculum Night - Please hold the evening of Thursday, Sept. 21st for Curriculum Night. We will be holding curriculum night in-person. 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 connecting with other students in your child's class whether it's to arrange playdates, or just send well wishes. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the media or directory permissions. Changes may be made by [updating your Aspen account online](#).

A Note from the School Nurse - Mrs. JoEllen Doyle



Important Notes from the MJ Health Office

Welcome back to the 2023/2024 school year!

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

- Emergency Contact Information-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- Student Health Record needs to be provided for all NEW students! An updated physical exam should be provided annually. The documentation should be requested from your primary care physician by a parent/guardian at the annual well visit.
- Medication-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

medications require a Medication Order Form from the doctor. This also applies to Over the Counter medication, EPIPENS/Allergy Action Plans, inhalers and Diabetes Treatment Plans. These forms may be requested from your child's primary care physician.

- Illness-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.
- 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.

Thank you! Nurse Doyle

News from the MJ Classroom's



News from 5B (Mr. Bartlett)



Welcome to all 5th graders who make up the Martha Jones graduating class of 2023.

There are many special events and activities that 5th graders get to partake in during their final year at Martha Jones.

Our school, and the very generous PTO help fund and organize:

- Hands on science enrichment activities
- Multiple field trips
- The Stock Market Game (more to follow soon)
- A 5th Grade Yearbook
- 5th Grade Celebration Party
- Graduation

This week, both 5th grade classes got together to learn about the different band options they have this year. This year all students will partake in *General Music* and *Chorus* but have some options when it comes to *Band*.

It was nice to see the whole grade together with so many smiling faces. We are looking forward to a great 5th grade year!

News from 4W (Mrs. Waldner)



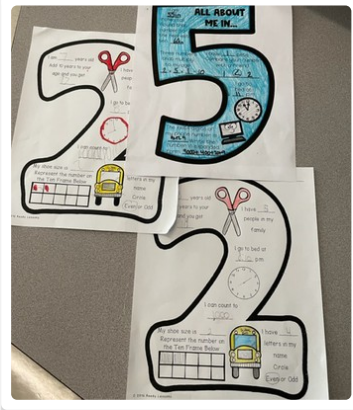
We are off to a wonderful start of fourth grade in 4W. This week, we worked on growing the skill of working collaboratively together. This will become the foundation of producing great work, growing our thinking around complex tasks, and establishing relationships within our class community.

News from KL (Mrs. Layton)



This week in Kindergarten, we have been focusing on getting to know each other's names and learning how to participate during whole group meetings. Our morning meetings consist of a greeting, a share (favorite color, favorite animal, etc.), a group activity (an interactive song such as "If You're Happy and You Know It.") and a morning message. Morning meetings are an important part of building a classroom community.

News from Ms. Eaton



Given the first few days in the Learning Center, we are focused on getting to know each other. We are sharing facts and personal information about ourselves through simple mathematical art projects as well as answering questions posed through participation in a LC scavenger hunt. Such activities help to initiate conversations between the students as well as the staff. We are looking forward to a great year!



PTO News

Dear Martha Jones Families,

We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited about all this year has to offer and look forward to seeing many of you at our signature fall events like our Family Picnic and Halloween Haunted Hallway.

There are many new students at Martha Jones between the kindergarten class and those joining us in grades 1-5. We offer our sincerest welcome to our school community for these students and their

families! We had the pleasure of meeting many of the kindergarten families at the Popsicle Playdate and have connected with many of the transferring students' families over the summer. Please know that the Martha Jones PTO is available to make connections and offer resources now and throughout the school year.

We encourage all families to get involved with the PTO! It provides a wonderful opportunity to become part of the MJS community, build connections, and share your ideas. We will continue to provide updates to you through newsletters, social media (Martha Jones PTO on Facebook), email, and PTO Meetings (save-date-date for our first meeting on Tuesday, September 26 at 7PM at the MJ Library). Please reach out to us anytime to learn about how to get involved and offer any feedback to help build our school community. We would love to hear your ideas!

Lastly, beginning this year, all parents are automatically enrolled as members of the PTO, granting them access to the online directory without the need to purchase a membership. We still rely on your generous donations and hope you will support our new Annual Contribution Drive!

We hope to see you at the PTO Meet and Greet this **Thursday, September 7** (parent-only event), and wish you all a great school year!

Sincerely,

Katy DiMare and Kristen Donahue
MJS PTO Co-Presidents

WEBSITE & DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Martha Jones PTO is a non-profit organization that takes great pride in supporting our teachers and students. We do this by offering valuable programs, organizing exciting events, and providing essential resources that enhance the educational experience of every student.

Log In or Register for the PTO website in order to stay updated on all PTO events, receive important PTO emails, and stay connected with Room Parent communications. You will also be able to easily update your information, contribute to our Annual Contribution Drive, purchase Birthday Books, and volunteer for various PTO committees and as a Room Parent.

PTO Membership and Directory

Beginning this year, all parents are automatically enrolled as members of the PTO, granting them access to the online directory without the need to purchase a membership. We still rely on your generous donations and hope you will support our new Annual Contribution Drive!

Website Account

Returning Families: To ensure we have the most up-to-date information for your family, please click on the link below to log in and verify your data. Please check out the PTO Welcome Packet to complete registration.

New Families: Click on the link below to register under "New User" and follow the prompts. Your account will take up to 48 hours to be approved and activated. Please check out the PTO Welcome Packet to complete registration.

[LOG IN / REGISTER](#)

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 - Mary Jason, Priscilla Stephen

Martha Jones PTO Board 2023-2024

[Katy DiMare](#), Co-President

[Kristen Donahue](#), Co-President

[Kirsten Bulger](#), Co-Treasurer

[Kristen Gautreau](#), Co-Treasurer

[Mary Jason](#), Co-Secretary

[Priscilla Stephen](#), Co-Secretary

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

[Katie Collins](#), Co-Social Media

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates SY2023 - 2024

September 26, 2023, 7pm

December 5, 2023, 7pm

March 5, 2023, 7pm

May 7, 2023, 7pm



MINI COURSES ARE COMING

Look for an email on Monday from the PTO with the links to the descriptions and schedule.

Registration will open on Thursday, September 14th!

District & Community News You Can Use

A Message from the Westwood Public Library



Teen and Tweens at the Westwood Public Library

- Walking to the Westwood Library after school is a popular activity for many students, particularly on Half Wednesdays and Fridays.
- At times, we have up to 100 students in the library with no direct adult supervision. Please be advised of the impact on the library and overall safety and comfort of everyone trying to use this public building.
- Teens and tweens are considered regular library patrons and must follow the rules of the building. If a patron is not following library rules and behavior guidelines, we will ask them to leave for the day.

We recommend having a conversation with your kids about behavior expectations in public buildings such as the Westwood Public Library. Thank you for your help in this matter!



Beginning String Lessons - 2nd and 3rd grade

2nd and 3rd Grade Families are invited to join us for a free beginner strings experience! Violin & Viola lessons with Ms. Winslow will be Tuesdays from 5-5:45pm at Thurston Middle School. Cello lessons with Mr. Soultz will be Tuesdays at 4:30.

Email awinslow@westwood.k12.ma.us for more information.

[Inspiring Young Musicians: Which Stringed Instrument Should You Choose?](#)



Westwood Youth & Family Services Fall Group Programming

There are a number of programs on offer through the Westwood Youth and Family Services. Registration for all Fall groups began at the end of August and we will be accepting 8 students per group.

Below you'll find the registration links with information on our fall programming.

- Social Smarts: <https://forms.gle/HUxVBUzuUfc38VNQ7>
- Calm & Cope: <https://forms.gle/HUyYZANHY55hDL5W8>

School Calendar

[Click the link](#) for the Westwood 2023-2024 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 lpouffe@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 lpouffe@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 ext. 1346 لك. lpouffe@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 lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.