



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 13 - March 8, 2024

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

Over the past month the Martha Jones has been fortunate to have a number of all school enrichment opportunities. As you know we had Valerie Tutson earlier in February and this week we had a local author, Jef Czekaj, visit us. In addition to highlighting the writing and illustrating process, he encouraged our students to work hard on the things that they love. Mr. Czekaj held other jobs prior to being discovered at Comic Book Convention by Nickelodeon which propelled his career. His multimedia presentation to the students was fun and engaging.

We have also had a number of visits by the Discovery Museum, Top Secret Science, and the WPS Science Coordinator, Kate Doyle, and Science Specialist, Jennie Goossen. These visits allow students to have hands on science experiences that connect to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. For example, our 1st graders learned about lights and lasers this week. Ms. Doyle and Mrs. Goosen used a fog machine to show how light waves worked. While I held my breath that the fog machines didn't inadvertently set off our smoke detectors, the students were engrossed in learning how light waves moved. The students had a fun time learning and we didn't have an unanticipated fire drill (Wednesday's fire drill was planned).

Thank you!

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones
Principal

Girls on the Run - Only A Couple Spaces Left!

Dear Parents of Girls in Grade 3 - 5,

We are excited to announce that Girls on the Run is coming to Martha Jones Elementary this Spring!! Girls on the Run is much more than a running program. It is designed to support girls' physical and emotional health and growth. Girls have fun making connections and meeting new friends. Girls get outside, set goals, and move more. Girls learn intentional decision making, how to use their voice, and become confident leaders.

Led by dedicated volunteer coaches, Amy Spiegel and Janine Tateosian, practices will be Monday and Wednesdays from 3:30 - 5:00, EXCEPT on half-day Wednesdays which will be from 12:30 - 2:00, and girls should bring a lunch. In the event of rain, we will have NO practice that day due to extended day.

The season will culminate with a celebratory 5K on Saturday, June 1st.

An email will be sent on Monday, February 19 with information about registration. Note that we have 23 slots available, registration will close after that has been reached.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Amy Spiegel at amyspiegs@yahoo.com



Martha Jones - Westwood _GOTR SP 24 Participant Flier.pdf

Download

1.5 MB

News from Student Council

The Student Council has a busy March planned.

Thursday, March 14th will be: Wear Your Favorite Color Day. Students and staff are welcome to dress head to toe in their favorite color.

We have been asked to help support [Ediie's Food Drive](#). Martha Jones will be one of the drop-off locations. Please take a look at the attached flyer and consider donating needed items for the Westwood Food Pantry. There will be a collection box in the front lobby from March 25th- April 15th.

[Got Sneakers?](#)

The Westwood science coordinators have organized a sneaker collection drive in honor of Earth Day. This is a whole-district effort to collect and recycle athletic shoes with the goal of keeping them out of landfills. The organization that is linked above will pay for each pair donated. The shoe drive runs now until April 22nd. They do not accept any other kinds of shoes, just athletic sneakers. The Student Council will be supporting this drive by making posters and getting the word out to all M.J. Students.

Thank you for your support!

Martha Jones 5th Grade Student Council



Important Upcoming Events

Mon. - Wed. Mar. 4 - 20 - MJ PTO Westwood Gear Sale

Fri - Fri. Mar. 8 - 15 - MJ PTO Read-A-Thon

Sat. Mar. 9 - MJ PTO Parent Social

Fri. Mar. 15 - Gr. 5 Field Trip, McAuliffe Center

Wed. Mar. 20- Early Release at 12:00pm

Fri. Mar. 22 - K Field Trip, Discovery Museum

Tue. Mar. 26 - Gr. 5 Enrichment, Top Secret Science, States of Matter

Wed. Mar. 27 - Gr. 2 Field Trip, Hanover Theater

Fri. Mar. 29 - Good Friday, No School

Mon. Apr. 1 - MJ PTO Square-1 Art catalogues go home

Tues. Apr. 2 - ELA MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5)

Wed. Apr. 3 - Early Release at 12:00pm, Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon & evening)
Thurs. Apr. 4 - ELA MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5)
Wed. Apr. 10 - Early Release at 12:00pm, Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon)
Wed. Apr. 10 - Math League District Meet
Thu. Apr. 11 - MJ PTO Stem Fair
Fri. Apr. 12 - Gr. 5 [Chorus](#) Concert
Mon. Apr. 15 - Fri. Apr. 19 - April Recess - No School
Wed. Apr. 24 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Fri. Apr. 26 - Gr 3 Field Trip, Sasaki
Fri. Apr. 26 - MJ PTO Family Movie Night
Wed. May 1 - Walk to School Day
Wed. May 1 - Art Fair
Fri. May 3 - Talent For A Cause Performance
Tues. May 7 - Math MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5)
Wed. May 8 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Thurs. May 9 - Math MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5)
Fri. May 10 - [Shaw Pong Liu](#) - Exploring China: "The Middle Kingdom" through Music and Story
Fri. May 10 - MJ PTO International Night
Tues. May 14 - STE MCAS (Gr. 5 only)
Wed. May 15 - Gr. 1 Enrichment - Rainforest Reptiles
Wed. May 15 - Gr. 4 Field Trip, Harvard
Thurs. May 16 - STE MCAS (Gr. 5 only)
Thurs. May 16 - [Gr. 3 Body Safety Theater](#)
Wed. May 22 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Fri. May 24 - Gr. 1 Field Trip, Stone Zoo
Mon. May 27 - Memorial Day - No School
Tues. May 28 - Gr. 3 Enrichment, Colonial Trades, Making Community Work
Wed. May 29 - Gr. 2 Enrichment, CT. Childrens Museum, Animal Adaptations and Habitats
Thurs. May 30 - Gr. 4 Enrichment, Discovery Museum, Sound Waves
Fri. May 31 - Field Day (Rain Date June 7)
Mon. June 3 - All School Enrichment, Author Visit, [Daryl Cobb](#)
Wed. June 5 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Wed. June 5 - 5th Grade Band Concert WHS (Begins 7:00 pm, 5:30 Student Arrival)
Thurs. June 6 - K Enrichment, Discovery Museum, Bubbles
Mon. June 10 - Gr. 5 Day to Hale Reservation (District Programming)
Fri. June 14 - Students' Last Day (Tentative - w/ one snow day)

MCAS Dates

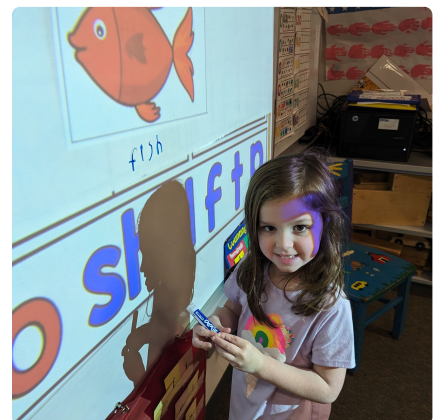
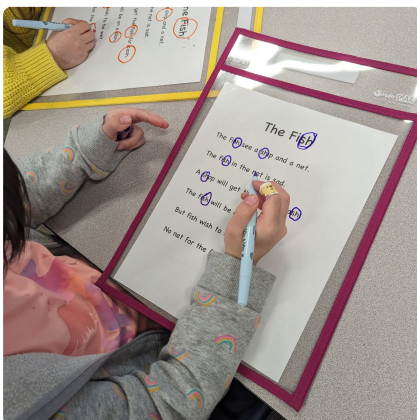
We are planning to conduct MCAS testing on the following dates:

April 2 and April 4 - ELA (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
May 7 and May 9 - Math (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
May 14 and May 16 - STE (Gr. 5 only)

News from the MJ Classroom's



News from KL (Mrs. Layton)

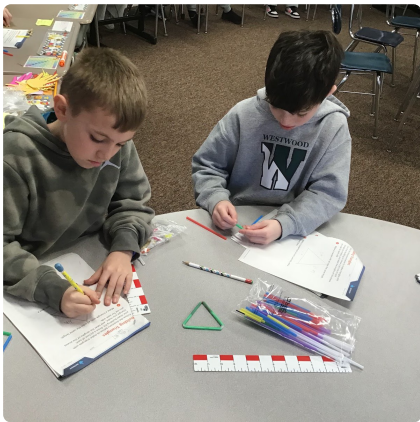
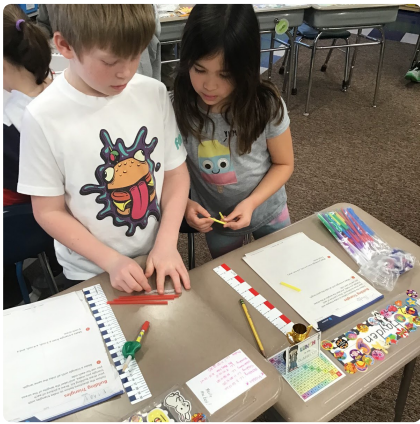
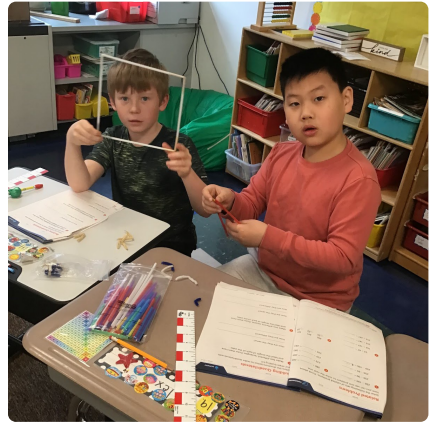
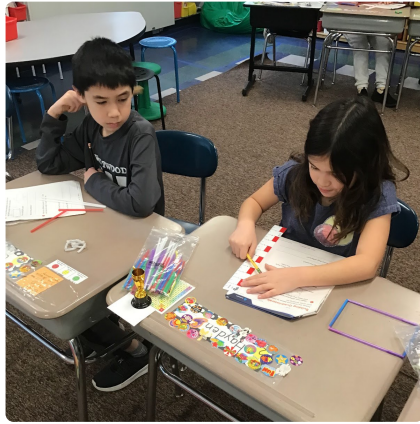
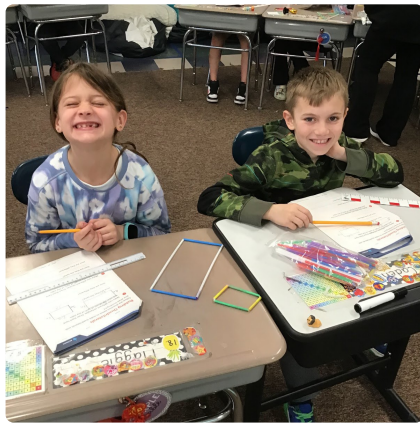
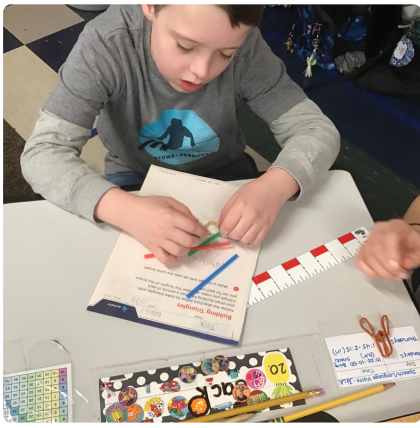


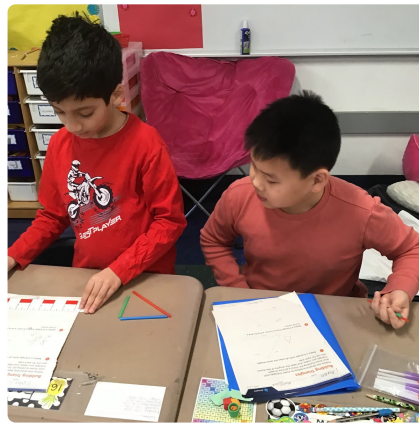
What is a digraph?

In Kindergraten, we have begun exploring digraphs during our literacy block. A digraph is made up of two letters that work together to make one unique sound. For example, "sh" in the word shop creates one single phoneme (sound). The "s" and "h" have two distinct sounds, but used together they represent the sound /sh/.

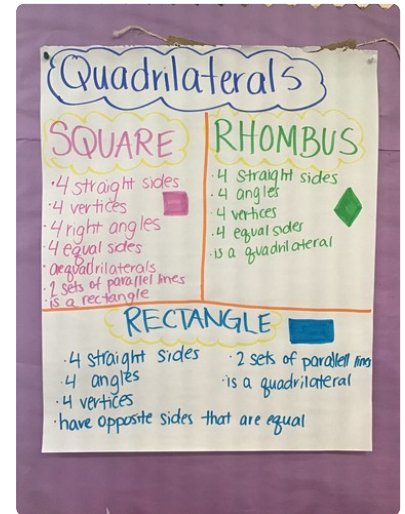


News from 3K (Ms. Krumsiek)





In math, third graders have been studying the different attributes of quadrilaterals and triangles. They have been building various polygons and noticing the similarities and differences between them.



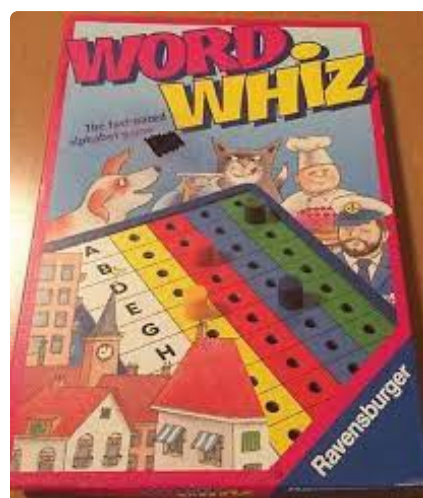
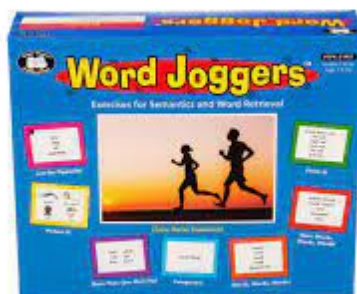
News from Music (Mrs. Saada-Smith)





3rd Graders in Mrs. Saada-Smith's music classes have recently started to learn the recorder! Pictured are 3K and 3Lu playing their favorite song, Billy's Song!

News from Mrs. Tucceri - Speech Language Corner



Many of the students in speech have been working on improving their word-finding abilities. Word-finding difficulties in children can pose significant challenges in communication and academic performance. These struggles often manifest as difficulty retrieving specific words or recalling vocabulary during conversations or when expressing thoughts. To assist children with word-finding difficulties, engaging in language-rich activities like word games can be beneficial. Games such as Charades, Scattergories, Word Whiz, and Word Joggers can help stimulate word retrieval skills in a

fun and interactive manner. Additionally, incorporating activities that encourage categorization and semantic organization, such as sorting games or creating word webs, can enhance word recall abilities. Moreover, providing a supportive and patient environment where children feel encouraged to express themselves without fear of judgment can facilitate their language development and confidence in verbal communication. Through these strategies, children can improve their word-finding abilities while enjoying the process of learning and playing.



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News

MARCH PTO MEETING

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the March 5th PTO meeting. If you were not able to join us, preliminary meeting minutes are posted on the Martha Jones Website and in the PTO Membership Toolkit!

CALL FOR NEW PTO BOARD MEMBERS!

We are looking for new PTO Board Members for next school year! Every year, there are co-positions for each role (president, treasurer, secretary, and social media). Board members fulfill a two-year term, so incoming members have the opportunity to shadow someone in the position before taking on the role as the lead. A PTO Board Position is a great way to meet more people in the Martha Jones community and to support our school! If you think you might be interested or have questions about these positions, please feel free to reach out to Katy DiMare or Kristen Donahue!

MJ PTO Upcoming Dates

Mark your calendars! Here are some of the PTO events happening at the Martha Jones in the upcoming months. Scroll down for more detailed information.

- March 8th - 15th Read-A-Thon
- March 9th Parent Social, Rewind to the 90's Party!
- March 12th Book Fair with Park Street Books
- April 11th STEM Fair
- April 26th Family Movie Night
- May 10th International Night Celebration

READING IS OUR SUPERPOWER!

From **Friday, March 8th through Friday, March 15th**, Martha Jones students are invited to participate in our annual **Read-A-Thon**. This event is designed to encourage children to read beyond their current daily amounts and cultivate a community of readers!



Reading progress will be logged by caregivers via the [Read-A-Thon Tracker](#) on the PTO Website. Students will also be able to see the progress of their classes on a bulletin board at school. All

reading must be logged by 9pm on Friday, March 15th!

Students in the classes that log the most hours/books read throughout the one-week period will receive individual \$10 gift certificates to Park Street Books! There will be one winning class for grades K & 1, one winning class for grades 2 & 3, and one winning class for grades 4 & 5. These classes will be announced on Monday, March 18th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Wright at kelferso@hotmail.com.

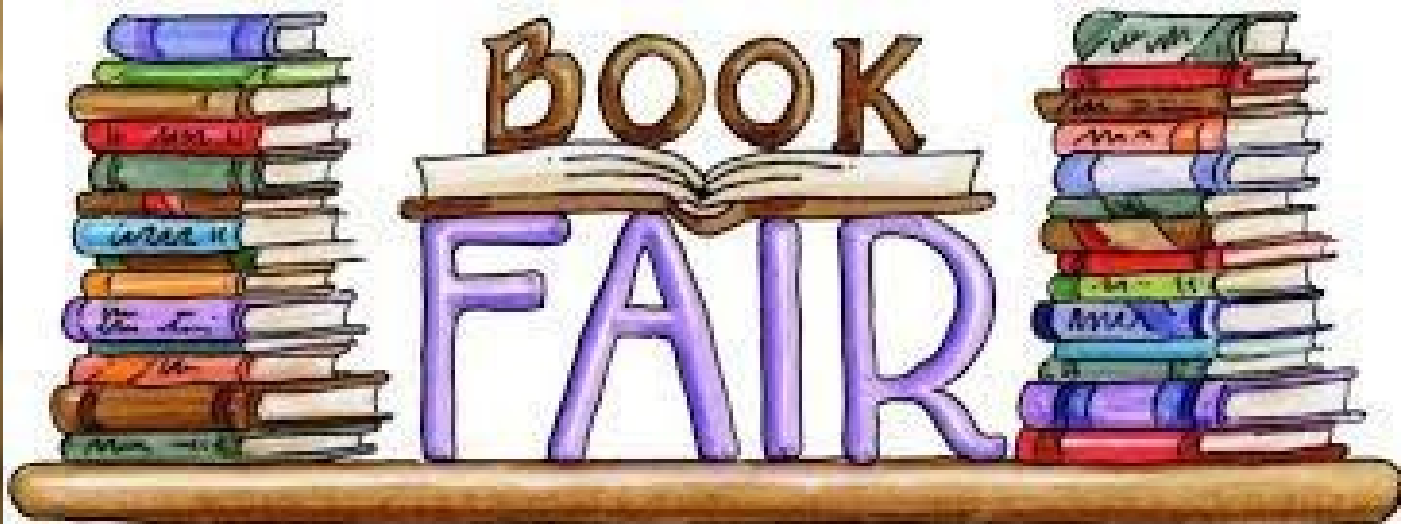


MJS Parent Social - Tomorrow Night!!

Let's rewind to the 90s! You are invited to the totally rad Martha Jones PTO Parent Social this Saturday, March 9th from 7-11pm. Get ready for non-stop dancing to the incredible tunes of the [Up All Night Band](#)! Leave the kids at home and join us for a night of fun with other parents. This party is open to all and not exclusive to Martha Jones parents, so bring your friends along! Tickets are \$50 per person in advance or \$60 at the door. Buy your admissions and raffle tickets [here](#)! Remember, the grade-level with the highest number of parent tickets represented will be awarded a comfy, cozy pajama day!



Our Parent Social Auction is [Live](#)! Even if you cannot attend, you are welcome to bid on these fantastic auction items, including priceless teacher experiences! Thank you to all of the MJ community members who have donated auction items and/or their time. This fundraiser is so important for funding future PTO events and contributions to the school community!



Book Fair & Read-a-Thon

On Tuesday, March 12th, Park Street Books will be at the Martha Jones School for a book fair! Each student will have the opportunity to shop with their class during a designated time listed [here](#). On the same day, parents and guardians may come to shop with their child(ren) from 8:15 - 8:45 am or from 3:00 - 3:30 pm.



Students will need to bring cash to shop during their allocated time.

We are looking for at least 2 parent volunteers for each time slot listed; you may sign up to volunteer [here](#).

The Book Fair is always an exciting time for students to browse and shop for new books with their classmates! **Thank you** to the Book Fair Committee for organizing this event!



STEM FAIR

The Martha Jones **STEM Fair** will be held on **Thursday, April 11th** from **6:30 - 7:30 pm**. The STEM Fair is an annual event for students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math topics and to present their own projects to the Martha Jones community.

Scientists can work individually or in groups of 2 or 3. Interested students can register a project on the PTO website - [Student Project Registration](#). For project ideas, see this [resource](#)! Projects are completed outside of school and showcased at the fair on April 11th.



All are welcome to attend the fair, regardless of participation in the student projects!

Family Movie Night

Mark your calendars for the highly anticipated return of Martha Jones movie night on April 26th from 5:30-8:30pm! Get ready for an evening filled with outdoor games, prizes, music, and a captivating movie screening inside the school gym. Kids will be treated to complimentary popcorn, snacks, and refreshing water. Don't forget to bring your family and siblings along for this unforgettable event!



International Night

Celebrating & showcasing cultures from various countries around the world!

Save the date! On Friday, May 10th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Martha Jones School is hosting its first-ever **International Night Celebration**, and you're invited! Join us for a night of fun, food, and festivities as we celebrate the diverse cultures that make our school community so special. From exciting performances to delicious international cuisine, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Get ready for a memorable evening of togetherness and global exploration! Sign-up [here](#) to host a table, share food, music, photos, or a performance!



BIRTHDAY BOOKS & LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate in the [PTO Birthday Book Program](#)! Ms. Swimming has selected some fantastic books that students have requested, but the Martha Jones library does not currently have. During their birthday month, participating children are invited to the library to pick a brand new book from this collection. A bookplate commemorating your child's birthday will be placed inside the front cover and they will be the very first student to borrow this book! Once they've finished reading it, the book will be returned to the library's collection, where it can be enjoyed for years to come. The cost of this program is \$15 per student.

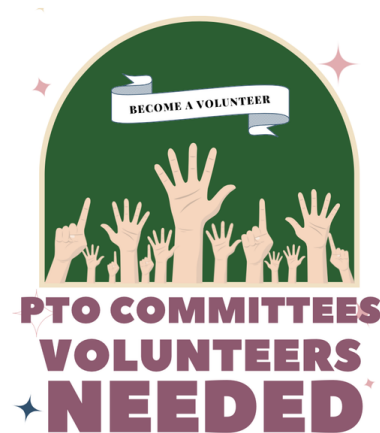


[Sign-up](#) as a **Library Volunteer**! Mrs. Swinning needs one parent per class to help check-in, shelve, and check-out books. This is a great opportunity to get into the school, interact with your child's class, and support the library program!

WEBSITE & DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Log in or register on the [PTO website](#) to stay updated on all PTO events, receive important PTO emails, and stay connected with Room Parent communications. You will also be able to update your information, contribute to our Annual Contribution Drive, purchase Birthday Books, and volunteer for various PTO committees or in the Library!

Many of our committees are still looking for volunteers. Volunteering for a committee is a great way to get involved, meet other parents, and support our school community! [Sign-up today!](#)



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 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

May 7, 2023, 7pm

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](#)

District & Community News You Can Use

SEPAC

Please see the [Westwood Special Education Parents Action Committee \(SEPAC\) website](https://www.westwoodsepac.org/) with all upcoming events.



March 2024 Westwood SEPAC Events

We hope you'll join us! For the most up-to-date event details and to RSVP, visit www.westwoodsepac.org/events.

- Tuesday, 3/5: Morning Coffee with Sue Maselli, Director of Student Services, 9:30-11AM @ Muffin House Cafe
- Friday, 3/15: Friday, Parent Night Out! 7:00PM @ Conrads in Norwood
- Wednesday, 3/20: SEPAC General Meeting, 7:30-9:00PM @ the Westwood Public Library or on Zoom



School Calendar

[Click the link](#) for the Westwood 2023-2024 school calendar.

Links to [Westwood Community Resources](#). The link will take you to the Interface Referral Service for Mental Health Supports. This service helps to facilitate access to outpatient services. Additionally, on the page there are links to Westwood Youth and Family Services, the Food Pantry, Council on Aging, Westwood Community Chest, and many more.

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。

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



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

