

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 2 - September 22, 2023

Principal's Message

MJ,

It was great to see our community come together at last night's Curriculum Night. It was a pleasure to see so many engaged and enthusiastic parents and caregivers actively participating in their child's academic journey. The energy and enthusiasm as students led you through their classrooms and daily routines was what we hoped the night would accomplish. While there were physical handouts of the curriculum available last night, if you were unable to attend, here are the [Massachusetts Curricular Standards](#) that we use at each grade level. If you were able to attend last night, I am asking for your [feedback](#) to gauge the effectiveness of our approach and ways we can improve.

With the weather getting cooler, I anticipate that students will be wearing more layers. Please label your students clothing. It's amazing how often clothing gets lost as we enter the cooler months.

Finally, with the new year, we know you may feel inundated with forms, School Dismissal Manager, announcements, etc. An important task that we ask families to do every year is to keep Aspen up to date with annual sign offs and permissions, and we thank all the families that have completed those sign offs this fall.

In reviewing responses, it appears that there may be some confusion about the 'Media Permission' option. We often update our [Martha Jones website](#) and the [District website](#) with photos of our students. In addition, we also make videos highlighting your child's school day for our Martha

Jones families to enjoy. Occasionally, the District office may select some pictures to share through media platforms.

If you inadvertently selected 'No' for the 'Media Permission' option in your Aspen account or if you wish to change your previous selection, please return to your student(s)' account in Aspen and make the appropriate adjustment.

If you have specific concerns or questions about media permission options, please contact me directly.

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones School
Principal



Important Upcoming Events

Mon. Sept. 25 - Yom Kippur NO SCHOOL

Tue. Sept 26 - MJ PTO Mini Course start

Tue. Sept 26 - PTO Meeting at 7:00pm

Sun. Oct 1 - SEPAC Fall Social 1:00-3:00, MJ Playground, All WPS families invited

Wed. Oct. 4 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Fri. Oct. 6 - [PTO Corn Hole Event](#)

Mon. Oct. 9 - Columbus Day NO SCHOOL

Wed. Oct. 18 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Wed. Oct. 25 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Fri. Oct. 27 - MJ PTO Haunted Hallway Event
Wed. Nov. 1 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Wed. Nov. 8 - Picture Retake Day (morning)
Fri. Nov. 10 - Veterans Day NO SCHOOL
Wed. Nov. 15 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Wed. Nov. 22 - Early Release
Thrs. Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Recess NO SCHOOL
Fri. Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Recess NO SCHOOL
Mon. Nov. 27 - Teacher In Service Day NO SCHOOL

Media Reminders & Aspen Portal

We encourage all parents to sign the media/photo release in Aspen. This will allow your child to be photographed in school for classroom happenings, including but not limited to – when teachers take pictures of students engaging in fun learning activities for Leaps, our newsletter, any school performances, fun events such as the family picnic night and the PTO Sponsored Haunted Hallway in October, and when special visitors are here, such as when the meteorologist comes to talk about the weather and the students get to give a shout out on television. Students who do not have a photo/media release will need to be excluded from the photographs.

You will find the release form and more information on the WPS Technology policies in the [Elementary Handbook](#).



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 the office if you have any questions about the media or directory permissions. Changes may be made by [updating your Aspen account online](#).



Important Notes from the MJ Health Office

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.

As always please do not hesitate to reach out to me with your health questions.

Thank you for supporting a healthy learning environment at MJ!

Nurse Doyle

jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us

781-326-7500 x 6263



Bus Reminders

For those families who have signed up for bus services this is just a quick reminder that 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.

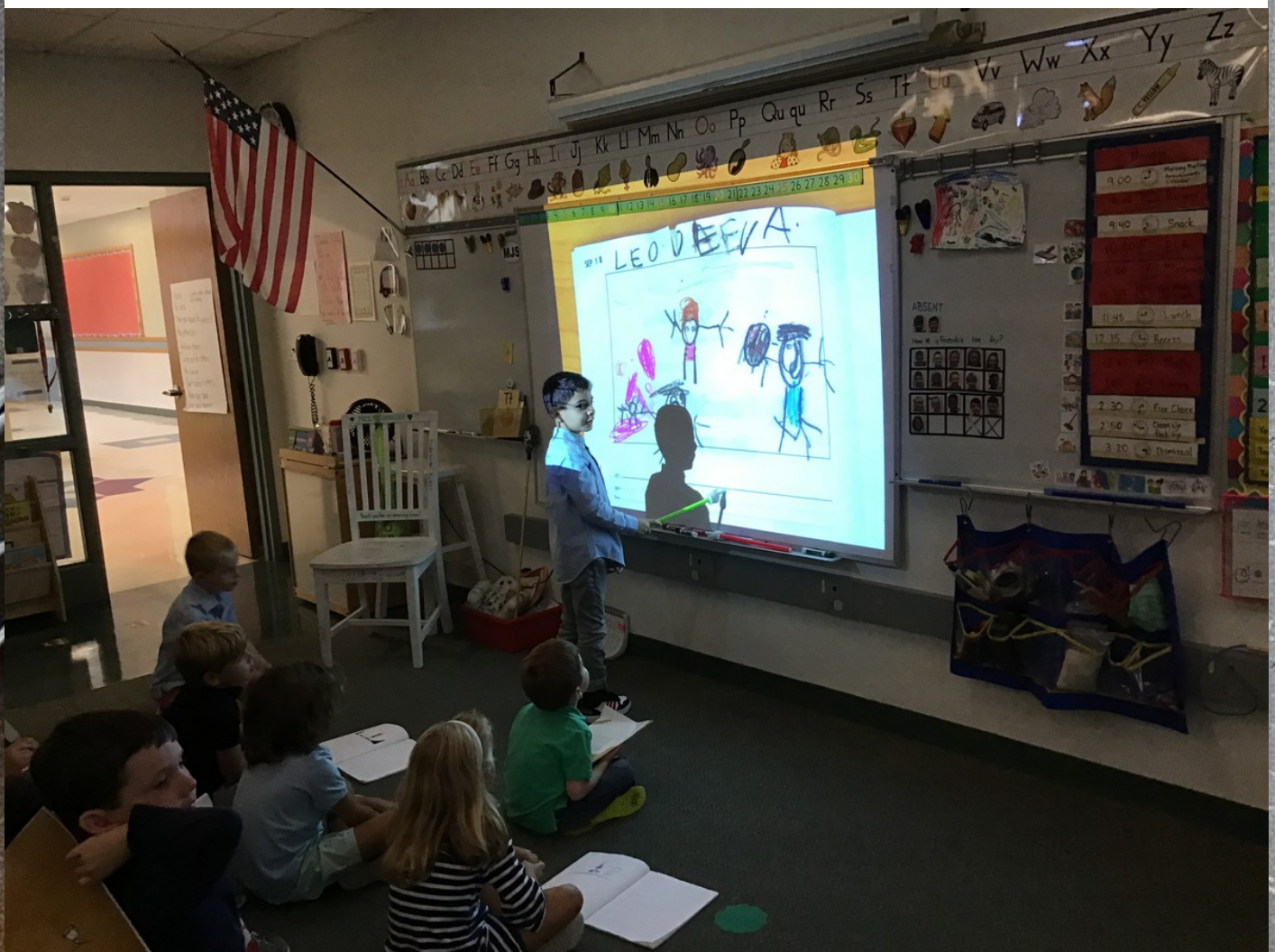
A full list of Transportation FAQs can be found on the [WPS District website](#).



MINI COURSES ARE STARTING Tuesday, September 26, 2023

If you have signed your child(s) up for the MJ PTO Fall Mini Courses please be sure you also update the dismissal change in SDM. Thank you

News from the MJ Classroom's News from KM (Mrs. McDonough)

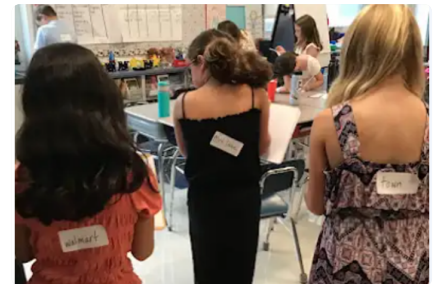
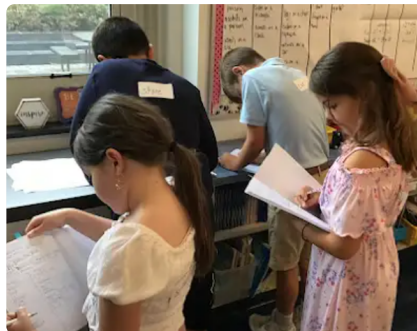
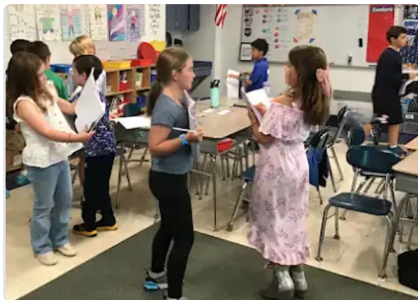




The Kindergarteners in KM are learning all new routines and expectations in their new classroom. Our math, reading and writing workshops are all up and running. We have been exploring math manipulatives, writing stories and have started on our journey to become Super Readers!

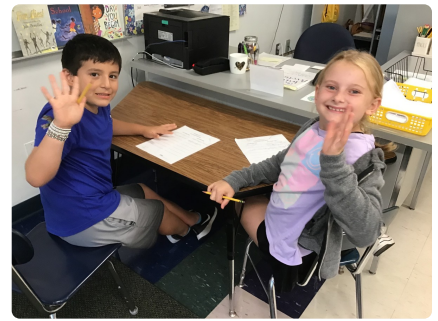
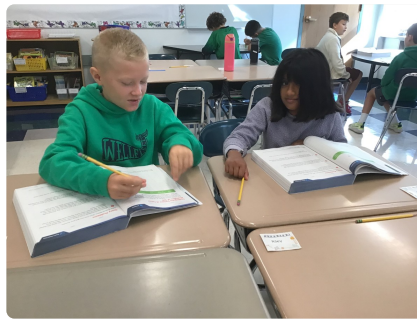
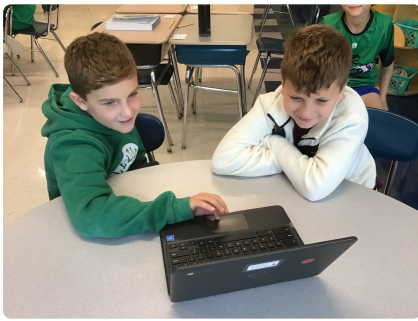


News from 3La (Mrs. Lane)

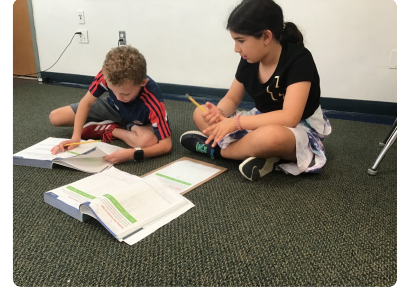


The students in 3 Lane were doing a word study activity. They each got a label stuck on their back with a study word written on it. The word was either a common noun or a proper noun. They had to walk around the room reading the words on their classmates' backs and writing the word in their word study journal, where they had to sort it correctly in the common noun or the proper noun section.

News from 4B (Ms. Bass)



4B students have been learning about the relationship between factors and multiples. This week, students were challenged to investigate the following question: do the multiples of any given number have the same factors? Fourth graders worked in partnerships to determine all of the factors of 100, as well as the factors of its multiples, e.g. 200, 300, and 400. As a class, we affirmed that the multiples of a number will always share factors. This kind of work will further assist students as they endeavor to increase their fact fluency and solve multiplication and division problems.



News from Ms. Harrison



SMART GOALS

S

SPECIFIC

Simple, Significant, Sensible

M

MEASURABLE

Meaningful, Motivating

A

ACHIEVABLE

Attainable, Actionable

R

RELEVANT

Reasonable, Realistic, Results-based

T

TIME-BOUND

Time-based, Time-limited

GOALS

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In our Learning Center, we are learning about goal setting! We are working on creating goals for ourselves and learning how to measure our progress. We will be earning badges this year for all of our hard work!



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News

A Letter from the PTO Co-President

Dear Martha Jones Families,

My name is Katy DiMare and I am the parent of a MJS 2nd grader, Jack, and a future MJS student, Mary Kate. I am PTO co-president this year along with Kristen Donahue (parent of 4th grader Gavin, kindergartener Eila and Ronan who just started middle school!) and I am incredibly excited for the 2023-2024 school year at Martha Jones. We kicked off the year with the Kindergarten Popsicle Party, the PTO Meet & Greet and the Family Picnic. You have also recently received an invitation for our Cornhole Tournament (Friday, October 6) and will learn more soon about our annual Halloween Haunted Hallway (Friday, October 27) along with many other exciting events throughout the year. I truly hope you will join us!

I would like to highlight a few of our PTO activities and initiatives for the upcoming school year. We have many enrichment activities planned to include classroom visits by the Discovery Museum and school-wide events such as Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics and a visit from a historical figure by Sheryl Faye.

We continuously fund Teacher Innovation Grants. Last year, we awarded applications that included 3D pens for the library, drones for Technology and "Math Mysteries" for the 5th grade.

Teacher appreciation is an important initiative of the PTO. We love our teachers! We recently provided a back-to-school lunch and provided each teacher a stipend to fund classroom supplies. We have more appreciation activities planned for the year through our PTO Hospitality and Teacher Appreciation committees.

We will fund end-of-year celebration for our graduating 5th grade class with a memorable gift and their yearbook.

We have recently funded an outdoor garden and our MJ Garden Committee has installed 6 (3 x 8) raised garden beds (one for each grade) which is serving as an outdoor classroom for students to learn and explore. We have already received great feedback from the kindergarten teachers!

We cannot do all of this without your support! We are aiming to raise \$7,000 from our annual PTO drive. Every donation, no matter the amount, is appreciated and important in helping us reach our goals. Please visit <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/> to make your donation today.

While on our site, please log in or register to ensure your contact information is correct. In the past, we have asked caregivers to join the PTO and a benefit would be access to the school directory. This year, we are granting access to all families who register on our site.

Lastly, please consider joining one of our committees. We have many volunteer opportunities to accommodate different interests and availability.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions, ideas or feedback. I hope to see you at our first PTO meeting of this school year next Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. in the MJS library.

Sincerely,

Katy DiMare

katy.dimare@gmail.com

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

March 5, 2023, 7pm

May 7, 2023, 7pm



District & Community News You Can Use
A Message from the Westwood Public Library



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. Soultis will be Tuesdays at 4:30.

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

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

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。

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لك. lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us اطلب كنتشكر أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك 1346

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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

