



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 5 - November 3, 2023

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

As we end the October, I would like to thank the PTO for all of their support and effort in organizing, coordinating and executing all of the events that have occurred already and those in the works. This past Friday's Halloween Carnival was very well done and I am appreciative of the sensory friendly time for kiddos who benefit from it or who might be more fearful of the decorations or activities.

Additionally, I'd like to highlight a great opportunity for our MJ students and a way for parents/caregivers to be actively involved in our community. The PTO will again be running the MJ Math League. The Math League is open to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders of all math abilities. The goal is to make math fun and accessible by showing kids they have the ability to successfully take on new math challenges. It meets Friday mornings before school at Martha Jones (7:55-8:40am) and runs from November 17, 2023 through mid-April. Each grade will compete in a math meet against other Westwood Elementary schools in April. Registration is open until Friday, November 10, 2023. To register, please complete [this form](#). GO MJ!

In order for the program to run, parent/caregiver volunteers are needed. Therefore, we ask that if your child participates, you volunteer for at least 3 mornings. If you have any questions, call, text,

or email Galina Yatsenko at gyatsenko@gmail.com or 919-368-3426 or Christina Gelsomini at christina@gelsomini.org or 678-386-8280.

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones School
Principal

Important Upcoming Events

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 at 12:10pm - No Lunch Served

Thrs. Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving Recess NO SCHOOL

Fri. Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Recess NO SCHOOL

Mon. Nov. 27 - Teacher In Service Day NO SCHOOL

Wed. Nov. 29 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Fri. Dec. 1 - 5th Grade Play

Wed. Dec. 13 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Fri. Dec. 22 - Early Release

Mon. Dec. 25-Mon. Jan. 1 - Winter Recess

Tues. Jan. 2 - School Resumes

Message from the Front Office

Picture Retake Day is Wednesday, November 8th in the morning.

If you are not completely satisfied with your child's student portrait and would like another try, you have the opportunity for a retake on Wednesday, November 8th.

Please return the undamaged portrait package to the photographer on Retake Day (11/8). If you have any specific instructions for the photographer, please jot them down so they show through the envelope window and can be easily spotted.

Retake packages will be distributed to MJ in approximately 5 weeks following Retake Day.

You can also reach out to the folks at CoffeePond if you have further questions:

Telephone: 508-907-6633 x 0, email: lifeguards@coffeepond.com, webpage: www.coffeepond.com

Please note the 5th grade group picture will be taken promptly at 9AM on the structure!



News from the MJ Classroom's





News from 3Lu (Mrs. Luskin)

Students in Mrs. Luskin's third grade class partnered up with our science coach, Mrs. Goosen, to explore traits and selection with pumpkins.



News from KO (Ms. O'Neil)

The Westwood firefighters came to visit our class last week. They taught us about how to get help in an emergency and showed us what their equipment is like.



News from the Music (Mrs. Pickering)

Students in 2H learned a singing and passing game from Ghana, Africa called "Obwisana". In the picture below, you will see bean bags passed in the circle and tubano drums played with the song. The musicians worked together to play the game!

The fourth graders learned challenging body percussion to go with the music "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg. The musicians tried it all together with the entire class and then got into small groups to demonstrate the body percussion on Seesaw.

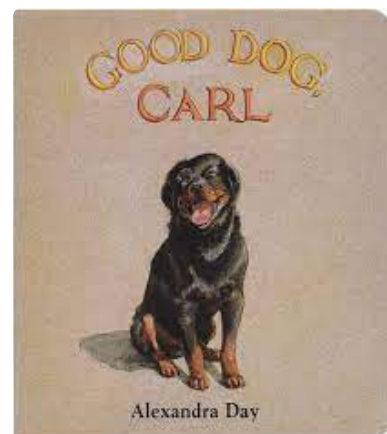
News from the Mrs. Tucceri

frog, where are you? by mercer mayer



Speech and Language News with Mrs. Tucceri:

During speech-language sessions, many students have been working on developing their storytelling skills. Developing oral narratives in school-age children is essential for enhancing their communication and cognitive skills. One effective method is through the use of wordless books, which encourage children to construct their own stories based on the visual cues provided. Two examples are *frog where are you?* by Mercer Mayer and *Good Dog, Carl* by Alexandra Day. These books stimulate creativity, comprehension, and language development as children explore the illustrations and articulate their interpretations. Additionally, engaging in open-ended discussions, encouraging imaginative play, and promoting storytelling activities can further nurture a child's ability to organize thoughts, express ideas coherently, and build a strong foundation for both written and oral communication skills. By fostering the art of oral narration, educators and parents can empower children to become effective communicators and confident storytellers.



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

A BIG THANK YOU TO...

- Beth Klaene, Danielle Kramer, and Jessica Bunnell for organizing an amazing **MJS Halloween Party!** We are so appreciative of the time spent creating such a memorable event for our children and caregivers. And thank you to all the volunteers and families who came out to make the event such a huge success!
- Everyone who generously contributed to our Annual PTO drive. We're so excited to share that we've met our fundraising goal, which will help us in our efforts to fund enrichment opportunities and community activities at the Martha Jones!

A FEW REMINDERS!

THE WESTWOOD GEAR SALE HAS BEEN EXTENDED!

The [Westwood Gear Sale](#) has been extended, so you still have time to shop! It's a great opportunity to find gifts for the holiday season or load up on gear for upcoming Martha Jones Spirit Days! Orders can be placed by **Monday, November 6th** and are expected to arrive by early December. Your purchase will directly support the MJS!



OUR CHARLESTON WRAP FUNDRAISER HAS LAUNCHED

We are excited to announce the start of our holiday shopping fundraiser with Charleston Wrap. The store includes gift wrapping supplies, delicious treats, candles, and more! This is a convenient way to shop for the holidays, while also supporting the PTO. Get your orders in by **Tuesday, November 7th**. Click [here](#) to start shopping, or scan the QR code below!

REGISTER. SHARE. SHOP.
SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

Check-off your holiday gift list today and help our important cause.
From holiday to hostess to corporate gifts and more,
our online store has something for every occasion - even if it's just for you!

Our Organization ID: **26898**

#1 REGISTER	#2 SHARE	#3 SHOP
Register participant at www.registernow.com to access our handy invitation tools in the Participant Portal. Very important!	Invite friends and family to support! Share a link to the sale using the TEXT & EMAIL invitation tools. Don't forget to share on SOCIAL MEDIA, too!	Go online to SHOP and help us reach our GOAL today! With over 2,500 gift ideas there is something for everyone, including you!

JOIN MATH LEAGUE!

The MJ Math League is open to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders of all math abilities. Math League will meet before school on Fridays from 8:00 - 8:45 AM, beginning November 17th and running through mid-April. The goal is to make math fun and accessible by showing kids they have the ability to take on new math challenges! To register a student, please complete [this form](#) before Friday, November 10th.

In order for the program to run, **parent/guardian volunteers are needed**. Therefore, we ask that if your child participates, you volunteer for **at least 3 mornings**. Please let us know if this is not possible for your family, and we will do our best to accommodate. Parents/guardians must have an active CORI to volunteer.

Call, text, or email Galina or Christina with any questions:

- Galina Yatsenko at gyatsenko@gmail.com or 919-368-3426
- Christina Gelsomini at christina@gelsomini.org or 678-386-8280

BIRTHDAY BOOKS & LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

- 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. [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

September 26, 2023, 7pm

December 5, 2023, 7pm

March 5, 2023, 7pm

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 Stephan](#)

District & Community News You Can Use

Westwood Youth and Family Services

We can't believe it is already time to be share information about our Winter group programming for Kindergarten-5th graders through Westwood Youth and Family Services. Registration for all Winter groups begins on November 6th at 9am and we will be accepting 8 students per group.

Below you'll find group flyers that we encourage you to please share with your school community in an upcoming family communication and/or when you're talking with parents/caregivers whose children may benefit from these programs.

Please check out the group flyers below. The online registration links for each group are also provided here.

- Social Smarts for K/1 & 2/3:

<https://forms.gle/xaG11jQ22pdZXFJo6>

- Social Solutions for 4/5: <https://forms.gle/7atVRYV1A21M4D8J8>



Please let us know if we can answer any questions. If you would like to learn more about the services we provide to Westwood children and families please visit our website:

<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services> or follow us on Instagram and Facebook @westwoodyfs.

The flyer has a vibrant background with purple, yellow, and green wavy shapes. At the top left is the Westwood Youth & Family Services logo. The title "SOCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR 4TH & 5TH GRADERS" is in large, bold, purple letters. Below the title, text describes the program as a free clinical group focusing on communication and social challenges. A circular photo shows three children smiling. Another circular photo shows two children interacting. A purple circle contains the text "ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS NOVEMBER 6TH". A pink box at the bottom contains the schedule and location: "Wednesdays, January 10th-March 6th @ 4-5pm Wentworth Hall - 273 Washington Street". Contact information for Shea Staffa-Lonergan is provided. The website URL is at the bottom.


Westwood Youth & Family Services

SOCIAL SOLUTIONS FOR 4TH & 5TH GRADERS

This free clinical group will focus on learning about communication, navigating social challenges, and working collaboratively through interactive activities. This group is open to all Westwood residents and students of Westwood Public Schools.



ONLINE
REGISTRATION
BEGINS
NOVEMBER
6TH

Wednesdays, January 10th-March 6th @ 4-5pm
Wentworth Hall - 273 Washington Street

For more information: contact Shea Staffa-Lonergan, LICSW
slonergan@townhall.westwood.ma.us, or 781-355-8402



www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services

SOCIAL SMARTS

This free clinical group will focus on learning about communication, recognizing personal strengths, and working collaboratively through interactive activities. This group is open to all Westwood residents and students of Westwood Public Schools.

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS NOVEMBER 6TH

Winter 2024 Offerings
 K/1st graders: Thursdays, January 11th - March 8th @ 4-5pm
 2nd/3rd graders: Tuesdays, January 9th - March 5th @ 4-5pm
 Wentworth Hall - 273 Washington Street

For more information: contact Shea Staffa-Lonergan, LICSW
 slonergan@townhall.westwood.ma.us, or 781-355-8402

www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services

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。

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](mailto:lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) أو على البريد الإلكتروني 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

