



# 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 6 - November 17, 2023

## **Principal's Message**

MJ Community,

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude and thankfulness for the incredible community we have here at Martha Jones. It is a privilege to serve as the principal of a school where students, parents, teachers, and staff come together to create a nurturing and inspiring educational environment.

Gratitude is a powerful emotion, and it can bring about a multitude of benefits in our lives. When we express gratitude, we not only acknowledge the good things we have, but we also foster a sense of well-being and interconnectedness with those around us. This sense of unity and appreciation is something I witness every day at our school.

First and foremost, I am grateful for our dedicated and passionate teachers who work tirelessly to ensure our students receive the best education possible. Their commitment to nurturing young minds and fostering a love of learning is truly remarkable. I am continually inspired by their creativity and dedication.

I also want to express my thanks to the parents and caregivers who play an essential role in their child's education. Your involvement, support, and partnership with our school are invaluable. It

takes a village to raise a child, and we are fortunate to have such a supportive community.

Our wonderful students are a constant source of inspiration and joy. Their curiosity, enthusiasm, and resilience remind us of the beauty of education. I'm thankful for the opportunity to witness their growth and development.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the hardworking staff members who keep our school running smoothly, from the custodians who maintain a clean and safe environment to the support staff and our front office team who support our daily operations.

During this season of thanksgiving, I encourage each of you to take a moment to reflect on what you are grateful for and to express your thanks to those who have made a positive impact on your life. Gratitude has the power to strengthen bonds and create a sense of unity within our community.

As we continue through the school year, I look forward to all the wonderful experiences and achievements that lie ahead. Let's continue to work together to create a nurturing and supportive environment that allows our students to thrive.

Wishing you all a warm and joyful Thanksgiving season.

With heartfelt gratitude,  
Matt Kuklantz  
Martha Jones School  
Principal

### Important Upcoming Events

**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

### Thanksgiving Break

Please note that on Wednesday, November 22nd Martha Jones students will be dismissed at **12:10 (NO LUNCH SERVED)** to begin the Thanksgiving break. There is no school for students on Monday, November 27th. This is a professional development day for teachers. Students return on Tuesday, November 28th. Thank you to all families for embracing the SDM technology and updating your child's changes as needed.



## Message from the MJ Student Council

Wednesday, November 29th will be our next school Spirit day. It will be Crazy Hair / Hat Day. You can choose to wear a hat all day or do a fun hairstyle. We are also partnering with the Senior Center and collecting items for care packages for the troops. Please bring in any of the items listed in the below flyer by the 29th and we will deliver them to the senior center. There will be a box in the front lobby for the items you donate. Thank you for participating.



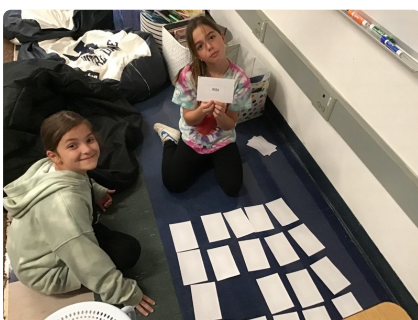
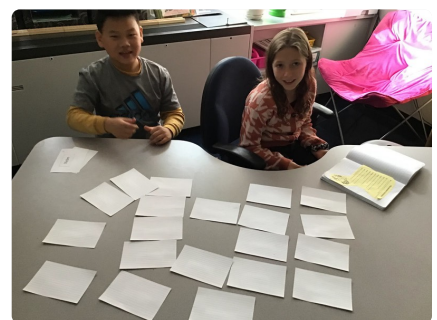
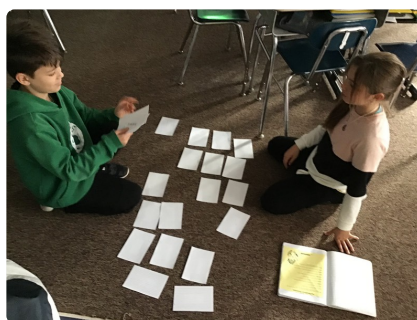
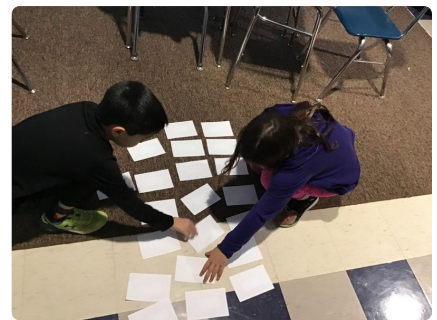
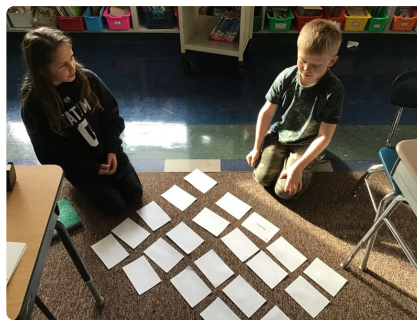
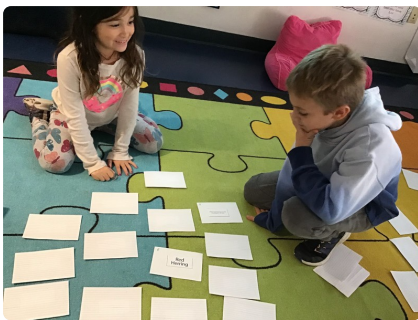
The Senior Center is collecting small items to fill care packages for our overseas troops with assistance from our Veterans' Service Office Assistant Director, TJ Tedeschi. We hope you can help by donating "lots" of beef jerky, individually wrapped cookies, crackers, candy, and trail mix. Single-sized, powdered drink mixes (Gatorade) are also requested. Other items such as socks, word finds, playing cards, and anything fun that is small are also appreciated.

## News from the MJ Classroom's





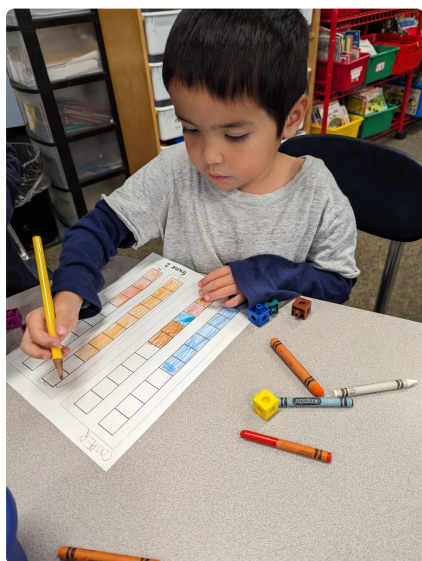
## News from 3K (Ms. Krumsiek)





Third graders are playing a memory game using their mystery vocabulary. This game teaches students how to collaborate and cooperate with one another, as well as preparing them for their group mystery book project.

## News from KL (Mrs. Layton)



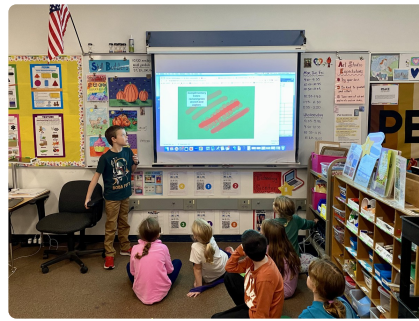
Recently, we have been comparing numbers during our Math Workshop in our Kindergarten classroom. Comparing numbers is an important part of building a student's number sense. Number sense is

the ability for a student to recognize a number, it's value and it's relationship with other numbers. Using math language such as more, less, fewer, one more and one less helps the students identify number relationships in order to solve mathematical problems.



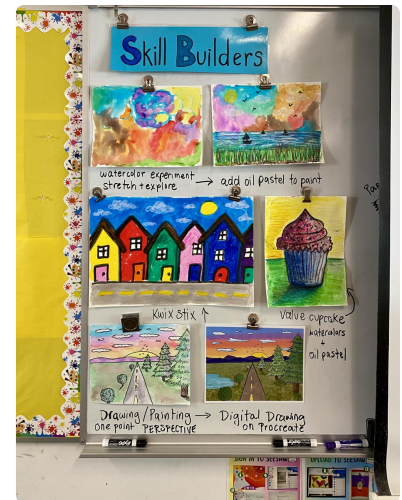
## News from Art (Mrs. Friberg)



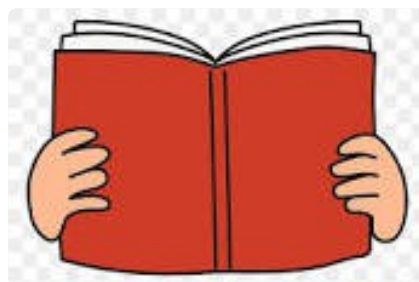
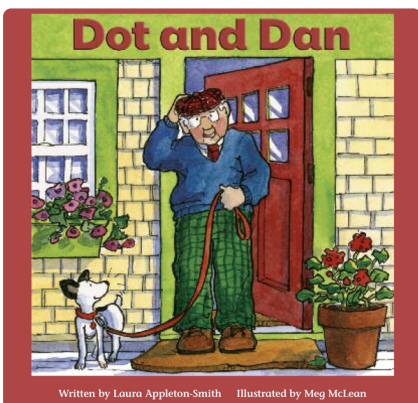


## A Look Inside the Art Room with Mrs. Friberg

Over the past few weeks, Martha Jones students have been learning about how to think and behave like artists using the eight Studio Habits of Mind: develop craft, engage and persist, reflect, express, understand art worlds, envision, stretch and explore, and observe. We have been developing our craft at the drawing, technology, and collage centers, and this past week we have been stretching and exploring as we opened up the painting center! To see your child's artwork and to stay up to date with what is happening in the art room, please join our Martha Jones [Seesaw](#) Art account if you haven't already, or check out [Mrs. Friberg's Art Site!](#)



## News from Literacy (Ms. Child)



Beginning Readers are Reading Decodables!

This year you may see your children coming home with decodable texts! Wiley Blevins, a leading researcher in reading instruction, describes a decodable text as, "a story or book that is controlled based on the phonics skills taught up to that point . . . that is the majority of words in a decodable text can be sounded out based on the sound spelling relationships that students have learned."



type of decodable text a student is reading depends on where they are in their understanding of phonic concepts. A well written decodable text will be comprehensible, will include words from a child's vocabulary, and will include spelling pattern correspondences that were previously taught. Our youngest learners will need to spend a good chunk of time in decodable texts, so that they can apply taught phonic skills and concepts. Decodable texts provide important opportunities to young readers- including a chance to use letter sound relationships repeatedly. Repeatedly using letters and sounds to decode words, will help readers to store words so that they, eventually, can be read words automatically. If your child is reading a decodable text at home, encourage them to look at the word, and slide through each sound (Duke, 2020). Let your child read and reread their decodable text. They will feel a sense of pride and accomplishment as their hard work will have paid off!



## MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

### PTO

*Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.*

#### PTO News

##### A BIG THANK YOU TO...

- All of you who have contributed to the PTO! We're so thankful for the supportive community of caregivers and educators at the Martha Jones, who are generous in so many ways! Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts and community events this fall!

#### DECEMBER PTO MEETING

Our next PTO meeting is coming up on December 5th at 7pm. Please mark your calendars and join us in-person at the Martha

Jones Library or via Zoom. Superintendent Tim Piwowar will be in attendance and we look forward to hearing from him about the work he is doing at the district-level!



#### 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 Stephen](#)

## **District & Community News You Can Use**

### **School Calendar**

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

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Thank you.



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**Matthew Kuklantz**

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

