



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 9 - January 5, 2024

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

Please do not read into this, I am not tipping the district hand on the upcoming snow storm. However, with winter firmly entrenched and the potential for winter fun on Sunday, I thought it prudent to remind everyone how weather impactful days are communicated.

If a delayed opening and school closures is determined, Superintendent Piwowar uses many platforms to send out the news (email, phone call, etc.). However the most immediate way to find out is to check the [WPS home page](#), [District Instagram feed](#), or [District X feed](#). For answers to more questions about snow days, please visit the [snow day FAQ's](#).

Finally, I'm reiterating previous L&B information:

On snowy days, please make sure your children are equipped with snow pants and snow boots. Without this gear, students will need to play on the shoveled blacktop areas of the playground, which is a lot less fun than playing in the snow on the field or playground. Please send your children to school with a pair of shoes in addition to snow boots. It is also helpful to send an extra pair of shoes with your children on and after rainy days. This will help students stay comfortable and keep our hallways and classrooms clean and dry throughout the day.

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones
Principal

Important Upcoming Events

Wed. Jan. 10 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Mon. Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Day, No School
Wed. Jan. 17 - Gr. 1 Enrichment, Discovery Science Museum
Fri. Jan. 19 - Math League
Wed. Jan. 24 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Wed. Jan. 31 - Gr. 2 & 5 Enrichment, Discovery Science Museum
Fri. Feb. 2 - Math League
Fri. Feb. 2 - Gr. 3 Enrichment, Top Secret Science
Thurs. Feb. 8 - Gr. 3 Enrichment, Discovery Science Museum
Fri. Feb. 9 - All School Enrichment, [Valerie Tutson](#), Tales from African Traditions
Wed. Feb. 14 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Fri. Feb. 16 - Math League
Mon. Feb. 19-Fri. Feb 23 - February Recess
Mon. Feb. 26 - School Resumes

Special District Programing

Conversations with Caregivers

Please join us on January 16th for our next Conversation with Caregivers. Information and details can be found in this [letter](#) from Lateefah Franck, Director of Equity, Integration, Community Partnership and Donna Tobin, Social Emotional Learning Director.

News from the Health Office

Cold and Flu Season

Whether we like it or not, the cold and flu season is upon us. Most colds are caused by viruses, but symptoms to keep children home with include fever greater than 100.0, vomiting (GI or stomach bug), or a constant cough that is causing the student discomfort.

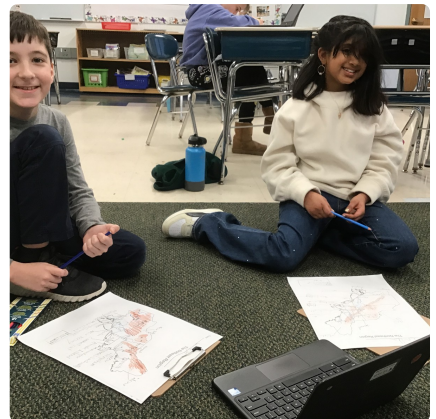
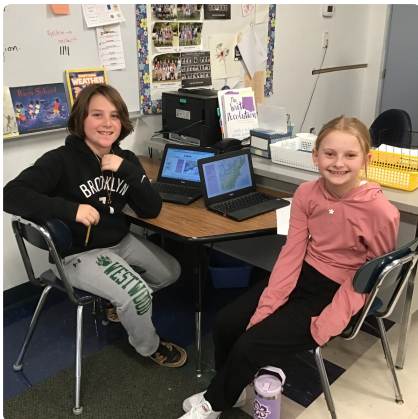
Please feel free to contact me if you have any issues, concerns, or questions regarding your student's health and well-being: jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us or (781)326-7500 x6263
And remember please help us and update SDM with any absences :)



News from the MJ Classroom's



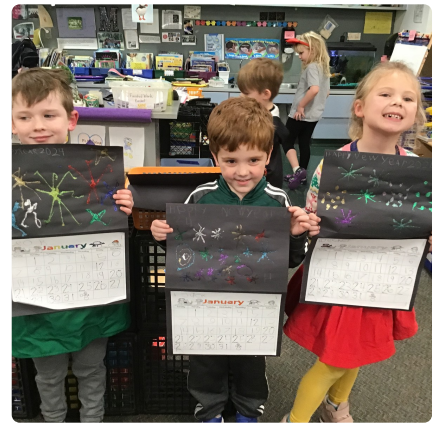
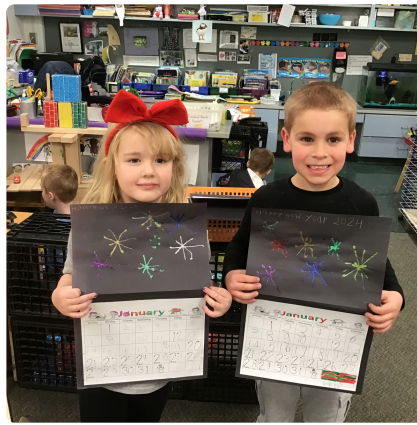
News from 4B (Ms. Bass)



In fourth grade, we have embarked on our next social studies unit: natural resources. Students have been learning about the regions across the United States and the natural resources inherent to each of these areas of the country. This week, students worked with a partner to construct a map of the Northeast region. Maps included important cities, state capitals and physical features such as waterways and mountains.



News from KM (Mrs. McDonough)



Every month in KM the students make a monthly calendar. We write the numbers in the boxes, working on counting, numerical order and number formation. Then we create a fun top that usually involves developing our fine motor skills. Kindergarteners are learning how a calendar is an important mathematical tool used daily in our lives. This month we added fireworks to the top using glitter glue squeeze bottles. They came out great. Happy New year from KM!



News from the Library (Mrs. Swinning)

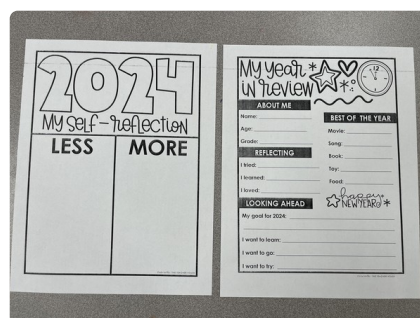
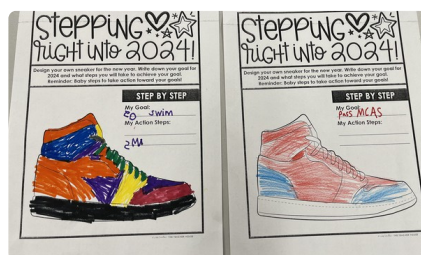


It may not be snowing in Westwood (YET) but Winter has definitely arrived in the MJ Library! Before the Winter Break, we celebrated Jolabokaflod, a tradition in Iceland that is centered around

Students are also learning about the science behind those snowflakes that we will be hopefully seeing soon and creating their own 6-sided snowflake to decorate the library with.

If you would like to know more, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/marthajoneslibrary> or check out our website at <https://sites.google.com/a/westwood.k12.ma.us/marthajoneslibrary/>

News from the Mrs. Harrison



This week in Learning Center, we are thinking back to 2023 and ahead to 2024! We talked about what worked well for us in 2023 and what we want to continue to do, or do more of, in 2024. We are working on self and whole class reflections, as well as designing our own sneakers to "step" into the new year!



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News

December PTO Meeting

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the December 5th PTO meeting. Superintendent Tim Piwowar came to discuss the work being done at the district-level, Maya Plotkin provided an update from the School Committee, and Principal Matt Kuklenz shared all the great work being done at the Martha Jones. If you were not able to join us, preliminary meeting minutes are posted on the Martha Jones Website and in the PTO Membership Toolkit!

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

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](#)

Please see the [Westwood Special Education Parents Action Committee \(SEPAC\) website](#) with all upcoming events.

District & Community News You Can Use

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.

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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.

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ext. 1346 اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 7500-326 781

لك. lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us كننشكر أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك 1346

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1346 или по электронной почте запрос на lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters