



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 15- April 11, 2025

Principals Message

MJ Community,

Over the coming weeks the classroom teachers, special education teachers, specialists, school psychologist, and I will begin the process of class placement for [August 2025](#). During the placement process, it is important for us to consider all relevant information. We review information about each child's academic, social, and personal characteristics and use that information when making placement decisions. Our primary goal is to assign each child to a classroom in which they can develop academically and socially.

If you have information about your child's learning needs that you would like to share, please send me your input via email (mkuklantz@westwood.k12.ma.us) and your child's classroom teacher by Tuesday, April 29, 2025. Although you may have discussed class placement with your child's teacher, special educator or Ms. MaryKate Stimpson during conferences and meetings, all requests must be sent to me. Parent letters received will be compiled into a document separate from the final lists and distributed to the placement team members for consideration. Please note that letters and emails are not kept from previous years since children change and grow, and we make decisions based on current information.

If you are the parent of multiples (twins, triplets, etc), you may specify whether you want your children placed in the same class or different classes. Also, please know that if you have more than one child in your family, there is a chance that they will not have the same teachers as their siblings.

Westwood Public Schools does not allow parents to request their children's teachers; therefore, requests for specific teachers will not be accepted or considered. The process is both thoughtful and thorough. As Principal, I approve the final placement decision. The staff and I appreciate your cooperation and support as we begin this process.

Finally, there is no requirement to submit a placement letter.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the process. Thank you for your continued support.

Matt

Core Values and T Shirt Designs

Over the past two months, we've collected feedback from our community on the [mission statement and core values](#). The overall response was very positive. As we finalize the core values:

Be Kind - Treat others well and show kindness in your words and actions every day.

Be Curious - Ask questions, explore new ideas, and be excited to learn.

Be Respectful - Listen to others, value differences, and treat everyone and everything with care.

Be Responsible - Do your best and make choices that help your school and community.

I'll be visiting grade level lunches to launch the core values for our school. This will coincide with an art contest to design a visual representation of our core values for the new field day grade level t-shirts. Students will have until the Tuesday after break (April 29th) to submit their creation.

Martha Jones Health Office

Allergies

Allergies are caused by the body's reaction to substances called "allergens," which trigger the immune system to react to harmless substances as though they were attacking the body.

Allergic rhinitis is an inflammation of the nasal membranes and eyes caused by certain particles in our environment (like, pollen and molds, or dust mites and animal dander).

The symptoms of allergic rhinitis

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Itchiness of the eyes, nose and throat
- Headache and fatigue can be symptoms sometimes

How can you minimize exposure to seasonal allergy triggers?

- Wash hands and face when coming inside come from playing outside so pollen is not rubbed in eyes and nose
- Take a shower at night before bedtime to wash off any pollen
- Do not bring items from outside into the bedroom
- Keep windows in your home and car closed when possible
- Check the forecast for pollen levels, and limit outdoor activities when pollen counts are higher

For more information regarding Spring Allergies please visit [healthy children.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)

Time for Tick Checks:

Everyone living in the New England area where ticks are common should perform nightly tick checks during the warm months. Rapid discovery and removal prevents ticks from transmitting diseases. Keep in mind that ticks are very small and love to be in warm dark places like the armpit, groin, around the ear and on the back of the neck.

Bike safety:

Wearing a helmet is one of the most important ways to stay safe on a bike!

Bike riding is a great way for families to get some outdoor exercise; however, it's also a leading cause of injuries in children.

Please reach out to the Health Office with any questions! Happy Spring!

Happy Spring!

JoEllen Doyle, RN, BSN School Nurse

MCAS

We will be conducting the MCAS testing on the following dates:

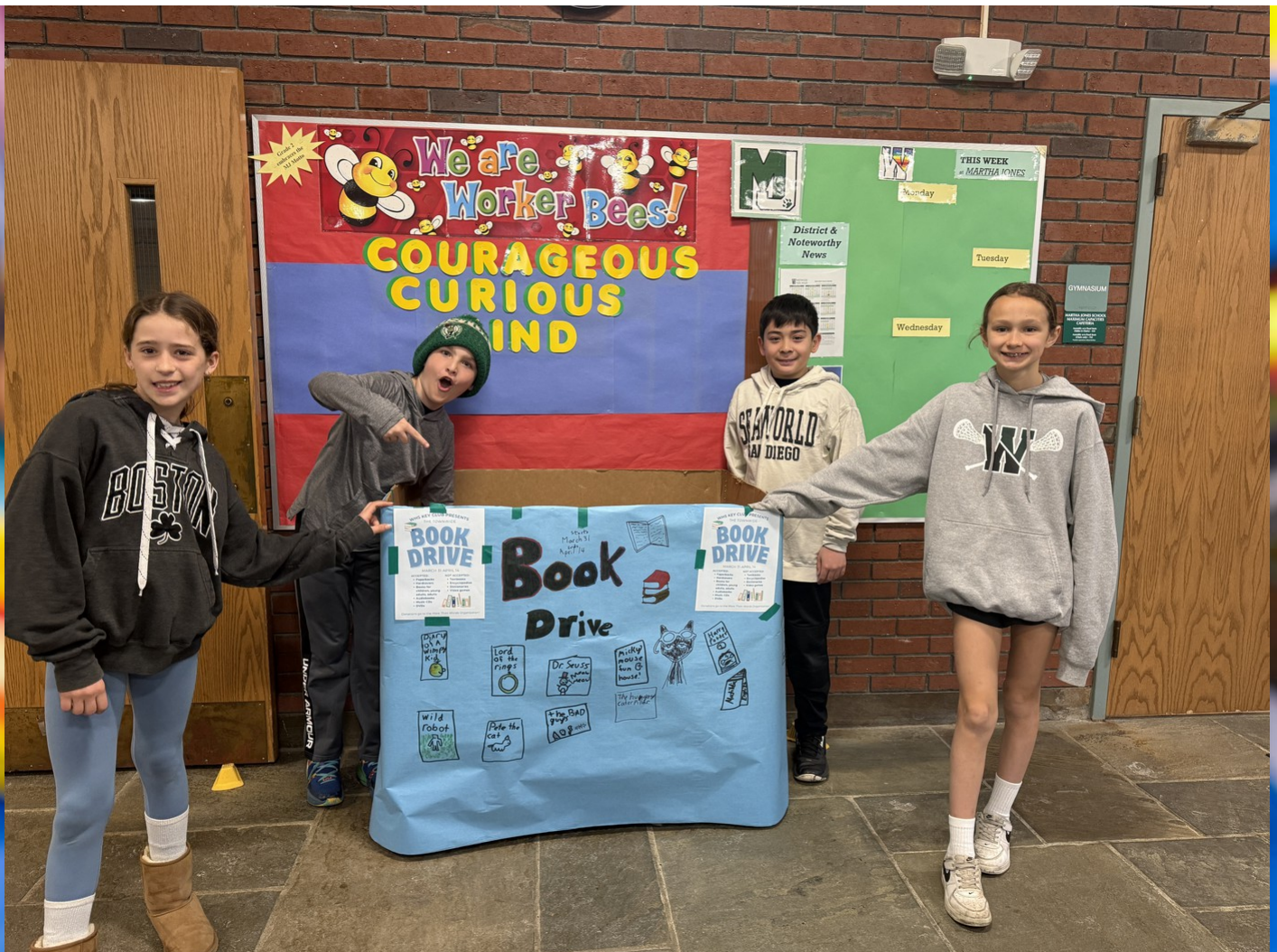
May 13 and May 15- Math (Gr. 3, 4, 5)

May 19 and May 20 - STE (Gr. 5 only)

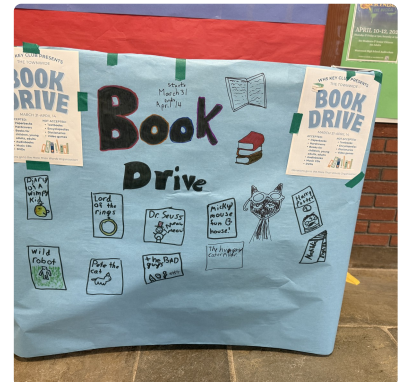
Each year, I have parents ask what they can do to best prepare their children. I think it's important to not do anything different. I encourage parents to prioritize good sleep and good nutrition. If your children express worry about the MCAS; tell the students that they have been well prepared.

Finally, when students take the MCAS the following items are not allowed on their person: phones and smartwatches. Please have students keep them at home.

Student Council Teaming Up With WHS Key Club



Student Council is teaming up with WHS Key Club to collect used books for the **More Than Words Organization**. At More Than Words, youth ages 16-24 who are in foster-care, homeless, out-of-school, or in the court system, learn to run an online and retail bookstore while also getting full wrap-around supports from our state systems and take charge of their lives. From 3/31-4/14 classrooms will be collecting used books.



Parent Teacher Conferences

The Springtime Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up on April 30 in the afternoon of a short Wednesday and that evening. Be on the lookout for signups from teachers.

Kindergarten Registration

Please see the [letter](#) from Assistant Superintendent Ahearn with key dates for registration.

MJ Specific Dates:

Incoming Kindergarten Family Information Night (Adult Only Meeting) - Thursday May 22, 2025 at 7:00pm

Kindergarten Screening - Monday, June 9, 2025

Unlocking Executive Functioning

At the end of February, the Special Education Parents Advisory Council, hosted a talk about [Executive Functioning](#) hosted by two WPS staff: Dean of Students at TMS, Erin Banty, and BCBA, Stephanie Muse. It's highly informative and offers pragmatic ideas to help students.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

While your child's classroom teacher gave an overview of the grade level curriculum at curriculum night, you can also access the [Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks Parent Guides](#) for each grade level. These guides to the Massachusetts learning standards help families understand what students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of each grade in English Language Arts and Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology/Engineering, and History and Social Science.

Important Upcoming Events

Mon, 4/14 - Our Changing Bodies, 9:10-10:35
Tues, 4/15 - Our Changing Bodies, 9:10-10:35
Fri, 4/18 - NO SCHOOL - Vacation
Mon - Fri, 4/21 - 25 - NO SCHOOL - April Break
Wed, 4/30 - Early Release and Afternoon and Evening Conferences
Thu, 5/1 - Gr 2 Field Trip - Hanover Theater
Thu, 5/1 - MJ Walk to School Day
Fri, 5/2 - Talent for a Cause
Tue, 5/6 - PTO Meeting
Wed, 5/7 - 3La Field Trip to Fisher School
Wed, 5/7 - Gr 1 Enrichment - Rainforest Reptiles
Wed, 5/7 - TMS visits MJ Grade 5
Thu, 5/8 MJ Walk to School Day (Rain Date)
Fri, 5/9 - 3K & 3Lu Field Trip to Fisher School
Fri, 5/9 - WHS Prom
Mon, 5/12 Gr 3 Body Safety Theater (WY&FS)
Tue & Thu 5/13 & 15 - Math MCAS (Gr 3 - 5)
Wed, 5/14 - Early Release
Fri, 5/16 - MJ International Night
Mon & Tue, 5/19 & 20 STE MCAS (Gr 5)
Wed, 5/21 - Gr 4 Enrichment Sound Waves
Wed, 5/21 - Gr 3 Field Trip - Concord Museum
Thu, 5/22 - Gr 1 Field Trip - Hale Reservation
Thu, 5/22 - Incoming Kindergarten Parent Night, 7:00 pm, MJ Cafe
Fri, 5/23 - Gr 2 Enrichment - Animal Adaptations
Mon, 5/26 - NO SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Tue, 5/27 - Gr 5 Enrichment Water Conservation
Wed, 5/28 - Early Release
Fri, 5/30 - Field Day
Fri, 5/30 - Movie Night
Mon, 6/2 - 5th Grade to Hale
Tues, 6/3 - Gr. 4 Band Presentation, 9:20-10:05, MJ Cafeteria

Wed, 6/4 - Early Release

Wed, 6/4 - 5th grade visits TMS, 9:30am

Wed, 6/4 - 5th grade celebration (sponsored by PTO after school) DHAC

Thu, 6/5 - Gr 4 Field Trip - Harvard Peabody Museum

Fri 6/6 - Field Day Rain Date

Mon, 6/9 - K Screen Day

Tues, 6/10 - Band Concert

Fri, 6/13 - Gr. 5 End of year move up ceremony

News from the Front Office

Absences and Dismissal Changes

With Mini Courses winding down and other special events on the horizon this is a quick reminder to please be sure to update your child's dismissal routine if needed. And remember... you should also use SDM if your child will be absent or late. Thank you for embracing the technology!



CLASSROOM NEWS

News from the MJ Classroom's News from 5B (Mr. Bartlett)

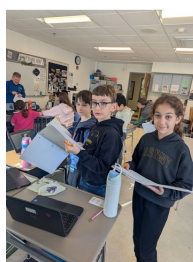


The 5th graders recently went to Mars on an interplanetary field trip!

As part of our explorations into space science this year, students have been learning about the vast distances in space and the problems this poses for space travel. As a culminating activity, the 5th graders went to Framingham State University for a field trip to experience space in a planetarium and to also take part in a simulated mission to Mars. Students had to apply for a NASA mission job before leaving, and were then assigned a key role in the mission such as Life Support (LS), Medical (Med), Rover (Rov) etc. Students worked with the mission specialist from NASA to successfully land a Mars Rover and search for signs of life.

Thankfully, despite an asteroid violently hitting the Martian moon Deimos while we were there, all students made it back safe and sound to Martha Jones and learned more about how they could have a future career in a STEM field.

News from 4W (Mrs. Waldner)



In fourth grade, we are learning about the expansion of the United States (1800s). Through examining primary sources, students described the importance of the development of the Transcontinental Railroad. Students learned how the railroad impacted a variety of people, and why it was important. This led to great classroom discussions!

News from the Music Room (Mrs. Goldman & Mrs. Yennior)



On March 20, the 5th Graders welcomed Spring with a fantastic Chorus performance in a musical celebration of the Colors of the World!

5th Grade Music consists of a half year of Chorus and a half year of General Music. We will spend the remainder of the school year in General Music in a new unit called *Together We Create*. 5th graders will be working towards playing percussion instruments (tubano / djembe drums, African bells and shekere) and creating their own 4- beat rhythms. These rhythms will be layered together to create group Rhythm Complement projects, which students will create, practice and perform for their classmates.



News from the Tech Room -Dr. Murphy



After working on coding skills in several different apps and platforms throughout the year, MJ students are nearly ready to begin programming their robots! Second grade starts with Ozobot Evo, third grade builds and programs Lego Milo, fourth grade works with the biggest robot - Dash, and the fifth graders will fly their drones through the air to accomplish several missions - wish us luck! :)



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the parents who attended our school fundraising social event! Your support and participation made it a wonderful success, and we are incredibly grateful for your generosity and commitment to our school community. Together, we are making a positive impact on our students and their educational experiences.

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

We are excited to invite all students to participate in Martha Jones annual Walk to School Day on May 1st! This special event encourages our young learners to get moving, enjoy the fresh air, and promote healthy habits. Walking to school is a great way for children to start their day with energy and a sense of community. This year, students must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver to ensure their safety. Thank you!



INTERNATIONAL NIGHT CELEBRATION

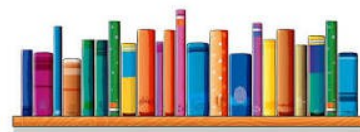
Save the date! Our International Night Celebration will take place on **Friday, May 16th 6:00-8:00pm** and you're invited! Join us for a night of fun, food, and festivities as we celebrate the diverse cultures that make our school community so special. From exciting performances to

delicious international cuisine, there's something for everyone to enjoy. So mark your calendars and get ready for a memorable evening of togetherness and global exploration.



BIRTHDAY BOOKS & LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Participate in the [PTO Birthday Book Program](#)! Ms. Swinning 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.



Please consider signing up for a library volunteer spot for your student's class. Each week, every classroom has one library spot you can volunteer for. Please see the link below to sign up. You will see a calendar with all of the teacher's names in either Grey or Blue. Blue means the spot is open and grey means that someone is already volunteering for that spot. Once you sign up, you'll see a little human icon next to the slot. In the event you sign up and cannot attend, please try and cancel within 24 hours so someone else can fill that spot. To cancel, click the icon next to your slot and "unclick" the person who is volunteering, and hit save. [Sign up for Library Here!](#)

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION DRIVE

We aim to raise \$7,500 from our annual PTO drive and are halfway to this goal! Every donation, no matter the amount, is appreciated and important in helping us continue to fund enrichment and community activities. Please consider making a [contribution](#) today! As a reminder, we also have a Corporate Match option. Many Employers offer matching donations because MJS PTO is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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 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 AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

Join the Facebook group and follow us on Instagram to get the latest PTO news and updates delivered right to your news feed! [Join our Facebook group](#) or follow us on Instagram @marthajonespto.

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates SY 2024-2025

September 24, 2024, 7pm

November 19, 2024, 7pm

March 4, 2025, 7pm

May 6, 2025, 7pm

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to:

PTO Co-Secretary - [Priscilla Stephan](#), [Jenn Katsilieris](#)

Martha Jones PTO Board 2024-2025

[Kristen Donahue](#), Co-President

[Ally Pavlic](#), Co-President

[Kristen Gautreau](#), Co-Treasurer

[Abbe Lynch](#), Co-Treasurer

[Priscilla Stephen](#), Co-Secretary

[Jenn Katsilieris](#), Co-Secretary

[Katie Collins](#), Co-Social Media

[Priya Sharma](#), Co-Social Media

District & Community News You Can Use

District Programing



Westwood SEPAC

The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a state-mandated, parent-run group working to promote a network of parents, guardians, and caregivers of children with special needs.



Information about SEPAC and events can be found at <https://www.westwoodsepac.org/events>.

The next upcoming event is:

- Friday, April 11, 2025
- 5:30 PM 8:30 PM
- Wild Blossom ([map](#))

Join your fellow Westwood SEPAC parents/caregivers for a much needed night out at Wild Blossom in Islington!

RSVP is requested but not required. Please RSVP on our [Facebook Page](#) or send us an email at westwoodsepac@gmail.com.

Westwood Youth and Family Services

Westwood Youth & Family Services is excited to offer a one-time parent/caregiver workshop focused on teaching caregivers to talk to their children about emotions, through the lens of the characters from the Inside Out movies. This workshop will include watching clips and discussion

to enhance parent's vocabulary and comfort in the topic. Childcare availability is being assessed in the registration. See attached flyer for more information.



A colorful flyer for a workshop titled "FROM JOY TO SADNESS". The background is dark blue with large, overlapping circles in shades of purple, yellow, and green. At the top right, the character Joy from the movie "Inside Out" is depicted in a yellow dress, jumping joyfully. At the bottom left, the character Sadness from the same movie is shown in a blue sweater and glasses, looking downcast. The title "FROM JOY TO SADNESS" is in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the title, the subtitle "Helping children explore their feelings Inside & Out" is written in a white, cursive-style font. A central blue rectangular box contains white text: "Join us for a free caregiver/parent workshop facilitated by WY&FS focusing on talking to children about emotions, through the lens of the characters from Inside Out. This workshop is geared towards caregivers/parents of children grades K-6. All caregivers welcome!". Below this box, a yellow-bordered rectangle contains the event details: "When: Wednesday, April 30th 6-8pm" and "Where: Westwood Council on Aging (60 Nahatan Street, Westwood)". To the right of this is a QR code. At the bottom right, the text "Sign up here!" is written. At the bottom center, contact information is provided: "For more information contact Adina Swan: 781-320-1012 aswan@westwoodma.gov".

School Calendar

[Click the link](#) for the Westwood 2024-2025 school calendar.

[Click this link](#) for the Westwood 2025 - 2026 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 lplouffe@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 lplouffe@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 lprouffe@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 lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

