



# 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 16- May 2, 2025

## Principals Message

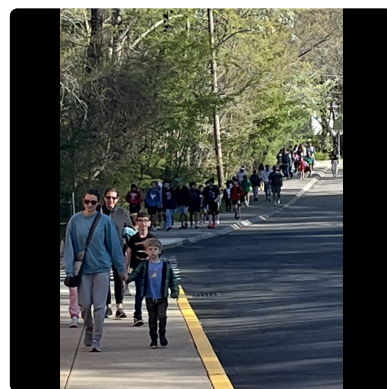
MJ Community,

As we think about next school year, I want to take the opportunity to promote the MJ Buddy Program. It is a parent run effort to match new to MJ students and families with current MJ families to help them navigate a new school and community.

### MJ Buddy Program

At MJ, we recognize that joining a new school can feel daunting for both students and

parents. Navigating unfamiliar routines, meeting new people, and learning about different events and traditions can be overwhelming. That's why we created the MJ Buddy Program. By pairing new families with seasoned volunteers who know our school well, we aim to provide a warm welcome right from the start. Through friendly guidance and ongoing communication, the Buddy Program helps newcomers find their footing socially, academically, and within the wider school community. We believe that when families feel supported from day one, everyone benefits—students form friendships more easily, parents engage more confidently, and our entire school culture becomes stronger, more inclusive, and more connected.



In the upcoming 25/26 school year the MJ Buddy Program will foster a welcoming and connected school community by offering new families in 1st grade and up, early engagement opportunities, clear information, and connection—ensuring they feel integrated and supported from day one.

### Why Become a Buddy Family?

- **Ease Transitions:** You'll help newcomers navigate daily routines, answer questions about school events, and share insights about life at MJ.
- **Foster Connections:** By building these new friendships, we create a stronger, more vibrant, and connected school community.

### What's Involved?

- **Welcome & Orientation:** Connect with new families before or at the start of the school year and offer a friendly face at key events.
- **Regular Check-Ins:** Reach out periodically (via text, email, phone, or in-person) to provide answers, guidance, or just to say hello.
- **Introduce Opportunities:** Invite new families to attend upcoming events like the

Family Picnic, Bingo Night, or Movie Night.

### Ready to Help?

If you'd like to be part of the MJ Buddy Program, please complete our quick Buddy Volunteer form below. We'll do our best to match you with a new family based on shared interests, grade levels, and communication preferences.

If you have any questions or want more information, please reach out to Megan Madel at [m.madel@northeastern.edu](mailto:m.madel@northeastern.edu) Thank you in advance for your willingness to support our community and help make MJ a place where everyone feels like they belong.

[Link to Buddy Family Volunteer Form](#)

Thank you!

Matt

## End of Year Information

Earlier school year, the dates of short Wednesdays in June changed. Please be sure that your calendars indicate that:

Wednesday, June 4 is a short Wednesday (dismissal at 12:00)

Wednesday, June 11 is a regular school day (dismissal at 3:20)

Finally, Monday, June 16 is the student's last day. Dismissal from Martha Jones will be at 12:10.

## 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.

## 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 (specific times have been prescheduled through the MJ Office)

## School Engagement Committee Event

Please join us on Tuesday, May 13th for an engaging evening as we celebrate our final WPS Conversations Event hosted by the School Engagement Committee for the '24-'25 school year. We will view the movie *Out of My Mind*, ([Trailer](#)). Pizza and salad will be available. After the movie, we will engage in thoughtful discussion on how we can foster a school community where all students—regardless of ability, culture, or background—feel included, valued, and connected.

5:30–7:30 – Movie Screening & Pizza/Salad Dinner  
([Please register here for dinner](#))

7:30–8:30 – Caregiver Conversation

Have you already seen the movie? Feel free to join us at 7:30 for the discussion!

[Flyer](#)

## 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>.

## 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.

## **Important Upcoming Events**

Tue, 5/6 - PTO Meeting  
Wed, 5/7 - 3Lu 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 & 3La 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 3 Enrichment Colonial Trades  
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 - Gr 3 Recorder Concert 9:45AM MJ Cafeteria  
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  
Mon, 6/16 - Last Day of School for Students, 12:10 dismissal

## **News from the Front Office**

### **Talent for a Cause - TONIGHT**

The Talent For A Cause Mini-Course will present a fun-filled night of comedy, singing and dancing. Join us as Mr. Delorium's Toy Emporium comes to life at night! No tickets necessary. Donations

will be collected at the door to benefit the Westwood PMC Kids Ride. Show time is 6:30. Doors will open at 6:10. Can't make it but would like to donate to this worthy cause? See the QR link below.

[DONATE HERE](#)

## FIELD DAY - Looking for Volunteers

Field Day Volunteer Opportunities - We need you!!

It's BAAAAAACCCK! **Field Day 2025** is right around the corner.....This year it is scheduled for Friday, May 30th (rain date Friday, June 6th). The success of the day depends largely on our volunteers. This is the most fun day of the entire school year!! You are guaranteed to be surrounded by smiling faces and loads of laughter and fun. We need your help to man the game stations and to assist in serving lunch and clean-up so please consider volunteering today. You won't be sorry!



Please click here [Field Day Volunteers](#) to volunteer.

## Vehicle Traffic and Student Safety

With the nice weather on our doorstep more students are walking and bicycling to school. In addition we have some events (Girls on the Run for example) where students are moving around on the outside grounds after school hours. Student safety is one of our utmost concerns. We kindly ask that you are mindful in the carline and parking areas when you are coming to MJ to collect your child.

The safety of all students depends on all drivers obeying the rules and speed limits. Please share these thoughts with others who may be picking up or dropping off your child.



## Absences and Dismissal Changes

With the end of year fast approaching and possible changes to attendance or dismissals 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 4B (Ms. Bass)



In 4B, students have moved onto a new unit of study: historical fiction. Thus far, students have learned the importance of identifying the who, where, when, and why to make sense of not only the plot, but the corresponding historical timeline. To support this kind of work, students recently formed book clubs. The novels that fourth graders are reading cover a range of historical time periods, including Westward Expansion, WWII, and the Civil Rights Movement.

## News from KM (Mrs McDonough)





Thanks to the generosity of the PTO each grade level is funded to go on a field trip. Kindergarten went to the Acton Children's Science Museum. This child friendly science museum is all about hands-on learning, exploration and wondering. KM and KL had a blast experimenting, creating and playing all while learning scientific concepts.

## News from the Art Room (Mr. Hagel)



Mr. Hagel's kindergarten and first grade art classes with Mrs. Layton's, Ms. Brock's and Mrs. Fader's classes created impressive owls. His second and third grade art classes with Mrs. Hartwell's, Ms. Krumsiek's and Mrs. Luskin's classes created beautiful tessellations. And his fourth and fifth grade art classes with Mrs. Perry's, Mrs. Waldner's, Mr. Bartlett's and Mr. Parkhurst's classes created amazing abstract paintings. We had so much fun thinking about the elements of art and the principles of design while creating our art.

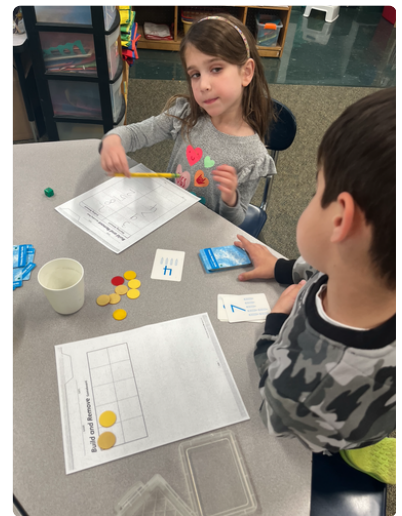
## News from the Math Office -Mrs. Aaron



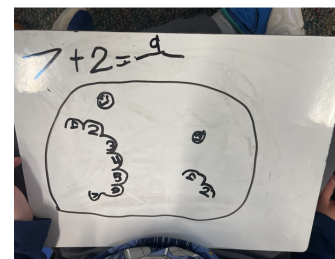
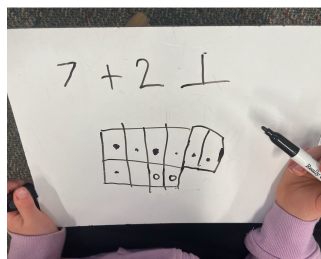
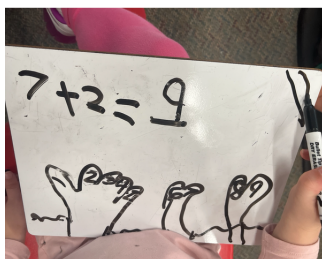


The math department is working to strengthen positive math identities among our learners. Students in all grades read, Count On Me and completed a short math identity survey. This helped us to better understand how students perceive their relationship with math, which is crucial for shaping future instruction and building their confidence. Students were asked to draw or write about how they use math outside of school. This bulletin board represents many of their responses!

In KL, students playing [Build and Remove](#) to practice subtraction.



In KM, students working to show how they solved  $7 + 2$ .



## MARTHA JONES SCHOOL PTO

*Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.*

### EOY EVENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER

- TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK - May 5 - 9
- PTO MEETING - MAY 6 at 7:00PM
- FIELD DAY - MAY 30

- FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT MAY 30
- 5th GRADE END OF YEAR PARTY - JUNE 4

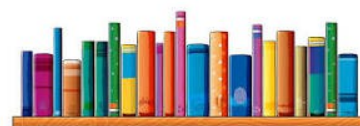
## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT CELEBRATION

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

#### School Calendar

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

[Click this link](#) for the Westwood 2025 - 2026 school calendar.

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Thank you.

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1346 или по электронной почте запрос на [lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) Спасибо.



**Matthew Kuklantz**

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

