



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 17- May 16, 2025

Principals Message

MJ Community,

As we look to the end of the year, I wanted to highlight some student achievements from this year and preview an all school enrichment.

Yet again, MJ 5th graders have done very well in the Stock Market Game (SMG) through the SIFMA Foundation. We had students take:

- First place in Massachusetts for the Fall: Aria M & Ellie M
- First place in Massachusetts for the Spring: Connor K
- Second place in Massachusetts for the Full-Year: Ellie M

Congratulations to all!

During the last week of school, we have partnered with Originations to present a dynamic and educational program for all elementary students and the broader Westwood community. On Friday, June 13 in the afternoon, Originations will present, Rhythm and Beats: Honoring Juneteenth Through Dance to our MJ students. This event will explore the rich history of dance within the African diaspora, offering an engaging learning experience that includes both historical context and

live dance demonstrations. Select audience members will also have the opportunity to participate in the demonstration, making the experience interactive and memorable.

The goal of this program is to deepen understanding and appreciation of the cultural significance and historical roots of African diasporic dance. By connecting movement with history, we aim to educate, inspire, and celebrate the vibrant traditions that have shaped the African American experience.

In addition to the afternoon performance on Friday, June 13, there will be a community program will occur at 6 PM on the same day at MJ.

Finally, please see the image beside this text for an upcoming MJ Spirit Week.

Thank you!

Matt

International Night

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's International Night this Friday from 6:00–8:00 PM. This event is a wonderful celebration of food, culture, and performances—it was an absolute delight last year, and I expect the same this time around.

Tables showcasing cultural heritage will be set up in the cafeteria and gym, and performances will take place on the stage in the same area. In addition, Room 162, located at the base of the hallway, will be open as a quieter, calming space.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone helping to organize this special event and to the families who are excited to share their traditions. The Martha Jones community grows stronger as we learn about one another and appreciate both our shared and unique cultural experiences.

Please take a moment to talk with your children ahead of time about the many foods they may encounter—some of which may be unfamiliar. It's a great opportunity to discuss how to respond respectfully, even if they try something they don't like. (I'm still mortified by the memory of my own child saying "ewwww" when tasting a close friend's tripe recipe for the first time!)

MCAS

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

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.

International Night Celebration FOOD ALLERGY ADVISORY

A variety of delicious foods will be available at International Night Celebration. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, please be aware of the following:

- **Ask Before You Eat:** We encourage you to inquire about ingredients before consuming any food, especially at tables with unidentified dishes. Look for signs with ingredient lists or ask a volunteer or person at the table directly.
- **Limited Control Over Ingredients:** Due to the diverse nature of this event, some food may be prepared in kitchens that handle allergens. We may not be able to guarantee complete absence of allergens in all dishes.
- **Alternatives Available:** If you are concerned about potential allergens, some tables may offer pre-packaged snacks or simpler dishes with a clear ingredient list.
- **When in Doubt, Don't Eat:** It's always better to be safe than sorry. If you are unsure about any ingredients, please err on the side of caution and avoid that particular dish.

Please do not hesitate to ask a parent volunteer or anyone at the table if you are unsure about any of the ingredients.

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.

End of Year Information

Earlier in the 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

Important Upcoming Events

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 - Class of 2025 Farewell Tour - MJ Visit, 12:00

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 - 5th Grade Band Concert - WHS Evening

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

Student Safety and Vehicle Traffic

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!



Message from the Extended Day Office

Extended Day will open at dismissal (12:10pm) and will close at 3pm for the summer break on Monday June 16th.



Bus Registration for SY 2025 - 2026

Bus Registration is now open. The [link to register can be found here](#). (It can also be found by searching directly on the [main district webpage](#).) The new 2025-2026 rates and the registration form is there in English, Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The walker form is there in English.

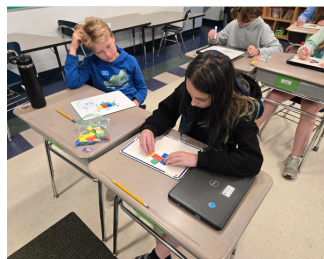


The District kindly asks the registration request be completed by June 30th so routes can be arranged. Thank you



CLASSROOM NEWS

News from the MJ Classroom's News from 5P (Mr. Parkhurst)



Students in Mr. Parkhurst's 5th grade class are wrapping up a math unit on geometry. Last week, students were presented with perimeter and area challenges. They had to use 1-inch tiles to create

figures with a given area and perimeter. For example, one challenge posed to them was to create a figure that has an area of 9 square inches and a perimeter of 16 inches. Some of the challenges were tricky, but they did a great job persevering.

News from 1B (Ms. Brock)



First grade scientists are learning about the ways that plants and animals adapt. In one of their favorite investigations, students explored why different birds have different shaped beaks and discovered how this is related to the food that they eat. We also enjoyed a special enrichment called Rainforest Reptiles. First graders saw and learned about a snake, lizard, turtle, and alligator, along with many other reptiles. Thanks to the PTO for this great program!



News from PE (Mr. Foley)



What's Happening in Physical Education

Over the past several weeks the Martha Jones students have been participating in an educational gymnastics unit. The children spent the first few weeks working on a variety of floor skills in the areas of: traveling, balancing and rolling. The second part of the unit focused on the gymnastics equipment structure.

Gymnastic activities are a very important part of every child's experience in physical education and make a significant contribution to the goals of the curriculum. Gymnastics encompasses a variety of components such as: rolling, balancing, weight transfer and traveling on different body parts and equipment.

Participating in gymnastic activities teaches and promotes important physical values. These activities help develop muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, coordination, as well as gross motor development and body control. The physical demands of holding balances, rolling, and traveling contribute to the development of overall physical fitness.

There are a few pictures below featuring some of our talented MJ gymnasts. I hope you enjoy them!

It is a pleasure to teach the children at the Martha Jones School!

Pat Foley
Physical Education Teacher

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.

News from Ms. O'Brien



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL
PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

EOY EVENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER

- FIELD DAY - MAY 30
- FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT MAY 30

- 5th GRADE END OF YEAR PARTY - JUNE 4

Field Day! Friday, May 30th (rain date: Friday, June 6th)

Field Day is one of the most exciting and memorable days of the school year, and its success depends on the support of our amazing volunteers. You'll be surrounded by smiling faces, laughter, and nonstop fun!

This year, instead of searching through closets, hampers, dressers, etc., we will be giving every student a fresh field day T-shirt, expertly designed by an MJ student. Room parents have been sending emails today with a link to order your student's size. If you have not already done so, please fill out this [FORM](#). We do ask that you size up so you can keep the t-shirt for next year, and that you fill out a form for each of your students. If we do not receive your entry, we will order a generic size for your student.

We need volunteers to help run game stations, serve lunch, and assist with clean-up. If you're able to lend a hand, please consider signing up! [Volunteer Here](#)



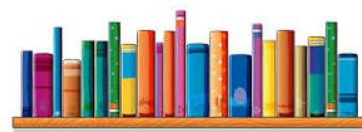
Movie Night 5/30

Join us for a Movie Night on the evening of May 30th in the MJ auditorium. We will be showing Dreamworks *How to Train Your Dragon* and will have a light snack and beverages available.



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](#), [Erika Gautheir](#)

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

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[Erika Gautheir](#), Co-Secretary

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

[Gina Ciampolillo](#), Co-Social Media

District & Community News You Can Use

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)

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>.

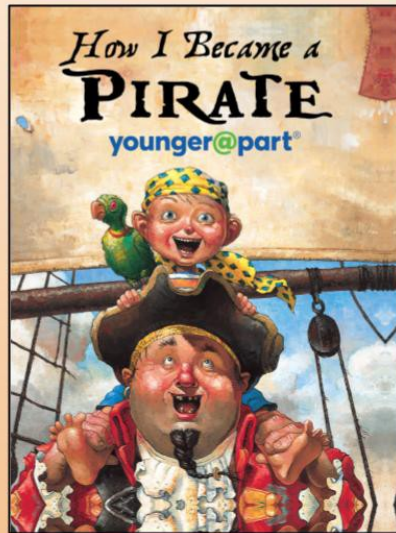
Unlocking Executive Functioning

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.

Performance at WHS: How I Became A Pirate

How I Became a Pirate that the high school is producing. It will take place June 5, 6, and 7 at 5:30PM in the high school courtyard. It is a Theatre for Young Audiences piece, so it is geared in particular to families with elementary students. (And it is brought to you by the same group that did the *Descendants* back in April.)

Westwood High School
Presents



June 5-7, 2025
Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 5:30pm
All tickets \$5

Westwood High School Courtyard

Please bring a blanket or low chair for seating. Concession items will be available and audience members are welcome to bring their own food and beverages.
Visit westwoodstage.com for tickets. Tickets will also be available at the door.

WY&FS - June Program

Westwood Youth & Family Services is offering the Inside Out parent/caregiver workshop again in June! It will focus 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.





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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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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Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

