



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 18 May 30, 2025

Principals Message

MJ Community,

I wanted to share a letter that was written by our Elementary Science Department Head, Kate Doyle, to all of our teachers. I think it captures the high level of collaboration and learning that goes on in our schools (sorry for the long read).

–There is a truth that we usually whisper back and forth to each other in our small elementary science team that I will reveal widely here: we are grateful to have the best jobs in the district. Aside from being the teachers who use the “bouncy tent” to explore concepts in light energy with lasers and fog, or take students out to plant and harvest and observe nature, we are lucky enough to be the ones whose jobs truly center around chasing student curiosity. Our jobs, when we really simplify them down to their essence, is to put the world in students’ hands, wonder with them about its mysteries and guide them to ways of exploring ideas, discovering evidence and explaining understandings.

This is most evident during the period of time between the Tuesday after April Vacation and the end of May. During that time, we incubate 8 dozen eggs and hope for an epic hatch. For the past few years, the incubators have been housed in elementary school libraries, where our chicken-farmer-librarians have really embraced the job and all students have access to the experience.

During their time in the library, librarians pivot to read about chicks and chicken stories from diverse writers, explore stages of development and make observations. The excitement and fascination only grows once the hatch begins. Once chicks are hatched, we conduct “chick chats” for any classes that are interested in participating. There, we discuss ethical questions about hatching chicks in school, and how we handle chicks, our plans for the chicks beyond Westwood and so much more. Sometimes we discuss why all the chicks look so different (“Why do WE all look so different?”), we talk through the loss of chicks when they don’t all thrive and share other losses we have experienced, we sit quietly and observe the chicks, we laugh at their antics. Sometimes students who struggle to shine in school glow brightly when helping to clean the brooders or fill the feeders. When the chicks are here, community is built, relationships are strengthened and formed, and conversations that we might otherwise never have happen just because the chicks are here.

Once hatched, our chicks are really only here for 8 or 9 days before they are adopted by a farm. For the past 4 years, all of our hatchlings move to a farm in Brooklin, Maine where they free range. There, the farmers collect the eggs and many are donated to the Magic Food Bus, a mobile food pantry providing food for families in need. This year, we will bring them 49 healthy chickens. If only half of these are hens, by next year, they could be producing over 30,000 eggs a year! Are you wondering how many eggs a healthy hen lays each year? Ask an elementary scientist in Westwood – if they don’t know the answer, they’ll know how to find it!

Thank you to the district leadership that allows this messy endeavor, to the wonderful librarians who are marvels at connecting all of what we do in schools in ways that honor student wondering and allow students to be seen and known, and to the farmers who feed both our bellies and our curiosities year after year.

Thanks!
Matt

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.

All School Enrichment

We have finalized and booked an all school enrichment, Rhythm and Beats: Honoring Juneteenth Through Dance, for 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. 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.

We will have the program at 2 PM on Friday, June 13 and the community program will occur at 6 PM on the same day.

Kindergarten Registration

If you know parents or guardians of incoming Kindergarteners, please reach out to make sure they have registered. I'd appreciate it.

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, 5/30 - 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 K Enrichment - Bubbles

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

Thurs, 6/12 - KM Parent Share, 9:15am

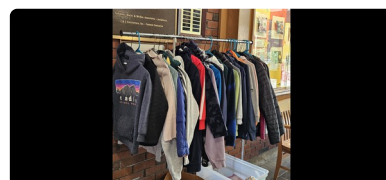
Fri, 6/13 - Gr. 5 End of year move up ceremony

Mon, 6/16 - Last Day of School for Students, 12:10 dismissal

News from the Front Office

Lost and Found

We have a pretty full rack here at MJ (as this picture shows). With the end of the year on our doorstep please be advised all unclaimed items will be packed up and sent to their forever homes (read that as the charity shop) on Monday, June 16 after dismissal. Thank you



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

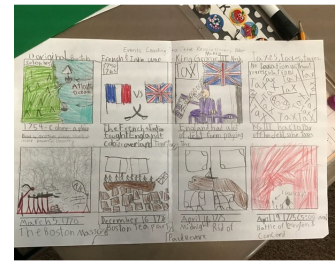
2026 Tutor List

With the summer fast approaching please find linked here an updated [Tutor List for 2025-2026](#). This list can also be found on the [MJ webpage](#).

CLASSROOM NEWS

News from the MJ Classroom's News from 3K (Ms. Krumsiek)





In 3K, students are learning about the events leading up to the American Revolution. They created timelines with significant events relating to the Massachusetts area and drew their own illustrations that represent a significant part of each event. They included the dates and events with each box on their timelines. Third graders learned more in depth about these events at our field trip to the Concord Museum!

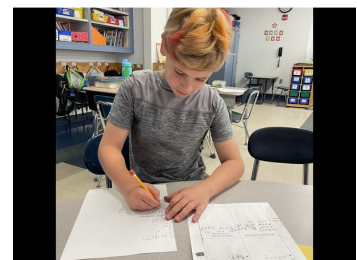
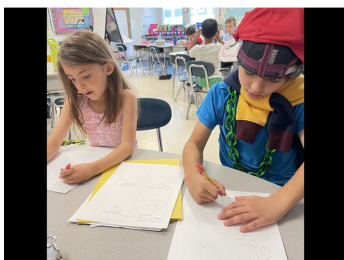


News from 2H (Ms. Hartwell)



2H Engineers

Here's a look at a Grade 2 science experiment 2H took part in using index cards to hold up books. This experiment teaches the children about structure, strength, and weight distribution—important concepts in physical science and engineering. As the children tested out their structures, they figured out ways to make the index cards stable and strong. The material could be folded or made into a cylinder or triangle shape which held more weight. The children were true engineers!



News from 1D (Mrs. Dunn)

Students in Mrs. Dunn's first grade class have been very excited about their new unit on writing free-verse (non-rhyming) poetry. We have discussed how writing poetry differs from other forms of writing that we have done this year, and have examined many poems to determine common elements of poetry writing, such as the use of repetition or of patterns, writing with a rhythm or beat, and the use of line breaks to emphasize important parts of the poem. Students have discovered that they can write poems about any topic of importance to them, from sports/hobbies to special people or pets to significant experiences in their lives. Here are a few examples of some of our first poems:

Cats

Cats are
Cute
Cats are
Cuddly
Cats are
Fuzzy
I love cats
That's my animal!
by Pepita

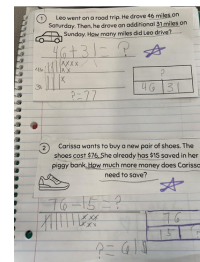
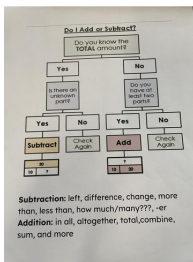
Basketball

I like
Basketball!
Shooting,
Passing, dribbling
I launch the basketball
into the air.
Score!
People cheer!
by Chace

MJ

MJ is awesome!
P.E., Library, Art, Math, Lunch, Recess
All awesome!!!
Mr. Foley, Mr. K., Mrs. Dunn!
I love MJ!
The best school in the world!
I really, really very love
MJ!
by Henry

News from Ms. Eaton



In the Learning Center, second graders are using bar models as a way to solve addition and subtraction word problems. After reading the word problems and highlighting key terms and numbers, the students ask themselves, “**Do I know the total?**” After answering this question, the students then follow the flow chart to the next set of questions, “**Is there an unknown part?**” and “**Do you have at least two parts?**” This helps the students to arrive at the correct operation to apply when solving. From here, students draw a matching bar model.



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

WELCOME 2025-2026 PTO BOARD!

- Ally Pavlic & Lennon (Co-Presidents)
- Abbe Lynch & Monisha Dabek (Co-Treasurers)
- Jenn Katsilieris & Erika Gautheir (Co-Secretaries)
- Priya Sharma & Gina Ciampolillo (Co-Social Media)

Save the Date! **June 4th** 5th Grade End of the Year Party!

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

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[Jenn Katsilieris](#), Co-Secretary

[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>.

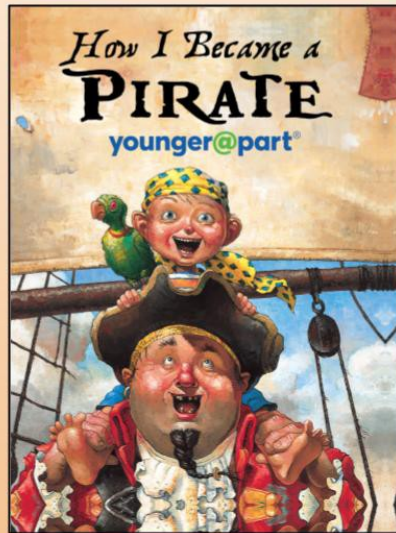
Unlocking Executive Functioning

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.



August Program for Rising 6th Graders: SQUAD SKILLS - See the attached flyer for more information

FROM JOY TO SADNESS

Helping children explore their
feelings Inside & Out

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!

Tuesday, June 10

6-8pm

Location: Westwood Council on Aging, 60 Nahatan St

For more information contact Adina Swan:

781-320-1012

aswan@westwoodma.gov



SQUAD SKILLS

Tuesday, August 19th 9:30a - 11:30a

@ Westwood Public Library,
First Floor Conference Room
660 High St, Westwood

This free co-ed workshop is for rising 6th graders to meet new classmates and learn skills to help navigate the new social scene that comes with beginning Middle School. This workshop is open to all Westwood residents and students of Westwood Public Schools

Register now!



For more information,
please contact
Adina Swan at
781-320-1012 or
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.

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

لك. lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us كنشكر 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

