



Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

Matt Kuklantz, Principal

Martha Jones Motto:

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Responsible. Be Respectful.

[Westwood Public Schools](#) | [Martha Jones School](#) | [Martha Jones PTO](#)

Issue 1 - September 5, 2025

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

While I mourn the loss of summer (I'm a kid at heart), I'm eager to have everyone back in the building. The energy and excitement of a new year is palpable in an elementary school, students are excited to see friends they missed this summer and hug their old teachers. Even though the start of school was only last week, Martha Jones is back in full swing!

We did it! Great job Martha Jones readers!!!
We get to enjoy the Summer Reading trophy all year long in the Martha Jones Library!!! Yay books!!!
Thank you to the Westwood, MA Public Library for such an amazing Summer Reading Program!



Leaps and Bounds is my regular communication vehicle to provide parents and caregivers updates on important events and activities at Martha Jones. We also try to include glimpses into the daily life of our students by highlighting different classrooms periodically. If you ever have any questions, please reach out to me mkuklantz@westwood.k12.ma.us

Curriculum Night

Our Curriculum Night will be on Thursday, September 19 from 6:00-7:40. Grade level teachers will hold presentations, with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers presenting from 6:00-6:30. From 6:30-7:10, there will be a brief whole school meeting in the gym/cafe and an opportunity to meet with

specials teachers, special educators, and math and literacy specialists. Our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade teachers will be presenting from 7:10-7:40.

This is an event for caregivers to understand more about grade level curriculum and classroom expectations. It is not a student event.

Picture Day

Smile 😊 Picture Day is coming - Thursday, September 11th. Flyers and order forms were sent home earlier this week. Access online ordering by using the QR code sent home in the flyer or by going to the online site at www.coffeepond.com and click on the big red button that says "Order School Portraits and shop our exclusive products". Please note orders placed after picture day may incur a \$7 handling fee.

All students will be photographed individually and there will also be a group class photo. All students will receive one copy of the group photo. Our 5th grade students will also have a grade level photo taken for the grade 5 yearbook. The grade 5 photo will be taken promptly at the start of the school day, so please be sure your child is on time for school on picture day.

A portion of the proceeds from picture day is returned to the school for school use. We want to make sure you are satisfied with the product, so please feel free to share any feedback you have. If you are not happy with your child's photo, retakes are available. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

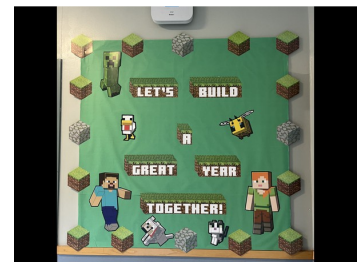
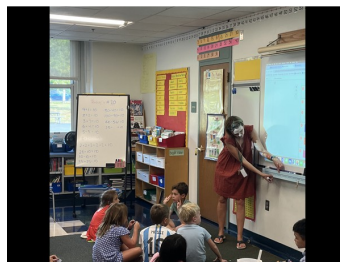
Student Belongings

We have been very lucky with the weather to start this year, cool mornings and warmer afternoons. With the variable New England weather, I anticipate that students will be wearing more layers. Please **label** your students clothing. It's amazing how often clothing gets lost as we enter the cooler months.

Technology

To reduce student distractions **please have students leave phones and smartwatches at home.** These items are NOT allowed in school as they are a distraction to the learning environment. If a student brings these items into school the classroom teacher will ask them to turn off their device and place it in their backpack. If a parent needs to send a communication to their child during the school day, parents should contact Ms. Santangelo (dsantangelo@westwood.k12.ma.us or ext 7422) in the school's main office.

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones School
Principal



Important Upcoming Events

- Thursday, September 11th - Picture Day/All Grades
- Wednesday, September 17th - Early Release, 12:00pm
- Wednesday, September 17th - SEPAC Community Meeting, 7:30-8:30pm - Westwood Library/[Zoom](#)
- Thursday, September 18th - Curriculum Night
- Tuesday, September 23rd - No School - Holiday
- Wednesday, October 1st - Early Release, 12:00pm
- Thursday, October 2nd - No School - Holiday
- Monday, October 13th - No School - Holiday
- Wednesday, October 15th - Early Release, 12:00p
- Wednesday, October 29th - Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:00pm
- Wednesday, November 5th - Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:00p
- Wednesday, November 5th - SEPAC Community Meeting, 10:00-11:00am - Neroli Mercato
- Tuesday, November 11th - No School - Holiday
- Wednesday, November 26th - Early Release
- Thursday, November 27th - No School - Holiday
- Friday, November 28th - No School - Holiday
- Monday, December 1st - No School - Professional Development
- Wednesday, December 10th - Early Release, 12:00pm
- Tuesday, December 23 - Early Release
- Wednesday, December 24 - Friday, January 2nd - No School - Vacation
- Monday, January 5 - School Resumes
- Wednesday, January 14th - SEPAC Community Meeting, 7:30-8:30pm - Westwood Library/[Zoom](#)

School Breakfast and Lunch

Westwood Food Service will be providing FREE REIMBURSABLE BREAKFAST, in addition to FREE REIMBURSABLE LUNCH, to all students enrolled in the Westwood Public School district. A variety of options will be provided at all schools, including Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan and Dairy Free offerings.

Your school menu can be viewed at [Menus / Westwood Public Schools \(nutrislice.com\)](#)

News from the Front Office

Media Reminders & Aspen Portal

Aspen Portal - If you haven't already done so, please be certain to go into the Aspen portal to review and update all information. This includes renewing permissions each year. I encourage all of you to select "yes" for media permissions. This allows your child to be in school photographs on our website and participate in photos during special events. In addition to media permission, permission to release directory info to the PTO is included in the contact verification and permissions. The Martha Jones student directory is available to all members of the PTO. I encourage you to allow your information to be put into the student directory. It is a great resource for connecting with other students in your child's class whether it's to arrange playdates, or just send well wishes. Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions about the media or directory permissions. Changes may be made by [updating your Aspen account online](#).



We encourage all parents to sign the media/photo release in Aspen. This will allow your child to be photographed in school for classroom happenings, including but not limited to – when teachers take pictures of students engaging in fun learning activities for Leaps, our newsletter, any school performances, fun events such as the family picnic night and the PTO Sponsored Haunted Hallway in October, and when special visitors are here, such as when the meteorologist comes to talk about the weather and the students get to give a shout out on television. Students who do not have a photo/media release will need to be excluded from the photographs.

You will find the release form and more information on the WPS Technology policies in the [Elementary Handbook](#).

Student Safety and Vehicle Traffic

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.**

Thank you



School Dismissal Manager

Thank you for updating your child's dismissal note in SDM. With PTO Mini Courses on the horizon along with possible changes to Extended Day slots please continue to update if you have a change for your child's dismissal routine. And remember... you should also use SDM if your child will be absent, late, or if being dismissed early.



Lost and Found

We are just completing day 6 of school and there are already 5 jackets/ sweaters that have been sadly left on our Lost and Found rack with no names. 🙄

Please be sure your child's items are labelled with a name or initials. Here in the office we do our best to get labelled items back to their forever homes. Items without labels get sent to the



donation bin after 4 weeks. (For those who remember Ms. Santangelo uses the old Filene's Basement method - date and check 😊)

CLASSROOM NEWS

1st Day and News from Around the School



2H having a great start to the new school year!

A Message from the Musical Instrument Teachers - 4th Grade Instrument Classes

Dear Martha Jones Grade 4 Families,
We are excited to include your child in our school's Instrumental Music Program this year!

In **Grade 4 Instrumental Music**, every student will have an opportunity to learn to play an instrument during school and to participate in our school band.

Next Tuesday, September 2 we will be introducing each of the Grade 4 instrument choices to students in school:



Instrument Choices

The five instrument choices we will preview for students during class this day are the:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Trumpet

- Trombone
- Bells

Every 4th Grader will be asked to choose one of these instruments to play in school this year.

- To help make a decision, families are encouraged to watch [this video](#) of our band teachers demonstrating flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone. Students interested in the bells may also wish to view [this video](#).
- Additional information about the Grade 4 Band can also be found [here](#).

Instrument Selection Form

Once students have had an opportunity to preview the instrument choices (in class and/or [on video](#)) and to discuss their choices at home, we will ask parents to take a moment to complete the [Grade 4 Instrument Selection Form](#).

This form will also be emailed next week as a separate Google Form email. Once received, we ask that this online form be completed by **Friday, September 12**.

How to Obtain An Instrument - Rent, Purchase, Own or Borrow

Families are asked to obtain an instrument for your child to play in school this year. There are four options to consider:

- 1) Rent** - [K&C Music Company](#) in Norwood has partnered with our school to provide and maintain student instruments at an affordable price. Instruments can be reserved online and will be delivered to school before the start of band. Please see the attached Instrument Rental materials for more information. Other local instrument vendors include [David French's Music](#) and [Needham Music](#).
- 2) Purchase** - Families may opt to purchase an instrument for their child to use in school this year. Instrument companies such as K&C Music, Music Go Round, Woodwind/Brasswind and Guitar Center offer a number of options for quality student band instruments.
- 3) Own** - If your child plans to use a family-owned instrument in band this year, please have them bring it to school this week for a "check-up" with one of our music teachers, or contact [K&C Music](#) to schedule an instrument "tune-up" or repair prior to the start of band classes.
- 4) Borrow** - WPS has a limited number of school-owned instruments available. Instrument requests will be reviewed by the school Principal, Performing Arts Director and/or Assistant Superintendent. Priority for borrowing an instrument will be given to families demonstrating a need for assistance, as determined by eligibility for free and reduced price school meals. Families must complete the Free and Reduced Price School Meals application and give permission to share that information for instrument loaners on the district Sign Offs and Permissions form that was sent out from the district in August.

Important Dates - Getting Started with Instruments!

- **Tuesday, September 2** - In-School Instrument Demonstration for Grade 4 Students
- **This Week:** Please take some time at home to watch our [Instrument Demonstration video](#) and to discuss your child's instrument choices at home.
- **Monday, September 8** - Mr. Yennior and a representative from K&C Music will be hosting an **Online Information Session at 7:00 PM** to provide an overview of the school band program and the instrument rental process. They will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

- **Tuesday, September 30** - Start date for playing instruments (students will need to have an instrument to play by this date). Instruments rented online through K&C Music and school-owned loaner instruments will be delivered to school for students by this date.

We look forward to getting started with our grade 4 band classes very soon! In the meantime, please be sure to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Joel Yennior, Lori Labedz and Erica Yennior

Westwood Public Schools

Elementary Instrumental Music Specialists

[jyennior@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto: jyennior@westwood.k12.ma.us)

[llabedz@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto: llabedz@westwood.k12.ma.us)

[eyennior@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto: eyennior@westwood.k12.ma.us)

WELCOME BACK, MARTHA JONES FAMILIES!

Parents and Caregivers of Martha Jones School,

Our PTO board wanted to give a warm welcome to the new and returning students of Martha Jones. We have been working all summer on returning fundraising projects, new fundraising projects, and lots of great activities for inside and outside of the school day.

We have a lot of great events to promote throughout the year but most importantly, we wanted to announce that this year, Kristen Donahue and Ally Pavlic will be sending out a monthly newsletter to highlight some of the events and programs in and around Westwood. If you have an event or program you would like promoted please e-mail the [mjpto@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto: mjpto@westwood.k12.ma.us). The newsletter will be in Membership Toolkit, so please be sure to subscribe and/or add the app on your phone and desktop.

This year, Aspen is taking a little more time releasing parent and caregiver e-mails and phone numbers. If you haven't already, please be sure to update your family's permission settings. You have the option not to share your contact information with the parents and caregivers but if you choose to share, that is what we use for our directory, inside the Membership site. This is a great way to obtain contact information for playdates, parties, etc. In two weeks there will be an updated directory and the option to sign up for room parent and library duty. These fill up fast but please do not sign up for more than one library duty a month to give other parents and caregivers the option to sign up.

We will have lots of information and dates to share throughout the year but here are some save the dates to share for now:

- 9/9 5:30 PM - Family Picnic at MJ
- 9/30 7:00 PM - First PTO Meeting at the MJ Library
- 10/24 - Haunted Hallway at MJ

We look forward to a great school year!

Ally Pavlic, Co-President

PTO Membership Toolkit

The PTO is so excited for another year of learning, fun, and community. We can't wait to see all that our students will do this year! Be on the lookout Monday morning (9/8) for the opening of Membership Toolkit - caregivers will be able to view and sign up for all volunteer opportunities & contribute to our "Support Martha Jones" campaign!

With gratitude,
Your PTO

BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY PICNIC September 9th 7:00 PM

Please join us for a family picnic in the field next to the playground! This will be a great opportunity to run around, play with new classmates, and reconnect with friends. Don't forget bug spray, blankets, and dinner for your family. We hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATES

Curriculum Night - September 18th

Haunted Hallway - October 24th

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION DRIVE

We aim to raise \$7,500 from our annual PTO drive. 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!

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.



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MJ PTO General Information

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates 2025-2026

September 30 , 2025 7pm

November 18, 2025, 7pm

March 3, 2026, 7pm

May 5, 2026, 7pm

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

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

PTO Co-Secretary - [Jenn Katsilieris](#), [Erika Gauthier](#)

Martha Jones PTO Board 2025-2026

[Ally Pavlic](#), Co-President

[Lisa Lennon](#), Co-President

[Abbe Lynch](#), Co-Treasurer

[Monisha Dabek](#), Co-Treasurer

[Jenn Katsilieris](#), Co-Secretary

[Erika Gauthier](#), Co-Secretary

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

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

SEPAC News

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>.

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 lpouffe@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 lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。

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

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

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Вествудгосударственных школах "Студенческие службы Департамента по 781 326-7500 ext.

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



Matthew Kuklentz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

