



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 10 - February 13, 2026

Principal's Message

MJ,

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the district's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas.

Our [district report card](#) and [MJ report card](#) are available. The report card includes multiple measures of a district's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It provides information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more. Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our school. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is room for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school.

I hope you and your family has a wonderful break!

Matt



Students in 2H using the engineering process

MJ Artists

MJ STEM Fair

Registration is open for the Martha Jones STEM Fair

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm

The STEM fair is an annual event for students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math projects and present them to the Martha Jones community. Scientists can work individually or in groups of 2 or 3. Projects are completed outside of school and showcased at the fair. Each project will have table space to display a posterboard and materials.

Please register projects by **March 3rd**

Registration: [Registration link here](#)

Project ideas: [Project Ideas](#)

International Night

Save the date! Our International Night Celebration is happening on Friday, March 27th from **6:00–8:30 PM**, and you're invited! We're moving the event to cooler weather for everyone's comfort, and we can't wait to come together for a night of fun, food, and culture. Enjoy exciting performances, tasty international dishes, and lots of great moments with friends and family as we celebrate what makes our school community so special. Mark your calendars and get ready for a joyful evening of connection and global flair!

[Host a Table](#)

Safe Routes to School Sign Contest

The Massachusetts SRTS Program's Yard Sign Design Contest is a way for students to use their creativity to help promote safe roads for cyclists and pedestrians in their communities. The contest is open to students in grades 2-8 who are enrolled in a Massachusetts SRTS partner school (MJ is a partner).

This school year, the contest will launch in January. Multilingual signs are encouraged!

[Link to how to enter](#)

Math Newsletter

Please see the [Math Newsletter](#) from our Math Curriculum Coordinator, Molly Singh, and Math Specialist, Erin Aaron.

MJ Girls on the Run

MJ will once again be hosting another season of the Girls on the Run for girls in Grades 3, 4, and 5. More information about the program and how to register will be provided in the next Leaps (Issue 11) when we return from the February break.

This program does offer a wonderful opportunity for our girls to build self-confidence and make new friends.



Student Council

Martha Jones Food Drive - the final count

Martha Jones collected 761 items to donate to the Westwood Food Pantry. Mrs. Dunn's room is the winner, collecting 141 items.

Our Student Council Advisors this year are:

MaryKate Stimpson mstimpson@westwood.k12.ma.us and

Katharine Fader kfader@westwood.k12.ma.us



Important Upcoming Events

- Monday, February 16-Friday February 20 - No School - Vacation
- Monday, February 23 - School Resumes
- Wednesday, February 25 - Early Release
- Friday, February 27 - Friday, March 6 - MJ Read-a-thon
- Tuesday, March 3 - PTO Meeting
- Wednesday, March 4 - Book Fair
- Monday, March 9 - Enrichment
- Wednesday, March 11 - Early Release
- Thursday, March 12 - MJ PTO STEM Fair
- Monday, March 16 - Enrichment
- Wednesday March 18th 2-3 pm (cafeteria), Combined Rehearsal All 5th grade
- Thursday March 19th 10:00 am (cafeteria), Concert
- Wednesday, March 25 - Early Release
- Friday, April 3 - No School - Holiday
- Monday, April 6 & Tuesday, April 7 - Grade 5, Our Changing Body Program
- Wednesday, April 8 - Early Release
- Thursday, April 9 - Art Show
- Friday, April 10 - ELA MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Monday, April 13 - ELA MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Tuesday, April 14 - Gr 2 Field Trip - Wheelock Theater
- Tuesday, April 14 & Wednesday, April 15 - ELA MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5) Make-Ups
- Monday, April 20 - Friday, April 24 - No School - Vacation
- Monday, April 27 - School Resumes
- Tuesday, April 28 - K Field Trip - Discovery Museum
- Wednesday, April 29 - Early Release
- Tuesday, May 5 - Gr. 3 to Fisher School
- Tuesday, May 12 - Gr 1 Field Trip - Blue Hills Trailside Museum

- Tuesday, May 12 - Math MCAS(Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Wednesday, May 13 - Early Release
- Thursday, May 14 - Math MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Friday, May 15 - Math MCAS Make-Ups (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Monday, May 18 - Science (Gr. 5)
- Tuesday, May 19 - Science (Gr. 5)
- Wednesday, May 20 - Science (Gr. 5) Make-Ups
- Wednesday, May 27 - Early Release
- Wednesday, June 3 - Early Release
- Tuesday, June 16 - Student Last Day (Tentative with no make-ups)

School Breakfast and Lunch

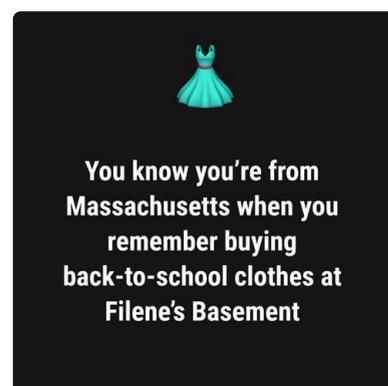
Your school menu can be viewed at [Menus / Westwood Public Schools \(nutrislice.com\)](https://www.nutrislice.com). Please check daily as the menu may change.

News from the Front Office

Lost & Found

Only a few items can be seen on the Lost & Found rack. Yeah 🙄 There is however a bin that has a number of gloves, mittens, and hats. These items are all unlabelled.

(For those who remember Ms. Santangelo uses the old Filene's Basement method - date and check 🙄)



Dismissal Changes (SDM & MiniCourses)

MJ PTO MiniCourses began this week. If you have signed your child up for a MiniCourse please be sure you are updating your child's dismissal in SDM.



For dismissals directly to MiniCourses:

You can set up all dates automatically by using the "Recurring Dismissal" feature. Follow these directions:

1. Click on Recurring Dismissal
2. Select student name
3. Select "Mini Courses" under Dismissal Instructions and add the Mini Course name in the "notes" field
4. Select your mini course day(s)
5. Apply to: Every Week
6. Include the Start Date & End Date

For dismissals to MiniCourses from Extended Day:

Please note if your child is going to MiniCourse from Extended Day the only dismissal note in SDM should be EXTENDED DAY.

If your child is NOT returning to Extended Day at the end of a MiniCourse you must change the dismissal instruction in SDM to reflect MINI COURSE (as listed in the "dismissals directly to

MiniCourse" instruction)

Please understand we are all striving for student safety, delineating a clear chain of custody for your child.

All children will be dismissed per the parent instruction in SDM.

And remember... you should also use SDM if your child will be late, absent, or is being dismissed early. For the change to take effect in the system it should be made before 11:00AM.

TY

Bus Reminders

For those families who have signed up for bus services this is just a quick reminder that students may only ride his/her assigned bus. Transporting students to alternative, yet existing, stops on the student's same route may be granted if done so on a regular basis (example: three days per week). Requests for alternative stops should be made in writing to: Scherie Ciarrocchi, Bus Coordinator and sent to: Westwood Public Schools, 220 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090. Transporting students for play dates, lessons, or other reasons is not permitted. A full list of [Transportation FAQs](#) can be found on the [WPS District website](#).



CORI Forms

All volunteers must complete a CORI annually. If you did not complete a new form when school started in September you WILL BE REQUIRED to complete a new form for this calendar year. Also note the CORI Form submission is not considered complete until it is also accompanied with a copy of your current picture ID (License or Passport).

Thank you for adhering to the District Safety practices.



Student Safety and Vehicle Traffic

Student safety is one of our utmost concerns. We kindly ask that you are extra mindful 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



A decorative graphic featuring a row of colorful pencils (pink, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple) at the top. Below them, the words "CLASSROOM NEWS" are written in large, colorful, bubbly letters. The entire graphic is enclosed in a pink and blue double-line border.

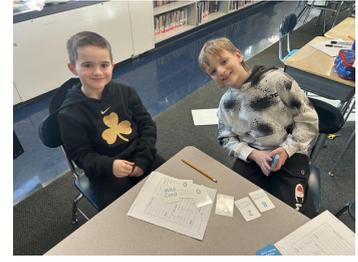
News from 5K (Ms. Krumsiek)



Fifth graders have been studying our solar system in and out of the classroom. Today, we went on a field trip to the Christa McAuliffe Challenger Learning Center at Framingham State University to learn more about space through hands-on activities. While there, we visited a planetarium and took part in a simulated Mars mission. Thank you to the Martha Jones PTO for helping to fund this memorable trip!

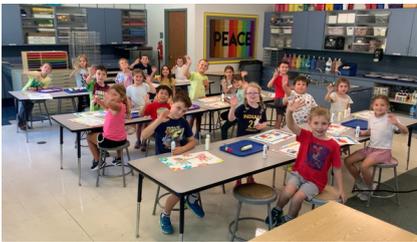


News from 2P (Mrs. Perry)



This past Monday marked our 100th day of school—the perfect occasion for second graders to dive into the game Close to 100. As budding mathematicians, our recent focus has been mastering addition within 100. By playing this game, students leveraged their knowledge of place value and "friendly" sums (like $25 + 75$ or $80 + 20$) to find pairs of two-digit numbers. Beyond the fun, this activity helps students deepen their number sense and sharpen their strategic thinking.

News from Art - Mr. Hagel



1D



3Lu



4W

Mr. Hagel's kindergarten (Layton & Fader) and first grade (Dunn) art classes created impressive primary color hands pictures using tracing, drawing, coloring and printing techniques. His second (Mundy & Perry) and third grade (Luskin) art classes created beautiful woven bookmarks using tabby weaving and knotting techniques. And his fourth (Bass/Waldner) and fifth grade (Krumsiek/Parkhurst) art classes created amazing profile portraits using tracing, drawing and painting techniques. Our students had so much fun learning about the elements of art and the principles of design while creating their art.



Are you ready for vacation? At least we are ready for weather that's a few degrees warmer. Thank you to our **Valentine's Dance** committee for putting together a wonderful event. Dancing, face paint and photos to last a lifetime! We also were able to stock **Westwood Youth & Family Services** with supplies to make birthday celebrations happen regardless of outside circumstances. Enjoy the week off and make sure to mark your calendars because there's a lot happening!

Is it spring yet?

Your PTO

SAVE THE DATES

DINE OUT @ Crave - Feb 25th

Read-a-thon Starts - Feb 27th

PTO Meeting - March 3rd

Book Fair - March 4th

STEM Fair- March 12th

International Night - March 27th

Want to save even more dates? Check out the full [PTO Calendar](#)

DINE OUT

Dine out on Wednesday, February 25 and enjoy lunch or dinner without the prep work! Visit [Crave](#) in Norwood for lunch, dinner or take out and let your server or phone representative know to flag your check as a fundraiser participant. MJS will receive 20% from all the flagged checks donated back. Feel free to share this promotion with friends, family, and neighbors!



STEM FAIR

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[Project Ideas](#)

[Register](#) by March 3rd



INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

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MJS @ RED SOX

Be on the lookout for more information about this fun new event but in the meantime circle May 3rd on your calendar.



Join the PTO!

We are actively looking to fill board positions for next year. A board seat is a two year commitment, with a “shadow year” to learn the ropes. Questions? Reach out to Ally or Lisa to learn more!

PARENT SOCIAL

We’re excited to kick off planning for our 2026 Parent/Caregiver Social on April 11th! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we’d love your help to make it a success. We’re looking for volunteers to help with everything from planning and decorations to donations, setup, and breakdown. No party-planning experience required! Fresh ideas are always welcome—whether you’re new to Martha Jones or have never attended the social before, we’d love to have you involved.

If you’re interested in joining the committee, please reach out to Kristen Donahue at 781-492-8446.

DO YOU FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM

Love the reminders about all things MJ when you’re scrolling? Take a minute and like or comment to keep us showing up in the 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

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

District & Community News

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>. Please see their [informational video](#).



Resources for Families and Students

Throughout the school year, there may be family, community, or broader world events that are impacting your family and child(ren). If you need some support with how to talk with your child about violence, loss, or scary events, please reach out to your child's teacher, me or our School Psychologist, Ms. MaryKate Stimpson. Additionally, I have found the following resources to be valuable:

How to talk to children about violence ([1 page](#)), ([full](#)) - NASP

[How to talk about natural disasters and help children cope](#) - NASP

[Helping children cope with terrorism](#) - NASP

[Talking to Children about hate crimes and anti-semitism](#) - National Child Traumatic Stress Network

[Interface Referral Service](#) is like a match.com for counseling providers. You contact them with insurance and presenting problem and they try to match you with an available provider.

[Westwood Youth & Family Services Website](#) has been supporting and advocating for the children and families in our community since 1986.

[Westwood Community Chest](#) is a 501(c)(3) Public Charity dedicated to helping Westwood residents in need through temporary financial assistance. Single parents in need of safe summer activities for their children through our "Campership" program. Children who need school supplies or medical treatment. Families who have experienced job loss or other financial crisis and are struggling to make ends meet.

The [Westwood Food Pantry](#), located in Westwood, Massachusetts, is committed to providing essential provisions to individuals and families in our community who need temporary assistance.

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 كنتشكرا lplouffe@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 lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters