

# Martha Jones Families come to the United States from all



# 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 12 - March 20, 2026

## Principal's Message

MJ,

Please see the invitation for our International Night Celebration from the organizers:

**We are excited to invite our entire school community to our International Night Celebration on Friday, March 27 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. This special evening is a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate the many cultures that make our school such a vibrant and welcoming community. Families will have the chance to explore countries from around the world through food, displays, performances, and cultural traditions. It is always an incredible evening filled with learning, laughter, and connection for both kids and adults.**

So far, more than 15 families have signed up to host tables representing countries that reflect their nationality, ethnicity, or cultural background, including:

**Albania \* Brazil \* Bulgaria \* Canada \* China \* Colombia \* Dominican Republic \* France \* Haiti \* India \* Ireland \* Lebanon \* Netherlands \* Pakistan \* South Korea \* Syria \* United States \* United Kingdom \* Vietnam**

### 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.

We would love to add a few more countries and cultures to the celebration. If your family would like to host a table and share your heritage, please sign up [HERE](#).

We are also looking for volunteers to help during the event, particularly at the passport tables and prize table. If you would like to help make this night a success, please volunteer [HERE](#).

International Night is truly one of the most joyful events of the year, and we hope you will join us for an evening of global exploration, delicious food, and community connection.

Matt



1st Grade Science/Tech Enrichment



5th Grade Chorus Performers



5th Grade Concert

## Girls on the Run

### Hello, Bold Heart!

Girls on the Run is coming back to **Martha Jones this Spring!**

- Teams meet twice a week for eight weeks (16 lessons)
- Caring coaches lead fun lessons and games, group discussions, and physical activities
- Each team completes a Community Impact Project that helps make the world a better place
- You will cross the finish line with your team in an exciting and joyful 5K.



THIS SEASON, GIRLS WILL...



Build confidence to boldly share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings



Discover their Heart Power to speak up – even when they feel nervous



Learn to listen deeply, show empathy, and invite others to speak up, too



### SEASON DETAILS!

Team Name: **Martha Jones Elementary School - Westwood**

Grades: 3-5

Practice Days & Times: M/W 3:30-5:00

(except HALF DAY Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:00 PM)

First Practice: Wednesday, April 1

Celebratory 5K: **Saturday, May 30, 2026**

Program Fee: \$225

Additional Financial Assistance available! at [gotgrbinfo@gmail.com!](mailto:gotgrbinfo@gmail.com)

REGISTRATION OPENS 2/13!



School/Site Contact: Amy Theaumont, [amyspiegs@yahoo.com](mailto:amyspiegs@yahoo.com)

GOTR Contact: Cayla Osowski, [cayla.osowski@girlsontherun.org](mailto:cayla.osowski@girlsontherun.org)

<https://www.girlsontherunboston.org/>



# MCAS

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

ELA: 4/10 & 4/13 (Gr. 3, 4, 5)

Math: 5/12 & 5/14 (Gr. 3, 4, 5)

Science: 5/18 & 5/19 (Gr. 5)

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.

## Our Changing Bodies - Gr. 5

Westwood has offered a puberty education program to students in grade five for many years. The objective of the program, Our Changing Bodies, is to help children understand the changes that are taking place in their bodies. This year, the program will be held during the week of April 6. The facilitators for Our Changing Bodies will be Martha Jones P.E. teacher, Patrick Foley and Nurse JoEllen Doyle.

Parents are invited to preview the program video, "Puberty and You," and have a "Q & A" session with WPS Wellness Director, Ari Tornatore. This video has been chosen for its conciseness, direct approach, and accuracy of information.

If you would prefer to watch the video on your own, you can find it at this link: [Puberty and You](#) For more detailed information, please see the curriculum overview for the Our Changing Bodies program. You may request that your child not participate in Our Changing Bodies, but we encourage you to attend a parent preview session before deciding to withdraw your child from the program. Children who do not participate will have study time. If you choose to withdraw, please notify Principal Matthew Kuklantz by Monday, March 30.

Please find the objectives of the program, a list of frequently asked questions, and a bibliography of resources that may be helpful to you and your child in [this letter](#). Sharing a book is a good way to open the discussion about the changes your child is, or soon will be, experiencing.

If you have any questions about the information provided in [this letter](#), please contact WPS Director of Wellness Ariana Tornatore ([atornatore@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:atornatore@westwood.k12.ma.us)).

## Last Call: Extended Day Enrollment Lottery Reminder

Just a reminder: the lottery for Extended Day will include all applications received by **5:00 PM EST on March 27, 2026**. Applications submitted after this deadline will be processed in the order they are received. Please review the enrollment information and registration links for the Extended Day Before and After School Programs linked below. Be sure to read the full details before applying.

For questions, contact Michael Fagone at: [mfagone@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:mfagone@westwood.k12.ma.us)

## Math Newsletter

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

## Student Council

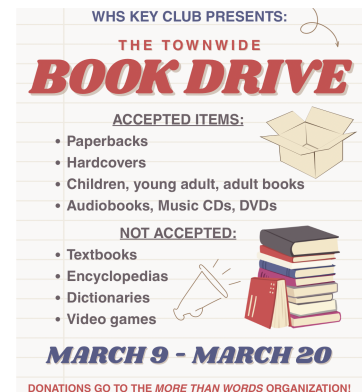
### MJ / WHS Book Drive

The MJ Student Council partnered with the Westwood High School's Key Club in hosting a town-wide book drive. Donations of new and used books for all ages were collected and sent to *More Than Words Organization*, a used bookstore in Boston that provides houseless people aged 16-24 with a job opportunity. Thank you so much to everyone who made a contribution!

Our Student Council Advisors this year are:

MaryKate Stimpson [mstimpson@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:mstimpson@westwood.k12.ma.us) and

Katharine Fader [kfader@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:kfader@westwood.k12.ma.us)



### Important Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, March 25 - Early Release
- Wednesday, March 25 - Math League Meet - Thurston (District wide)
- Friday, March 27 - MJ PTO International Night (6:00 - 8:30PM)
- Monday, March 30 - Gr 3 - 5 Science Enrichment
- Wednesday, April 1 - Gr 3 Field Trip - USS Constitution
- 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 - MJ PTO STEM Fair/Art Show
- Friday, April 10 - ELA MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Friday, April 10 - MJ PTO Movie Night
- 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
- Thursday, April 30 Gr 4 Field Trip- Harvard Museum of Science & Culture
- Tuesday, May 5 - Gr. 3 to Fisher School (District Programming)
- 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
- Monday, June 8 - Gr 5 Field Trip to Hale Reservation (District Programming)
- 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

### Math League Meet

This year's district wide Math League Meet will be held on **Wednesday, March 25th at Thurston Middle School**



The schedule is as follows:

2nd grade: 2:20 - 3:40pm

3rd grade: 2:30 - 4:15pm

4th grade: 3:00 - 4:45pm

5th grade: 3:20pm (written round participants), 3:40pm (for all others), ending at 5:15pm

We are looking forward to the event next week and can't thank enough all of the parent/caregiver volunteers that have supported MJ Math league throughout the year and are supporting the meet next week.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out. We are happy to answer any questions.

The Math League Team

### Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration is open for the 2026-2027 School Year. Please see the information sent from Tim Piwowar, Superintendent, Westwood Public Schools.

Parents and caregivers can visit the [Kindergarten Registration page](#) on the district website to get started. If you indicated on the Westwood town census that you have a child eligible for kindergarten for the coming school year, you will also receive registration information by mail.

**Note:** If you are an existing Westwood Integrated Preschool family, you will receive separate instructions for registering your student.

Please [check out this FAQ](#) for answers to common questions about registration.

### Buffer Zones Information

We also want families to be aware that the district is implementing elementary school buffer zones. Buffer zones are areas on the boundary between existing elementary school district zones, where incoming students may be assigned to one of *two* elementary schools to help maintain class size guidelines. You will find [detailed information on our website here](#).

## Student Safety and Vehicle Traffic

Student safety is one of our utmost concerns. We kindly ask that you are extra mindful when you are driving to MJ to collect your child. **The safety of all students depends on all drivers obeying the rules and speed limits.**

Thank you



## CORI Forms

And while we're on the subject of safety... did you know that the District requires that all volunteers must complete a CORI annually?? If you did **not** complete a new form when the school year 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). Please click the pic to get a pdf copy of the CORI form.

Thank you for adhering to the District Safety practices.



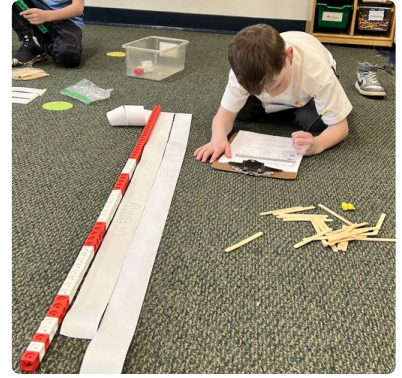
# CLASSROOM NEWS

## News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)

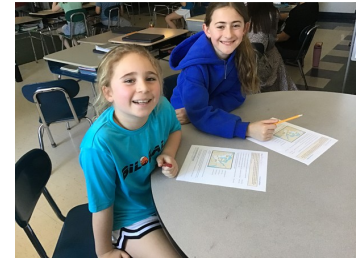
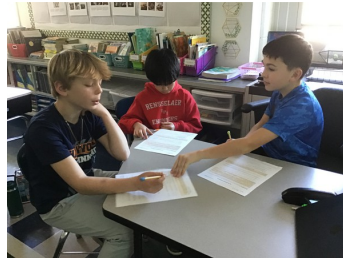
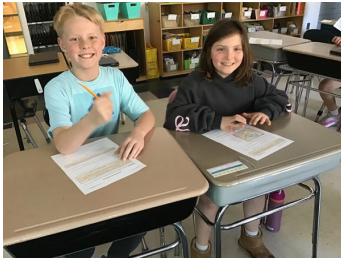


The second graders have started a math unit on measurement. In a recent lesson, the students in Ms. Mundy's class had fun jumping and measuring three different types of jumps: frog jumps, rabbit jumps, and kid jumps. After documenting each of these jumps with strips of adding machine tape, students measured each with different non-standard units of measure, including cubes, craft sticks, and their own feet.

The second graders learned that the smaller the unit they use to measure, the more of these units they will need. And inversely, the larger the unit they use to measure, the fewer units they will need. We also learned that when we want to compare measurements, it is important to use the same unit for each.

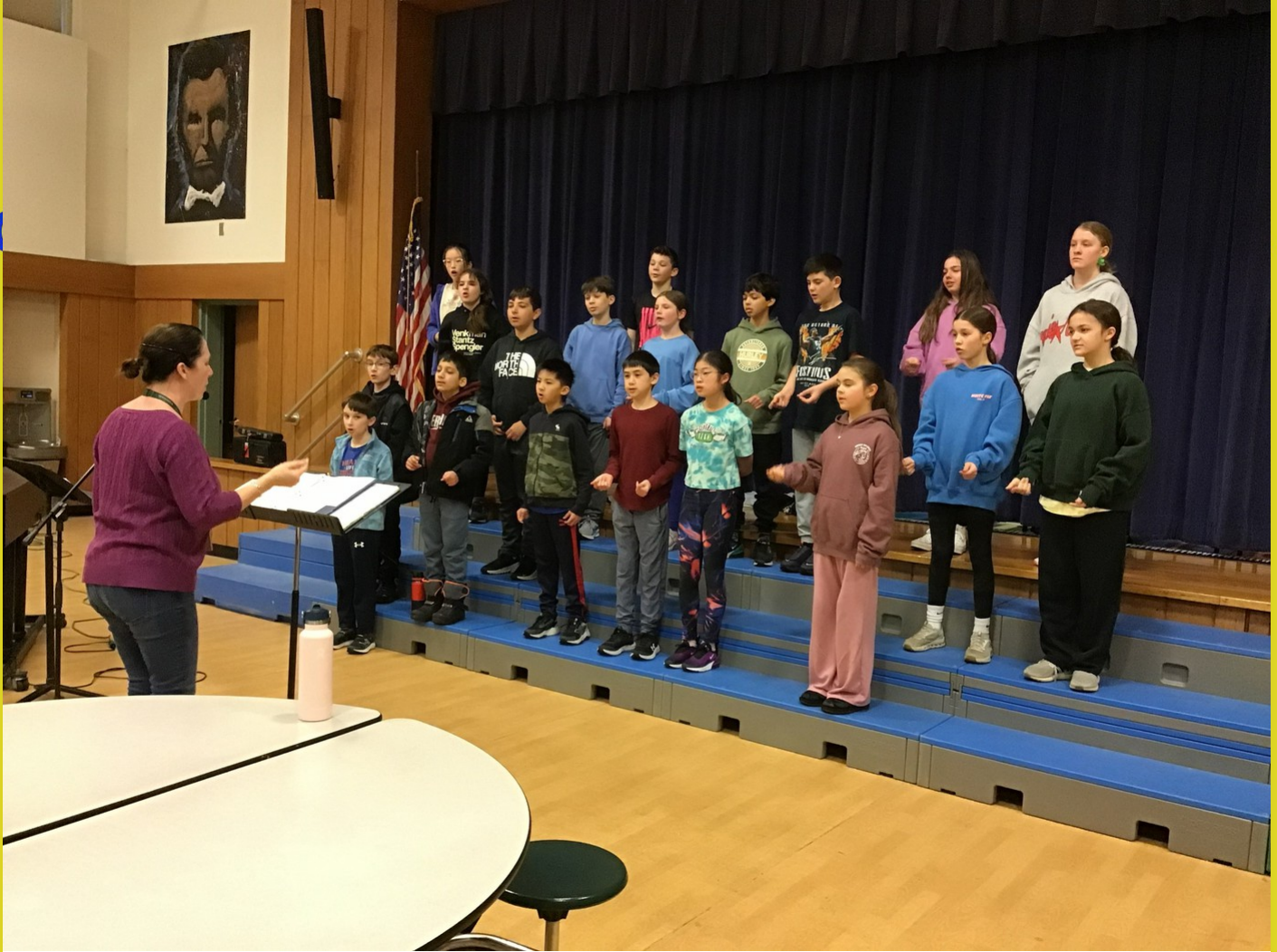


## News from 4B (Ms. Bass)



In fourth grade, we are learning about westward expansion across the United States. Students have explored a number of related topics, including 1) how territories become states, 2) the dispute between free states and slave states 3) Manifest Destiny, and 4) the treatment of Indigenous peoples as settlers moved west. Students are learning how these events shaped our country and its people.

## News from Music (Mrs. Goldman)



The Grade 5 Chorus has been preparing for their Spring Chorus Concert on Thursday, March 19th. Under the direction of Mrs Goldman and Mrs Yennior, all three 5th grade classes have recently combined together to rehearse singing on the risers. We are expecting a concert full of beautiful and harmonious singing for the entire Martha Jones community.

5th graders have half a year of Chorus and half a year of General Music.



Over half way through March and schedules are heating up (hopefully the weather will soon follow!) There's still one more Wednesday this month to visit NYAJ to support MJ in the easiest way possible. We have lots of fun in store for the rest of the year between enrichments in school, field trips, teacher appreciation week and everything in between. Don't forget the District Math meet next week. We will be cheering on our MJ Mathletes! Want to get involved? We still need board members for next year!

Ready to Roll,  
Your PTO

## SAVE THE DATES

### SAVE THE DATE

**DINE OUT @ Not Your Average Joes** - *Wednesdays in March*

**District Wide Math Meet** - *March 25th*

**International Night** - *March 27th*

**DINE OUT @ Mecha Noodle Bar** - *April 8th*

**STEM & Art Fair** - *April 9th*

**Movie Night** - *April 10th*

**Parent/Caregiver Social** - *April 11th*

**Square 1 Art Orders Due** - *April 17th*

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

## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Our International Night Celebration is happening **NEXT** 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! Would you like to host a table? [Sign up here!](#)



## STEM & ART FAIR (STEAM)

Join us April 9th, 6:30-7:45 and see the incredible artwork & STEM projects our students have been creating. Spread throughout the hallways, come find your favorite artist's work on display! Then check out all of our young scientists' hard work on display in the gym.

You still have time to enter a project for the STEM Fair if you are interested, sign up [HERE!](#)

Need an idea? Check out some [Project Ideas](#)



## PARENT SOCIAL

Yee hawwww! Dust off those cowboy boots and grab your hats — it's time for our **2026 Adult Social!** Buy your tickets [HERE](#). We're so excited to get together for a fun night of **eating, dancing, snapping photos in the photobooth**, and most importantly **raising money for Martha Jones!** This is our **biggest fundraiser of the year**, and it's always such a great night with our school community.

To help make the event a big success, we'll have:

- **Raffles**
- **An online live auction**
- **Vacation club sign-ups**
- **Teacher & community experience items**



You should have received an email from your **room parents/caregivers** about donating items for your **grade-level baskets**. These baskets raise a lot of money for the school, so if you're able to contribute, we'd greatly appreciate it!

This year's theme is **Country Western**. Dressing up is totally optional but we definitely encourage it – even if it's just a cowboy hat!

More event details are below. If you have any **questions, concerns or would like to help plan the event**, please reach out to:

**Kristen Donahue**

781-492-8446

Kristen.m.richman@gmail.com

## SQUARE 1 ART

Back this year is the Square 1 Art fundraiser. Get a head start, and start ordering keepsakes and gifts featuring your child's art online now. Simply search for your child's art using [Art Search](#) [[shop.square1art.com](http://shop.square1art.com)], and enter state, school name, and your student's name. Your student's art and code will appear, and you may order!



## 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!

## 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



istockphoto.com - 1403084190

## MJ PTO General Information

### Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates 2025-2026

*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

# 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](#).



## Clothing & Shoe Drive

March 23 - April 15

**DONATION DRIVE**

Organized by the 3rd Grade Brownies

Benefits Cradles to Crayons

**Most Needed Items:**

- Infant and toddler sized clothing
- T-shirts, all sizes
- Socks
- Winter Coats
- Sneakers

**What They Accept:**

- Clothing and coats
- New Socks and Underwear
- New Pajamas
- Shoes, Boots, Sneakers, and Sandals
- New Arts and Crafts/School Supplies
- Unopened Diapers and Training Pants
- New Hygiene Items

Donations can be dropped off in 2 bins at school  
OR at 22 Reed Avenue

Thank you for your support!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 781 326-7500

لك. [lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) اطلب كنتشكرا أو على البريد الإلكتروني 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](mailto:lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) Спасибо.



**Matthew Kuklantz**

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters