

# 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 13 - April 3, 2026

## Principal's Message

MJ,

I wanted to highlight some recent student highlights. A fifth grader, Catherine D., was the Massachusetts State Winner of the Fall InvestWrite competition. There was a surprise announcement and presentation yesterday at the end of our All School Meeting. Congratulations to Catherine!



Additionally, On March 25th, over 230 students from Downey, Martha Jones, Pine Hill and Sheehan in grades 2nd-5th competed in the 18th annual Westwood Elementary Math League District Meet.

52 students proudly represented Martha Jones!

2nd grade: Placed 1st and 2nd (we divided into 2 MJ teams and the kids got the real Math Meet Experience)

3rd grade: Placed 2nd

4th grade: Placed 1st

5th grade: Placed 1st

For 5th grade there is an individual written competition, Joanna Chiang placed 3rd overall out of 51 students.

Congratulations to all who participated!

Matt



## Westwood Early Childhood Resource Fair and Panel

Join Us at Our  
**Westwood Early Childhood Resource Fair and Panel**  
Saturday April 11 from 10AM - 12PM  
at the Westwood Public Library

Calling all parents & caregivers! Come discover community resources, meet family focused organizations, and hear from experts.  
Learn, connect, and leave feeling supported!

1000-1100 Resource Fair  
1000-1100 Meet with experts in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy & Speech Language Pathology on early development and available supports for children.  
1100-1200 Presentation on Autism and helping their children reach their potential.

Designed for those with children 0 and under, but all are welcome!

Westwood Public Library

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Westwood Public Library

Panelists

10:00-11:00 AM  
11:00-12:00 PM

Panelists:  
• Rebecca Davis, M.A., CCC-SLP, is a Speech and Language Pathologist at the Center of Excellence for Pediatric Speech Therapy.  
• Jennifer Roberts, Ph.D., M.Ed., is a behavioral specialist and the parent coach for the Center of Excellence for Pediatric Speech Therapy.  
• Heather Kelly, is a Registered Dietitian and Licensed Nutritionist and is the owner of Heather Kelly Nutrition.

Come meet family focused organizations!

- Westwood Recreation
- Westwood Youth & Family Services
- Sharon Center E.O. at Temple Beth David
- St. John's Lutheran School
- The Westwood Montessori School
- Tilden School Westwood
- Westwood Children's School
- MOMS Club of Westwood
- Westwood Young Women's Club

Register on the library's website

Westwood Public Library

## 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.

## Math Newsletter

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

## Student Council

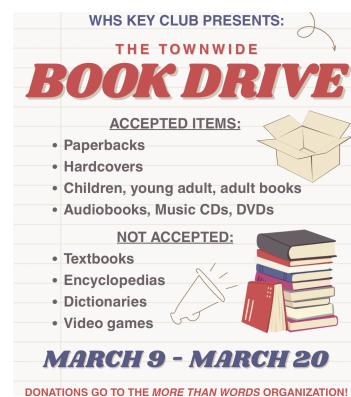
### MJ / WHS Book Drive

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

- 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)
- Wednesday, May 6 - Walk to School Day
- 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 Programing)
- 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://nutrislice.com). Please check daily as the menu may change.

## 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. **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 here at MJ. Thank you



### 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](#).

### 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.



## Shout Out to Our MJ Mathematicians

### District Wide Math League Thanks!

The MJ Mathematicians showed tremendous improvement throughout the season and strong improvement especially in the speed round for all grades. A huge shout out to all our parent/caregiver volunteers and to the grade level coordinators we could not do it without your support.

ML grade level coordinators:

2nd Grade: Lauren Maffei

3rd Grade: Gina Ciampolillo and Steph Weinstock

4th Grade: Katy DiMare and Stephanie Goldberg

5th Grade: Regis Bauwens and Susie Chiang

ML co-leads:

Christina Gelsomini

Galina Yatsenko

CLASSROOM NEWS

News from 3La (Mrs. Lane)

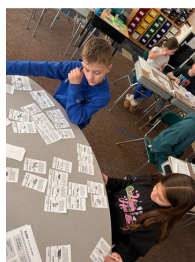


The students in 3 Lane recently went on a field trip to the USS Constitution. During their visit, they participated in a hands-on STEM ship design program, where they used tinfoil, cloth, and straws to create a ship that could both float and move.

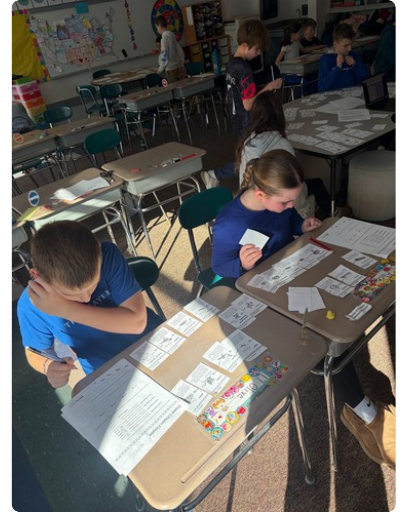
The students also had a chance to step into history by going onto the USS Constitution. They experienced what life was like on a real naval ship.



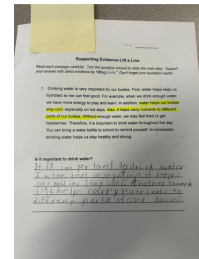
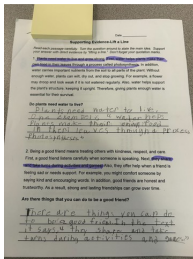
## News from 5K (Ms. Krumsiek)



In science, fifth graders are exploring how the plants and animals in an ecosystem are connected to one another through food chains. In this activity, students are playing a game in which they develop model food chains to describe the movement of matter between living things. The goal of the game is to make longer food chains and to make as many food chains as you can, by swapping cards with your opponent and rearranging chains to make them longer. They use the food chain models to investigate what happens when a species is removed from the ecosystem, and how it affects the rest of the food chain and the ecosystem.



## News from Ms. Eaton



In the Learning Center, third- and fourth-grade students are working on their ability to identify direct evidence from a text by “lifting a line.” First, students read passages and then state the main idea of what they have read. Then, they then return to the text to highlight relevant, supporting details. Finally, students present their evidence in written form by stating the main idea in a topic sentence and supporting the topic sentence with one to two supporting details from the text using direct quotations (“lifting a line”) introduced with transitional words/phrases.



# MARTHA JONES PTO

Encouraging Students & Caregivers To  
Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Respectful, Be Responsible



We are over here wishing these April showers turn into May flowers but in the meantime we have a jam packed month! Thank you to everyone who attended and made possible International Night! What a great event with food, fun and dancing! Have you tried out [Mecha](#) in Legacy Place? **Wednesday, April 8th** would be a great opportunity. Look for an email with all the details! And don't forget about **Family Movie Night!**

Happily,  
Your PTO

## SAVE THE DATES

DINE OUT @ Mecha Noodle Bar - April 8th  
STEM & Art Fair- April 9th  
Movie Night - April 10th  
Parent/Caregiver Social - April 11th  
[SEPAC](#) Meet-Up - April 15th  
Square 1 Art Orders Due - April 17th

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

## 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](#)



## MJ FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Join us, **Friday April 10th, 5:30-8pm**, for a fun-filled evening with friends, family, and community as we watch Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs! Bring your blankets, pillows and get ready for a cozy night of laughs, snacks, and great company!

**Important:** This is not a drop-off event – children must be accompanied by an adult.

We can't wait to see you there for a fantastic family night!



## 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!



## Can't Attend but Still Want to Help?

Our **online auction** will open about a week before the event and remain open until **10:00 PM the night of the event**, so anyone can bid – even if you can't attend.

You can also purchase **50/50 raffle tickets through the Membership App** for a chance to win.

If you have any **questions, concerns or would like to help plan the event**, please reach out to:  
[Kristen Donahue](mailto:kristen@marthajonespto.org) 781-492-8446

## 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!



## WESTWOOD GEAR

Get ready for April Break and Spring sports season with some new MJ and Westwood gear! The [Martha Jones Store](#) is open! Orders typically take about two weeks to process. You can choose to have your order shipped directly to your home or pick it up at Amerasport in Holliston.



## 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



## 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

# District & Community News

From the Extended Day Office

*Seventh Annual*

## Eddie's FOOD DRIVE

In support of the Westwood Food Pantry

**March 30 - APRIL 17**



Westwood Food Pantry needs\*:

- Sugar
- Flour
- Cake/brownie mix
- Pancake mix/syrup
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Salad dressing & salsa
- Olive/Vegetable oil
- Canned tuna/chicken (*in water*)
- Canned carrots
- Cereal
- Soup
- Cookies & Crackers
- Tea
- Boxed pasta/pasta sauce
- Toothpaste/toiletries (*small*)

*\*Please, no expired food*

Drop off locations include:

- ❖ Roche Bros
- ❖ Westwood Public Library- Main Branch and Islington
- ❖ Westwood Public Schools
- ❖ Westwood Extended Day
- ❖ Westwood Children's & the Tobin School
- ❖ The Council on Aging
- ❖ Get in Shape for Women
- ❖ Universal Power Yoga

*For more information and to make monetary donations*



From Thurston Middle School Arts Department

Thurston Middle School Presents



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL

Book Music & Lyrics  
Dennis Kelly Tim Minchin

April 9 & 10 at 7pm  
April 11 at 2pm

\$10 Students/Senior Citizens \$15 Adults

tms.ludus.com



Come see the Thurston Middle School musical, [Matilda!](#) This musical is based on Roald Dahl's popular book and is the story of an extraordinary girl who dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. Performances will take place at the Westwood High School auditorium Thursday April 9 at 7pm, Friday April 10 at 7pm and Saturday April 11 at 2pm. Tickets are now available online at [tms.ludus.com](https://tms.ludus.com). Tickets can also be purchased at the door with apple pay and credit card only. We hope to see you at the show!

## 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](#).



**WESTWOOD SEPAC**

**What is The Westwood SEPAC?**  
The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a parent-led volunteer organization that focuses its efforts on behalf of parents, guardians, and caregivers of children with special needs. In close collaboration with the Director of Special Services and the School Committee to shape policies and initiatives, Westwood SEPAC strives to promote understanding, acceptance, and resources for children with disabilities, including but not limited to: learning disabilities, autism, speech disorders, and other special needs. We are committed to providing high-quality, individualized educational services to all students and to fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all.

**Join us**

- If you are a parent and/or caregiver of a child currently receiving special education services in Westwood through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 accommodation, or an out-of-district placement.
- Your child is experiencing learning difficulties.
- Your child is receiving special services.
- You are a parent, caregiver, or community member interested in helping to improve the lives of Westwood Public Schools' Special Education Services.
- You are interested in offering support within a community of parents and caregivers with IEPs, 504s, or other special needs through a variety of ways through learning challenges and share in the experience.

www.westwoodsepac.org

**WESTWOOD SEPAC**  
WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL

**2025-2026 Liaison for the Martha Jones School**

**Lauren Fortin**  
lauren.fortin@gmail.com  
(978) 760-1494

www.westwoodsepac.org



## 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](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. 7500-326 781 اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستودود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 781 326-7500 ext. لك. لطلب كنتشكرا [lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) 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

