



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 14 - April 17, 2026

Principal's Message

MJ,

Spring has finally sprung!

As we go off into our final extended break of the school year, I wanted to repost my [letter about placement](#). As our staff returns from the break, we spend a significant portion of time planning for next school year. There is no requirement to submit a placement letter.

Have a safe and restorative break.

Matt

5th Grade Events

Please see this letter for a consolidated list of [5th grade events](#).

Westwood Early Childhood Resource Fair and Panel



MCAS

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

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.

News from the 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 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!

JoEllen Doyle, RN, BSN School Nurse

jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us

Ext: 7463

News from the Front Office

Student Safety

Vehicle Traffic

The safety of all students depends on ALL drivers obeying the rules and speed limits. With the nice weather here 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. Please share this reminder with others who may be picking up or dropping off your child here at MJ.

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Thank you



CORI Forms

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 must complete a new form for this calendar year if you want to volunteer for: Field Day Helpers, Trip Chaperones, Library Assistance, or other projects in the building. Please 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.



Reminder - Walk to School Day - Wednesday, May 6

We are excited to invite all students to participate in Martha Jones annual Walk to School Day on Wednesday, May 6th! This special event encourages our young learners to get moving, enjoy the fresh air, and promote healthy habits. Walking to school is a great way for children to start their day with energy and a sense of community.

This year, students must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver to ensure their safety. Thank you!



Absences and Dismissal Changes

With Mini Courses winding down soon and other special events on the horizon 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!



Kindergarten Registration

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

Parents and caregivers can visit the [Kindergarten Registration page](#) on the district website to get started. Please [check out this FAQ](#) for answers to common questions about registration.

MJ Specific Dates:

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Information Night - Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7:00PM

MJ Kindergarten Screening - Friday, June 5, 2026 *(by appointment - schedules will be handed out at the Parent Information Night event in May)*

School Breakfast and Lunch

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

MJ Important Upcoming Events

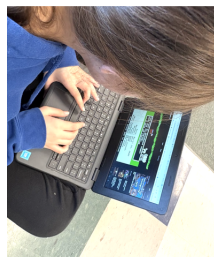
- Monday, April 20 - Friday, April 24 - No School - Vacation
- Monday, April 27 - School Resumes
- Tuesday, April 28 - K Field Trip - Discovery Museum
- Wednesday, April 29 - Early Release
- Thursday, April 30 Gr 4 Field Trip- Harvard Museum of Science & Culture
- Monday, May 4 - Body Safety Theater Pre-Performance Meeting with Gr. 3
- Tuesday, May 5 - Gr. 3 to Fisher School (District Programming)
- Wednesday, May 6 - Walk to School Day
- Wednesday May 6 - Body Safety Theater Performance (Gr. 3)
- Monday, May 11 - Body Safety Theater Pos-Performance with Gr. 3
- Monday, May 11 - TMS visits Gr. 5 (10:30 am)
- 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)



CLASSROOM NEWS

News from 5B (Mr. Bartlett)



Mr. Bartlett's 5th graders have recently been studying Westward Expansion. Students have been learning about how the 13 colonies turned into the first US states, and how the country grew in size during the 18th and 19th century. Through lessons about the Northwest Ordinance, The Louisiana Purchase, The Indian Removal Act and the Trail Of Tears, students have worked to gain an understanding of how this expansion happened and what populations were helped or harmed from this. Students also learned about the Oregon Trail and had the opportunity to play the classic 1985 version of the Oregon Trail video game. While the graphics and game play were not what students were used to, they had a lot of fun buying supplies, choosing their paths and dealing with unexpected obstacles along the way. Just like on the real trail, many characters died from dysentery, typhoid fever or cholera giving students a hands-on way to better understand the hardships and experiences of the thousands of people who traveled the trail.



News from KF (Mrs. Fader)



KF has been enjoying time in our outdoor classroom this Spring! We have been learning about what plants need to grow and survive, as well as identifying the different parts of a plant. We read *Tops and Bottoms* and discussed which parts of plants we can eat.

We learned about root vegetables, which grow underground—we eat the roots! Examples include carrots, radishes, potatoes, and beets. We also explored top vegetables, which grow above the ground—we eat the leaves, stems, or flowers. Some examples are lettuce (leaves), spinach (leaves), broccoli (flower), and celery (stem).

After our discussion, students planted radishes, lettuce, and carrots with the help of Mrs. Goosen. We are excited to observe these vegetables growing over the next couple of months and record our observations in our science journals!

News from PE (Mr. Foley)



What's Happening in Physical Education

Over the past several weeks the Martha Jones students have been participating in an educational gymnastics unit. The children spent the first few weeks working on a variety of floor skills in the areas of: traveling, balancing and rolling. The second part of the unit focused on the gymnastics equipment structure.

Gymnastic activities are a very important part of every child's experience in physical education. And make a significant contribution to the goals of the curriculum. Gymnastics encompasses a variety of components such as: rolling, balancing, weight transfer and traveling on different body parts and equipment.

Participating in gymnastic activities teaches and promotes important physical values. These activities help develop muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, coordination, as well as gross motor development and body control. The physical demands of holding balances, rolling and traveling contribute to the development of overall physical fitness.

Check out some of our MJ Gymnasts in action!

Pat Foley

Physical Education



Thank you to the whole Martha Jones community for coming out and supporting each other over the last few weeks. The STEM Fair, the Art Fair, Movie Night & the Caregiver Social, it was a whirlwind 3 days. It's weeks like this where we are reminded of what a special school! Thank you to everyone who planned, attended and cleaned up at the end. Now enjoy your week off!

Happily,
Your PTO

SAVE THE DATES

Square 1 Art Orders Due - Today!

MJ Day @ Fenway Park - May 3rd

PTO Meeting- May 5th

Walk to School Day - May 6th

[SE PAC](#) Community Meeting - May 13th

Field Day - May 29th

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], 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.



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

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

[Lauren Fortin](#), SEPAC

District & Community News

Westwood Youth and Family Services

WYFS are currently collecting interest for little friends for the 26-27 season of Friends network. Scan the code below to be in the know for next year or feel free to reach out to Liz Craig, LCSW with any questions!

lcraig@westwoodma.gov or 781 320 1023



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 on <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.

Resources for Grief Support

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 781-326-7500
لك. 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