



# 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 15 - May 8, 2026

## Principal's Message

MJ,

Hopefully, the weather for Field Day (5/29) mirrors this week's Walk to School Day, what a treat!

As we round the bend into May and see the last day of school firmly through the windshield (6/22 at 12:10), I wanted to highlight MJ's upcoming celebration of Pride Month. MJ, along with other Westwood elementary schools, will be doing a read aloud in their Library class centered around the Pride Flag. Students will then be working together to create an art installation along our fence.

In Library, students in the Kindergarten to 2nd Grade will have the book, [Rainbow: A First Book of Pride](#), read to them. In the 3rd to 5th grade, the book [Sewing the Rainbow](#), will be read to them. After reading, the students will go outside and decorate the fence.

Please see [this letter](#) from the PTO about how you can volunteer to help.

Matt

**5th Grade - Westwood Youth and Family Services  
Opportunity**

This free co-ed workshop supports rising 6th graders in meeting new classmates and learning skills to help navigate the new social scene that comes with beginning middle school.

Open to all Westwood residents and students of Westwood Public Schools.



## 5th Grade Events

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

## 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](https://www.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](mailto:jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us)

Ext: 7463

## News from the Front Office

### FIELD DAY - Looking for Volunteers

**Field Day 2026** is right around the corner...

This year it is scheduled for **Friday, May 29th** (*rain date Friday, June 12th*). The success of the day depends largely on our volunteers. This is the most fun day of the entire school year!! You are guaranteed to be surrounded by smiling faces and loads of laughter and fun. We need your help to man the game stations, to assist in serving lunch and clean-up so please consider volunteering today. You won't be sorry!

Please click [here](#) to volunteer by **May 25th**.

### Bus Registration for SY2026 - 2027

Due to changes in the web based form, Bus Registration for the next school year may not open until June. The District Office will send out a community wide communication once the form has been updated. When registration does open, we kindly ask our MJ families to act quickly and register for the bus promptly (so revised counts and routes can be made.)

Finally, as always, please feel free to reach out with bus registration questions, including fee waivers and payment questions to:

email [busregistration@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:busregistration@westwood.k12.ma.us) or call 781-326-7500, x1343.

### 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.



Thank you

## 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, May 11 - Body Safety Theater Post-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, May 27 - 5th Grade Service Project
- Thursday, May 28 - TMS Parent Night for incoming Gr. 6 parents
- Friday, May 29 - Field Day
- Wednesday, June 3 - Early Release
- Wednesday, June 3 - 5th Grade Celebration Party (sponsored by PTO)
- Wednesday, June 3 - Band Concert at WHS
- Thursday, June 4 - Gr. 5 to TMS
- Monday, June 8 - Gr 5 Field Trip to Hale Reservation (District Programming)
- Wednesday, June 17 - Gr. 5 Move Up Ceremony
- Tuesday, June 22 - Student Last Day

# CLASSROOM NEWS

## News from 2P (Mrs Perry)



Our 2P students have been busy studying how plants interact with the environment to meet their needs. This week specifically, students explored how plants spread their seeds with a little help from the animal kingdom. Using handmade “fluffadoo” models, students experimented with various seed structures to see which ones traveled the farthest. The classroom was buzzing as seeds took flight—or rather, a ride—on their new animal friends.

## News from 3Lu (Mrs Luskin)








Our third graders stepped back in time to the 1800s and visited the Fisher School. They explored artifacts, wrote with quill and ink, computed math problems on slate boards, and enjoyed old time recess games.



## News from Ms. O'Brien

 <p><b>Stop</b></p>	 <p><b>Think</b></p>	 <p><b>Do</b></p>
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In Room 162, we are continuing to focus on reinforcing school-wide expectations, especially as we approach the end of the year. This time of year can cause changes in routine and can sometimes lead to increased dysregulation. Maintaining consistency and predictability remains a priority for our students.

We are also spending time learning about the world around us and building awareness of how our behavior impacts others. A key focus has been on “noticing.” This encourages students to observe their environment and use those observations to guide their actions.

For example, students are practicing thinking: “I am noticing all my friends are packing up... hmm, what should I be doing?” By using environmental cues, rather than relying on adult prompts, students are developing greater independence and confidence in navigating daily routines.

We are proud of the progress students are making as they become more aware, thoughtful, and independent members of our classroom community!



# MARTHA JONES PTO

Encouraging Students & Caregivers To

Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Respectful, Be Responsible



Can you tell spring is in the air? **Teacher Appreciation Week** means we are almost at the end of the school year. Thanks to our great committee, our MJ teachers were treated to breakfast, lunch, a specialty coffee cart, treat bag and even room service today! We had a great inaugural Martha Jones at **Fenway Park** last weekend. Definitely the start of a new tradition! As we wrap up the year we also wanted to take a minute to thank the outgoing PTO board members. **Abbe, Priya, Lauren** and **Ally**, Martha Jones is a better place because of your dedication. We thank you for all the hard work over the last years.

Lastly, save the dates, we still have a couple more opportunities to Dine Out and make some money for MJ. Also, be on the lookout for more details about **Field Day**.

Powering through May with you,  
Your PTO

## SAVE THE DATES

**Talent for a Cause** - *Tonight!*

**SEPAC Community Meeting** - *May 13th*

**Dine Out: Texas Roadhouse** - *May 13th*

**Field Day** - *May 29th (Rain date June 12th)*

**5th Grade End of Year Party** - *June 3rd*

**Dine Out: Chateau** - *June 9th*

## FIELD DAY

**Field Day Volunteer Opportunities - We need YOU!!**

**Field Day 2026** is right around the corner....This year it is scheduled for Friday, May 29th (rain date Friday, June 12th). The success of the day depends largely on our volunteers. This is the most fun day of the entire school year!! You are guaranteed to be surrounded by smiling faces and loads of laughter and fun. We need your help to man the game stations, to assist in serving lunch and clean-up so please consider volunteering today. You won't be sorry!

Please click [here](#) to volunteer by **May 25th**.

## 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**.



## CORPORATE MATCH

It's almost the end of the year but there's still time to help fundraise. Every donation, no matter the amount, is appreciated and important in helping us continue to fund enrichment and community activities. 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.

Donate based on what feels comfortable for your family and your financial situation. Every amount, big or small, is greatly appreciated.

## MJ PTO General Information

### 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

## WPS Pride Kick-Off Event: May 20

Dear Westwood Families,

We are excited to kick off Pride Month in Westwood with a special community event in partnership with SpeakOUT Boston. This gathering will mark the beginning of a month dedicated to celebrating, honoring, and uplifting LGBTQ+ voices and experiences within our community.

SpeakOUT Boston is an organization of speakers and volunteers committed to creating a world free from bias and prejudice by sharing personal stories that reflect the diversity of LGBTQ+ lives. Through open dialogue, speakers will share stories from their own lives and touch upon how they've grown to understand, accept, and

**WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
PRIDE KICKOFF EVENT**

CONVERSATIONS WITH PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS:  
Celebrating Inclusivity, Building Understanding

**EVENT DETAILS**

**WHEN:**  
Wednesday, May 20th

**TIME:**  
Pine Hill Cafeteria,  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

**WHERE:**  
Pine Hill Cafeteria,  
Westwood Public Schools

**HOSTED BY:**

- WPS School Engagement Committee
- in partnership with SpeakOUT Boston

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Featured Speakers from SpeakOUT Boston: Real Stories, Critical Conversations, Community Discussion & Q&A
- Learn how to support LGBTQ+ youth and foster an inclusive environment
- Connect with other community members and resources

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**  
Lateefah Franck  
lfranck@westwood.k12.ma.us

Westwood Public Schools Office of Equity, Integration, and Community Partnerships

take pride in their identities. Their "Ask Us Anything" approach fosters a respectful space where participants can listen, learn, and engage in meaningful conversation.

Join us on May 20th from 7:00–8:30 PM at Pine Hill Elementary School for an evening of reflection, connection, and community. All adult members of the Westwood community are encouraged to attend and bring their questions.

We hope you will join us for this important opportunity for learning, reflection, and connection within our community. Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement.

[For More Information: View the Pride Kick-Off Event Flyer](#)

Warmly,

Lateefah Franck, Director of Equity, Integration, and Community Partnerships

## 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 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.

### [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](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 ويستود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 1346 لك. [لطلب كنتشكرا lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) أو على البريد الالكتروني الخاص بك

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