



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future

MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ABOUT MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

In 1957, the town of Westwood acquired land off Oak Street as the proposed site for a new school. Ten years later, the Martha Jones School was built in response to a rapidly growing elementary school population. Originally designed as a twelve classroom building, the school housed grades 1 through 6, changing configuration several times over the ensuing years, and reached the K-1 grade level status in Fall 1990. It continued to be a K-1 school until September 1995 when the Deerfield School was reopened and second grade joined both schools. In Fall 2001, all elementary schools in Westwood were configured to house kindergarten through grade 5.



Construction began on an addition to the Martha Jones School in Spring 2000. The completed project was celebrated with a ribbon cutting in April 2002 and the dedication of the Joanne Hadalski Library. The school now includes additional classrooms, the renovation of the existing building, extension of the gym, art, and library/media spaces.

The school grounds include a redesigned playground, baseball diamond, and basketball court. An adjacent pond and natural area are used for instructional purposes.

A school traditionally takes its name from the district in which it is located, the street on which it is found, or someone of prominence from the surrounding area. In the case of our school, it was named in honor of a prominent woman who moved into the Oak Street area in 1911. Her name was Martha Jones.

Martha Jones is remembered as a lover of animals, an avid farmer, an active member of the Grange, and a one-time caterer in Cambridge for Harvard University. Although a civic-minded woman, she never pursued public office. She chose, instead, to contribute to the area “in ways more practical than academic and more hospitable than financial.”¹

Martha Jones was eighty-one years-old when she died. Certain significant traits of her personality -- the value of hard work, the warmth of hospitality, the necessity of fun -- are still very much in evidence in the Oak Street area, particularly among the staff and students of the Martha Jones School.

¹ Marjorie R. Fenerty, “How We Named Our Schools,” *School Districts and Buildings*, Vol. 19 (Westwood: Westwood Historical Society).