

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 11 - Feb. 7, 2020



[Westwood Public Schools](#) | [Martha Jones School](#) | [Martha Jones PTO](#)

Important Dates

Thu., Feb. 13	School Committee, WHS 7:00PM
Fri., Feb. 14	Math League 7:45AM
Mon - Fri., Feb. 17 - 21	February Vacation Week NO SCHOOL
Wed., Feb. 26	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. No lunch served
Thu., Feb. 27	Enrichment All Grades: Behind the Mask
Fri., Feb. 28	Math League 7:45AM ----- Incoming K Parents Literacy Workshop 9:00AM ----- SPIRIT DAY
Tue., Mar. 3	Gr. 3-5 Enrichment: Addams Family Values ----- PTO Meeting - MJ Library 7:00PM
Wed., Mar. 4	Student Council 8:00AM
Fri., Mar. 6	5th Grade Field Trip: McAuliffe Science Center
Wed., Mar. 11	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. No lunch served
Thu., Mar. 12	School Committee Meeting - WHS 7:00PM

A complete list of upcoming dates is available [online](#).

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:

Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

ext. 6261: Diane Santangelo

ext. 6262: Donna Tobin

ext. 6263: Dawnmarie Shu

Message from the Principal's Office

Just a quick note to introduce myself, and talk about some of the great things happening here at Martha Jones. My name is Richard Bernazzani, longtime elementary school teacher, Middle School Math teacher, and Middle School Assistant Principal, that retired recently after 37 years of service to the students of Westwood. One might ask why someone who has been retired for six years would come back. Easily answered. It's Westwood! Students, teachers, and parents make what we all know is one of the top systems in the state. How could I possibly turn down the opportunity?

During my short tenure at Martha Jones; I have found a highly professional staff, an exciting eager to learn group of students, and highly supportive parents. With those ingredients comes a top notch school. Visiting the classrooms has shown me more innovative methods in which to present new and challenging material to our young people - and - still have time for and for an exciting "Play Day".

I am happy to inform you that our principal, Mrs. Donna Tobin is recovering nicely from her surgery. We all hope for her speedy recovery. As noted in her letter to Martha Jones families; we are keeping our fingers crossed that Donna will be back at the beginning of March.

In the short time that I am here; if I can be of any assistance to you, please let me know. Once again it is great to be here working with the Martha Jones family.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bernazzani

MJ News

A MESSAGE FROM PAT FOLEY AND DAWNMARIE SHU - FAMILY HEALTH AND FITNESS NIGHT IS BACK!! *Friday March 27, 2020 from 6-7:30pm*



The 11th annual Martha Jones Family Health and Fitness Night will be held on Friday, March 27, 2020 from 6-7:30pm. This will be a fun night of education and activity. We are in the process of planning many different interactive booths and fun fitness stations ranging from reaching your target heart rate, jumping on a moonwalk, to the importance of family skin care. These activities are scheduled to be held both indoors and outdoors. Our goal is to emphasize the importance of keeping your body healthy and fit to promote lifelong wellness. Please contact Dawnmarie Shu (dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us) or Patrick Foley (pfoley@westwood.k12.ma.us) if you are interested in helping us with this event. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks. Get ready to get moving!



If you or someone you know have any specific knowledge or skills in the area of **health, wellness, or fitness**, please consider having a booth at the health fair. Examples from past fairs include PT/backpack safety, Nutrition/healthy eating habits, and skin safety among others. We would love to talk to you about this opportunity.

Please contact Dawnmarie Shu at dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us

Our Changing Bodies - Our changing bodies is a grade 5 program to help students understand body changes and puberty. This program is for 5th students only and will be delivered to all 5th grade students this week. We work closely with the 5th grade students to explain that this information is for grade 5 students only. We stress that some of the information may not be appropriate for younger children. We set high expectations that our 5th graders will be respectful of our younger children and not discuss what they learn in the program on the school bus, in the cafeteria, at recess, or other places where younger children may be listening. Please be assured that the program only discusses puberty and does not go beyond that, but if your younger child comes home and asks what puberty is, I wanted to give you some context of where he/she might be hearing the term. Feel free to call me with any questions.

Kindergarten Registration is now open online. We are excited to welcome the school year 2021 incoming kindergarten class. A number of events will occur throughout the spring to help children and families get to know us here at MJ. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten you can find the [instructions for the online registration process here](#). If you know a neighbor or friend who has a little one that will be joining us in September please feel free to share this information with them too.



Birthday Books - Does your child have a spring or summer birthday? It's not too late to participate in the [Martha Jones Library Birthday Books program](#). The cost to participate is \$15 per student. We appreciate your interest and support in the [Birthday Book Program!](#) It is a great way to ensure our library has a wonderful and varied collection. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Amatangelo at amyamatangelo@yahoo.com or Maureen Grealish at momolloy@aol.com.

Winter Box Tops Competition: Send in Your Box Tops!



We are excited to announce our winter classroom Box Top competition! Please send in your unexpired Box Tops in a baggie with your child's class name and number. Box Tops will be collected in homeroom classes. The homeroom with the most Box Tops collected through **Wednesday, February 12** will win a party! Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for our school; Martha Jones can use this money to help pay for school supplies, fund field trip expenses and other fun events!

Youth Art Month Exhibit



K- Jack F.

MJ
20
20



Gr 1- Claire T.

Congratulations to the following students for having artwork accepted into the Youth Art Month Exhibit at the State Transportation Building in Boston. The exhibit will be open weekdays from February 10th - March 26th, with a Family Day Celebration on Sunday, March 1st from 12:00-4:00 PM.



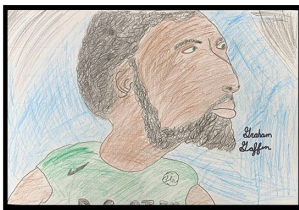
Gr 2- Rhys J.

Youth
Art
Month

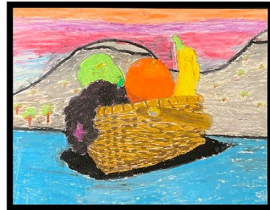


Gr 3- Maggie L.

K- Jack Fitzgerald
Gr 1- Claire Therrien
Gr 2- Rhys James
Gr 3- Maggie Lutze
Gr 4- Graham Gaffin
Gr 5- Michael Qiao



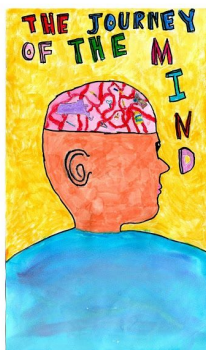
Gr 4- Graham G.



Gr 5- Michael Q.

MAEA Poster Contest Winners

Each year, the Massachusetts Art Education Association sponsors a statewide poster contest for Youth Art Month. This year, students at Martha Jones received three of the grade-level prizes as well as the Elementary Level Prize! Congratulations to the following students who will be honored in an awards ceremony on March 1, 2020, at the State Transportation Building in Boston:



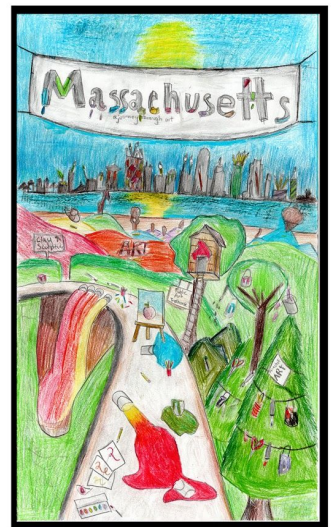
Gr. 4 - Katherine S.



Gr. 2 - Charlotte S.



Gr. 3 - Colin H.



Elementary Winner - Manjula V.

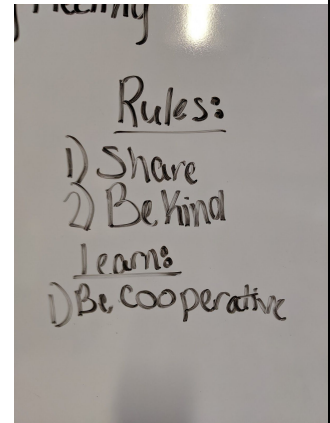
Gr 2 - Charlotte Santos
Gr 3 - Colin Hennessy
Gr 4 - Katherine Santos
Elementary Level Winner - Manjula Viswalingam

Classroom Happenings

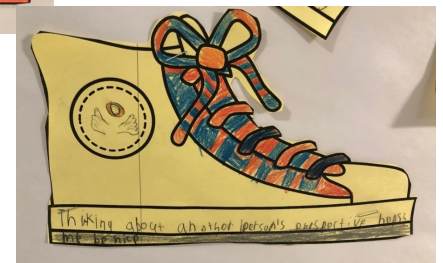
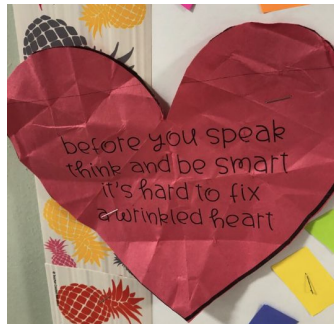
News from 4W (Mrs. Waldner)



February 5 was Global School Play Day! In 4W, students took part in a day of unstructured, no-screen play day. The class was a buzz of excitement as they arrived that morning. Many students brought in games and toys to share with their classmates from home. Favorite activities in our class included chess, coloring, building with blocks, Monopoly, and slime. During the play day, students made decisions on what and how to play their games with little to no redirection needed. This play opportunity allowed students to build their social intelligence by problem solving, including others, and being respectful to others during play. Students needed to be creative with their time and energy. Additionally, connections and relationships were built between classmates. Play Day was a success! Many commented as they left how awesome their day was! Given the rush and busy schedules in and out of school, it was a nice opportunity to take a step back for Global School Play Day!



News from Ms. Mulhern



In the upstairs Learning Center we have been learning about empathy. In honor of Kindness Week, we did a few different activities around treating others with kindness. The students learned how unkind words impact others during a heart activity. The students also listened to a book about empathy and putting themselves in others' shoes. Our bulletin board shows how people feel when we are unkind as well as how it feels to have empathy.

News from 2H (Ms. Hartwell)



The children of 2H are buddies with 5B. Every other Friday we meet in the afternoon to collaborate and share. The second graders love working with older students whether it be for reading a book or sharing a project. The fifth graders are



learning how to be a mentor and or a role model to the second graders, and the second graders enjoy working with an older student and sharing their knowledge with a 5th grader. Our buddy time together is simultaneously learning and contributing to each others' learning.

News from Wellness (Mr. Foley and Mrs. Shu)



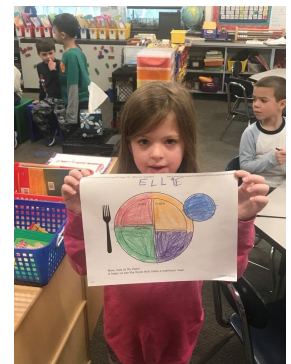
Mrs. Shu and Mr. Foley were very excited to develop and teach a nutrition unit to both kindergarten classes this winter. This unit consisted of 5 lessons of classroom activities and movement games in the gym. Our goal of this program is to introduce students to important nutrition concepts; knowing and identifying the 5 food groups, being able to identify healthy choices, categorizing foods into food groups, the importance of daily exercise, and getting adequate sleep.



In the classrooms, the students were able to experience fun games and videos through the educational tool Brain-Pop, Jr. These activities were focused on the 5 food groups and the importance of healthy choices. At the end of each lesson, the students were able to select a picture of their favorite fruit/vegetable and color them. In the gym, we were able to incorporate fun movement games that reemphasized the concepts learned in the classroom as well as the importance of finding enjoyment in daily exercise.



We all really enjoyed this unit and we hope to continue this program in the future. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to teach your children!



PTO News

5th GRADE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Volunteers needed

Calling all 5th Grade parents!

We are in need of 1-2 parent volunteers to lead the 5th Grade Fundraising Committee. This committee is responsible for organizing FUNraisers (bake sales, raffles, etc.) throughout the school year to raise money for the **Martha Jones Scholarship Award** given on behalf of the 5th grade class. We have already raised \$400 of our \$1000 goal. The parent volunteers are responsible for **coordinating**, but all 5th grade parents will (hopefully) provide assistance at the fundraising events. If you are willing to help, please reach out to Rachel Lipton, rachelalyson@gmail.com

MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL

Saturday, March 21 - 7:30-11:30pm

Click [here](#) to **Purchase Tickets!** \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door.

The Roaring 20's

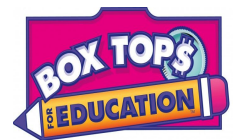
"Come as a flapper or come as you are, dress as a gangster or a silent screen star. It's going to be fun, no matter the dress. Just bring yourself, and we'll take care of the rest!"

Please join us for the **Annual Martha Jones Parent Social** on Saturday, **March 21** from 7:30-11:30pm at The German Club in Walpole. (Rt. 109 Westwood/Walpole town line) This is the **biggest** fundraiser of the year and your support is needed to make it successful!

As in the past, there will be a DJ, cash bar, teacher experience and silent auctions along with a healthy dose of fun and dancing! This is an **adult only** event, so book your sitters now!

BOX TOPS - COLLECTION DEADLINE Wednesday, February 12

We are excited to announce our winter classroom Box Top competition! Please send in any unexpired Box Tops using the collection sheet [here](#) or in a plastic bag. Box Tops will be collected through **February 12** and the class with the most Box Tops will win a popsicle party!



Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for Martha Jones. This money will be used to help pay for school supplies, fund field trip expenses and other fun events! In addition to the classroom competitions, we collect Box Tops year-round, so please feel free to send them in whenever you have them.

Download the App and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase

Important changes have been made to the Box Top program. Please take note of these changes and continue to support the Box Top program. Click [here](#) for more information.

SHOP AmazonSmile

Support Martha Jones with every purchase

Support the Martha Jones PTO while you do your Amazon shopping by using **AmazonSmile**. AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support the Martha Jones PTO every time you shop, at no cost to you.

You will find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Martha Jones PTO. Just log onto smile.amazon.com, choose Martha Jones PTO as your charity of choice and shop away!

Amazon shopping with an iPhone?

You can use AmazonSmile just like an App by following a few simple steps. Open smile.amazon.com in your browser, tap the "share/forward link" button then tap the "Add to Home Screen" icon (you may need to swipe left to see this). You will now have an AmazonSmile icon which can be used in exactly the same way as the Amazon App **but now** all of your purchases support the Martha Jones PTO.

MARTHA JONES PTO FACEBOOK GROUP

Did you know Martha Jones PTO has its own Facebook group page? Join the Facebook group to get the latest PTO news and updates delivered right to your news feed! Click [here](#) to join!

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to PTO Co-Secretary Denise Cahill at denise Cahill@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Winter Box Tops Competition: Ends Wednesday, **Feb. 12**

General PTO Meeting: Tuesday, **Mar. 3** @ 7pm - MJ Library

MJ Parent Social: Saturday, **Mar. 21** @ 7:30-11:30pm - The German Club

MJ Book Fair: Friday, **Mar. 27** - MJ Library

PMC Kids Ride: Sunday, **May. 31** @ 8:30-11am - MJ School

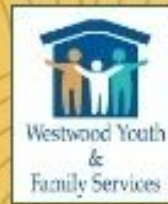
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Community News You Can Use



Structured Play Group

2019-2020 Group Description

These 8-week groups for K - 5th graders emphasize the development of social skills as well as building self-esteem and confidence. Organized play and activities are used to reinforce topics such as initiating and developing friendships, working cooperatively, and recognizing personal strengths. All groups are free of charge and run 4:00 - 5:00 PM.



Spring 2020 Groups now available!

Kindergarten/1st Grade

- Tuesdays, March 17th - May 12th - Hanlon Elementary School
- Thurs., February 27th - April 16th - Islington Community Center

2nd/3rd Grade

- Wednesday, Feb. 26th - April 15th, Islington Community Center

Contact: Emily Greco, LCSW
781-320-1006 or egreco@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Register online at:

<http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/yfs/default.htm>