

# Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.  
Issue 8 - Dec. 20, 2019



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

## Important Dates

<b>Mon. - Wed., Dec. 23 - Jan. 1</b>	Holiday Break NO SCHOOL
<b>Fri., Jan. 3</b>	Foundation for Westwood Education - Spelling Bee - WHS
<b>Wed., Jan. 8</b>	Student Council 8:00AM ----- Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. No lunch served.
<b>Fri., Jan. 10</b>	Math League 7:45AM Gr. 3 - Library Gr. 4 - Art Room Gr. 5 - Room 202
<b>Wed., Jan. 15</b>	Gr. 1 Enrichment - Meteorologist Visit
<b>Thu., Jan., 16</b>	School Committee, WHS 7:00PM
<b>Fri., Jan. 17</b>	Math League 7:45AM Gr. 3 - Library Gr. 4 - Art Room Gr. 5 - Room 202
<b>Mon., Jan. 20</b>	MLK Day: NO SCHOOL
<b>Wed., Jan. 22</b>	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. No lunch served. ----- Math Meet

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

**Happy Holidays** - This is a busy week for holidays. With Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanza all beginning the same week, the energy level at MJ is high. Teachers and students are looking forward



to the winter break and some fun with family and friends. As I think about the holidays and reflect on the year, I'm very thankful for all of the special people in my life. It is such a pleasure getting to work with you and your child(ren) each day. This is a special time of year for kids and I hope you get to join in their excitement of the season. For those of you who celebrate Hanukkah, I hope you have a peaceful and light filled week with family and friends. For those of you celebrating Christmas and/or Kwanza may you head into the holiday period with peace and joy. My family celebrates Christmas and it is always fun to see my large and ever-growing extended family. We get together for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews and I just love seeing them all together, growing up and having families of their own. If you are traveling to see family



this vacation week, may all of your travels be safe and may you have great moments with family and friends. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Kwanza. 🌲

# MJ News

**Martha Jones 5th Graders Go Caroling to Fox Hill Village** - Martha Jones 5th graders had the pleasure of sharing the joy of the holiday season with seniors in the memory care unit at Fox Hill Village today. Under the direction of Mrs. Saada-Smith and Ms. Vying, the students sang songs from their winter concert and a few of the carols that they have been practicing in the neighborhood. The students did a wonderful job, and the residents were very happy to singing visitors.



**Project Bread** ([link to letter and form here](#)) - Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline helps the most vulnerable populations in our state - elders, immigrants, and working poor families who struggle to gain access to SNAP because of stigma, confusion about eligibility, and difficulty navigating a complete process. If you or someone you know needs help with food please call the hotline at 1-800-645-8333 (or see the flyer at the end of Leaps for more info).

**Spelling Bee - January 3 - Westwood Foundation for Education - Don't forget the Spelling Bee is January 3rd!**

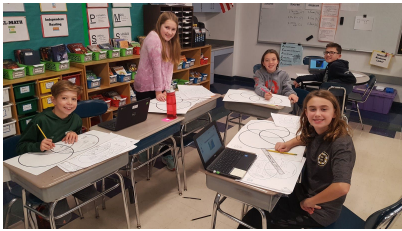
**Outdoor Play** - At Martha Jones, we go outside everyday, even in the winter, unless it is raining or less than 20°F. We ask you to please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor weather. This means coats, hats, mittens, and pants or leggings, as well as snow pants and boots when it is snowing. Be sure all clothing is labeled, many students have black winter boots, similar coats, and the same hats and mittens.





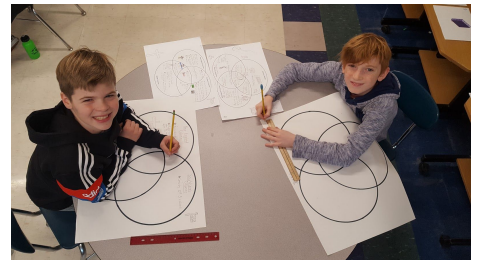
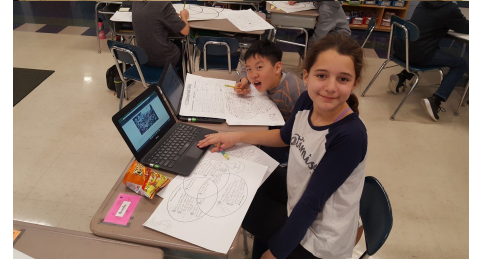
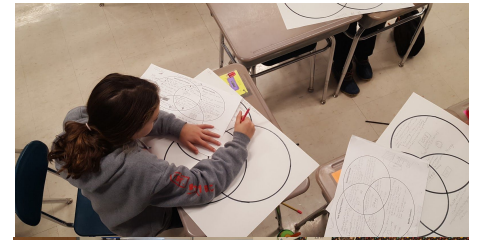
# Classroom Happenings

## News from 5P (Mr. Parkhurst)



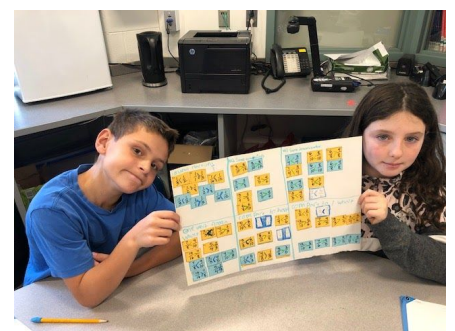
Students in Mr. Parkhurst's fifth grade class have gone back in time! They had to imagine that they were a retired European explorer who had made several voyages to the American Colonies. They were hired to help the people of England decide which region of the colonies that they might like to settle. Their task was to research the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies using multiple digital and print resources. They then used their research to create a 3-Circle Venn

Diagram. Students had to creatively layout their ideas, add sketches, and use a variety of colors. Students then had to research, more in depth, one of the colonies. They were then tasked with persuading people to settle in their colony. They researched their chosen colony and created an advertisement that could be used to convince the people of England to move there. They presented their information in the form of a short skit in front of the class.



## News from Mathematics (Mrs. Size)

Fifth graders have been busy learning strategies to compare fractions by reasoning about their relative size. For one activity, they looked at two fractions on a piece of paper and decided where they would place them according to the strategy they used to compare. Each partner in the pair had a different color, so they could see if they disagreed and then have a discussion about that. Strategy sorts allow a great way to reason about mathematics and provide good talking points for the students.





## News from 2F (Mrs. Fader)

Students in 2F have just started their nonfiction reading unit. In this unit, the students will be working on

three strategies in their nonfiction books: paying attention to details, putting the parts of text together in their mind, and asking questions. To kick off the unit, students studied objects closely while thinking about these 3 goals. While reading and studying these objects closely, students used phrases such as "I wonder..." and "I notice..." while sharing their ideas with peers. Students were asking questions about different objects and



making connections to what they already knew. Students were eager to see if they could find answers to their questions and wonderings within nonfiction books. After students book shopped in nonfiction bins, students went off to read their nonfiction books while taking ownership of these 3 new goals. Students were paying close attention to all the different text features and making connections to what they read. Students were so proud when they found connections to their questions in their own book bags!



## News from KM (Mrs. McDonough)

In KM we created a Number Museum this month. Every student was given a number to represent on an index card using a variety of materials. We then played Quick Images with the finished cards. In Quick Images, an image or an amount is shown only for a few seconds so that your brain has to work quickly to subitize the information so the total can be figured out without having to count by ones. The numbers were then organized on a bulletin board in the hall. Every student could study the pictures in the museum and write equations that matched how they saw the arrangement. They wrote the equation on a sticky note and stuck it under the index card. Along with having fun the students were working on many skills:

Subitizing - the ability to recognize a small group of objects without counting

Decomposing- breaking down numbers into sub-parts

Writing equations





# PTO News

## SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER AND GRATITUDE

The students of Martha Jones, with the support of the PTO and a generous donation from Roche Bros., delivered holiday cheer and gratitude to the town of Westwood on Monday. Each student wrote a personal note and drew a holiday themed picture to place inside a mug with hot chocolate and a candy cane. Approximately 400 snowman mugs were delivered to the Westwood Food Pantry, fire station, police station, Carby St. offices, town hall, library, bus drivers, crossing guards and recreation department.



## **PARK STREET BOOKS & TOYS**

Thank you to everybody who shopped at Park Street Books & Toys this past Monday. We are fortunate to have such a great relationship with this local small business that genuinely cares about our children and fostering their literacy. Stay tuned, we will be partnering up again soon for the Annual Book Fair.

## **MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL**

***Save the Date - Saturday, March 21, 2020***

### **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, 2020** from 7:30-11:30pm at The German Club in Walpole. (Rt. 109 Westwood/Walpole town line)

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!

## **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 Martha Jones PTO every time you shop, at no cost to you.



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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](https://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](https://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.

## **BOX TOPS - COLLECTION ONGOING**

***Download the App and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase***



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 Fall and Spring

classroom competitions, we collect Box Tops year-round, so please feel free to send them in whenever you have them.

We recently sent home information about **important changes** to the Box Top program, please take note of these changes and continue to support the Box Top program. Click [here](#) for more information.

## **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 [denisepcahill@gmail.com](mailto:denisepcahill@gmail.com).

## **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Dining Out:** Wednesday, **Jan 15** - Bamboo Restaurant

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

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

*\_ Westwood Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.*

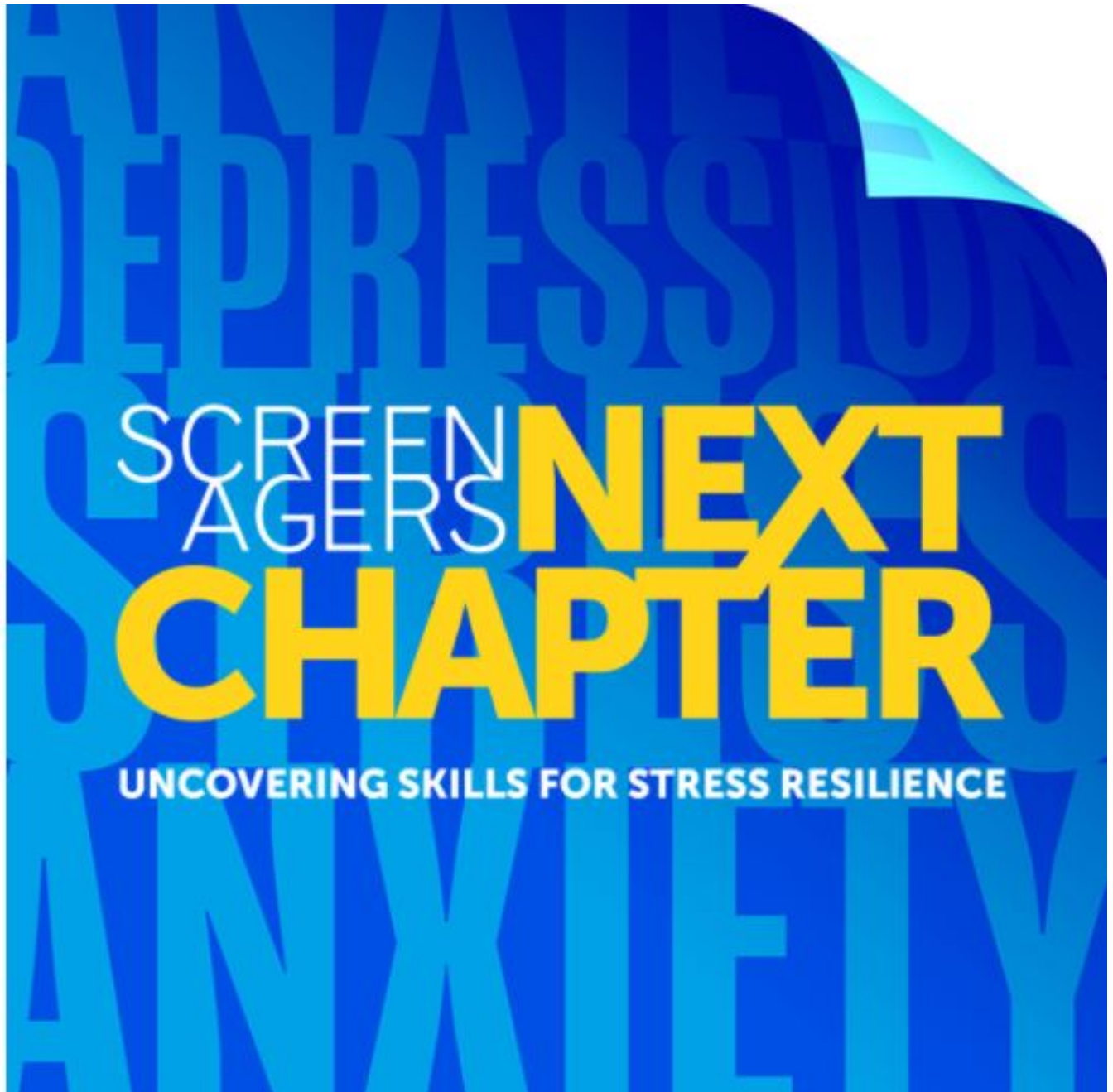
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لك. [لطلب كنتشكر](mailto:lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us)

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## Community News You Can Use



Downey PTO, WHS, TMS PTO, Deerfield PTO & Sheehan PTO

Westwood High School Auditorium, 200 Nahatan St, Westwood 01/06/2020 7:00PM

[Click on this link for reservations](#)

<https://screenagers2westwood.eventcombo.com>





## 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](mailto:egreco@townhall.westwood.ma.us)

Register online at:

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

## OUR PROGRAMS

# FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333



Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline helps the most vulnerable populations in our state—elders, immigrants, and working poor families who struggle to gain access to SNAP because of stigma, confusion about eligibility, and difficulty navigating a complex application process.

### WHAT IS THE FOODSOURCE HOTLINE?

The FoodSource Hotline connects people struggling to put food on the table with SNAP benefits and other food resources in their communities. The Hotline answers over 28,000 calls from food insecure families and individuals across Massachusetts each year. The multilingual staff, complemented by able translators, can assist callers in over 180 languages.



*Our hotline counselors connect callers to emergency food resources in their area.*

In addition to calling the hotline, people in need can also reach hotline counselors by instant message through [www.gettingsnap.org](http://www.gettingsnap.org).

### FOODSOURCE HOTLINE SERVICES

- Screenings for SNAP/Food Stamp eligibility.
- Over-the-phone SNAP application assistance and follow up with applicants throughout the process.
- Referrals to community food programs.
- Informational resource for agencies who have specific SNAP regulation questions that are affecting their clients.
- General information to current SNAP recipients, applicants with pending applications, and those who are hesitant to apply.
- Referrals to other programs such as WIC, school meals, housing, and utility assistance.
- Information on the Healthy Incentive Program (HIP) and how to earn benefits.

### FOODSOURCE HOTLINE HOURS

- Monday - Friday: 8AM to 7PM
- Saturday: 10AM to 2PM



# Westwood SEPAC

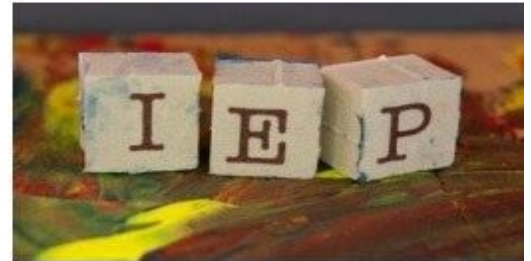
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



## Understanding the IEP

Monday January 13, 2020  
6:30 -7:00 PM-Parent Networking  
7:00-Presentation

This presentation will delve into the Individual Education Program (IEP) document, its development, the breakdown of each section and understanding how the document will support a student.



### Workshop Topics:

- Why the IEP is Important
- Who is eligible for an IEP
- How the IEP is Developed
- Strengths and Concerns
- Vision Statements
- IEP Sections including PLEP A & B, Annual Goals and Service Delivery Grid
- Differences between Accommodations and Modifications
- Response, Placement and Consent
- Procedural Safeguards and more!

All are welcome! If you haven't been able to attend a Basic Rights Workshop this year, now is a good time to learn or update your knowledge about your child's rights to special education.

This workshop is presented by Faith Morgan from **The Federation for Children with Special Needs**

RSVP: [westwoodsepac.org/event-reg](http://westwoodsepac.org/event-reg) or in our [Facebook Group](#)

Location: Westwood High School, 220 Nahatan Street  
Park in the front horseshoe parking lot off Nahatan Street. Go through the doors marked "District Administration". Once inside follow signage to Professional Development Room.