

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 15 - Apr. 9, 2021



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

Important Dates

Date	Event
Tue., Apr 13th	Gr. 3 Enrichment: Colonial Trades - Virtual Program
Thu., Apr 8th	School Committee Meeting 7PM
Mon. - Fri., Apr 19 - 23	April Vacation Week NO SCHOOL
Wed., Apr 28th	No School for Students - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conference
Thu., Apr 29th	Gr. 5 Enrichment: Tsongas Industrial History - Virtual Program

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

Ramadan begins on April 12th - For those of you celebrating the Ramadan may your season of reflection, kindness, and charity be peaceful. For those of you who would like more information on Ramadan [this video shares 8 things you should know about Ramadan to get you started.](#)

Welcome Back - It was so exciting to have the vast majority of our students back to school this week. The PTO was very kind in providing balloons and a banner to welcome students back and lunch was provided to teachers on Monday - a special treat for sure.

I appreciate your efforts as we continue to work to keep all children safe and healthy as we now have classrooms where students are less than 6' apart (except when eating and mask breaks, when they are always 6' apart). We continue to keep students separated by grade level cohorts outside and at lunch and snack. Thank you for adhering to the 8:30 to 8:45 drop off time. **The school building does not open for students until 8:30, at which time students come directly into the building and to their classrooms. There is no congregating outside in the mornings to ensure that cohorts remain cohorts.** Thank you for not arriving early, as tempting as it may be as the weather gets nicer.

MJ & District News

Inclusive Westwood - I recently met with Martha Jones members of Inclusive Westwood (IW) to gather more information about how I can support the mission of IW. *IW is a group of parents and citizens who are passionate about making Westwood a supportive, safe and inclusive town for all kids and families. IW seeks to embrace and celebrate our differences and diversity as a community, and to elevate voices and needs that have traditionally been marginalized.* During the meeting it was clear that I had not been sharing enough about what the district and our school and staff are doing to deepen our knowledge and ensure the school district continues to develop instruction practices and a community that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion. I will work to highlight MJ happenings in the future but wanted to share with you a presentation that Asst. Supt. Borchers offered at the School Committee Meeting last night that outlines current happening in the district related to DEI ([linked here](#)). If you are interested in finding out more about Inclusive Westwood, please contact Padma Tumuluri at tumuluri_0610@hotmail.com.

It is critically important to me that all families feel included in our school community and our curriculum and instructional practices reflect our families and our values. As you are well aware, there have been a number of acts of violence against individuals and/or groups, both locally and throughout our country, because of their race, ethnicity, cultural, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identification. I am committed to making sure that Martha Jones is an inclusive community. If you and your children have experienced any type of injustice, discrimination, negative comments, or have felt excluded or isolated because of cultural identity, family structure, race, skin color, religion, or gender identification, please reach out so I can work to ensure that our community is safe for all.

Traveling over April Vacation - COVID-19 Travel Advisory - As noted on the State of Massachusetts Website, "Effective March 22, 2021, all visitors and returning residents entering Massachusetts are advised to follow the Commonwealth's new [travel advisory, linked here](#). The Commonwealth has made great progress to slow the spread of COVID-19 and gradually re-open the economy, and all visitors and returning residents have a responsibility to help us keep transmission levels as low as possible." We have a number of MJ families traveling over April vacation and want to keep everyone safe and in school for in-person learning, so please follow the travel advisory and get your children tested if traveling out of state, prior to returning to school. Thank you.

Lunch on Early release Wednesdays:

Grab and Go lunch will be available to elementary students on Early Release Wednesdays. Parents will need to preorder on [LINQ](#) and select **Classroom** as the pickup location. Food Service staff will bring the lunch to the student's classroom before dismissal. Typically, menus for the coming week will be available for ordering on Fridays. It's easiest to order for the entire week, but all orders must be placed before 2PM the day before the lunch is needed. Lunches are sent from the high school this year, so we do not have extra lunches on hand for all items however, lunch is free through the end of the year so we encourage you to order lunch for your child. WPS is reimbursed for lunches that students order and this helps us keep our food services program up and running, so order up :). If you have any questions or concerns. Please email us at food@westwood.k12.ma.us or call us at 781-326-7500 ext 1301.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Grade 2 Embraces the MJ Motto: Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Courageous - Students were asked to write how they live the MJ Motto: A few student examples are here:



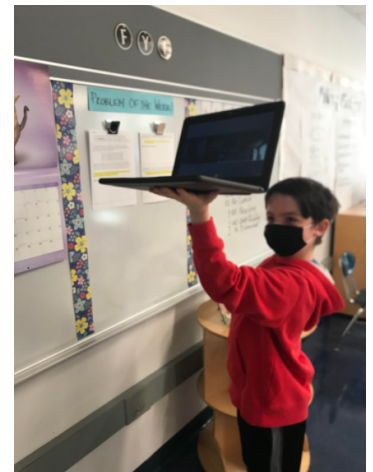
I am curious why we are all here on Earth.
I am kind with my friends because I let them choose the games we play.
I was courageous about making new friends at Martha Jones.
I was kind when I helped a classmate spell a trick word.
I was courageous when I learned a whole lot of new math strategies.
I am curious about puppies because I want to learn how they run so fast with paws.
I was courageous when I got a shot at the doctor. Ouch!
I am curious because I am wondering what holidays are

celebrated in other countries.

I was kind when someone was sick and I wrote them a card.

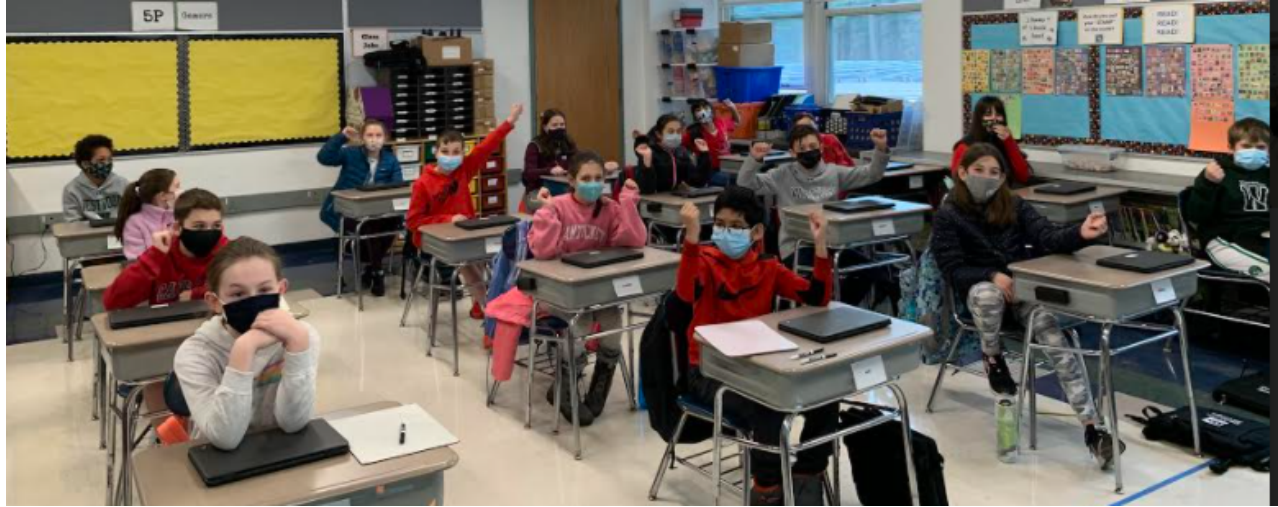
Continuing In the Tradition of Our Motto - Check out this student living the Motto in Ms. Bass' class -

During the Pledge of Allegiance this morning, Ms. Bass was have some connectivity issues with her computer and this kind student stepped right up to ensure that the remote students, zooming in from home, were able to continue saying the Pledge along with the rest of the class. Way to go Myles.



I also thought you'd like to see some of our students enjoying the first day back this week, excitement was in the air:





Even the baby turtles from the pond came out to greet the students (Mr. Smith relocated him back to the pond side of the fence to keep him safe).



PTO News

RETURN TO SCHOOL - APRIL 5th!



April 5th was a big day for our Martha Jones community. The PTO is so grateful for all the teachers, administrators and school committee members who made this day possible.

The students were welcomed back to school with balloons and signs. The PTO also provided a special box lunch from Baker's Best to all the teachers and staff. Thank you to Deb Kelly for organizing such a delicious and special lunch!

WESTWOOD GEAR SPRING SALE

Orders due April 26

Get ready for spring and summer with our Westwood Gear Sale! New items this spring include a zip-up hoodie, tie dye shirts, sideline chairs and headbands. Orders are due by April 26 for May delivery. This spring, the PTO will deliver the orders to you so you can avoid shipping charges. Click [here](#) to order. Make sure to spread the word to your sports teams and neighbors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE READ-A-THON WINNERS!

Drumroll Please.....In this year's Read-A-Thon our students logged 967 books AND 979 hours! The winners are:

Mrs. McDonough's Kindergarten class

Ms. LeBlanc's Third Grade class

Mrs. Aaron's Fourth Grade class

Each student in these classes received a \$10 Gift Certificate to Park Street Books and their teachers received a \$100 Gift Certificate for the classroom. Thank you to all the parents and staff members who supported our students in this program. A special thank you to Megan Brenk for organizing another very successful Read-A-Thon!

5th GRADE PARENTS- WE NEED YOUR BABY PHOTOS!

Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Parkhurst have begun working on the 5th grade yearbook.

The first step is to collect a baby picture of each student. The pictures will be arranged on a Who's Who page where the children have to match the baby picture to the current 5th grade student.

Please email Amy Amatangelo (amyamatangelo@yahoo.com) a baby picture of your child by Friday, April 16. **VERY IMPORTANT: Please make sure to rename your photo file with your child's name.**

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

A "Martha Jones team" is being organized to educate and inform our families of the tremendous benefits of the new school building project initiative. Our "Martha Jones team" will work in collaboration with teams from each of the other elementary schools to create a unified campaign. As part of the campaign, we are looking volunteers to contribute in specific ways, including:

- Marketing and communications
- Resident engagement (E.g., organizing coffees and get out the vote efforts)
- Fundraising
- Liaisons to Westwood clubs, youth sports, etc. to build up support

If you are interested in joining the Martha Jones team or want to volunteer in one of these key areas, please contact Suzanne Tessier, our Martha Jones team lead, at sctessier@gmail.com. For more information about the school building project, click [here](#).

SUMMER CAMP IS AROUND THE CORNER-ORDER YOUR MABEL'S LABELS

mabel's labels.

Spring is almost here and summer camp is around the corner! Get all the labels you will need for camp today! Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and enter "Martha Jones PTO" as the fundraiser you would like to support. You can even order the "combo label pack" with the MJ log. By purchasing **any** of the labels via our fundraiser, you will receive free shipping (labels are mailed directly to your address) and the PTO will receive 20% of your purchase.

PTO BOARD MEETING

May 4 at 7 p.m.

Our final PTO meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. At that meeting we will be voting in the PTO Board Officers for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are interested in serving on the board, please reach out to Maureen Grealish (momolloy@aol.com) or Julie Menendez (juliemenendez@yahoo.com).

ELECTRONIC BOX TOPS - COLLECTION ONGOING

Download the Box Top App and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase. Click [here](#) for more information about how to download the Box Top app and scan your receipts. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for our school.

SHOP AmazonSmile ON THE APP

Support Martha Jones with every purchase

The Amazon Shopping app now supports Amazon Smile! Simply download the newest version of the Amazon Shopping app, go to settings, turn on Amazon Smile and choose the Martha Jones PTO as your charity. After you've done that, every purchase you make will automatically support the Martha Jones PTO 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.

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 Amy Amatangelo at amyamatangelo@yahoo.com.

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