

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 12 - Feb. 12, 2022



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

Important Dates

Mon., Feb. 14	MJ School Site Council Mtg. 3:30
Wed. Feb 16	Early Release 11:50AM
Mon - Fri., Feb. 21 - 25	Feb Vacation NO SCHOOL
*Tue., Mar. 8	Gr. K Enrichment: Curious Creatures
*Wed. Mar. 9	Early Release 11:50AM
*Thu., Mar. 10	Gr. 2 Enrichment: Discovery Museum Matter
Tue., Mar. 15	PTO Meeting 7PM
*	Note date corrected

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:

Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

ext. 6261: [Diane Santangelo](#)

ext. 6321: [Donna Tobin](#)

ext. 6263: [JoEllen Doyle](#)

Message from the Principal

Important COVID Updates in a Snapshot:

Lunch:

- Starting on Monday, February 14, 2022 all students will be eating next to each other at the round tables in the cafeteria.
- **Students will no longer need to pre-order lunch.** Effective immediately LINQ is no longer being used. Instead, students will select the lunch they want, in person, in the cafeteria serving line. **Lunch will still be free, but children will need to have many on their [MYSCHOOLBUCKS](#) accounts if they are bringing their lunch but want to purchase milk only.** Lemma Jn-baptiste will be sending out a district wide communication with more complete details.

Masking:

- As per the school committee vote at last night's meeting, **effective Monday, February 28, 2022**, we will transition to a "mask optional" environment for students and staff. We ask for your support in ensuring that all members of the school community support each individual's choice about whether or not to wear a mask. Please remind your child to be respectful of their classmate's decisions about whether or not to mask.
- **Federal mandates require that masks still be worn on school buses at this time.**
- Supt. Parks will be sending out a district communication regarding the update to the masking policy. Please see her communication for more details.

MJ & District News

Martha Jones celebrates Kindness Week!

February 14 - 18

KindnessWeek

This week, MJ students will be celebrating National Kindness week in so many ways!

We will be filling in Kindness BINGO boards all week long with acts of kindness done at school and home!

We will have a colorful rainbow chain of kindness in the front hallway made by all of our students as well as tear off flyers with additional ideas for spreading kindness.

There will be multiple "Take a compliment / Leave a compliment" stations in the school.

Students will be reading and listening to stories and videos showing the importance of spreading kindness to others and also remembering to be kind to ourselves.

Several classes will also be sending cards to a local senior community to spread kindness beyond Martha Jones as well!

FRIDAY - School Spirit Day - Friday will be a day to focus on being kind to yourself and everyone is invited to wear comfy clothes or pajamas to school and bring in a stuffed animal.



Today, Friday, February 11th is the 100th Day of School!! Just 80 more school days for students. Many of our students celebrated the 100th day of school today.



Join Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council for our upcoming parent groups and meetings! If you RSVP via the forms below, the Zoom link will be sent to you shortly before the meeting. The link will also be posted on the [Facebook Page](#) the day of the meeting.

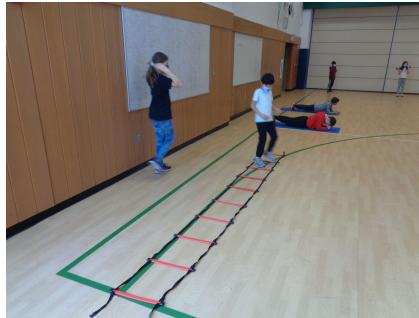
- Feb 15: [Neurodiverse Profiles Parent Group](#)
- Feb 17: [Language Based Learning Difference Parent Group](#)

Visit us at www.westwoodsepac.org/events for more information.

SEPAC Liaison for Martha Jones: Megan Brenk mbrenk@gmail.com

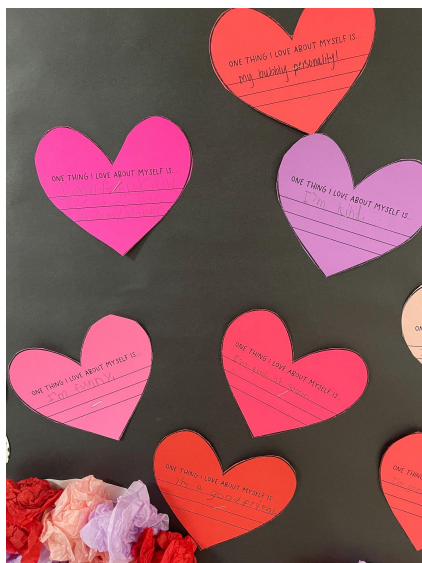
Classroom Happenings

News from PE (Mr. Foley) - What's Happening in Physical Education!
The Martha Jones students have been very busy learning about Fitness! This unit introduced fitness concepts such as: stretching, target heart rate, proper form and safety, through circuit training, fitness challenges, and games. These activities emphasized the importance of keeping physically fit. The students also learned about the importance of keeping their heart and other body muscles strong! A variety of highly active games were introduced to teach and re-emphasize fitness concepts. The kids had a blast! Learning to enjoy physical fitness activities is one the most important motivational factors for staying physically fit! The students pictured are performing some of the exercises during our fitness circuit! I hope you are well! Pat Foley



News from Ms. Mulhern

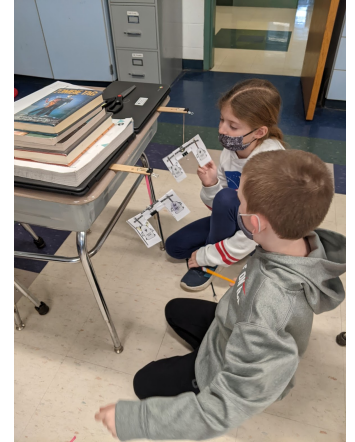
In the upstairs Learning Center, we have been learning about being kind to ourselves. To kickstart February, we read and listen to books about Valentine's Day and being kind. The students discussed ways they are special and unique. Each student and adult in the Learning Center shared two reasons why they love themselves. Our bulletin board promotes kindness and love for others as well as ourselves. Happy Valentine's Day! Love yourself- Just as you are :)



News from 4W (Mrs. Waldner)

Hello from 4th grade! In our fourth grade science unit about energy, we are learning about energy! Students in 4W thought about where our bodies, cars, and windup toys get their energy from. We investigated energy sources and then created a rollercoaster ride to explore how we could supply energy to the ride in order for the riders to have fun! This rollercoaster ride was called a twist-o-matic! Students explored how fast the ride could go using different size rubber bands and found that wider rubber bands stored more energy. Students then explored how they would power their ride. The class brainstormed energy options including peanut oil, wind turbines, and machines powered by electricity.

The students in 4W enjoyed designing and creating a rollercoaster ride to explore energy. Next week, we will be exploring how energy is transferred in another theme park ride!



News from 2H (Ms. Hartwell) - Children are natural born Scientists.

They are curious about the world around them. They ask wonderful questions, actively explore, and make insightful connections. In 2H, we studied "Slow Changes to Earth". During this unit, we explored weathering and erosion. We learned about wind and water erosion. These elements change the surface of our planet over time. How did we do this you may ask? We used sugar cubes! In our first experiment, we examined the sugar cubes and wrote down our observations. We placed the sugar cubes in a container and shook, shook, shook. The children discussed and examined the sugar cube after each turn. They noticed changes caused by the shaking and friction. In the end, the sugar cube was no longer a cube but a sphere, and particles we called "sand sugar" were left at the bottom of the container. In our next

experiment, we made a mountain out of snow, and slowly poured warm colored water over the top. The colored water ended up changing the surface of our mountain; and a river formed. Water pooled at the bottom of the snow mountain forming a lake. The young scientists in 2H embraced these big concepts and connected them to the world in which we live.



PTO News

PTO Update 2/8/22

Happy Lunar New Year! From the PTO

I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY

You too? We need **15 parent volunteers** to help run the parent social event, on April 30th. [Please sign up](#) by THIS SUNDAY, February 13th in Membership toolkit (A to Z Connect). Not only is this a fun adults only night out, this is also a critical fundraiser for the PTO allowing us to support and bring enriching activities to the MJ community.

Signup link: <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/84863>

FEBURARY 18th... BE KIND, BE COMFY AND WEAR PJs!

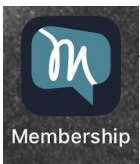
Mark your calendars, for SPIRIT DAY. Join us in celebrating kindness week and wear your PJs to school on Friday, February 18th.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, REGISTER AND SAVE THE DATE

Thank you for taking the time to complete the surveys we sent out. The results from our family/parent social activity survey indicated that people are interested in ways to stay connected.

More to come, but register today and save the date.

- **Free! Orange Theory Fitness MJ Parents Class**- Wed 2/16 at 6:45p.m. We will hold a little social gathering after with some beverages/snacks in-studio following class. [Email studiomanager1202@orangetheoryfitness.com](mailto:studiomanager1202@orangetheoryfitness.com) with the subject line: MJ OT Class **by Saturday 2/12 to Register**. Location: 268 Washington Street, Westwood
- **Family Ice Skating** – Saturday, March 5th, 4:30p.m. at Skating Club of Boston (Norwood). Wear your Westwood Gear or green and look for the kids and parents wearing MJ stickers/name tags. Skate rentals are available. *Please note, this is first come first serve basis as we are unable to privately rent the rink or reserve tickets in advance during a public open skate. Tickets have to be purchased onsite day of the open skate.*
- **PTO MEETING: Tuesday, March 15th at 7pm**
Details will be sent out one week prior to the meeting.
- **Math Club** – Unfortunately, due to low response rates, this will be postponed until next school year.



Looking for something smaller? Membership Toolkit (AtoZ) directory is a great way to connect with other parents and create smaller playdates. Note: you can filter by classroom, grade, etc. Membership toolkit (A to Z Connect) is available at the app store.

The PTO has made the event decisions above based on balancing and respecting all viewpoints, while incorporating the feedback that many expressed feeling disconnected to the MJ community. The results from our family/parent social activity survey indicated that people were most interested in (by "yes" order): Casual Outdoor Meet-up, Family Ice Skating, Orange Theory Class, Local Restaurant, Virtual Trivia, Virtual Mixer. The PTO will be exploring and evaluating additional options to help families stay connected.

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 Cat Sonis at catkell23@yahoo.com

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