

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 14 - Mar. 18, 2022



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

Important Dates

Wed., Mar. 23	Early Release 11:50AM Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00 - 3:00
Wed., Mar. 30	Gr. 1 Enrichment: Children's Museum Animal Adaptations
Fri., Apr. 1	Gr. 2 Enrichment: Dental Hygienist Visit
Wed. Apr. 6	Early Release 11:50AM ----- Afternoon and Evening Conferences
Tue. & Wed., Apr. 12 & 13	ELA MCAS Grades 3, 4, & 5
Fri., Apr. 15	NO SCHOOL - Good Friday; Passover Begins
Mon - Fri Apr. 18- Apr. 22	NO SCHOOL - Patriot's Day and School Vacation week
Wed., Apr. 27	Early Release 11:50AM
Sat. Apr. 30	PTO Social 7:00PM - 11:00PM German Club, Walpole

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

Spring Activities - As we head into Spring, we are working to bring back many of our pre-COVID student experiences. Enrichment programs are back up and running; we will be having the Art Show and are hopeful we can do the Science Fair again (both are tentatively scheduled for June 2nd); we will start planning for field day soon; our 5th grade parent volunteers are thinking about the best ways to celebrate our students heading off to middle school; the PTO is holding the Parent Social; and we are planning an abridged version of mini-courses. Spring is always a busy busy time and it is feeling like that again :).

These programs often depend on parent volunteers and parent and/or student participation. Please buy your tickets for the parent social on April 30th, this will be the major PTO fundraiser this year (see the PTO update at the end of Leaps). The PTO sponsors so many great events and programs for our students, your contributions and support are greatly appreciated.

Mini-Courses - As you know, we have not been able to run mini-courses the past two years. However, we have a few teachers who are interested in running a short mini-course session this spring. Therefore, we will run an abridged session from April 26th - June 3rd. Due to the limited number of offerings, we recognize that not all students who want to participate will be able to do so. We are hoping with spring sports and activities, some students will be too busy for mini-courses so interest in participating may be less than during the winter months. We decided at PTO it would be better to be able to offer a smaller program than to not offer anything. So we will do the best we can given the few offerings and the shorter time span. Thank you for your understanding. Registration information will be going out soon, with registration happening sometime the week of April 4th. More details to come.

MJ & District News

[Westwood Community Chest Summer Camp Scholarship Info \(and WCC website\)](#)

MCAS Schedule - Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be taking MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) this spring. These assessments are held in school and typically take about 2 hours per session, with two sessions per content area. Dates for Martha Jones are: ELA (grades 3, 4, & 5) will be held on April 12th and 13th, Math (grades 3, 4, & 5) on May 9th and 10th and Science (grade 5 only) on May 18th and 19th. For those of you who are unfamiliar with MCAS and/or would like more information, I will hold a parent meeting on Wednesday, March 30th at 9:00 in the school cafeteria. There will also be an option to zoom in. I will send out all the details to parents of students in grades 3, 4 & 5 later next week.

Bus Registration is now open for the 2022-2023 school year!

The District kindly asks families to register between March 1st and June 30th (so our bus coordinator can work on fine tuning the routes.) While the district prefers online registration ([here is the link](#)), a paper flyer can be found [here](#) for those who prefer to complete a paper form and send in a check.

Kindergarten Registration is now open for the 2022-2023 school year!

Do you have children or know a neighbor who has children who will be starting kindergarten in the fall? Kindergarten registration is now open online. Here is the [link](#) that reviews the [online registration](#) process. If you are not planning to send your child to Kindergarten in the Westwood Public Schools in September, please let us know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. Please feel free to contact John Cianciarulo by email at jcianciarulo@westwood.k12.ma.us or by phone at 781-326-7500, x1341, if you have any questions. We look forward to getting to know your family in the months ahead and to partnering with you in providing an outstanding education for your child.



Join Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council for our upcoming parent groups and meetings!



- March 20: Family Meet & Greet at Sheehan Playground
- March 24: Neurodiverse Profiles Parent Group
- March 29: Parent Coffee Meet & Greet
- March 29: Westwood Preschool/Elementary Transition Workshop
- April 5: Westwood Middle School/High School Transition Workshop

Visit us at www.westwoodsepac.org/events for more information and to RSVP. SEPAC Liaison for Martha Jones: Megan Brenk mbrenk@gmail.com



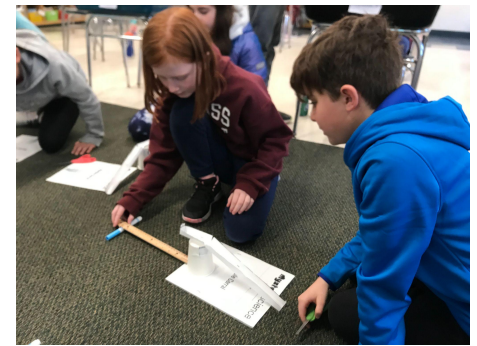
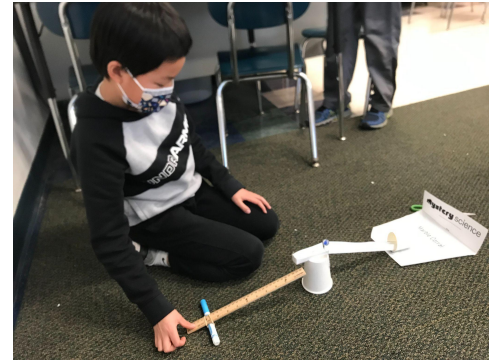
Westwood Gear Sale - Thurston Middle School is hosting a Spring Westwood Gear sale from 3/14-4/4. Martha Jones won't be hosting another sale until next Fall so here's a chance to stock up or refresh your Westwood spirit gear!

Visit the store here <https://bit.ly/WestwoodSwag>

Classroom Happenings

News from 4B (Ms. Bass)

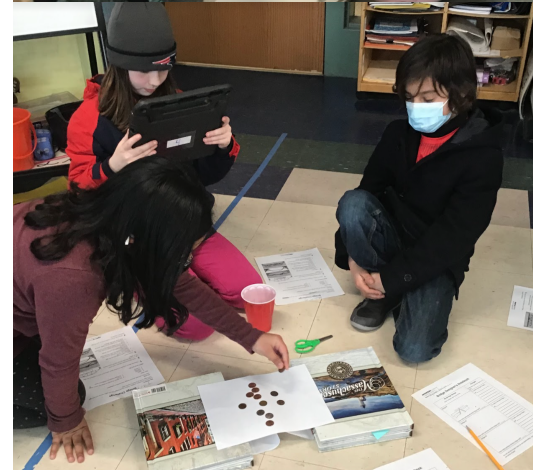
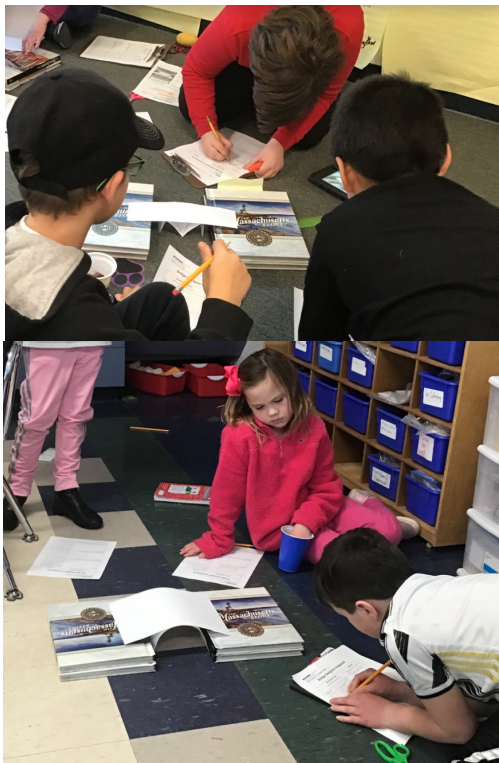
4B students are currently immersed in a physical science unit: the study of energy. For this unit, students have been studying the principles of energy through a range of hands-on activities and facilitated discussions. Thus far, the fourth graders have learned a number of fundamental concepts: energy can be transferred; all things have energy (kinetic or stored); there are many types of energy; there is a relationship between gravitational (height) energy and speed. More recently, the fourth graders have been exploring the concept of chain reactions as a means of energy transference. As pictured, each student was tasked with the challenge of transferring energy in the following sequence: one's hand, a lever, the top of a ramp, a marble, and a dixie cup at the bottom of the ramp! With a bit of trial and error, each student successfully completed the challenge.



Next up in science: electrical energy!

News from 3M-L (Mrs. MacDonald-Lane)

The Bridge Challenge! Students in 3 Lane put their engineering skills to the test during this STEM activity called The Bridge Challenge. The students learned about real-life bridge design and combined it with their knowledge of forces to build a strong bridge that supports as many pennies as possible -- using only paper!



News from Music (Mrs. Pickering)

The Martha Jones Musicians have been celebrating Irish music in honor of St. Patrick's Day. First Grade students danced with a rainbow band to the traditional Irish music "Rakes of Mallow". The students also played hand drums with claves to imitate the Irish drum called a bodhrán to the song "Britches Full of Stitches".



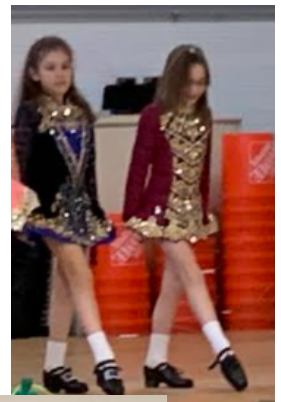
News from Literacy (Ms. Child)

Praise for Perseverance!

Recently, as I walked in one of the first grade classrooms, the kids were singing "[Be the Boss of Your Reading](#)." (Calkins, Units of Study for Teaching Reading, 2015)" [This song](#), sung to the tune of "If you're happy and you know it," reminds kids to persevere when reading gets tough. Perhaps one of the most important things we can teach our children is perseverance. Even at a very young age, children will need to persevere when learning to read. First grade readers are learning many strategies for solving unknown words. At this point in the year, students are reading more difficult texts. As a result, they face more complex words and phrases and will need to use more than one strategy to solve unknown words. Students have tools they can rely on! Whether students are thinking about the story and pictures to word solve or using letters, sounds and word parts-they can do it! They are the bosses of their reading! Perseverance is a skill that children will use in mathematics, writing, on the ball field, in music classes and in their relationships. In learning (and in life!), as children become more comfortable with a productive struggle, they are learning to endure and work through problems. In the end they will feel the amazing satisfaction of having tackled a challenge. If you see your child persevering through a challenging book, math problem, assignment or situation, applaud their efforts! [Finally, here are some first grade readers sharing tools to persevere to solve hard words](#). Enjoy!



Enrichment - In recognition of St. Patrick's Day, the Harney School of Irish Dance in Walpole performed for us during our lunches on Thursday. Some of our very own Martha Jones students were part of the performances. Thank you to the PTO for supporting our enrichment programs!



PTO News

PTO Update 3/17/22

NEXT FRIDAY, MARCH 25 ... LET'S GO CRAZY, LET GET NUTS!

Mark your calendars, for SPIRIT DAY. Join us with your craziest hair, hat or bows on **Friday, March 25**. Are we going to let spring allergies bring us down? Oh no, let's go!

CALLING ALL MONETS, PICASSOS, AND KAHLOS IN TRAINING!

The [Square 1 Art catalogs](#) were sent home this and included a sample of your child's art work. This is a special fundraiser where the Art Department and MJ PTO partner with [Square 1 Art](#) to transform your little artist's creations into coffee mugs, notecards and more. Orders are **due by Friday, April 1**, and these special keepsakes will be delivered just in time for Mother's and Father's Day.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Martha Jones 2022 Parent Social: Roaring 20s – **Saturday, April 30** from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at The German Club on the Westwood/Walpole line. Get your [tickets now](#) and don't miss out on this adults-only event featuring a DJ, cash-bar and event-only raffle baskets. Proceeds from the event help fund PTO events, such as field trips, the Halloween Party, the STEAM event and much more.

Please check your email for more details. We still need donations for our auction baskets and [volunteers](#) to make this event possible.

MOVE OVER NATHAN CHEN; MJ IS ON THE ICE!

On Saturday, March 5, Martha Jones came together for a fun meet-and-greet event. Kids and adults took to the ice to make new friends and share some laughs. We are happy to report the only injuries were some sore feet and a few bruised egos!

Stay tuned for more opportunities to get 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 or Beth Klaene at baklaene@gmail.com.

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