

# Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.  
Issue 5 - Oct. 29, 2021



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

## Important Dates

<b>Fri. Oct. 29</b>	PTO Haunted Halloween Outdoor Party
<b>Tue. Nov. 2</b>	Picture ReTake Day
<b>Wed. Nov. 3</b>	Early Release 11:50AM ----- Evening Conferences
<b>Thu. Nov. 11</b>	NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day
<b>Wed. Nov. 17</b>	Early Release 11:50AM
<b>Wed., Nov. 24</b>	12:00 Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break
<b>Mon., Nov. 29</b>	In-service - NO SCHOOL

### 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

**Happy Halloween** - A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have been working tirelessly planning an amazing Haunted Halloween Event for our families this evening. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Important Reminder - Please Order Lunch - ALL** Westwood Public Schools students can receive FREE LUNCHES but must use LINQ to pre-order lunches. **While school lunch is free, it is critical that you go in and order lunch for your child before 2PM the day prior!** You can also order lunches for the week ahead starting on Sundays. We make lunches based on the number of orders and while we do have a few extra lunches, there have been days when we have had 25 - 30 kids in line for a school lunch but their parents forgot to order lunch. Sandy does her best to put together lunches quickly, but it slows down the line and students don't always get the type of lunch that they prefer.

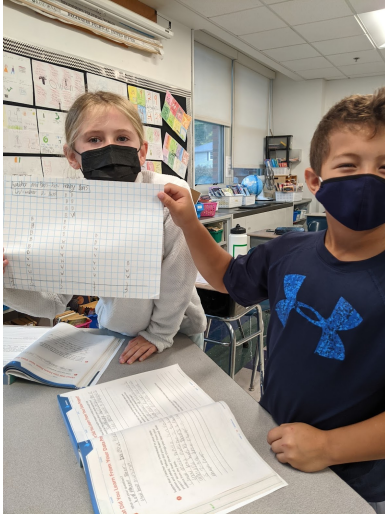
**Dress for the Weather Every Day** - Happy Fall Everyone. The weather is getting colder and students are outside for snack, lunch, and recess everyday. Please be sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. In addition, we keep our windows open to allow for some fresh air so sweaters are helpful. Please remember that we go outside even in the snowy weather so snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens are a must on those snowy days. Please be sure to label all items - about 90% of the students' snow pants are black and they have a difficult time figuring out whose is whose :). Thank You!

**Picture Retakes** - Picture retakes are on November 2nd for those students who were absent or for those of you who were not happy with your photos. For retakes, please return the original package with a note that you would like a retake.

# Classroom Happenings

## News from 4W (Mrs. Waldner)

In fourth grade, students are learning to collect, describe, and interpret data in line plots. Throughout our unit, we are working with data from the world around us. This data and information teaches us about our world.

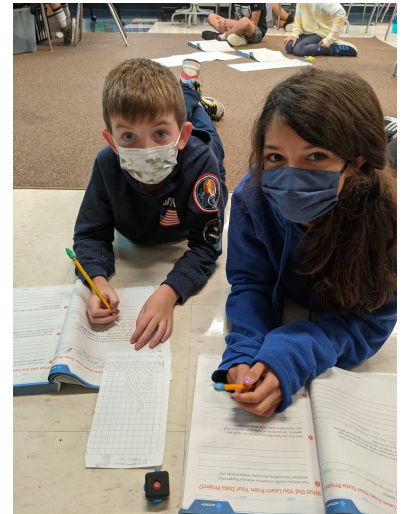
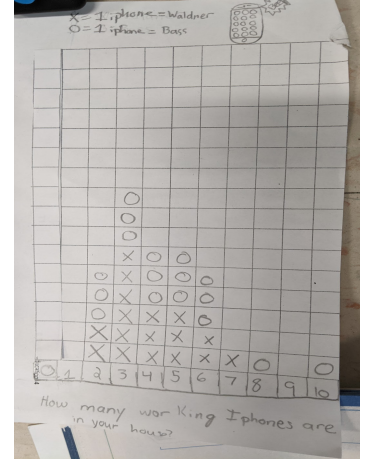


As a culminating activity, students developed a question about their world and gathered data from their classmates in 4W. In order to compare and contrast across groups, students also collected data from Mrs. Bass' class. The class enjoyed interacting with their classmates and learning how we are all similar and different in many ways.

Students in 4W gathered information about how many iphones, bathrooms, doors to the outside of their house, cousins, and pets people had. It was pretty interesting data. Did you know someone has 30 pets at home?

After collecting the data, students represented the data on line plots that displayed both sets of data, compared the data, and interpreted

the information. The class was very thoughtful about how they displayed their data.

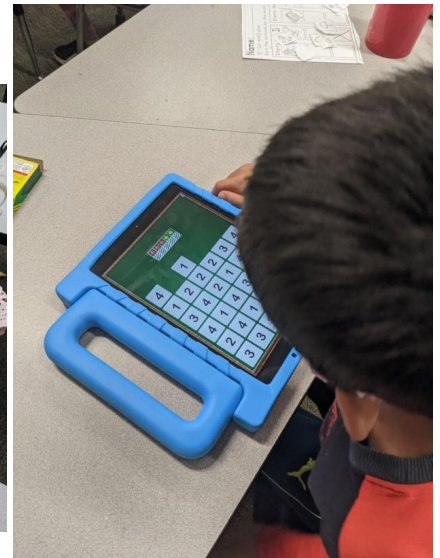


## News from KL (Mrs. Layton)

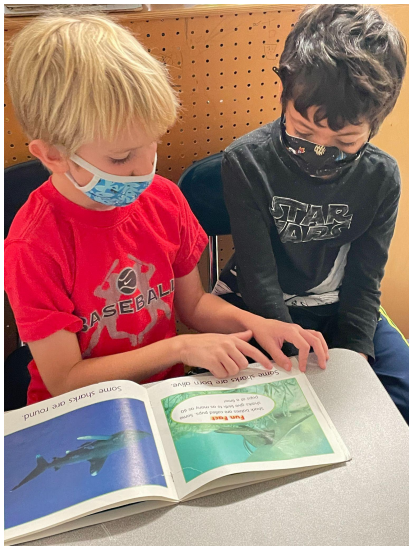
In Math, when you break a number apart, it's called decomposing. In Kindergarten, we have been working with the whole number 5 and learning that it can be broken down into parts. For instance, 0 and 5, 1 and 4, 2 and 3, 3 and 2, 4 and 1 and 5 and 0 are the same as 5. Students have been practicing the skill of decomposing by playing Shake and Spill games, Five Frame practice on the iPad and creating fun Halloween creatures all while focusing on the whole number 5.



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## News from 1D (Mrs. Dunn)

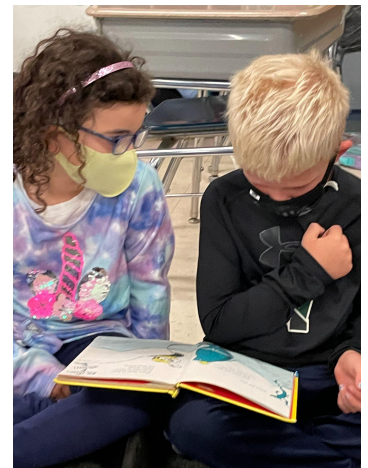


Mrs. Dunn's first-graders have been working hard at developing strategies for reading accurately. After spending the beginning of the year learning various strategies for solving unknown words (e.g., using picture clues, finding "chunks" of words they know), students are now practicing a routine to help them monitor their reading and correct errors. They are learning the accuracy strategy of **cross-checking** to ensure that their attempts at words make sense and match the letters on the page. They have practiced asking themselves three questions (with corresponding body movements) to check their attempts at words:



- **Does it look right?** (cross right arm over chest)
- **Does it sound right?** (cross left arm over right arm, forming an X)
- **Does it make sense?** (both arms come down to the side)

Doing the physical movements while asking themselves these questions helps students remember the questions. Students have been practicing cross-checking during shared readings, during partner reading, and during independent reading. Students know that if their answer to any of these three questions is no, then they have to go back and try another strategy to try to solve the word. But if their answer to all three questions is yes, they can be confident that they have successfully solved the word and can continue reading. First graders are well on their way to becoming independent readers!



## News from PE (Mr. Foley) What's Happening in Physical Education?



It's so great to have the kids back! In grades K-2, the physical education curriculum focuses on movement education. Movement education is a series of movement experiences utilized to develop confidence and proficiency in coordination and body control. When children explore through movement, it gives them a better understanding of these concepts and skills.

To develop these important skills, the students are introduced to a wide variety of movement games and activities. In kindergarten, students explore their own space by creating



different body shapes and balances. By first and second grade, students are challenged to move to an open space and change speeds, levels, directions, and pathways. These games and activities are both enjoyable and developmentally beneficial.

The children pictured are getting a chance to work with a variety of movement equipment. They are having lots of fun creating different ways of traveling and demonstrating body control in "open space". Have a great week!



# PTO News

**PTO Update 10/27/2021**

**MJ HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY: Friday October 29 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**



BOO!! Save the date for the Martha Jones Haunted Halloween Costume Party! This year, the celebration will be held completely OUTSIDE at the school. A Walk-Through Haunted Lane will be set up, and your favorite scary and not-so-scary monsters will be back in action.

A DJ will get your kids moving and grooving to their favorite songs on the blacktop! Our DJ even has some fun games and contests up his spooky sleeves!

Sensory Friendly Halloween Experience: Please join us from 5:30-6:00 for more daylight, no strobe lights, fewer scary noises and quieter music. We hope these adjustments will make this event more accessible to our whole school community.

Thank you to the parents that have volunteered so far. We need **DOZENS** of parent volunteers to make this night happen. Volunteer shifts are listed by job on Membership Toolkit. Parents are needed to set up, work as party monitors/guides, clean up and DRESS up and scare the kids in the Haunted Lane. Sign up to help <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/81399>

Please feel free to bring your own snacks and water as we will not be providing it this year due to COVID safety protocols.

**MJ HALLOWEEN PARTY FOOD DRIVE Friday October 29 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

There is no cost to attend the Halloween Party, which is open to all MJ students, siblings and families. We do ask that in lieu of an admission ticket, each person bring a canned or dry good to donate to the Westwood Food Pantry.

Here is a list of the most needed items:

- peanut butter
- jelly
- flour
- sugar
- salad dressing
- cake mixes
- pancake mix
- syrup
- cleaning products
- personal items (tooth brushes, tooth paste, body wash, shampoo)
- pasta sauce
- condiments (mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise)
- baked beans



## **SCRIP SHOPPING CARDS FUNDRAISER – NOW THRU NOVEMBER 5TH**



Each year Martha Jones PTO raises over a thousand dollars with this awesome fundraiser selling shopping cards. MJS is able to purchase shopping cards at a discount from various retailers due to its non-profit status. We make a profit on the discount and that income is used to fund and support various programs for the students at MJS. The shopping cards are the same ones you buy at the store and they can be used for everyday expenses as well as gifts. **Order forms are due by Friday, November 5, 2021.**

Should you have any questions, please email Kristen Donahue at [kristen.m.richman@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.m.richman@gmail.com) or Melissa Roy at [Mnroy2010@gmail.com](mailto:Mnroy2010@gmail.com)

## **THE MARTHA JONES SCHOOL DIRECTORY**



Many families have already joined, but we'd love to have 100% of families join. If you haven't already, register as a new user and keep track of messages from your Room Parents, sign up for volunteer opportunities, and access the school directory this way.

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/>

***Find it in the AppStore under "Membership Toolkit" for use on your phone***

If you have any questions or problems accessing the AtoZ program, please email Mary Jason ([maryjason06@gmail.com](mailto:maryjason06@gmail.com)) or Amy Amatangelo ([amyamatangelo@yahoo.com](mailto:amyamatangelo@yahoo.com)).

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Volunteer for a PTO Committee**



Once you have logged in and confirmed your information on AtoZ, you also will have the opportunity to volunteer for the various PTO committees that help support the school throughout the year. Please sign up at

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/72765>

There is something for everyone!

### **Volunteer at MJS Library**



The MJS Library is looking for help to shelve books on Tuesdays from 2-3 and Fridays from 2:30- 3:00. Only one volunteer at a time. Volunteers must have proof of vaccination and be masked. Anyone who is interested can sign up at

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/81759>

## **ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT MARTHA JONES**

## **MJS MAGNETS**



Show your MJS school spirit with an MJS Magnet. Find them at the link below while supplies last  
<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/store/7404>

### **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](mailto:catkell23@yahoo.com)

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