

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

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

Issue 11 - January 27, 2023

Principal's Message

Dear MJ Community,

Last week's Bingo Night was a great success and a lot of fun. A big thank you to Liz Nicosia and Deb Kelleher and all of our PTO volunteers!

We continue to work on the theme of **Responsibility**. Next month, as we transition into February, we will begin working on the trait **Kindness**. **We will define kindness as listening, feeling, and understanding others' needs and trying to help meet those needs.**



During the week before vacation, we will enjoy a whole school activity, Intercom Kindness Bingo. Everyone will participate using Bingo Cards designed with acts of kindness. It should be fun. On February 17th our students will enjoy another All School Meeting. Our theme will be kindness.

This month brings us Black History Month. Thanks to our PTO we start off the month on Feb. 1 with a whole school assembly from Illstyle & Peace Productions: Become Your Dreams: HipHop for Positivity.

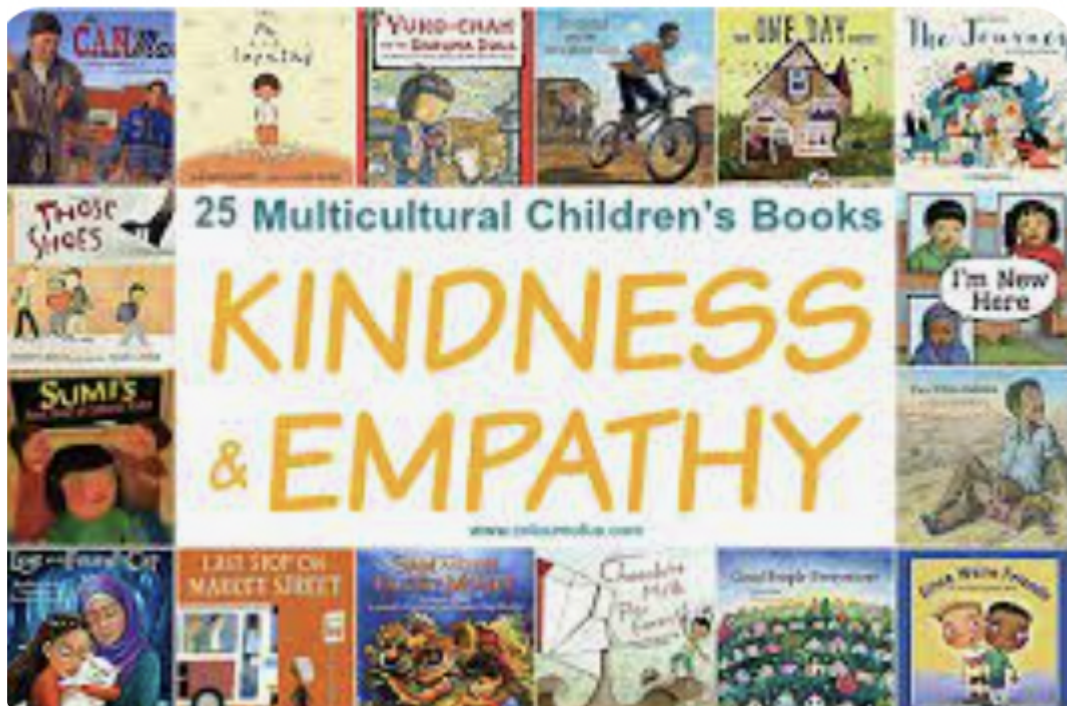
It should be a great three weeks leading up to February vacation.

Warmly,
Donna



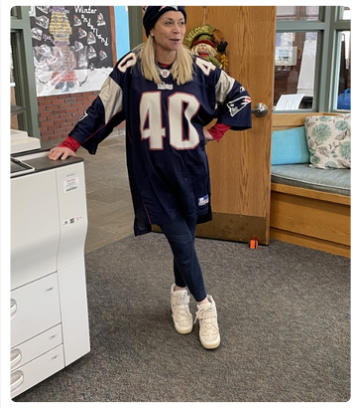
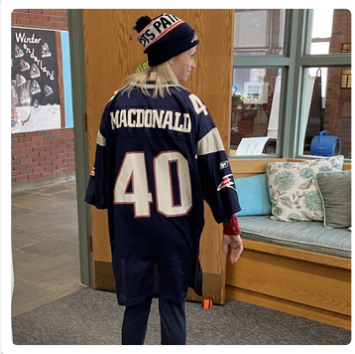
Books About Kindness and Empathy

[Click the link](#) to check out some children's books about kindness and empathy.



Football Spirit Day!

Good luck to the Eagles, 49ers, Chiefs and Bengals! Lots of Patriots fans at MJ. Hopefully, next year!



Important Dates

Fri. Jan. 27 - Football Spirit Day

Wed. Feb 1 - Black History Month HipHop Assembly

Character Word for February - Kindness

Mon. Feb. 6 - **Save the Date: Principal's Coffee** - Supporting Students through Social Emotional Learning (Donna Tobin, MaryKate Stimpson, Kristal O'Connell, presenters) 8:45 MJ Cafeteria

Tues. Feb. 7 - Grade 5 Space

- School Council 3:30

Feb. 8 - Early Release Day 11:50 Dismissal

Fri. Feb. 9 - Grade 3 Discovery Museum Force & Magnetism

-School Committee 7:00pm

Fri. Feb. 10 - Super Bowl Spirit Day

Week of Feb. 13 - Physical Education Open House

Feb.13 - Discovery Museum: Matter

February 14 - Valentine's Day

- Wear Red or Hearts Spirit Day

Feb. 13-Feb 17 - Kindness Week

-All School Meeting 2:25 Kindness theme

Feb. 18-Feb 24 Winter Vacation - No School

Save the dates:

MCAS begins 3/30 See schedule below

March 29/April 12 Parent/Caregiver Conferences

Apr. 26 - Art Show

June 2 - Field Day

June 7 - Grade 5 Off site event 1-3

- All Gr 5 Band Concert 5:30 meet; 7:00pm concert

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE: CORI FORMS

It makes sense that during Covid when volunteering was not allowed, people may have lost track of their CORI expiration. CORIs are valid for 3 years. Currently, we have many people who want to volunteer for events or activities, such as Math League, and they do not have active CORIs (and don't realize it). We cannot allow this. CORIs are needed for all volunteer experiences at Martha Jones such as volunteering in the library and for field trips, etc. Our responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe.

If you wish to volunteer at Martha Jones, please check with our office that your CORI is active, and if it is not, please submit a new form as soon as possible. We have many upcoming events and we want you to enjoy them with your children.

Even if you have a CORI because you are involved in another community group as a coach or scout leader, that does not count. You need a separate CORI for Westwood Public Schools. A WPS CORI is good for all of our schools. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.

Attached is the [link for the CORI Form](#). Please remember to bring in your license with the completed form.

Thank you so much for assisting us in keeping your students safe and thank you to those who already have taken care of this!

Important & Noteworthy District News

New

Mini Courses Start Next Week!

If you have signed up your student for a mini course, please go into the [School Dismissal Manager](#) to update your student's information. Thank you. It is so helpful in avoiding confusion at the end of the day when the office is busy.

Physical Education Open House

Mr. Foley invites K-2 parents/caregivers to come in and visit the week of February 13th to learn more about Martha Jones' PE program. Please see the flyer that was sent home in student backpacks.

Student Attendance

While we recognize that illness and extenuating circumstances can be hard to control and may result in student absences, especially during the winter months, we also recognize the important role consistent attendance plays in a student's learning. Students are expected to be in their seats by 8:50 to begin classroom instruction. Please do your best to ensure students attend school and are on time, barring any of the above circumstances.

Equity, Integration, & Community Partnerships Webpage

We are excited to introduce the new Equity, Integration, & Community Partnerships webpage on the Westwood Public Schools website. Emily Parks, Superintendent; Allison Borchers, Assistant Superintendent; and Lateefah Frank, Director of Equity, Inclusion and Community Partnerships, put forth great effort to create a location where families can acquire information about our efforts to create an inclusive community. Here is the [link](#) to the page.

Report Cards

Your child's report card is available for you to review through our Aspen/X2 portal on January 27th. The portal is now open. [Directions for accessing the report card are linked here.](#) (Need support? You can visit [the Aspen self-help site](#) or email our Aspen support team at aspen@westwood.k12.ma.us with questions.) Report cards will not be mailed home this year; they are printable through Aspen should you desire a hard copy.

Please see the message sent home through School Messenger on Thursday about report card access.

Special Education progress reports will go home in backpacks that day. More information will be forthcoming.

Valentine's Day

As you know February 14th is Valentine's Day. We will have a Wear Red or Hearts Spirit Day. If you choose to send cards into your student's classroom, there must be one for everyone. Also, please do not send in cards with candy attached or any candy at all. Unfortunately, we would have to send all of that back home with your child.

Extended Day

The MJ Extended Day program will be open during February Vacation. They will be open Tues. -Thurs. from 8am-4pm.

REMINDERS:

Save the Date for a Principal's Coffee

We are excited to let you know based on parent feedback, we will be hosting a Principal's Coffee on February 6th at 8:45 am. The topic will be Supporting Students through Social Emotional Learning. Donna Tobin, District SEL Coordinator; MaryKate Stimpson, School Psychologist; Kristal O'Connell, Martha Jones/Sheehan Adjustment Counselor, will present in the MJ Cafeteria. Join us to hear an overview of SEL and its connection to the CASEL framework. We will share strategies for parents/caregivers to use at home and present a mini lesson similar to those taught in classrooms. We are looking forward to connecting with our parents and caregivers. A reminder will go out closer to the event. [Click the link](#) to provide input for for future Principal's Coffees.

☂ Weather-Related Updates ☂

NEW-Important Procedural Update

When we dismiss from the school during inclement weather, we will be sending most walkers out the front door. Parents and caregivers are asked to please come up to the front of the school to

meet their students. If your student goes out back to follow the path, he/she will continue to do that. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We strive to keep our students safe.

If there is a No School or School Delay Announcement, you will be informed by the district.

Here is a list of how the public is notified about delays and school closures:

- District website (www.westwood.k12.ma.us)
- Twitter ([@westwood_ps](https://twitter.com/westwood_ps))
- Facebook (fb.com/westwoodschoools)
- School Messenger email
- School Messenger phone call (“robo-call”): If the timing is appropriate, a call may be made to families.
- Local Television: [WBZ-Ch. 4](#), [WCVB-Ch. 5](#), [WHDH-Ch. 7](#), [WFXT-Ch. 25](#), and [NECN/NBC10 Boston](#).

Reminder - MCAS Dates

WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elementary MCAS Schedule 2023

ELA: March 27 - April 28 (2 sessions, grades 3, 4 & 5)
 Math: April 24 - May 26 (2 sessions, grades 3, 4 & 5)
 STE: April 25 - May 26 (2 sessions, grade 5)

MON. 3/27	TUE. 3/28	WED. 3/29	THU. 3/30	FRI. 3/31
			MJ ELA 3-5	MJ ELA 3-5
MON. 4/3	TUE. 4/4	WED. 4/5	THU. 4/6	FRI. 4/7
MJ ELA Make-up	MJ ELA Make-up			Good Friday (No School)
MON. 4/10	TUE. 4/11	WED. 4/12	THU. 4/13	FRI. 4/14
		Early Release		
MON. 4/17	TUE. 4/18	WED. 4/19	THU. 4/20	FRI. 4/21
School Vacation Week Passover ends 4/23				
MON. 4/24	TUE. 4/25	WED. 4/26	THU. 4/27	FRI. 4/28
		Early Release		
MON. 5/1	TUE. 5/2	WED. 5/3	THU. 5/4	FRI. 5/5
MON. 5/8	TUE. 5/9	WED. 5/10	THU. 5/11	FRI. 5/12
	MJ Math 3-5	Early Release	MJ Math 3-5	MJ Math Make-Up
MON. 5/15	TUE. 5/16	WED. 5/17	THU. 5/18	FRI. 5/19
MJ Math Make-up		MJ STE Gr 5	MJ STE Gr 5	
MON. 5/22	TUE. 5/23	WED. 5/24	THU. 5/25	FRI. 5/26
MJ STE Make-up	MJ STE Make-up	Early Release		

Hats and Sweats Spirit Day

The students and staff, all enjoyed the Hats and Sweats Day!

Feeling pretty cozy in our Hats & Sweats last week!



News from the Health Office

As we approach the Winter months, please review these tips for staying healthy and promoting health in the MJ community.

- Stay up to date with Flu and Covid vaccines
- Practice good hand-washing and personal hygiene, including wearing masks when indicated
- Staying home when you are sick. Children need to remain home until they are no longer contagious. This limits the spread of illness and allows the child to recover more quickly.

Please see a helpful comparison chart of the different symptoms for RSV, Flu, Covid-19 and the common cold below.

Just a reminder, if your student needs any type of medication administered at school, even over the counter meds, please contact the nurse to discuss before sending it in.

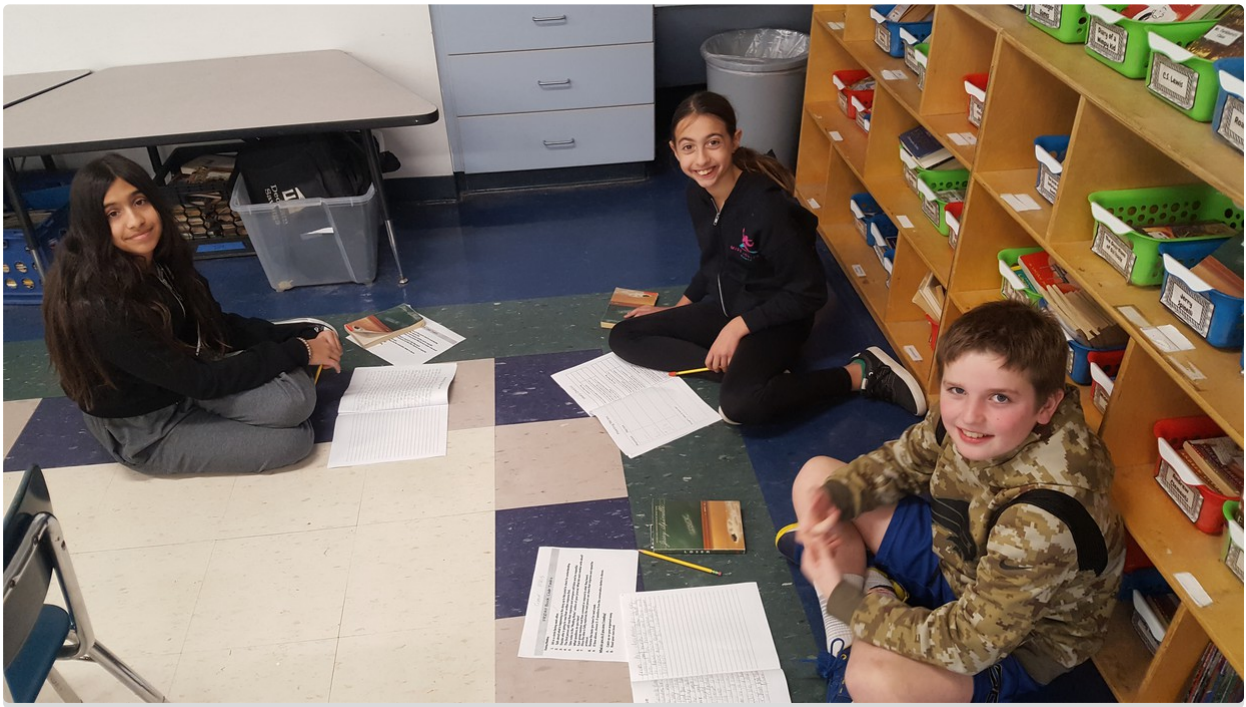
Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns! JoEllen Doyle - School Nurse x.6263
jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us

RSV, COLD, FLU & COVID-19 SYMPTOM COMPARISON				
SYMPTOMS	RSV	COLD	FLU	COVID-19
CHILLS	✓	SOMETIMES	✓	SOMETIMES
COUGH	✓	✓	✓	✓
DECREASED APPETITE	✓		✓	
DIARRHEA / VOMITING			✓	✓
DIFFICULTY BREATHING	✓			✓
FATIGUE	✓	✓	✓	✓
FEVER	✓	SOMETIMES	✓	✓
HEADACHE			✓	✓
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL				✓
MUSCLE / BODY ACHES			✓	✓
RUNNY NOSE / CONGESTION	✓	✓	✓	SOMETIMES
SNEEZING	✓	✓	SOMETIMES	
SORE THROAT	✓	✓	SOMETIMES	SOMETIMES


 Hackensack Meridian Health

Classroom News





News from 5P (Mr. Parkhurst)

Students in Mr. Parkhurst's class are in the midst of our Lucy Calkins reading and writing unit titled Interpretation Book Clubs. At the beginning of the unit, students were placed into small reading groups. They had choices of books to read, such as Hatchet by Gary Paulsen and Windcatcher by Avi. As students are reading their book club books, they are using the Notice and Note strategy. This strategy consists of 6 signposts for the students to be on the lookout for as they read. These signposts alert the students to important moments within a story. They help students to read more closely, interpret the text more deeply, and to reflect on the meaning of these moments within the story.





News from 1D (Mrs. Dunn)

First grade scientists in Mrs. Dunn's class are beginning an exciting unit on Sound & Light. To kick off this learning, we were fortunate to experience a fascinating and fun program on Sound from the Discovery Museum in Acton. Students learned that sound is vibration by engaging in a variety of hands-on explorations. They dipped a vibrating tuning fork into a bowl of water and found that the vibration created quite a splash! They also discovered the power of sound waves by making a ping pong ball on a string swing through the air just by placing a vibrating tuning fork near it. Finally, they enjoyed the music created by gently striking metal household objects, such as a spoon or spring, against a surface while holding the attached string up to their ears to listen. The students were brimming with insights and wonderings throughout the lesson. Many thanks to the PTO for bringing this valuable and memorable program to our budding scientists!

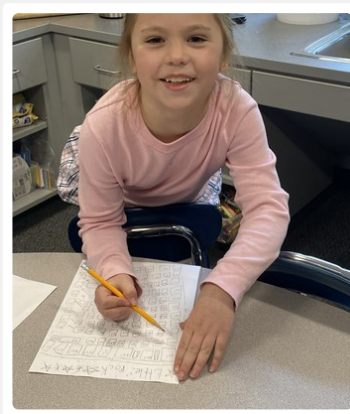
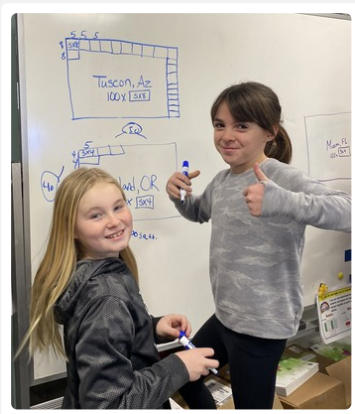
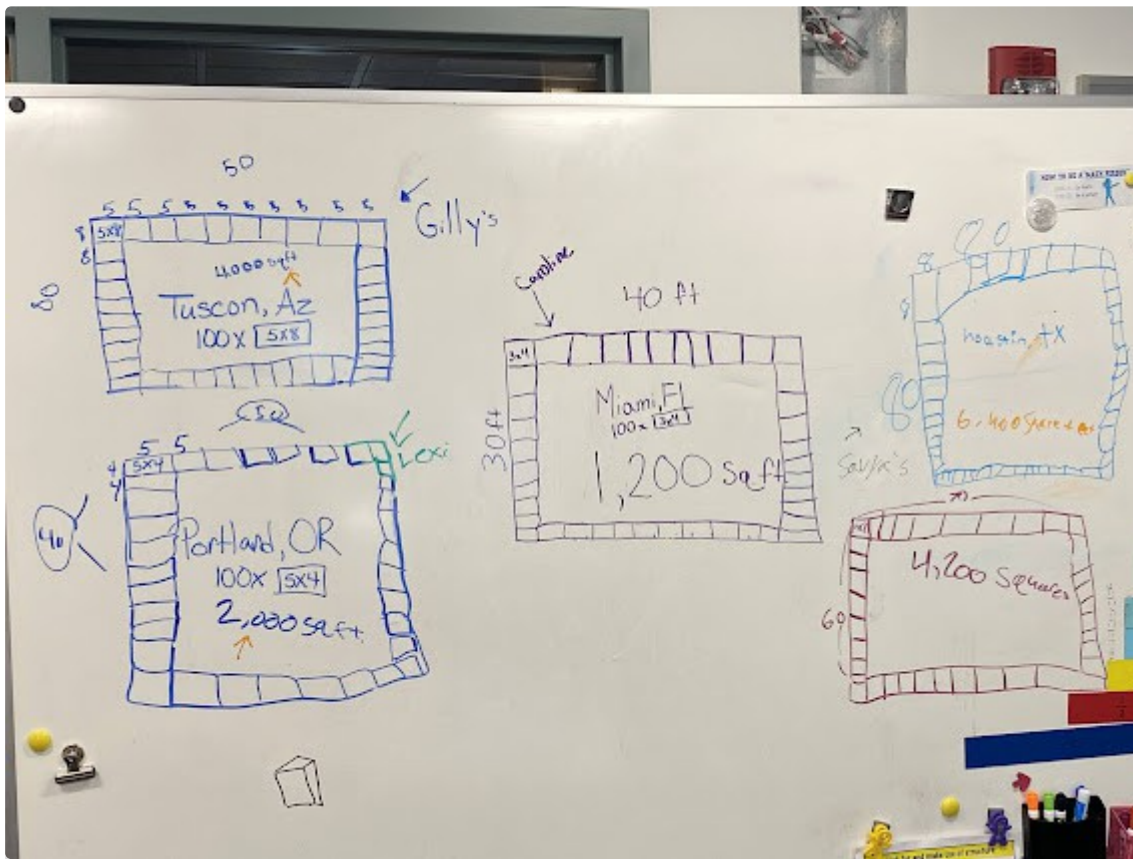




News from Music (Mrs. Pickering)

Music with Mrs. Pickering:

The 3rd grade students from Ms. Lane's class, created their own melodic patterns inspired by the folk song, "Rocky Mountain ". The musicians worked in groups to create a 4 beat rhythm using music notation, added pitches on the music staff, and finally performed their melodic ostinato on the barred instruments while the class sang the refrain of the song!



News from the Math Office (Mrs. Aaron)


Mathematicians in fourth grade are finishing up a unit on multiplying and dividing with larger numbers. They looked for patterns between the operations and worked hard to read as mathematicians and interpret what was being asked in each problem. They developed many strategies for breaking larger problems into smaller parts and using what they know to help with what they don't. They also looked at patterns in our base ten number system and thought about and showed what is really happening when we use strategies for multiplying or dividing by a multiple of ten.



Thank you to our January Student Council for their hard work and community service effort! Starting Tuesday, 1/17 the January Student Council held a Hat and Mitten Drive. Donations were made to Catie's Closet. Thank you for your donations!

As we move into February, the new Student Council will meet. We have two Spirit Days for February already: Wear Red/Hearts Day on Feb. 14th and Super Bowl Spirit Day on Feb. 10th. When the Student Council plans its events for February, we will share that information via SchoolMessenger.

During next month we will be celebrating Kindness Week, the week of February 13th. We're sure to have some great ideas for how to show kindness in our school community!



MARtha JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PTO
Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

Fun at Bingo!



Our Bingo Winners!



GET YOUR TICKETS: MJS PARENT SOCIAL ON MARCH 11!

To purchase tickets, go to [Membership Toolkit](#), select "Store," and then "MJ Parent Social Tickets." This is an adults only evening out, where you can get to know other parents and caregivers while enjoying a live band at the German Club in Walpole.

If you are interested in volunteering, please [sign up](#).



SAVE THE DATE: PTO MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28 AT 7:00 PM

Join us to learn about what's happening in 2023 and how you can get involved in a way that fits your schedule and leverages your talents.

Please join us in-person at the **Martha Jones School Library** or virtually via Zoom; details to follow.

Save the date: MJS Book Fair, Tuesday, March 14

More details to follow!

Join the PTO

Sign up today at: <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/form/m/198140>

PTO Members get exclusive access to the full school student directory, including guardian contact information and voting privileges. Plus, your membership fees help fund our programs like field trips, enrichment activities, playground equipment and our larger signature events.

MJ PTO - Connect With Us!

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 Beth Klaene at baklaene@gmail.com or Mary Jason at maryjason06@gmail.com.



Join Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) for our upcoming parent groups and meetings! You may be just starting your journey or be years into an IEP/504. All are welcome.

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

SEPAC Liaison for Martha Jones: Frank and Caitlyn Jurczak caitlynp82@yahoo.com

News from Westwood Youth and Family Services

We are currently accepting registrations for our Spring group programming for Kindergarten-5th graders through Westwood Youth and Family Services! We are hoping you all can help us spread the word to Kindergarten-5th grade parents that may be interested in enrolling their children in these free weekly programs run by our department. Registration for all Spring groups will open on January 30th and we will be accepting 8 students per group.

Attached you'll find flyers for each of our three Spring groups that we encourage you to please share with your school community in an upcoming parent communication and/or when you're talking with parents whose children may enjoy these program.

Below are the online registration links for each group-

- Kindergarten/1st Grade: <https://forms.gle/99kwDwyLrdiqvp1S7>
- 2nd/3rd Grade: <https://forms.gle/4sDXfWmZYMHRmF9p6>
- 4th/5th Grade: <https://forms.gle/fYHnEW5kXiVh33PEA>



Westwood Public Schools

VISION:

Graduates of the Westwood Public Schools are skilled, confident, curious, and kind: excited for their futures and ready to contribute to their communities.

MISSION:

To prepare students for college, career, and civic life by providing rich and challenging curriculum, high-quality instruction, and authentic educational experiences.

CORE VALUES:

Academic excellence and a commitment to improvement
Curiosity and tenacity



2022-2023 School Calendar

September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

29 Teachers report
 31 Students' First Day
 2-5 Labor Day Weekend
 26 Rosh Hashanah

October 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

5 Yom Kippur
 10 Columbus Day

November 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

11 Veterans Day
 23 Early dismissal
 24-25 Thanksgiving Recess
 28 All Day Inservice (No school for students)

December 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

26-30 Vacation

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2 New Year's Day (Observed)
 16 Martin Luther King Day

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

20-24 Vacation

March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

7 Good Friday
 17-21 Vacation

May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

29 Memorial Day

June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

16 Students' Last Day (Tentative)/Day 180
 19 Juneteenth
 26 Students' Last Day (includes 5 make-ups)

School Hours						
High School	7:25am-2:05pm (Dismissal at 12:45pm on Early Release Days)					
Middle School	7:48am-2:25pm (Dismissal at 1:10pm on Early Release Days)					
Elementary Schools	8:50am-3:10pm (Dismissal at 11:50am on Early Release Days)					
Preschool 4-day	9am-1pm or 9am-2:45pm (Dismissal at 11:30am on Early Release Days)					
Preschool 5-day	9am-2:45pm (Dismissal at 11:30am on Early Release Days)					

Early Release Days highlighted in yellow

School Committee Start Date Guideline: When Labor Day is September 1, 2, 3, or 4, the first day of classes will be the following Tuesday. When Labor Day is September 5, 6, or 7, the first day of classes will be the preceding Wednesday. In addition, there will be no school for students on the Friday preceding Labor Day.

Approved by School Committee, January 13, 2022