

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

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

Issue 13 - March 3, 2023



“We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced.”

— Malala Yousafzai

Principal's Message

Dear Martha Jones Families,

We are wrapping up Kindness month and we have had a wonderful month. The students have been doing a great job internalizing and applying the traits they are learning about this year. We are very proud of them.

As we move into March, we begin working on the character trait, Perseverance. We will define perseverance as *the ability to keep going, even when something is difficult*.

Later this month grades 3-5 students will participate in MCAS. More information will follow. We recently sent home the 2022 Martha Jones School Report Card for your review.

This month also brings us Women's History Month. During morning announcements, various famous women will be highlighted and quotes attributed to them will be shared.

As we move into spring we have many events for our families. Having the opportunity to be together is a great way to build our sense of belonging in this great community. We hope to see you at our upcoming activities. Check the calendar below.

We wish any of our families celebrating March holidays joyful celebrations!

Have a wonderful weekend!

Warmly,
Donna

Donna M. Olson

Interim Principal
Martha Jones School



Learning About March Holidays: Holi, St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day

Holi, March 8th - is a Hindu festival that has been celebrated since ancient times. The Holi Festival is celebrated as a way to welcome in spring, and also is seen as a new beginning where people can release all their inhibitions and start fresh. It is said that during the Holi Festival, the gods turn a blind eye, and it's one of the few times extremely devout Hindus allow themselves to let loose. They open up and enjoy each other's company, take time to dance and party, and throw their cultural norms to the side. On the first day of the festival, a bonfire is lit to symbolically burn away all the bad and give way to a colorful and vibrant new future.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th - commemorates Saint Patrick in Ireland and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks.

St. Joseph's Day, March 19th - giving food to the needy is a Saint Joseph's Day custom. In some communities it is traditional to wear red clothing and eat a Neapolitan pastry known as a [zeppola](#) (zeppole). In some European countries, fathers are honored on this day.



Some Irish people enjoy corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day though not necessarily in Ireland.

Enjoy the day!



On St. Joseph's Day, some people enjoy the pastry, zeppole, a cream filled pastry.

Happy eating!



Martha Jones students are invited to join us in an optional International Spirit Day celebrating culture. Students are asked to wear a color from their favorite country's flag or to wear any clothing reflecting their heritage. We are excited to recognize all of our students' countries of origin.

Important Dates

March 5 - Gr 5 Science - Matter

March 6 - Faculty Meeting MCAS training/Alt activity for K-2

March 8 - Happy Holi!

March 8 - Gr 4 Science - Electricity and Gadgets

March 9 - School Committee WHS 7:00pm

March 8 - Gr 4 Science - Electricity and Gadgets

March 9 - Welcoming Schools Committee Meeting 5:00pm Library

- School Committee WHS 7:00pm

March 10-17 Read-a-thon

March 10 - Dental Health 10-12 schedule to follow; International Spirit Day

March 11 - PTO Parent Social

March 14 - Book Fair; Welcoming Schools 3:30
March 15 - Early Release - 11:50am
March 17 - St. Patrick's Day - Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day or Wear Red for St. Joseph's Day or colors reflecting the Holi holiday, Festival of Colors
March 19 - St. Joseph's Day
March 22 - Gr 1 - Food Webs
March 24 - K Field Trip: Discovery Museum
March 28 - School Council 3:30 Library
March 29 - Early Release 11:50
-Parent Conferences Evening also
March 30, 31 - Gr 3-5 MCAS ELA
April 5 - Gr 5 Field Trip - [Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary](#).
April 7 - No School - Good Friday
April 9 - Happy Easter
April 12 - Early Release 11:50; Parent/Caregiver Conferences
April 13 - School Committee - 7:00pm
April 14 - All School Meeting 2:20
April 15-23 Spring Vacation

Save the Dates

Apr. 26 - Art Show
April 27- Peter Reynolds: K-2, 3-5
April 28 TFAC
May 2 - Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month - Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics 1:30; School Council 3:30
May 15- Welcoming Schools 6:00pm Zoom
May 17 Gr 3 Recorder Concert combined practice in the cafeteria/stage 2:30-3:00
May 21 Gr 3 Recorder Concert with parents invited 2:15-2:45
May 23 Kindergarten Parent Night 6:30
May 24 ER Day; Kindergarten Open House
May 25 STEM Fair 6:00-7:30 PM
June 2 - Field Day; rain date June 9th
June 7 - Grade 5 PTO Activity 1-3; All Grade 5 Band Concert WHS 5:30 meeting 7:00pm
PTO Movie Night - TBD



Women's History Month

Celebrating women's stories [here](#)

Learn more about women who were "firsts" [here](#).

[10 women](#) & 5 amazing [girls](#) changing the world.

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet,
then you must write it." - Toni Morrison

Valentine's Day



Kindergarten Activities with Mr. Foley



Important & Noteworthy District News

Important Friendly Reminder

Supervision of students is not available in the morning before 8:30. At 8:30, parents/caregivers may start dropping off their students who go to the playground. During inclement weather, students come inside instead. Even though the school office opens at 8:00am, that does not mean staff is in the front office always. Staff may be completing other tasks elsewhere.

If you drop off your student, and they are not on the Extended Day list, before 8:30, no one is available to supervise them.

If you are in need of before school care, please reach out to the Extended Day Program Director, Michael Fagone at mfagone@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Your student's safety is a priority and we need to ensure that our students are safe and supervised when they are on school grounds. Please adhere to the school drop off time. Thank you.

Mental Health Awareness FYI

DMH Behavioral Health Help Line

The Department of Mental Health launched a new [Behavioral Health Help Line](#) that people can call or text at 833-773-2445. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The help line can help individuals and families navigate the behavioral health system and access treatment, including mobile crisis services. District and school leaders are asked to please share this resource with staff, families, and students, where helpful. For more information, please see the [FAQ](#). Anyone with questions or concerns about the help line can email the help line director at Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov.

School Council Update

The School Council met on February 7th. Please [click the link](#) to review the meeting minutes if interested.

International Spirit Day

Due to the inclement weather the International Spirit Day was postponed from Tuesday, Feb. 28th. It has been rescheduled for **March 10th**. The postponement works well as International Day now coincides with our Read-a-thon: Read Around the World. The Read-a-thon will run from March 10th-

March 17th. We hope to see many of our students either chose their favorite country's colors to wear or to even wear some traditional clothing which reflects their heritage.

Important Preschool News

Re: Change in Enrollment Practice

Enrollment in the Westwood Integrated Preschool takes place via an annual lottery of interested families. Starting with the enrollment process for the 2023-2024 school year, the District is changing how the lottery is conducted. Specifically, new families who are enrolling in the Preschool for the fall of 2023 will no longer be guaranteed future slots for siblings. (Families who previously enrolled students in the Preschool with the expectation that siblings will be guaranteed a slot will be "grandfathered.") This change in practice reflects feedback we have received from the community and our desire to create more equitable access for all residents we serve. We understand that decisions about preschool involve many factors and want to make sure that families have this information now to assist with future planning.

Please see [WIP Enrollment and Tuition Guide](#) for more information about the Westwood Integrated Preschool.



☁️ Weather-Related Updates ☁️

To make sure that you have all the latest news, **you can check this newsletter for weather-related information.** You should also do **all** of the following:

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](#).

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 the side door to the 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.

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 Pass 2023				
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		



"In winter



all the singing is in



the tops of the trees."

Find winter poems [here](#).

New - Information Regarding Lunch

We are noticing some students attempting to share food and drinks with their classmates. This is not safe and when we see this, we intervene to stop it. Lately, some students are bringing in energy drink packets to mix with water and staff has seen students attempting to share them with friends.

Energy drinks can have consequences for some students. There may be dyes in them, and some students have allergies. These drinks typically contain large amounts of caffeine (as much as 3 cups of coffee), added sugars, and other additives which could cause dysregulation among some students. The American Academy of Pediatrics does not recommend these drinks for children. I am not necessarily referring to typical sports drinks, rather those beverages labeled as *energy drinks*. This is concerning.

Please monitor your students' lunches and review with them that they may not share food or drinks with their friends at lunch. Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.

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.

This month grade 5 will participate in Postural Screening. Please see the letter that went home to 5th grade families this week. Please contact Mrs. Doyle with any questions.

Just a reminder, if you 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

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

Save the Date!



Family Health and Fitness Night Postponed until 2024!

Due to logistical concerns, the Health Fair will be planned for next year.

News from Student Council



March Student Council and Healthy Habits

Here at MJ, March is Healthy Habits Month. This month's Student Council members will be hosting a "Healthy Habits Challenge" in which all students are welcome to participate. During the week of 3/20-3/24, students have the choice to challenge themselves by committing to one of the following habits for the full school week:

- No TV
- Exercise 30 minutes minimum
- Eat a fruit and vegetable
- No video games
- Brush teeth 2 times a day
- Read 30 minutes minimum
- No candy/junk food

Slips will be sent home for parents/guardians to sign each day that the student has successfully worked on their chosen habit. At the end of the week, students will turn in the slips. **There will be recognition for those who participate.**

In addition, March Student Council members will be hosting a Penny Drive. Pennies will be collected in a "pot of gold" in the front lobby and the donations will be given to support those who are affected by the earthquakes in Turkey."

Additionally, our students will be hanging some Car Idling posters outdoors on the fence to encourage those who wait in the car line to turn off their engines when they arrive early.

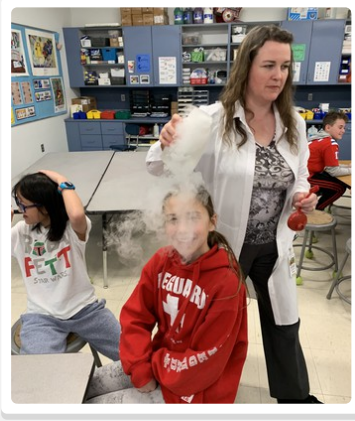
Spirit Days

March 10th - International Day - Wear something representing your favorite country

March 17th - A Day of Color - Celebrate Holi (Celebration of Colors), St. Patrick's Day (Green) or St. Joseph's Day (Red)

Classroom News

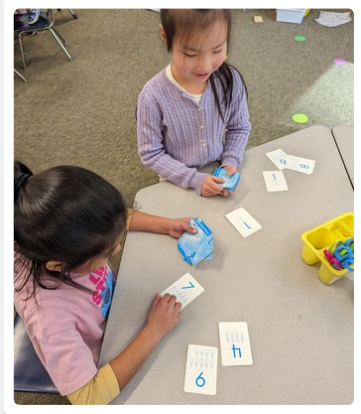




News from 5G (Ms. Gross)

In fifth grade science, students learn about physical changes of matter. As an exciting way to preview the upcoming physical matter unit, we had a special presentation by a scientist from the Discovery Museum. She taught vocabulary words such as matter, gas, liquid, solid, melting, freezing, evaporation, condensation, and sublimation. She demonstrated the transitions of water from solid to liquid to gas. The highlights of her presentation were the dry ice and liquid nitrogen! Students were able to pour and hold the evaporated dry ice as it reached its **sublimation** point. We watched as she froze and shattered a carnation and banana after dipping them into liquid nitrogen, and heard a hammer constrict as it made contact with the freezing items. We had the best time learning about the physical changes of matter!

News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)



News from KL (Mrs. Layton)

Math games are a playful way for young children to engage in

foundational math thinking. In addition to all of the foundational mathematics learning going on while they play games, children are building their confidence as problem solvers and practicing important social skills. Games in a Kindergarten classroom also provide teachers an opportunity to gain insights into children's developing mathematical thinking.



News from Music (Mrs. Saada-Smith)

We were busy in Mrs. Saada-Smith's music room right before February vacation! First Graders in Ms. Brock's class had some fun with a game called "Musical Snowball Messy Backyard", clapping rhythms, and throwing them to the other side. Even though we had no snow outside, it was fun to pretend we did inside the music room. Next, they danced to the Russian folk song "Sasha"! Third Graders in Mrs. Luskin's class were excited to start learning to play the recorder. Fourth Graders in Mrs. Waldner's class were composing and playing their own music that they composed in Advanced Recorder class!

News from PE (Mr. Foley)



MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

 Edit PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

Big picture



I LOVE THE 80's

Our annual parent social is next weekend, March 11th at the German Club in Walpole. Come as you are or in your favorite 1980's costume.

To purchase tickets: tickets, go to [Membership Toolkit](#), select "Store," and then "MJ Parent Social Tickets."

Be on the lookout, the PTO will be sending out an email with the experience and basket auction details. If you are interested in helping setup, please [sign up](#).

GOT IDEAS?- WE NEED YOU

We are looking to fill the following roles for next year: Co-President, Co-Secretary, Co-Treasurer, and Co-Social Media Manager. If you are interested in learning more about these positions or ways to get involved in the PTO, please reach out to any of the PTO officers. We will vote officers at our final meeting on May 9.

PACK YOUR BAGS & GRAB YOUR PASSPORT

This year's Read-a-thon will be taking us around the world March 10-17. Reading progress can be logged via [Membership toolkit](#). "My Account/Read-A-Thon."

The students in the classes that log the most hours/books throughout the one week period will receive individual \$10.00 gift certificates to Park Street Books. The teachers in those classes will also receive a gift certificate. There will be one winning class for grades K & 1, one winning class for grades 2 & 3 and one winning class for grades 4 & 5. The winning classes will be announced on Monday, March 20th.

BOOK FAIR, MARCH 14 Details to come!

More PTO News

SAVE THE DATE:

- Art Show, April 26
- Talent for a Cause, April 28
- PTO Meeting, May 9
- STEM Fair, May 25
- Family Movie Night, TBD
- Field Day, June 2 (rain date June 9)

Have some free time or a special skill set? Volunteers are needed for all events. [Sign up for today!](#)

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 through Westwood Youth and Family Services! 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.

Westwood Youth and Family Services still has a few openings for our Spring groups for 2nd/3rd grade and 4th/5th grade. I have attached the flyers for these groups and linked the registration forms below. Please share with any youth and families that you believe would benefit from these groups.

- Below are the online registration links for each group-
 - 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

Respectful relationships in a caring, collaborative community



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 5, 6, or 7, the first day of classes will be the following Tuesday. When Labor Day is September 8, 9, or 10, 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