



Growing By Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

Matt Kuklantz, Principal

**Martha Jones Motto:
Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.**

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

BONUS ISSUE - April 5, 2024

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

Clearly March and April were confused by the weather, because April has come in like a lion! As we enter the springtime, the work of schools begins to turn towards planning for the next school year. As a Principal, one of the things that I monitor is how many incoming kindergarten students we have registered. Therefore, if you have children or know a neighbor who has children who will be starting kindergarten in the fall, please register them. 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 Harley Pease at the district offices by email at hpease@westwood.k12.ma.us or by telephone at 781-326-7500, x1341, if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones
Principal

MCAS Dates

We will be conducting the MCAS testing on the following dates:

May 7 and May 9 - Math (Gr. 3, 4, 5)

May 14 and May 16 - STE (Gr. 5 only)

Each year, I have parents ask what they can do to best prepare their children. I think it's important to not do anything different. I encourage parents to prioritize good sleep and good nutrition. If your children express worry about the MCAS; tell the students that they have been well prepared.

Finally, when students take the MCAS the following items are not allowed on their person: phones and smartwatches. Please have students keep them at home.

Eclipse

As we approach a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, we've given thought about how to best utilize this as a learning opportunity for students and also its impacts on our dismissal.

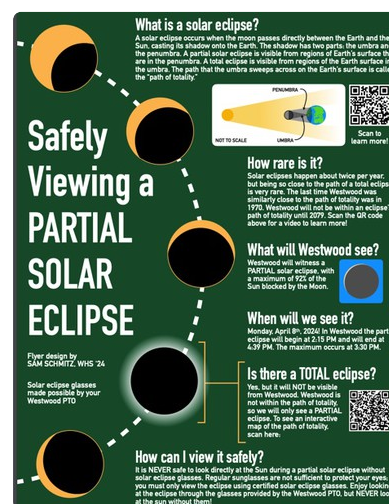
In Westwood, we will see a partial eclipse (still substantive at up to 92% of the Sun blocked by the Moon) on that day. The partial eclipse will begin to be visible at 2:15pm, the maximum coverage will be at 3:30pm and will end at 4:39pm. Please see the attached document.

On Monday, April 8, each grade will meet with our Elementary Science Coordinator, Kate Doyle, and Science Coach, Jennie Goossen, to explain about eclipses by sharing a video, a model of the phenomenon and answering any questions students have. As a school, we will go outside during the event to experience it. Thanks to our MJ PTO, every student and staff will have eclipse glasses which they can use. The glasses were all purchased from one vendor, American Paper Optics. It is a Tennessee-based company that sells glasses that meet the ISO 12312-2 standard. The American Astronomical Society includes them on [their list of "safe suppliers."](#)

Finally, since the near totality will occur during our dismissal, I anticipate that this event may impact it. If you are planning on watching the event, please consider parking away from the Martha Jones dismissal and walking to our school to pick up your students to witness the eclipse. The less traffic on this day, the better. I've coordinated with Extended Day so that we can use the baseball field as a viewing area.

Now we just have to hope the weather cooperates!

Matt



News from the Health Office

Spring Allergies

Allergies are caused by the body's reaction to substances called "allergens," which trigger the immune system to react to harmless substances as though they were attacking the body.

Allergic rhinitis is an inflammation of the nasal membranes and eyes caused by certain particles in our environment (like, pollen and molds, or dust mites and animal dander).

The symptoms of allergic rhinitis

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Itchiness of the eyes, nose and throat
- Headache and fatigue can be symptoms sometimes

How can you minimize exposure to seasonal allergy triggers?

- Wash hands and face when coming inside come from playing outside so pollen is not rubbed in eyes and nose
- Take a shower at night before bedtime to wash off any pollen
- Do not bring items from outside into the bedroom
- Keep windows in your home and car closed when possible
- Check the forecast for pollen levels, and limit outdoor activities when pollen counts are higher

For more information regarding Spring Allergies please visit [healthy children.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)



Time for Tick Checks:

Everyone living in the New England area where ticks are common should perform nightly tick checks during the warm months. Rapid discovery and removal prevents ticks from transmitting diseases. Keep in mind that ticks are very small and love to be in warm dark places like the armpit, groin, around the ear and on the back of the neck.

Bike safety:

Wearing a helmet is one of the most important ways to stay safe on a bike!

Bike riding is a great way for families to get some outdoor exercise; however, it's also a leading cause of injuries in children.

Please reach out to the Health Office with any questions!

Happy Spring!

JoEllen Doyle, RN, BSN School Nurse

jdoyle@westwodd.k12.ma.us

News from the Front Office

Kindergarten Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 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 Harley Pease at the district offices by email at hpease@westwood.k12.ma.us or by telephone 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.



News from Student Council

Student Council Update

Spirit Day: Our next spirit day will be Wednesday, April 10th. It will be Wacky Wednesday. Students and teachers are welcome to do crazy hair, wear mismatched outfits etc...

Sneaker Collection: The sneaker recycling program ends on Friday, April 12th.

Food Drive: Eddie's food drive also ends on Friday, April 12th.

Earth Day: In honor of Earth Day the student council has come up with an Earth Day Bingo game for students to complete over April vacation. Boards will be sent home on Friday, 4/12. Bring back any completed boards (4 in a row or the whole thing) for a prize.



Eddie's
FOOD DRIVE
In support of the Westwood food pantry
March 25 - April 13

Westwood Food Pantry needs:

- Cake mixes
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Jelly
- Salad dressing
- Salsa
- Balsamic vinegar
- Mayonnaise (regular)
- Cookies
- Crackers
- Herbal tea
- Boxed pasta
- Pasta sauce

Drop off locations include:

- ❖ Roche Bros
- ❖ Wentworth Hall
- ❖ Coldwell Banker (lobby)
- ❖ Westwood Public Library
- ❖ Westwood Public Schools
- ❖ Westwood Extended Day Programs

For more information:



SCAN ME

www.eddiesfooddrive.com

Important Upcoming Events

Wed. Apr. 10 - Early Release at 12:00pm, Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon)

Wed. Apr. 10 - Math League District Meet

Thu. Apr. 11 - MJ PTO Stem Fair

Thu. Apr. 11 - 5th Grade Our Changing Bodies

Fri. Apr. 12 - Gr. 5 Chorus Concert 9:30

Fri. Apr. 12 - 5th Grade Our Changing Bodies

Mon. Apr. 15 - Fri. Apr. 19 - April Recess - No School

Wed. Apr. 24 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Fri. Apr. 26 - Gr 3 Field Trip, Sasaki

Fri. Apr. 26 - MJ PTO Family Movie Night

Wed. May 1 - Walk to School Day

Wed. May 1 - Art Fair

Fri. May 2 - Talent For A Cause Performance

Tues. May 7 - Math MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5)
Wed. May 8 - Walk to School Day (Rain date)
Wed. May 8 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Thurs. May 9 - Math MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5)
Fri. May 10 - [Shaw Pong Liu](#) - Exploring China: "The Middle Kingdom" through Music and Story
Fri. May 10 - MJ PTO International Night
Tues. May 14 - STE MCAS (Gr. 5 only)
Tues. May 14 - 3K & 3Lu to Fisher School
Wed. May 15 - 3La to Fisher School
Wed. May 15 - Gr. 1 Enrichment - Rainforest Reptiles
Wed. May 15 - Gr. 4 Field Trip, Harvard
Thurs. May 16 - STE MCAS (Gr. 5 only)
Thurs. May 16 - [Gr. 3 Body Safety Theater](#)
Fri. May 17 - 3 Krumsiek Instrumental Recorder Share 2:35-3:10
Wed. May 22 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Fri. May 24 - Gr. 1 Field Trip, Stone Zoo
Mon. May 27 - Memorial Day - No School
Tues. May 28 - Gr. 3 Enrichment, Colonial Trades, Making Community Work
Wed. May 29 - Gr. 2 Enrichment, CT. Childrens Museum, Animal Adaptations and Habitats
Thurs. May 30 - Gr. 4 Enrichment, Discovery Museum, Sound Waves
Thurs. May 30 - Gr. 4 Band Presentation 10:00-10:45
Thurs. May 30 - 3 Luskin Instrumental Recorder Share 2:35-3:10
Fri. May 31 - Field Day (Rain Date June 7)
Mon. June 3 - All School Enrichment, Author Visit, [Daryl Cobb](#)
Wed. June 5 - Early Release at 12:00pm
Wed. June 5 - 5th Grade Band Concert WHS (Begins 7:00 pm, 5:30 Student Arrival)
Thurs. June 6 - K Enrichment, Discovery Museum, Bubbles
Mon. June 10 - Gr. 5 Day to Hale Reservation (District Programming)
Thu. June 13 - Gr. 5 Move-up Ceremony (Tentative)
Fri. June 14 - Students' Last Day (Tentative - w/ one snow day)

News from the MJ Classroom's



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News

THANK YOU!

- Thank you to the Book Fair & Read-a-Thon Committee for planning two fantastic events for our students. We're so grateful for the hard work and dedication that went into making these events such a success!
- We'd like to extend our gratitude to those of you who supported our fundraising efforts through the PTO Parent Social. Whether you purchased tickets, donated an item for the auction or grade-level baskets, or participated in bidding - it's amazing to see our community come together to make a difference for our school!



CALL FOR NEW PTO BOARD MEMBERS!

We are looking for new PTO Board Members for next school year! Every year, there are co-positions for each role (president, treasurer, secretary, and social media). Board members fulfill a two-year term, so incoming members have the opportunity to shadow someone in the position before taking on the role as the lead. A PTO Board Position is a great way to meet more people in the Martha Jones community and to support our school! If you think you might be interested or have questions about these positions, please feel free to reach out to Katy DiMare or Kristen Donahue!

MJ PTO Upcoming Dates

- Mark your calendars! Here are some of the PTO events happening at the Martha Jones in the upcoming months. Scroll down for more detailed information.
 - April 11th STEM Fair

- April 26th Family Movie Night
- **May 1st** MJS Art Fair
- May 10th International Night Celebration



STEM FAIR

The Martha Jones **STEM Fair** will be held on **Thursday, April 11th** from **6:30 - 7:30 pm**. The STEM Fair is an annual event for students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math topics and to present their own projects to the Martha Jones community.



Scientists can work individually or in groups of 2 or 3. Interested students can register a project on the PTO website - [Student Project Registration](#). For project ideas, see this [resource](#)! Projects are completed outside of school and showcased at the fair on April 11th.

All are welcome to attend the fair, regardless of participation in the student projects!

Family



MOVIE NIGHT



Family Movie Night

Mark your calendars for the highly anticipated return of Martha Jones movie night on **April 26th from 5:30-8:30pm!** Get ready for an evening filled with outdoor games, prizes, music, and a captivating movie screening inside the school gym. Kids will be treated to complimentary popcorn, snacks, and refreshing water. Don't forget to bring your family and siblings along for this unforgettable event!



MJS ART FAIR

The **MJS Art Fair** will be held on **Wednesday, May 1st at 5:30 pm.** Get ready for a night filled with incredible student artwork, activities, and prizes!

To make this event a success, we're looking for parent volunteers to help run an activity in the art room and hand out prizes for a school-wide activity. **Sign up to volunteer [here!](#)**





International Night

Celebrating & showcasing cultures from various countries around the world!

Save the date! On Friday, May 10th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Martha Jones School is hosting its first-ever **International Night Celebration**, and you're invited! Join us for a night of fun, food, and festivities as we celebrate the diverse cultures that make our school community so special. From exciting performances to delicious international cuisine, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Get ready for a memorable evening of togetherness and global exploration! **Sign-up [here](#) to host a table, share food, music, photos, or a performance!**



BIRTHDAY BOOKS & LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate in the **[PTO Birthday Book Program](#)**! Ms. Swimming has selected some fantastic books that students have requested, but the Martha Jones library does not currently have. During their birthday month, participating children are invited to the library to pick a brand new book from this collection. A bookplate commemorating your child's birthday will be placed inside the front cover and they will be the very first student to borrow this book! Once they've finished reading it, the book will be returned to the library's collection, where it can be enjoyed for years to come. The cost of this program is \$15 per student.

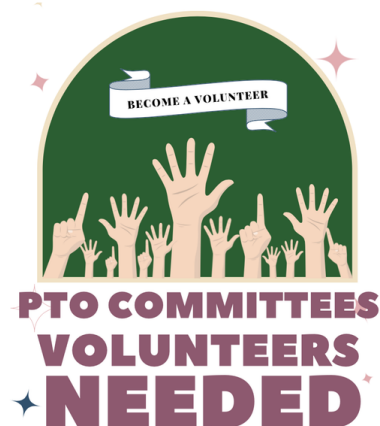


[Sign-up](#) as a **Library Volunteer**! Mrs. Swinning needs one parent per class to help check-in, shelve, and check-out books. This is a great opportunity to get into the school, interact with your child's class, and support the library program!

WEBSITE & DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Log in or register on the [PTO website](#) to stay updated on all PTO events, receive important PTO emails, and stay connected with Room Parent communications. You will also be able to update your information, contribute to our Annual Contribution Drive, purchase Birthday Books, and volunteer for various PTO committees or in the Library!

Many of our committees are still looking for volunteers. Volunteering for a committee is a great way to get involved, meet other parents, and support our school community! [Sign-up today!](#)



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!

Martha Jones PTO Board 2023-2024

[Katy DiMare](#), Co-President

[Kristen Donahue](#), Co-President

[Kirsten Bulger](#), Co-Treasurer

[Kristen Gautreau](#), Co-Treasurer

[Mary Jason](#), Co-Secretary

[Priscilla Stephen](#), Co-Secretary

[Megan Mahan](#), Co-Social Media

[Katie Collins](#), Co-Social Media

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates SY2023 - 2024

May 7, 2023, 7pm

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to:

PTO Co-Secretary - [Mary Jason](#), [Priscilla Stephan](#)

District & Community News You Can Use

District Programing

Conversations with Caregivers

The School Engagement Committee will be hosting *Conversations with Caregivers: Supporting LGBTQ Students and Families in Westwood* at the Pine Hill School Library, from **6:30-8:00PM on April 23rd**.

Please see the below [graphic](#) for more information and the option to register with a [virtual link](#).



WESTWOOD
Public Schools

SCHOOL
ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Office Of Equity
Integration and
Community
Partnerships

Conversations With Caregivers Supporting LGBTQ Students and Families in Westwood

April 23rd 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Pine Hill School Library

790 Gay Street

**A Talk with
Edward Byrne**

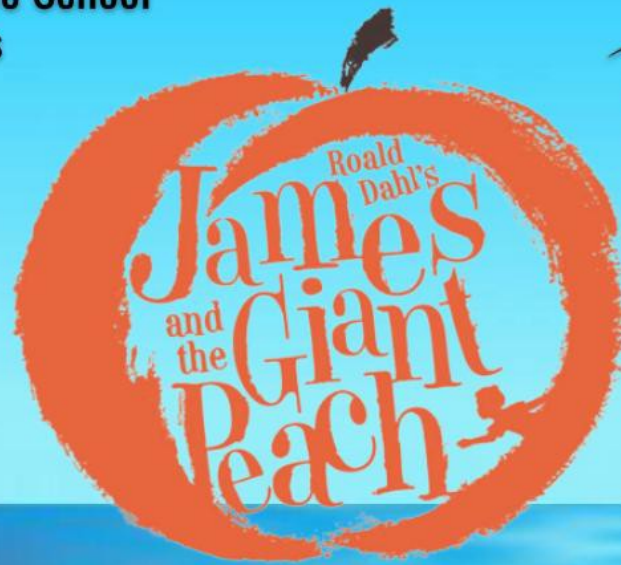
[Register for Virtual Link](#)

Ed spent 10 years in the Cambridge Public Schools where he led student diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and taught a course on race and culture for 11th and 12th graders. As the coordinator for diversity programs, he designed and led numerous professional development courses for faculty, staff, and administrators across the district. He spent two years on special assignment in the Cambridge Mayor's office as a liaison between City Hall and the school district and developed a district wide equity plan while in that role. He served for two terms in the leadership of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth – an independent state agency—where he led the commission's policy recommendation and oversight processes with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Public Health. He currently serves on the board of directors of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAD)

TMS Presents "James and the Giant Peach"

Come see the Thurston Middle School musical, *James and the Giant Peach*! This musical is a stage adaptation of the classic book by Roald Dahl. Come see James as he journeys on the giant peach, makes new friends, and discovers a new family. Performances will take place at the high school auditorium Thursday April 4 at 7pm, Friday April 5 at 7pm and Saturday April 6 at 2pm. Tickets are now available online at tms.ludus.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the door with apple pay and credit card only. We hope to see you at the show!

**Thurston Middle School
Presents**



**Thursday April 4 at 7pm
Friday April 5 at 7pm
Saturday April 6 at 2pm**

\$10 Students & Senior Citizens \$15 Adults

Westwood High School Auditorium

RAY -Rotary & Westwood Youth and Family Services



R.A.Y. (Recognize-A-Youth) Award

Westwood Rotary and Westwood Youth & Family Services (WY&FS) are seeking the public's help in identifying young people in our community that have demonstrated a commitment to helping others. We would like to celebrate these individuals by honoring them with the R.A.Y. (Recognize-A-Youth) Award. Recipients will have distinguished themselves through their initiative and commitment to community service and have demonstrated an ethic of caring for others that is essential to the health of our community. If you know of a young person that should be honored please nominate them for a R.A.Y. Award.

Nomination forms can be found online at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services or scan the QR code below. The deadline to submit a nomination is March 31st.

For more information contact Mary Ellen LaRose
mlarose@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call 781-320-1006.



SEPAC

Please see the [Westwood Special Education Parents Action Committee \(SEPAC\) website](#) with all upcoming events.

April 2024 Westwood SEPAC Events

We hope you'll join us!

For the most up-to-date event details and to RSVP, visit: www.westwoodsepac.org/events

Tuesday, 4/2: SEPAC Coffee Meetup, 9:30-11AM @ Muffin House Cafe

Saturday, 4/27: SEPAC Coffee Meetup, 7:00-9:00AM @ Muffin House Cafe

April 2024 Westwood SEPAC Events

We hope you'll join us! For the most up-to-date event details and to RSVP,
visit: www.westwoodsepac.org/events

- Tuesday, 4/2: SEPAC Coffee Meetup, 9:30-11AM @ Muffin House Cafe
- Saturday, 4/27: SEPAC Coffee Meetup, 7:00-9:00AM @ Muffin House Cafe



School Calendar

[Click the link](#) for the Westwood 2023-2024 school calendar.

Links to [Westwood Community Resources](#). The link will take you to the Interface Referral Service for Mental Health Supports. This service helps to facilitate access to outpatient services. Additionally, on the page there are links to Westwood Youth and Family Services, the Food Pantry, Council on Aging, Westwood Community Chest, and many more.

Westwood Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.

If you need this document translated, please call the Westwood Public Schools' Student Services Department at 781-326-7500 ext. 1346 or email your request to lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us. Thank you.

如果您需要翻译本文档，请致电Westwood的公立学校的学生服务部在781 326-7500 ext. 1346 或电子邮件您的要求 lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。

ext. 7500-326 781 اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستود 'الخدمات الطلابية في
لك. [لطلب كنتشكر lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك 1346

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Вествудгосударственных школах "Студенческие службы Департамента по 781 326-7500 ext.
1346 или по электронной почте запрос на lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

