



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](#)

April 12, 2024

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

Over the next couple of weeks the classroom teachers, special education teachers, specialists, school psychologist, and I will begin the process of determining class placement for September 2024. During the placement process, it is important for us to consider all relevant information. We review information about each child's academic, social, and personal characteristics and use that information when making placement decisions. Our primary goal is to assign each child to a classroom in which they can develop academically and socially.

If you have information about your child's learning needs that you would like to share, please send me your input via email (mkuklantz@westwood.k12.ma.us) by Monday, April 29, 2024. Although you may have had a discussion with your child's teacher or Ms. MaryKate Stimpson during the spring conference about class placement, all requests must be sent to me. Parent letters received will be compiled into a document separate from final lists and distributed to the placement team members for consideration. Please note that letters and emails are not kept from previous years since children change and grow, and we make decisions based on current information.

If you are the parent of multiples (twins, triplets, etc), you may specify whether you want your children placed in the same class or different classes. Also, please know that if you have more

than one child in your family, there is a chance that they will not have the same teachers as their siblings.

Westwood Public Schools does not allow parents to request their children's teachers; therefore, requests for specific teachers will not be accepted or considered. The placement process is both thoughtful and thorough as teachers do their best to balance classes and social dynamics. As Principal, I approve the final placement decision. The staff and I appreciate your cooperation and support as we begin this process.

Finally, there is no requirement to submit a placement letter.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the process. Thank you for your continued support.

Matt
Martha Jones Principal

Conversations with Caregivers

Just a reminder that the Conversations with Caregivers on Supporting LGBTQ students and families is now scheduled for **Tuesday, April 23rd from 6:30 to 8:00.**

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.** We hope you will be able to join us.

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

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

Thank you to the PTO for providing the eclipse viewing glasses. It was a great communal event.



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 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

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.

Important Upcoming Events

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 3 - 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 News from 5B (Mr. Bartlett)



The last few weeks of 5th grade have been out of this world!

A few weeks ago we started a thematic unit about space travel and exploration which culminated with a field trip to the Christa McAuliffe Challenger Learning Center at Framingham State University. While there, we acted like college freshmen and visited a planetarium and took part in a simulated Mars mission. In the planetarium, we looked at the stars and planets in the night sky and were able to zoom in to see constellations and nebulae that would only otherwise be visible with a powerful telescope. Students also got to search for distant planets in the 'Goldilocks' zones of other stars

in the search for possible life. During our simulated Mars mission, students all took on a different STEM role as part of the mission and worked together to land a manned mission from the Martian moon Phobos to Mars itself. A week later, Dr Mike from the Top Secret Science program came to visit both 5th grade classes at Martha Jones and worked with students to create a stargazer craft that maps the night sky at different times of the year. And of course, this last week was the solar eclipse where 5th grade students mapped the path of the moon as it covered the sun using the solar glasses given to each student.

Thank you to the Martha Jones PTO for helping to fund all three of these wonderful experiences



News from 4W (Mrs. Waldner)



Fourth grade is reviewing key vocabulary within our measurement and geometry unit. Students are playing a Heads-up or Scattergories-like activity where they describe the word to their partner and they have to guess the vocabulary word posted behind them. This develops their math vocabulary, word retrieval, and quick recall. It's a fun way to start the day within our morning meetings and review challenging vocabulary. Today the words were congruent, symmetry, centimeter, yard, hexagon, and pentagon. Feel free to play with a loved one at home!

News from Music (Mrs. Pickering)



The Martha Jones 4th grade musicians have been focusing on **Instrument Exploration**. The students are understanding that musical instruments can express the mood of a story, represent a character, or be used for sound effects.



Each class worked with a partner or small group to create percussion accompaniment for an assigned page of the book, [Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message](#) by Chief Jake Swamp. The students instrumental accompaniment included a melodic ostinato pattern and sound effect.

Each class worked with a partner or small group to create percussion accompaniment for an assigned page of the book, [Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message](#) by Chief Jake Swamp. The students instrumental accompaniment included a melodic ostinato (pattern of pitches that repeat) and a sound effect or two from the percussion family (strickers, shakers and/or scrapers).

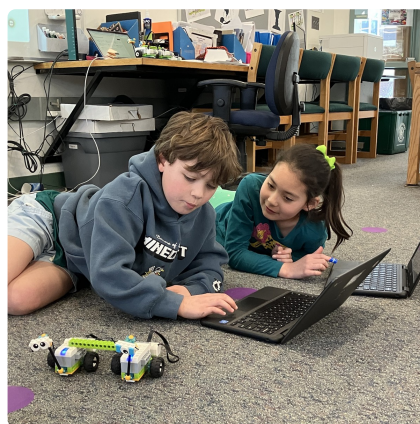
Enjoy the videos:

Ms. Bass's class [click here](#)

Mrs. Waldner's class [click here](#)



News from Technology (Mr. Goguen)



Third graders work collaboratively to program a dual motor Lego robot. Mission objective: Create an algorithm that will turn the robot to avoid an object in its path.



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who planned, participated, and attended the **STEM Fair** yesterday. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math topics!

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.

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- **April 15th** Last Day to Submit Square 1 Art Orders!



- **April 26th** Family Movie Night
- **May 1st** MJS Art Fair
- **May 6th - 10th** Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 10th** International Night Celebration

SQUARE ONE ART



We have partnered again with Square 1 Art on a PTO fundraiser that showcases your child(ren)'s creative talents. Through Square 1, your child's artwork can be printed on coffee mugs, tote bags, beach towels, note cards, and much more! These special keepsakes make wonderful gifts!

Don't forget to get your Square 1 Art orders in by April 15th!



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](#).

The flyer features the Westwood Public Schools logo at the top left, which includes a stylized 'W' and the text 'WESTWOOD Public Schools'. Below the logo is the text 'SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE'. To the right, a circular badge contains the text 'Office Of Equity Integration and Community Partnerships'. The main title is 'Conversations With Caregivers Supporting LGBTQ Students and Families in Westwood'. Below the title, the date and time are 'April 23rd 6:30 - 8:00 PM', and the location is 'Pine Hill School Library, 790 Gay Street'. The speaker is 'A Talk with Edward Byrne', with a link to 'Register for Virtual Link'. A paragraph of text describes Edward Byrne's background and experience in education and LGBTQ advocacy.

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)

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

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

