



Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

Matt Kuklentz, Principal

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

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

Issue 14- March 28, 2025

Principals Message

MJ Community,

I'm excited to celebrate recent students' achievements and highlight opportunities for students participation:

Youth Art Month Exhibit

The Youth Art Month exhibit launched online last week!

Congratulations to the following students for representing Martha Jones Elementary in the **MAEA Youth Art Month Exhibit**:

- **KM** – Ibbi R.
- **1D** – Jay K.
- **2M** – Evelyn M.
- **3La** – Hank C.
- **4B** – Fiona S.



This year's exhibit is available online at massarted.com/youth-art-month. Please take a moment to visit the site and leave fan mail for our talented artists!

MJ Math League – District Meet Results

Congratulations to our MJ Math League participants for their hard work and impressive performance at the district meet:

- **3rd Grade – 1st place**
- **4th Grade – 4th place**
- **5th Grade – 2nd place**

Our **2nd grade team** was the sole competitor in their division—so we're celebrating that as a **1st-place finish** as well!

Read-A-Thon

MJ had a very successful **Book Fair** that was coupled with our **Read-A-Thon**. MJ students logged 2,184 books or reading hours over the course of the week, impressive! The winning classes were Mrs. McDonough, Ms. Hartwell, and Mrs. Waldner. Each student received a gift certificate to Park Street books.

S.T.E.A.M. Fair Sign-Up

The **S.T.E.A.M. Fair** is coming up on **Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 PM**—the same evening as the Art Show. Be sure to [sign up](#) to participate in this exciting event! Here is a [list of potential ideas](#).

Chorus Concert

Our **5th-grade chorus** delivered an outstanding performance, bringing together our school community and 5th-grade families for a fantastic show. Many thanks to Mrs. Goldman and Mrs. Yennior for their leadership and guidance in making this event a success!

None of these events would be possible without the incredible support of our PTO and the many parent volunteers who contribute their time and energy. MJ is deeply grateful for our community's commitment to fostering a vibrant and enriching school experience. Lastly, congratulations to all of our students—we are incredibly proud of your dedication and achievements!

Matt

Brian Lies Visit

On March 19th, author and illustrator Brian Lies (pronounced "Lees") visited Martha Jones. His story was one of perseverance. He originally aspired to be a political cartoonist but faced over 140 rejections (oof!). Determined to improve, he returned to art school, where he learned that talent is developed and that no one gets it right the first time.



During his visit, Mr. Lies shared artwork he created in his second-grade classroom, taught by Mrs. Vannetta, and compared it to a finished page from one of his books, illustrating his growth as an artist.

In the days following his visit, numerous students excitedly shared their own book creations with their teachers—clear evidence of the inspiration Mr. Lies sparked!

MCAS

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

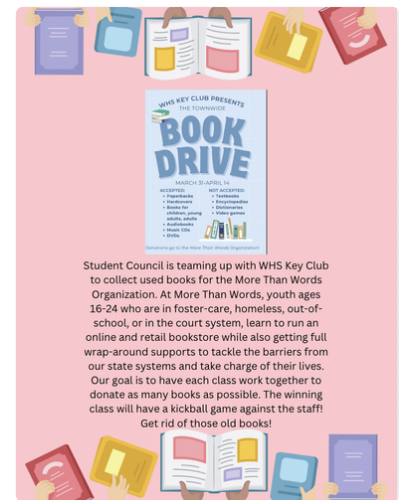
April 8 and April 10 - ELA (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
May 13 and May 15- Math (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
May 19 and May 20 - STE (Gr. 5 only)

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.

Student Council Teaming Up With WHS Key Club

Student Council is teaming up with WHS Key Club to collect used books for the **More Than Words Organization**. At More Than Words, youth ages 16-24 who are in foster-care, homeless, out-of-school, or in the court system, learn to run an online and retail bookstore while also getting full wrap-around supports from our state systems and take charge of their lives. From 3/31-4/14 classrooms will be collecting used books.



Parent Teacher Conferences

The Springtime Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up on April 9 in the afternoon of a short Wednesday and on April 30 in the afternoon of a short Wednesday and that evening. Be on the lookout for signups from teachers.

Kindergarten Registration

Please see the [letter](#) from Assistant Superintendent Ahearn with key dates for registration.

MJ Specific Dates:

Incoming Kindergarten Family Information Night (Adult Only Meeting) - Thursday May 22, 2025 at 7:00pm

Kindergarten Screening - Monday, June 9, 2025

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

While your child's classroom teacher gave an overview of the grade level curriculum at curriculum night, you can also access the [Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks Parent Guides](#) for each grade level. These guides to the Massachusetts learning standards help families understand what

students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of each grade in English Language Arts and Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology/Engineering, and History and Social Science.

Important Upcoming Events

Thur, 4/3 - K Discovery Museum Field Trip

Sat, 4/5 - MJ PTO Social

Tue & Thu, 4/8 & 10 - ELA MCAS (Gr 3 - 5)

Wed, 4/9 - Early Release and Afternoon Conferences

Thur, 4/10 - STEM and Art Fair

Mon - Fri, 4/21 - 25 - NO SCHOOL - April Break

Wed, 4/30 - Early Release and Afternoon and Evening Conferences

Thu, 5/1 - Gr 2 Field Trip - Hanover Theater

Thu, 5/1 - MJ Walk to School Day

Fri, 5/2 - Talent for a Cause

Tue, 5/6 - PTO Meeting

Wed, 5/7 - 3La Field Trip to Fisher School

Wed, 5/7 - Gr 1 Enrichment - Rainforest Reptiles

Wed, 5/7 - TMS visits MJ Grade 5

Thu, 5/8 MJ Walk to School Day (Rain Date)

Fri, 5/9 - 3K & 3Lu Field Trip to Fisher School

Fri, 5/9 - WHS Prom

Mon, 5/12 Gr 3 Body Safety Theater (WY&FS)

Tue & Thu 5/13 & 15 - Math MCAS (Gr 3 - 5)

Wed, 5/14 - Early Release

Fri, 5/16 - MJ International Night

Mon & Tue, 5/19 & 20 STE MCAS (Gr 5)

Wed, 5/21 - Gr 4 Enrichment Sound Waves

Wed, 5/21 - Gr 3 Field Trip - Concord Museum

Thu, 5/22 - Gr 1 Field Trip - Hale Reservation

Fri, 5/23 - Gr 2 Enrichment - Animal Adaptations

Mon, 5/26 - NO SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Tue, 5/27 - Gr 5 Enrichment Water Conservation

Wed, 5/28 - Early Release

Fri, 5/30 - Field Day

Fri, 5/30 - Movie Night

Mon, 6/2 - 5th Grade to Hale

Wed, 6/4 - Early Release

Wed, 6/4 - 5th grade visits TMS, 9:30am

Wed, 6/4 - 5th grade celebration (sponsored by PTO after school) DHAC

Thu, 6/5 - Gr 4 Field Trip - Harvard Peabody Museum

Fri 6/6 - Field Day Rain Date

Mon, 6/9 - K Screen Day

Tues, 6/10 - Band Concert

Fri, 6/13 - Gr. 5 End of year move up ceremony

Lost & Found

Well it seems the pile is increasing. As mentioned in the past I try and operate on the Filene's Basement method where I date unlabeled items that are left on the L&F rack. At the end of the 4th week any left jackets, sweaters, etc. are bagged and given to charity (with the help of a Sheehan parent who collects from both schools.) Of course labeled items are returned to the owner.



History Hunters

We saw this picture of an astronaut in the MJ office and we wanted to know more. His name is Michael Foreman, he was a US Navy Pilot, and he was born in Columbus, OH. His picture was in the office because he came to visit the students at MJ in 2018.

Recently in the news we heard about another astronaut. Her name is Sunita "Sunni" Williams, she was born in 1965, and she considers her hometown to be Needham, MA. (That's just next door!) She was in the news for just coming back from space. She was in space for 8 months. These people are both astronauts who followed their dreams. This is inspiring us to stay curious and follow our dreams.



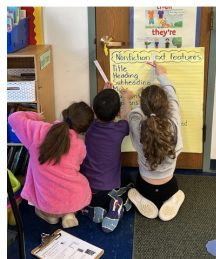
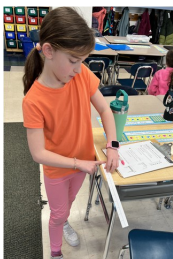
CLASSROOM NEWS

News from the MJ Classroom's
News from 3La (Mrs. Lane)



The students in 3 Lane got a jump on spring planting by clearing out our outside raised garden beds and making our own mini green-houses for winter sowing. Using clear plastic gallon milk jugs, we poked holes in the top and bottom for drainage and air circulation. Then we cut around the middle so the handle would work like a hinge. We added soil and some seeds, duct taped it together and put them outside in our courtyard. A few weeks later...voila! Our seeds have germinated and we have seedlings that are waiting to be transplanted into the garden.

News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)

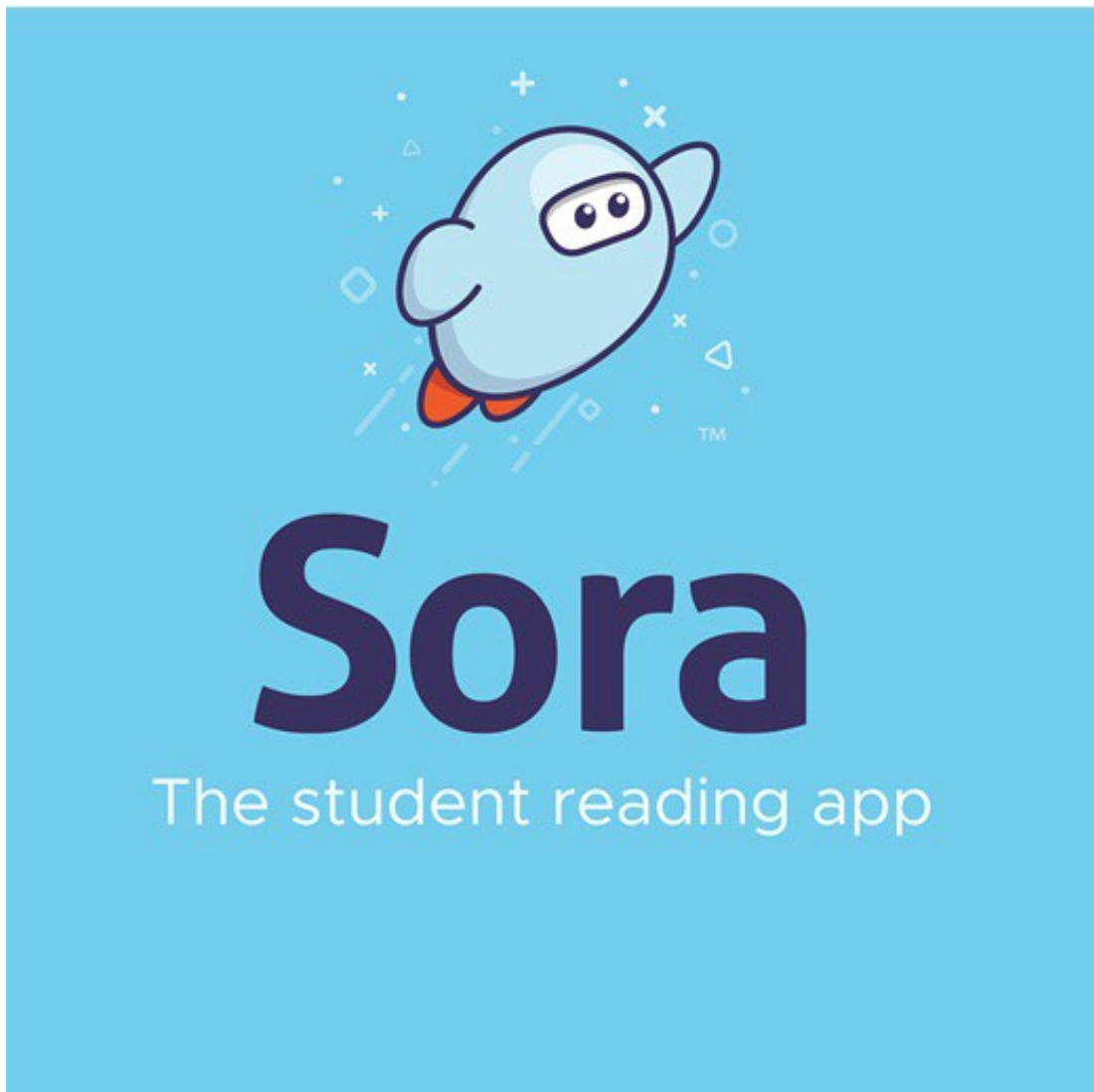


The second graders have recently begun a measurement unit in math.

In 2M, the students are learning to measure an item that is longer than their measuring tool by putting their finger at the end of the measuring tool and then sliding it over. Students have been measuring length and distance using standard units of inches and centimeters, as well as nonstandard units like cubes and footsteps.

We learned that we must use standard units if we need to compare measurements with each other.

News from the Library (Mrs. Swinning)



A huge thank you to the Martha Jones PTO for an amazing month of March in the Library! We had a successful Read-a-thon with over 2000 books/hours being read in one week! Park Street books supplied us with a lot of great titles in our annual Book Fair and on top of that we enjoyed a wonderful visit from author/illustrator Brian Lies! Pictures of these events can be seen on the Martha Jones PTO facebook page!

Looking forward to April we are going to be celebrating National Poetry Month by creating some beautiful art with words in many different formats! You may see some early April works in the hallways when you come for the S.T.E.A.M. Fair on April 10th!

Just a reminder, all students in grades 2-12 have access to free online ebooks through the Commonwealth ebook program provided by school librarians. Students sign in using their school google account to sign in with google. The site/app is called SORA. Logging in is pretty easy to get through but if you need help, email Mrs. Swinning at bswinning@westwood.k12.ma.us.

News from the Ms. Child -Literacy Specialist

Written Response in Grades 3-5

Students in the upper grades are working very hard to demonstrate their understanding in writing. At this point in the year, our learners have had the opportunity to use many comprehension strategies when reading. They make connections, visualize, make predictions, compile facts and make interpretations. Next, is sharing their ideas in writing. Beginning in third grade, students learn a structure for essay writing. This structure includes, making a claim, choosing reasons and text evidence to support that claim, elaborating to say more and concluding their piece with a message to the reader. Students are writing claims, finding evidence, paragraphing, using transition words, quoting from the text and explaining why their chosen quotes make sense. They are writing about characters, nonfiction text features, lessons and themes. They are learning to be critical and discerning thinkers and writers, choosing just the right evidence and details to support their ideas. They are working very hard and it shows. Their short responses, paragraphs, and essays are amazing!

As MCAS season is fast approaching, I would encourage you to remind your child how smart and talented they are!



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL

Saturday, April 5 at 7:00PM at Beacons Restaurant Upstairs, Walpole is our annual parent social. If you are planning to attend, please [BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE!](#)



S.T.E.A.M. FAIR & ART SHOW

The STEAM Fair is an annual event for students to explore science, technology, engineering, and math, and present their projects to the Martha Jones community. Scientists can work individually or in groups of 2 or 3. Projects are completed outside of school. The event also showcases student Artwork from their art classes. Please join us on Thursday, April 10th 6:30-7:45 PM at Martha Jones. [Register](#) by April 1st. Check out some project ideas [here](#).

PTO BOARD MEMBER 2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR

We are currently looking for new board members for the 2025-2026 school year. Each board position serves two school years per term. We still have open positions next year to fill. If you are interested in being on the PTO board please contact Ally Pavlic (allyson.carney@gmail.com).

BIRTHDAY BOOKS & LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Participate in the [PTO Birthday Book Program!](#) Ms. Swinning 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.

Please consider signing up for a library volunteer spot for your student's class. Each week, every classroom has one library spot you can volunteer for. Please see the link below to sign up. You will see a calendar with all of the teacher's names in either Grey or Blue. Blue means the spot is open and grey means that someone is already volunteering for that spot. Once you sign up, you'll see a little human icon next to the slot. In the event you sign up and cannot attend, please try and cancel within 24 hours so someone else can fill that spot. To cancel, click the icon next to your slot and "unclick" the person who is volunteering, and hit save. [Sign up for Library Here!](#)

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION DRIVE

We aim to raise \$7,500 from our annual PTO drive and are halfway to this goal! Every donation, no matter the amount, is appreciated and important in helping us continue to fund enrichment and community activities. Please consider making a [contribution](#) today! As a reminder, we also have a Corporate Match option. Many Employers offer matching donations because MJS PTO is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

WEBSITE & DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Martha Jones PTO is a non-profit organization that takes great pride in supporting our teachers and students. We do this by offering valuable programs, organizing exciting events, and providing essential resources that enhance the educational experience of every student. 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. [Sign-up today!](#)

MARTHA JONES PTO FACEBOOK GROUP AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

Join the Facebook group and follow us on Instagram to get the latest PTO news and updates delivered right to your news feed! [Join our Facebook group](#) or follow us on Instagram @marthajonespto.

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates SY 2024-2025

September 24, 2024, 7pm

November 19, 2024, 7pm

March 4, 2025, 7pm

May 6, 2025, 7pm

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

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

PTO Co-Secretary - [Priscilla Stephan](#), [Jenn Katsilieris](#)

Martha Jones PTO Board 2024-2025

[Kristen Donahue](#), Co-President

[Ally Pavlic](#), Co-President

[Kristen Gautreau](#), Co-Treasurer

[Abbe Lynch](#), Co-Treasurer
[Priscilla Stephen](#), Co-Secretary
[Jenn Katsilieris](#), Co-Secretary
[Katie Collins](#), Co-Social Media
[Priya Sharma](#), Co-Social Media

District & Community News You Can Use

District Programing



Thurston Middle School
Presents

Disney
DESCENDANTS
THE MUSICAL

APRIL 10-12, 2025
Thursday & Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 2pm

\$10 Students & Senior Citizens
\$15 Adults

Westwood High School Auditorium

Tickets available at tms.ludus.com 

Westwood SEPAC

The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a state-mandated, parent-run group working to promote a network of parents, guardians, and caregivers of children with special needs.



Information about SEPAC and events can be found at <https://www.westwoodsepac.org/events>.

The next upcoming event is:

- Friday, April 11, 2025
- 5:30 PM 8:30 PM
- Wild Blossom ([map](#))

Join your fellow Westwood SEPAC parents/caregivers for a much needed night out at Wild Blossom in Islington!

RSVP is requested but not required. Please RSVP on our [Facebook Page](#) or send us an email at westwoodsepac@gmail.com.

Westwood Youth and Family Services

RAY Awards

“Recognize A Youth Award (RAY) Award”

- Seeking Nominations for Young People Making a Difference

The Westwood Rotary and Westwood Youth & Family Services Department (WYFS) are calling for nominations to honor young individuals in our community who are dedicated to helping others.

We are excited to celebrate these young changemakers with the RAY (Recognize-A-Youth) Award. Nominees must demonstrate personal initiative, a commitment to community service, and a strong ethic of caring for others, which are vital to the well-being of our community.

Past recipients have been recognized for their impactful contributions, including tutoring elementary school students, creating social media campaigns to challenge stereotypes, designing and selling bracelets to raise funds for non-profits, and organizing ongoing classic movie screenings and discussions at the Council on Aging.

This spring, members of the Westwood Rotary will select the outstanding young people from the pool of nominees. Award recipients will be honored at a reception and will receive a certificate of appreciation, along with a small gift courtesy of the Westwood Rotary.

Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2025.

For more information, please email youth@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call WY&FS at 781-320-1006 with any questions.

Also please find the link to an online nomination form: <https://forms.gle/1mhuT25BR4EjBrhN8>





Recognize-A-Youth (RAY) Award

The Westwood Rotary and Westwood Youth & Family Services are calling for nominations to honor young individuals in our community who are committed to helping others. We are excited to celebrate these young changemakers with the RAY Award.

We are seeking nominees who demonstrate the following qualities:

- strive for personal initiative
- dedication to community service
- strong sense of caring for others

If you know of a young person who deserves recognition, please nominate them for the RAY Award.

Please scan the QR code below for a nomination form.

Nomination Deadline : March 31st, 2025.

For more information contact Andrea Varkas at avarkas@westwoodma.gov or 781-320-1006.



School Calendar

[Click the link](#) for the Westwood 2024-2025 school calendar.

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 lprouffe@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 lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。

ext. اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 7500-326 781

لك. [لطلب كنتشكر](mailto:lprouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us) أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك 1346

Если вам нужен этот документ переводится, пожалуйста, позвоните

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



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

