



Growing by Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

Matt Kuklantz, Principal

Martha Jones Motto:

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Responsible. Be Respectful.

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

Issue 3 - October 10, 2025

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

MATH LEAGUE

Math League is a before school, parent run opportunity for students in 2nd to 5th grade to have fun with math. Students come together every two weeks at a grade level to engage in fun math problems with their peers and it culminates in a Math League competition against the other WPS elementary schools in the Spring. Math League registration opened on October 8th. Here is more information:

Join Math League at MJS!

Who:

- Math League is open to **2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders** of all math abilities!!
- In order for the program to run, **parent/guardian volunteers** are needed. We ask that parents/guardians sign-up to volunteer for at least **3 sessions**.
- Please let us know if this is not possible for your family, and we will do our best to accommodate. Parents/guardians must have an active CORI to volunteer.

What:

- Students meet before school and practice solving math problems in teams. Although the types of problems are often new, children learn how to tackle them by applying the skills they have already

learned in school.

- The goal is to **make math fun and accessible** by showing kids they have the ability to successfully take on new math challenges.
- There is no cost to participate in MJ Math League.

When & Where:

- Math League will meet **roughly every other Friday morning before school at Martha Jones School from 7:50-8:40 AM.**
- Math league begins **November 7, 2025 and runs through late March-early April, 2026.** In the Spring, each grade will compete in a **Math Meet** against the other Westwood elementary schools.

Why:

- It's fun!! Kids enjoy working with their friends and develop both curiosity and confidence.
- Math League is a good opportunity for students with strong math skills to try something new and for students who find math a challenge to work in a fun setting.

How:

- Registration is open from **Thursday October 8 through Friday October 17, 2025.** To register, please complete:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScG7X8PFpV2T8zLYqB2YiR1qgEL3mEu5kuu6J5rNXkn3qD01w/viewform>

Questions?

Call, text, or email us with any questions:

Christina Gelsomini at christina@gelsomini.org or 678-386-8280

Galina Yatsenko at gyatsenko@gmail.com or 919-368-3426

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones School
Principal

MCAS

Martha Jones MCAS results found that we are meeting and exceeding targets and are in the 99th percentile for accountability and performed very well across 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades in ELA, Math, and Science.

And while MCAS data and scores are one very public piece of the data puzzle, what truly stands out to me goes well beyond the scores. Our students, teachers, and families care deeply about education and growth. I couldn't be prouder to be the principal here, but the credit goes to our students, teachers, staff, and families who live out our core values.

Individual student score reports were sent out in the mail to families this morning.

Caught Being Kind

At our first All School Meeting this week, we learned how to be audience members and about the Martha Jones Core Values. We are focusing on recognizing kindness until our next meeting in November. Ask your children about how they can be "caught being kind".

Student Council

Student Council - We are excited to share that Student Council is starting again this year! Each month, 5th grade students will have the opportunity to serve as representatives. The number of representative will depend on how many students sign-up. Meetings will take place every other Tuesday morning at 8:00AM.

Last year the MJ Student Council worked hard to give back and build school spirit. They organized a canned food drive to support the food bank, hosted a very successful book drive, and planned fun spirit days, including an entire Spirit Week at the end of the year.

Our Student Council Advisors this year are:

MaryKate Stimpson mstimpson@westwood.k12.ma.us and

Katharine Fader kfader@westwood.k12.ma.us



AND our first event will be a Spirit Day on Friday, October 17th - It's **PJ Day!** 😊



Important Upcoming Events

- Monday, October 13th - No School - Holiday
- Wednesday, October 15th - Early Release, 12:00p
- Friday, October 17th - Spirit Day - PJ's!
- Wednesday, October 29th - Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:00pm

- Tuesday, November 4th - Picture Retake Day
- Wednesday, November 5th - Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:00p
- Wednesday, November 5th - SEPAC Community Meeting, 10:00-11:00am - Neroli Mercato
- Tuesday, November 11th - No School - Holiday
- Wednesday, November 26th - Early Release
- Thursday, November 27th - No School - Holiday
- Friday, November 28th - No School - Holiday
- Monday, December 1st - No School - Professional Development
- Wednesday, December 10th - Early Release, 12:00pm
- Tuesday, December 23 - Early Release
- Wednesday, December 24 - Friday, January 2nd - No School - Vacation
- Monday, January 5 - School Resumes
- Wednesday, January 7 - Early Release
- Monday, January 19 - No School - Holiday
- Wednesday, January 14th - SEPAC Community Meeting, 7:30-8:30pm - Westwood Library/[Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, January 21 - Early Release
- Wednesday, February 4 - Early Release
- Monday, February 16-Friday February 20 - No School - Vacation
- Monday, February 23 - School Resumes
- Wednesday, February 25 - Early Release
- Wednesday, March 11 - Early Release
- Wednesday, March 25 - Early Release
- Friday, April 3 - No School - Holiday
- Wednesday, April 8 - Early Release
- Friday, April 10 - ELA MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Monday, April 13 - ELA MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Tuesday, April 14 & Wednesday, April 15 - ELA MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5) Make-Ups
- Monday, April 20 - Friday, April 24 - No School - Vacation
- Monday, April 27 - School Resumes
- Wednesday, April 29 - Early Release
- Tuesday, May 12 - Math MCAS(Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Wednesday, May 13 - Early Release
- Thursday, May 14 - Math MCAS (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Friday, May 15 - Math MCAS Make-Ups (Gr. 3, 4, 5)
- Monday, May 18 - Science (Gr. 5)
- Tuesday, May 19 - Science (Gr. 5)
- Wednesday, May 20 - Science (Gr. 5) Make-Ups
- Wednesday, May 27 - Early Release
- Wednesday, June 3 - Early Release
- Tuesday, June 16 - Student Last Day (Tentative with no make-ups)

School Breakfast and Lunch

Your school menu can be viewed at [Menus / Westwood Public Schools \(nutrislice.com\)](#). Please check daily as the menu may change.

News from the Front Office

Picture Retake Day

Pictures were sent home on Monday, 9/29/25.

Picture Retake Day has been scheduled for **Tuesday, November 4.**

Message from CoffeePond:

If families have any questions regarding portraits, payments, or ordering images, please contact the CoffeePond Customer Care department directly. They will have faster answers for any question about ordering. Contact Customer Care at Lifeguards@coffeepond.com or 508-907-6633 ext. 0.



Dismissal Changes (SDM: Extended Day & MiniCourses)

MJ PTO Fall MiniCourses are well underway. TY to all who have embraced the technology and updated your child's dismissal routine. Also, some families have changed their child's enrollment status for Extended Day. As a reminder...



For dismissals directly to MiniCourses:

You can set up all dates automatically by using the "Recurring Dismissal" feature. Follow these directions:

1. Click on Recurring Dismissal
2. Select student name
3. Select "Mini Courses" under Dismissal Instructions and add the Mini Course name in the "notes" field
4. Select your mini course day(s)
5. Apply to: Every Week
6. Include the Start Date & End Date

For dismissals to MiniCourses from Extended Day:

Please note if your child is going to MiniCourse from Extended Day the [Release Form for Extended Day](#) needs to be completed and the only dismissal note in SDM should be EXTENDED DAY.

If your child is **not** returning to Extended Day at the end of a MiniCourse you must change the dismissal instruction in SDM to reflect MINI COURSE (as listed in the "dismissals directly to MiniCourse" instruction)

For updated default dismissals (to/from Extended Day to other options)

Please feel free to update your child's default dismissal directly for the days that might change due to added or dropped enrollment in Extended Day.

Please understand we are all striving for student safety, delineating a clear chain of custody for your child.

All children will be dismissed per the parent instruction in SDM.

More Dismissal Questions - MJ Buses

It is District policy that children do NOT switch buses. All bus numbers are listed in SDM so parents can select the appropriate bus for their child but switching buses is still not allowed.

Below please find the link to bus registration and information on the district website along with the section noting the non-switching of bus policy.

http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/district_administration/business-office/bus-transportation.cfm#11



Can children be dropped off at a different stop on the way home?

Students may only ride their assigned buses. Transporting students to an alternative, yet existing, stop on the student's same route may be granted if done so on a regular basis (example: three days per week). Requests for alternative stops should be made in writing to Scherie Ciarrocchi, Bus Coordinator (sciarrocchi@westwood.k12.ma.us) and sent to Westwood Public Schools, 220 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090. Transporting students for play dates, lessons, or other reasons is not permitted.

Lost and Found

Please be sure your child's items are labelled with a name or initials. Here in the office we do our best to get labelled items back to their forever homes. Items without labels get sent to the donation bin after 4 weeks. *(For those who remember Ms. Santangelo uses the old Filene's Basement method - date and check 😊)*

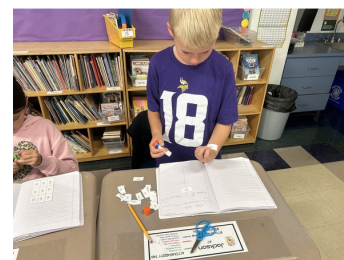


Student Safety and Vehicle Traffic

Student safety is one of our utmost concerns. We kindly ask that you are mindful in the carline and parking areas when you are coming to MJ to collect your child. **The safety of all students depends on all drivers obeying the rules and speed limits.** Thank you



News from 3Lu (Mrs Luskin)



Third graders in Mrs. Luskin's class are learning about action verbs. They have been learning about action verbs by moving and singing a catchy rap, playing charades, and sorting action verbs into two types: physical and mental.

News from 1B (Ms Brock)



First graders in 1B are having fun learning many math games to build their fact fluency! Some of our favorites have been Double Compare and One or Two More. In math we are also solving story problems, focusing on explaining our strategies and showing our work.



News from the Art Room



This week in Mrs. Pasquan's Monday art classes, students collaborated on large monochromatic paintings inspired by Peter Reynolds' book, "The Dot." Each September, International Dot Day encourages us to harness the power of creativity, to make our mark on the world, and move it to a better place. On Monday, October 6th, a live broadcast of a Dot Day celebration will be broadcast from the



Shubert Theater in Boston. Our dot paintings have been submitted to a call for artwork to decorate the stage for this event. If you are able to tune in on Monday, you may catch a glimpse of our artwork as well as Mrs. Goldman, one of our music teachers, on stage! More information about the celebration can be found at: https://events.humanitix.com/international-dot-day-virtual-event-2025?fbclid=IwY2xjawNKpjZleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFVcDRIWjlCMmZkdG95MmpuAR53MaFUAWN8MRqB5vz7rFzHXEQv4uxlY3zEqfCom5wST4o1ZWc8loSuoPkQ_aem_BCwDVyYQ9wxmAK7fmaKx_w

October already! Thank you to everyone who attended our first PTO meeting on Tuesday, September 30th. Missed it? You can always find the minutes [here](#). It's a busy month so don't forget to mark your calendar now for the opening of **Math League Sign Ups** (Oct 8th) and the event that needs no reminder, **Haunted Hallway** (Oct 24th!)

Warm Autumn Wishes,
Your PTO

SAVE THE DATES

Math League Registrations - opened Oct 8th

Haunted Hallway - October 24th

SEPAC Coffee Meet Up - November 5th ([details](#))

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION DRIVE

We aim to raise **\$7,500** from our [annual PTO drive](#). 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! We recommend a contribution of \$50 for families with one student and \$100 for families with two or more students.

Donate based on what feels comfortable for your family and your financial situation. Every amount, big or small, is greatly appreciated.

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.

HAUNTED HALLWAY October 24th, 6pm

One of the highlights of the year, the annual Haunted Hallway is quickly approaching. A great way to celebrate the spooky season with friends and get more than one use out of that Halloween costume. The first half hour (6-6:30pm) will be sensory friendly with no lights, smoke, and music. Don't forget to please bring a donation for the Westwood Food Pantry. **VOLUNTEERS** are **ALWAYS** needed. Even if haunting is not your thing, there's plenty of room to share snacks or join the clean up crew. **Sign up [here](#)**.



VOLUNTEER NEEDS

It's never too late to volunteer! All the great programs, events and enrichment opportunities don't happen without the support of the MJ community.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS 25/26

Square 1 Art
Grant Writing
Grade 2 Math League Coordinator
Wrapping Paper

LOOKING AHEAD 26/27

This is a great chance to shadow the leads this year to ensure a smooth transition next year!

Cultural Event

Walk a Thon

Movie Night

Field Day

BIRTHDAY BOOKS

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.



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!

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.



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MJ PTO General Information

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates 2025-2026

September 30, 2025 7pm

November 18, 2025, 7pm

March 3, 2026, 7pm

May 5, 2026, 7pm

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

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

PTO Co-Secretary - [Jenn Katsilieris](#), [Erika Gauthier](#)

Martha Jones PTO Board 2025-2026

[Ally Pavlic](#), Co-President

[Lisa Lennon](#), Co-President

[Abbe Lynch](#), Co-Treasurer

[Monisha Dabek](#), Co-Treasurer

[Jenn Katsilieris](#), Co-Secretary

[Erika Gauthier](#), Co-Secretary

[Priya Sharma](#), Co-Social Media

[Gina Ciampolillo](#), Co-Social Media

[Lauren Fortin](#), SEPAC

District & Community News

SEPAC News

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>. Please see their [informational video](#).



Westwood Youth and Family

Resources for Students

Throughout the school year, there may be family, community, or broader world events that are impacting your family and child(ren). If you need some support with how to talk with your child about violence, loss, or scary events, please reach out to your child's teacher, me or our School Psychologist, Ms. MaryKate Stimpson. Additionally, I have found the following resources to be valuable:

How to talk to children about violence ([1 page](#)), ([full](#)) - NASP

[How to talk about natural disasters and help children cope](#) - NASP

[Helping children cope with terrorism](#) - NASP

[Interface Referral Service](#) is like a match.com for counseling providers. You contact them with insurance and presenting problem and they try to match you with an available provider.

[Westwood Youth & Family Services Website](#) has been supporting and advocating for the children and families in our community since 1986.

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 781-326-7500 لك. لطلب كنتشكرا lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us أو على البريد الالكتروني 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 lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters