



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 4 - October 31, 2025

Principal's Message

MJ,

It sure feels like Fall is here, the frost to start the morning and the leaves are changing. While the weather turns cooler, the learning continues to heat up here at MJ. I wanted to highlight the images below. In the first activity, Kindergarteners and 3rd graders are partnering up. Each pair creates a monster together, with the Kindergartener leading the design. The 3rd grader then uses the artwork as inspiration for a descriptive paragraph. The final two pictures are of our developing musicians. Our 4th graders were learning how to use the parts of their flute with Mrs. Labedz and our 5th grade Band was rehearsing for their winter concert.

This week also kicks off our Fall parent-teacher conferences. These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss your child's transition into the school year and the progress they've made so far.

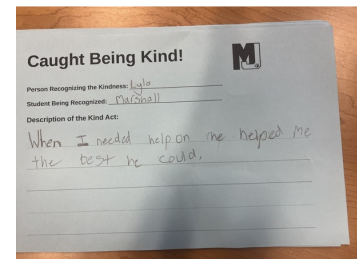
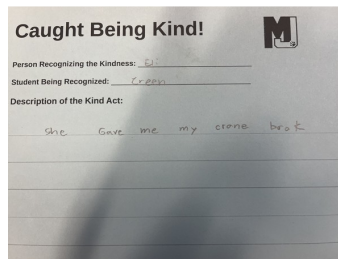
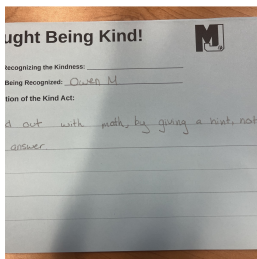
As the weather cools and students start wearing extra layers, we ask that you label all items—sweatshirts, jackets, hats, gloves, and so on—with your child's name. Doing so makes it much easier to return misplaced clothing to its rightful owner.

Matt



Caught Being Kind

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



Student Council

Student Council is organizing a Halloween candy drive for veterans. The drive will end on Friday, November 14th. Students can leave candy with their classroom teachers, and it will be collected by the end of the day on the 14th by the Student Council.

Our Student Council Advisors this year are:

MaryKate Stimpson mstimpson@westwood.k12.ma.us and
Katharine Fader kfader@westwood.k12.ma.us



Important Upcoming Events

- 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 - 12:10pm
- 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
- Friday, January 9 - MJ PTO Bingo Night
- 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
- Thursday, March 12 - MJ PTO STEM Fair
- 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.



CORI Forms

Thank you to all our wonderful MJ Community Members for volunteering. Please note all volunteers **must** have a completed CORI background check before volunteering or chaperoning of any kind. People who have completed a CORI through another town department (ex. Parks & Rec) must still complete a CORI for the School Department.

WPS is implimenting an updated CORI policy whereas **all volunteers must complete a CORI annually**. If you did **not** complete a new form when school started in September you WILL BE REQUIRED to complete a new form starting in the next calendar year (from January.)

Also note the CORI Form submission is not considered complete until it is also accompanied with a copy of your current picture ID (License or Passport).

Thank you for adhering to the District Safety practices.



Student Safety and Vehicle Traffic

Student safety is one of our utmost concerns. With clocks getting turned back this weekend it will get darker sooner. We kindly ask that you are extra mindful 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



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 😊)*



Thanksgiving Break Dismissal Times

The Westwood Public Schools District Office has published the dismissal times for the Thanksgiving break. The school day schedule does not include a full lunch period prior to dismissal. Dismissal times are as follows:

Middle School 11:00AM

Pre-School 11:15AM

High School 11:35AM'

Elementary Schools 12:10PM

Also note the Extended Day Program will be closing at 3:00PM.



Schools will also be closed for students on Monday, December 1 so that teachers may have a full day of in-service.

Technology

Per Mr. K's notice from our first Leaps of the school year...

"To reduce student distractions **please have students leave phones and smartwatches at home.** These items are NOT allowed in school as they are a distraction to the learning environment. If a student brings these items into school the classroom teacher will ask them to turn off their device and place it in their backpack. If a parent needs to send a communication to their child during the school day, parents should contact the office: dsantangelo@westwood.k12.ma.us, ext 7422"



News from KM (Mrs McDonough)



In kindergarten we work all year to become fluent with the facts to five. This month we have been exploring 5 in many spooky ways....

We created monsters with up to five eyes on a five frame. We then played a game called "Quick Images" where the monsters were flashed quickly one at a time and we had to subitize how many eyes they had and explain how we knew.

We also made jack-o-lanterns with 5 teeth and had to write matching equations that represented how many teeth were on the top and how many teeth were on the bottom.

News from 2H (Ms Hartwell)



Happy Crafting From 2H

Crafting with second graders offers a wide range of developmental and emotional benefits. It encourages creativity and self-expression, allowing the children to explore their imagination and develop confidence in their ideas. Fine motor skills are strengthened as children cut, glue, paint, and manipulate small objects, helping improve hand-eye coordination and dexterity. Crafting supports cognitive growth by introducing concepts like colors, shapes, and patterns, and it

nurtures problem-solving as kiddos figure out how to bring their ideas to life. In 2H crafting together fosters communication, patience, and collaboration, strengthening the bond between the children in class. Most importantly, it provides a joyful, hands-on way for children to learn and create lasting memories.

News from Ms Eaton

In the Learning Center, fourth graders are practicing how to use context clues to determine character traits. They are analyzing a character's words and actions to identify traits that best describe them. Students then locate evidence to support each trait and complete an organizer by "lifting a line" from the text as well as restating evidence in their own words.

Boo! Halloween is here. Thank you to everyone who attended Haunted Hallway last Friday and an even BIGGER thank you to all the volunteers. We had a great turn out and were able to make a much needed donation to the Westwood Food Pantry. As we get ready for more holidays don't forget to mark your calendars with more ways to support MJ listed below and more to come!

Stay spooky,
Your PTO

SAVE THE DATES

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

Dine Out Comellas - November 6th

Dine Out Playa Bowls - December 3rd

DINE OUT FUNDRAISER - Comella's, Thursday, November 6th

Dine in or order to-go on **Thursday, November 6** and enjoy a delicious meal without the hassle. Mention the **Martha Jones Fundraiser** and 15% of your order will be donated to the PTO to support enrichment programs, field trips, teacher grants, and more. Feel free to share this promotion with friends, family, and neighbors!

Ordering online to-go? Please add the item "**FUNDRAISER**" to your cart and note that it's for **Martha Jones**.

[Order here now!](#)

Martha Jones & Westwood Gear Store is OPEN!

We're thrilled to announce that the [Martha Jones Store](#) is officially open! This year, we're offering brand new products for both Martha Jones and Westwood.

Orders typically take about two weeks to process. You can choose to have your order shipped directly to your home or pick it up at Amerasport in Holliston.

Be sure to place your orders soon so your items arrive in time for the holidays! Proceeds from all purchases will benefit the Martha



Jones PTO, helping support our students and school community.

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.

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

MiniCourses Chess Wizard Information

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.



MJ PTO General Information

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates 2025-2026

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。

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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 Kuklentz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

