



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 5 - November 14, 2025

Principal's Message

MJ,

My annual winter newsletter information seems needed earlier than usual this year! While there is no snow in our forecast, the flurries this week seemed a harbinger of winter. As we enter the winter months (and hopefully some snow). I wanted to remind our community that students go outside, even in snowy weather, unless it is an unsafe temperature. Students will also not have outside recess if the conditions are too icy or rainy. Please make sure your children are dressed for the winter temperatures, so they can play outside comfortably and safely.

On snowy days, please make sure your children are equipped with snow pants and snow boots. Without this gear, students will need to play on the shoveled blacktop areas of the playground, which is a lot less fun than playing in the snow on the field or playground. Please send your children to school with a pair of shoes in addition to snow boots. It is also helpful to send an extra pair of shoes with your children on and after rainy days. This will help students stay comfortable and keep our hallways and classrooms clean and dry throughout the day.

Finally, please label all of your students' outdoor gear: jackets, boots, gloves and hats. It makes finding the owner much easier.



**Impromptu 4th Grade
Conga Line**

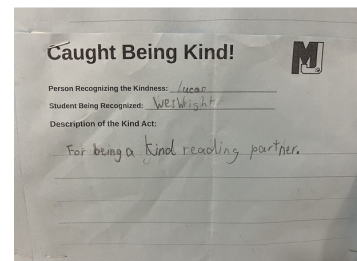
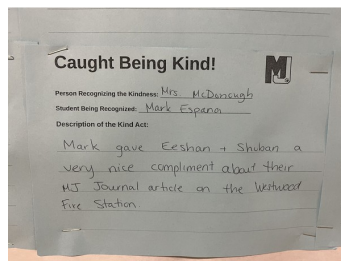
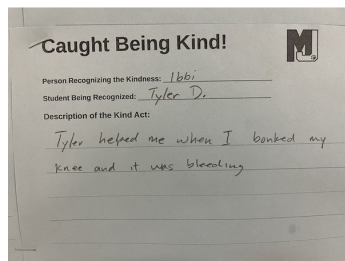


**Annual MJ Gratitude
Turkey**

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".

We will be meeting next week and highlighting "Be Curious".



Parent Read Aloud

Dear Families,

Last year, the Office of Student Services began developing a new Parent Read Aloud program, designed to provide an opportunity to increase parent/caregiver involvement specifically in Elementary classrooms across the district. The goal of the program is to expose all students to various types of disabilities across grade levels. This fall, Donna Tobin, Director of Social-Emotional Learning, formed a committee of parents and educators. The group, under the leadership of Donna Tobin, reviewed and selected books as well as developed a parent/caregiver training for the program. Parents/caregivers were excited about supporting this program last year, and we hope that we can count on you again this year.

We have Parent Coordinators from each of the elementary schools: Samantha Sturma, Downey School; Jennifer Kaddy, Martha Jones School; Mercedes Carrasco, Pine Hill School, and Shelagh Danaher, Sheehan School, along with Meg Kara, Pine Hill librarian; and Abby Smith, Sheehan School Psychologist partnering with Dr. Tobin to review, evaluate, and select books and conversation prompts, and locate simple activities to go along with some of the books. We have selected books that represent a wide range of topics, including: neurodiversity, intellectual disabilities, and

physical/health disabilities. We hope these books will support our goal of celebrating individual differences and allow all students to see themselves and others as wonderfully unique individuals.

How You Can Help!

We are looking for parent/caregiver volunteer readers from each grade level (kindergarten through grade 5) at your child's school. The role would include:

- Attending a 30-minute training that will help you prepare for class discussions, questions, and feedback.
- Preview and select the book from your grade level list/bin
- Work with the classroom teachers to select a time each month from January through May to go into each grade level classroom to read the books. (Note: each read-aloud story comes with guiding questions for a whole-class discussion)
- Provide feedback at the end of the year to your school's Parent Coordinator on what worked well and what might be adjusted in future years to improve the program.

If you can help by becoming a volunteer Reader, [please complete this sign up form no later than November 21, 2025](#). If you would like more information about volunteering before signing up, please reach out to your **School Coordinator above** or contact Donna Tobin. Once we have our volunteers, we will reach out with training dates (flexible) and next steps. Please make sure you have an updated CORI on file. A CORI is required for all volunteers. You can check with your school's administrative assistant to complete a CORI or check your current status.

If you would like more information about the program content, please email or call Donna Tobin at dtobin@westwood.k12.ma.us or at 781-326-7500, ext. 8532

Thank you,

Donna Tobin, Director of Social-Emotional Learning

Lori Cimeno, Director of Student Service

Lateefah Franck, Director of Equity Integration and Community Partnerships

Student Council

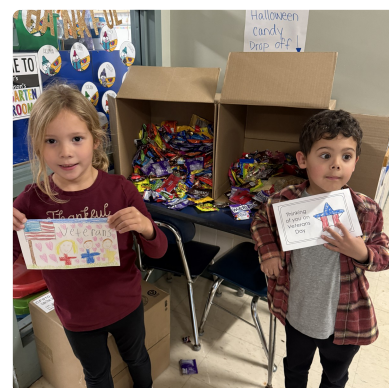
Student Council Cards & Candy for Veterans

To honor our veterans, our student council has partnered with the VA Medical Center to donate Halloween candy and created cards for troops who are deployed.

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

- 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

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.



Picture Retake Day was held on November 4th.

Retake Packages will ship in about 4 weeks.

Families with questions should contact Customer Care at lifeguards@coffeepond.com or 508-907-6633 x0.

If anyone forgot to return their package, families may return it to Coffee Pond with a note saying, "Exchange for Retake".

Unwanted prints can be mailed to:

Coffee Pond Photography

Attn: Retake Return

111 Speen Street, Suite 401

Framingham, MA 01701



Student Safety and Vehicle Traffic

Student safety is one of our utmost concerns. 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.

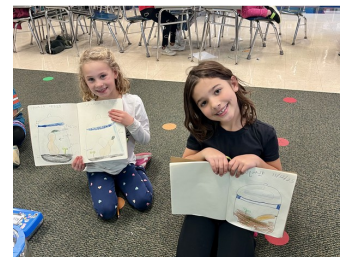
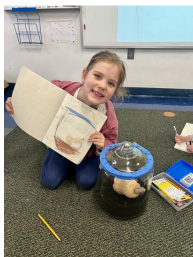
Technology

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 1B (Ms. Brock)

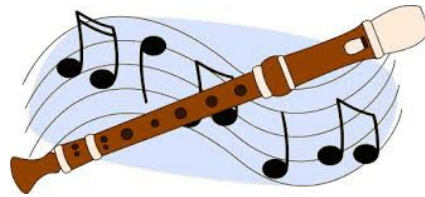
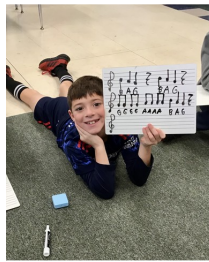


First graders in 1B are learning about plants by observing the life cycle of a squash over time in our classroom. Students are making predictions, asking questions, and sharing their observations with each other. They are also drawing detailed pictures in their science journals and working hard to add clear labels. We are excited to keep observing our squash throughout the year!

News from 3La (Mrs. Lane)

In Mrs. Lane's third grade class, the students are reading mystery books. The kids are quickly becoming "super sleuths" as they conduct investigations, find clues, gather suspects and provide evidence to solve the case. They even have their own badges with code names.

News from Music (Mrs. Yennior)



Grade 3 music classes will begin their instruction on the recorder next week! In preparation, we have been practicing reading and writing pitches on the treble clef staff. Ask your student to tell you the meaning of this silly sentence: Every Greasy Burger Deserves Fries! We have also learned to sing and play the song Hot Cross Buns on boomwhackers, so that we will be ready to transfer to the recorder on our first day!

The leaves are falling. It's getting cold and those pesky clocks have already fallen back. November is here! Thank you for your support over the past few weeks! **Dine Out at Comella's** and our **Dumpling Fundraiser** were delicious ways to support the MJ community. The

MJ Gear Shop is still open (perfect for holiday presents!) Join us on **Tuesday, November 18th** for our next PTO meeting to get the scoop on everything coming up in 2026!



Thankfully,
Your PTO

SAVE THE DATES

PTO Meeting - November 18th, 7pm MJ Library ([Link to Agenda](#)) ([Link to Zoom](#))

Dine Out Playa Bowls - December 3rd

DO YOU FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM

Love the reminders about all things MJ when you're scrolling? Take a minute and like or comment to keep us showing up in the feed!

[Join our Facebook group](#) or follow us on [Instagram](#)

@marthajonespto



@shutterstock.com - 1403084190

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.



DINE OUT PLAYA BOWLS

Needing a midweek snack to keep you going during the busy holiday season? Living in your car after school with the kids? Stop by Playa Bowls in Westwood and mention Martha Jones!



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

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

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.



MJ PTO General Information

Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates 2025-2026

November 18, 2025, 7pm (Agenda can be found [here](#)) (Zoom link can be found [here](#))

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

Westwood Recreation Department

The Westwood Rec Department sent along the bellow flyers about two inclusive recreation programs they will be running on upcoming no-school days around Thanksgiving and winter break.

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 Jplouffe@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 Jplouffe@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 Jplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us Спасибо.



Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

