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 22, 2024

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

Brendan, a 2nd grade student at Martha Jones, was awarded a President's Choice Award for his artwork that entered into a statewide contest. His artwork will be the only 2nd grade representative from all of Massachusetts at the National Art Convention held in Minneapolis, MN in April and represent the state of Massachusetts. Congratulations Brendan!



Additionally, I wanted to highlight an upcoming first for the MJ community. The MJ PTO will be holding their first International Night on May 10. It is being held as an educational opportunity for our community about the numerous ethnicities and cultures that are represented. The flyer included this information:

The celebration will take place on Friday, May 10th 6:00-8:00pm. 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. So mark your calendars and get ready for a memorable evening of togetherness and global exploration.

I will likely participate at the America table to highlight growing up near the Slate Belt with some Pennsylvania Dutch traditions. If you would like to participate, <u>follow this link</u>.

Thank you!

Matt Kuklentz Martha Jones Principal

Playground Structure Installation

A huge thank you to our PTO for funding the move and installation of a playground structure from the Hanlon School to the Martha Jones. It was installed earlier this week and the process captivated all of our students. We look forward to many continued smiles.







MCAS Dates

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

April 2 and April 4 - ELA (Gr. 3, 4, 5) 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.

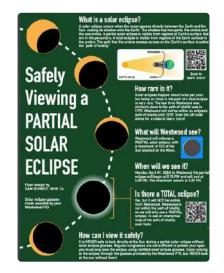
Finally, when students take the MCAS the following items are not allowed on their person: phones and smartwatches. Please have students keep them at home.



As we approach a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, we've given thought about how to best utilize this as a learning opportunity for students and also its impacts on our dismissal.

In Westwood, we will see a partial eclipse (still substantive at up to 92% of the Sun blocked by the Moon) on that day. The partial eclipse will begin to be visible at 2:15pm, the maximum coverage will be at 3:30pm and will end at 4:39pm. Please see the attached document.

On Monday, April 8, each grade will meet with our Elementary Science Coordinator, Kate Doyle, and Science Coach, Jennie



Goossen, to explain about eclipses by sharing a video, a model of the phenomenon and answering any questions students have. As a school, we will go outside during the event to experience it. Thanks to our MJ PTO, every student and staff will have eclipse glasses which they can use.

Finally, since the near totality will occur during our dismissal, I anticipate that this event may impact it. If you are planning on watching the event, please consider parking away from the Martha Jones dismissal and walking to our school to pick up your students to witness the eclipse. The less traffic on this day, the better. I've coordinated with Extended Day so that we can use the baseball field as a viewing area.

Now we just have to hope the weather cooperates! Matt

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 <u>healthy children.org</u>



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 <u>jdoyle@westwodd.k12.ma.us</u>

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 <u>link that reviews the online registration</u>

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 <u>hpease@westwood.k12.ma.us</u> 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.

Special Raffle for Principal for the Day and Secretary for the Day

The PTO Social and Silent Auction were big successes. Some students have already started claiming prizes as can be seen in this picture - winning a ride to school in a police car. Two of the big interest items are always Principal for the Day and Secretary for the

Day. Because these two items are so popular and in trying to give everyone a chance to win these prizes, Mr. Kuklentz and Ms. Santangelo agreed to also offer a raffle to all MJ students for a second Principal for the Day and Secretary for the Day prize. We are happy to announce the raffle winners for these two prizes are: Andrew R in Mrs. Luskin's class won Principal for the Day and Greyson Y also in Mrs. Luskin's class won Secretary for the Day. Congratulations to these two students. Mr. K & Ms. S will be reaching out in the coming weeks to coordinate prize collection.

News from Student Council

The Student Council has a busy March planned.





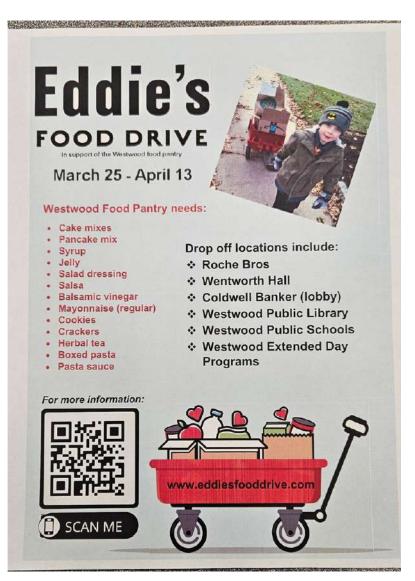
We have been asked to help support <u>Eddie's Food Drive</u>. Martha Jones will be one of the drop-off locations. Please take a look at the attached flyer and consider donating needed items for the Westwood Food Pantry. There will be a collection box in the front lobby from March 25th-April 15th.

Got Sneakers?

The Westwood science coordinators have organized a sneaker collection drive in honor of Earth Day. This is a whole-district effort to collect and recycle athletic shoes with the goal of keeping them out of landfills. The organization that is linked above will pay for each pair donated. The shoe drive runs now until April 22nd. They do not accept any other kinds of shoes, just athletic sneakers. The Student Council will be supporting this drive by making posters and getting the word out to all M.J. Students.

Thank you for your support!

Martha Jones 5th Grade Student Council



Important Upcoming Events

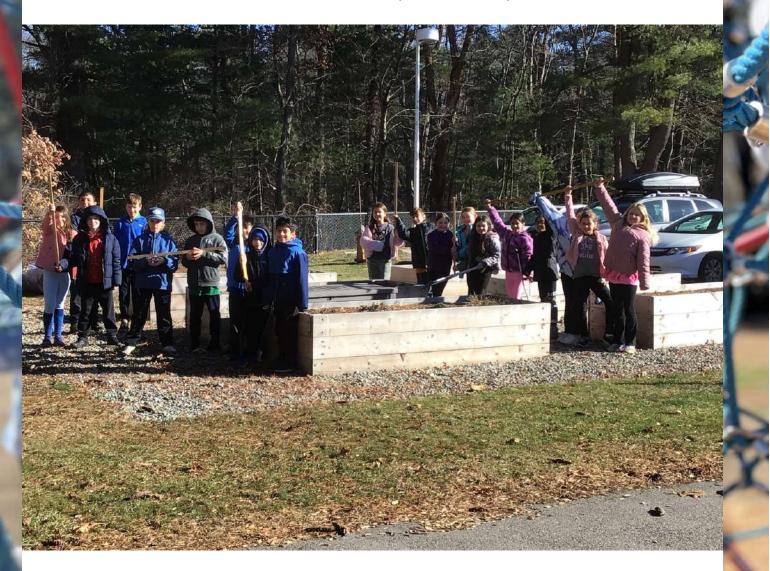
Tue. Mar. 26 - Gr. 5 Enrichment, Top Secret Science, States of Matter
Tue. Mar. 26 - District Programing - <u>Conversations With Caregivers</u>
Wed. Mar. 27 - Gr. 2 Field Trip, Hanover Theater
Fri. Mar. 29 - Good Friday, No School
Mon. Apr. 1 - MJ PTO Square-1 Art catalogues go home

Tues. Apr. 2 - ELA MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5) Wed. Apr. 3 - Early Release at 12:00pm, Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon & evening) Thurs. Apr. 4 - ELA MCAS (gr. 3, 4, 5) Wed. Apr. 10 - Early Release at 12:00pm, Parent Teacher Conferences (afternoon) Wed. Apr. 10 - Math League District Meet Thu. Apr. 11 - MJ PTO Stem Fair Fri. Apr. 12 - Gr. 5 Chorus Concert 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) 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 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 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 3La (Mrs. Lane)



The students in Mrs. Lane's third grade class are using their math and science knowledge to design the layout of a square foot garden in our raised garden beds. With the help of Christine Size, the math coordinator, Jenny Goosen the science coordinator, and classroom teachers all of the students in third grade are going to have the opportunity to plant a seed of their choice and watch it grow.

News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)







The second graders have started a math unit on measurement. In a recent lesson, the students in Ms. Mundy's class had fun jumping and measuring three different types of jumps: frog jumps, rabbit jumps, and kid jumps. After documenting each of these jumps with strips of adding machine tape, students measured each with different non-standard units of measure, including cubes, craft sticks, and their own feet.



The second graders learned that the smaller the unit they use to measure, the more of these units they will need. And inversely, the larger the unit they use to measure, the fewer units they will need. We also learned that when we want to compare measurements, it is important to use the same unit for each.

News from the Library (Mrs. Swinning)



March was a busy month in the library! Thanks to our amazing PTO, we had a fun author visit, a successful Read-a-Thon and a great Rook Fair from Park Street Rooks!

We are looking forward to lots of Poetry in April and Maker Space May! Keep an eye on the <u>Martha Jones Library Facebook page</u> for Library happenings and pictures!

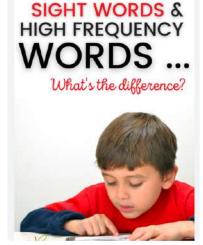
Happy Spring!

News from Ms. Child -Literacy Specialist

Sight words? High frequency words? What is the difference?

Recently there has been conversation around the instruction of highly frequent and sometimes irregular words. Please keep reading for some clarification and information!

High frequency words are words in our language that we see often when reading and use often when writing. These words occur very frequently and are the glue that holds our language together. (Burkins and Yates, 2021) Sight words can be any word, and are words that a reader can retrieve quickly. Historically in education, we have taught students that these words do not follow rules and



should be memorized. Recently, research has encouraged educators to take a different approach. Although *some* of these words are irregular (does), and may break rules (have) or have silent letters (could), others do follow rules and match expected sound symbol relationships. The challenge is that depending on a student's age, grade and skill level, he or she may not have been taught or have had experiences with those letter sound relationships. Ultimately, it is very important for children to learn their high frequency words! These words make up 25 percent of the words they encounter in texts. Our instruction of high frequency words will focus on orthographic mapping. Orthographic mapping is when a reader can automatically, and effortlessly, retrieve a word's meaning and pronunciation. (Lindsay, 2022) The best way to create orthographic maps is through decoding. We teach children how to recognize words, including high frequency words, by using letters! Children are learning to listen to the number of sounds in words, recognize when letters sound as we would expect, and when they don't. The goal being that all high frequency words become sight words!

References

Burkins, Jan and Kari Yates. 2021. *Shifting the Balance: Six Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom*. Portsmouth, NH: Steinhouse.

Lindsay, Julia. 2022. *Reading Above the Fray: Reliable, Research-Based Routines for Developing Decoding Skills.* New York, NY: Scholastic.



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

PTO Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News

THANK YOU!

• Thank you to the Book Fair & Read-a-Thon Committee for planning two fantastic events for our students. We're so grateful for the hard work and dedication that went into making these events such a success!



 We'd like to extend our gratitude to those of you who supported our fundraising efforts through the PTO Parent Social. Whether you purchased tickets, donated an item for the auction or grade-level baskets, or participated in bidding - it's amazing to see our community come together to make a difference for our school!

CALL FOR NEW PTO BOARD MEMBERS!

We are looking for new PTO Board Members for next school year! Every year, there are copositions 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.
 - April 11th STEM Fair
 - April 26th Family Movie Night
 - May 1st MJS Art Fair
 - May 10th International Night Celebration





STEM FAIR

The Martha Jones **STEM Fair** will be held on **Thursday, April 11th** from **6:30 - 7:30 pm**. The STEM Fair is an annual event for students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math topics and to present their own projects to the Martha Jones community.



Scientists can work individually or in groups of 2 or 3. Interested

students can register a project on the PTO website - <u>Student Project Registration</u>. For project ideas, see this <u>resource</u>! Projects are completed outside of school and showcased at the fair on April 11th.

All are welcome to attend the fair, regardless of participation in the student projects!



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** <u>here</u>!



MJS ART FAIR WEDNESDAY MAY 1 5:30PM VOLUNTEERS

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

International Night

BIRTHDAY BOOKS & LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate in the <u>PTO Birthday Book Program</u>! 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.

<u>Sign-up</u> 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 <u>PTO website</u> 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! <u>Sign-up today</u>!

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<u>here</u> 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

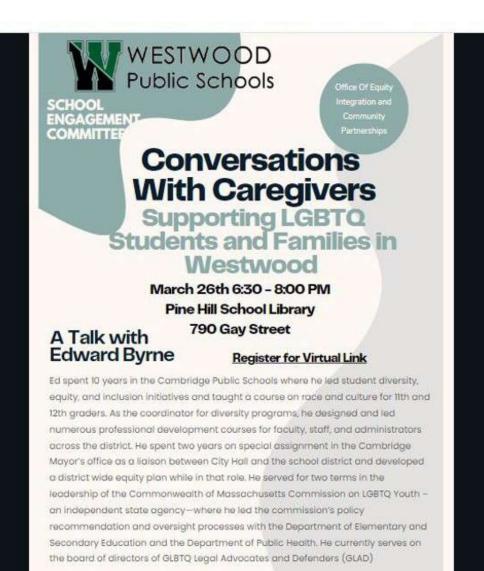
Martha Jones PTO Meeting Dates SY2023 - 2024 May 7, 2023, 7pm

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





District & Community News You Can Use District Programing



TMS Presents "James and the Giant Peach"

Come see the Thurston Middle School musical, *James and the Giant Peach*! This musical is a stage adaptation of the classic book by Roald Dahl. Come see James as he journeys on the giant peach, makes new friends, and discovers a new family. Performances will take place at the high school auditorium Thursday April 4 at 7pm, Friday April 5 at 7pm and Saturday April 6 at 2pm. Tickets are now available online at <u>tms.ludus.com</u>. Tickets can also be purchased at the door with apple pay and credit card only. We hope to see you at the show!

Thurston Middle School Presents

> Thursday April 4 at 7pm Friday April 5 at 7pm Saturday April 6 at 2pm

anthe

\$10 Students & Senior Citizens \$15 Adults

Westwood High School Auditorium

RAY - Rotary & Westwood Youth and Family Services



R.A.Y. (Recognize-A-Youth) Award

Westwood Rotary and Westwood Youth & Family Services (WY&FS) are seeking the public's help in identifying young people in our community that have demonstrated a commitment to helping others. We would like to celebrate these individuals by honoring them with the R.A.Y. (Recognize-A-Youth) Award. Recipients will have distinguished themselves through their initiative and commitment to community service and have demonstrated an ethic of caring for others that is essential to the health of our community. If you know of a young person that should be honored please nominate them for a R.A.Y. Award.

Nomination forms can be found online at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/youth-family-services or scan the QR code below. The deadline to submit a nomination is March 31st.

For more information contact Mary Ellen LaRose mlarose@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call 781-320-1006.



SEPAC

Please see the <u>Westwood Special Education Parents Action Committee (SEPAC) website</u> with all upcoming events.



March 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, 3/5: Morning Coffee with Sue Maselli, Director of Student Services, 9:30-11AM @ Muffin House Cafe
- Friday, 3/15: Friday, Parent Night Out! 7:00PM @ Conrads in Norwood
- Wednesday, 3/20: SEPAC General Meeting, 7:30-9:00PM @ the Westwood Public Library or on Zoom



School Calendar

<u>Click the link</u> for the Westwood 2023-2024 school calendar.

Links to <u>Westwood Community Resources</u>. 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 <u>lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us</u>. 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<u>lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us</u>谢谢你。

7500-326 781 اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستوود الخدمات الطلابية في 781 326-7500 1346 لك. <u>لطلب</u> كنتشكر ا<u>Iplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us</u> أو على البريد الالكتروني الخاص بك

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 <u>lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us</u> Спасибо.



