



Growing By Leaps and Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, MA

Matt Kuklantz, Principal

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

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

Issue 7 - December 1, 2023

Principal's Message

MJ Community,

Each morning, one of the first things I do is take my dog, Bear, out for his morning jaunt around the neighborhood. Over the past couple of weeks, those walks have become much more invigorating due to the cold. The frost has begun to settle in more frequently and the wind has become more cutting. I mention this because as we move into the winter months, I wanted to highlight some of the policies and procedures that help us safely navigate the weather during the colder months of the school year.

Please remember that students go outside, even in snowy weather, unless it is an unsafe temperature. For Westwood Public Schools, students will stay inside if the temperature is below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. 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.

Matt Kuklantz
Martha Jones
Principal

Important Upcoming Events

Fri. Dec. 1 - Math League

Fri. Dec. 1 - 5th Grade Play (starts at 6:30, doors open 6:00)

Tues. Dec. 5 - Kindergarten Enrichment - Dental Health

Fri. Dec. 8 - Grade 3 & 4 Enrichment - Women In History - Sally Ride

Wed. Dec. 13 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Wed. Dec. 13 - 5th Grade Band, WHS

Thurs. Dec. 21 - All School Enrichment - Passing Notes WHS A Capella Group

Fri. Dec. 22 - Early Release

Mon. Dec. 25-Mon. Jan. 1 - Winter Recess

Tues. Jan. 2 - School Resumes

Fri. Jan. 5 - Math League

Wed. Jan. 10 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Mon. Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Day, No School

Wed. Jan. 17 - Gr. 1 Enrichment, Discovery Science Museum

Fri. Jan. 19 - Math League

Wed. Jan. 24 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Wed. Jan. 31 - Gr. 2 & 5 Enrichment, Discovery Science Museum

Fri. Feb. 2 - Math League

Fri. Feb. 2 - Gr. 3 Enrichment, Top Secret Science

Thurs. Feb. 8 - Gr. 3 Enrichment, Discovery Science Museum

Fri. Feb. 9 - All School Enrichment, [Valerie Tutson](#), Tales from African Traditions

Wed. Feb. 14 - Early Release at 12:00pm

Fri. Feb. 16 - Math League

Mon. Feb. 19-Fri. Feb 23 - February Recess

Mon. Feb. 26 - School Resumes

News from the Front Office

Retake pictures have been received at MJ. They were distributed to classrooms to go home on Friday. Again you can reach out to Coffee Pond if you have further questions on the images or packages.

Telephone: 508-907-6633 x0, email: lifeguards@coffeepond.com, webpage: www.coffeepond.com

News from the Health Office

Health Screenings

The mandated screenings are underway and will be completed within the next few weeks. If your student's screening result is outside of the normal range, they will be rescreened a few weeks after the initial screening. If your student is screened a second time and they remain outside of the normal range, I will send a referral letter home to you via your child.

No news is good news! If you do not hear from me, that means that your child was within normal range for their screening(s).

Cold and Flu Season

Whether we like it or not, the cold and flu season is upon us. Most colds are caused by viruses, but symptoms to keep children home with include fever greater than 100.0, vomiting (GI or stomach bug), or a constant cough that is causing the student discomfort.

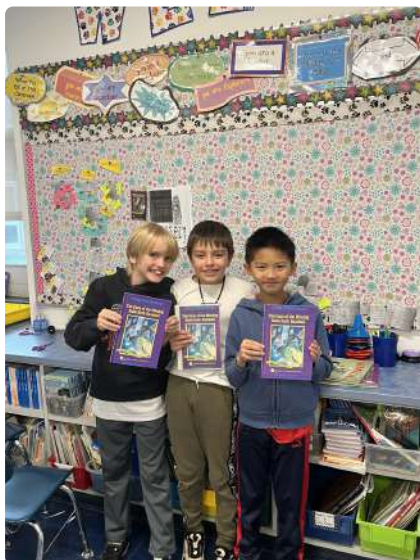
Please feel free to contact me if you have any issues, concerns, or questions regarding your student's health and well-being: jdoyle@westwood.k12.ma.us or (781)326-7500 x6263



News from the MJ Classroom's



News from 3La (Mrs. Lane)





The “super sleuths” in 3 Lane had to collaborate with their fellow “detectives” to solve the mystery in their book group. They identified the crime, analyzed clues, connected the clues to suspects and discussed motives and opportunities. They designed a detective board to highlight the elements of their investigation which they used to retell the story.

News from 2M (Ms. Mundy)





In Ms. Mundy's class, students have been studying the work of water in creating and changing the Earth's surface. Erosion is the process in which pieces of earth, like rocks, pebbles, and sand, are worn away and transported by natural forces, like water and wind.

In a recent lesson, students made models of mountains using cornmeal and created "rain" using a dripstick. Partners worked together using materials like aluminum foil, cotton balls, paper towel strips, and toothpicks to design a method of preventing their mountain from eroding after a "rainfall". The students were excited to find that most of their erosion prevention models were successful!

News from PE (Mr. Foley)



What's Happening in Physical Education?

In grades K-2, the physical education curriculum focuses on movement education. Movement education is a series of movement experiences utilized to develop confidence and proficiency in coordination and body control. When children explore through movement, it gives them a better understanding of these concepts and skills.

To develop these important skills, the students are introduced to a wide variety of movement games and activities. In kindergarten, students explore their own space by creating different body shapes and balances. By first and second grade, students are challenged to move to an open space and change speeds, levels, directions, and pathways. These games and activities are both enjoyable and developmentally beneficial.

The children pictured are getting a chance to work with a variety of movement equipment. They are having lots of fun creating different ways of traveling and demonstrating body control in "open space".

Have a great week!

Pat Foley



MARTHA JONES SCHOOL

PTO

Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

PTO News

DECEMBER PTO MEETING

Our next PTO meeting is coming up on December 5th at 7pm.

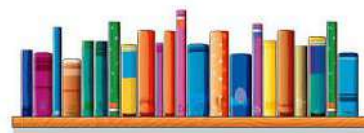
Please mark your calendars and join us in-person at the Martha Jones Library or via Zoom.

Superintendent Tim Piwowar will be in attendance and we look forward to hearing from him about the work he is doing at the district-level!



BIRTHDAY BOOKS & LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

- Participate in the [PTO Birthday Book Program](#)! 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.
- [Sign-up](#) 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 [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

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 [here](#) 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

September 26, 2023, 7pm

December 5, 2023, 7pm

March 5, 2023, 7pm

May 7, 2023, 7pm

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

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

PTO Co-Secretary - [Mary Jason](#), [Priscilla Stephen](#)

District & Community News You Can Use

Kids Night Out: December 8th

The Westwood Recreation Department is hosting a **Kids Night Out** event on Friday, December 8th from 5:30pm - 8:30pm. The event will be held at Wentworth Hall.

For more information and to register for this event, please click on the following link: [Kids Night Out December Flyer](#)

School Calendar

[Click the link](#) for the Westwood 2023-2024 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 lplouffe@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 lplouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。

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Matthew Kuklantz

Matthew is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

