

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 10 - Jan. 24, 2020



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

Important Dates

Mon - Fri, Jan. 27 - 31	Inclusive Schools Week
Mon., Jan. 27	PTO Winter / Spring Mini-courses begin ----- Gr. 3 Enrichment - David Coffin Recorder
Thu., Jan. 30	School Committee, WHS 7:00PM (If needed)
Fri., Jan. 31	Math League 7:45AM ----- SPIRIT DAY - SWAP DAY - Report Cards mailed home
Wed., Feb., 5	Student Council 8:00AM ----- Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. No lunch served -----
Thu., Feb. 13	School Committee, WHS 7:00PM
Fri., Feb. 14	Math League 7:45AM
Mon - Fri, Feb. 17 - 21	February Vacation Week NO SCHOOL
Wed., Feb. 26	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. No lunch served
Fri., Feb. 28	Math League 7:45AM ----- SPIRIT DAY

A complete list of upcoming dates is available [online](#).

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:

Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

ext. 6261: Diane Santangelo

ext. 6262: Donna Tobin

ext. 6263: Dawnmarie Shu

Message from the Principal

Happy New Year - To all of our families celebrating the Year of the Rat - I hope you have a great New Year's Weekend and your year is filled with health and happiness.

Winner of the Logo Contest will be Announced on Monday.

As I mentioned in my last email, we recently changed our motto to *Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Courageous*. Over 100 students submitted ideas for a logo to go with our motto. The entire school voted and we have a winner. The winner will be announced at a student assembly on Monday, January 27th (yes,



we are keeping you in suspense until then :). We will kick off a week of Kindness with the assembly and then focus on Kindness activities for the week. Mrs. Swinning will be rolling out Kindness Bingo - [KindnessBingoKindnessNation.pdf](#), students will be reading and responding to books on kindness, videos will be shown at lunch and students will have a chance to track times they are kind and times others have been kind to them on our kindness bulletin board. The PTO has generously agreed to purchase new Martha Jones T-Shirts for all students with the new motto and logo on them, so please keep an eye out for ordering details (size, grade level, etc) for your child.

MJ News



Birthday Books - Does your child have a spring or summer birthday? It's not too late to participate in the [Martha Jones Library Birthday Books program](#). The cost to participate is \$15 per student. Your child may choose a brand new book for the library during his or her birthday month. A commemorative bookplate will be placed inside the front cover of the book with your child's name, age and birthday month (specific birthday is not included for privacy purposes). He/she will enjoy being the first to borrow the Birthday Book and students for years to come will enjoy seeing their friend's name inside the book. We appreciate your interest and support in the [Birthday Book Program!](#) It is a great way to ensure our library has a wonderful and varied collection. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Amatangelo at amyamatangelo@yahoo.com or Maureen Grealish at momolloy@aol.com.

Mini Courses - Mini Course's will start this coming Monday, January 27th and run through to April 3rd (reserving the week of April 6 as a Make-Up Week). Thank you for supporting these fun and engaging courses for students. Please be sure to send your child's teacher a note letting him/her know which days your child will be attending a mini course. Mini-course teachers will escort students to the area outside of the front of the school at the end of mini-courses. We ask that parents wait outside for their children. Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM PAT FOLEY AND DAWNMARIE SHU - FAMILY HEALTH AND FITNESS NIGHT IS BACK!! Friday March 27, 2020 from 6-7:30pm



The 11th annual Martha Jones Family Health and Fitness Night will be held on Friday, March 27, 2020 from 6-7:30pm. This will be a fun night of education and activity. We are in the process of planning many different interactive booths and fun fitness stations ranging from reaching your target heart rate, jumping on a moonwalk, to the importance of family skin care. These activities are scheduled to be held both indoors and outdoors. Our goal is to emphasize the importance of keeping your body healthy and fit to promote lifelong wellness. Please contact Dawnmarie Shu (dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us) or Patrick Foley (pfoley@westwood.k12.ma.us) if you are interested in helping us with this event. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks. Get ready to get moving!



If you or someone you know have any specific knowledge or skills in the area of **health, wellness, or fitness**, please consider having a booth at the health fair. Examples from past fairs include PT/backpack safety, Nutrition/healthy eating habits, and skin safety among others. We would love to talk to you about this opportunity.

Please contact Dawnmarie Shu at dshu@westwood.k12.ma.us

Spirit Day - Friday, January 31 The student council would like to announce the next spirit day. On Friday, January 31st we will be having Swap Day! We would like you to show your school spirit by having students dress like teachers and teachers dress like students.



Daniele Noyes Meteorologist Grade 1 Classroom Visit

The grade one students had an exciting visit with meteorologist Daniele Noyes this past week.



Classroom Happenings

News from 5B (Mr. Bartlett)

Mr Bartlett's class are currently studying space science and grappling with the guiding question; why is the sun so bright in the sky?

Most students start by suggesting that the sun is bright because it is really big and really hot. We address this misconception by learning about the Sun compared to other stars. Is the sun big? Yes, it's huge. A million Earths would fit inside the sun! Is it really hot? Yes, incredibly hot. It's temperature is about 5,000 degrees celsius. But... lots of the other stars are even bigger and even hotter! So why does our sun look bigger and feels hotter than the other stars?



To fully understand this, students have been trying to wrap their heads around the huge distances in space, and trying to build an understanding of how close the Sun is compared to the other nearest stars. Student's learned that the sun is 8 light minutes away from Earth, but the nearest other star, Proxima Centauri is 4.2 light years away. All the other stars are even further away than that. So compared to the other stars, the sun is basically right next to us.

But .. how can the sun be so close to us when Google says it is 93 million miles away? How can the sun be so far away, yet so close? Building a conceptual understanding of the astronomical distances involved in space can be challenging for anyone. To help better understand, students built scale models of the nearest five stars to Earth using inches or cm to represent light years.



News from Music (Mrs. Goldman)



We have begun our Drama curriculum in the 5th grade. Grade 5 Drama is designed to educate students about theatre. Students will learn basic acting techniques and theatre terminology. Drama will teach students how to work together as a group, think critically, use their imagination, discover new ideas, and problem solve. Students will learn how to improve their focus, self-confidence, and social skills. Everyone is expected to work to the best of their ability to achieve great success.

Our first Drama unit focuses on team building and improvisation. We have discussed the importance of being a great team member on and off stage and have participated in several trust building activities. In the game, *Dune Buggies*, we discovered that by building trust, we were able to take healthy risks when improvising.

News from 1D (Mrs. Dunn)

Students in 1D are learning about important Americans in history and discussing how their accomplishments in the past impact our lives and our country today. We have read several books about Martin Luther King, Jr. during read alouds and guided reading groups. After reading the book Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport, student wrote about what the following quotations from Dr. King made them think or feel:



"Everyone can be great."

"Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that."

"Love is the key to the problems of the world."

"You are as good as anyone."

Students' responses showed that they were thinking carefully about the importance of Dr. King's words, trying to understand what our country was like at that time, and thinking about ways to apply Dr. King's words to their own lives. Here are a few of their responses:



When I heard these words, it made me think he was wise. He was scared but he was brave. He changed laws peacefully. He never gave up. He showed people love and kindness.

-Milo

When I heard these words, it made me think that if someone does something mean to you, you don't do something mean back. You do something loving.

-Layla

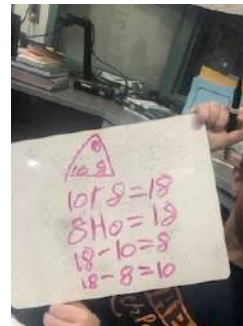
When I heard these words, it made me feel happy and included. I will always be helpful, kind and courageous. MLK, Jr. was a hero and I will be, too. MLK Jr.'s life was hard but he never gave up. And I will not give up either. I will always include other people. And I will always do great stuff, today and every day, just like MLK, Jr.

-Ellie

News from Mathematics Specialist (Mrs. Aaron)



Fluency is fun! Students in grades 2 and 4 practicing fact families and the relationship between operations using the



Salute. In this game two players place an unseen card on their own forehead and a third person



tells them the sum of the two addends or the product of the two factors. They all then write equations (addition **and** subtraction or multiplication **and** division) they could use to figure out the missing part and solve! This easily adaptable game is fun for practicing all sorts of math relationships!



PTO News

SPRING MINI COURSES - *Classes begin Monday, January 27*

The PTO would like to thank everyone who signed up for classes this session. Spring mini courses run from **January 27 - April 3** (Reserving the week of April 6 for make-up classes as needed)

MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL *Saturday, March 21 - 7:30-11:30pm*

The Roaring 20's

"Come as a flapper or come as you are, dress as a gangster or a silent screen star. It's going to be fun, no matter the dress. Just bring yourself, and we'll take care of the rest!"

Please join us for the Annual Martha Jones Parent Social on Saturday, **March 21** from 7:30-11:30pm at The German Club in Walpole. (Rt. 109 Westwood/Walpole town line)

As in the past, there will be a DJ, cash bar, teacher experience and silent auctions along with a healthy dose of fun and dancing! This is an **adult only** event, so book your sitters now!

Buy your tickets NOW! Click [here](#) Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door.

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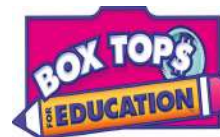
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BOX TOPS - COLLECTION ONGOING

Download the App and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase

Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for Martha Jones. This money will be used to help pay school supplies, fund field trip expenses and other fun events! In addition to the Fall and Spring classroom competitions, we collect Box Tops year-round, so please feel free to send them in whenever you have them.



We recently sent home information about **important changes** to the Box Top program, please take note of these changes and continue to support the Box Top program. Click [here](#) for more information.

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!

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to PTO Co-Secretary Denise Cahill at denisepcahill@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES:

General PTO Meeting: Tuesday, **Mar. 3** @ 7pm - MJ Library

MJ Parent Social: Saturday, **Mar. 21** @ 7:30-11:30pm - The German Club

MJ Book Fair: Friday, **Mar. 27** - MJ Library

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أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك ext. 1346 اذا بحاجة الى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستوود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 781-326 7500
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Community News You Can Use



Structured Play Group

2019-2020 Group Description

These 8-week groups for K - 5th graders emphasize the development of social skills as well as building self-esteem and confidence. Organized play and activities are used to reinforce topics such as initiating and developing friendships, working cooperatively, and recognizing personal strengths. All groups are free of charge and run 4:00 - 5:00 PM.



Spring 2020 Groups now available!

Kindergarten/1st Grade

- Tuesdays, March 17th - May 12th - Hanlon Elementary School
- Thurs., February 27th - April 16th - Islington Community Center

2nd/3rd Grade

- Wednesday, Feb. 26th - April 15th, Islington Community Center

Contact: Emily Greco, LCSW

781-320-1006 or egreco@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Register online at:

<http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/yfs/default.htm>