

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.

Issue 16 - Apr. 26, 2019

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



Important Dates

Mon. & Tue., Apr. 29 & 30	Gr. 5 ELA MCAS
Wed., May 1	Student Council 8AM
Wed. & Thu., May 1 & 2	Gr. 4 ELA MCAS
Fri., May 3	PMC Presentation - lunchtime
Tue., May 7	Grade 5 Parent Night, 6:30PM, TMS
Wed., May 8	Early release: 11:50am
Thu. & Fri., May 9 & 10	Gr. 5 Math MCAS
Thu., May 9	Gr. 4 & 5 Band Concert - 7PM, WHS
Fri., May 10	Gr 3 - Body Safety Theater
Mon. & Tue., May 13 & 14	Gr. 4 Math MCAS
Tue., May 14	PTO Meeting, 7PM, MJ Library
Wed., May 15	Gr., 1 Enrichment (Aquarium Visit);
Wed. & Thu., May 15 & 16	Grade 3 Math MCAS
Wed., May 16	K Enrichment (Curious Creatures School Committee 7:00 PM WHS Small Auditorium
Mon. & Tue., May 20 & 21	Gr. 5 Science/Technology MCAS
Tues., May 22	Early release: 11:50

Message from the Principal



Each year, the Martha Jones School holds a STEM Fair along with the Art Show. Students work individually or in groups of two or three to put together science fair projects, engineering exhibits, and other innovative experiments. This is a fun way for students to engage in hands-on learning outside of school and present what they've learned to classmates. I'm sure you remember how fun your science fairs were growing up. This year the fair is later than usual and registrations have been slow, but we hope you will encourage your child and his/her friends to participate. For those of you who remember last year, you might recall that the cafe was crowded and it was hard to get around to see the exhibits. This year we will open up the entire cafe and gym space, so no worries about being hot and crowded. We learned our lesson :).

Registration is now open for the Martha Jones S.T.E.A.M. Event (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) S.T.E.M. Fair and Art Show

Event Date: THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019, 6:30-7:45p

Register by May 3RD [Registration link here](#)

You do not need to be a scientist to help your child with his/her project. There is lots of information on our STEM fair site linked below. Look at previous year project titles, check out tips and suggestions, and get some great ideas.

Link: <https://sites.google.com/site/mjsstemfair/home>.

Registration: [Registration link here](#)

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

MJ & District News

Last Call - Class Placement - In May, teachers, special educators, specialists, the school psychologist, and I will begin the process of class placement for the 2019-2020 school year. We review information about each child's academic, social, and personal characteristics and use that information when making placement decisions. Our primary goal is to develop well-balanced classrooms and assign each child to a classroom in which he or she can develop academically and socially. I am confident that all of our teachers provide students with wonderful learning opportunities. If you have specific information about your child's learning needs that you would like us to consider during the process, please email me that information **by April 30th**. Only information provided to me, in writing, will be considered. Conversations with teachers during conferences, requests from previous years, and information from prior conversations are difficult to keep track of and not considered in the placement process. Please note that letters and emails are not kept from previous years since children change and grow and we make decisions based on current information. I will copy all letters and emails I receive and distribute them to the placement team members for consideration. If you are the parent of multiples (twins, triplets, etc.), you may specify whether you want your children placed in the same class or different classes. Please don't assume we know this information, if you have a preference for together or separate for your twin/triplet placement, let us know. **Westwood Public Schools does not allow parents to request their children's teachers; therefore, requests for specific teachers will not be accepted or considered. Specific requests to have a teacher will not be honored and will result in your child not being placed in the requested class.** Sometimes, parents assume that if one of their children had a teacher, the other child will automatically have that same teacher. This is not true. Previous family placements are not considered in the placement process. All class placements are final. Please contact me if you have any questions about the process.



Westwood Public Schools is Rocking [The Stock Market Game](#): Six of our students have been invited to Fidelity in Boston to celebrate their success as the top winners in the *Stock Market Game*! All of our 5th grade students participate in the *Stock Market Game*, investing a hypothetical \$100,000 in stocks and funds to build a virtual portfolio. The students participate under the supervision of teachers Mr. Goguen, Mr. Bartlett Ms. Reed, and Mr. Parkhurst.

The *Stock Market Game* is funded by SIFMA (Securities Industries and Financial Markets Association) and allows all students to participate at no cost. This is a competitive statewide contest and each year our students do amazingly well. Studying current events, previous stock performance, and past stock winners and losers to pick the perfect stocks have allowed our students to be successful each year that we have participated. This is an exciting time for the student winners (and teachers). I will share pictures of the event and our winning banner after our May 30th trip into Boston. Check out previous banners hanging in the cafe.



FOUNDATION

Martha Jones (3 winning teams)

First place - fall 2018 : Ms. Reed (Dylan Kaplan & Jacob Daly)

Second place - fall 2018 : Ms. Reed (Delia Bride & Josie Stewart)

First place - spring 2019 : Mr. Parkhurst (Elle Jonic & Tav Lodovico)

NOTE: CHANGE IN PTO MEETING DATE - New Date - May 14th HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

The PTO will meet on May 14th at 7PM. The meeting was changed to accommodate 5th grade parents who will be attending the Grade 5 parent night at Thurston Middle School on Tuesday, May 7th starting at 6:30 at Thurston Middle School.

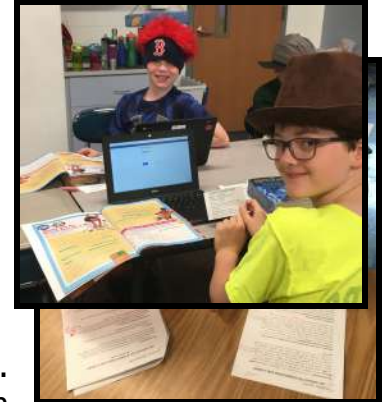
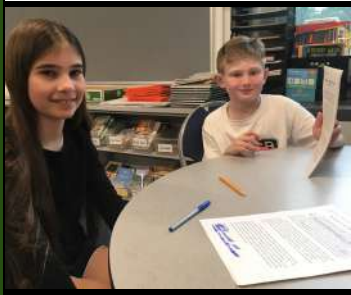
Classroom Happenings

News from 40 (Ms. O'Toole) 4-0 Goes Screen-Free



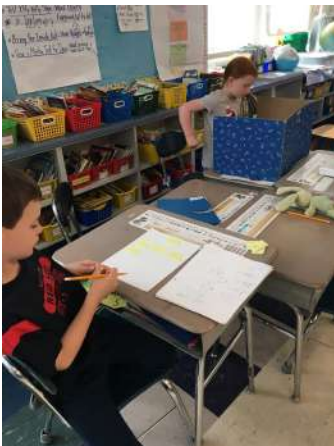
Thanks to our Storyworks magazine, my 4-0 Writers and I learned that next week, the week of April 29th, is **Screen-Free Week**. Students were asked to take a side on the debate posed in the question: ***Should you go screen-free for a week?*** Seldom do I tell my students which side of a debate to take, but in this assignment I did!

The first thing we did was to brainstorm a number of screens we use in and out of school. Our list was impressive! We then thought about what we could do instead of screen time. 4-0 writers shared the negative effects of too much screen time: loss of sleep, lack of exercise, weight gain, too much "alone" time, less face time in real time, loss of social skills, problems with eyesight, loss of attention, less family time, less reading time, and a person can lose his/her own creativity and "smartness." After this discussion, 4-0 Writers wrote persuasive essays to convince their readers to go screen-free next week. 4-0 writers developed at least three reasons why less screen time is important. Writing partners helped each other elaborate on each reason, adding more supporting details, personal experiences and descriptions.

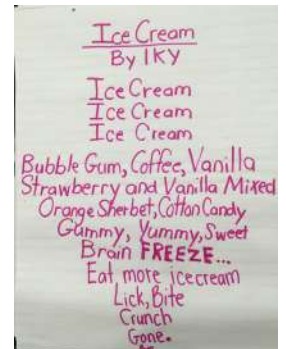


Next week, 4-0 cannot be totally screen-free in class, but we plan to limit our screen time. We hope **Izzy's essay** and this Leaps and Bounds entry persuade you to do the same! Have a great screen-free week next week!

News from 1K (Mrs. Kyvelos)



April is National Poetry Month! First Graders have been busy reading, noticing, and enjoying poems together. They have been learning that poems can have rhythm and rhyme. Poems can have repetition and

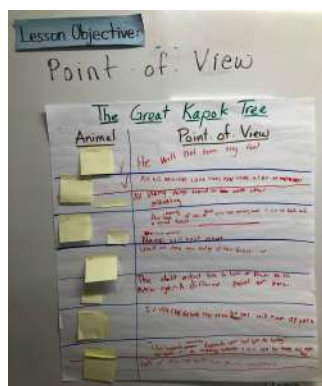


shape. Poems can tell a story and use sound words. Poems can include feelings and even use made-up words. Poems can fulfill wishes and take us to pretend worlds (flying cats!). After spending time working with poems, the first graders wrote a class poem together and are currently working on

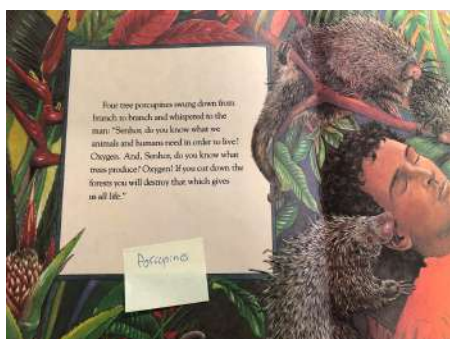
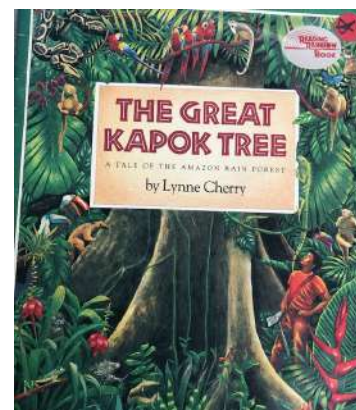
their own original poetry. Poetry has been a fun way to take a break from the conventions of narrative and informational writing, while recognizing the power that poetry can pack into a small and thoughtful package, all the while fine-tuning word-study and fluency skills. Happy National Poetry Month from 1K.



News from Ms. Eaton



In celebration of Earth Day, students worked on the concept of "point of view" in the Learning Center. Students in grades three and four read **The Great Kapok Tree** and were tasked to discuss the different points of view of the animals impacted by the humans who have entered the rainforest in order to cut down the kapok tree-a tree on which the animals depend. After ascertaining the main idea of the story, the students worked to identify and organize relevant, supporting details into a chart for reference and then worked together to develop a cohesive essay given the writing prompt, *"Using the points of view of different animals, discuss why they do not want the kapok tree cut down."* The students took turns verbalizing their written notes into full, grammatically correct sentences and practiced the skills of incorporating transitional words/phrases, using direct quotations as evidence to support the main idea and elaborating to explain.



News from PE (Mr. Foley)

What's Happening in Physical Education

Over the past several weeks the Martha Jones students have been participating in an educational gymnastics unit. The children spent the first few weeks working on a variety of floor skills in the areas of: traveling, balancing and rolling. The second part of the unit focused on the gymnastics equipment structure.



Gymnastic activities are a very important part of every child's experience in physical education and make a significant contribution to the goals of the curriculum. Gymnastics encompasses a variety of components such as rolling, balancing, weight transfer and traveling on different body parts and equipment.



Participating in gymnastic activities teaches and promotes important physical values. These activities help develop muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, coordination, as well as gross motor development and body control. The physical demands of holding balances, rolling, and traveling contribute to the development of overall physical fitness.

There are a few pictures below featuring some of our talented MJ gymnasts. I hope you enjoy them!



PTO News

May PTO Meeting-DATE CHANGE

Our May PTO meeting will be held on May 14 at 7 pm, instead of May 7.

We made the change so the PTO meeting does not conflict with Thurston Middle School's incoming student information night.

SAVE THE DATE 5/31/19 for FIELD DAY 2019!!!!

Field day will be held on Friday, May 31st this year with a rain date of June 7th. Please mark your calendars and save the date because we would LOVE to have lots of volunteers again this year.

We will be switching it up a little this year and the 3rd-5th graders will take part in the morning session with K-2 participating in the afternoon.

Sign-ups for volunteers will begin the 1st week of May so watch for the link to sign up as well as a paper form that will be sent home with students if you prefer. Can't wait to see you all there and have some fun!!

ATTENTION PTO COMMITTEE MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS

If you are requesting a reimbursement for an expense incurred during a PTO event or fundraiser, you will need to fill out a form for the PTO board, and it must include your receipt. All requests MUST be received by June 15th.

[Click here for the reimbursement form](#)

MJ PTO BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

We will be electing an incoming treasurer to shadow for the 2019/2020 school year and take over for the following year. If you'd like to run for the MJ PTO treasurer, please let us know!

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 Erica Howe at erica.gregg.howe@gmail.com.

WPS 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 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, 1346 或电子邮件您的要求 lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us 谢谢你。
أو على البريد الإلكتروني الخاص بك ext. 1346 إذا بحاجة إلى هذه الوثيقة المترجمة ، يرجى الاتصال على إدارة المدارس العامة ويستوود 'الخدمات الطلابية في 7500-326 781
lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us لطلب كنتشكر لك.

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.

Westwood's Bring Your Own Bag Month



All ages are welcome to join us for this fun family project that raises awareness about pollution from plastic bags and the harm they can cause to wildlife, like sea turtles, when they end up in our oceans.

We will hear a short presentation by Claudia Paraschiv, a Salem-based artist who created Tidal Shift, and then we will turn discarded plastic bags into "jellyfish" that will be hung in a display at the library. Please bring any plastic bags that you have at home.

May 11 @ 2:00-4:00 PM
Westwood Public Library



TidalShift illustrates marine wildlife mistaking plastic bags for food, especially sea turtles hunting jellyfish.

WEAC and the Westwood Select Board have designated May as Westwood's official "Bring Your Own Bag Month. Say "no" to single-use plastic and paper bags, bring reusable bags instead when you shop. It's a simple way to save trees and keep plastics out of the oceans!