

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 5 - Nov. 9, 2018



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

Important Dates

Mon., Nov. 12	Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL
Wed., Nov. 14	Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am. Parent/Teacher Conferences as scheduled
Thu., Nov. 15	Parent Teacher Conferences / Evening (as scheduled)
Wed., Nov. 20	12:00 Dismissal for Thanksgiving Break
Mon., Nov. 26	In-service - NO SCHOOL
Thu., Nov. 29	Gr 3 Enrichment Program: David Coffin Recorder
Fri., Nov. 30	Math League, 7:45AM
Tue., Dec. 4	PTO Meeting 7pm
Wed., Dec. 5	Student Council 8AM Early release: Dismissal at 11:50am.
Fri., Dec. 7	Math League, 7:45AM
Thu., Dec. 13	School Committee Meeting, 7:00PM, WHS
Fri., Dec. 14	Math League, 7:45AM Winter Concert, 9:30AM 5th Grade Play, 6:30PM

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

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:
Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

Message from the Principal

Parent/Teacher Conferences - Conferences are under way.



It is great to see so many parents in the building, partnering with us to ensure each and every child's success. We are fortunate in Westwood to be able to provide students with engaging lessons, a wide variety of curriculum materials, and highly

qualified teachers. When students do face challenges and areas for growth, we are able to provide the supports and interventions needed to keep them moving along the path to success. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Westwood Public Schools, and specifically - Martha Jones School.

Electronic Gadgets - There are more and more electronic gadgets out there that record voices and take pictures and videos. This includes many watches and other jewelry being marketed to children. If your child does have a smart watch or other device that can record, video, or take photos, please remind your child that they are not allowed to take pictures, videos, or record others at school or on the way to and from school (including on the school bus).



It is critical that we are vigilant about each child's privacy. Even if other students agree to allow their picture to be taken, we do not allow students to take photos, videos, and recording of each other on personal devices. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

On another note about electronics - some students have caught on that they can ask "Alexa" for answers to their homework questions. You might want to keep an eye out for that :).

MJ & District News



Thanksgiving Break - Please note that on Wednesday, November 21st Martha Jones students will be dismissed at 12:00 Noon (instead of 11:50 - NO LUNCH SERVED) to begin the Thanksgiving break. There is no school for students on Monday, November 26th. This is a professional development day for teachers. Student return on Tuesday, November 27th.

Pirates of Grammar Island - All students and families are welcome to join us on Friday, December 14th for the **5th Grade Play**. **The show begins at 6:30PM.** The 5th grade parents will be holding a bake sale that evening to raise money for the 5th grade scholarship (so bring lots of \$1. Bills :).



Candy Drive - Martha Jones School gave over 200 lbs of candy to the troops this year! We blew past our record of 152 lbs. last year. Our students and families show their generosity in so many ways, THANK YOU. I would also like to recognize the Wellesley Dental Group for collecting the candy and making sure it gets shipped to our troops. It is a very kind gesture as we think about all those who have served and who are currently service this Veterans Day.

Halloween Thanks!

The Halloween Party and Haunted Hallway were a huge success again this year. It is obviously one of the students' favorite nights of the year. Please know that I recognize how many people it takes to come to together to pull off such a wonderful event for our kids. A huge "THANK YOU" to the PTO, the coordinators and everyone who helped out. If you didn't get a chance see The Wake Up Call on Channel 5 on Halloween, check it out. It is from Martha Jones parents who helped in the Haunted Hallway:

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/wake-up-call-from-martha-jones-elementary-school/24468748>



Classroom Happenings

News from 5R (Ms. Reed)



Students in 5R are learning about the Age of Exploration: who explored, why did they explore, and where did they go? We started our unit by practicing a new way to gather and share information- a jigsaw! In pairs, students read two pages from our study text, *Discovery of the Americas*, and summarized the main idea in one or two sentences. Then, they gathered in bigger groups to share what they learned as the expert on their section, fitting all of their ideas together like a jigsaw puzzle. We learned how a land bridge was used to connect Asia and North America, and that the first humans crossed it over 20,000 years ago! Next up in the unit we will be posting a series of

blog posts from the perspective of an explorer, imagining what first person accounts of those journeys would have been like, so stay tuned!

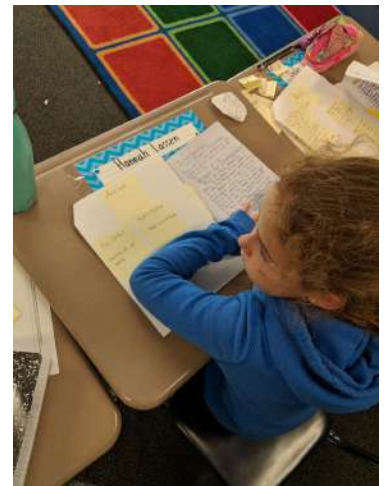
News from Literacy (Ms. Child)

Over the past several weeks I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Reed and

her students during writing workshop. Specifically, the students were working on a unit of study in narrative craft. This unit has lofty goals for writers and our fifth grade students rose to the challenge! Writers were encouraged to be the boss of their own writing, reviewing options and making daily decisions on ways they can raise the level of their writing. First, writers did some soul searching, choosing topics that had great personal significance to them- the first step in writing a very powerful story. Next, they drew on everything they knew about writing, including using mentor texts. Students had

many opportunities to turn to the pros, asking, "What has that author done that I could also try?" Writers rehearsed their stories orally with a partner, to practice their storytelling abilities. They put themselves "inside the shoes" of their characters (their characters are themselves!) and made a mental movie, remembering details of special moments and times. The writing skills and strategies learned will be used again and again. Ms. Reed and I were thrilled with their progress! These

students are well on their way to becoming strong writers!



News from Music (Mrs. Saada-Smith)



Mrs. Saada-Smith was fortunate to have had a wonderful student teacher in music class for the first seven weeks of school this year. Ms. Fitzgerald is a student at Bridgewater State who will soon become a music teacher herself! Many students in grades K-5 had the chance to work with Ms. Fitzgerald before she moved on to her next student teaching assignment. Below are



some highlights of Ms. Fitzgerald working with some of the students at Martha

Jones School: **Kindergarteners** keeping the steady beat and playing xylophones for the first time, **1st Graders** playing barred instruments, **3rd Graders** learning a fun Halloween song, **4th Graders** playing instruments along with the Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra, and **5th Graders** working on their Danse Macabre projects.

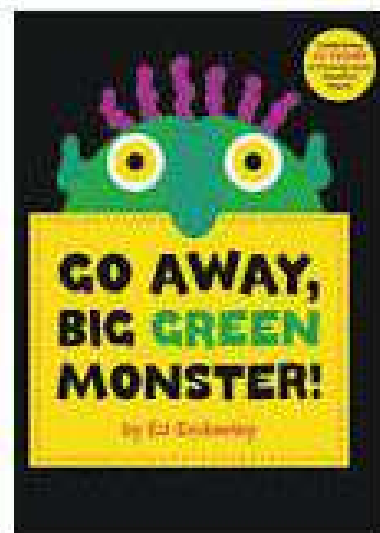


News from 3M (Ms. MacDonald)



In Reader's Workshop, 3M has been working on the reading strategy envisioning to help us visualize the events in our stories. We have been finding descriptive parts in our books and drawing pictures that the words create. With our Kindergarten reading buddies we read a book Go Away Big Green Monster by Ed Emberley. Then we drew pictures of our own monsters

and wrote paragraphs describing our pictures. We read our paragraphs to the class and they were so descriptive that everyone knew which monster it was describing!



PTO News

WESTWOOD GEAR:

Westwood themed gear is on sale now through the MJ PTO!

[Click here](#) to see some of the products available. Some of the new items for 2018 include Under Armour Backpacks, reversible headbands, and blankets.

The deadline has been extended! All [order forms](#) and checks are due back to school by Tuesday, November 13th. Make checks out to the MJ PTO, and be sure to label your envelope "WW Gear".

Items are expected to arrive around the first week of December, and items can be sent home with your child or picked up in the office (if it's a gift, or if you don't want your child to carry it home). Any questions regarding sizing, etc. should be directed to Mindy Xavier at mindysuex@yahoo.com

ORIGINAL WORKS FUNDRAISER:

We are pleased to announce that we will be running the Original Works Fundraiser again this year.

Students have completed their art masterpieces, and the final artwork and online ordering instructions will be sent home on Wednesday, November 14th!

Original Works is an art program that ties directly into Mrs. Pasquan's Art Curriculum at Martha Jones, designed to encourage creativity and student self-esteem. The pride and excitement that our students get from seeing their artwork transformed into special keepsakes is truly wonderful. Whether it's something you treasure for years to come, or give as a unique and special gift, Original Works products are fun and practical for any season or occasion—and they make GREAT holiday gifts for your entire family!

Proceeds from the fundraiser come directly back to Martha Jones and fund our PTO sponsored programs. Last year our profits raised over \$2000, and we are hoping we can meet or rise above that this year!

Please check out our display case in the Martha Jones school entrance where you can see samples of the products that you can order (new items too). For more information about the Original Works program, please

visit www.originalworks.com, or contact Nancy Blessing at nancynap@yahoo.com or Portia Hennessy at portia.hennessy@gmail.com.

2019 MARTHA JONES PARENT SOCIAL: *Save the Date*

Please save the date for this year's MJ Parent Social! The party will be held Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 7:30 pm to 11:30 pm. at The German Club is on the Westwood/Walpole line. There will be a DJ, cash-bar, silent auction and teacher experience auction. This is a kid-free event, so book your sitters now!

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.

Martha Jones PTO

Benefit Night

November 20th, 2018 4:30-8:00pm

BAMBOO

FINE ASIAN CUISINE & SUSHI

55 Ariadne Road

Dedham, MA

781-251-2566

For Menu and Directions visit:

www.bamboogourmet.com

Enjoy a wonderful dinner and help
support the
Martha Jones Elementary
School.

Mention this fundraiser and 20% of
all sales will be donated to the PTO.

*** Includes Take Out ***

