

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 11 - Feb. 5, 2021



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

Important Dates

Date	Event
Thu., Feb 11th	School Committee Meeting 7PM
Mon - Fri., Feb. 15 - 19	February Vacation Week NO SCHOOL

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 Chinese New Year - To those of you celebrating the New Year, I hope you have a wonderful holiday as you head into the Year of the Ox. The second animal of the Chinese zodiac, the **ox** denotes the hard work, positivity and honesty that will be manifested in all of us in the coming 12 months, according to astrologers.

If you celebrate the Chinese New Year and would like to share information about the holiday and/or your family traditions around the new year, I know the teachers and students would love to learn more about it. You can reach out to your child's teacher (or me) to do a zoom presentation in class if you are interested.



MCAS - This year the students in grades 3, 4 & 5 will participate in MCAS. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is requiring MCAS to be administer this year, but have reduced the number of sessions from 2 sessions each of ELA and Math to 1 session of ELA and Math in grades 3, 4, & 5 and from 2 sessions of Science to 1 session of Science in grade 5.

The sessions will be conducted at the end of April through the middle of May. Once we finalize the exact schedule and the plan for administering the test remotely to our at home students, I will communicate that information out.



WPS Proposed FY '22 Budget - Some of you may have attended last week's School Committee Budget meeting where Supt. Parks presented the proposed FY '22 Budget. The [FY '22 Budget Executive Summary](#) is linked here for your convenience. Additional budget information can be found on the Westwood Public Schools District Website (under the District tab).

MJ Girls Scouts Support Our Health Care Workers



Westwood Girl Scouts have been collecting "cookie share" donations for the healthcare

heroes at Beth Israel in Needham. Our fifth grade Girl Scouts visited the hospital last week and made our first delivery. The donations are ongoing and we plan to do more. Mrs. Orsillo, one of our MJ parents, is a nurse at BI and she helped us make this happen.



Masks - Thank you for continuing to encourage your children to wear their masks (reminder, they must be at least two layered masks), wash their hands, and remain physically distanced when in school. When purchasing masks, **please be sure the mask fits over your child's nose and under chin and stays in place.** It is frustrating for students when their masks constantly slip down and they are receiving



numerous reminders to pull their masks up. Sometimes if the mask is too big, it is helpful to tie the ear loops to tighten them up and some children's masks are just too small for some of our students. We realize finding the right mask, that fits well, is challenging and appreciate your support in making sure the masks are doing the job of keeping your child and other children safe.

Valentine's Day - Just a reminder that students will not be allowed to hand out Valentine's Day cards this year. I know students look forward to this each year, but we are working to avoid having students share paper and access any items that are touched by multiple people. Thank you.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Martha Jones students continue to learn new things, have fun with teachers and classmates, and look forward to the second half of the school year.

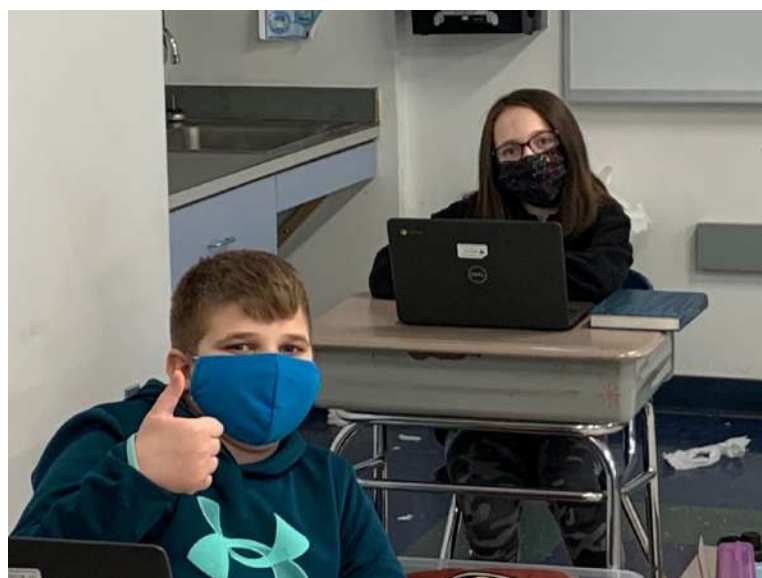
Our kindergarten students take a break from their reading, writing, and math lessons to engage in some creative fun. Whether it is making up a rolling game with friends, building with blocks and legos, or painting at the easel with a friend, our teachers are working hard to ensure that students continue to enjoy the routines of kindergarten.



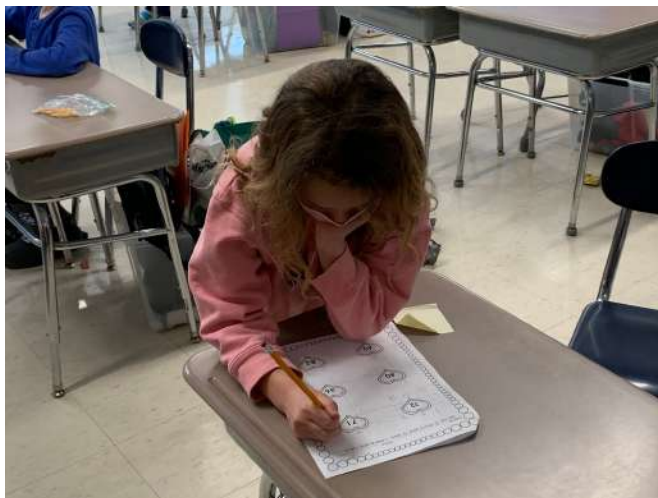
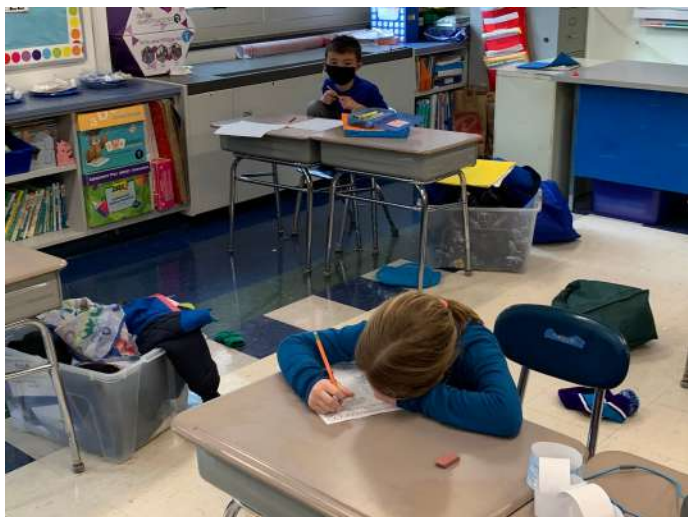
Cleaning up after ourselves is an important aspect of keeping our school neat or organized. Mrs. Sullivan-Hall's art students wipe down their tables after their watercolor lesson to make sure the room is ready for the next round of students.



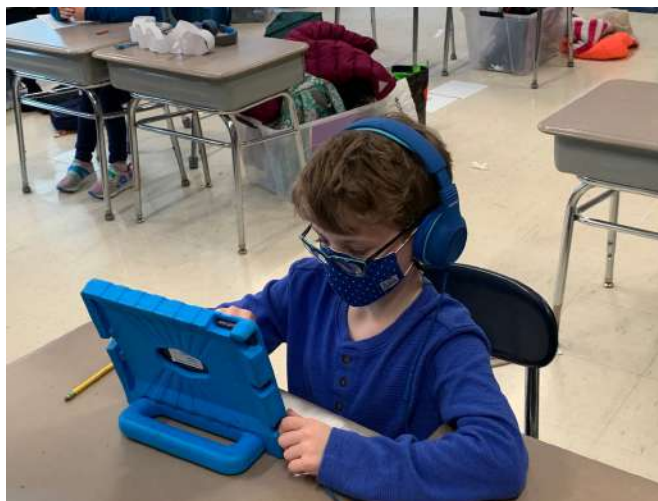
Ms. Bass' fourth grade students give a thumbs up to today's lesson. Our 4th and 5th grade teachers are teaching students in person and on-line simultaneously, not an easy feat for sure.



In First Grade students are learning to write all about their weekends and also teaching each other about some of their favorite activities in "How To" books.



First Graders are learning math concepts and different shapes through attribute blocks and play math games on the Ipad.



This week, our 3rd grade students got a special treat. Mrs. Swinning visited Ms. LeBlanc's class via zoom and taught them about being savvy media consumers by sharing the 1938 Alien Invasion Radio Broadcast story that fooled many people into believing that Martiens had invaded New Jersey. The students had fun drawing their own Aliens.



Also in Grade 3, our students whose classroom is now in the library to accommodate physical distancing guidelines, get a lesson from our Math Coordinator and part-time classroom teacher this year, Mrs. Size.



In Grade 5, students in Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Parkhurst's classes are learning about States of Matter in Science.



THANK YOU TEACHERS!

This February the PTO joins the Martha Jones community in showing our appreciation for our teachers via handwritten notes and cards from the students. Stay tuned for more information coming from your room parents.

MABEL'S LABELS



Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and enter "Martha Jones PTO" as the fundraiser you would like to support. By purchasing **any** of the labels via our fundraiser, you will receive free shipping (labels are mailed directly to your address) and the PTO will receive 20% of your purchase.

ELECTRONIC BOX TOPS - COLLECTION ONGOING

Download the Box Top App and scan receipts within 14 days of purchase. Click [here](#) for more information about how to download the Box Top app and scan your receipts. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for our school.

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You will find the exact same prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Martha Jones PTO.

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 Amy Amatangelo at amyamatangelo@yahoo.com.

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