

Growing by... & Leaps & Bounds

Martha Jones School - Westwood, Mass.
Issue 4 - Oct. 15, 2021



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

Important Dates

Mon. Oct. 18	Special Town Meeting - Elementary Building Project 5PM - Flahive Field
Wed. Oct. 20	Early Release 11:50AM
Tues, Oct 26	Special Town Election to Vote for the Debt Exclusion to Fund the Building Project Polls open: 7:00am to 8:00pm
Tue. Nov. 2	Picture ReTake Day
Wed. Nov. 3	Early Release 11:50AM ----- Evening Conferences
Thu. Nov. 11	NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day

Martha Jones School Telephone Extensions:

Office 781-326-7500, ext. 6321

ext. 6261: [Diane Santangelo](#)

ext. 6262: [Donna Tobin](#)

ext. 6263: [JoEllen Doyle](#)

We want to make sure that all Martha Jones families are aware of the upcoming Special Town Meeting on **October 18** and Special Town Election on **October 26**.

The only topic and vote being addressed at both the Town Meeting and Town Election is the Elementary Schools Building Project. If you are not familiar with this project, we encourage you to learn more at:

<https://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/superintendents-office/elementary-building-project.cfm>

Message from the Principal

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful New England Fall weekend. The weather has been most cooperative with us getting outside throughout each day.



I want to thank everyone for their kind words and recognition of the Martha Jones School being ranked #1 in Massachusetts by US News and World Report. It is quite an honor.

On Tuesday evening we had our first PTO meeting of the new school year. It was lovely to see so many of you in attendance, via zoom. Having an active parent community is part of what makes Martha Jones so great.

We will be holding parent/teacher conferences on November 3rd and November 17th. Conferences will be held after student dismissal at 11:50 on both dates and during the evening on Nov. 3rd. You have the option of attending the conference in person or virtually. If your child's teacher has not reached out regarding a conference time yet, he/she will be doing so soon.

As part of our November conference period, you will also receive a status report which provides information on your child's work habits, effort, and interactions with others. You will receive your child's status report two days prior to your conferences so that you can discuss any questions you may have at the conference.



Classroom Happenings

News from 5P (Mr. Parkhurst)

Students in Mr. Parkhurst's class are in the midst of a StemScopes space science unit. As part of this unit, students learned how the rotation of the earth causes day and night. This rotation also makes it seem as if the sun is moving across the sky throughout the day. Students learned that our ancestors would use a sundial, the apparent moving of the sun, and shadows to tell time.

To observe this in action, students created their own sundials made out of paper, clay, and a straw. On a sunny Thursday, we ventured outside multiple times throughout the day to track the length of the shadows on our sundials and the directions the shadows were cast. Students analyzed the data and observed how at the beginning of the day the shadows were the longest and in the middle of the day the shadows were the shortest. They had great discussions about why this occurred. Soon, we will be studying moon phases, constellations, and the seasons.



News from 2H (Ms. Hartwell) In the classroom, reading aloud a story is a shared experience. Read alouds are a wonderful way to engage and teach children. Tracking a story over time, use of memory,

listening to the reader's voice, discussing, inferring, and predicting are a few of the skills practiced by a child during a read aloud. A week ago the second graders finished listening to their first read aloud "Gooney Bird Greene" by Lois Lowry. This is an amusing and popular favorite among second graders. As a grade level, we decided to showcase and celebrate our unique selves and our story telling by having a "Gooney Bird Greene Day". The children are inspired by "Gooney Bird Greene" to tell stories and put their "absolutely true" stories on paper. "Gooney Bird Greene" day has become a yearly tradition and is celebrated every year in each second grade classroom.



News from 1N (Ms. Nestor)

After spending much of the beginning of the year learning about what it means to be a scientist, first-grade scientists have started learning about seasonal patterns. Currently, we are focused on how the seasons are related to the length of daylight. In 1N, we looked at the total hours of daylight in Boston over a year. Students worked in groups to help create a class chart showing hours of daylight by month, and based on our observations, we were able to come to a conclusion about which season has the most daylight and which season has the least daylight. The students loved

creating a class chart and are very proud to see it hanging in our classroom! As we continue our adventures in science, we will be looking more deeply into weather and shadows.

News from Ms. Mulhern

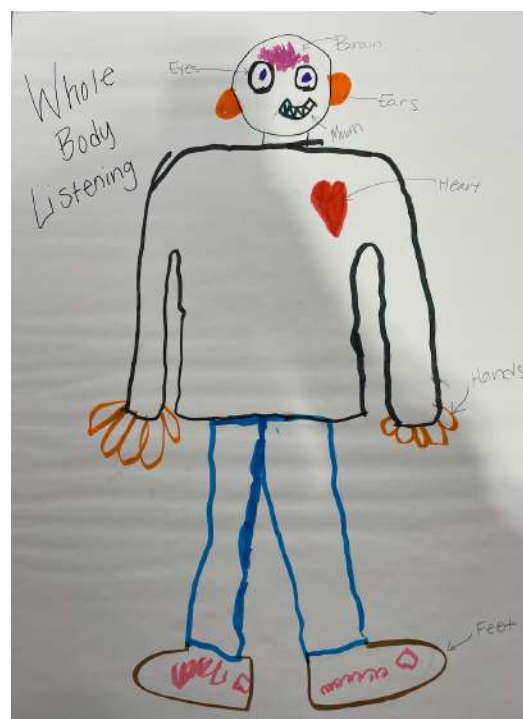
Whole Body Listening is defined as:



In the upstairs Learning Center we have been reading and learning about "Whole Body Listening". We have read the at home and at school version. Students have learned that when listening to others we need to listen with our entire body.

Students that require additional support have the visual reminder taped to their desk. My first graders created this life size "Listening Larry" to display in the classroom.

More resources are available at <https://www.socialthinking.com/>



PTO News

From the 9/14/21 Update

SAVE THE DATE: TOWN MEETING AND TOWN ELECTION FOR THE WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BUILDING PROJECT

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October 18: Special Town Meeting to consider the Hanlon-Deerfield Article

- Location: Outside at Flahive Field at Westwood High School, 200 Nahatan Street
- Time: 5:00pm - There will only be one article on the agenda so please arrive at the start.
- Must attend in-person to vote.
- Free babysitting will be available

October 26: Special Town Election to Vote for the Debt Exclusion to Fund the Building Project

- Polls open: 7:00am to 8:00pm
- Poll locations: Westwood Senior Center; Sheehan, Hanlon, and Downey Schools—just like any other election
- This is the only question on the ballot
- Mail-in voting will also be available
- Last day to register for the Special Town Election: October 6, 2021

Please feel free to email Suzanne Tessier at sc Tessier@gmail.com with any questions.

PTO Update 10/12/2021

1st PTO Meeting- Thanks!

Our first meeting was very well attended. Thanks so much for being a part of the community. Our next meeting is on **December 14th**. In the meantime, we'd love more volunteers on our committees. You can sign up to join a committee via Membership Toolkit: <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com>

MJ HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY: Friday October 29 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



BOO!! Save the date for the Martha Jones Haunted Halloween Costume Party! This year, the celebration will be held completely OUTSIDE at the school. A Walk-Through Haunted Lane will be set up, and your favorite scary and not-so-scary monsters will be back in action.

A DJ will get your kids moving and grooving to their favorite songs on the blacktop! Our DJ even has some fun games and contests up his spooky sleeves!

Sensory Friendly Halloween Experience: Please join us from 5:30-6:00 for more daylight, no strobe lights, fewer scary noises and quieter music. We hope these adjustments will make this event more

accessible to our whole school community.

We need **DOZENS** of parent volunteers to make this night happen. Volunteer shifts are listed by job on Membership Toolkit. Parents are needed to set up, work as party monitors/guides, clean up and DRESS up and scare the kids in the Haunted Lane. Sign up to help <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/81399>

Please feel free to bring your own snacks and water as we will not be providing it this year due to COVID safety protocols.

There is no cost to attend the Halloween Party, which is open to all MJ students, siblings and families. We do ask that in lieu of an admission ticket, each person bring a canned or dry good to donate to the Westwood Food Pantry.

WESTWOOD GEAR- now through October 23rd!



Order updated favorites and fresh, new items for the whole family. Get your holiday gift list ready, orders will be delivered in time for the holidays. Order soon- the program runs through October 23.

<https://westwoodholiday2021.itemorder.com/sale>

THE MARTHA JONES SCHOOL DIRECTORY



Many families have already joined, but we'd love to have 100% of families join. If you haven't already, register as a new user and keep track of messages from your Room Parents, sign up for volunteer opportunities, and access the school directory this way.

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/>

Find it in the AppStore under "Membership Toolkit" for use on your phone

If you have any questions or problems accessing the AtoZ program, please email Mary Jason (maryjason06@gmail.com) or Amy Amatangelo (amyamatangelo@yahoo.com).

SAVE THE DATE

Volunteer for a PTO Committee



Once you have logged in and confirmed your information on AtoZ, you also will have the opportunity to volunteer for the various PTO committees that help support the school throughout the year. Please sign up at

<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/72765>

There is something for everyone!

Volunteer at MJS Library



The MJS Library is looking for help to shelve books on Tuesdays from 2-3 and Fridays from 2:30- 3:00. Only one volunteer at a time. Volunteers must have proof of vaccination and be masked. Anyone who is interested can sign up at <https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/volunteer/81759>

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT MARTHA JONES

MJS MAGNETS



Show your MJS school spirit with an MJS Magnet. Find them at the link below while supplies last
<https://mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com/store/7404>

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 Cat Sonis at catkell23@yahoo.com

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لك. [لطلب كتشكر lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us](mailto:lpouffe@westwood.k12.ma.us)

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