

GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS

MARTHA JONES SCHOOL-WESTWOOD, MA



Traditionally Memorial Day is viewed as a time of honor and remembrance of those who died while serving our country. Memorial Day, previously known as Decoration Day, became an official federal holiday in 1971. Throughout the United States it is common to visit cemeteries, particularly military ones, and decorate graves of the deceased with flowers, small flags and wreaths.



Principal's Message

Greetings Martha Jones Families!

We are starting to see a lot of May flowers!

The Character Word for May is taken from our motto: Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous. Our word, Curiosity will be defined as *having a strong desire to learn or know something. People who are curious seek answers to their questions for the sake of gaining knowledge.*

This month we recognize Cinco de Mayo, Asian and Pacific Americans Heritage Month and Memorial Day.

Today we held an All School Meeting. The meeting included information about May holidays and recognitions, and focused on the character word Curiosity. Fifth graders and our Principal of the Day participated in presenting the meeting with Mrs. Olson.

We have a lot of news to share and many upcoming events. This week students in grades 3-5 begin Math MCAS on Tuesday.

Warm regards,
Donna

Donna Olson
Interim Principal
Martha Jones School

Our Principal of the Day Really Dressed the Part!



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) is an annual celebration that recognizes the historical and cultural contributions of individuals and groups of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to the United States. The AAPI umbrella term includes [cultures](#) from the entire Asian continent—including East, Southeast and South Asia—and the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. As of 2019, there were about [22.9 million people](#) of Asian or Pacific Islander descent in the United States. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), AAPI people are a diverse and growing population that make up about 7 percent of the total U.S. population. AAPI Heritage Month 2022 will take place from Sunday, May 1 to Tuesday, May 31.



CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's May 5, 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. The day, which falls on Friday, May 5 in 2023, is also known as Battle of Puebla Day. While it is a relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

MCAS CALENDAR

WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elementary MCAS Schedule 2023

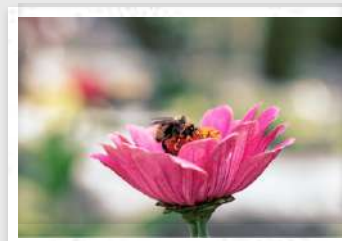
ELA: March 27 - April 28 (2 sessions, grades 3, 4 & 5)

Math: April 24 - May 26 (2 sessions, grades 3, 4 & 5)

STE: April 25 - May 26 (2 sessions, grade 5)

MON. 3/27	TUE. 3/28	WED. 3/29	THU. 3/30	FRI. 3/31
			MJ ELA 3-5	MJ ELA 3-5
MON. 4/3	TUE. 4/4	WED. 4/5	THU. 4/6	FRI. 4/7
MJ ELA Make-up	MJ ELA Make-up			Good Friday (No School)
MON. 4/10	TUE. 4/11	WED. 4/12	THU. 4/13	FRI. 4/14
		Early Release		
MON. 4/17	TUE. 4/18	WED. 4/19	THU. 4/20	FRI. 4/21
School Vacation Week Passover ends 4/23				
MON. 4/24	TUE. 4/25	WED. 4/26	THU. 4/27	FRI. 4/28
		Early Release		
MON. 5/1	TUE. 5/2	WED. 5/3	THU. 5/4	FRI. 5/5
MON. 5/8	TUE. 5/9	WED. 5/10	THU. 5/11	FRI. 5/12
	MJ Math 3-5	Early Release	MJ Math 3-5	MJ Math Make-Up
MON. 5/15	TUE. 5/16	WED. 5/17	THU. 5/18	FRI. 5/19
MJ Math Make-up		MJ STE Gr 5	MJ STE Gr 5	
MON. 5/22	TUE. 5/23	WED. 5/24	THU. 5/25	FRI. 5/26
MJ STE Make-up	MJ STE Make-up	Early Release		

LEARNING ABOUT SPRING



COMING UP!

IMPORTANT DATES

May 5 - All School Meeting 2:20 (Staff/students); PTO Movie Night

May 8-12 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 9 & 11 MCAS Math 3-5

May 10 Early Release Day

May 15- Welcoming Schools 6:00pm Zoom

May 16 - Gr 3 Enrichment - Engineering and Design

May 17 Gr 3 Recorder Concert combined practice in the cafeteria/stage 2:30-3:00

May 17 & 18 MCAS Science Gr 5

May 18 Grade 4 FieldTrip - Plimouth Plantations

May 18 Gr 1 & 2 Enrichment - Helen Keller; Gr 3 Lane Fisher School Visit 8:50-11:10AM

May 21 Gr 3 Recorder Concert with parents invited 2:15-2:45

May 23 Body Safety Theater Grade 3 - 9-9:45AM; Kindergarten Parent Night 6:30PM

May 24 Early Release Day; Kindergarten Open House

May 25 or June 1 TBD STEM Fair 6:00-7:30 PM

May 26 3 Luskin Fisher School Visit 8:50-11:10AM; **Spirit Day - Red, White and Blue Day**

May 31 Gr 3 Recorder Concert 2:15; Gr 2 Enrichment Animal Adaptations; Gr 4 Enrichment - Sound Waves; Grade 5 Parent Night at Thurston Middle School 6:00PM

June 1 Grade 3 FieldTrip - Plimouth Plantations

June 2 Field Day; rain date June 9th

June 5 & 8 Grade 5 Water Conservation Program

June 6 Gr 5 Hale Reservation Field Trip

June 7 Early Release Day; Grade 5 PTO Activity 1-3PM; All Grade 5 Band Concert WHS 5:30 meeting 7:00pm concert

June 8 Grade 4 Music Concert; School Committee 7:00pm

June 12 Fire Safety Program K-5

June 13 Wheels on the Bus WHS Little Theater 6:00pm

June 14 Last All School Meeting 2:20 (Staff and Students)

June 15 Gr 5 Visit to Thurston Middle School

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

District Staff Update

Steve Cronin has been hired as the WPS Director of Safety and Security. Mr. Cronin worked with our former Director of Safety and Security, Steve Trask, before retiring from the Framingham Police Department. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Cronin to Westwood.

Thurston Welcome Club

The Thurston Welcome Club is hoping to draw in a few caregivers to the Welcome Club as they transition to TMS over the next few months.

Click the link to learn more:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nJKZJiKCFjuDC5kj5ub30fFkhJ3caJCEOyPknI2qwak/edit?usp=sharing>

School Council Update

The Martha Jones School Council held their last meeting of the school year on Tuesday. Thank you to all of the School Council Members for their participation and support this year. School Council members for the 2022-2023 school year : Caregivers - Suzanne Tessier, Christina Gelsomini, Kevin Schelenski, Rebecca Lowney; Staff - Mary Mundy, Megan Brenk, and Susan Bass.

The meeting provided closure for this school year. A status update of plan goals was presented. The team discussed the return to Hale for the 5th grade, the continuation of the Coding pilot to include 4th & 5th grades (which will continue next year), a discussion of data analysis, a review of Social Emotional Learning including the pilot of Second Step and the curriculum reviews/mapping of Math and Social Studies curricula.

Suggestions from the team included

- Continue to increase opportunities for parent engagement within the school, e.g. Mystery Readers, volunteers in library and classrooms, etc.
- Increase understanding of what is happening in other districts (in terms of technology advancements, specialist offerings) to ensure MJ is competitive
- The need for new AV/Sound system for the cafeteria
- Continue to broaden mini-course offerings through outside vendors

A new School Improvement Plan will be completed next year under the direction of the new principal, Mr. Kuklantz, and the School Council.

Talent For A Cause

Mrs. McDonough would like to thank everyone who came out to support the 50 third, fourth and fifth graders who performed in the Talent For A Cause show last Friday night. Over \$1200

was raised and donated to the Westwood Community Chest.

Cards and Small Toys

Pokeman/other cards and small toys are not allowed in the lunchroom during lunchtime. If your children choose to bring cards and toys to school, please know it is at their own risk. We cannot be responsible for lost or stolen cards or toys. These issues distract and detract from the educational process. Valuable educator time cannot be spent solving such matters. Thank you for your understanding. Please review this information with your students.

Water Bottles

It is helpful for students to have their own refillable water bottle, as the days get hotter we like to keep them hydrated. Refillable water stations are available in the cafe and hallway. Please be sure to label your child's water bottle with his/her name. This is true for sweatshirts, coats, etc. The mornings are chilly, but by recess there are coats all over the playground and lost and found fills up quickly. Please label all clothing so it gets back to your child and not donated to charity.

Attire

As it gets warmer, please ensure the students wear appropriate attire to school. Flip flops, in particular, are dangerous on the stairs and are not allowed for running games or climbing the structure. If your student does wear shoes that could prove dangerous at recess, please ensure your child brings sneakers or something safer to change into at that time. We want our students to have fun and not suffer an injury.

Can children be dropped off at a different stop on the way home?

Students may only ride their assigned buses. Transporting students to an alternative, yet existing, stop on the student's same route may be granted if done so on a regular basis (example: three days per week). Requests for alternative stops should be made in writing to Scherie Ciarrocchi, Bus Coordinator and sent to Westwood Public Schools, 220 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090. **Transporting students for play dates, lessons, or other reasons is not permitted.**

See this link for frequently asked questions:

http://www.westwood.k12.ma.us/district/district_administration/business-office/bus-transportation.cfm#11

Mental Health Awareness FYI

DMH Behavioral Health Help Line

The Department of Mental Health launched a new [Behavioral Health Help Line](#) that people can call or text at 833-773-2445. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in more than 200 languages. The help line can help individuals and families navigate the behavioral health system and access treatment, including mobile crisis services. District and school leaders are asked to please share this resource with staff, families, and students, where helpful. For more information, please see the [FAQ](#). Anyone with questions or concerns about the help line can email the help line director at Mio.Tamanaha@mass.gov.

Important Preschool News

Re: Change in Enrollment Practice

Enrollment in the Westwood Integrated Preschool takes place via an annual lottery of interested families. Starting with the enrollment process for the 2023-2024 school year, the District is changing how the lottery is conducted. Specifically, new families who are enrolling in the Preschool for the fall of 2023 will no longer be guaranteed future slots for siblings. (Families who previously enrolled students in the Preschool with the expectation that siblings will be guaranteed a slot will be "grandfathered.") This change in practice reflects feedback we have received from the community and our desire to create more equitable access for all residents we serve. We understand that decisions about preschool involve many factors and want to make sure that families have this information now to assist with future planning.

Please see [WIP Enrollment and Tuition Guide](#) for more information about the Westwood Integrated Preschool.



Health Office

News from the Health Office

Spring is quickly approaching and keeping these key tips in mind can be helpful in staying healthy and safe this spring season!

Spring Allergies

Allergies are caused by the body's reaction to substances called "allergens," which trigger the immune system to react to harmless substances as though they were attacking the body.

Allergic rhinitis is an inflammation of the nasal membranes and eyes caused by certain particles in our environment (like, pollen and molds, or dust mites and animal dander).

The symptoms of allergic rhinitis

- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Itchiness of the eyes, nose and throat
- Headache and fatigue can be symptoms sometimes

How can you minimize exposure to seasonal allergy triggers?

- Wash hands and face when coming inside come from playing outside so pollen is not rubbed in eyes and nose
- Take a shower at night before bedtime to wash off any pollen
- Do not bring items from outside into the bedroom
- Keep windows in your home and car closed when possible

- Check the forecast for pollen levels, and limit outdoor activities when pollen counts are higher

For more information regarding Spring Allergies please click [here](#) to [healthy children.org](https://www.healthychildren.org)

Time for Tick Checks:

Everyone living in the New England area where ticks are common should perform nightly tick checks during the warm months. Rapid discovery and removal prevents ticks from transmitting diseases. Keep in mind that ticks are very small and love to be in warm dark places like the armpit, groin, around the ear and on the back of the neck.

Bike safety:

Wearing a helmet is one of the most important ways to stay safe on a bike!

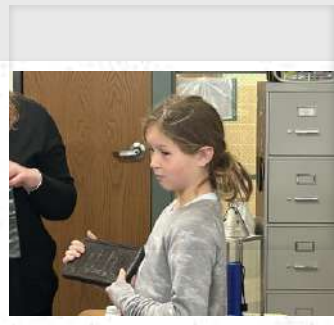
Bike riding is a great way for families to get some outdoor exercise; however, it's also a leading cause of injuries in children.



May Student Council News

This month the Student Council will be supporting our school recognition of Memorial Day. Friday, May 26th will be the next all school spirit day. It will be red, white and blue day. The Student Council will be making and hanging posters that teach about the importance of the holiday and why it is not just about cookouts and parades.

CLASSROOM NEWS



News from 3Lu (Mrs. Luskin)

Third graders took a step back into Colonial times with Historic New England to learn about Colonial life, jobs, and bartering. Students started off by learning about Samuel Pierce and his house in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Then, they had an opportunity to explore Colonial jobs and artifacts from that time and compare them to now. Next, students learned how the community relied on the services and goods of others by using the actual accounts kept by Samuel Pierce and by playing a trading game. Finally, each student received a loom with yarn

to practice weaving. This hands-on experience made Colonial life come alive. Thank you to our PTO for funding this enrichment program!



News from 1B (Ms. Brock)

In science, first graders are learning about the unique parts of plants and animals that help them survive. This week students each brought in a fruit or vegetable to dissect. Students cut their plants with plastic knives and examined them closely. We had so much fun learning more about the structures and unique parts of these plants!





News from PE (Mr. Foley)

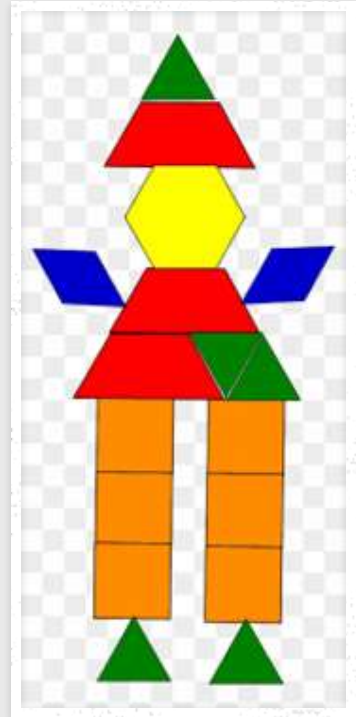
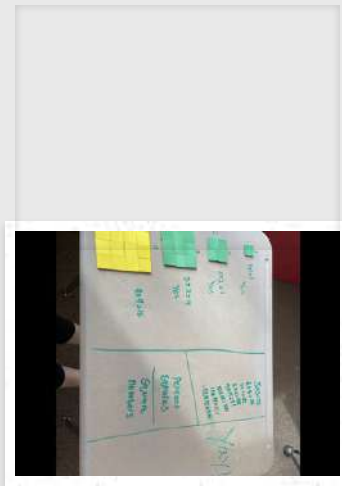
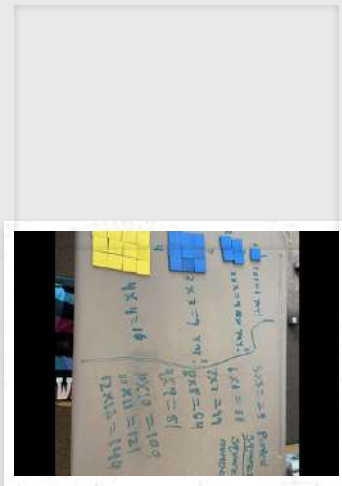
What's Happening in Physical Education

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.

Gymnastics 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.

Check out some of our MJ Gymnasts in action!



News from Ms. Eaton

In the Learning Center, the fifth grade students are working on attributes of two and three dimensional shapes. Vocabulary is an essential part of this unit including terms such as: triangle, quadrilateral, acute angle, obtuse angle, right angle, prisms, parallel, perpendicular, symmetry and perfect square. In addition, students are studying formulas for calculating perimeter, area and volume. Students are using both manipulatives and mathematical calculations to determine such measurements. They are beginning to build an understanding of the similarity and differences between square and cubic units.

Walk to School Day!

May 3rd was National Walk to School Day! Thank you to Lauren Bent for coordinating this event. We appreciate the parents/guardians and staff who volunteered to help. The students really seemed to enjoy the morning! Thank you to the Westwood Police Department for their assistance!



Noetic Math Competition

The results from the Noetic Math competition are in! While none of the MJ teams received team medals, a few students won national honor roll medals (top 10% nationally):

Congratulations to

Charlotte Brenk

Raymond Pu

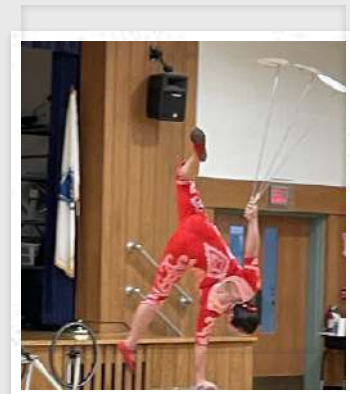
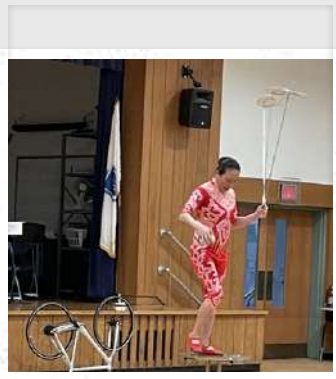
Patrick Szigety

Raymond (5th) and Patrick (4th) earned top team scorer medals along with Christine Matar from the 3rd grade team. Ten other students (11 including Christine) earned Honorable Mention ribbons for scoring in the top 50% nationally. CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!

Thank you to Galina Yatsenko and all of our parents/guardians who volunteered to support the Math League this year.

Assemblies, Assemblies

Thank you to our PTO and our enrichment Coordinators Susan Paik and Meredith Balint for planning such exceptional performances for us this year. Author Peter Reynolds was amazing and Li Lui, our Aisan acrobatic performer, was terrific also. Our students and staff really enjoyed these assemblies.



May All School Meeting

Martha Jones students enjoyed our All School Meeting. Here are a few pictures! Two of our fourth graders entertained us with a patriotic song in honor of Memorial Day.



Talent for a Cause

Talent for a Cause was a big hit! Thank you Mrs. McDonough, Mrs. Lane and Mrs. Saada-Smith for all of your hard work. Thank you to the high school students and parent volunteers. You contributed to a very successful event!



GRADE 1 SCIENCE



Grade 1 Fruit and Vegetable Dissection



Ms. Goosen and Ms. Doyle lead the work!



Our dissected vegetables and fruits!

CAREER DAY



Doctor...



Firefighter



News Anchor

PTO NEWS



MARTHA JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PTO

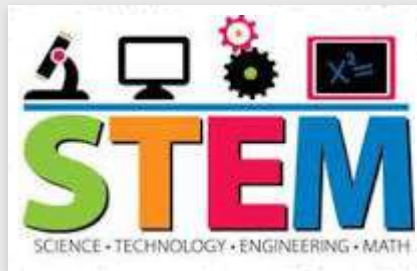
Be Kind. Be Curious. Be Courageous.



PTO MEETING ON MAY 9 AT 7:00 PM

Join us for our final meeting of the school year and to vote in the new PTO Board. We will also be sharing more information on the exciting events happening in May and June.

Please join us in-person at the **Martha Jones School Library** or virtually via Zoom; details to follow.



STEM FAIR MAY 25 OR JUNE 1 TBD

This year students will compete against their classmates as they present individually or in groups of up to three teammates. This is a great opportunity for the students to practice critical thinking and presentation skills.

In addition to the student projects and awards, we will also have experiments by Top Secret Science and the Westwood High School Robotics team will be there with their nationally recognized robots to do demonstrations. **All are welcome to attend regardless of participating in the student competition.**

To make this event a success, we do need your help. Please sign up in the [Membership App](#).



Field Day Volunteer Opportunities - We need you!!

It's BAAAAAACCCK! **Field Day 2023** is right around the corner.....This year it is scheduled for Friday, June 2nd (rain date Friday, June 9th). The success of the day depends largely on our volunteers. This is the most fun day of the entire school year!! You are guaranteed to be surrounded by smiling faces and loads of laughter and fun. We need your help to man the game stations and to assist in serving lunch and clean-up so please consider volunteering today. You won't be sorry!

Please click here [Field Day Volunteers](#) to volunteer.

More PTO News

SAVE THE DATES:

- Family Movie Night: Friday, May 5
- PTO Meeting: Tuesday, May 9
- STEAM Fair: Wednesday, May 31
- Field Day: Friday, June 2

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!

MARTHA JONES PTO WEBSITE

We have our own website at mjspto.membershiptoolkit.com. Log in to stay informed on all PTO related news and events. All current events are posted on the Homepage for easy access. Volunteer, learn about our programs and events, purchase a membership, provide feedback, and much more.

PTO CONTACT FOR EVENTS, NOTICES:

If you have an event or notice for our PTO update, please email it to: PTO Co-Secretary Beth Klaene at baklaene@gmail.com or Mary Jason at maryjason06@gmail.com.