



**Naquag Elementary School**  
*The Wachusett Regional School District*

October 2019

To: Naquag Families and Friends  
From: Ms. Dixie Estes, Principal

**Kick-off to a Great New School Year**

We had a wonderful start to our new school year. Students have settled in and teachers are actively incorporating multiple learning strategies in all curriculum areas. Thank you for attending our Grade-Specific Curriculum Nights and the PTO's Ice Cream Social. We acknowledge and appreciate your interest in our school and your child's education.

**EARLY RELEASE DAY:**

**K - 2 Teacher / Parent Conferences**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 Afternoon**

Naquag K - 2 teachers will be having Teacher/Parent Conferences in the afternoon on Thursday, October 24. (Teachers also have another half-day planned in October for Teacher/Parent Conferences. Please sign up "on-line" with your classroom teacher - on Signup Genius.)

- Lunch will be served - Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade Students
- Students will be released at 12:30. Dismissal procedures will begin slightly prior to 12:30.

CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IF YOUR DISMISSAL ARRANGEMENTS DIFFER FROM YOUR REGULAR DISMISSAL PLAN. Please contact the Naquag office with any questions or concerns.

PLEASE NOTE: Teachers also have scheduled an additional .5 day for Teacher/Parent Conferences. Please check with your classroom teacher for specific day and time availability. (Teachers utilize "Sign up Genius" to schedule conferences.)

**Naquag's Annual "Read-a-Thon"**

**Wednesday, October 16 - Wednesday, October 30**

Naquag's Fall Fundraiser, our 2019 Naquag "Read-A-Thon", will begin on Wednesday, October 16 and ends on Wednesday, October 30. This annual event is held in lieu of a magazine drive. Last year, this exciting event raised over \$7,000 which aided in funding field trips (bus transportation & admission fees) as well as school-based curriculum enrichment programs and presentations. To encourage literacy, our fundraiser will focus on students collecting pledges and tallying books read during our "Read-A-Thon".

- Students will receive positive incentives by documenting pledges for the "Read-a-Thon" totals. "Read-A-Thon" information and details will be distributed to students on Wednesday, October 16.



## Naquag Elementary School

*The Wachusett Regional School District*

- The annual "Read-a-Thon" Family Reading Night will be Wednesday, October 23 (6:00 - 6:45). Children may wear their PJ's and bring their favorite stuffed animal.
- The Naquag "Read-a-Thon" will end on Wednesday, October 30.
- All donations and money should be turned in by Wednesday, October 30.
- To celebrate the "Read-a-Thon", we'll be having a Pajama Day on Friday, November 1. Children are invited to wear season-appropriate pajamas. Please wear regular shoes to school (no slippers please).
- The positive incentives will be distributed the week of November 4.

Thank you for your continued support of your children's education and our school!

### **SIMCO**

**Monday, October 28 @ 4:00**

Naquag's School Improvement Council (SIMCO) is composed of 3 - 4 classroom teachers, 3 - 4 parents, our School Committee liaison, and a Rutland community member. This advisory committee meets monthly, generally on the fourth Monday of the month @ 4:00 in the front conference room. The October SIMCO meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28.

This school year we have openings for parent representatives. Committee members may serve a two (2) year term. If you are interested in becoming a member of SIMCO, please forward a letter of interest to the PTO President, Deidre Morgan (via our school office) ASAP. (The PTO will vote on SIMCO members at an upcoming PTO meeting).

### **Friday, November 8 - Professional Development Day**

**No School for Students**

Friday, November 8 is a Professional Development Day for Wachusett Regional School District. Naquag teachers will be attending Fountas & Pinnell Literacy training and other special education classes. Students will not attend school on this day.

### **Wanted: Gently-used K - 2 Paperback Books**

Naquag teachers facilitate and practice PBIS (Positive Behavior Incentives and Supports) daily. Students also practice the "Naquag LOOP" pledge daily ("We promise that each and every day we will respect learning, ourselves, others and property.") Students receive and earn Naquag Bucks that are used for classroom incentives and the Naquag School Store. A popular item is always a gently-used paperback book.

We are asking for donations of "gently used" (age-appropriate) K – 2 paperback books for our Naquag School Store. A donation box is located in the front lobby; all donations are appreciated!

### **Appropriate Recess Clothing**



## Naquag Elementary School

*The Wachusett Regional School District*

October and November's Indian summer days may be misleading; cold weather will soon be upon us. Whenever possible, the children will go outside for recess. Please remember to make sure that your children are dressed for the winter weather conditions – hats, gloves, coats. Our students benefit from fresh air at recess; we will attempt to have outside recess whenever possible, even on cold days. If your child wears boots to school, please send in shoes to wear during the school day. Additionally – please label your child's winter clothing to aid with "lost and found" items.

### **Dismissing Students During the School Day Guidelines**

Focusing on the education of our students, we ask that students be dismissed early from school only in the case of an emergency.

Early dismissal of children can be arranged through the office. ***We kindly request that dismissal changes be made before 2:00 PM.*** Please send a note to your child's teacher including the following information:

1. The reason for dismissal
2. The time he or she is to be dismissed
3. Who will pick up the child

No child will be dismissed to a person other than the parent of the child unless a note has been sent from the parent. Please come to the office and your child will be called to the office. **We wait until parents arrive so that students do not miss more class time than necessary.**

### **Free and Reduced Lunch Applications Available:**

The Wachusett Regional School District cafeteria offers healthy meals every school day. The cost for lunch at District elementary schools is \$3.25. Your child / children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income is within the Federal Income Guidelines shown on the Free and Reduced School Meals Application. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – formerly the Food Stamp Program) or TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). The application is available in our school office or on the District's website ([www.wrsd.net](http://www.wrsd.net) - Food Services Information). All information is confidential.



---

## Naquag Elementary School

*The Wachusett Regional School District*

### **School Committee Policy regarding Classroom Parties (Outside food)** **WRSD School Committee Policy #P6619A**

The WRSD is committed to providing a safe and healthy school environment for all students that is inclusive of school-wide practices. To provide a safe environment for all students, it is necessary to minimize the risk of exposure to allergens that pose a threat to students while participating in all elements of the school day.

In response to the presence of food-based allergies, parents/guardians may not send outside food, candy, and/or drink to share in the classroom. As part of a District-wide initiative to discourage the use of food as a reward, both teachers and parents & guardians are encouraged to recognize and celebrate students by methods that do not involve food. For this reason, any projects or classroom activities should also avoid the use of food items.

### **District Student Accident Insurance Available**

Please see Naquag's Website ([www.wrsd.net](http://www.wrsd.net) – District Schools – Naquag) for additional information regarding available WRSD student accident insurance.

### **School Bus Transportation/ Switching Buses for Play Dates/Etc.**

We remind parents that due to the scheduling of neighborhood buses for Naquag and Glenwood students, our students cannot switch assigned buses for play dates, etc.. Because of bus capacity limits, only children assigned to a specific bus may ride that bus home. There are no "extra" seats for other students. As stated in our Student/Parent Handbook: "Convenience transportation generally WILL NOT be provided. Buses, for the most part, are filled to capacity each trip. Children, therefore, will not be allowed to ride buses (to visit friends, to attend parties, to attend meetings, etc.) other than those to which they are normally assigned. This DOES NOT APPLY to children who go regularly to day care providers after school. Permission for any student to ride from school on another bus will be given only on an individual basis and requests should include an appropriate reason. All notes regarding transportation changes must be brought to the office. Last minute changes are risky and should be avoided if at all possible." We appreciate your cooperation and attention to this matter.

### **October & November 2019 Calendar**

Wednesday	10/2	PTO Meeting @ 6:30 (Naquag Library)
Monday	10/14	Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
Wednesday	10/16	Naquag "Read-a-Thon" begins!
Thursday	10/17	Fall Picture Retakes/Make-ups
Friday	10/18	PTO Fall Fest / Pumpkin Contest
Wednesday	10/23	"Read-a-Thon" Family Reading Night 6:00 - 6:45 (Naquag Library)



## Naquag Elementary School

*The Wachusett Regional School District*

Thursday	10/24	Early Dismissal @ 12:30 / Teacher-Parent Conferences in afternoon. (Dismissal will begin slightly prior to 12:30.)
Monday	10/28	SIMCO @ 4:00 (Front Conference Room)
Wednesday	10/30	End of "Read-a-thon" End of Quarter 1
Thursday	10/31	Wear Something Orange and/or Black Day!
Friday	11/1	"Read-a-Thon" Pajama Day! (Wear regular shoes to school)
Wednesday	11/6	Naquag PTO November Meeting @ 6:30
Friday	11/8	Full PD Day - NO SCHOOL
Monday	11/11	Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL
Wednesday - Friday	11/27-11/29	Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

### **October PTO Events**

Wednesday	10/2	PTO Meeting @ 6:30 (Naquag Library)
Friday	10/18	PTO Pumpkin Contest & Fall Festivities (Naquag Gym) 6:30 - 7:30

### **December 2019 Concert**

Please note the December Concert date and class schedule. To assist and accommodate scheduling and to provide a "snow date", the following schedule will be followed.

#### Wednesday, 12/18

10:00	(Doors open @ 9:45) All Kindergarten Classes First Grade: Mrs. White, Ms. Little Second Grade: Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Esposito, Mrs. Jordan
1:45	(Doors open at 1:30) All Kindergarten Classes First Grade: Ms. McCormack, Mrs. Strong, Mrs. Szczuka Second Grade: Mrs. Allyn, Mrs. Humphrey

#### Friday, 12/20

SNOW DATE – SEE TIMES ABOVE