



Naquag Elementary School
The Wachusett Regional School District

December 2019 Tidings to Naquag Families
From: Dixie Estes, Principal

December! Our fourth month of school and time is quickly flying by us. December brings wintry temperatures, snowflakes in the air, and the anticipation of 2020. We appreciate and value your continued interest and support – thank you and happy holiday season!

Rutland Schools (Naquag, Glenwood, CTMS)
Parent/Guardian ALICE Presentation

Thursday, December 5 @ 6:00 - GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY

We invite Rutland school parents (Naquag, Glenwood and Central Tree) to join us on Thursday, December 5 @ 6:00 at Glenwood Elementary School to learn more about ALICE. Rutland Police Department & Fire Department representatives will also be joining us for this presentation.

The security and safety of our students throughout the school day is of the utmost importance and our top priority. The US Department of Education, International Association of Chiefs of Police, FEMA and the FBI have recommended having active plans that include decision-making and options in the unlikely event of a school intruder.

The Wachusett District has chosen to implement ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) strategies in all schools. Introduced last year, this school year our focus will be to begin educating our staff and students on the different components and practicing. Administrators, teachers and staff will take the ALICE principles and tactics and share the information in non-fearful, empowering ways. We will certainly take into account a child's developmental readiness to ensure that students feel safe and have opportunities to talk about their feelings and reactions.

The Naquag "Mitten Tree" 12/9 – 12/20
(Also gloves, hats & scarves!)

In the spirit of the upcoming holiday season, Naquag students and staff will be sponsoring our annual "Naquag Glove and Mitten Drive" to benefit children and adults in Rutland and Worcester County who are in need of gloves and mittens this winter season. The glove and mitten drive will begin on Monday, December 9 and will conclude on Friday, December 20. Donations of new gloves and mittens may be placed near the side bus entrance and will also be displayed on our "Naquag Glove and Mitten Tree" in the front entrance. Thank you for your support in our community service activities.



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Welcome Nurse Amy McGeary to Naquag!

Nurse Carol Strait retired the end of November with over 20 years at Naquag Elementary School. We wish Nurse Strait much happiness as she begins this new exciting chapter of her life. We welcome Nurse Amy McGeary to Naquag! Please feel welcome to contact Nurse Amy with any questions or concerns.

Recovering from Illnesses – Coming back to School

The WRSD policy requires that students and staff stay home 24 hours free of fever (without medications) before coming back to school. Please contact our office or Nurse Amy McGeary with any questions or concerns regarding this policy.

Winter Time is Here – Remember Gloves, Hats, Scarves, & Boots

The month of December brings cold icy winds, sparkling snowflakes, and clear, crisp, fresh air. Naquag students will enjoy outside recess whenever the weather permits. Please help your child remember to bring “extra” outside winter clothing apparel. (Labeling your child’s winter clothing with a “last name” is also helpful with lost & found items.) **BOOTS GET VERY HOT & UNCOMFORTABLE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. PLEASE SEND IN SNEAKERS/SHOES IF YOUR CHILD WEARS BOOTS TO SCHOOL.**

PE / Gym: Please Wear Sneakers

A kind reminder, if your child has PE/Gym, please send in sneakers to wear. PE/Gym involves much running plus stop/go activities. For safety reasons, we request sneakers be worn for PE/Gym.

Wear Red Day / Wear Holiday Festive Clothes!

Tuesday, December 17: Staff and students are welcome to wear **RED** to school!

Wednesday, December 18: Our December Concert Day! Students and staff are welcome to wear ***festive holiday clothes*** to school! **SNOW DATE – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20.**

December 2019 Concert: Wednesday, December 18

The December Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18 @ 10:00 & 1:45.

Wednesday, 12/18 Naquag December Concert!

10:00 **Doors open @ 9:45**

All Kindergarten Classes

1 Blue (Little, White)

2 Red (Anderson, Esposito, Jordan)

1:45 **Doors open @ 1:30**

All Kindergarten Classes

1 Yellow (McCormack, Strong, Szczuka)

2 Green (Allyn, Humphrey)



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CONCERT PARKING – Per Order of the Rutland PD:

- **DO NOT PARK on the circle in front of the churches and town library. Please notice the “No Parking” signs (you may get a parking ticket).**
- **Avoid parking at the Town Library (these parking spaces are for the library patrons).**
- **DO NOT PARK on the road that goes to Central Tree Middle School.**
- **Park across the street behind the Churches / Town Hall (parking lots).**
- **Park on the “DOWNHILL” side of Main Street (Rt. 122A).**

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 \$3.50 and the reduced lunch price is 50 cents. 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 Price 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. The application is available in our school office or on the District's website (www.wrsd.net under Food Services Information). All information is confidential.

Update from Naquag Cafeteria:

Please note that parents have the option to check their child's lunch account & deposit money to the cafeteria through: myschoolbucks.com. Parents who wish to set up accounts please contact WRSD Supervisor of Food Services, Margaret Barton, to obtain your child's 9-digit identification number (you may also call the Naquag office). After receiving your 9-digit number, go to myschoolbucks.com to set up an account.

Conflict of Interest – Tokens of Appreciation and Gifts

Massachusetts Ethic's Reform Law, Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2009, states new mandatory guidelines to follow regarding tokens of appreciation and gifts to teachers/staff. The State Ethics Commission approved several amendments to these regulations. The following reflects the parameters of the law as it stands to date:

* Employees may receive gifts valued at less than \$50, either from an individual or from a group provided that the employee completes a “**DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**”.

* Teachers are allowed to accept a gift(s) with an aggregated value of up to a maximum of \$150 per year from current public school students and/or parents as long as the gift is identified only as being from the class and the identity of givers and the amounts given are not identified to the recipient. A “**DISCLOSURE OF APPEARANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**” is required.



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* Gifts that are intended for the purposes of supplementing the classroom, school or District, may be accepted in any amount. The policies regarding gifts to the District must be followed in accepting these gifts.

We respectfully request that tokens of appreciation/gifts follow these guidelines. We acknowledge and appreciate the continued support of our Naquag parents and friends. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

December 2019 Dates To Remember:

12/9 -12/20 Naquag Community Service Project: Donations - "MittenTree" (+ gloves, hats & scarves)

Tuesday 12/17 Wear Red to School!

Wednesday 12/18 Wear Festive Holiday Clothing!

December Concert (Snow date - Friday, 12/20 same times)

10:00 (Doors open @ 9:45)

AM Kindergarten Classes

First Grade: Ms. Little, Mrs. White

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 December Concert: SNOW DATE – SEE TIMES ABOVE

December 23 – January 1 School is NOT in Session

Wednesday 1/1 New Year's Day- observed (School NOT in Session)

Thursday 1/2 School in Session

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

**Thank You for Your Continued Support and Educational Investment in
Our Naquag Community**