



Naquag Elementary School
The Wachusett Regional School District

New Year Greetings to Our Naquag Family
January 2020
From: Dixie Estes, Principal

December 2019 Concert Success

Our 2019 December concert was a huge success. We extend a grateful thank you to our music teacher, Jean Gough, for her magical ability to organize and direct the musical selections. Our acknowledgments must also include our talented Naquag students and teachers - for their contributions and hard work. We appreciate your attendance at our annual Holiday Concert and your continued support. We look forward to our June 2020 concert!

Naquag Community Service Donations
Rutland's Glove and Mitten Drive

HAT DAY - Friday, January 10 to Celebrate Collection!

Thank you to all for your generous contributions and helping others during the holiday season. Students and staff members contributed daily to our mitten tree which was quickly decorated with a multitude of colorful gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. Thank you for all the contributions! These items will be donated to families in the Rutland area and in Worcester County. Everyone is welcome to wear a hat to school on Friday, 1/10 to celebrate our successful collection!

Be Like Brit - Wear Blue on Tuesday, January 21

On Tuesday, January 21st, Naquag will celebrate BlueForBrit Day in honor of Britney Gengel's 30th birthday. Britney was a Rutland native that attended Naquag Elementary. In January 2010, as a vibrant nineteen year old Lynn University sophomore, she traveled to Haiti to work for an aide group. A devastating earthquake claimed her life along with many classmates and Haitian natives. Britney's dream was to someday open an orphanage in Haiti. The BeLikeBrit organization has built an orphanage in Haiti housing 66 children, following Britney's dream. We invite Naquag staff and students to remember Britany Gengel on Tuesday, January 21 by wearing blue. Everyone is invited to WEAR BLUE on Tuesday, January 21 in honor of Britney Gengel's 30th birthday.

Report Cards "On-line" through the Parent Portal / Power School
Friday, January 24

WRSD second quarter/term ends on Monday, January 20. Report cards for the second quarter/term will be accessible through the Power School Parent Portal on Friday, January 24 after 4:30 PM. The Power School Parent Portal was used during August 2019 for parents to access classroom assignments, bus information and the Naquag Handbook. A one-time set-up process is required for parents/guardians to create their own account (username/password) to access information. (If you accessed the Power School Parent Portal in August, 2019 - you have already completed the set-up process.)

The PowerSchool Parent Portal website is: <https://ps.wrsd.net>.



Naquag Elementary School

The Wachusett Regional School District

Additional information will be shared explaining the District's standards-based report card before Friday, January 24. Please contact our office with any questions or concerns. PLEASE NOTE: Report card access will be open until March 6, 2020.

Early Release Day – Thursday, January 30 @ 12:30

The January Early Release Day is Thursday January 30. Lunch will be served. No recess on early release days. Dismissal will begin @ 12:15. **CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IF YOUR DISMISSAL ARRANGEMENTS DIFFER FROM YOUR REGULAR DISMISSAL PLAN.**

School Spirit Days: Monthly "Fabulous Fridays"

Friday, January 31 "Slipper Day"!

Naquag Elementary community spirit continues in the New Year 2020! Beginning in January and continuing through May 2020 – the last Friday of each month will be our "Fabulous Friday". Each monthly "Fabulous Friday" will be designated as a specific dress focus. Friday, January 31 will be "SLIPPER DAY". **REGULAR SHOES MUST BE WORN TO SCHOOL.** We encourage our students and staff to participate in this fun Naquag spirit day.

Remember To Bundle Up for Outside Recess

Whenever possible – we will continue to have our students participate in outside recess. Fresh air and bright sunshine does wonders to refresh and recharge minds. Please help your child remember to bring boots, hats, and gloves to school for outside recess. ***(If your child wears boots to school – please pack extra shoes/sneakers to wear during the day.)*** We kindly suggest that winter gear is marked with your child's name to avoid confusion and aid in locating lost or misplaced winter gear.

Naquag School Hours: 9:00 – 3:30

We kindly remind everyone that our school day officially begins at 9:00. **Students are welcome in the classroom at 8:45. Students should not be dropped off prior to 8:40.** This time period, 8:45 – 9:00 is an important part of the school day when children quickly socialize and say hello and begin their morning work. We encourage all students to arrive before 9:00. Students are marked "Tardy" when they arrive 9:00 or later. (Bus students arrive 8:45 - 9:00.) Dismissal procedures begin at 3:15.

WRSD School Committee Attendance Policy

School attendance is an important and vital part of a child's education. At Naquag Elementary School, teachers and staff strive to provide students with a solid education foundation.

The Wachusett Regional School District expects that students attend school every day. A student's continued absence of five or more days due to unexcused absences is a concern, as these absences will impact that solid education foundation.

Excused (verified) absences include:

- Documented illness / injury (by physician or medical professional if over 3 days)
- Bereavement / Family Funeral



Naquag Elementary School

The Wachusett Regional School District

- Major Religious Observances
- Court
- Extraordinary family circumstances (excused at the discretion of the principal).

Unexcused (Unverified) absences include:

- Family Vacations
- Any illness over three (3) consecutive days not documented by a physician or medical professional
- Truancy
- Undocumented absences
- Non-emergency family situations

Family Vacations:

Parents and students are reminded that Massachusetts Law requires compulsory attendance for students. We strongly discourage family vacations when school is in session. In addition to compromising the attendance law, family vacations interrupt the educational process of each course in ways that make-up work cannot reverse. Teachers are not required to give out homework assignments prior to a family vacation.

In accordance with M.G.L. c.76, &1B the Wachusett Regional School District has a policy of notifying the parent or guardian of a student who has missed five or more school days due to unexcused absences in a school year. I will be available to meet with the parents or guardians of any child with five or more absences to develop a successful daily attendance plan.

Naquag Elementary School is a partnership among students, staff, parents, and the community. Together we are dedicated to nurturing literate, competent, responsible students in a safe and secure learning environment. Our vision is for every Naquag student to be successful through this collaboration and dedication.

January 2020 Dates To Remember:

Wednesday	1/8	Naquag PTO Meeting @ 6:30 – Naquag Library
Monday	1/20	No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed End of 2 nd Quarter R
Tuesday	1/21	Be Like Brit Day - Remember Britney Gengel WEAR BLUE
Friday	1/24	Report Cards available (after 4:30) on Power School Parent Access. (Report Card access will be open until Friday, March 6.) PTO Bingo Night! 6:30 – 7:30 (For Info: http://www.naquagpto.com/)
Thursday	1/30	Early Release Day @ 12:30 School-based PD (dismissal begins slightly prior) (Lunch will be served. No Recess on early release days.)
Friday	1/31	Fabulous Friday "SLIPPER DAY"! (Wear regular shoes to school please.)

Important Up-Coming Early Releases/No School Dates To Remember:

Thursday	1/30	District Early Release PD Day - School will be dismissed @ 12:30
----------	------	--



Naquag Elementary School

The Wachusett Regional School District

(dismissal procedures will begin @ 12:15)
Thursday 3/12 District Early Release PD Day - School will be dismissed @ 12:30
(dismissal procedures will begin @ 12:15)
Monday 5/11 District PD Day (No School)
Friday 5/22 District Early Release PD Day - School will be dismissed @ 12:30
(dismissal will begin @ 12:15)

Last day of school as of 1/6/2020 = Tuesday, June 16

We've had 3 snow days so far this school year.

The last day of school will be a half day, early dismissal @ 12:30; dismissal procedures will begin @ 12:15.

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