



Naquag Elementary School

The Wachusett Regional School District

New Year Greetings to Our Naquag Families

January 2009

From: Dixie Herbst, Principal

Welcome back and Happy New Year 2009! We survived the December 2008 Big Ice Storm with many extraordinary experiences to share. Experiencing life without electricity certainly created a "pioneer" environment, plus reminded us of how grateful we are for the civilized luxuries of 2009. Naquag School was an emergency shelter for a few days, however four univent heating valves failed, resulting in minor water damage in several classrooms. We are now all set for school to begin again with an optimistic outlook for 2009.

Winter Concert - Rescheduled for 1/9/2009

Our Winter Concert has been rescheduled for Friday, January 9th. For your convenience, there will be two performances. The first performance will be at 10:00 (doors will open at 9:45) and will include students in grades 1 – 5 and the AM kindergarten students. The second performance is scheduled for 2:00 (doors will open at 1:45) and will include students in grades 1 – 5 and the PM kindergarten students. Other than Kindergarten participation, it is the same concert @ 10:00 & 2:00.

"Why Me & Sherry's House" - Paper Products Collection

Thank you for your paper products contributions to our "Paper Products Collection" for "Why E & Sherry's House" in December. We have extended our collection period until Friday, January 9th. Suggested items include: Paper Towels, Paper Plates, Bathroom Tissue, Facial Tissue, and Napkins. Please feel welcome to bring an item to our Winter Concert! We appreciate your generosity. Thank you for helping others!

"Promoting Reading at Home"

From John Campbell, Our Assistant Principal

There are several different avenues to promote reading at home with your children. Here are a few suggestions from literacy experts about things we can do at home to make a difference!

- **Play word games.** Word games and puzzles are fun and also build vocabulary and word understanding. Try crossword puzzles, word bingo, Scrabble[®], or Boggle[®].
- **Read aloud every day.** Read and encourage children to read directions, labels, and signs in the classroom, at home, in the car, and at stores or shops. Have children take turns reading aloud with a classmate, parent, or sibling. Discuss in class or at home what you are reading.
- **Model reading as enjoyable.** Let children see family members or teachers enjoying reading. You might informally discuss what you are reading. Have "DEAR time" several times a week where everyone "Drops Everything And Reads" for 20 minutes.



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Put learning to use. Help children remember by having them explain, discuss, or apply information they have just read. You might have children teach you facts or ideas they have learned from their reading, or encourage them to act out characters from their reading selections.

Wacky Wednesday's / Last Wednesday of every Month

Beginning in January, to promote Naquag school spirit - we will begin a monthly "school spirit" theme on the last Wednesday of every month. In January, we will have a "Mismatch Day / Clash Day" on Wednesday, January 28th. We encourage mismatched outfits and peculiar color combinations!

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.

2009 MCAS Dates / Grades 3, 4, & 5

We strongly encourage school attendance during the 2009 MCAS assessments. The following dates include the testing schedule for grades 3, 4, and 5.

March 31 st	Grade 4 – ELA Long Composition
April 1 – April 9	MCAS Reading / ELA (Grades 3, 4, & 5)
May 12 – 15	MCAS Mathematics (Grades 3, 4, & 5)
May 18 – 21	MCAS Science & Technology, History & Social Studies (Grade 5)

January Dates To Remember

Friday	1/9	Winter Concert - Rescheduled 10:00 Grades 1 – 5 & AM Kindergarten Doors open @ 9:45 2:00 Grades 1 – 5 & PM Kindergarten Doors open @ 1:45 (Same Concert 10:00 & 2:00. Different Kindergarten Participation)
Tuesday	1/13	Principal's Chat @ 10:00
Wednesday	1/14	SIMCO Meeting @ 4:00 Title 1 Reading Night @ 7:00
Wednesday	1/21	PTO Meeting @ 4:00
Monday	1/19	NO SCHOOL / Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Wednesday	1/28	Grades 1 – 5, Grades Close (Report Cards out on 2/6/09)

**Remember Wacky Wednesday!
January 28th – Mismatch/Clash Day**