



Quaboag Regional School District
News Letter

December 2009

Decisions are made in the best interests of our students.



There is no better time than the holiday season to pause, reflect, and say “thank you” to those who make a positive difference in our community. Recently, (Sunday, November 22) over six hundred students and community members received the H1N1 flu vaccine. This clinic, held at Quaboag Middle / High School, would have never happened without the countless volunteers who generously donated their time and effort to help our community. In fact, I am happy to report that we had such an outpouring of volunteer support that we actually had extra helpers on hand for the vaccination clinic.

At a time when our country is at war, our economy is struggling, and the evening news is full of negativity, it is comforting to know that we can always depend on the kindness and generosity of our community. I want to sincerely thank the Warren and West Brookfield Boards of Health, our town officials, our Chiefs of Fire and Police, our nurses, our teachers, our parents, our Regional School Committee members, and our students. We have tentative plans to offer another H1N1 flu clinic on January 10, 2010.

I am happy to report that the QRSD has signed a memo of understanding with Nexamp Capital, LLC to secure financing and incentives with the intention of executing a solar power purchase agreement in the near future. Nexamp was selected through a competitive procurement process per M.G.L. Chapter 25A. The solar power purchase agreement will cover solar projects in the range of 50 kW to 175 kW at all three schools: Warren Community Elementary School, West Brookfield Elementary School, and Quaboag Regional Middle/High School. We look forward to conserving energy, saving money, providing an educational opportunity for our students and partnering with Nexamp.

Congratulations to Dan Roy who has been selected as the next Principal of Wilbraham Middle School. As you know, Dan has served as the Assistant Principal at QRMHS for a little over a year. In that time, he has established a first class reputation as a fair and consistent administrator. We will miss Dan tremendously, but we also wish him and his family the best!

Mr. Roy’s last Day at QRMHS will be 12-4-09. The QRSD has posted an immediate need for a Dean of Students to help us through the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Myers will soon form a committee to screen applicants. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Principal Myers.

We, once again, welcome members from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education who will visit us the first week of December as part of the Coordinated Program Review (CPR). CPR is designed to monitor all school districts in Massachusetts to ensure compliance with state regulations. The DESE will publish a report at the conclusion of their audit.

Working together, I am confident that we can provide a safe, supportive, and challenging learning environment for our students. As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions please contact me at bkustigian@quaboag.org or 413-436-9256.

Brett Kustigian, Superintendent of Schools

Quaboag Regional High School News

The faculty and administration of Quaboag Regional hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Congratulations to **Mr. Roy** for his new position as principal at Wilbraham Middle School! Mr. Roy is a tremendous asset to the Quaboag school community and will be missed very much. We wish him the very best as he embarks on this new role, which he will be starting on December 7th. An interim Dean of Students will temporarily replace Mr. Roy until a full-time assistant principal is found.

Congratulations to both **Hilary Bennett** (Class of 2011) and **Tyler Dashnaw** (Class of 2010) for being accepted to the Central Massachusetts Music Educators' Association Music Festival. Hilary, who qualified for bass clarinet, and Tyler, who qualified for voice, will be performing at Mechanics Hall along with many other students from across Central Mass at the Music Educators' Association Annual Concert on Saturday, January 16. Congratulations on this prestigious honor!

Don't forget to bring your new and gently used clothing to Quaboag Regional Middle / High School for this year's winter clothing drive (sponsored by **Heather Yelle**, Class of 2010). A drop-off box is available in the main office for the month of December. New mittens and socks (especially children's sizes) are in the greatest demand. Thank you!

As part of her senior project, **Olivia Jankins** (Class of 2010) will be collecting canned goods and donations from students, staff, and community members this year to help our local food pantries. Be sure to drop off canned goods to the main office this holiday season! Thank you!

Stay involved! We are currently looking for parent and community volunteers to serve on the QRMHS School Council, which meets monthly to discuss school improvement initiatives. In addition, we are committed to extending our library's hours of operation and are looking for after-school volunteers. If you are interested in either opportunity, please email Greg Myers, QRMHS Principal (gmyers@quaboag.org).

The faculty, staff, and administration of Quaboag Regional Middle / High School remain steadfast in achieving our vision to create a school where all students may achieve at the highest levels. We are mission-driven, student-centered, and always seeking to improve. If you have any questions or concerns about your student's experience or if you have suggestions or ideas that might make our school better, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me anytime.

Greg Myers, Principal

Quaboag Regional Middle School News

The Class of 2015 (our 7th graders) and their advisors, Ms. Warner and Mrs. Camarda, are currently wrapping up a very successful class fundraiser, which included a Boston Coffee sale (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, smoothies and lattes). The class came together and did a wonderful job!

Meanwhile, our 8th graders (the Class of 2014) held their 2nd annual fundraiser on November 14th at Applebee's in Sturbridge. Once again the students worked as servers and were able to come together to raise money for their class while understanding the role of hard work and the how it pays off. The 8th grade is also hard at work raising money for a springtime trip to Boston. They are raffling off dozens of items including an *ipod Touch* and a *Garmin* navigation system.

As always, our middle school students showed their tremendous school spirit during the recent homecoming week. Students participated in Dress Up day, Hat Day, and School Colors day. Way to go Middle School!

Dan Roy, Assistant Principal

Quaboag Guidance News

Mr. Nicholson and Ms. Doleva are continuing to meet with seniors to talk about individual student plans after high school.

Ms. Doleva will be reviewing the PSAT scores with the sophomores and juniors who took the test in October on Wednesday, December 2nd. She will be going over how to review the answers and understanding the scores, improving skills, checking student's entries to the NMSC scholarship programs and how to get information about college majors. She will also do a short PowerPoint presentation on "My College Quickstart" which is a free college and career planning kit. Students can access answer explanations, a personalized SAT study plan, and information about colleges, majors, and careers for their future.

The Scholarship Application Night is planned for Thursday, January 21st at 6:00 PM in the QRMHS library. The Scholarship Application Night provides students with the opportunity to pick up all available scholarships that are being offered in our community. Members of each scholarship committee are also invited to attend the event to personally hand out applications and have the chance to meet students face to face.

The tour of Pathfinder for the 8th grade students will be on Wednesday, December 9th.

QRMHS Guidance Dept.

Warren Community Elementary School News

Holiday Food Service Volunteers: Superintendent Kustigian and Warren Selectman, Bob Souza, sported kitchen aprons and hair nets to serve up meatball grinders for our students on Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving. The kids were very curious about the additional staff and it was a good opportunity for everyone to get acquainted. Thank you Mr. K and Mr. Souza!

Music Program Schedule: On Tuesday December 8th our second and third grades will be performing, and on Wednesday, December 9th our Kindergarten and first grade, with Chorus and Band, will be presenting some holiday and seasonal songs. The programs will begin at 7:00 PM.

Last week was an extremely busy week "after hours". Last Tuesday night we had Story Night; parents and students came back to school for stories and snacks. Various staff members took turns reading stories, and the PTO prepared hot chocolate and goodies in the cafeteria. We also had parent conferences, and the halls were bustling with evening visitors. The Book Fair was also scheduled throughout the week and it is one of our more successful fund-raisers to help with the Ferry Beach expenses.

Pre-School Family Feast: All of our pre-school students and families were invited to come together to share in a family meal. The cafeteria was filled with happy faces, and the preschoolers treated everyone to a couple of rhymes they had learned.

Mobile Dentist Return: On December 15th and 16th the Mobile Dentist team will be at our school providing dental exams and screenings for those students who register. These observations produce a dental "report card" for parents after the visit.

PTO News:

Again this year the PTO will be hosting a Holiday Shoppe on Wednesday December 9th through Wednesday December 16th for the students to shop for their families at a low cost. Also, the PTO is putting together their first publication of a cookbook comprised of recipes collected from the children of WCES, their families and friends. Deadline for all recipes to be turned in is Wednesday, December 23rd.

Tedd Brown, WCES Principal

West Brookfield Elementary School News

November has never been better at West Brookfield Elementary School! It was a month where students learned about the value of giving of themselves to others. The students participated in food drives for the local pantry- The Sharing Cupboard. These drives were sponsored as Community Service Projects by Third and Fourth Graders. The Fifth Grade ran a bake sale on Parent Teacher Conference Night and they will use the proceeds to purchase plants that they will plant in our school courtyard to help beautify the school community. A drive for soldiers in Iraq was organized by Miss Bish and her students. All WBES children and families were encouraged to participate. As a result of your generosity, we were able to send four boxes of personal care items over to Andrew Durand (son of staff member- Mrs. Durand) and his troops. Senator Brewer stopped by to thank WBES students and our community for supporting our troops.

December brings joy and learning! The month will be kicked off with our annual Elves R Us Holiday Shoppe. On Sunday December 6th, the students will perform their annual Christmas Concert at 12:30 in the West Brookfield Elementary School Gym. The concert will begin with Kindergarten through Second Grade, after the instrumental students will perform. The day will be wrapped up with the upper grades performing and then the 6th Grade Chorus will lead us to the common for caroling. We are hoping for a terrific turnout. The concert is held in conjunction with White Christmas and we hope that everyone will take advantage of parking in and around the common because we will end up singing carols on the common. Warm cider will also be provided.

A special thanks to Mr. Kustigian and West Brookfield Selectman, Mr. Barry Nadon, for volunteering to help serve our students during Thanksgiving. Our students and staff appreciate their presence in our school.

Yours in learning, Colleen Mucha, WBES Principal

District Technology News

It looks like we finally have the network issues under control at the high school. Between new and existing software, it proved quite a challenge. Thanks to a donation from Class of 2010, the high school was able to update some of the aging computers in the library. Not only will this improve the experience for our students, it will also give us the ability to start using the library catalog software again. Thanks to a grant, we have a new laptop cart at WCES. This is a big step forward as we have been trying to work laptops into the curriculum for some time. Our Education Foundation allowed us to add a new Smart Board to the high school. The new unit will be a shared resource in the Science Department and should offer more flexibility than the standard projector and white board.

Michael Meehan, Director of Technology

District Wellness News

Our Holiday Dinner will be held in all schools on Thursday, December 17. Menus for December are posted on www.quaboag.org.

QRMHS: Our School Nutrition program continues to expand our expertise & culinary skills, and our district has very dynamic and talented staff! Donna Theodore, Assistant Cook and Kim Harrington, Head Cook will be competing in the Worcester County School Nutrition Association Iron Chef competition on December 2. We will report on their success in the next edition of Quaboag District News!

WBES: Participation rates are up at! I would like to thank April Demetrius, Head Cook, with Paula St. Pierre, and Rose Clark for all that they do. We encourage all students district wide to purchase lunch everyday or even a few times per week. Federal and state reimbursements bring important revenue back to the school district for each meal served. If you are a paid student, free, or reduced, we offer an affordable nutritious breakfast or lunch with all the food groups; ensuring better nutrition. Our goal is to continue to grow district participation each year.

WCES: We will not be serving the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant program mid morning snack during the month of December. This year we will be spreading out the funding over the entire school year. We will tentatively have enough funding for 6 – 7 months. We know how much the children enjoy their nutritious snack at school. Please send your children in with a mid morning or afternoon snack during the month of December.

Food Assistance: *The Sharing Cupboard in West Brookfield at the First Congregational Church on the Common is the location for our area's food pantry. Any resident in Warren, West Warren, and West Brookfield who is in need of food assistance can obtain food and non-food supplies one time per month. Proof of residence and an ID for shopper and ID or documentation for all household members is all that is needed. Hours of operation for the Sharing Cupboard are Wed. 10 – 12 noon, and Thurs. from 7 – 8:30 pm. If you are in need of food, please consider going, it can make a big difference in your household.*

Free and Reduced School Meals: *We accept applications throughout the school year for students needing additional food support at school. Please request an application at school or you can download an application at www.quaboag.org under the School Nutrition tab on the left of the screen.*

Return your application as soon as possible in order for your application to be reviewed. Thank you. If you have any questions, please call Janice King at 413-436-5991 x1922.

Important Dates & Reminders

2 nd	QRMHS	PSAT presentation for juniors and sophomores QRMHS Booster Club Mtg. 7PM
2nd-6th	WBES	Elves R Us Holiday Shoppe
4 th	WCES	Banking for Maine

6 th	WBES	Christmas Concert 12:30 and White Christmas
7 th	WCES	PTO Meeting 6:30 PM
8 th	WCES	Gr 2 & 3 Holiday Musical 7PM
9 th	QRMHS	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
	WCES	Gr 4-6 Academic Status Reports go home Holiday Chorus & Band Concert 7 PM
9-16	WCES	PTO Holiday Shoppe
10 th	District	Early Release for all students- Professional Development Day
	WBES	Officer Hope presents “How to Keep Your Child Safe in this Technological World” He will provide parents with information in regards to chat rooms, Facebook, and cyberbullying. (in library)
	District	Personnel subcommittee mtg. 6:30 PM QRMHS library
14 th	District	Policy subcommittee mtg. 7 PM Superintendent’s office
15 th	District	Building committee mtg. 6 PM Superintendent’s office Budget subcommittee mtg. 6:30PM Superintendent’s office
15-16	WCES	Mobile Dentist
16 th	QRMHS	Holiday Concert 7pm (auditorium)
17 th	WBES	School Council Meeting 6:00pm conference room
17 th		Warren Casino Task Force Mtg. 7PM Shepherd Bld. (public invited)
18 th	QRMHS	Middle school Snow Ball (semi-formal dance)
	WCES	Banking for Maine
21 st	District	School Committee Meeting QRMHS Library 7 PM
23 rd	WCES	PTO Recipes Due for Cook book
24-31	District	Holiday Break

January 4, 2010- Students return from the Holiday Break