



June 2010

# Quaboag Regional School District News Letter

*Decisions are made in the best interests of our students.*



I would like to begin this newsletter by congratulating the QRMHS Class of 2010! On June 5, seventy-six QRMHS seniors will receive their high school diplomas, the culmination of 12 years of hard work. I truly look forward to awarding our students their diplomas this coming Saturday. I would also like to congratulate all of the families of the graduates. Without the support of family, friends, and the community graduation would not be possible.

At the end of this school year, the Quaboag Regional School District central office staff will relocate from the Shepherd Building to QRMHS. Our new office is located next to the QRMHS gymnasium, between the school store and the athletic director's office. In addition to saving money, this move allows the central office to maintain a closer connection to QRMHS and the student body. The QRSD central office staff phone numbers, email addresses, and PO Box all remain unchanged. We look forward to the move and encourage you to stop by and see our new location.

Our newly hired Technology Coordinator has been extremely busy creating a website for the QRSD. If you haven't already done so, please visit our much improved website: [www.quaboagrdsd.org](http://www.quaboagrdsd.org). You will notice that there is a survey on our homepage that seeks parent/guardian, student, and school community feedback. The improvements and features of the new website are too numerous to mention so please visit our website and let us know what you think.

The QRSD is anxiously awaiting the June 8 Warren Town Meeting at 7PM at QRMHS. Free babysitting will be sponsored onsite in the QRMHS library by the QRMHS National Honor Society. In addition, our staff is coordinating activities for upper elementary, middle, and high school students. Please make a concerted effort to attend the Warren Town Meeting. I would like to thank the many West Brookfield residents for their overwhelming support at the West Brookfield Town Meeting.

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski who was recently appointed the Superintendent of the King Philip Regional School District. I would like to thank Dr. Zielinski for all she has done for the QRSD and wish her continued success. Her departure leaves big shoes to fill. We have recently posted for a Director of Student Support Services and our Special Educator Chairperson, Mrs. Wendy Prunier, has volunteered to chair the search committee. We are seeking parents/guardians, teachers, community members, and staff to serve on the search committee. If you are interested in serving on the search committee for the next Director of Student Support Services please contact me or Mrs. Prunier ([pruniwen@quaboag.org](mailto:pruniwen@quaboag.org)).

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](mailto:bkustigian@quaboag.org) or 413-436-9256.

*Brett Kustigian, Superintendent*

*The mission of the Quaboag Regional School District is to form a partnership with parents and the community to prepare our diverse population of students to become lifelong learners in a nurturing, safe environment with high expectations so they will become responsible, productive citizens in an ever-changing global society. Most importantly, decisions are made in the best interests of our students.*

## Quaboag Regional Middle/High School News

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It's hard to believe that the last day of school is almost here! We want to thank the faculty, our students, and their parents for making this such a positive and productive spring at QRMHS, with many accomplishments and milestones. **We would especially like to congratulate the members of the Class of 2010 for an outstanding year!** We wish them the very best as they embark on a variety of endeavors, including college, careers, and the military. We hope the next chapter in their lives is a successful and fulfilling one.

June is a month for honoring and recognizing the hard work and the many wonderful accomplishments of our students. No other month on the school calendar inspires as much pride or celebration. As we bid farewell to our graduates, who will be accepting diplomas, congratulations, and best wishes from family, friends and faculty this month, we also watch our younger students eagerly anticipating the many new challenges and opportunities that await them next year.

**Please join us in celebrating student success!** Parents and families are welcome and encouraged to attend the many events we have planned for this month. Check out the Important District Dates and Reminders section of this newsletter and the calendar feature on the QRMHS website (go to [quaboagsd.org](http://quaboagsd.org) and click on "Quaboag Regional Middle/High School"). If you have any questions about the times and locations of any event, please do not hesitate to call the main office 413-436-5991.

As the school year comes to a close, it's important that underclassmen not forget the importance of their final exams, which account for a substantial portion of their yearlong average. The underclassmen final exam schedule is printed in the list of important district "Dates and Reminders." Please review and discuss these dates with your student(s). All students must be on time for exams. All students must remain in the exam for the entire exam period. **Buses will be provided for all students at 11:16.** If you have any questions regarding this exam schedule, please do not hesitate to contact the Quaboag Regional Middle / High School main office: 413-436-5991.

**THANK YOU** to **Mrs. Cheryl Wolfe** and **Mrs. Beth Hansen** for making this year's art show absolutely incredible! The show, which included paintings, sculpture, photographs, drawings, academic projects, and much more from students in grades 7 through 12 (and our faculty!), drew a very large crowd and was an outstanding celebration of student success!

**THANK YOU** to **Mrs. Ali Jordan-Gagner, Chief Bruce Spiewakowski, Chief Jim Dolan, the police and fire departments of both Warren and West Brookfield, and the QRMHS Prom Committee** for planning and conducting Quaboag's annual Mock Crash, an incredibly powerful experience that will help our students make better choices and stay safe.

**THANK YOU** to Quaboag's **diversity club** for their outstanding work to help educate our 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the harmful effects of bullying. Diversity club members wrote and performed two powerful skits about bullying during an outstanding anti-bullying assembly in May, which included a discussion about recent incidents in the news, results from a student survey on bullying, and small group discussions about how to stop bullying. As part of the larger effort to educate students about how harmful bullying can be, **Assistant District Attorney Julie Lasure** from the Worcester DA's office also hosted several small group discussions with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades about cyber-bullying and new anti-bullying legislation.

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.

Sincerely,

*Greg Myers, Principal*

*Mary Dernalowicz, Interim Dean of Students*

## Quaboag Regional Guidance Department

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MCAS Science will be administered on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Ms. Doleva and Mrs. Nicholas are putting the final touches on this year's Senior Recognition Night which will be held in the Quaboag gym on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Thank you to all of our scholarship contributors for their generous scholarships for our students.

Final Exams are Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Nicholson, Ms. Doleva, and Mrs. Griffin are currently working on, and will continue to work on, scheduling classes for next year.

Mr. Nicholson visited the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade English classes to talk to them about the PSAT's which will be held at Quaboag on Wednesday, October 13, 2010. Students were provided with an informative brochure with a pre-sign up slip at the bottom for their parents to sign if they wanted a test ordered. Also, in the fall we will have sign ups in the Guidance office.

**The following are the SAT test dates for the 2010-2011 school year: October 9<sup>th</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup>, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 12, May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

### Warren Community Elementary School News

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What a busy time of year this becomes, with all of the special activities that spring encourages. We have completed the Spring MCAS testing, and UPS has picked them up and will be delivering them to the scoring destination. You will be receiving the results from both testing periods in the early fall.

Our grade six students hosted an all day and evening data fair, where they presented data collecting projects within the gymnasium and then tabulated all of this data into a project that showed the various results. These projects became tables and graphs that demonstrated the various findings.

The Wellness Night that was held at our high school was a phenomenal success, with students and families visiting numerous displays and activities that were being promoted throughout the building. Our Wellness Vertical Team certainly put together an interesting evening, with a great combination of information and fun filled activities.

Our school adjustment counselor organized a Career Day for our sixth grade students last week, and we had a variety of different professions represented. Our visitors shared many stories about the preparation paths they took in order to be able to do the jobs they currently have, and encouraged the kids to work hard in school to broaden their options.

We are proud to congratulate first grader Christopher Laprade for winning the State Census Poster Contest for our region. Christopher, his family and his teacher, Mrs. Aucoin were guests at the

State House on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>. Christopher received a certificate from Secretary of State Galvin as our regional winner.

The school continued the Box Top Award of \$15 Wal-Mart Gift Card and May's winner is 4<sup>th</sup> grader Jacob Daviau.

A big thank you goes out to the local cub scouts and their leaders for making a few picnic tables for our school grounds. Thank You!!

Another big thank you goes out to everyone who donated to the our fifth grade team walk for "Cure for Kids Cancer" in one of our fifth graders name. We had a hat day and individual collections for the walk which will happen on June 13<sup>th</sup> Sixth Flags. We sent them a donation in the total amount of \$1550.00.

We held the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Burns Festival on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> for essay writing, speaking and singing. The funds (\$325) for this event are from interest of a Trust Fund in the Town of Warren from two School Warren Teachers and the winners are:

SPEAKING	GR K-3	1 <sup>st</sup> PLACE	\$25.00	Kaylee Armitage
		2 <sup>nd</sup> PLACE	\$15.00	Tiffany Martin
	GR 4-7	1 <sup>st</sup> PLACE	\$25.00	Maria Matys
ESSAYS	GR K-3	1 <sup>st</sup> PLACE	\$25.00	Natalie Page
		2 <sup>nd</sup> PLACE	\$15.00	Brian Trombly
		3 <sup>rd</sup> PLACE	\$10.00	Elizabeth Schwenker
	GR 4-7	1 <sup>st</sup> PLACE	\$25.00	Maria Matys
2 <sup>nd</sup> PLACE		\$15.00	Lauren Trombly	
3 <sup>rd</sup> PLACE		\$10.00	Jamie Bergmann	
SINGING	GR K-3	1 <sup>st</sup> PLACE	\$25.00	Samantha Lacey
		2 <sup>nd</sup> PLACE	\$15.00	Kasidee Nichols
		3 <sup>rd</sup> PLACE	\$10.00	Isabella Clowes
	GR 4-6	1 <sup>st</sup> PLACE	\$25.00	Cassidy Morrow
2 <sup>nd</sup> PLACE		\$15.00	Maria Matys	
3 <sup>rd</sup> PLACE		\$10.00	Emma Grueter	
	GR 7-12	1 <sup>st</sup> PLACE	\$25.00	Nicole Dimo
			\$25.00	Megan Choquette Melody Johnson

*Tedd Brown, Principal*

## **West Brookfield Elementary School News**

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**June brings the end of a wonderful year of learning and growth at West Brookfield Elementary School.** MCAS are over but the learning adventures are still continuing. Teachers have planned and developed engaging and exciting learning activities to finish out the school year. The calendar is full of celebrations and achievements. Families can begin to feel both relief and stress as the school year comes to an end. There is much joy in celebrating your child's growth and successes. However, there can be anxiety over the upcoming summer and school year. Students may worry about the loss of the connection to their teachers, friends, and school. Parents may worry that the upcoming school year will be more difficult and they wonder how their child will adjust. It is important to acknowledge these joys and fears and to share and discuss them with your children and family. Most important, please know that we are here at West Brookfield Elementary School throughout the summer for anything that you may need. I encourage families and students to stop by and visit. I love to chat about summer adventures and good books. It is helpful for many students to visit and remain connected to the school throughout the summer. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our summer hours will be Monday-Friday 7:00-3:00.

### **Website:**

Please check out our new website. We have all of our activities posted in calendar format which can be helpful for planning. School supply lists will be posted as well. We will be uploading much more throughout the summer. Keep checking the site from time to time; it is my own personal goal to put a few podcasts on over the summer as we make strides throughout the summer. I may also do a video book share for summer reading purposes. Families can sign up for our school email list, this would alleviate sending paper notices home. You would be able to receive all of our notices via email-think of the paper we will save!

### **Students of the month:**

**April-** Mary LePage

**May:** Kelly Nerreau, Summer Kaepfel, Shelby Tytula, Hannah Lavalley, Annie Turnbull, Lauren Chipman, Garrett Cassavant, Isabelle Greenlaw, Trisha Delisle, Wil Damon, Kiarra Dorman, Alex Johnson, Kiely Horner

**Thank you!** Thank you to everyone who has made this such an exciting school year at West Brookfield Elementary School. Thank you to teachers and staff for always putting children first and going the extra step to ensure that all students succeed. Thank you to parents and families for trusting us with your children and for supporting West Brookfield Elementary School. Thank you to friends and community members for your support and involvement. Special thanks to the PTG without your support our students would not have all the wonderful opportunities for extra special activities. I am proud to be a part of such a strong school community. Thank you all, thank you for all you do on behalf of our children.

*Colleen Mucha, Principal*

## District Wellness News



Congratulations to Kim Harrington, Head Cook QRMHS, and Janice King, School Nutrition Director for their recent victory at the Mass School Nutrition Association's Iron Chef Cook-Off!

Quaboag placed first among ten regional school districts in a competition to develop a recipe (on the spot!) and prepare a delicious and nutritious school lunch menu item. Quaboag's winning entries were a quinoa cranberry apricot entree (vegetarian) and parmesan panko crumb chicken tenders with a honey raspberry vinaigrette dipping sauce served with a fresh basil oven-roasted vegetable medley! These recipes will be featured on our QRMHS Fall 2010 Lunch Menu. School Lunch Rocks!

### **USDA Healthier US Schools Challenge for Quaboag Regional**

US Department of Agriculture's challenges schools to keep moving toward healthier school environments. The goal for this year is to increase the number schools to apply for recognition through this program - **Healthier US School Challenge Certification**. The challenge seeks to significantly increase the number of schools nationwide that meet the program's goals:

**Quaboag Regional School District will work with USDA to complete the application process this fall for submission of our three schools' applications in November 2010.** Current barriers are being eliminated to ensure that more schools can participate in the program. Training will be provided to assist school nutrition programs and school principals in meeting the Healthier US School Challenge requirements; and to promote the program in their schools. This program focus will target school meals, and physical education, and nutrition education. Areas that do not meet the standards will be identified and solutions will be promoted to achieve the program requirements. Grants are being completed to support the application process

- The nationwide goal is to increase the number of Healthier US Schools from the current 600 to 2,000 in year one, and with the support of other education community partners, reach 10,000 Healthier US Schools by year five
- [Healthier US Schools Challenge](#) Check out what the challenge is all about!

MA Schools who have achieved the award to date: [Currently there are 8 Massachusetts Award Winners](#)

Meal Pay Plus to Pay Account Balances

**For all Students and Parents– Please check your student meal account balances!** We are near the end of the year and we have many students that owe for meals purchased over the past year. Please check in online to view your children's accounts at [www.mealpayplus.com](http://www.mealpayplus.com) **This service is free!**

This website provides a free service for you to access your child's account and if you prefer to add money into your student's meal account balance at any time (24/7). We encourage everyone to make use of this FREE SERVICE and to experience the convenience of pre-funded school meal accounts. To fund an account: log on to **www.mealpayplus.com** and enter your student name and student ID number. If you do not know your student ID number, you can contact your school office, or you can call Meal Pay direct at 1-877-237-0946, a free call.

Funding an account online can be done easily with either a checking account or with a credit card. You can fund one or more accounts each time you want to make a deposit for a minimal fee of 4.75% on the dollar amount of the transaction. (Prior year's fee structure was based upon \$2.00 per transaction.)

This change was instituted by the meal pay plus online payment service. Any account balances from the prior school year have been rolled over, so if you had a negative balance, you will see that it needs to be paid to bring your account current. If your account had any funds remaining from last year, those funds will be available to start this school year. At no charge, once you register your child on this online site, you can view your child's account online for purchases and the current balance. This is Free!

Please set up at no charge, the box that will email you when your child's account balance is getting low. We really need for all students to avoid negative balances. That way you can add to it before it goes into a negative balance and you're not waiting for your child to let you know they need more money. You will also see that you can view the transaction history online for a 30 day window. Thank you in advance for using **www.mealpayplus.com**. If you have any questions about your accounts for last year or this coming year, please call Janice King at 413-436-5991 x1922.

## Important District Dates & Reminders



### Upcoming Events:

#### JUNE

1 <sup>st</sup>	WCES	SBLI Kids Fitness Walk
1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	WCES	Book Fair this week-Maine Fundraiser
2 <sup>nd</sup>	QMHS	MCAS Testing: Grades 9 & 10 Science Session I Class of 2010 Senior Dinner Dance, Publick House Kindergarten Field Trip- Seussical production Gr. K Field Trip-Holyoke Children's Museum
	WBES WCES	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	QMHS	MCAS Testing: Grades 9 & 10 Science Session II Junior / Senior Cookout, 11:00 Senior Awards & Recognition Night (gymnasium) Teddy Bear Picnic-Preschool "Celebration of the Child" 6 PM Art Show, Writing Display & 7 PM Spring Concert, 5:30-7:30 Evening Book Fair
	WBES WCES	
4 <sup>th</sup>	QMHS WCES	Class Day, 10:00-11:00 (auditorium) 9 AM Community Reading Day 1 PM Kindergarten Parent Program-Café
5 <sup>th</sup>	QMHS	Class of 2010 Commencement Ceremony (gym)
7 <sup>th</sup>	WCES	Gr. K Wild West Field Day in AM
	District	EARLY DISMISSAL PTO Meeting 6:30 PM
8 <sup>th</sup>	WCES	4 <sup>th</sup> Marking Period Grades Close Gr. 3 Field Trip-Worcester Ecotarium #1 rain date Gr. K Field Day 7PM Annual Town Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup>	WBES	Grade 4 Field Trip Springfield Museums Preschool field day
	WCES	#2 rain date Gr. K Field Day Gr. 5 Field Trip-Hadley Movie
10 <sup>th</sup>	WBES	June 11: Grade 4 Luau and Awards ceremony Preschool last day
	WCES	Gr. 4-6 Olympic Field Day

11 <sup>th</sup>	QMHS WCES/WBES	8th Grade Slide Show (aud.) and Awards & Graduation (gym) PRESCHOOL LAST DAY #1 rain date Gr. 4-6 Olympic Field Day Gr. 5/6 Softball Game-Maine Fundraiser 4:30-8:00 PM at St Stanislaus Pavilion, South St. West Warren
13 <sup>th</sup>	WCES	Gr. 5 Team Destine Cancer Walk at Six Flags
14 <sup>th</sup>	WCES	#2 Rain Date Gr. 4-6 Olympic Field Day 6:30 PM School Committee Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup>	WBES WCES	Grade 1 Field Trip Old Sturbridge Village Grade 6 Roller skating Gr. 3 Warren Tour Gr. 6 WCES & WBES Roller skating 3:15 PM
16 <sup>th</sup>	QMHS WCES	Last full day of classes for grades 7-11 Grs. 1-3 Field Day
17 <sup>th</sup>	QMHS  WCES	Final Exams: A Period (7:40 – 9:27), B Period (9:30 – 11:16) Student Dismissal 11:16BES End of year Concert & Art Show 6:30pm  #1 rain date Grs. 1-3 Field Day
18 <sup>th</sup>	QMHS  WBES  WCES	Final Exams: C Period (7:40 – 9:27), D Period (9:30 – 11:16) Student Dismissal 11:16 Step-Up Dance, 6:00 – 8:00 pm (cafeteria)  Grade 6 Step up ceremony 9:30am Grade 5 Field trip-Boston Science Museum Grade 6: Step-up dance QRMHS Gr. 5 Honor Roll Breakfast #2 rain date Grs. 1-3 Field Day Gr. 6 Step-Up Dance at Quaboag Middle School
21 <sup>st</sup>	QMHS  WBES WCES	Final Exams: E Period (7:40 – 9:27), F Period (9:30 – 11:16) Student Dismissal 11:16 Field Day 9:15-2:00 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Step-Up Ceremony 1:00 PM
22 <sup>nd</sup>	QMHS  WBES	Final Exams: G Period (7:40–9:27), Make Ups, 9:30–11:16 Underclassmen Awards, 9:30 – 11:16 (auditorium) Student Dismissal 11:16 Rain date for Field Day
23 <sup>rd</sup>	WCES	Last Day of School - REPORT CARDS sent home 12:00 EARLY DISMISSAL