



2024/2025 Edition 5: December, 2024

The Season of “Giving Back”

The Quabbin Regional School District would like to thank all of our supporters for your donations of time and resources to support our students and families during this holiday season. This includes community organizations, individuals, businesses, staff, and students. I’d like to share a few highlights of the amazing work here at QRSD.

At Thanksgiving, senior Sadie Sheldon supported by her NHS peers, hosted an event at Ruggles Lane School. Sadie had crafts for the kids and all the families brought food and desserts. In all, fifty (50) first graders and their families attended. It was a great time of connection and appreciation. Great job!



Seniors, Haley Ayer and Sydney Slattery worked to organize a food drive and were able to provide Thanksgiving meals to 27 families at Hardwick Elementary School. Haley and Sydney attended the HES PTO Bingo event and collected the cost of admission, a canned good, which were added to family baskets. Community members donated food and resources to support the event. Well done!



Each of our schools offers opportunities of support for families during the holiday season. Whether assistance is needed with food, gifts, or clothing families can reach out and we are here to help. Many of our schools with support of their PTOs organize drives for toys and gifts and some even have “Giving Trees” where requests can be fulfilled.

Special thank you to our social worker, Nicole Mooney, who has been working diligently with counselors and administrators from our schools. She works closely with QRSD families to ensure that we are assisting with their needs during this time of year. Should you need assistance with accessing resources at any time during the school year, please do not hesitate to reach out to nmooney@qrsd.org.

Visit from Acting Commissioner of Education Russell Johnston

QRSD received a visit from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on November 25, 2024. Pictured below are middle school students with the DESE team.



Student Presence is Important!

One of the challenges that we are facing is students who have struggled to come to school regularly. This time of year can be full of stressors and disruptors that make getting to school even more challenging. It is helpful to maintain structures, routines, and bedtimes and to work together with your child’s school to support their attendance.

Research shows that there are some unexpected root causes that contribute to low attendance.

- Shame about reading skills
- Loneliness or fear of not fitting in
- Parent/Caregivers feeling overwhelmed and isolated
- Incomplete homework
- Uncertainty of school rituals and traditions

Some of the highlights of the visit were:

HS Chorus: Welcomed the Commissioner with “Be Our Guest”

Observations of **Co-Taught Classrooms:**

Feedback from DESE- Your educators really know your students both academically and at a personal level.

Observations of **Grade 6 Interventions -**

Feedback from DESE - Your educators provided scaffolds that allowed students to think critically and be held accountable to the work.

Meetings with educators and students:

Feedback from DESE:

- Your educators are excited to try new things and work through the challenges. They are committed to the students and their success.
- Your students are so positive about their experience here at QRSD, even with the challenges of distance they are able to maintain friendships and they have access to so many opportunities!

WE GOT THE BAND BACK TOGETHER!

After a 15 year hiatus, the QRMHS Pep Band is back, and they are great!!! If you missed the article last week in the T&G, you can read it here:

[Telegram & Gazette](#)

If your child is struggling with consistent attendance, we want to partner with you to help.

Let's think together:

What might be getting in the way of your child attending school regularly?

And..how can we help?

Help shift the perspective:

- Focus on days that have been attended rather than missed
- Celebrate progress
- Let your child know that they are missed when they are not in school

Communication and partnership is essential to increased attendance. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's administrator or guidance counselor for support, ideas, and possible ways to encourage attendance at school.

Quabbin Regional School District students “showed up” to support *Wreaths Across America* on Saturday December 14, 2024.

Eighth Grader, Jillian Rigney, performed Taps after the wreath ceremony was complete at Veterans Park in West Brookfield, MA.



Quabbin NJROTC Color Guard participated in the ceremony alongside the Civil Air Patrol from Westover Air Force Base.





Micah Cerezo had the honor of laying the wreath on the memorial for members of the Navy.



Congratulations to QRSD Athletic Director - Mr. Mark Miville

Holiday Break is here!

On Thursday, December 12th, Mr. Miville was awarded the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors' Association **NFHS Citation award** (from the National Federation of State High School Associations). Among the factors which were considered were the following:

1. An Individual that has a long-standing and distinguished record of involvement with high school activities programs at the local and state levels.
2. Service to the MSSADA (board Positions held, committees, tournament management, etc).
3. Service to NFHS and/or NIAAA (positions held, committees, conference participation, i.e., speaker, president, delegate, host committee, articles published, etc.)

This prestigious recognition highlights Mark's outstanding dedication and unwavering commitment to interscholastic athletics across Massachusetts. Thank you for all that you do Mr. Miville!

There will be **NO** school December 23, 2024 - January 3, 2025.

For families that may need care, the Champions program will be operating on Monday, December 23, Friday December 27, Monday December 30 and Friday January 3. The program will be held in Barre at Ruggles Lane School.

Please reach out to reserve your spot:
Julia.Soueidan@discoverchampions.com

It is our hope that families find time to connect and enjoy one another this season.



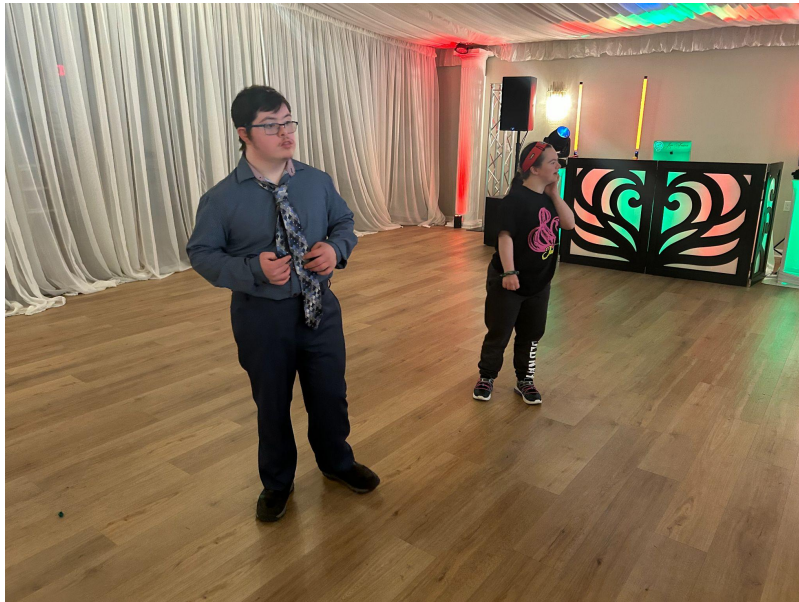
Expansion of our Q-munity Closet

Students in our Post Grad program are hard at work all year long. They work at many of our local establishments such as J & J Restaurant, The Barn in Sturbridge, Harding Allen Estate and throughout the Quabbin Regional School District as lunch monitors, mail carriers, custodial staff and more. We are thrilled to announce that they will soon be opening up their own site at New Braintree Grade School where they will organize, run, and maintain a Q-munity Closet. The closet in New Braintree will specialize in clothing and resources for adults and younger children. We anticipate having this location up and running in January. Should you have any items that you would like to donate, please drop them off at New Braintree Grade School.

Share the Joy!

Recently several of our Post Grad, Project Involve, and SOAR students and staff participated in their annual holiday gathering at the Harding Allen Estate in Barre. They were joined by their peers from the Narragansett and Ashburnham-Westminster programs. The students were responsible for setting up and running the event in partnership with the Harding Allen Estate. The event is just a joyous celebration for all. The students enjoyed sharing a meal together, having their photos taken, dancing and singing. Smiles abounded!

We'd like to thank Harding Allen Estate for their partnership and commitment to our students and programs. You help create a warm and welcoming environment where our students can be themselves fully.



Upcoming Events:
December 18: Early Release Day
Holiday Break- NO SCHOOL 12/23/24- 1/3/25

Winter Sports are here!

Be sure to check out the QRMHS Athletic Schedules on the QRSD website for a full listing of athletic events. Access sports schedules [HERE](#)

Avoid the winter blues, come cheer on our student athletes.

Hubbardston Center School

December 18, 2024: Early Release

December 16 - 20: Spirit Week!

Monday - Dress All in White Day

Tuesday - Wear Your Favorite Flannel Day

Wednesday - Pajama Day

Thursday - Holiday Colors Day

Friday - Wear Your Favorite Sweater Day



New Braintree Grade School

December 13-17: PTO sponsored
Holiday Shop

December 18, 2024: Early Release



QRMHS

December 17: NJROTC Spaghetti
Supper (5:00 - 7:00 pm)

MS Chamber Concert (7:00 - 8:30 pm)

December 18, 2024: Early Release

December 19: HS Chamber Concert
(7:00 - 8:30 pm)

December 20: HS Pep Rally
Banner Ceremony Unified Champion
School

December 16 - 20: Spirit Week!!!

Monday - Holiday Jam Day

Tuesday - Tropical Tuesday

Wednesday - Holiday Movie Day

Thursday - Cozy vs. Ugly

Friday - Holiday Color Wars

During the course of the past month, we celebrate that we have had thousands of family members attend events at our schools across the district! Your presence has meant the world to us, whether you attended concerts, games, classroom or special events. Thank you!

Ruggles Lane School

December 18, 2024: Early Release

December 16-20: Spirit Week!

Monday - Tinsel Toes

Tuesday - Flannel Day

Wednesday - Holiday Cheer

Thursday - Ugly Sweater

Friday - Pajama Day

Oakham Center School

December 18, 2024: Early Release

December 16 - 20: Spirit Week!

Monday - Comfy Cozy Day

Tuesday - Holiday Accessory Day

Wednesday - Red & Green Color War

Thursday - Flannel Day

Friday - Festive Sweater Day

January 21: K-3 Concert

Hardwick Elementary School

December 16: Holiday Concert
(7pm)

December 18, 2024: Early Release

December 16 - 20: Spirit Week!

Monday - Color Wars Day

Tuesday - Dress Like a Reindeer, Elf, or
Other Holiday Figure Day

Wednesday - Sparkle Day

Thursday - Wear All White and Hope
for Snow Day

Friday - Pajama Day

January 13: PTO Mtg 4:30pm

Snapshots from across the district!



2024- 2025 QRSD District Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the 2024-2025 District Calendar

No School Announcements

As the winter weather approaches, the first notification of a school cancellation or delay will be made utilizing our automated OneCall system. In addition, announcements will be made on the following radio/TV stations: WBZ, NECN, WHDH/WRKO, WCVB, WSRS/WTAG, WWLP/TV22, FOX 25. Announcements will also be posted on our website at qrsd.org, on our [district Facebook page](#) or on "X" @SuperQRSD