

# The Bridge

Volume 2, Issue 6

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## Important Dates

- March 9 Two-Hour Delay; PLC Meetings at Schools
- March 14 Board of Education Meets at Philippi Middle; 6 p.m.
- March 26 GED Examinations at CTE Center; 8:00 a.m.
- March 28 Board of Education Meets at Philippi Elem.; 6 p.m.
- March 29 End of Third 9-Weeks Grading Period
- April 5 Third Nine-Weeks Report Cards Issued
- April 5 Young Writers Program at PBHS Auditorium, 7 pm
- April 8 All-County Music Program; PB Gymnasium, 7:00 p.m.
- April 11 Board of Education Meets at BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- April 13 ISE Day (Tutoring)  
No School for Students
- April 22-25 Out of Calendar Days  
Spring Break
- April 25 Board of Education Meets at BOE Office; 6 p.m.



Dear Colleagues,

The Barbour County Board of Education will soon officially begin a search for a new Superintendent for the school system. The Board plans to post the position soon and advertise the position statewide.

There are several bills of interest to school employees that are making their way towards approval. HB 2879 looks to increase compensation to teachers up to \$1,800 and \$1,000 for service employees over a two-year period. This bill is long overdue. HB 2757 will change WVDE Policy 5310 to mandate annual evaluations for all teachers. SB 280 would move the current date by which county boards of education must make decisions about reductions in force from February 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>. I will update bill statuses in our next monthly newsletter.

March and April bring about longer days, improved weather, and long awaited spring. However, the school system has historically seen student misbehavior also increase. As retired school counselor, Nancy Disbennett, would always say, “The sap is rising.” I would urge schools and employees to reinforce our “no bullying” policies with students. Please be vigilant for signs that a student may be at risk from bullying or is perpetuating bullying and report this behavior immediately.

As a reminder, due to all of the canceled instructional days during the winter, the OS days in the calendar have been redesignated as instructional days. The spring break will be limited to the days of April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Office of Education Performance Audits will be busy in Barbour County Schools in the coming weeks. OEPA will visit Belington Elementary, Junior Elementary, and Volga-Century Elementary Schools on March 15<sup>th</sup>. OEPA will also be doing a follow-up visit to PBHS and Mt. Vernon soon. Good luck to all schools and let OEPA know how well you are doing your jobs!

Interim Superintendent

## High School's *Globaloria* Program Earns State Honor

### Tech Initiative Receives \$18,000 Grant

The popular technology education program with the funny-sounding name was recognized by the Barbour County Board of Education and the State Department of Education on February 28. The Globaloria Program, part of the curriculum at the Philip Barbour High School Complex, was awarded a state Certificate of Excellence of Implementation during a special ceremony.



Board of Education members congratulate, from left front, Rebecca Nesbitt, CTEC Director; Gerald Furby, instructor; and Lisa Heinbaugh, PBHS Principal, on the success of the school's Globaloria program.

Instructor, Gerald Furby, was recently notified that the program has been awarded an \$18,000 Program Modernization grant, which will allow the purchase of up to 30 new computers.

Globaloria, which stands for "Global Exploration thru Media," is a technology-based and student-centered Web 2.0 game-making platform. Featuring ongoing professional development, the educators teach students how to create web-games about educational topics they learn in class, using various forms of technology from their initial ideas to their final finished products.

## 2011 County Math Field Day Winners Announced



Dozens of local young mathematicians put their skills to the test during Barbour County's 2011 Math Field Day event on February 17. Held at Philip Barbour High School, the annual event features an individual mathematics competition for pupils ranging from grades 4-12 across the district. In 4th-9th grade, students compete within their own grade levels. In 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, students compete within all of the three grades combined.

The West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics are avid supporters of Math Field Day, and created it to spur students' curiosity in mathematics. Contest areas include a written test and mental math computations. County winners advanced to the Region VII event on March 5, where Philip Barbour's Seth Fitzwater won the math estimation contest.

County winners for 2010-11 will be recognized by the Board of Education at the upcoming March 14 meeting. They include:

**Grade 4:** Cameron Whetzel, 1st (MVES); Trent Tallman, 2nd (BES); Kylie Marks, 3rd (MVES); Mason Long, 4th (MVES).

**Grade 5:** Brett Frey, 1st (MVES); Jessica Melvin, 2nd (KES); Annie Davis, 3rd (MVES); Gena Kelley, 4th (JES).

**Grade 6:** Anthony Phillips, 1st (KMS); Ashley Booth, 2nd (KMS); Cara Kirk, 3rd (KMS).

**Grade 7:** Ethan Mick, 1st (KMS); Seth Daugherty, 2nd (KMS); Justin Spurr, 3rd (BMS).

**Grade 8:** Gunnar Poling, 1st (BMS).

**Dominion Foundation Offers Partnership Grants for K-12 Energy/Environment Studies**

Teachers in Barbour County are eligible to apply for grants from the Dominion Foundation for the development of new educational programs to strengthen math and science skills through the study of energy and/or the environment. The educational partnership grants are aligned closely with the company's priorities, namely:

- Environmental education projects designed to develop math and/or science skills through the study of the environment;
- Energy education projects designed to increase students' awareness of energy efficiency and conservation, energy sources and other energy-related topics.

Approximately \$500,000 in grant partnerships will be awarded in a 12-state region. Applications will only be accepted on-line, with a deadline of May 1 at 5:00 p.m. The on-line grant application is available at [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com), keyword grants. Those in Barbour County who have developed ideas for such projects and would like technical assistance in the process should feel free to contact Doug Schiefelbein at the Board Office or [dschiefe@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dschiefe@access.k12.wv.us).

**GUEST CHINESE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED**



The WV Board of Education recently presented Barbour County Schools with an Excellence of Implementation Award for its full-time Chinese Guest Teacher program. Yangfeng Zhao (shown above with Secondary C&I Manager, Elaine Benson) was assigned to Philip Barbour High School by the College Board and the Hanban Ministry of Education in China. He is completing his second year at PBHS, where some 60 students are enrolled in his classes.

The Chinese Guest Teacher Program is designed to help U.S. schools develop Chinese language and culture study programs and to promote international exchange between the United States and China. Barbour County was selected as a pilot site for the Global 21 World Language program in 2007-08. Yangfeng Zhao is available to conduct multicultural awareness programs throughout the school system. Those interested in scheduling such an event may contact PBHS principal, Lisa Heinbaugh, to make arrangements.



**Barbour County's Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative Program Explained**



The Barbour County Pre-Kindergarten program is designed to prepare children for school by offering a range of experiences based on early learning standards. The program features quiet and moving times, large and small group activities, center times, indoor and outdoor play times and child-initiated and teacher-planned activities. Barbour County Schools and local Head Start programs, through North Central West Virginia Community Action, have formed a collaborative partnership in recent years and utilize the Creative Curriculum initiative.

The PK program serves four-year olds across the county, as well as three-year olds with IEPs. During the present school year, a total of 155 children attend four days per week, Mondays through Thursdays, at sites located at Belington, Junior (2), Kasson, and Philippi (2). The collaborative strategy blends best practices from the school system and Head Start to produce a model which stresses family engagement, regular attendance and developmentally appropriate learning activities to achieve the goal of school readiness for all county children.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Finance Office News:** The Barbour County Finance Office has been notified that the PEIA Finance Board recently approved a total premium increase of \$14 per policy that may be completely offset by discounts for advance directives (\$4) and wellness participation (\$10). For more information about these programs, interested employees may visit PEIA's website at [www.peia.wv.gov](http://www.peia.wv.gov) and select "PEIA Offers Premium Discounts."

In addition, the Optional Life and Basic Life rates will also be changing in 2012. The Basic Life rates for active employees are decreasing, while most of the Optional Life rates are also decreasing. Dependent Life rates, however, will be increasing, according to PEIA.

➤ **Reminder:** Due to weather-related school closures, the third nine-weeks will now end on Tuesday, March 29, and third nine-weeks report card distributions will take place on Tuesday, April 5.

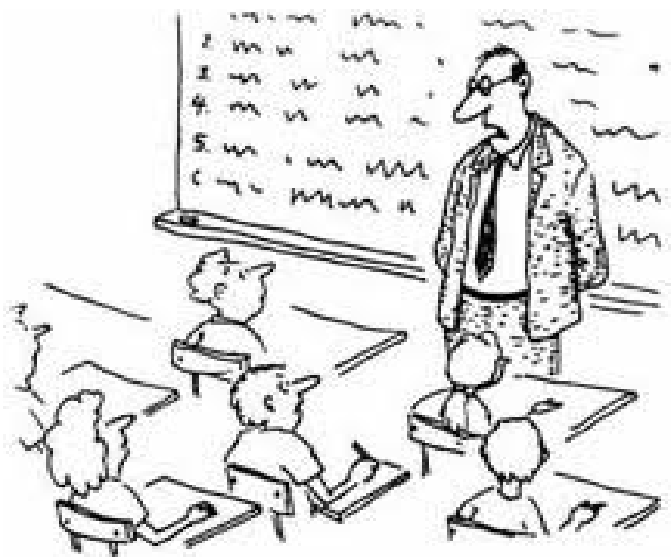
★ The Philip Barbour High School boys' swim team completed the most successful season in its history when the Colts placed 14th among 30 teams at the 2011 WVSSAC State Swimming Championships. The annual event was held at the WVU Natatorium in late-February. Under the guidance of coaches, Bruce and Cheryl Blankenship, the squad qualified for the state meet with a strong showing at the Region III contest, where PB swimmers qualified in eight of the eleven events. Team members who participated in the state event included: Jonathan Franke, Aaron Corley, Chase Byrne, Alex Hicks, Quentin Mouser and Scott Freed.

★ Meanwhile, the Philip Barbour wrestling squad was represented at the state level by a pair of grapplers who finished in the top three of their respective weight classes in the Class A-AA regional event at Berkeley Springs. Dillon Nuzum (145 lbs) and Rickie Hathaway (171 lbs) capped off successful seasons by representing the blue and white at the WV State Wrestling Tournament. The Colts are coached by Pete Ferguson

A Few Fun School Facts



- The number of students enrolled in American schools from kindergarten through college now totals approximately 78.8 million.
- Until the 1930s, most Americans only completed eight years of school. "High School" only became popular during the Great Depression when job-strapped communities saw benefits to keeping teenagers in class and out of the workforce where they'd only serve as low-cost competition to adults.
- Of the ten largest high school gymnasiums in America, nine are in Indiana.
- Today, the largest high school in America is Morton High School in Berwyn-Cicero, Ill., a co-op with more than 8,000 students. Its East Campus alone has 6,000 students.
- The largest college campus by enrollment is Ohio State University, which in 2008-2009 enrolled 53,715 students.
- Education pays. According to a recent study reported in U.S. News & World Report, college graduates earn an average \$20,000 a year more than people who only have a high school diploma.



*"I expect you all to be independent, innovative, critical thinkers who will do exactly as I say!"*