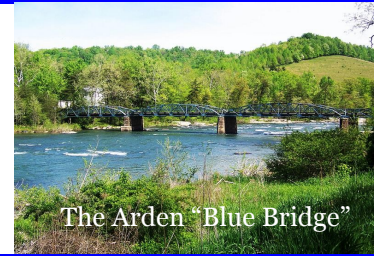


The Bridge



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June, 2010



Important Dates

- June 7 Last Day of School Year for Students
- June 8 ISE Day / End of 4th Nine-Weeks
- June 9 Preparation Day for Closing of Schools
- June 10-30 MS Explorations Camp @ Philip Barbour H.S.
- June 14 BOE Mtg. at 6:30 pm
Retiree Program: 5:30
- June 14-17 Reading Prof. Dev't @ PBHS; 8:30-3:30
- June 26 GED Examinations @ CTEC; 8:00 a.m.
- June 28 BOE Mtg. at 6:30 pm
GED Grad. at 5:30

Dear Colleagues,

As I write this, it is the beginning of June and the school year is coming to a conclusion. As the chapter on this year begins to close, a new one is getting ready to open for our school system.

Working in a school system requires a tremendous amount of dedication for often little compensation. I would like to recognize all of the efforts on the behalf of our retirees for their contributions to our system. Many times those efforts go unseen, but they are greatly appreciated by me and the students you have helped and supported along the way. Thank you for your efforts and contributions you have made to make Barbour County Schools a great place to work and a great place to learn.

As you know, Dr. Lundeen has accepted an offer from State Superintendent, Dr. Paine, to be the superintendent in Grant County. In her 3 1/2 year tenure in Barbour County, Dr. Lundeen has brought about a substantial amount of change to our school system. Perhaps, most notable among her accomplishments, has been the Reading Initiative. Prior to this initiative, a low percentage of our students were on course to be proficient readers. Now, 90-95% of our kindergartners are on track to become proficient as they exit this grade. Nothing will transform our school system as will having 90% of our students being proficient in reading as this is truly the cornerstone of educational skills upon which the rest of a child's education is laid.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of Dr. Lundeen. She has left our system in better shape than she found it. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Thank you, Deede.

Our system is also getting ready to say good-bye to three board members. Pat Jones, Brian Kisamore, and Junior Robinson are winding up their tenure on the board. These three gentlemen have brought a lot of fresh thinking to the board. I have appreciated their fiscal responsibility and their desire to improve Barbour County Schools. Thank you, Pat, Brian, and Junior for your dedication to our school system.

As the three BOE members exit, three new individuals are poised to begin their tenure as board members for the next four years. Joanne McConnell, Bob Wilkens, and Doward Matlick will be

sworn in as board of education members at the beginning of July. After the completion of the swearing-in of the three new members, an election of officers will be held to determine the president and vice-president of the board. Being a board member is a difficult job, so please make our new board members feel welcomed to our school system and encourage them every opportunity you get.

Beginning in July, it is currently the plan of the current board to name me as the interim superintendent. This will be the situation until the new superintendent is named. My role during this time will be to ensure a smooth transition as a new board and a new superintendent take office.

The board will be working with the West Virginia School Boards Association to conduct a search for a new superintendent. If the search goes well, we could have a new superintendent named prior to the start of the next school year.

Over the course of the summer I encourage you to check the status of professional development offerings by going to <http://www.barbourcountyschoolssd.com/>. This website will be updated periodically as staff development plans are finalized.

Thanks for all you have accomplished this school year. Please know that there are many students out there who have benefited greatly from your dedication to your job and that their lives are enriched for having been associated with you, as has mine.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing each of you at the start of the next school year.

Thanks for the Memories!... County Retirees Are Recognized

The Barbour County Board of Education will officially recognize a large group of July, 2009 to June, 2010 retirees from the school system, along with school volunteers, during ceremonies at its June 14 meeting, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The group of twenty-two departing personnel have contributed well over 600 years of service to the children of Barbour County and, while congratulations are in order, will be sorely missed. Sincere gratitude and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement are extended to the following personnel:

- Dorothy Upton (BMS)
- Ellen Wolfe (PES)
- Charlinda Emigh (JES)
- Kathy Ervin (PES)
- Kathy Schoonover (BMS)
- Carolyn Spessert (KEMS)
- Reta Nestor (JES)
- Roger Anglin (Transportation)
- Larry Phillips (Transportation)
- Linda Baumgardner (BMS)
- Elaine Gray (County Office)
- Bridget Maxson (VCES)
- Wanda Owens (PES)
- Larry Simpson (Transportation)
- Ruth Bennett (PES)
- Jeff Phillips (PMS)
- Renee Poe (BMS)
- Sandra Lantz (BMS)
- Chris Hicks (BMS)
- Kenny Jones (Transportation)
- John Mayle (Transportation)
- Connie Armentrout (BES)



Mt. Vernon Students End the Year with Special Events: *Memorial Day Celebration and Career Awareness Day Held*

The students and staff at Mt. Vernon Elementary School have stayed busy during the waning days of the school term with several special events. The Tigers and parent volunteers celebrated the Memorial Day holiday on May 27 by hosting fourteen members of the military, who helped students understand their jobs and roles in service to their country. The youngsters also learned about various types of military vehicles and boarded two types of Humvees that were brought to the school for the event. Of special interest was the climbing wall,



which gave students a chance to test their fitness and agility (opposite column). The program also featured the history of The Pledge of Allegiance and the Poppy, the singing of "America," and floral presentations to the assembled servicemen.



Following their WESTEST efforts on May 21, the children were treated to a Career Day program, where members of the community made presentations about their careers (shown above), including such varied areas as: active and veteran military service personnel, a geologist, physician's assistants, a gunsmith, an artist and a registered nurse.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ Final reminder: All personnel who wish to enroll in the new Vision Insurance program must submit the forms to their school principal or department administrator by June 4. Forms and information were included with the May 27 paychecks.

➤ Remember to mail the required legal documentation, if applicable, to Healthcare Data Management by June 11 to verify dependent eligibility (including dependent life insurance) through PEIA. Questions about the HDM process may be directed to the Finance Office.

➤ All employees with pending travel reimbursement forms must submit them as soon as possible (before leaving for the summer) to ensure payment by the end of the current fiscal year.

➤ Barbour County's early summer session for Reading Professional Development will take place at Philip Barbour High School from June 14-17, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Personnel should refer to the provided (yellow) brochure distributed at each school, or visit the BCS website for session overviews and further details. The late-summer Reading Professional Development program will be held for PK-Grade 8 teachers from August 9-12,



Congratulations to out to the Philip Barbour track teams and coaching staff for an outstanding season. Eight boys and seven girls qualified for the 2010 AA State Meet on May 21-22 at Laidley Field in Charleston. Junior, Sarah McCauley, continued her stellar career with state championships in the 3200 and 1600 meter events, pacing the girls to 5th place among 26 entered teams. Senior, Riley Freeman earned four medals in the boys' meet, leading the Colts to seventh place among 23 squads. Other track and field athletes earning the trip to Charleston were: Chris Toompas, Tylor Faulkner, Matt King, Wes Anderson, Ricky Hathaway, Jeff Neff and Tyler Mullins for the boys, and Brianna Waybright, Amber Abbott, Ashli Shelton, Emily Tusing, Trinity Gray and Briana Shockey for the girls. The Colt squad is coached by Tina Shriver and Ellen Gould.

Summer Pay Dates Announced

Dates for the summer distributions of paychecks for Barbour County school personnel have been set. Employees may pick up their checks at the Board of Education office between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on each of the pay dates. Any checks not picked up in person will be mailed that day prior to 4:00 p.m. Check information for those personnel who are enrolled in direct deposit will be processed the previous business day. To enroll in direct deposit, employees are invited to contact the finance office. The summer pay dates include:

- Tuesday, June 15
- Monday, June 28
- Thursday, July 15
- Wednesday, July 28
- Friday, August, 13
- Friday, August 27 (distributed at work sites)



The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

