



The Historic Carrollton Covered Bridge

The Bridge

Volume 1, Issue 2

November, 2009



Important Dates

November 4	Report Cards Distributed
November 4	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary Schools)
November 5	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Middle Schools)
November 11	Veterans Day: (No School)
November 14	GED Exam Administered: Barbour Co. CTE Center
November 16	Board of Education Meeting At Philip Barbour Complex
November 18	Planned Two-Hour Delay For Students
Nov. 23—27	Thanksgiving Break (No School)
November 30	Board of Education Meeting At Mt. Vernon Elementary

The Greatest Wealth Is Health! (Virgil, 40 BCE)

Dear Colleagues,

It seems that it has all hit at once: cold weather, shorter days, damper weather and illness. Within the past month, we have seen a rise in common colds, the H1N1 and seasonal flu, strep throat, mononucleosis, and various other “twenty-four hour” bugs. We have all been on alert, ever diligent to make sure we keep our students as safe and healthy as possible. I have seen you step up and do your part: wiping down & disinfecting desks, door knobs, keyboards and water fountains; giving out constant reminders about personal hygiene; supervising hand washing; feeling foreheads and calling parents. And all of this is being done on top of the regular job you do every day. If that doesn’t speak to our dedication to our children, what does? Thank you!

This edition of *The Bridge* will provide you with facts about this year’s flu viruses. Even though you may have read everything we sent home with students concerning the flu, please take time to read through the information with yourself and your family in mind. Some facts may be new to you, such as the fact that the H1N1 flu is NOT the same as the seasonal flu. You should also know



that the Barbour County Health Department is in the process of providing vaccinations to our students in our schools as the vaccine becomes available. We will follow the health department’s lead regarding where we will start and which school will be next. As of this writing, we have been told that there is enough vaccine to vaccinate Mount Vernon and Junior, so vaccination dates for those schools have been scheduled. If and when we are permitted to include our school staff members in the process, we will notify you as quickly as possible. In the meantime, if you are interested in vaccinating yourself against the H1N1 or seasonal flu, please contact your regular health care provider or the health department.

You have worked hard taking care of our children. So please remember to take care of yourselves and your family, as well. Stay warm, drink lots of fluids, cover your mouth with your elbow, and wash your hands!

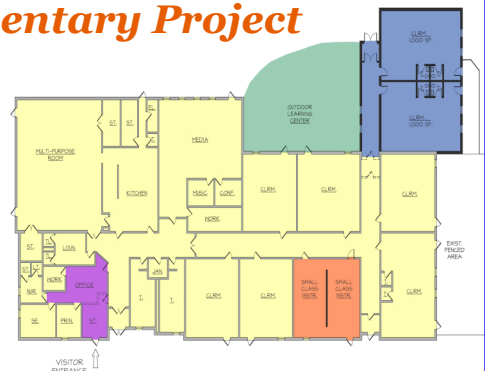
“Home Away From Home” - The Junior Elementary Project



For the second straight year, Barbour County has received major Needs project funding from the West Virginia School Building Authority. The Junior Elementary School project involves five components, as noted on the floor plan to the right: 1) a new and more secure entrance area to the school (purple);

2) two new classrooms to house programming for the growing PK population in southern Barbour County and realignment of some existing classes (blue); 3) remodeled, centrally-located small group instruction areas (orange); 4) a natural outdoor learning center created by the new construction (green); and 5) new roofing and HVAC units for the entire structure (all colors).

Completion of the \$1.3 million project is anticipated for late-spring of 2010. During the renovation and construction phases, JES students and staff are making the old gymnasium wing at PBHS their temporary home.



This floor plan shows the four colored areas identified for improvement in Barbour County’s FY 2009 Needs Project. The fifth area, represented by all five of the colored areas, involves the building’s roof and the HVAC units located throughout the facility.

What Administrators/Teachers/Service Personnel Want to Know About the H1N1 Pandemic Flu

(Talking Points As Provided by the WVDE)

Q: How are you preparing school personnel prior to an outbreak?

A: The WVDE has developed a website <http://wvde.state.wv.us/osshp/main/BirdFlu.html> with appropriate information and the WVDE will be conducting workshops with the Regional Education Service Agencies about the Pandemic Flu.

Q: How can I protect and prepare myself for a possible flu pandemic?

A: Always wash your hands with soap and water after sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose; or use an alcohol based hand rub when soap and water are not accessible.

Cover your cough and dispose of your tissue in the nearest waste basket and wash your hands. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

Stock your classroom with tissues, receptacles for disposing of used tissues, soap and water for hand washing or alcohol based hand cleaner and disposable towels for drying.

Ensure bathrooms are stocked with soap and paper towels on a regular basis.

Follow usual cleaning procedures. Frequently used surfaces like handrails, door handles and lavatory surfaces should be cleaned at least once daily or when visibly soiled. It is not necessary to spray or fog occupied or unoccupied rooms with disinfectants which could exacerbate asthma attacks and allergies.

Q: How can I assist in making students and the public aware of the Pandemic Flu?

A: Incorporate lesson plans and activities on Pandemic Flu into classroom instruction. Send parent and community educational brochures developed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and/or the American Red Cross, located at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/osshp/main/BirdFlu.html> for parents and the community.

Q: Does the WVDE have guidelines or a plan to follow?

A: The WVDE is currently in the process of developing a Pandemic Flu School kit. An informational webpage has been developed to provide schools with the CDC Pandemic Flu checklist, school personnel preparedness information, family preparedness information, lesson plans, general information, training PowerPoints and prevention programs and resources at <http://wvde.state.wv.us/osshp/main/BirdFlu.html>

Q: At what point will my school be closed?

A: We will monitor all schools carefully and follow the state health department's advice and requirements.



Q: As a county school employee, will I be forced to come to work during an outbreak?

A: If a school is deemed safe by the state health department, school personnel can be required to work during days of their contract period as scheduled, whether or not students are present, but cannot be required to work beyond their defined contract period without an additional contract and compensation.

Q: If the school is shut down for two months, am I expected to make up for lost time during the summer?

A: School personnel can be required to work during days of their contract period as scheduled, but cannot be required to work beyond their defined contract period without an additional contract and compensation.

Q: Will I continue to get a paycheck during the time that school is closed?

A: Employee contracts will be honored.

Q: Will my school be used as an emergency care facility, an inoculation center, etc.?

A: Yes. This will be a collaborative effort between county boards of education, community and county health departments



to plan for possible future needs during health care facility capacity overload in your county. The planning should entail identification of the school facilities utilizing required and recommended criteria for DHHR and WVDE. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) should be developed to address logistics including but not limited to, supplies (food and cleaning), care of

the facility, agency responsible for facility, cleanup and repair during the recovery period. .

Q: If my school is used as an alternate healthcare facility, will school cooks, bus drivers and custodians be required to work?

A: If a school is deemed safe by the state health department, school personnel can be required to work during days of their contract period as scheduled, whether or not students are present, but cannot be required to work beyond their defined contract period without an additional contract and compensation.

Q: If my school is used as an alternate healthcare facility, what agency will pay for food, utilities, damages, etc.?

A: Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) initiated by the county school system will dictate those financially responsible.

CTE Teachers Receive Technology Grant Awards



Three members of the Career and Technical Center staff have received Program Modernization Grants from the West Virginia Department of Education to help prepare their students for the challenges of 21st Century learning and the new year.

Amanda Carter's competitive grant award of \$20,000 was used to purchase 35 desktop computers with flat screen monitors. These units will replace the current hardware which had insufficient memory to handle additional software needs required to implement one of the new business course offerings, Web Page Publishing. The replaced machines, still functional, have been reassigned to the CTEC media center to create a new lab that is now available to all programs..

Meanwhile, the team of Richard Daugherty and Gene Hovatter has also received a \$20,000 grant to equip a mobile laptop lab with 32 notebook PC's and two mobile laptop carts. Both Mr. Daugherty and Mr. Hovatter are trained Technology Integration Specialists and incorporate technology into their classes daily. The laptops have wireless web access, providing each student with personal computer access with which to work on research and presentation skills, web and project-based learning activities, and 3D drafting applications in the comfort of their own classrooms.

DCT Class Adopts 21st Century Learning Tools

DCT (or Co-op) students at the Career & Technical Center are diving deep into 21st Century Learning with the PBHS DCT Wiki. Co-op students also have full work schedules which make class time at PBHS and "free time" outside of school more precious than ever. In an effort to help students manage their personal time and transition into the "real world" with 21st Century Skills, all of the coursework for DCT is presented and completed online.

All DCT students are members of the Wiki program at www.pbhsdct.pbworks.com. Students log in to their account to receive and submit assignments, review and research course content, comment on their own and other students' work, and receive comments from both the instructor, Mrs. Nesbitt, and the CTE Director, Ms. Heinbaugh.

Using a wiki for instruction really opens up a new realm of possibilities. The instructor is no longer held captive by a 45 minute class period or 90 minute block. Students and teachers can work and collaborate from home at any time that is convenient for them. However, the online classroom does require the student to take on greater responsibility. Meeting only once weekly, the DCT student must commit to checking his/her e-mail and the wiki regularly and to keeping up with the assignments with much less face-to-face encouragement from the instructor.

The PBHS DCT class also uses G-mail, Google Docs, Survey Monkey, SAS Curriculum Pathways and many other online tools to communicate. For more information about wikis, feel free to contact Rebecca Nesbitt at nesbitt@access.k12.wv.us.



Philip Barbour Social Studies Classes Busy During Early Fall

Contributed By PBHSC



On Friday, October 23, the Travel West Virginia and Pro Start classes at Philip Barbour High School traveled to the New River Gorge area to ride the tram, visit Hawk's Nest State Park, and then on to Beckley to visit Tamarack. The group then made its way to Charleston to tour the Capitol, the new State Museum and the Cultural Center. The students dined at the Town Center Mall and had some time to browse. Though a long day, the students enjoyed themselves.

Earlier in the month, students were offered an opportunity to participate in the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy contest. The 2009 essay theme of "Does America Still Have Heroes?" encouraged students to look at the people in their community and across the nation, deciding what qualities determined heroism and who might meet the standard. After completing an essay on the subject, participants created a 3-5 minute oral presentation on cassette or CD. The local VFW Post 410 has graciously offered monetary incentives for students to participate. The PBHS winner this year is junior, Loran Davis. Now, at each ensuing stage of the competition, she has the opportunity to receive additional monetary rewards, along with a scholarship to a state school should she win the state event. The WV winner qualifies for the national competition and its guaranteed prize of \$1500.00. The national winner also receives a \$30,000 scholarship.

Finally, the AP U.S. History students were caught texting in class and applauded for it! But, in this case, they weren't texting their friends... they were answering subject matter questions. Upward Bound pupils enrolled in the class learned about a new website during their recent summer session that allows teachers to submit questions and students to then text the answers. After some practice to gain familiarity, the group became quite proficient. To ensure that no one was surprised upon receipt of their next phone bill, only those students with unlimited texting were allowed to use the service, but all students had the opportunity to help answer the questions and participate in the innovative process.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ Finance Office Note: Final reminder: as part of West Virginia's state legislative requirements, all personnel planning to qualify for the early state retirement bonus must notify the superintendent no later than December 1, 2009.

➤ Remember to check the Barbour County Schools website for the most current Staff Development opportunities available for CE credit or professional development. The listing is located and regularly updated at <http://www.barbourcountyschoolssd.com/>

★ Gold stars go out to the staffs of Junior Elementary School, Kasson Elementary/Middle School and Philip Barbour High School for their cooperation and adaptation during the construction and renovation projects at JES this year and KEMS last year. Their sacrifices are making possible improved learning environments for hundreds of students for decades in the future.

★ There were plenty of treats on Halloween for members of the PB cross-country teams, as the Lady Colts' squad finished fifth best in West Virginia in the Class A-AA event. No fewer than six Colts earned individual honors in Barboursville on October 31 by placing in the top twenty in their respective races, including four named to the all-state squad. These student-athletes included: Sara McCauley (3rd) and Brianna Waybright (6th) in the girls' event, and Riley Freeman (6th) and Chris Toompas (8th) in the boys' race. Congratulations to Coach Carter and her long distance runners for a stellar season!

➤ *Global 21...Don't Leave Class Without It:* You hear about 21st Century Learning daily and probably have some general ideas about its goals and purposes. But if you'd like a quick, concise overview and more details (complete with an eye-opening quiz), just click on the Global 21 logo at the top of the WV Department of Education's webpage and you'll be able to explain it to inquiring students, parents and community members. After all, "Students deserve it and the world demands it."



The Cowboy Boots

Have you heard the story about the kindergarten teacher who was helping one of her students put on his cowboy boots at the end of a long and hectic day?

He asked for help and she could see why...

Even with her pulling and him pushing, the little boots just didn't want to go on. By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.

She almost cried when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet!"

She looked and, sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier getting the boots off than it was putting them on.

It took awhile, but she managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the stubborn footwear back on, this time on the right feet.

He then announced, "These aren't my boots."

She bit her tongue rather than screaming, "Why didn't you say so!" like she wanted to. Once again, she twisted and struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.

No sooner had they gotten the boots off when he said, "They're my brother's boots. My mom made me wear 'em."

By now the teacher didn't know if she should laugh or cry.

But she mustered up what grace and dignity she had left to wrestle the boots back on his feet again.

Helping him into his big, heavy coat, she asked, "Okay, now where are your mittens?"

He said, "I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots."

They say she'll be eligible for parole next year.