



The Bridge

Volume 3, Issue 3

November, 2011



Important Dates

Nov. 1	Middle School P-T Conferences
Nov. 2	Elementary School P-T Conferences
Nov. 3	High School & CTEC P-T Conferences
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday Schools Closed
Nov. 12	GED Testing, 8 am, CTE Center
Nov. 14	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE
Nov. 21 to 23	Out of Calendar Days Schools Closed
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Day Schools Closed
Nov. 25	Out of Calendar Day Schools Closed
Nov. 28	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, V-CES
Dec. 5	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, JES
Dec. 17	GED Testing, 8 am, CTE Center
Dec. 19	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BES
Dec. 23	ISE Day: No Students (tutoring available)
Dec. 26	Christmas Holiday: Schools Closed
Dec. 27 to 30	Out of Calendar Days Schools Closed

Hi Folks,

WOW! Have the past four months flown by. Good things are happening and more are on the way as we move into November, with the holiday season just around the corner.

First of all, let me offer CONGRATULATIONS to all the outstanding student-athletes on the PB cross-county team and their coaches. As I understand, this is only the third time in state cross county history where both the boys and girls state champs are from the same high school. What a feat, what an honor and tribute to those student athletes, their coaches, and their families and friends throughout the community that supported them.

We have kept Mr. Schiefelbein busy since July writing grants. Our MIP application was submitted in a timely manner as was our NEEDS Project. Now we wait to hear from the School Building Authority on the MIP award and our April presentation date for the NEEDS Project. I am sure Doug's fingers are about to drop off from all the typing, but ... we have more to go!

To keep you updated from the September *Bridge*, our next big submission, the Drop-Out Prevention Grant, is moving along. Our focus with the grant will be on *New Tech Schools* at the high school level, *Rachel's Challenge* at the middle schools, and *The Leader in Me* at the elementary level. Currently, presentations are being made to Faculty Senates and LSICs in efforts to gain their approval so our students can benefit from the \$100,000 a year over the next three years that the grant offers. On behalf of the students who will reap the rewards of this grant, allow me to thank the community for offering their letters of support. Remember:

BETTER ENGAGEMENT—BETTER STUDENTS—FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The new bleachers at Philip Barbour High are truly a great addition to the complex. It has been rewarding to hear the wonderful comments about them from out of town spectators. I have even had folks who have not seen the bleachers relay the compliments they have heard – amazing how fast good news can travel.

In closing I cannot thank our Board of Education, administrators, teachers, staff and the whole community enough for welcoming me to Barbour County. Our state Superintendent of Schools' motto is "Good Kids Doing Great Things." We have that every day in our students. The work ethic of all of our employees and the support of the parents and community truly makes the difference. What better place to be than here where I know, as we continue to move forward, we can count on your support.

Colt Cross-Country Teams Bring Home State Gold!

Philip Barbour High School's cross country teams capped a highly successful season with the ultimate prize...a sweep of both the boys' and girls' team titles during the 2011 AA-A West Virginia State Meet at Cabell Midland High School on Saturday, October 29. The girls' squad claimed its second consecutive championship, while the boys' team captured the first male state team title in nearly 50 years of Colt athletic history.



Under the direction of head coach, Melissa Kaiser, and assistant coach, Marty Waybright, the PB program has established itself as a state power in recent years. While the girls' team was top ranked entering the competition, the boys' team pulled an upset, winning from the number three ranking in a season-best effort.

A proud Coach Kaiser noted that, "I think we showed today that championships are not won paper, predictions or rankings, but on hard work and a lot of heart and determination."



Members of the girls' squad (left) included: Katie Mahoney (fourth overall), Brianna Waybright (fifth), Marissa Long, Amber Abbott, Haley Truman, Merida Kaiser, Mary Beth Long, Nicole Holliday and Allison Villers. Running for the boys' team (above) were: Wes Anderson (tenth), Matt King, Scott Nesland, Trey Furby, Andrew Phillips, Tyler Baldwin, Joey Anglin, Nick Stockberger and Dustin Williams. Top ten finishers were named to the All-State Teams. The dual championships mark the third and fourth state team titles in PB's school history.

HVAC Project Completed at BES

A capital improvement project designed to address heating and cooling issues at Belington Elementary School was completed during October at a cost of \$243,670. The new HVAC units, shown at left, were purchased and installed with local funds and will provide dependable service to students and staff, replacing a faulty unit that had become increasingly unreliable and costly to repair.



Farm Month Activities at MVES Blend Education and Fun

Students and staff members at Mt. Vernon Elementary School recently observed National Farm Awareness Month with a series of high interest activities designed to educate children on how food and other goods are produced by the nation’s farmers.



The school invited Roger Nestor, local WVU Extension Agent, to visit the school, where he made a presentation about the roles and importance of farming in West Virginia. The children then visited his farm to see first hand the workings of a modern farm. A group of MVES youngsters is shown above enjoying an old fashioned hay ride during the early fall.

The Farm Bureau of West Virginia also participated by loaning a collection of books on the topic of agriculture to the school, with classes reading and discussing the contents. As a culminating activity, pupils even broke into groups and created their own miniature farms.



"I know my rights! I want my phone call!"

Current Enrollment Data Reflects Nearly 2% Loss in County Schools

The number of pupils enrolled in Barbour County Schools has dipped to under 2500, according to second month data. The official annual count of 2465.5 reflects a loss of 45.5 students from the same period a year ago and will be used by the state as a basis for funding during 2012-13. With the recent graduation of a large senior class at Philip Barbour, the decrease of 61 high school students offset an increase of 15.5 elsewhere across the district. Other second month data that affects enrollment includes a total of 58 home school students (as compared to 52 at this point in 2010) and 17 dropouts (compared to 26 a year ago). Second month enrollment totals include:

<u>School</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Belington Elementary	322	326.5
Belington Middle	218	216
Junior Elementary	137	132
Kasson Elementary/Middle	218	199.5
Mt. Vernon Elementary	70	73
Philip Barbour High School	712	783
Philippi Elementary	464.5	457
Philippi Middle	261	255
Volga-Century Elementary	64	70
Barbour County Schools	2466.5	2512

Be Aware...

Take Care...

Hunt Safely!



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Final Reminder:** The county administration reminds all personnel who are considering retirement at the end of the school year that **December 1** is the deadline for submitting early written notification of intent for the state's bonus program. In completing this process, please remember that a county board may consider the position of a classroom teacher who has provided such notice of retirement as vacant, and the board may immediately post the position as an opening to be filled at the conclusion of the school year. If another teacher is hired to fill the position prior to the start of the following school year, the retiring classroom teacher is disqualified from continuing his/her employment at that position. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact the county office.

★ **Teacher Recognized:** PBHS teacher, Allyson McNaboe, was crowned Ms. West Virginia Beta Sigma Phi at the organization's annual convention on October 23 in Beckley, following an interview process involving nine chapter finalists. The non-academic sorority was founded in 1931 for the social, cultural and civic enrichment of its members.

➤ **Read to Me Day:** As part of the Read WV campaign, State Superintendent, Jorea Marple, and county administrators invite and encourage teachers and staff to spend part of *Wednesday, November 17*, reading to students. The observance is designed to promote literacy and to help students, discuss its many benefits, and discover a love for reading that will last a lifetime.

Cyber-Bullying: What Every Teacher Should Know

TechSteps, in a partnership with the WVDE, has developed a new series of *Cyber Safety lessons* embedded throughout that curriculum. K-12 educators have access to free tools to prepare students for Internet safety and cyber-bullying awareness. Also, a **FREE** upcoming webinar is available for all from Simple-K12 and presented by popular Educational Technologist, Kevin Honeycutt who notes that...

"Today's kids have grown up digital. They have had access to a world of new possibilities, some good, some not so good. We believe it is the responsibility of parents, teachers, and other adult mentors to join kids on the digital playgrounds and to teach them to be happy and healthy cyber-citizens. With the advent of cyber-bullying and all of its far reaching consequences, we can no longer afford to wait idly by while emotional damage is done. In this webinar, we will share all that we learn and continue to learn, to help you plow this ever-changing ground. We will provide you with new resources, links, and tips to help simplify your job as mentors of 21st century children."

Interested educators can register for free webinars on topics of interest on the *Simple K12* website, including the Cyber-Bullying presentation, scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

