



The Bridge

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December, 2010



Important Upcoming Dates

December 7	Board of Education Meets at V-C Elementary: 6 p.m.
Dec. 14-18	Writing Benchmark #3 Administered
December 20	Board of Education Meets at Belington Elem. (6 p.m.)
December 21	ISE Day: No School for Students (except tutoring)
Dec. 22-23 & Dec. 27-30	Out of Calendar Days: Schools Closed
December 24	Christmas Holiday: Schools Closed
December 31	New Year's Eve Holiday: Schools Closed
January 3	Schools Reopen on Regular Schedule
January 13	Final Day of Second Nine-Weeks Grading Period
January 17	Martin Luther King Day: No School
January 21	Report Cards Distributed 2nd 9-Wks; 1st Semester
January 24	Elementary Schools: Parent-Teacher Conf's
January 25	Middle Schools: Parent-Teacher Conf's
January 26	High School & CTE Parent-Teacher Conf's

Dear Colleagues,

As I write this column it is snowing softly and making a beautiful white blanket over the hill across the river behind the board office. It is now early December and everyone's thoughts are on the coming holidays. The more I think about the holidays, the more I am reminded just how busy this time of year can be. If you are like me, you are trying to find the perfect gift for those people on your list. You are also planning to see family and friends and wondering how you are going to be able to juggle your career and still get it all done.

Coinciding with all of the warm thoughts of the holidays is personnel season. The central office administrators will begin meeting soon to begin looking at all of our data to see exactly what adjustments need to be made in order to keep our school system in the black and to meet the needs of students. Once we have a good idea of where we are going, the superintendent will make a presentation to the board in open session about what the plan is for this school year. I promise that no letters concerning terminations or transfers will occur prior to the holidays. Also, to the extent humanly possible, the law will be followed in all personnel actions.

Since this is the last edition of the "Bridge" prior to the holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God Bless,

Acting Superintendent



Kasson School Again Named State “Exemplary School”

2010 Award Marks Sixth Consecutive Honor for County PK-8 School

For the sixth consecutive year, Kasson Elementary/Middle School has been named a West Virginia Exemplary School by the state Office of Education Performance Audits. KEMS represents the top ten percent of elementary/middle schools in the State of West Virginia. The Exemplary School was celebrated during a special ceremony on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at the Charleston Marriott.

To achieve Exemplary status, a school must meet a high level of student proficiency in core subjects on the WESTEST II; meet a student attendance rate at or above 94 percent; meet a student graduation rate at or above 85 percent; meet a college or post-secondary attendance rate of 55 percent; and meet a five percent standard of students who successfully complete Advanced Placement, dual credit, and honors classes as defined by state Policy 2510. Approximately eight to ten percent of West Virginia schools qualify for the honor annually.



Kasson Elementary/Middle School, located in the northeastern corner of Barbour County is the educational home to about 205 students in grades pre-kindergarten through eight. KEMS principal, Michelle Barb (second from right), noted that, “I am proud of the students, faculty, and staff members for their hard work and dedication. It takes support from the school, parents, and the community to achieve this top honor”.

Superintendent, Dr. Ben Guido stated, “I, and all of Barbour County, am very proud of Kasson School's exemplary status awarded to them by the WVDE. This is a testimony to the entire Kasson school community of the desire, dedication and determination by the entire staff to provide their students with a top-notch education. I hold them all in high esteem with much admiration and respect and all of Barbour County thanks them for their efforts!”



KEMS Students Assist Injured Classmates a Penny at a Time

Students and staff members at Kasson School collected more than 70,000 pennies in support of classmates, Terrence and Alyana Salvador, who were injured in a serious automobile accident out of state during August. The project, sponsored by the KEMS student council, raised money to help defray medical costs for the family. The children are currently attending school in Ohio while Terrance and his grandmother receive outpatient therapy. It is hoped that the Salvadors will be able to return to their Barbour County home and rejoin friends by the beginning of the new school year.



5th Grader, Terrence Salvador (left, in wheelchair) and family members spend time recently with a restaurant friend in Ohio.



GOLD STAR REPORT



The Philip Barbour volleyball team helped contribute to a strong fall sports season at the high school when the squad battled its way to a ninth straight state AA tournament berth in Charleston. Under the guidance of coaches, Heather Halfin and Sarah Harris, the Lady Colts posted a final record of 30-9-2 and swept through the Region II tournament to earn its bid.



Yet another PB athletic team qualified for state tournament competition when the Colt golf team, under conference Coach of the Year, Joe Kaiser, finished sixth the class A-AA division, after sweeping through the regional tournament and completing a great 23-1-1 regular season.



Congratulations are extended to Mrs. Angie McDaniel, science instructor at Kasson Middle School, who recently achieved the prestigious National Board Certification status. The professional growth process involves high and rigorous standard and involves between 200 to 400 hours of extra work, which includes comprehensive portfolio and assessment components. For more information about this advanced teaching credential, visit the website at www.nbpts.org/.



Trinity Gray, a senior at PBHS, has been named as one of 55 West Virginia high school students to receive a \$1000 Students of Excellence scholarship. Sponsored by EQT Corporation and The State Journal, the award is presented based upon volunteer work, entrepreneurial spirit and leadership. Trinity will be accompanied by principal, Lisa Heinbaugh, and faculty member, Julie Scott, at a special reception at the State Capitol Complex Culture Center on December 12.

Kindergarten Registration at All Schools Set for December 14th

Barbour County Schools will be enrolling students for Kindergarten on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at each of the six elementary schools in the district. Children who are currently attending a pre-kindergarten program will not need to register.

Parents are reminded that, by state code, children must attend a state-approved Kindergarten program prior to entering first grade. Children who will be five (5) years old before September 1, 2011 are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten for the 2011-2012 school year. Parents must complete the registration process at the elementary school that is located in their child's attendance zone.



OH, THOSE WINTRY WAKE-UP CALLS!

Why they are when they are...



Barbour County Schools implemented the ParentLink communication system over a year ago and its benefits have been many. Timely and accurate messages from the county office and individual schools can be sent via telephone on a variety of topics to different groups of school employees, students and parents. One of its most important functions during this time of year is, of course, notification of delays, early dismissals and cancellations due to inclement weather. Personnel should remember that, with the exception of transportation staff, ParentLink calls are currently limited to the hours of 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. For example, when a delay for the following day is called after 9:30 p.m., the system will begin generating its related calls beginning at 5:30 the next morning. In some cases, therefore, more up-to-the-minute information may be available to school personnel on the West Virginia Department of Education website or through local television and radio stations.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **W-2 Season:** With the approaching end of the calendar year, many citizens begin the process of tax preparation. The county Finance Office has announced that 2010 W-2 forms will be distributed with personnel paychecks on January 28, 2011.

➤ **Change in ISE Day Date:** Barbour County school personnel, students, parents and members of the community are reminded that the Instructional Support and Enhancement (ISE) Day, originally scheduled for December 15, has been moved to Tuesday, December 21. This calendar change was supported by all reporting school faculty senates.

➤ **Help Build a Bridge:** Has your school community, department or group done something recently that is wonderful, marvelous or exciting? If so, help get out the good news by submitting your article, announcement, photograph or just some scribbled notes to "The Bridge" c/o Doug Schiefelbein through school mail or dschiefe@access.k12.wv.us. Let your principal or supervisor know and we'll be glad to include it in a future edition.



A Promise Kept



It was the day after Christmas at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John, the vicar, was gazing at the nativity scene outside near the front steps when he noticed the Baby Jesus was missing from the figures.

Immediately, Father John's thoughts turned to calling in the local policeman but, as he was about to do so, he saw little Nathan from down the street with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John approached Nathan and asked him, 'Well, Nathan, where did you get the little baby?'

Nathan looked up, smiled and replied, 'I took him from the church.'

'And just why did you take him?'

With a sheepish grin, Nathan said, 'Well, Father John, about a week before Christmas I prayed to Lord Jesus. I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give Him a ride around the block in it.'

