



The Bridge

Volume 3, Issue 4

December, 2011

*For the Holiday Season ~~~~
Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year ~~~~*

To All...

*This card is not new; I make no excuses for using it every year.
And although I am not the original author, the sentiment
expressed has always been very dear to me for several reasons.
My family knows first-hand the miracles of that Silent Night.
So once again, I want and need to share these words
with all of you and your families for Christmas~*

The older I get ...

The longer I hold on to a Holiday Hug ...

The more I realize Christmas is a matter of the heart ...

The tighter my throat gets when I sing Silent Night ...

The more I enjoy giving than receiving ...

The more I try to see Christmas "through the eyes of a child" ...

The longer I sit at night in the glow of the Christmas tree ...

The more wondrously beautiful the Christmas Story is ...

The deeper my awe at God's Infinite Love ...

The more I love Christmas.

From My Family to Yours,

May God Bless All of You ~

Joe, Debbie, and Josh Super



Important Dates

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
Jan. 2	New Year's Holiday: Schools Closed
Jan. 9	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BMS
Jan. 10	Last Day of 2nd Nine Wks & 1st Semester
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Schools Closed
Jan. 18	Report Cards Are Distributed.
Jan. 19	P-T Conferences at Elementary Schools
Jan. 23	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, KEMS
Jan. 23	P-T Conferences at Middle Schools
Jan. 24	P-T Conferences at PBHS and CTEC

Major Safety Drill Being Planned For Spring

The Barbour County School Safety and Crisis Management Committee is in the process of designing a countywide school safety emergency drill to be conducted during the spring of 2012. The committee meets at a minimum of four times a year. Committee members include: the director of the Barbour County Office of Emergency Management, Barbour County Board of Education, county emergency squads, fire departments, local police departments, the Barbour County Sheriff's Department, WV State Police, Barbour County Health Department, DHHR, and selected teachers, principals and parents.

Though still under development, the drill will likely focus on a fictional threat at a single unnamed county school facility. The safety committee plans to meet more frequently than usual in coming weeks to prepare for the event. The group will focus upon such topics as: establishment of county and school command posts; the potential use of out-of-county support agencies and canines; communication modes to be used; identification of roles and responsibilities; and pre-announcements to parents and the community.



School Cancellation Policy Reminders

With the arrival of winter, the superintendent's office recently provided school cancellation and delay policy reminders to all schools and departments for distribution to staff. Along with the procedures involving two-hour delays and early dismissals, the following cancellation policies should be noted:

- All employees will not report on the first six (6) cancelled instructional days. These will be re-scheduled OS Days.
- On the seventh and all subsequently cancelled instructional days, employees will not report if the Superintendent has determined that the road conditions may not safely support buses to/from their destinations. However, all employees will report on a two-hour delay if the Superintendent has determined that the weather might pose unsafe conditions at a bus stop (extreme cold/bitter wind chill, etc.).



Learn 21 Website Provides a Bonanza of Learning Resources

Are you looking for enrichment activities for those students who finish early? Learning resources for snow days? A place for students to explore new ideas or practice classroom skills? Then check out the West Virginia Department of Education's *Learn21* website.

With tabs for students, parents, teachers and the community, there is something for everyone. For example, students can click on grade-appropriate links to games and quizzes at levels PK-K, 1-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12, where learning can come alive in an interactive format. The site taps students' natural interest in technology as it helps them learn as they play.

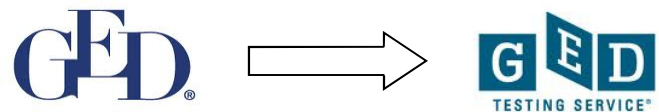


The high school link, for example, includes dozens of activities in each of the following areas: math, science, social studies, language arts, wellness, art, music, videos, web tools, and STEM. The PK-K link features a helpful "teacher" who speaks to and directs children to such areas as stories, games, videos, art and music.

All of the ad-free Learn21 links have been checked and okayed by West Virginia teachers and technology integration specialists. For an opportunity to look over the site, just click the link on the WVDE home page or visit: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/learn21/>.

Changes on the Horizon for GED Testing in WV

West Virginia is in the planning stages for transitioning to computer-based GED testing as early as January, 2013. Barbour County will join other districts from across the state in moving from paper-based testing to an innovative test center network approach. Even the trademarked GED logo has been updated to a "swinging door" look, representing the test's gateway to success.



Under the current plans, GED Testing will team with Pearson VUE to establish approved academic channel/test centers as part of its national network. While testing fees are expected to increase, it is hoped that the WVDE will continue to offer free testing to state residents, as it has since 2008. Among the advantages cited for the change are test scheduling flexibility for examinees, the availability of other testing instruments and a quicker turnaround in score results.

Dates Announced for Major 2nd Semester Academic Events

Preparations are underway for several major academic events scheduled for the second semester of the 2011-12 school year in Barbour County. Dates for these events have been established as follows:

*Math Field Day: January 30 (4:00 p.m. @ PBHS)

*Young Writers: Student essays are due on March 1

*All-County Music Concert: April 13 (7 p.m. @PBHS)

*Golden Horseshoe: Feb. 3 (essay); March 23 (test)

*County Art Show: tentative WESTEST Week @ A-B

— Odds 'N' Ends —

★ **PB Volleyball Squad Goes to States:** The Philip Barbour volleyball team made its historic tenth consecutive trip to Charleston for the AA state tournament, defeating Greenbrier West in the opening round, before bowing to Ritchie County in the semis.

Under the direction of coach, Heather Halfin (right), the Lady Colts posted a final record of 34-12-3 in a season that saw Halfin named Big Ten Conference Coach of the Year and senior, Lauren Rogers, the Big 10 Player of the Year.



➤ **Holiday Pay Dates Set:** The Finance Office reminds all employees that pay checks will be issued on December 15 and 23 due to the holiday break. The next pay check distribution is scheduled for January 13, 2012.

➤ **Stephen Ferguson Earns Honor:** On November 18, Philip Barbour High School senior, Stephen Ferguson, was named a 2011-12 EQT Student of Excellence scholarship winner by The State Journal. Stephen was recently featured on public television as one of 58 seniors from across the Mountain State who received the \$1000 scholarship. The awards are made annually to students who not only make the grade in the classroom, but are making a difference in their communities through volunteer work, leadership and entrepreneurial spirit.

➤ **Parental Involvement Training:** As a part of Barbour County Schools' ongoing efforts to involve parents in the educational process, a one-hour staff development session by Shelley Starkey will take place on December 20, beginning at 4:00 at the county office. The presentation is especially designed for principals and Title I staff members.

Christmas Smiles



A kindergarten Sunday School teacher had her class draw pictures of the nativity scene as a follow-up to their study of the First Christmas. As she circulated amongst the children, she noticed that Jimmy had done a fine job drawing the baby Jesus, along with Mary and Joseph and the animals, but she noticed with some anxiety that he had drawn a little fat man right next to the manger. She asked, "Jimmy, that's not Santa, is it?" The youngster squinted up at her and said, "Course not. That's Round John Virgin."

In the rush of last-minute Christmas shopping, a woman bought a box of 50 identical greeting cards. The generic holiday design on front looked fine and so, without bothering to read the verse inside, she hastily signed and addressed all but one that was left over. A few days after mailing them, she came across the last card in the box and looked with horror at the message inside. It read, "This card is just to say...a little gift is on the way!"

What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Santa Claustrophobia.

AHAJOKES.COM



"Hand over the scarf and nobody gets hurt."