

# The Bridge



Volume 6, Issue 5

January, 2015



Hi Folks,

Christmas vacation has passed for another year; I hope everyone was on the “nice” list! Allow me to extend to all of you my very best wishes for the New Year.

## ***Important Dates***

- Jan. 9** CE Day—Faculty Senates Meet
- Jan. 12** Nine-Weeks Report Cards Are Distributed
- Jan. 12** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Jan. 15** Deadline for Early Retirement Notice
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King Holiday: No School
- Jan. 22** County Math Field Day: PBHS; 4-7:30
- Jan. 26** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Jan. 30** Young Writers Forms Due to T. Childers
- Feb. 4-5** TASC Equivalency Testing at CTEC
- Feb. 9** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Feb. 10** Golden Horseshoe Essays: Mid Schools
- Feb. 13** Rescheduled as Instructional Day
- Feb. 23** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- March 3** Golden Horseshoe Multiple Choice Test

Until this past week, the West Virginia winter had been very kind to us, although we knew that the ice, snow and frigid temperatures were just around the corner. But, the days are now actually growing longer, and that’s a step towards those first signs of Spring!

Our winter sports teams are now in full swing and I encourage folks to get out and support our student-athletes. I know they really appreciate seeing not just Moms and Dads, but people from the community, as well, at their games.

We are fast approaching that time of year when we will again be faced with tough recommendations regarding personnel and the budget. As always, we have the uncertainties related to pending cuts in revenue from Washington and Charleston, which makes things that much harder in trying to work through the process. With the changes in personnel laws, we will continue to keep folks informed of the potential of “reductions in force” and “transfers.”

It will be interesting to see what changes, if any, come from our State legislators related to education. As they come, we’ll do our best to keep folks updated and informed.

Again, my personal “THANK YOU” for all you do for our kids and my best wishes for a **Happy New Year!**

Respectfully,



**PBHS Instructors, Hathaway and Collins, Certified as NTN Trainers**

Just prior to the holiday break, the New Tech Network notified Trista Dalton and June Collins that they had been named Certified Trainers. Barbour County’s NTN programs continue to break new ground in the Mountain State as the two Philip Barbour educators become the first two in the national network from West Virginia. Each received a printed certificate, along with the following greetings:

“On behalf of the New Tech Network, we would like to congratulate you on successfully obtaining your NTN Trainer Certification. This designation acknowledges your deep understanding and capacity to lead your own learning and the learning of others in the key components of the New Tech model.

“As certified trainers, you have become valuable assets to the growing network of schools who are committed to reinventing teaching and learning. We are continually looking for ways to connect our certified trainers and utilize their skills to enhance the work of all the schools in our network. You can expect to hear from us in the future about additional networking and training opportunities. Thank you for your efforts and congratulations on your Trainer designation.”



The New Tech Network “school within a school” has been in place for the past three years at PBHS, and an eighth grade program will become a reality at Philippi Middle School during 2015-16.

Written by Barbour County Schools as a WV Innovation Zone dropout prevention plan, the NTN initiative emphasizes culture, technology and project-based learning to create dynamic learning environments for students.

**Inclement Weather Results in More Calendar Changes**



As of January 8, 2015 Barbour County Schools had lost four (4) days of instruction due to inclement weather and/or hazardous road conditions. WV Code stipulates that all county systems are to achieve 180 days of instruction. In an effort to comply with State Code, each day of instruction that our system misses must be made up. The following recommendations will be made to the Barbour County Board of Education for its approval:

<u>Date of Cancellation</u>	<u>Date Rescheduled to</u>
November 18, 2014	February 13, 2015
January 6, 2015	March 6, 2015
January 7, 2015	March 19, 2015
January 8, 2015	April 7, 2015

If and as additional days of instruction are lost, the next days to be rescheduled will include: April 8-10 and then June 2-30.

**“Cruiser Christmas” at JES & VCES**

Junior and Volga-Century Elementary were among local schools that partnered with state troopers for the “Cruiser Christmas” program in December. Trooper Frank Turansky, shown with principal, Dr. Teresa Marsh, used donations from ATOS oil company, Joe and Susie Pickens, and Home Oxygen Therapy of Weston to holiday shop for students.



Participating troopers were then joined by Santa to deliver the gifts to students’ homes in their cruisers during the holiday season.

### Final Reminder That Early Notification of Retirement Deadline is January 15

The Finance Office has issued a final reminder that the date for classroom teachers to submit early written notification of their intent to retire in order to receive the \$500 bonus authorized by WV Code 18A-2-2(g) is **January 15**. In completing this process, please remember that a county board may consider the position of a classroom teacher who has provided 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.

Also, although not required in WV Code, Barbour County is also offering a \$250 early notification bonus to service personnel who notify the board by January 15 of their intentions to retire at the end of the school year. For more information about the early notification process or for the necessary form, interested staff may contact the Finance Office at 457-3030 (ext. 136).



### RESA 7 Will Sponsor "Sumdog" Math Contest Beginning on January 16th

Math teachers across Barbour County are invited to enter their classes in a RESA 7-wide mathematics contest beginning on January 16 through the popular Sumdog program. Competition on the free educational game website takes as little as one hour as students respond to questions and prompts that are selected from hundreds of Common Core skills.



Students love playing Sumdog's multiplayer games against others worldwide - while their teachers keep control over the skills they work on. The videogame-type approach is available both at school or at home and engages pupils, maintaining their interest as they learn and progress through the challenges.

For more information or answers to questions, contact [info@sumdog.com](mailto:info@sumdog.com). To register, log in at: [http://www.sumdog.com/enter\\_contest](http://www.sumdog.com/enter_contest). The RESA 7 contact is Jeovanna Lalaria, Director of Curriculum/Instruction at 624-6554 (ext. 222).

### TECHNOLOGY INFLUX WILL BENEFIT ALL SCHOOLS IN 2015

The Barbour County Technology Team and district administrators have completed the annual process for determining needs and approved allocations for 2014-15. With state funding provided through different projects, the following purchases were processed in early January:

**Barbour TSS**—laptops, service hours, parts; **BES**—teacher laptops, Elmos, projector, speakers, carts, student laptops, headphone/microphones; **BMS**—teacher laptops, headphones/microphones; **JES**—teacher laptops, headphones/microphones; **KEMS**—student laptops, carts, headphones/microphones; **MVES**—projector, Elmo, student laptops; **PBHSC**—teacher laptops, Elmos, projectors, carts, desktops, network printer, wireless network replacement, server upgrade, service hours, headphones w/microphones; **PES**—projectors, ceiling mounts, video display cables, screens, headphones w/microphones; **PMS**—teacher laptops, student laptops, headphones w/microphones; **VCES**—headphones w/microphones.



## — Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **It's W-2 Season Again:** The Finance Office reminds all county school personnel that their W-2 tax forms for 2014 will be distributed with their January 15th paychecks. In addition to these paper copies, employees may also access these forms through the county payroll website.

➤ **2015 All-County Concert Date Set:** Barbour County's music teachers and administrators met in December and have selected Friday, March 27, as the date for the annual All-County Music Concert. The popular event brings the district's elementary, middle and high school student-musicians together for an evening of choral and instrumental fun and entertainment. Following a practice day on March 26, the official 7:00 p.m. program will be held in the Philip Barbour High School gymnasium.

➤ **Junior VFD Fire Safety Project:** Students and staff at Junior Elementary School learned about the hazards associated with the winter fire season during special school activities during December.



In addition to seasonal tips on the topic, the Junior Volunteer Fire Department provided free smoke alarms to every student at Junior Elementary School. Shown here are local firefighters Charley Wilson (left) and Logan Waugaman as they deliver the smoke alarms to the school lobby for distribution to families throughout the Junior attendance area.

## “One District, One Book” Campaign to Kick Off at Elementary/Middle Schools

Students in all elementary and middle schools in Barbour County will participate in the new “One District, One Book” program in the coming weeks. Designed to build a culture of literacy in every home, the program, sponsored by Title I and Read to Them, will feature a single book, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, by Richard and Florence Atwater. Beginning in late-January or early-February, parents of students at all eight schools will be asked to have their families participate in this special activity.

Families will receive a reading schedule and are asked to dedicate 20 minutes per evening (or one chapter) at home to the program. Then, at school, the children will participate in trivia contests and other enjoyable related activities. The novel program features kids across the district all reading the same title, which was selected a title because it can be followed, understood and enjoyed by younger students, while still captivating and stimulating older children. The Read to Them organization sums it up by saying, “When a whole school reads a book, there's a lot to talk about.” With the help of parents and educators, we can build a Community of Readers at our schools.

