

The Bridge



New River Bridge: Fayette County

Volume 1, Issue 5

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Important Dates

February 1	Second Nine-Weeks and First Semester Report Cards
February 2	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Elementary Schools)
February 4	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Middle Schools)
February 8	Junior Elem. LSIC 5:30 pm Board of Ed. Mtg. 6:30 pm at Philip Barbour H. S.
February 13	County Math Field Day 8:45 a.m. at PBHS
February 15	ISE Day at all Schools
February 20	GED Exams Administered 8:00 a.m. at CTE Center
February 22	Board of Education Meets 6:30 p.m. at BOE Office
March 2	Parent-Teacher Conferences (Philip Barbour H. S.)



Be a Sport! An Invitation...



Dear Colleagues,

As we get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day, we become even more conscious of the ones we love. I would also ask that you take the opportunity to remember not only *who* you love, but *what* you love. Each and every one of you have a talent, a skill, a hobby, a true calling that you love doing whenever you can: fly tying, sewing, cooking, archery, singing, teaching, playing an instrument, wood working, hunting, etc. And some of you love sports. You love to play them, you love to watch them, and you love to be a part of them.

You may not be aware, but we are always looking for that special person who loves a certain sport and would consider coaching. We always seem to have a few open coaching positions at the beginning of each season, both at the middle and high schools. If a quality coach is not found for a certain sport, the student athletes are robbed of the opportunity to connect with that sport, the coach, other athletes, and the school. Having a quality coach is the only answer.

Having been a coach myself for many years, I know the time and effort it takes to grow a quality team. This fact alone can sometimes make you forget how much you love the sport. But, on behalf of all of our student athletes, I ask that during this Valentine season, you really take inventory of what you love.

And, if your heart calls you to a certain sport, please consider coaching. Our student athletes need you!

Belington Students Employ Mock Trial to Study Jurisprudence

On January 19, members of the Belington Middle School eighth grade class completed their study of the American judicial system by traveling to the Barbour County Courthouse to conduct a mock trial. Students were divided into prosecution and defense teams that featured attorneys, witnesses, a defendant and even a bailiff. The students had spent several evenings after school preparing their cases with their teacher-advisors, LaDonna Davis and Sarah Harris.

The groups also received professional advice and information from local attorney, Lisa Weese-Ferguson; Deputy Phil Ferguson; and Magistrate Kathi McBee, who served as judge during the proceedings. The case concluded when the defendant, "Elijah Heater," was found not guilty of arson charges by a jury of twelve BMS peers. Following the mock trial, the group, along with Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Harris and principal, Moke Post, enjoyed lunch at Smokey Ray's restaurant before returning to school.



Belington Barristers: Eighth grade students from BMS gather on the front steps of the historic Barbour County Courthouse.

Back As It Should Be: The PB Roof Is Blue Again!



Workers braved ice, snow and freezing temperatures to complete the roofing project as quickly as possible at PBHS.

As of February 1st, all of the metal roofing panels at the “new” Philip Barbour High School were in place, as the primary phase of the repair and replacement project continued during wintry weather. Many panels were damaged during high winds in early 2009, and the decision was made to replace and secure all panels on the structure. Flashing and detail work are now nearing completion, along with the final seaming of the signature blue panels.

The project complements the new roofs installed at the Career and Technical Education Center and the “old gymnasium” wing at PBHS during the fall. Barbour County can now lay claim to some of the newest and most secure secondary school roofing in the state of West Virginia.

Welcoming the Little Ones: 2010 P-K and Kindergarten Registration Schedules Finalized

- February 10: Countywide Meeting (PB Auditorium) 6:30 p.m.
- February 16: Philippi Elementary School: 9:00 to 2:30 pm
- February 18: Head Start (Philippi and PB) 9:00 to 2:30 pm
- February 24: Belington Elementary School: 9:00 to 2:30 pm
- February 25: MVES: 9:00-11:00 am; VCES: 12:30-2:30 pm
- February 26: Kasson: 9:00-11:00 am; Junior: 12:30-2:30 pm

Recertification Programs Available to Teachers through Pierpont College

Pierpont Community and Technical College, in partnership with Ed2Go, has announced the availability of several online programs designed to meet Teacher Professional Development recertification requirements. The WV Department of Education has approved these classes for meeting Options 2 and/or 4 on Teacher Recertification Form 4.

While these courses do not count towards degree completion, they are designed for salary increment and recertification upgrades.



Classes start every month, running for six weeks and covering twelve lessons, which can be taken online at the enrollee's convenience. Upon successful completion of the course, Pierpont will transcript each class at no charge to the student. For more information, go to www.ed2go.com/pierpont or call (304) 367-4920.

Volga-Century PTO and Students Publish Cookbooks to Support Incentive Program

Inspired by local students, the Volga-Century PTO has published and is selling cookbooks to support the school's incentive programming. The spiral-bound book features nearly 400 recipes provided by teachers and staff, student family members and friends and community citizens. The group's goal is to raise \$4500 to be used for positive reinforcement projects and activities at VCES.



For more information or to purchase “A+ Recipes,” interested parties are invited to call the school at 304-457-3239 or Christie Streets at 304-457-2519.

Update Provided for Junior Elementary School Renovation Project

As the necessary red tape is slowly unraveled, the improvements and renovations to Junior Elementary School will soon become visible and tangible. The \$1.3 million project will involve five components: a new and more secure entrance area to the school; two new classrooms to house programming for the growing PK population in southern Barbour County and realignment of some existing classes; remodeled, centrally-located small group instruction areas; a natural outdoor learning center created by the new construction; and new roofing and HVAC units for the entire structure.



A total of ten general contractors and twelve additional firms representing sub-contractors and

suppliers participated in the pre-bid meeting on February 2nd. The project's clerk of the works, Glenn Sweet, anticipates that bid packages will be received by the middle of the month, with plans in place for a formal recommendation to the Board of Education at its February 22nd meeting.

Another E-Learning Opportunity for Teachers...at Little or No Cost!

West Virginia E-Learning for Educators courses are now available to teaching personnel for non-degree college credit, as arranged through West Virginia University and Marshall University. There is no charge for professional development courses, while the costs for three hours of non-degree graduate credit ranges from \$105 to \$130 depending upon the course.

Registration is open as of February 1st for courses that run from March 3 through April 20, 2010. Related grades will be issued and reflected on transcripts in May of 2010. Graduate class registration forms and instructions are available upon the opening day of each workshop. Participants are responsible for completing the registration process for their specific college program.



For more information, please go to: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/pd/elearning/faq.php>. To register, visit: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/pd/elearning/registration.php>.

Just a few examples of the courses available to teachers through E-Learning are:

- ◆ Global 21: Standards Based Instruction
- ◆ Classroom Management
- ◆ Digital Storytelling
- ◆ Cyber Safety for Educators
- ◆ Creating Rubrics that Assess Student Work
- ◆ Designing a Virtual Field Trip
- ◆ Integrating Literacy into Life Sciences
- ◆ Utilizing a Mentoring Program
- ◆ Using Technology in Elementary Math Classes
- ◆ Teach21 for Educators
- ◆ Developing and Implementing WebQuests
- ◆ Using Patterns to Develop Algebraic Thinking
- ◆ Best Practices in the Digital Age
- ◆ 21st Century Project-Based Learning

— Odds 'N' Ends —

- Paychecks will be distributed from school sites and other work locations on Friday, February 12, since banks will be closed on Monday, February 15, in observance of Presidents Day.
- Personnel should note that the reimbursement rate for the use of personal vehicles is being reduced from 44.5 cents to 40.5 cents per mile effective February 9. The WV Department of Administration adjusts the rate periodically, with the next review set for July of 2010.



The little fellow had not been doing well in school...no, not at all...despite the best efforts of his teacher. She had a hard time

keeping him interested and on task, and low marks had, unfortunately, become the norm. So, she was surprised one day when, feeling a tug at her sleeve, she looked up and saw that he had taken the rare initiative to approach her desk. That's when he said, "Teacher, I don't want to scare you, but my daddy said that if my grades don't start getting better, somebody's going to get a good spanking!"



February 15th ISE Day Schedule Announced



Barbour County school personnel are asked to take note of the following schedule for ISE day activities planned for Monday, February 15, 2010:

Custodians: Custodians will report to the CTEC (Room 2) from 8:00-11:00 a.m. for staff development. The remainder of their 7.5 hour days will be at their regular work sites.

Cooks: Cooks will work their regular shifts, but will report to the CTEC for a meeting at 11:00 with Rebecca Nesbitt.

Bus Operators/Mechanics: Bus operators will report to the bus garage. Mechanics will attend a meeting at the central office from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

Aides: Instructional aides will start at their regular times. Aides will report to the high school auditorium for the afternoon. See the schedule for teachers below.

Secretaries: Regular work day. Any secretary with a contract of 215 days or more will attend a meeting at the central office from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

Maintenance: Regular work day. All maintenance personnel will attend a meeting at the central office from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

Professional Staff: All professional personnel will follow the normal ISE day schedule during the morning. All professional staff will report to PBHS for sessions during the afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.. See the special notes below:



*Elementary, middle and high school teachers of math, science, art, and CTEC staff will report to the auditorium for a session regarding the math initiative. Principals and aides will also attend this session.

*Middle and high school teachers of PE, social studies, language arts, and foreign languages will report to the PBHS media center. This session will build upon the participants' knowledge of the reading initiative.

*Art teachers/elementary art contacts and music teachers will meet at the high school from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. to plan for the 2010 County Art Show and All-County Music Concert respectively. Those teachers who do not have students to tutor should attend. The meetings will take place in the art and music rooms at PBHS..