

The Bridge



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Important Dates

February 9	ISE Day Scheduled: No School (except tutoring)
February 12	GED Examinations; 8 a.m. at Barbour County CTEC
February 14	Board of Education Meets; Junior Elementary; 6 p.m.
February 21	Golden Horseshoe Essays at County Middle Schools
February 28	Board of Education Meets; Philip Barbour H.S.; 6 p.m.
March 14	Board of Education Meets; Philippi Middle; 6 p.m.
<i>To Be Announced</i>	End of Third Nine-Weeks Grading Period
<i>To Be Announced</i>	Third Nine-Weeks Report Cards Are Distributed
March 28	Board of Education Meets; Board Office; 6:00 p.m.

The following statement was released by the Barbour County Board of Education on Tuesday, January 25, 2011:

“The Board and Superintendent have mutually agreed to part ways and have negotiated an agreement that the Board considers to be fair in accomplishing this end. This action is subject to approval by Dr. Guido and his counsel.”

Dear Colleagues,

To date, we have lost eleven days of instruction due to inclement weather or hazardous road conditions. If we make it a full week this week (Jan. 31- Feb. 4) it will be the first full week of instruction since the week right after Thanksgiving.

As you may already know, with missing eleven days of instruction, it is necessary to adjust the school calendar. All of the Out-of-School Environment Days (OS) will be converted to instructional days. A revised calendar has been included on page 5 of this issue of “The Bridge.”

A resource that I would urge all of you to take advantage of is LEARN 21 which can be found at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/learn21/>. In the event of future school cancellations, you can direct students to log onto this website to continue their learning.

Ellen Ball, our new Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, will be starting her duties this week. Ellen brings with her a wealth of experience from New Jersey school districts; the Ketchikan, Alaska School District; and the Pleasants County, WV School System. I hope you will all make her feel welcome. I would also like to thank Jack Reger for filling in as Acting Treasurer and Eddie Flowers for his assistance in this area. They did a very good job under the given circumstances. I (we) also owe a debt of thanks to Elaine Gray for coming back to ensure that we make payroll and that the checks are printed. Thank you Elaine, Jack, and Eddie for stepping up to make sure that the school system continues to function so that the rest of our employees can take care of our kids.

Let’s hope that the groundhog does not see his shadow this week and all of this white stuff on the ground disappears soon. Think Spring!



Acting Superintendent

Rededication of Junior Elementary School Set For February 14

School personnel and members of the public are cordially invited to attend the rededication ceremonies at Junior Elementary School beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 14., prior to the Board of Education meeting. Barbour County's 2009 Needs Project at JES was selected for funding by the WV School Building Authority, with renovations and additions at the school completed during the 2009-10 school year. A primary component of the \$1.3 million proposal was expansion of pre-school services to southern Barbour County.



The resulting construction resulted in the creation of 2745 square feet of additional instructional area. Most notable are the two new spacious PK instructional areas (below left), with two student restrooms located in each. A new adjoining hallway now leads to the pre-school wing. The project further allowed reconfiguration of the front entrance and lobby, along with parking lot bollards, for security purposes; replacement of the facility's roof; new HVAC units for reliable climate control; classroom renovations, including small group instruction areas; and the creation of an outdoor learning area.



8th Grade BMS Students Participate in Youth and Government

Belington Middle School was recently represented by students and staff members at the West Virginia Youth and Government Seminars in Charleston. The group of ten BMS representatives spent parts of three days in the state capitol, from January 24—26, participating in the annual event. The Youth and Government Seminars are a cooperative effort of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Hi-Y Leadership Center. The sessions provide an excellent opportunity for eighth grade students to learn more about state government by observing it first hand and by interacting with its leaders.

Students representing BMS in 2011 included: Paige Bibey, Tyler Brady, Chandler Burner, Madori Elmore, Cody Everson, Gabrielle Kyle, Krista Robinson, and Elyse Stockberger. They were accompanied on the trip by teacher, Sarah Harris, and principal, Moke Post.



New WVDE Grant at PBHSC Will Target Climate & Behavior

The Safe and Supportive Schools (S3) Program is funded through the US Department of Education and WVDE Office of Healthy Schools for four years, beginning in October 2010. The intent of the competitive grant program is to maximize all of available resources to address the individual needs of each school with regard to improving school climate and conditions for learning within the existing school improvement process.

Philip Barbour High School was one of 23 high schools selected for participation in the grant, which totals \$275,000 over the next four years. Annual allocations include a school climate survey for students, parents and teachers, S3 team funds for staff development and intervention planning, intervention funds to address climate and behavioral issues, and funding for the services of a school climate consultant. Mr. Greg Cartwright, a retired former high school principal with over 30 years of experience, is the West Virginia Model for Positive School Climate Consultant who will be working with Philip Barbour High School during the grant period.



Agriculture Commissioner, Gus Douglas, Visits Belington Elementary Students

Last summer, some 4500 third grade students from 68 schools across the Mountain State competed to see who could raise the largest cabbage. Belington Elementary School student, Austin Davis, took home the award with his 21 inch cabbage that measured 49 inches in circumference.

To mark the achievement, West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner, Gus Douglas, and WVU Extension Agent, Roger Nestor, visited the school to help present the award and to speak to students about the importance of subsistence farming, in which citizens provide food for themselves. Austin received a \$1000 savings bond, a framed certificate and a tee-shirt from Bonnie Plants, which co-sponsored the contest.



BES principal, Cindy Vance, said that the school held the event to allow students to see the success of a classmate and to encourage even more participation in the future. "We wanted to make it important for the kids to see this achievement," she said. "So, we invited the commissioner and he agreed to come." Entries for the 2011 spring program will be received until March 15.

Mock Trial at County Courthouse Helps Students Understand Judicial Process

The judicial branch of government became a little less mysterious on January 20, when gifted students and other middle school pupils participated in a mock trial at the Barbour County courthouse. A script for the trial was written and then performed by



the students, with the assistance of their teacher, Laura Coe, and Magistrate Kathi McBee. The event was part of the state supreme court's *West Virginia Law Adventure* initiative, designed to help students learn about and experience the judicial process.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Paycheck Changes Explained:** Personnel may have noticed a bit more or less in the net amounts of their paychecks beginning in January. The Finance Office explains that these changes are due to two factors. First, the employee share of social security contributions fell from 6.2% to 4.2% at the beginning of the year. Secondly, federal tax tables have changed effective January 1, 2011.

➤ **Certification Reminders:** If your teaching certification is due to expire on June 30, 2011, the coursework required for renewal and an application for renewal must be submitted to the Personnel Office prior to the opening of the 2011-12 school term. There have been many changes regarding certification permits and authorizations recently and staff are encouraged to contact their colleges with any questions. Also, if you have completed hours that make you eligible for advanced salary classification, it is important to submit all paperwork as soon as the class is completed. The county's state aid funding is based in part on current salary information. More importantly, the state will backdate salary increases only up to three months.

★ In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, announced in January that **Sarah McCauley of Philip Barbour High School** was its 2010-11 Gatorade West Virginia Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year. The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the racecourse, distinguishes McCauley as West Virginia's best high school girls cross country runner. The 5-foot-4 senior raced to the Class AA individual state championship this past season. McCauley has maintained a 3.88 GPA in the classroom. The vice president of her school's student council, she is a devoted member of her church choir and has volunteered locally as part of multiple community-service initiatives in association with her church youth group.

On-line Writing Assessment Portion of 2011 WESTEST Scheduled for Coming Weeks

County principals, along with building level coordinators and technology specialists completed training for the 2011 On-line Writing Assessment on February 1 at the Board of Education Office. The writing assessment, which is now an official component of the annual WESTEST 2 battery, will be conducted according to the following schedule windows as established by the Department of Education for Barbour County Schools:



*Feb 28 – March 11: PMS and BMS

*March 14–25: PES, BES, KEMS, MVES, JES, VCES

*March 21–April 8: Philip Barbour H. S.

BCS Selected as PEIA Pathways Worksite of Month for January

Barbour County Schools has been chosen as the state Worksite of the Month for January, 2011, in the PEIA Pathways to Wellness program. In 2003, the county program was originally implemented at just a handful of county schools. However, in 2007, all schools were combined to form one large worksite, which now hosts one large annual screening at Philip



Barbour High School. Last October, the county saw its largest turnout of participants (107) for the annual health screening. The local worksite has three coordinators, all of whom are school nurses: Sandra Haller, Marsha Nestor, and Lisa Hart. All three are congratulated for their great job of incorporating the Pathways to Wellness program into the schools they serve.

