

The Bridge



Volume 6, Issue 5

February , 2015



Important Dates

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
March 6	Rescheduled as Instructional Day
March 9	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
March 12	End of Third Nine-Week Grading Period
March 19	Rescheduled as Instructional Day
March 20	Third Nine-Weeks Report Cards Issued
March 23	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
March 23	Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 24	Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 25	High School Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 2	3 Hr. Early Dismissal

Hi Folks,

I am not sure who you follow, French Creek Freddie or Punxsutawney Phil, but rest assure we will have more winter in front of us than we want. Either way, be glad you are not Bill Murray and caught in his continuous Groundhog Day misadventures. Regardless, with Valentine's Day coming up, I hope some sunshine, candy and maybe some flowers are on your agenda.

Our student-athletes are full bore into basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading. As always, I thank all of our players, coaches, and support staff for their commitment to the various programs. Of course, I would be remiss for not saying a special "thank you" to the parents for all their sacrifices - many times they are the unsung heroes.

Personnel Season is upon us and tough decisions have to be made. It is never an easy task having to inform someone of a RIF or Transfer, but I do make it a point to see and talk to folks face-to-face. I again thank everyone for their patience, understanding, and trust placed in the process and those implementing that process.

As before, and as always, my perspective has not changed: the glass is half full. We will be going outside the proverbial box with our thinking and we will be reaching out for suggestions to help the system. I know we have great people who are willing, no matter the challenge, to make the glass even fuller. And we will!

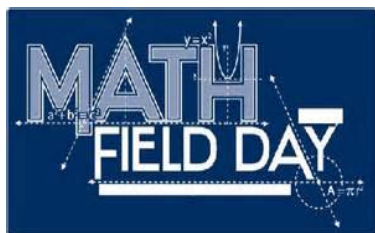
Again, my personal "Thank You" to all our great people.

Respectfully,



PB Tapped as Regional Math Field Day Site; County Winners of Annual Event Honored

Region 7 has announced that Barbour County Schools will host the 2015 Regional Math Field Day competition. The event will be held at Philip Barbour High School for county mathematicians in grades 4-12 on Saturday, March 21, with registration and opening activities slated for 9:00 a.m. and the closing awards ceremony at 3:15 p.m.



The county will be well-represented at the contest by the following local winners who were determined during the recent district event

held on January 22 at the high school:

Grade 4: 1st - Mason Halfin, Kasson Elementary; 2nd - Stellan Johnson, Philippi Elementary; 3rd - Alfred Isch, Philippi Elementary; Alternate - Caden Hawkins, Kasson Elementary.

Grade 5: 1st - Abby Weingard, Philippi Elementary; 2nd - Samuel Ferguson, Philippi Elementary; 3rd - Seth Harris, Kasson Elementary; Alternate - Jaden Bender, Philippi Elementary.

Grade 6: 1st - Chandler Poling, Kasson Middle.

Grade 7: 1st - Logan Allen, Belington Middle; 2nd - Maela Carr, Belington Middle; 3rd - Emily Austin, Belington Middle; Alternate - Lyndon Wagoner, Belington Middle.

Grade 8: 1st - Gage Poling, Kasson Middle; 2nd - Zoe Payne, Belington Middle; 3rd - Anna Ruf, Belington Middle.

Please Note BOE Change of Address



Area Timber Company Partners with Mt. Vernon School and Its Students

The Coastal Timberlands Company, with a local office in Buckhannon, recently purchased tablets for the majority of students at Mt. Vernon Elementary School to use with a WVNET service



called URcast, which allows the children to download teacher content onto their tablets. The hardware and service allows students to use the devices as a flipped classroom at home, on the bus, at basketball games or anywhere else without the need for an Internet connection. The school hopes to provide tablets to all of its students in the near future.



The teaching staff can now use a new server at the school, thanks to the efforts of TIS, Tom Williams, to download learning resources such as videos, books and tests to the individual tablets. Students bring their tablets to school once each week to download the teacher's content. The process is user-friendly, as students simply turn on the devices, which automatically download material onto the student message center. Teachers' learning resources are also stored on their laptops at school for classroom use, saving significant Internet access time, allowing them to devote more time to learning. Because of the new system, the staff reports that both students and teachers are changing the way they think about the processes of teaching and learning.

“Friends of George Byrer Field” Host Community Event at PBHS

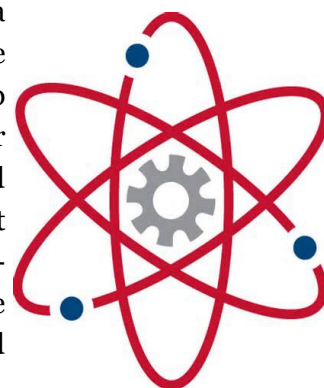


On the evening of January 29, The Friends of George Byrer Field hosted several dozen local citizens at the Philip Barbour media center in a two-hour program designed to inform the public about the goals of the organization and to solicit their input on how to make the current project as beneficial to the community as possible. FOGBF is a grass roots group that has been dedicated for more than 15 months to providing the children and residents of Barbour County with a first class outdoor athletic, performance and all-purpose facility on the grounds of Philip Barbour High School.

Welcoming remarks by PBHS principal, Mark Lamb, were followed by presentations by FOGBF co-chairs, Mike Cvechko and Brian Bibey, and committee member, Doug Schiefelbein. Philip Barbour alumnus, Lauren Schiefelbein, then shared health and wellness data about the county and West Virginia, linking potential January resolutions of “cutting out and cutting back on” some unhealthy products to funding for the project. Those assembled then divided into six small groups (picture above) to discuss how various fictional personas might benefit from the new facilities and how the complex could be used creatively beyond athletic and performance events. Each group then shared ideas and insights gained during their discussions. The evening ended with door prizes, a light meal and free admission to the PB basketball game.

Career Center Receives PLTW Funding from Thrasher Engineering Group

During January, Thrasher Engineering of Bridgeport decided to donate funding to a local Project Lead the Way school and selected Philip Barbour High School and its Career and Technical Education Center. As an existing PLTW program, the staff can utilize the \$500 donation to reduce school costs for a number of eligible items. These include: PTLW participation fees, Core Training expenses, program equipment and supplies, a 3D printer as listed in the purchasing manual, a lab printer, a teacher laptop, or a digital projector and screen. The school will not have any reporting requirements and it will simply be considered a gift restricted to PTLW expenses.



Project Lead The Way is the nation’s leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. Its world-class curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate and community partners, helps students develop the skills necessary to succeed in today’s global economy.

Smokey Bear Visits Junior and VCES

Students at Junior and Volga-Century Elementary Schools were treated to a visit by Smokey the Bear in January. He shared fire safety information while greeting the youngsters, reminding each of them that “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!”



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Certification Reminders:** If your teaching certification is due to expire on June 30, 2015, the coursework required for renewal and an application for renewal must be submitted to the Personnel Office prior to the opening of the 2015-16 school term. There have been recent 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.

➤ **New Meal Billing Address:** The local Office of Child Nutrition reminds all parents and staff members who pay monthly bills for school breakfasts and lunches of a change in address for mailed payments. As of February 1, payments should be sent to: *Barbour County Schools, 45 School Street, Philippi, WV 26416* instead of the prior Charleston address.

➤ **Have a Heart on February 14th:** Students and staff members from Belington Middle School will be bagging groceries at the Belington Shop 'N' Save on Saturday, February 14, in return for 10% of the day's sales, so stop by, purchase a few items and say hi!

➤ **Matthew 25 Deliveries Anticipated:** The director of Facilities, Glenn Sweet, has announced that the next delivery of supplies from the Matthew 25 organization will arrive on February 11. School representatives are asked to make arrangements to pick up donations for their respective schools at the Career and Technical Education Center between the hours of noon and 3:00 p.m. on that date.

➤ **The RESA 7 Social Studies Fair for 2015** will be held at the Fairmont Middletown Mall on March 27. County fairs must be completed by 3/6/15.

JES Students Earn "Snowbird" Visit



As a reward for meeting their summer reading goal, students at Junior Elementary School received a winter visit by a local television star. Snowbird from WBOY—Channel 12 congratulated the group and taught the students and staff members how to do the official Snowbird dance.

