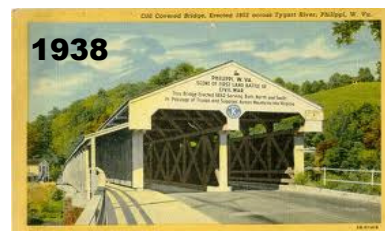


The Bridge



Volume 7, Issue 5

February , 2016



Important Dates

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 8 | Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE |
| February 9 | FAFSA Workshop at PBHS Library; 1-7 pm |
| Feb. 17- 18 | TASC Examinations at CTEC: 3:30 p.m. |
| February 22 | Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE |
| February 29 | Faculty Senate Day: Student 2-Hour Delay |
| March 5 | All-County Music Concert: PBHS @ 7:00 pm |
| March 11 | Calendar Change from OS to Instructional |
| March 14 | Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, PMS |
| March 19 | Regional Math Field Day @ PBHS |
| March 21 | Young Writers Awards Celebration @ PBHS |
| March 22 | End of Third Nine-Weeks Grading Period |
| March 22 | Parent-Teacher Conf. at PBHS and CTEC |
| March 25-28 | Annual Spring Break |
| March 28 | Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE |
| March 29 | Calendar Change from OS to Instructional |
| March 30 | Calendar Change from OS to Instructional |
| March 31 | Calendar Change from OS to Instructional |

Greetings Everyone,

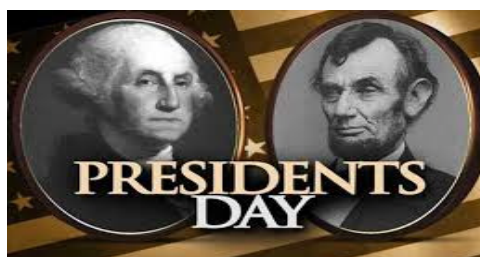
We have officially recovered from what I hope is the last snow storm we will face this year. I was very impressed with the work of our maintenance crew, custodial staff, transportation department, administrators and everyone else who came out and helped to dig our schools out and get them ready for classes to resume, especially after Winter Storm Jonas.

We are well into the second half of our school year and we have to make sure that we are pushing ourselves to do the best that we can for our students. My late former coach, Joe Paterno, always said, "Every day you either get better or worse, you never stay the same." I believe that is true for all of us in life.

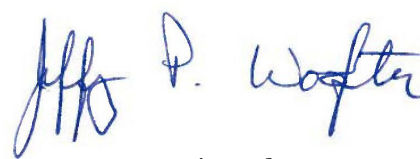
Due to the financial constraints of our school district and a reduction in enrollment (over 100 students less this year than last) I had the difficult task of recommending a reduction of over ten teaching positions and seven service positions to the Board of Education. It is truly the most gut wrenching thing I have ever had to do in my professional life. It is compounded, as far as I'm concerned, because the moves have to be made not based on the quality of the employee, but rather on seniority. The recommendations that were made must be approved by the Board of Education before they can be enacted, and I trust the Board to do what they believe to be in the best interests of the students and staff of Barbour County Schools.

I have asked the Board to run an excess levy this May that is geared toward increasing security in our schools, increasing the technology available to our students and staff, making the funds necessary to build a new bus garage and provide needed maintenance for our schools, and providing our faculty and staff with the resources needed to purchase tools for use in our classrooms. I will be providing everyone with a copy of the official ballot that will be voted on by Barbour County voters on May 10th. I know that, historically, Barbour County residents have been unwilling to pass an excess levy, but when you look at what we want to do to with the funds, I am cautiously optimistic that the voters will step up and invest in our students.

Thank you for all of your efforts to make Barbour County Schools a district that we can all be proud of and for the work that you do for our students on a daily basis.



Sincerely,



Superintendent

Barbour County Schools Awarded \$4.6 Million by WV School Building Authority for Local HVAC Improvement Projects



On December 14, Barbour County Schools was named as one of 15 state recipients of Need Grants by the West Virginia School Building Authority. The competitive process annually results in awards to school systems that submit proposals for capital improvement projects and follows an evaluation and review process. The total award of \$4,593,322 to Barbour County was the fifth largest in the state for 2015-16.



The local Needs project focuses almost exclusively on energy management upgrades and controls that will result in not only substantial savings to the school system and local taxpayers over the coming decades, but in the creation of positive physical atmospheres that are more conducive to learning for the children of Barbour County.

For example, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units are among the primary components of the project. A majority of these systems in the LEA have reached or exceeded their expected useful life spans. Barbour County Schools proposes significant HVAC renovations to the seven (7) district schools that serve its largest student populations. Other aspects of the project include: lighting upgrades, integration of HVAC components, modern meters for utilities, water conservation measures, ventilation control improvements, and exterior reflective window film installations.

A local funding match of \$2,359,200 will take the form of projected energy savings and will not cost the county any precious dollars from its state-basic budget. The total cost of the ambitious project therefore is estimated to be \$6,952,522.

Implementation of the project measures will, in summary, allow the county to: a) significantly improve learning environments for its students; b) bring its buildings into compliance with current ASHRAE and industry standards; and c) extend the useful lives of its school facilities. The upgrades will produce a 21st century system that will provide dependable, economical service for several decades to come.



The replacement of numerous decades-old rooftop units, like this one, that must provide dependable heating, ventilation and air conditioning to county schools will positively impact healthy learning environments for students and staff members, while creating energy savings and reducing maintenance and repair costs.

Playground Pavilion Resurrected at Belington Elementary School



With spring approaching, students at Belington Elementary School will soon have access to their new playground pavilion. The original structure was purchased and installed by the school's PTO, but a wind storm destroyed it a year ago. Insurance funding allowed its replacement during the recent Thanksgiving break. The project was completed by Braveheart Construction company.



Inclement Weather Causes Changes in School Calendar

January's Winter Storm Jonas and school closures in early February have affected the school calendar for the second semester in Barbour County. As of February 11, the following changes have been approved or are being recommended to the Board of Education for consideration at its February 22 meeting:

<u>Lost Instructional Day</u>	<u>Scheduled Make-Up Date</u>
January 21, 2016	March 11, 2016 (OS)
January 22, 2016	March 29, 2016 (OS)
January 25, 2016	March 30, 2016 (OS)
January 26, 2016	March 31, 2016 (OS)
January 27, 2016	April 1, 2016 (OS)
February 9, 2016	May 9, 2016 (PT)
February 10, 2016	May 27, 2016 (PP)
February 11, 2016	May 31, 2016 (OC)

County Students Earn State Recognition for Perfect Attendance through First 100 Days

In August, State Superintendent, Dr. Michael Martirano, introduced a statewide initiative to improve student attendance rates across West Virginia. Entitled, *Attendance Matters*, the program recognizes that attendance is critical to student success and that too many West Virginia students miss too many days of school. It promotes strategies that support the conclusion that they must be present and engaged to take advantage of the learning opportunities at school to succeed in life.

As part of the campaign, the WVDE has recognized pupils across the state who have achieved 100% attendance for the first 100 days of the school year. A total of 112 Barbour County students (4.6%) have qualified for the honor according to Attendance Director, Glenn Sweet. Three schools surpassed topped seven percent, led by Belington Middle with 7.6%, followed closely by Belington Elementary at 7.5% and Kasson School at 7.2%.

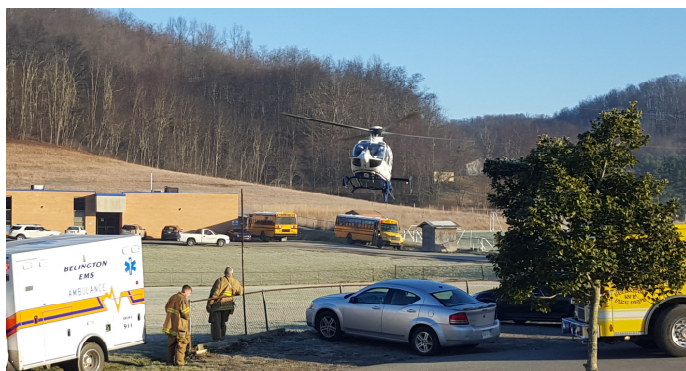
KEMS Receives Good Sports and Healthy Kids Grant

The Kasson Elementary/Middle School Athletic Boosters is excited to announce a grant awarded from Good Sports, Inc. The grant was written by Principal Dr. Teresa Marsh. The grant totals \$15,000+ and will provide KEMS with a wide range of athletic equipment, uniforms, and footwear. With this grant KEMS will be able to use up to six total donation requests over a two-year period, with a maximum of three donation requests per year.



Good Sports' mission is to "give all kids the lifelong benefit of sports and physical activity by providing new apparel, equipment and footwear to those most in need." "The Kasson Athletic Boosters is proud to serve our student-athletes," said Dr. Marsh. "We believe in doing the most good for the most students. By volunteering our time, we invest in the future of our students."

County Schools Continue to Serve as Local Life Flight Resource



Barbour County Schools plays several key roles in the partnership of community agencies that respond to emergencies across the district. One example is the provision of landing sites for life flights in cases where urgent responses are needed. Shown above is a December instance of a helicopter landing at the Belington campus ball field for transportation of a seriously ill resident. Similar locations have been used at the Philippi school grounds, the Kasson campus and open areas at Philip Barbour High School.

Kasson Students Qualify for Regional Spelling 2016 Bee

The students at Kasson Elementary-Middle School participated in the annual school Spelling Bee on January 20. Participants in grades 4-8 duelled for the right to represent Barbour County at the 2016 Regional Bee, to be held on March 16 at the Bridgeport Conference Center in Harrison County. The top spellers, shown below, included:



Olivia Zinn, Chandler Poling, Caden Price, Katie Kennedy, Sarah Drooger & Christopher Rader.

Belington Community Medical Association Makes Large Donation to Promise Foundation



During December, the Belington Community Medical Association presented the Promise Foundation of Barbour County with a \$100,000 check designated to the BCBank challenge grant fund. The generous donation will help fund major renovations at the outdoor athletic and performance facility at Philip Barbour High School. The clinic sees the funding as a means of not only supporting local student-athletes, but its own vision of improving community health and wellness. Shown above following the presentation are, from left: Jeff Goff, CEO of BCBank, Inc.; Mike Cvechko, BCMA board member, Eric Ruf, Clinic CEO and Board of Education President; and Jeffrey Woofter, Superintendent of Barbour County Schools.

County Elementary Students Share Popular Book with Family Members

Barbour County Schools has expanded the popular "One Book, One School" concept to all elementary students as youngsters are currently sharing the classic story of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" with family members at home and one another at school. The six-week program, designed to promote the joy of reading, kicked off on February 1.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Certification Reminders:** If your teaching certification is due to expire on June 30, 2016, the coursework required for renewal and an application for renewal must be submitted to the Personnel Office prior to the opening of the 2016-17 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.

➤ **Golden Horseshoe Time:** Eighth grade students at Belington, Kasson and Philippi Middle Schools will soon vie for the honors of representing Barbour County as Knights and Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe by participating in the annual countywide competition. Coordinated through West Virginia social studies classes, pupils will complete the essay portion of the contest on February 10, with the multiple choice test conducted on February 23.

➤ **Calendar Hearing Dates Set:** Personnel who would like to provide input or learn more about the proposed school calendar for 2016-17 are invited to attend either of two upcoming Board of Education meetings. The first hearing will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the beginning of the February 22 meeting at the board office, while the second opportunity will be at 6:00 p.m. at the March 14 meeting, schedule for Philippi Middle School.

➤ **Mileage Reimbursement Change Noted:** Employees who submit travel reimbursement requests should note that the county mileage rate, which is adjusted periodically, has been set at 54 cents per mile effective January 1.

WVLeads Certification Notes

Barbour County teachers and other educators who plan to complete eLearning courses through WVLeads to meet teacher certification renewal and/or advanced salary options may do so during the following sessions:

***Winter, 2016: January 6 - February 23, 2016**

***Spring, 2016: March 2 - April 19, 2016**

Please note that the **Summer 2016 course session has been cancelled** due to possible movement of course content to a new course platform. WVLeads eLearning courses will resume during the Fall 2016 session, from October 4 to November 22, 2016. Additional information may be accessed at:

<https://wvde.state.wv.us/elearning/schedule.php>.

Staff members with questions about this program may contact Donna Landin, Coordinator in the Unit of Professional and Personalized Learning at her email address, dlandin@k12.wv.us, or call 304.558.9994.



"Daydreaming is a serious problem in my classroom.
I can't stop thinking about retirement, summer
vacation, winter break, snow days..."

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