

The Bridge



New River Bridge: Fayette County

Volume 8, Issue 5

February, 2017



Important Dates

- Feb. 3** PK and K Registration; 9 a.m.—2 p.m.; PBHS
- Feb. 11** Winterfest Dance at PB; 7:00 to 11:00 pm
- Feb. 13** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- Feb. 13** 2017 School Calendar Hearings: BOE, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 24** Faculty Senates Meet: 2-hour delay—students
- Feb. 27** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- Feb. 27** 2017 School Calendar Hearings: BOE, 6 p.m.
- Feb. 28** Key Club Blood Drive at PBHS; all school day
- March 7** Young Writers Program at PBHS; 6:30 p.m.
- March 13** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- March 14** End of Third 9-Weeks Grading Period
- March 22** Report Cards Issued
- March 23** Elementary Parent—Teacher Conferences
- March 27** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- March 27** Middle School Parent—Teacher Conferences
- March 28** High School Parent—Teacher Conferences

Greetings Everyone,

I saw a quote the other day and it goes as follows, “Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms - to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.” The quote is by Viktor E. Frankland and I am certain that it pertains to both men and women.

During the course of the past couple of weeks, I have encountered people and circumstances that really brought home the message in that quote. For instance, I dealt with several phone calls to my office regarding the lack of heat at Philip Barbour High School the day our boiler went down. A vast majority of the callers were kind and respectful and just wanted to make sure that we were aware of the situation and that something was being done to correct the problem. A few, however, were definitely not respectful and called me several names that I cannot put into this publication. The outcome, for both the respectful and the disrespectful, was the same. The heat didn't get fixed any quicker regardless of how it was reported.

In the education business we deal with students and parents with differing goals, backgrounds, intellects, etc. All of them feel that they are doing what is in their best interests. If we choose to be positive, kind, respectful and helpful, we can often times convince them that we also have their best interests in mind and that we are doing what we believe will give students their best chances for success.

The federal, state and local governments spend billions of dollars inventing new programs, investing in technology, and developing innovative ways to increase student learning. If we could just find a way to inspire people to focus their energies into positive attitudes, give people the desire to both teach and learn, and convince all stakeholders in the education of our children to pull in the same direction, we could save billions of dollars and improve thousands of lives. Be Positive!



Annual County Math Field Day Successful; Results Announced

The 2017 Barbour County Math Field Day events were held at Philip Barbour High School on the evening of Tuesday, January 17. Program coordinator and PBHS Math Department chair, June Collins, termed the annual event a success, noting that nearly 70 students participated in grades 4 through 8. Winners from grade 4 are shown below.



Local contestants put their skills to the test following weeks of preparation and practice as they completed a variety of challenging but fun mathematical tasks. The top three grade winners now advance to the RESA 7 event at Alderson Broaddus University on March 8, with the awards ceremony scheduled for 3 p.m. The 2017 state contest will be at West Virginia University on April 22.

The 2017 BCS Math Field Day results included:

4th Grade (30 participants from PES, KES, BES)

- 1st: Samuel Short (PES)
- 2nd: Riley McCartney (PES)
- 3rd: Matthew Arnold (PES)

5th Grade (13 participants from all schools)

- 1st: Brody Bouscher (BMS)
- 2nd: Keaton McDermott (PMS)
- 3rd: Maggie Mincey (BMS)

6th Grade (6 participants from KMS & PMS)

- 1st: Christoper Rader (KMS)
- 2nd: Mason Halfin (KMS)
- 3rd: Matthew Mace (PMS)

7th Grade (5 participants from all schools)

- 1st: Seth Harris (KMS)
- 2nd: Jaden Bender (PMS)
- 3rd: Cadie Kittle (BMS)

8th Grade (14 participants from all schools)

- 1st: Hunter Melvin (KMS)
- 2nd: Gage Poling (KMS)
- 3rd: Bo Stevens (PMS)

2017 BCCF Grant Will Fund New Kasson School Tutoring Program

Elementary and middle school students at Kasson School will soon benefit from a new after-school tutoring program thanks to a grant award of \$2160 from the Barbour County Community Foundation. Written by Barbour County Schools, the competitive grant award was announced in January and will fund the costs associated with a one-hour learning lab for multiple days per week. The school will develop a schedule for 100 school days of service that will extend well into the 2017-18 term.



New Special Education Mini-Lab to Be Unveiled at Philippi Middle

The Barbour County Community Foundation has announced that \$1000 has been awarded to Philippi Middle School to help fund a new mini-laboratory



for the school's special education classes. The project was submitted by Barbour County Schools and the BCCF community grant will add five Chromebook laptops and computer mice to the department inventory. Focusing primarily on the transitional year of fifth grade, the equipment will allow self-paced learning, as they master new material and become technology literate.

Homer's Odysseus Goes on Trial before New Tech Group at PBHS

Members of the ninth grade New Tech English and History Collaboration class took to the "courtroom" recently as they conducted the trial of Odysseus, the legendary Greek king of Ithaca. After reading Homer's classic epic, *The Odyssey*, students studied ancient Greek laws and teamed to write a script for a modern-day courtroom drama. The trial came complete with lawyers, witnesses, and student selected pieces of evidence that could be entered into the court.



The class members presented their cases before senior, Madison Moats, who served as the "judge" and announced verdicts based on the quality of arguments and evidence presented on both sides of the proceedings.

After spending two days in the courtroom, the students then took to the gym to compete in their own version of the Olympics, where they competed in a combination of athletic and academic events in attempts to win gold medals. This activity is the most recent of many hands-on projects that the New Tech students have participated in since the program's inception in 2012-13.

The goal of NTN is "to enable students to gain the knowledge and 21st century skills they need to succeed in life, college and the careers of tomorrow. The New Tech model provides an instructional approach centered on project-based learning, a culture that empowers students and teachers, and integrated technology in the classroom, all designed to ensure long-term success."

Philippi Middle Students Open Hearts, Empty Pockets for Local Cancer Patient

In January, the student council at Philippi Middle School sponsored a school-wide "Pennies for Patients" drive to help a local cancer patient with costs of



treatments, transportation and other expenses related to the illness. Overseen by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, PMS students donated pennies during the project with a goal of at least \$200 established. The final count showed a total of \$329.24 contributed by the school one penny at a time. Shown above are Stephanie Burge, the group advisor, and two student council members, as they tally one day's donations during the recent drive.

JES, KEMS Students Learn about Service Dogs

Students at Junior Elementary and Kasson School recently had visits from Jack, the German shepherd service dog owned by Lisa Lepsch. Known best as the county's school psychologist, Lisa has trained some of the best skilled Shepherds in the United States for much of her life. Tying recent publicity about working/service dogs to the curriculum, the schools contacted the local expert to instruct and entertain the students, allowing them to compare and contrast the information that Lisa shared to what they had learned previously. Students were amazed at all that service dogs have to offer right



here within Barbour County. Other schools interested in an educational program and visit from Jack may contact Lisa at the board office at 304-457-3030 (extension 124).

— Odds 'N' Ends —

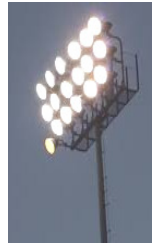
➤ **Calendar Updates Announced:** The Barbour County Board of Education has approved the following changes to the 2016-17 school calendar related to recent school closures due to inclement weather: March 10, March 17 and April 10 have been rescheduled as Instructional Days, while May 30 is now designated as the PT Day.

➤ **Administrators Focus on PLCs:** At a district meeting on February 2, county administrators and principals continued to study the ways and means to increase the effectiveness of Professional Learning Communities across the school system. PLCs are groups of educators that meet regularly to share expertise and work collaboratively to improve teaching skills and the academic performance of students. Among the essential characteristics being examined are: shared mission, vision, values and goals; collaborative teams focused on learning; collective inquiry; action orientation and experimentation; commitment to continuous improvement; and results orientation.

My 5th grader's spelling test

- ~~20. civilization~~ civilization
- ~~21. monarkey~~ monarchy
- ~~22. demonints~~ dominance
- ~~23. corispond~~ correspond
24. illiterate
- ~~25. emphasise~~ emphasize
- ~~26. oppozition~~ opposition
- ~~27. cloreen~~ chlorine
- ~~28. comotion~~ commotion
- ~~29. madisonal~~ medicinal
- ~~30. earisponsibal~~ irresponsible
- ~~31. sucsetion~~ succession

Promise Foundation Keeps the Lights On For Citizens During Winter Months



If you've noticed the field lights burning during many winter evenings at BCBank Park, it's not an oversight. The facility has been far from dormant between the end of the fall season and the beginning of spring sports. As part of its commitment to the citizens of Barbour County, the Promise Foundation has arranged for partial lighting of the track surrounding George Byrer Field to benefit locals who wish to safely walk or jog for fitness or wellness purposes.

The lights come on at dusk and are extinguished at about 9:30 p.m. during conducive weather. The lighting is controlled remotely by timer and has allowed numerous students and citizens to remain active or stay in shape during the cold months.

All utility costs are defrayed through the generous sponsorship of Mace's Pharmacy, with no school or tax dollars being used for the service. As spring approaches, it is anticipated that more and more Barbour Countians will take advantage of this cost-free opportunity to exercise in a clean, modern and secure outdoor setting... another promise kept by the Promise Foundation.

