

1916



*The Historic Carrollton Covered Bridge*

# The Bridge

Volume 1, Issue 6

March, 2010



## Important Dates

- March 2 Parent-Teacher Conferences at Philip Barbour Complex
- March 8 Board of Education Meeting at BOE Office; 5:30 p.m.
- March 11 End of 7th School Month
- March 13 Regional Math Field Day at East Fairmont High School
- March 16 Faculty Senate Chairpersons Meeting at BOE; 4 p.m.
- March 22 Board of Education Meeting at BOE Office; 5:30 p.m.
- March 23 End of 3rd Nine-Weeks Grading Period
- March 24 Regular Instructional Day (2-hour delay is cancelled)
- March 26 All-County Music Program at Philip Barbour HS; 7 p.m.
- March 27 GED Examinations Given at CTE Center; 8 a.m.
- March 30 Report Card Distribution for Third Nine-Weeks
- April 2-7 Spring Break (No School) Out of Calendar Days

Dear Colleagues:

You may have heard in the past few days that the West Virginia Department of Education is celebrating the fact that it is the first state to be awarded approximately \$22 million dollars in federal School Improvement Grant money that is designed to help turn around low-performing schools. Barbour County, of course, celebrates with the state. Money dedicated to such a noble cause is indeed worth celebrating!

You may have also heard that eligible counties may apply for this money. It is available for schools that placed in the bottom five percent in the state on overall student performance **or** have failed to meet AYP for two years in a row. Counties that apply for and are awarded such funding at the Tier I or II level would have to follow very specific/strict stipulations & requirements, including the possibility of firing staff and/or replacing the principal, or closing the school and sending students to a higher achieving school.

Although we do have one school that would qualify for this funding, please know that, due to its improvement and its Tier III, Title I status, it is exempt from the punitive elements cited above that are applied to Tier I and II schools. Therefore, Barbour County will apply for the School Improvement funds to acquire much-needed resources for that school.

It goes without saying that each and every one of us has been working very hard over the past few years to improve our schools, and there is documentable evidence that improvement is occurring. I believe in our principals and our faculty and staff members, who are so integral to the improvement we are both seeking and seeing. It is because we are all working together to implement the changes needed to move our students towards mastery of the CSO's that our students' achievement is able to occur. It is my fervent hope that we will continue to work together to make the changes necessary to ensure the highest possible levels of achievement for our county's students.



## Belington Middle School Marks 30 Years of Service

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### *School Personnel Invited to Celebration on March 19th*

Belington Middle School will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> year on March 19, 2010. An open house will be held from 4 – 6 P.M. with a rededication program at 5:30 P.M. The community is invited to this event. The school would especially be honored to have BMS alumni attend. Invitations are extended to prior superintendents, principals, teachers and staff.

The original middle school was consumed by fire on December 26, 1977. That two-story structure had served the community since its construction in 1902 as an elementary school, high school, and middle school. The gym was the only part of the school that remained.

After the fire, students were housed at area churches, the VFW, and the Belington City Building. After several moves, house trailers were provided for the fall of 1978.

On May 15, 1979, the staff of BMS broke ground for the new school building located directly behind the baseball field at Belington Elementary School. The new school was officially opened and dedicated by Superintendent William E. Phillips on January 6, 1980. The guest speaker for the event was State Superintendent of Schools, Roy Truby. The building was designed to serve students from Belington and Junior.



The new facility was a \$1,100,000 project. On March 6, 1980, the cornerstone laying was completed. The Board of Education at that time included Dr. Charles Ervin, President; Eddie Canterbury, Jr.; Kenneth Thorn; Garry Coberly; and Monzell Anglin, Jr. The cornerstone lists W.Y.K. Associates, Inc. as architects, and Orion Hathaway as Construction Manager.

Classes at the new school began on January 7, 1980. As stated in the Barbour Democrat's January 2, 1980 edition, "A new heritage is being launched for the Belington community on January 6. A heritage that will not only remember the past and learn from it, but also with a vision of the educational future of Belington Middle School students."

On March 5, 2000, BMS celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. This year, BMS will celebrate the vision that began 30 years ago and the success of the past decade. In 2001-2002, BMS was honored with the distinction of being named a West Virginia School of Excellence. The staff recognizes the contributions of faculty, staff, and community members who have enhanced the lives of the students, and the outstanding alumni who have enriched the community, the State, and the nation through their vocations and service.

All Barbour County school personnel are cordially invited to join the BMS community during its 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration on March 19, between the hours of 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.



## Finance Office Provides Timely PEIA Reminders

The Finance Office staff would like to notify or remind all Barbour County Schools employees about three important issues regarding PEIA health insurance coverage for the 2010-11 school year:

- The 2010 Open Enrollment period extends from April 1—30, during which time amendments to individual coverage plans, including changes in dependents, must occur in order to take effect on July 1, 2010.
- Additionally, PEIA has announced a 4 percent increase for employees and boards of education beginning on July 1.



- Finally, PEIA is now offering a high deductible health insurance plan called PPB Plan C.

## National Symphony To Perform for Barbour County Students

Many Barbour County students will enjoy a rare treat when an ensemble of the National Symphony Orchestra visits Philip Barbour High School on Friday, April 9, for two performances. Based at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the National Symphony was founded in 1931 to represent the United States at events of national and international importance, such as ceremonial state affairs, presidential inaugurations and official holiday celebrations.

A morning performance will be held for elementary students in grades K-3 at the high

school auditorium, with a second show for selected middle and high school students set for the afternoon. The program was made available locally through a West Virginia Arts Education initiative.



## Barbour Students Recognized for Having the “Write” Stuff



Barbour County students, parents and educators will gather at the Philip Barbour High School auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 29, to honor the district’s 2010 Young Writer award winners. Every first through third place winner in each division will receive a certificate, with first place honorees reading their essays aloud to the audience. These six will be invited to attend the West Virginia Young Writers events at the University of Charleston on May 7, where the state winners for 2009-10 will be announced. This year’s winning essayists include:

### Grades 1-2

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Noah Hodge, *Christmas Blizzard*, Philippi Elementary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Mrs. Everson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Katelyn Cross, *The Dream*, Belington Elementary, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Mrs. Fitzwater
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Payton Gregory, *Marry Maria*, Junior Elementary, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Ms. Zickefoose

### Grades 3-4

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Brett Frey, *From Oklahoma*, Mt. Vernon Elem., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Fetter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Johnny P. Williams III, *The Adventure*, Belington Elementary, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Kelley
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Dakota Taylor, *Camping in the Sewer*, Philippi Elementary, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Mrs. Daugherty

### Grades 5-6

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Morgan Tolson, *My Awakening*, Kasson Elem/Mid., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mr. Cowley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Hannah Swick, *Giesla*, Philippi Middle, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Bartlett
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Julie Francis, *The Old House on Brick Street*, Belington Middle, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Zirkle

### Grades 7-8

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jared Moats, *Jewish Prints*, Philippi Middle, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. McCauley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Hannah Gregg, *The Imaginative and Unimaginative*, Kasson Elem./Middle, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Schiefelbein
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Daniel Vance, *The Myth of the Night*, Belington Middle, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Hickman

### Grades 9-10

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Nicole Holliday, *Angel*, PBHS, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dr. Marsh
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ezik Norris, *Memories Unforgotten*, PBHS, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Halfin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Rachel Stuart, *The War*, PBHS, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Ms. Hodge

### Grades 11-12

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Thomas Canny, *Left Behind*, PBHS, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Greco
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jake Sandridge, *Favorites*, PBHS, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Greco
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Derek Watkins, *Guardian Angels*, PBHS, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Mrs. Greco

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ Personnel should note that the two-hour delay scheduled for March 24 has been cancelled. Students will report to school at their regular times to recapture lost instructional time due to days lost due to earlier inclement weather.

➤ The school system's top student authors will be honored on Monday, March 29, during the 2010 Young Writers Celebration activities to be held at Philip Barbour High School. The 7 p.m. event is co-sponsored by the Barbour County Reading Council and will feature awards presentations and youngsters reading their essays.

➤ The annual Golden Horseshoe contest will get underway for middle school students with the essay portion set for March 10, & the online exam to follow on March 29.

★ Four members of the Philip Barbour High School swim team recently earned regional honors to qualify for the 2010 West Virginia State Meet. Quentin Mouser, Jonathan Riccio, Alex Hicks and Chase Byrne competed with the state's best prep swimmers at West Virginia University in Morgantown on February 18-19. The four young men were the first in school history to advance to the state championship level. The PB swim coach is Josh Kittle.

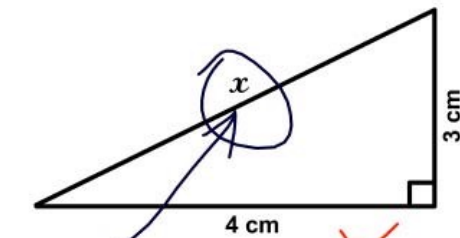
★ The Colt wrestling team was also well represented at the state level with a pair of athletes, Dillon Nuzum and Ricky Hathaway, both qualifying for the 2010 meet in Huntington in late-February. The Colt grapplers are coached by Pete Ferguson and assisted by Rick Daugherty.



**"I'm lousy at spelling because of my parents. They grew up listening to the Beatles, Monkees and Byrds!"**

**An actual math test response:**

3. Find  $x$ .



Here it is ~~X~~ O



**Finally...It's In The Air!**