

Carrolton Bridge



# The Bridge

**Volume 4, Issue 6**

**March, 2013**



## **Important Dates**

- March 11** Board of Education meets; 6 pm @ BOE
- March 15** End of 3rd Nine-Week grading period
- March 19** Young Writers Program @ PBHS; 6 p.m.
- March 23** GED Examinations @ CTEC, 8:00 a.m.
- March 25** Board of Education meets; 6 pm @ BOE
- March 25** Report Cards Provided at all schools
- March 26** Parent-Teacher Conf. @ Philip Barbour H. S.
- March 29** Amended to become an Instructional Day
- April 1-5** Spring Break: Out of Calendar Days
- April 8** Amended to become an Instructional Day
- April 8** Board of Education meets; 6 pm @ BOE
- April 12** All-County Music Concert @ PBHS; 7 p.m.
- April 22** ISE Day: No School (tutoring available)
- April 22** Board of Education meets; 6 pm @ BOE

Hi Folks,

Winter insists on hanging on and snow days mount. I really do enjoy winter and marvel at how elevation changes just going from my office to my place on Midway influence rain to becoming snow, but now I am ready for winter to be over. Crazy, but amidst all the snow my wife texted me our tulips are coming up!

Basketball, swimming and wrestling now give way to baseball, softball and track. I congratulate our student-athletes for their successes in the winter sports. It is great to have kids qualify for and compete in State Championships. Now I look forward to watching our spring sports and hope our kids can compete as well.

Personnel season is over and, while no recommendations or decisions are ever made in haste or are personal, I again thank each of you for your patience, understanding and trust placed in the process and in those implementing that process.

Our focus now turns to working through the budget process. My approach and my perspective are still intact. My approach has always been to be straightforward with folks. That won't change now: we are facing very trying times in preparing a balanced budget. Simply but factually stated, the school system, very much like all of us in our personal lives, cannot spend more than our revenues allow.

Nor will my perspective change: the glass is half full. 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 of our great people.**



**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. F. Leigh Soper'.

**Superintendent**

## County Awarded State Highways Grant for Mt. Vernon School

The West Virginia Department of Transportation recently announced that a \$115,000 grant proposal for Mt. Vernon Elementary School and the Brown-ton community has been selected for funding. Barbour County Schools wrote the competitive grant in 2011 and then resubmitted a revised plan in 2012. As part of the Division of Highway's "Safe Routes to Schools" program to promote health and fitness, the project will fund the construction of a sidewalk linking the town of Brown-ton to the school grounds.

The Mt. Vernon attendance area does not have any other fitness or recreation centers, and the sidewalk project will result in much greater use of the facilities during school days, evenings, holidays, weekends and the summer months. The lack of a safe, level and clean walkway is the greatest obstacle to children walking or bicycling to the Mt. Vernon Elementary School building, and the playgrounds and walking trail located on the school property.



While some \$100,000 will be dedicated to the sidewalk infrastructure, the grant also allocates \$15,000 for non-infrastructure aspects such as: education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation activities. These will include audio-visual resources, school crossing signs, modest incentives, a SRTS coordinator, demonstration bicycles and helmets, pamphlets, brochures and library-media materials. The project was enthusiastically supported by several school, community and governmental agencies. Work on the project is scheduled to begin during the coming summer months.

## Philip Barbour's New Tech School Has Strong Start



New Tech Network

Through a \$300,000 Innovation Zone grant and county support, Philip Barbour High School has implemented PBNT (Philip Barbour New Tech), a school-within-a-school model, for more than fifty incoming freshmen. Students applied to be a part of New Tech and are immersed in 100% PBL (Project Based Learning) in all of their core classes and some electives. Plans are underway to recruit another class of fifty or so during 2013-14.

The New Tech Network <http://www.newtechnetwork.org/> provides stellar professional development and coaching support for the nine teachers who agreed to become New Tech Facilitators. In this challenging instructional model, teachers design and implement real-world problems that New Tech students must solve in a collaborative format. Students are assessed not only on the content they learn but also on SWLO's (School-wide Learning Outcomes) which include work ethic, collaboration, creative/innovative thinking, technology, written communication and oral communication.

These students are learning what it is like in the real-world on a daily basis. Perhaps the New Tech students can explain it best. Julianna Findley says that, "New Tech integrates content areas and makes things more like the real-world. After all, life isn't broken into subjects." Lili Busdeker adds that New Tech is pretty tough but without it she would never be able to stand up and speak in front of an audience. Students experience 1:1 computing in all classes. They receive instruction and research, submit work, e-mail, chat and receive grades with other students and facilitators through the Echo platform. Personnel and citizens can feel free to call Ms. Rebecca Nesbitt at the CTEC if they have any questions about PBNT.



## County Young Writers to Be Honored on March 19 at Philip Barbour

Eighteen of Barbour County's top student essayists will be recognized during the annual Young Writers Celebration to be held on Tuesday, March 19, in the Philip Barbour High School auditorium.

Light refreshments will be provided for those in attendance beginning at 6:00 p.m., with the formal program set to start at 6:30 and to conclude by 8:00 p.m. Having been judged at the school and district levels, the top three finishers in each competition level will be honored, with each first place winner invited to read his or her essay to the audience.

The following students will be recognized during the 2012-13 Young Writers Celebration:



**Grades 1-2:** 1st Place, Camlin Teets (BES); 2nd, Braylyn Sparks (KES); 3rd, Pyper Maxwell (JES).

**Grades 3-4:** 1st Place, Lilah Coe (BES); 2nd, Nick Nuzum (MVES); 3rd, Gracie Miller (JES).

**Grades 5-6:** 1st Place, Zoe Payne (BMS); 2nd, Kayleigh Burnett (KMS); 3rd, Jennifer Kittle (JES).

**Grades 7-8:** 1st Place, Rylee Shahan (BMS); 2nd, Luke Burnett (KMS); 3rd, Sierra Rexrode (PMS).

**Grades 9-10:** 1st Place, Brandon Taylor (PBHS); 2nd, Hannah Gregg (PB); 3rd, Sarah Coleman (PB).

**Grades 11-12:** 1st Place, Ian Nuzum (PBHS); 2nd, Mariah Murphy (PB); 3rd, Katie Dickenson (PB).

## Barbour Math Field Day Winners Announced

Several dozen young mathematicians put their skills to the test during Barbour County's 2013 Math Field Day event on the afternoon of February 5. Held at Philip Barbour High School, the annual event featured individual mathematics competitions for pupils ranging from grades 4-8 across the district. An awards ceremony followed at 7:00 p.m.

The West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics are avid supporters of Math Field Day, and created it to spur students' curiosity in mathematics. Contest areas included a written test and mental math computations. County winners included:



**Grade 4:** 1st Place: Chandler Poling (KES); 2nd, Hunter Melvin (KES); 3rd, Trevor Stevens (PES).

**Grade 5:** 1st Place: Logan Allen (BES); 2nd, Noah England (KES); 3rd, Maela Carr (BES).

**Grade 6:** 1st Place: Trent Tallman (BMS); 2nd, Gage Poling (BMS); 3rd, Cameron Whetzel (PMS).

**Grade 7:** 1st Place: Maddi Carpenter (BMS); 2nd, Mycala Wagoner (BMS); 3rd, Jessica Melvin (KMS).

**Grade 8:** 1st Place: Anthony Phillips (KMS); 2nd, Ashley Booth (KMS); 3rd, Tristen Furby (BMS).

## Belington Students Compete in WV Social Studies Fair



Students at Belington Elementary School participated in the West Virginia State Social Studies Fair program on February 24th at the school level in such areas as; economics, geography, psychology, sociology, state and local studies, and U.S. and world history, with topics as varied as The Great Depression and the Mothman.

Winning presenters at BES included: Riley Dominques, Liam Teets, Lyndon Wagoner, Maela Carr, Shania Keene, Kayla Dean and Kerri Vance, Zach Hart, David White and McKenzie White. These students have earned the right to represent Barbour County at the 4th and 5th grade levels during the Region VII competition on Saturday, March 19.



## — Odds 'N' Ends —



**On-Line Payroll System Update:** The Business Office reminds employees that earlier in the year the West Virginia Department of Education rolled out an electronic on-line payroll system. Now that the last of the kinks have been worked out of the system, Barbour County will be going live with the new system starting with the **March 15, 2013 payroll**. Please be assured that anyone who receives a real paper check will continue to receive a paper check. If you receive an extra duty sheet with your real paper check, the extra duty sheet can be accessed through the on-line system.

For everyone else that is on direct deposit, the pay stubs will be accessed through the new on-line system. Computer access and log-in information was recently provided to all personnel via e-mail. School and department administrators also have this information. If you have any questions, or need assistance logging in to your account, please contact Amanda Huff in the payroll department at 304-457-3030 ext. 136, or [ahuff@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:ahuff@access.k12.wv.us).



**Third Time's The Charm?** Barbour County Schools has rescheduled the annual pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration for 2013-14 for **Friday, March 15**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Philip Barbour High School auxiliary gymnasium. The event has been postponed twice in recent weeks due to inclement weather.



**Board Extends Invitation to All:** Starting on Monday, March 11, 2013, and over the next several regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings, the Board will be holding workshops at the start of each session. Their purposes will be to review items being considered for funding in the 2013-2014 school year budget. As the Board continues to expand its transparency in operations, *all* employees are invited to attend these workshops. Please remember that the Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

## One-Step-At-A-Time: A Hall of Fame Trek



With the budget constraints facing Barbour County Schools well-documented, a number of community members and school personnel are trying to find creative ways to help. One unique approach is being organized by Philippi Middle School teacher and coach, Nick Mayle. While mindful of the many needs of students both locally and among their peers across the nation, he is particularly interested in the fiscal health and stability of the county's middle school athletic programs.

**"I am hopeful that the journey I am about to take does much more than just raise funds. I want to create a culture of belief among our youth that through hard work and dedication all of their dreams are possible and can be made a reality, one step at a time."**

Along with fellow coach, Marcus Johnson, the Bulldogs' head football mentor was inspired to walk the route from Philippi to Canton, Ohio, and the National Football League Hall of Fame during the period of April 1-6. Noting the many positive benefits for youth through sports programming, Nick's goal is to raise at least \$50,000 through donations and pledges associated with the 172-mile walk. The two educators have been training in recent weeks for the grueling hike. For information on how to help or make a contribution, check the One-Step-At-A-Time Facebook page or go to Philippi Middle School's website. Mr. Mayle considers the support of others to each be single steps towards helping the children of Barbour County.

### ***Energy Performance Contract Pays Dual Dividends for County Schools***

Barbour County Schools has realized savings of over \$1,000,000 since the Energy Efficiency Index program was instituted in 2007. And now a second initiative is underway to conserve precious funds even further. The school system has entered into an Energy Performance Contract that is expected to generate in excess of \$200,000 during the contract period. Wendell Energy, chosen through the standard selection process, began an energy audit during January and will next use the findings to help guide the county towards significant energy savings. As energy consumption is monitored, recommendations for strategic changes and new construction will be made.

The company will pilot the initiative by visiting and evaluating the Career-Technical Center as part of the renovation project scheduled for the summer of 2013, as it targets such high consumption units and areas as lighting, heating and water usage. According to the contract, the savings realized will be used to pay for the upgrades early in the process, while later producing income for the district, while improving energy efficiency.

Barbour County Schools used the Energy Performance Contract to provide local match funding for the HVAC, lighting and gas heat projects that will be part of the School Building Authority Needs Project at the CTEC, which is expected to begin in June, 2013. Based upon the success of the program, other schools and facilities may be added to the contract in the future.

## **Did You Know???**

- The elephant is the only animal with 4 knees.
- If you have 3 quarters, 4 dimes, and 4 pennies, you have \$1.19. You also have the largest amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.
- The numbers '172' can be found on the back of the U.S. \$5 dollar bill in the bushes at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.
- In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.
- The 57 on Heinz ketchup bottles represents the number of varieties of pickles the company once had.
- Cats sleep 16 to 18 hours per day.
- It is believed that Shakespeare was 46 around the time that the King James Version of the Bible was written. In Psalms 46, the 46th word from the first word is shake and the 46th word from the last word is spear.
- The Eisenhower interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.
- There are two credit cards for every person in the United States.
- The first person selected as the Time Magazine Man of the Year - Charles Lindbergh in 1927.
- There are 10 human body parts that are only 3 letters long (eye hip arm leg ear toe jaw rib lip gum).
- There are more than 1,700 references to gems and precious stones in the King James translation of the Bible.
- The average person makes about 1,140 telephone calls each year.