



The Bridge

Volume 6, Issue 7

March, 2015



Important Dates

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
March 26	Young Writers Celeb. at PBHS @ 6:00 p.m.
April 2	3 Hr. Early Dismissal for Students
April 3 & 6	Spring Break—Schools Closed
April 7-10	Rescheduled as Instructional Days
April 13	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
April 27	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE

Hi Folks,

And the beat goes on -- more snow days than wanted although, just maybe, the worst is finally behind us. In light of the snow day crisis this year, the WVDE has "just" provided us guidance for our plan to address the situation.

A special thanks goes out to all our student-athletes, parents, coaches and support staff for their commitment to the various winter sports programs even though at times the weather did not cooperate. At the events I was able to attend, I truly enjoyed watching our kids compete; I just wish I could have attended more.

This year our Personnel Season took a new twist due to provisions in Policy 5000 regarding vacancies/positions that we had to reserve for those individuals subject to release and for those positions known to exist on or before February 15 for the ensuing school year. We have worked our way through those provisions and I thank the individuals involved for their patience, understanding, and trust placed in the process and in those implementing that process. 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.

We are working now on the budget process; there's nothing new here and things are the same as in past years for Barbour County: When it comes to the budget, we all have to understand that, factually stated, the school system, very much like each of us in our personal lives, simply cannot spend more than our revenues allow. Last year I informed everyone that we were facing the challenges of dwindling resources and rising costs of operations that would greatly restrict how we function in the current year and beyond, until the financial situation of the Board improves. PLEASE know that nothing has changed; events affecting our financial situation continue to be a concern.

I thank our folks coming to me with their concerns and suggestions on how to move forward – there is a strong mentality of not wanting to drive with our eyes in the rearview mirror, which I truly appreciate!

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

Respectfully,

Barbour Community Foundation Grants Will Provide Resources at Four County Schools

The Barbour County Community Foundation is the fruition of a dream. Two decades ago, several local citizens, knowing that life in Barbour County could be improved for all, pooled their expertise, energy, and time to create this philanthropic body. The Corporation, finalized in January of 1997, has attained rights of perpetual existence and is committed to building legacies for the future.

The BCCF continues to expand its grant program in order to build a better life for the citizens of Barbour County. The foundation focuses its yearly grant making in the areas of arts and culture, health and human services, education, public recreation or beautification and youth services. During the 2014 grant cycle, several of the grantees were associated with Barbour County Schools. Winners were announced in early February.

Pug Mill: Belington and Philippi Middle Schools: A long-needed piece of modern clay and pottery equipment, a pug mill, has been acquired thanks to grants from the BCCF and the Tucker Community Foundation, along with a generous donation by Skinner Insurance Agency. Written by county art teacher, Leo Roe with assistance from the county office, the award allows purchase of the machine used to re-blend (grind and mix) wet and dry materials, usually for clay, asphalt and similar compounds.



The new machine will reduce manual labor, save time and funds, and help recycle precious resources. The pug mill will be housed at BMS, but is available to teachers and students at all three middle schools and Philip Barbour High School.

Choral Risers: Kasson Elementary/Middle School: Members of the choirs at Kasson School will soon be rehearsing and performing on a brand-new three-section set of risers for school programs thanks in large part to the 2015 BCCF grant. Written cooperatively between the KEMS PTO and school staff, the grant gives the green light to replacing the aged and worn risers that had grown less dependable and safe with each passing year. The new units are made of tubular steel and feature gray carpeting for sure footedness.

College Experiences: Mt. Vernon Elementary School: Finding that the majority of its students and many parents had little understanding of post-secondary education, and few had plans for attending college, the staff at Mt. Vernon, with assistance from the board office, wrote a proposal to conduct multiple visits to nearby Alderson Broaddus University. The collaborative efforts between the school and AB will provide students with a variety of experiences and tours that will leave a positive impact. Funding from the BCCF and Barbour County Schools will help defray the costs of transportation and meals at ABU for students and parents.

National TSA Conference: Career and Technical Ed. Center: In the past, Philip Barbour's Technology Student Association has used fundraisers and private donations to defray costs associated with attending any national conventions for which they qualify through state competitions. This year, with the national event held in Dallas, TX, the local team faces the daunting challenge of raising funds to pay for air flights as well as room and board. TSA student president, Autumn Elliott, with help from advisor, Brandon Antion and county staff, submitted a successful proposal to BCCF for funding to help offset the higher costs expected for 2015, as the Barbour TSA travels to Texas to represent PBHS and West Virginia.

Important PEIA Information Provided

The annual PEIA Open Enrollment will take place from April 2 through May 15, 2015. All PEIA PPB Plan policyholders will need to designate a primary care physician (PCP) to avoid the \$500 deductible penalty for Plan Year 2016.



It is significant to note that **PEIA will not take these designations on an ongoing basis throughout the plan year.** Anyone who does not designate a PCP during open enrollment will be subject to the additional \$500 deductible.

Summary of Calendar Revisions

WV Code §18-5-45 requires school systems to achieve 180 days of instruction for students. As of March 6, 2015 a total of sixteen (16) days of instruction have been lost this year. Since the Board approved the previous changes to the calendar, the following days of instruction have been canceled and will need to be rescheduled to recapture lost instructional days. Below, is a chart depicting the lost instructional days and the days that will be rescheduled as instructional days to achieve one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction.

<u>Date of Lost Inst. Day</u>	<u>Date Rescheduled as Inst. Day</u>
February 5, 2015	April 7, 2015
February 13, 2015	June 2, 2015
February 16, 2015	June 3, 2015
February 17, 2015	June 4, 2015
February 18, 2015	June 5, 2015
February 19, 2015	June 8, 2015
February 20, 2015	June 9, 2015
February 24, 2015	June 10, 2015
February 27, 2015	June 11, 2015
March 4, 2015	June 12, 2015
March 5, 2015	June 15, 2015
March 6, 2015	June 16, 2015

Last Day Students: June 16; Last Day Staff: June 17

LEA's Young Writers to Be Recognized on March 26th



Barbour County students, parents and educators will gather at the Philip Barbour High School auditorium at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, to honor the district's 2015 Young Writer award winners. Hosted by the Barbour County Reading Council, first through third place winners in each division will receive certificates, with first place honorees invited to read their essays aloud to the audience. The top award winners earn the privilege of attending the West Virginia Young Writers events at the University of Charleston on May 15, where the state winners for 2014-15 will be announced. This year's winning essayists include:

Grades 1-2

1st Place: Lily Lasky, Belington Elementary, "Sally's Mystery Book"

2nd Place: Avery McDaniel, Philippi Elementary, "My Crazy Dog"

3rd Place: Ashley Luff, Mt. Vernon Elementary, "The Most Amazing Day"

Grades 3-4

1st Place: Avery Goshert, Philippi Elementary, "The Nightmare"

2nd Place: Camlin Teets, Belington Elementary, "Sir Knight-A-Lot's Adventure"

3rd Place: Caylee Simons, Volga-Century Elementary, "The Monster Under My Bed"

Grades 5-6

1st Place: Gracie Miller, Belington Middle, "The Treehouse"

2nd Place: Ben McDaniel, Kasson Middle, "The Soldier"

3rd Place: Shaun Mick, Kasson Middle, "The Dream"

Grades 7-8

1st Place: Jordan McGee, Kasson Middle, "Black Rose"

2nd Place: Jenna Poling, Belington Middle, "Appalachian Autumn"

3rd Place: Shaela Croston, Philippi Middle, "The Puppet Master"

Grades 9-10

1st Place: Leah Seaman, PBHS, "A Ride to Freedom"

2nd Place: Jessica Melvin, PBHS, "There She Is Again"

3rd Place: Sierra Rexroad, PBHS, "The Girl in the Mirror"

Grades 11-12

1st Place: Josh Stuart, PBHS, "Lessons"

2nd Place: Paige Bibey, PBHS, "Pre-School Prom Queen"

3rd Place: Mark Hill, PBHS, "The Last One Down"

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Calendar Input Invited:** The Barbour County Board of Education is in the process of developing the school calendar for the 2015-2016 school year. The Board invites all interested persons to attend the Board of Education March 23rd to express their thoughts concerning the calendar for next year. The Board will then consider the input received prior to finalizing the new calendar. Board meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and the opportunity for public input on the calendar will begin after the start of the meeting.

➤ **Third Nine-Weeks Extended:** Due to the number of instructional days lost because of inclement weather, the third nine-week grading period has been extended through Thursday, April 2. Consequently, the report card distribution for the quarter will now take place on Friday, April 10.

Junior Hosts Special Guests



The students and staff at Junior Elementary School hosted some very special guests early in 2015, with visits from both Miss West Virginia and the WVU Mountaineer mascot. Miss Paige Madden (left) took time out of her busy schedule to hand out bookmarks as she emphasized reading and spoke on the topic of bullying. The returning Mountaineer, Michael Garcia, appeared before the students in full costume a few days later and spoke to them about school spirit and cheering for the home team. Before leaving, he even taught a few new cheers and posed for pictures with them.

Kasson First Graders Share the Love!



Ms. Coffman's first grade class at Kasson School put extra love into creating Valentine cards for the retired soldiers at the Veteran's Nursing Home in Clarksburg. A couple of the students in the class have great-grandfathers who reside in the nursing home. When the hospital staff was asked what the patients would like to help brighten their Valentine's Day, they stated that the patients loved home-made cards. So, plenty of stickers, drawing, and glue went into making the Valentine cards extra special for the extra special people who served our country with such honor.



Coming Attractions!