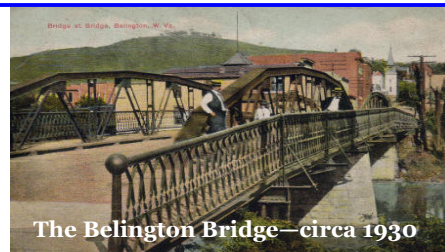


The Bridge



Volume 7, Issue 6

March, 2016



Important Dates

March 11	Calendar Change: OS to Instructional
March 14	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, PMS
March 15	All-County Concert: PBHS @ 7:00 p.m.
March 19	Regional Math Field Day @ PBHS
March 21	2016 Young Writers Awards Program: PB
March 22	Third Nine-Weeks Grading Period Ends
March 25 thru 28	Annual Spring Break: Schools Closed
March 28	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE
March 29	Calendar Change: OS to Instructional
March 30	Calendar Change: OS to Instructional
March 31	Calendar Change: OS to Instructional
April 1	Nine-Weeks Report Cards Distributed
April 5	P-T Conferences at PBHS and CTEC
April 11	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE
April 25	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE

Greetings Everyone,

March came in like a lamb and I'm hoping that it will go out the same way. At the Opening Day program this year at Philip Barbour High School, I talked to all of you about the things that we needed to do to make Barbour County Schools the very best that they could be. One of the most important things that we need to do is to focus on the many positive things that we are doing and to resist the temptation of being negative.

I truly believe if we all focus on being positive, helping one another, pushing our co-workers to be positive and letting our students know that anything is possible if we all work together, we can all achieve great things. I told all of you on Opening Day that, as professionals, we must resist the temptation of going onto social media sites and airing our differences and lowering ourselves to engage in petty bickering.

If you have an issue with a co-worker, a supervisor, a parent, a student or the superintendent, go to him or her in person. Discuss the issues that you feel are unfair, unjust, unwarranted or whatever the problem may be. Problems aren't usually solved by airing your differences for the whole world to see. They are solved by bringing the two sides with the differences together, allowing them to work together in good faith, and to come to an agreement.

I continue to be blown away by some of the great things I see happening in Barbour County Schools. I think we have a terrific mix of young and experienced professionals working together to transport, feed, serve and educate our children in Barbour County. I think the sky is the limit for all of us if we focus on what we can do for our children and not on what someone did or didn't do that was wrong.

Concentrate on the things that you can control and keep the center of your focus on how you can help our children. If you do that, Barbour County Schools will start the climb to the top of the charts in regards to the academic achievement and well-being of our students.



Take Care,

Jeff P. Wagler
Superintendent



Excess School Levy Call on May 10 Ballot

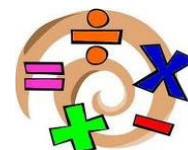
This spring, citizens in Barbour County will be given the opportunity to vote on a proposed excess levy that will provide major improvements for the school system to benefit students, staff and the community. The levy call will be placed upon the May 10 ballot. Presently, a total of forty-two (42) counties operate with excess levies to supplement their state basic funding. Barbour County is one of very few in West Virginia that has never in its history experienced the advantages of a levy's passage.

The proposed local levy rate has been set at 36% of the maximum by law, as compared with the 100% established by the majority of state school systems with levies. Upon passage, Barbour's modest percentage would rank third lowest among West Virginia's school levied counties.

Areas generally identified for consideration for levy funding include: a) School Safety— e.g. three PRO officers, security cameras, panic button lanyards; b) Technology— e.g. Smart Boards, one-to-one student devices (three grades per year), professional training and support; c) Supplies/Furnishings - up to \$300 per teacher for classroom supplies, books and furniture for classrooms and libraries; d) Facilities—a new bus garage on board property near PBHS to replace the current outdated facility in the Philippi flood plain; school maintenance and repairs such as carpeting and parking lot replacements or repairs; e) Office Supplies—including duplicating services for all schools; f) Support—for WVU Extension and 4-H programs to benefit students; g) Support—for the Barbour County Health Department for various school services; h) Support—for local law enforcement tools, supplies, enforcement and security; i) Support—for the Philippi and Belington public libraries according to WV Finance recommendations; j) Support—for the fine arts (e.g. music and art) at all levels for equipment, supplies and materials.

The plan is built with some flexibility in mind. Upon passage, a committee of stakeholders will be formed to make specific recommendations for funding.

2016 County Math Field Day Winners Announced



Dozens of local young mathematicians put their skills to the test during Barbour County's 2016 Math Field Day event on February 17. Held at Philip Barbour High School. The annual event features an individual mathematics competition for pupils ranging from grades 4-8 across the district. PBHS is preparing a team for regional competition as well.

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 include a written test and mental math computations. County winners will advance to the Region VII event on March 19, where they will be joined by a team from Philip Barbour High School.

Honorees from the county group will be recognized by the Board of Education at an upcoming spring meeting. County coordinators for the recent event were June Collins and Teresa Childers. The 2015-16 elementary and middle level winners included:

Grade 4: 1st—Nicholas Tustin (PES); 2nd—Maggie Mincey (PES); 3rd—Mauren Miller (PES); alt—Broderick Bouscher (BES).

Grade 5: 1st -Mason Halfin (KEMS); 2nd—Avery Goshert (PMS); Quinton Payton (PMS); alt—Maya Bender (PMS).

Grade 6: 1st—Seth Harris (KEMS); 2nd —Jaden Bender (PMS); 3rd—Elizabeth Kittle (BMS).

Grade 7: 1st—Chandler Poling (KEMS); 2nd—Hunter Melvin (KEMS).

Grade 8: 1st—Logan Allen (BMS); 2nd—Maela Carr (BMS); 3rd—Amber Stonebraker (PMS); alt—Brian Messenger (BMS).

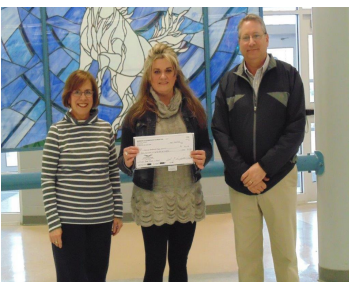
Recent Mini-Grant Awards Aid Local School Programs

Barbour County Schools continues to benefit from a variety of grant opportunities during 2015-16. In a non-levy county, such awards are critical to providing some of the “extras” that many systems take for granted in enriching the curricula for students. Several of the grants funded during February were provided courtesy of the Barbour County Community Foundation.

Philip Barbour High School received \$2000 from the BCCF for the purchase of a mini-laboratory in the high school counseling suite. The grant will allow the creation of a small modern technology access center. The three computer stations and a networked printer/ scanner will provide efficient new avenues by which students will be able to access and provide information related to careers, post-secondary opportunities and areas of concern or interest, all in a quiet, private setting within a few paces of their school counselors. Guidance counselors, Erin Kuncher and Jan Woodard (center), are shown accepting the check from BCCF representatives, Karen Larry and Roger Bolton.



PBHS was also awarded \$500 towards a March 11 assembly by the nationally-known Power Team. The action-packed and entertaining program includes positive messages related to bullying, tolerance, substance abuse and the importance of staying in school. Power Team members blend incredible feats of physical strength with inspiring and motivational talks related to the issues that teenagers encounter today. Acting principal, Autumn Queen, accepts the award on behalf of PBHS.



Another \$600 was presented to PB band director, Victor Iapalucci (right) for the purchase of a much-needed new piccolo to further enhance the distinctive sound of The Pride of Barbour County.



Kasson Elementary/Middle School was a triple recipient of mini-grants during the past month. First, the Barbour County Community Foundation awarded the school \$1000 towards the cost of building materials for a new sun shelter on the kindergarten/PK playground on the east side of the building. The project was championed by former Kasson student, Madison Sandridge, as part of her senior project at Philip Barbour. It is expected that construction of the new structure will be completed this spring.

Kasson School also received a \$2,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation to help maintain the garden that was established behind the school last fall. Faculty and staff leading the project are Dr. Teresa Marsh and Ms. Jan Coffman (shown here), Mrs. Crystal Gray, and Mrs. Mary Shaver. They are being assisted by master gardeners: Mr. Bob Wilkins, Mrs. Mary Beth Lind, and Mrs. Lou Mitchell. Students have enjoyed planting, growing, watering, and harvesting the garden and are looking forward to planting season in the spring.



Finally, Angie McDaniel, middle school science teacher, has had two projects funded by Brad Smith through #BestSchoolDay at Donors Choose. The \$1800 will be used to purchase science equipment and supplies for projects and experiments.

PB's Jessica Melvin Named WV Girls Cross-Country Runner of the Year

Jessica Melvin, a sophomore at Philip Barbour High School, has been named the 2015-16 West Virginia Girls Cross-Country Runner of the Year by The Gatorade Company. Jessica received the prestigious award at the end of a student body assembly on March 11. For the past 31 years, Gatorade has honored top student-athletes in 12 varsity sports for their athletic excellence, academic achievement and exemplary character. The stringent selection process used has made the Gatorade athlete of the year awards among the most celebrated in the nation.



The local distance runner raced to the Class A-AA individual state championship this past season with a time of 19:29.3, leading the Colts to a third-place finish as a team. The 2015 Big 10 Conference Runner of the Year, Jessica, shown with her trophy following the surprise presentation ceremony also won the Class A-AA Region II title, crossing the line in 19:54. In addition to a personal trophy and letter of congratulations provided to Miss Melvin, Philip Barbour

will also receive a trophy and banner to be displayed at school.

"Jessica Melvin loves to run for the pure enjoyment of the sport," said Philip Barbour head coach Jim Seaton. "She trains hard and sets the standard for the rest of our team. She is truly dedicated to the sport of cross country." Coach Seaton and PBHS athletic director, Autumn Queen, were also recognized with letters of appreciation.

Classroom Funnies As Shared by Educators (from a past *Readers Digest* contest)

- During a parent-teacher conference, a mother insisted that I shouldn't have taken points off her daughter's English paper for calling her subject Henry 8 instead of Henry VIII. "We have only regular numbers on our keyboard," she explained. "No Roman numerals."
- When her child's towel was stolen during a school swimming trip, an irate parent demanded of my mother, "What kind of juvenile delinquents are in class with my child?!" "I'm sure it was taken accidentally," said Mom. "What does it look like?" "It's all white," said the parent. "And it says *Holiday Inn* on it."
- Science Test Question: Why would we not see meteors if Earth had no atmosphere? Student answer: Because we'd all be dead.
- After a coworker had finished his English lecture and his class had filed out, a tenth grader stayed behind to confront him. "I don't appreciate being singled out," he told his teacher. The teacher was confused. "What do you mean?" "Well, I don't know what the 'oxy' part means, but I know what a 'moron' is, and you looked straight at me when you said it."
- On the last day of the year, my first graders gave me beautiful handwritten letters. As I read them aloud, my emotions got the better of me, and I started to choke up. "I'm sorry," I said. "I'm having a hard time reading." One of my students said, "It's OK, just sound it out."

