

Carrolton Bridge



The Bridge

Volume 8, Issue 7

March, 2017



Important Dates

- 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 14** All-County Music Show: PBHS Gym: 7:00 p.m.
- March 22** Report Cards Issued
- March 22** 8th Grade Orientation at Philip Barbour H.S.
- 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
- April 10** Instructional Day: Previously an OS Day
- April 10** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
- April 11 thru 13** OS Days—No School (subject to change)
- April 14 and 17** Spring Break: OC Days All Schools Closed
- April 24** Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE

Upon occasion, Superintendent Woofter will ask a representative of the school system to serve as a guest contributor to write The Bridge's monthly message. Today's thoughts are shared by retired educator, Doug Schiefelbein.

Last Wednesday brought to mind the old proverb about March coming in like a lion. You may recall March 1, with its gale-force winds of more than 50 mph, torrential rains and the arctic front that it ushered in with bitter cold and snow. We were fairly fortunate when compared to other parts of the state and region, but it was a reminder that Old Man Winter does not release his grip very easily. Of some comfort is the second half of the old saying, in which March is said to traditionally go out like a lamb.

As we ride out the annual transition from cold, unpleasant days of late-winter to warmer, uplifting days of early-spring, it brings to mind a few analogies in the world of education. For example, many of us remember the old advice often given to new teachers, "Don't smile until Christmas," warning us to gain control and respect by being stern and unyielding in the classroom at the outset, and only later revealing warmth, humor or our more nurturing side. The best strategy usually lies somewhere between the roaring lion and gentle lamb. Knowing when to be one, the other, or a blend of the two, is the trick, and it usually can only be discovered through one's own experience.

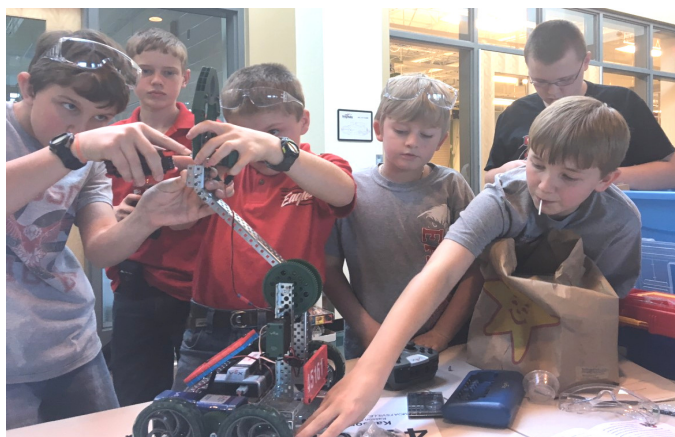


March is part of a challenging school season in other ways, too: The emotions of RIF/Transfer Season; the Legislative Season, with its yearly changes in federal and state laws, policies and procedures; the Budget Season, with its relentless need for belt-tightening; and the State Testing Preparation Season, as we enter the home stretch before the high-stakes accountability measures are conducted. March is also when we realize that "the sap is rising," not just because of the budding trees and plants, but because of the emotional roller coaster that many students seem to ride into spring – like a full moon that takes weeks to fully wane.

As we educators encounter the lion and the lamb of March (or any other season), our maintaining an even keel, while acknowledging the ups and downs that are bound to occur, will keep us grounded, and serve as a positive model for the youngsters in our charge. If we can prepare for and weather the storms that invariably will come our way, experience tells us that we will emerge into calmer, brighter and steadier times. Be brave, be calm... and thanks for all that you do!

Kasson Robotics Team Earns Award During VEX Competition

The Kasson Middle School Robotics team traveled to Charleston on Saturday, February 25, to compete in the 2017 Regional VEX tournament. The students were awarded the Judges Award for their efforts. A Judges Award is presented to a team that is determined to be deserving of special recognition. Judges consider a number of possible criteria for this award, such as team displays of special attributes, exemplary effort and perseverance at the event, or team accomplishments or endeavors throughout the season that may not fit under existing awards, but are nonetheless deserving of special recognition.



Shown above during the contest, the KEMS team included: Harley Knotts, Chandler Poling, Hunter Melvin, Shelby Marsh, Hayden Shaver, Seth Harris, Micah Frye, Isaiah Frye, Austin Hardin, Trentyn Graham, Mason Halfin, Mason Haller and team manager, Jacob Gray. The new group was formed in the fall of 2016 to expand local student interest in STEM learning and activities.

The students are coached by Dr. Teresa Marsh, Mary Shaver, Crystal Gray, Alicia Cutright, Tracy Knotts, Tara Graham, Willa Jo Mitchell, Kermit and Nina Melvin, Sara and Eddie Poling and Jaime Marsh.

Kasson's team next moves on to participate in the state competition at Fairmont on March 11. The VEX events are sponsored by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation.

Philippi Middle Receives Funding for Student Incentive Program

The Barbour County Community Foundation has awarded a community grant to Philippi Middle School to enhance its positive student behavior initiative. Known as the "Bulldog Bucks Store" program, its goal is contribute to a school climate that is fostered through a shared vision of respect and engagement across all layers of the learning community.



The \$600 mini-grant was sponsored by PMS counselor, Teresa Williamson, with support from Barbour County Schools. The funds will be used to replenish the store inventory to provide extrinsic incentives for students who exhibit good citizenship, positive behaviors and high character. Students who earn Bulldog Bucks may use them at the store each month to purchase modest prizes such as school supplies, reading materials, sports-themed items and Bulldog logo keepsakes. The school sees the program as a bridge to feelings of intrinsic reward among its students, as they become accustomed to being caught "doing the right things."

Brand New Bus Added to Transportation Fleet



The Barbour County transportation fleet recently received a boost with the acquisition of a 2017 model Bluebird school bus. The 75-passenger vehicle went into service on March 1 and is now serving the Tacy, Nestorville, Dantown and Route 38 area of the county.

County Young Writers Are Honored on March 7 at Philip Barbour H.S.

The 2017 Barbour County Young Writers Celebration was held in the auditorium of Philip Barbour High School on the evening of Tuesday, March 7. The annual event honors the top student writers across the district, with first place winners in each category invited to read their award-winning creations to an audience of fellow students, family members, school personnel and the public. All young writers who placed in the competition received certificates and small gifts to commemorate their achievements. A public reception was held immediately following the program.

This year's winning essayists included:

Grades 1-2: 1st-Alyssa Pharis (KEMS); 2nd-Christopher Lipps (PES); 3rd-Halie Hollen (JES)

Grades 3-4: 1st-Kristen Bolyard (JES); 2nd-Kylie Leach (KEMS); 3rd-Trey Daugherty (PES)

Grades 5-6: 1st-Emma Whetzel (PMS); 2nd-Camlin Teets (BMS); 3rd-Mason Halfin (KEMS)

Grades 7-8: 1st-Katriana Beckwith (BMS); 2nd-Cole Mullins (PMS); 3rd-Hunter Melvin (KEMS)

Grades 9-10: 1st-Anna Ruf (PBHS); 2nd-Maela Carr (PB); 3rd-Kaleigh Burnett (PB)

Grades 11-12: 1st-Jessica Melvin (PBHS); 2nd-Leah Seaman (PB); 3rd-Cadie McNaboe (PB)



ABU Visit to JES Highlights Sports, Academics

Student-athletes from Alderson Broaddus University visited Junior Elementary School during February for an afternoon of support and inspiration. Representatives from five sports were on hand to talk to students about their academic and athletic



goals and how to plan for success. Math and reading skills, along with good attendance and behavior were stressed. The ABU team then broke the student body into stations where they learned basic skills involved in each sport, including acrobatics (left). The students quickly became fans, joined the Battler webpage to follow their new mentors, and plan to have a family night out to an AB game or event on campus in the near future.

8th Grade Orientation Set for PBHS

The county Career and Technical Education Center, in coordination with Philip Barbour High School, will host an orientation program for all current 8th grade students on the campus throughout Wednesday, March 22. The rising freshmen and their teachers will arrive by school bus and spend the day touring both buildings and observing a typical day at PBHS.

In addition to the guided tour, while at the CTEC, students will hear presentations about each of the programs offered at the facility. The tour of the high school building will include seminars that provide information about the New Tech program, scheduling, athletics and other extra-curricular opportunities. PB student council officers will provide the visitors with information about clubs and organizations at the school and answer any questions that the group may have. Plans call for Belington, Kasson and Philippi eighth graders to eat lunch together and also complete team-building activities.



PBHS Students Earn Honors in Recent VOD and Poetry Contests

Three Philip Barbour High School seniors have received awards for their audio-essays in the local 2017 Voice of Democracy competition. Sponsored by Belington VFW Post 410, the annual contest challenges upper-



classmen to express themselves in democratic or patriotic-themed recorded essays. The theme for this year's event was "My Responsibility to America."

Seniors, Leah Seaman (right, above), Ashley Davies (left) and Sierra Rexrode (center) captured first, second and third place honors respectively. Mrs. Fran Wagner serves as the young ladies' language arts teacher.

In addition, Leah also won the high school's inaugural "Poetry Outloud" contest during February. She advanced to the state competition held at the Charleston Cultural Center on March 3-4 and represented Barbour County very well, placing among the top ten statewide.

Local Social Studies Fair Winners Advance

Four Barbour County students were selected as first place winners and met the criteria necessary to advance to the 2017 RESA 7 Social Studies Fair. Projects from



Kasson, Belington and Philippi Middle Schools were judged in February, with the following students qualifying for the regional event, set for March 15 in Fairmont: Division I Geography—Ryan McDaniel (KEMS); Division I Sociology—Arrington Sparks (KEMS); Division 2 Psychology—Mason Halfin (KEMS); Division 2 State and Local Studies—Hunter Simpson (BMS).

Plans Are Underway for Philip Barbour High School Hall of Fame

Since its doors first opened in 1963, many thousands of students have attended and graduated from Philip Barbour High School. Among them have been scores of Colts who have performed exceptionally in a variety of ways, both during their high school years and later in life, bringing honor to their alma mater throughout the years. Recent growing interest in the creation of a Philip Barbour Hall of Fame has led to the formation of a steering committee whose members plan to establish such an institution locally in the near future.



The committee envisions a Hall of Fame that will honor a variety of alumni to include student-athletes, scholars, leaders, musicians, artists and others who were outstanding during their years at PBHS and/or later became highly accomplished in adulthood. The concept has been endorsed by the administrations of both Barbour County Schools and Philip Barbour High School.

The steering committee is presently developing by-laws and procedures for the Hall of Fame and its selection process. The group feels that the project is long overdue and realizes that it will take several cycles to "catch up" on the enshrinement of even the most deserving honorees from the school's fifty-four year history..



Former students, staff members or community members who would like to express support for this project or offer comments or suggestions may do so by writing to: PBHS Hall of Fame, c/o Philip Barbour High School, 99 Horseshoe Drive, Philippi, WV 26416.