



The Bridge

Volume 7, Issue 8

May, 2016



Important Dates

May 9	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
May 10	Election Day: No School
May 15	PBHS Honors Banquet 2 p.m. Commons/Aud.
May 20	Last Instructional Day for PBHS Senior Class
May 23	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
May 24	Senior Sports Dinner; ABU Heiner Hall; 6:30
May 26	Baccalaureate Service; Wilcox Chapel 7:00 pm
May 28	2016 Commencement @ Fairgrounds; 1 p.m.
May 30	Memorial Day: No School
June 2	Last Instructional Day; Report Cards Issued
June 3	Blue-Gray Kids' Day: Philippi; 9 am to 3 pm
June 3	Plan/Preparation Day: Faculty Senates Meet
June 13	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
June 27	Board of Education Meets BOE; 6:00 p.m.
Aug. 10	First Day of 2016-17 Employment Term
Aug. 15	First Day of 2016-17 Instructional Term

Greetings Everyone,

This will be my last Bridge letter of this school year and I cannot believe how fast this year has gone. I want to thank all of the hard working men and women of Barbour County Schools for making this first year in Barbour County so enjoyable and rewarding for me. I have witnessed so many people doing so many good things for our students and I cannot thank you enough.

When we started the year I told you that the academic proficiency rankings from last year that had Barbour County Schools at the very bottom of the State would not carry over into this school year. They were in the past and we couldn't worry about them. We started fresh at the beginning of the year and I asked for all of you to do your best to push our students to achieve more than even they thought possible. I do not have all the results from our General Summative Assessments that we just finished, but the preliminary results are encouraging. I am hopeful that the State rankings that will come out this fall will show that we have made positive strides toward getting Barbour County students competitive with their peers throughout the State.

Next year is going to be an interesting year and is one in which I hope that we will get even better at giving our students what they need to be college and career ready. We have some training programs scheduled this summer that will give our teachers the opportunity to examine ways to get our students more actively engaged in the learning process and I hope that many of you will take advantage and attend the Kagan training. The training focuses on getting all students engaged in cooperative learning and allows the teacher to have more time to work on formative assessments for their students.

I hope that all of you have an enjoyable summer break and that you get to spend a great deal of quality time with your families and friends. It is hard for people that are not in the education business to know how vital it is for those who work daily with children to get a break where they can recharge their batteries. I know this because I was once one of those folks that thought school employees had it made and that there was no reason why they needed a summer break. My first year as a teacher opened my eyes to reality and, the fact of the matter is, that students need the break as much as the school employees.

I am already looking forward to next year and I think that we can have a tremendous year. We will get to come back to school next year and kick off a new era with the opening of BC Bank Park. It will be so nice to have visitors come to our new facility for soccer, football, track and band competitions with modern locker rooms and concession facilities, and not have a port-a-john in sight.

Thanks again for your hard work and dedication to our students!

Sincerely,

PBHS Civics/Government Groups Host “Meet the Candidates” Night



On April 28, Philip Barbour’s AP Civics and Government classes joined PB’s Inspire WV to host the school’s very first “Meet the Candidates” debate. Individuals running for a variety of offices, from the local Board of Education to Secretary of State, were invited to the school to react to questions crafted by the students. Members of the AP Government classes completed lengthy research in deciding the questions to ask each of the candidates. Jacob Carr and Corrine McDaniel served as moderators, along with Cadie McNaboe, who represented PB’s Inspire WV, during the well-attended two-hour event.

53rd Commencement Activities Announced for Late-May

All county school employees are cordially invited to attend the 53rd Commencement Exercises later this month. Approximately 160 seniors will be



awarded diplomas during Philip Barbour High School’s graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 28, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Barbour County Fairgrounds. The traditional Baccalaureate Service will be held in Wilcox Chapel at AB University on Thursday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Kasson Students Earn Recognition for “eCYBERMISSION” Efforts

Kasson Middle School recently claimed five state winners in the 2016 eCYBERMISSION contest, hosted by the Army Educational Outreach Program. The STEM-based program is designed to open new doors to career pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Members of the eighth grade team are shown below with their science teacher, Angie McDaniel, second from left.



eCYBERMISSION asks students to work in teams of three or four and use scientific method to answer a question that will benefit their communities (local, regional or global). They then complete an experiment, collect and analyze data, and then explain how their results might be applied. The entire process is submitted online. First place winners each receive a \$1000 savings bond, while second place winners receive a \$500 bond. This is the sixth year that Kasson has placed groups in state competition. The successful KMS teams included:

6th Grade Winners— 1st Place: Gabrielle Brewer, Kendra Stemple and Colton Grimes; 2nd Place: Seth Harris, Tyler Hollen and Marcus Haller.

7th Grade Winners - 1st Place: Hunter Melvin, Chandler Poling, Ben McDaniel, Eli Drooger; 2nd Place: Amanda Reed, Briar Mouser, and Brittany Woods.

8th Grade Winners—1st Place: Olivia Zinn, Bella Hardesty, Hannah Killen, and Emma Kennedy (pictured).

Field Project at PBHS On Target in Anticipation of August Dedication



The new BCBank Park on the campus of Philip Barbour High School is rapidly taking shape as construction crews battle inclement weather to meet the expected opening date for the facility in August. The large athletic and performance complex, which includes and surrounds George Byrer Field, will feature many state-of-the-art improvements, including: lighting, playing surfaces, track and field venues, parking, public and student-athlete facilities and much more. When the next edition of The Bridge is published in August, the project (shown above in April) will be complete. BCBank Park is the result of a major partnership among the local bank, the Promise Foundation and Barbour County Schools.

Transportation Department Adds Brand New School Bus

The transportation department for Barbour County Schools has received a much-needed upgrade to its fleet with a 2017 Bluebird school bus. The new vehicle has a capacity of 75 students. Bus #24 features the latest safety devices, according to transportation supervisor, Lisa Knight. West Virginia



requires three warnings for low air brake pressure, including the highly visible wig-wag device, which had not been seen on state school buses since the late-1970's.

Summer Professional Development Opportunities are Announced

Barbour County employees are reminded that Professional Development opportunities for teachers are constantly evolving and will be updated on a regular basis in PD 360 (Edivation). Teachers and administrators are encouraged to monitor this web-site on a regular basis for updates to the 2016-2017 PD Calendar. Employees are also encouraged to sign-up for PD opportunities through PD 360 as soon as possible to reserve available slots. As of early May, the following PD courses have been scheduled:

*June 15-16: *College and Career Ready Standards for Core Subject areas;*

*June 16: *Early Literacy Academy;*

*July 12-14: *Capturing Kids Hearts;*

*Aug. 8-9: *Kagan Training*

Additional PD opportunities are being planned. Remember to check PD 360 for additional details (dates, times, locations) and for more PD sessions to be announced.

Blue & Gray Kids' Day Set for June 3rd in Philippi

The 2016 edition of the Blue and Gray Kids' Day will be held in the county seat of Philippi on Friday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the first time in memory, the event will occur after Barbour County students leave for the summer.



Primarily designed for elementary-age students, kids of all ages can increase their knowledge of Civil War history and 19th century culture by visiting nearly 30 learning stations during the day. Parents may register their children by calling 304-457-3773 or by printing the registration form on the organization Facebook page at *Blue & Gray Reunion*.

Philip Barbour Technology Student Association Fares Well at Recent State Competition

During late-April, the Philip Barbour Chapter of the Technology Student Association participated in the 2016 state competition at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV. Every member of the Barbour County team earned at least one award during the event. Mr. Brandon Antion serves as the local TSA advisor.



Students who competed were: Ethan Mick in Music Production; Bruce Trader in Software Development; Tim Ware in 3D Computer Aided Design; Zach Wiseman in Flight Endurance; and a team that was comprised of Ethan Mick, Tony Forsyth, Chelsea Weese, Sara Thompson, and Autumn Elliott in the category of On-Demand Video. Ethan placed 2nd, Bruce was awarded 1st place, Tim won 3rd place, Zach earned 2nd place, while the PB team placed 1st in its event. All state winners have qualified to represent West Virginia and compete in the National TSA competition to be held this summer in Nashville, TN.

Mt. Vernon Students Partner with Community to Produce a Bumper Crop!



Students at Mt. Vernon Elementary School have been testing their “green thumbs” this spring through a variety of crop-growing projects at the school’s wind tunnel. With the guidance and support of the WVU Extension Service, Kid Reach and Sickler Farm, children in all grade levels at the school have learned important lessons about soil, watering, spacing and weeding. Older students monitor heat and humidity through the fan system and math calculations. The hands-on approach complements the school’s Healthy Gardening curriculum.

Over 400 plants and seeds have been placed in the ground to produce both spring crops and a fall harvest, to include pumpkins. Fruits such as strawberries and vegetables like lettuce and peppers find their way onto the school lunch bar, with some going home to families and others sold at the Garden Market in Philippi. Proceeds will keep the project financially viable and allow students to grow hanging flower baskets in time for Mother’s Day next spring!

Schools Participate in Art Stroll; Annual Art Show Held on May 15



Barbour County Schools continued to celebrate fine arts in the schools when it co-sponsored two special events in recent weeks. The 2016 edition of the Philippi Main Street Art

Stroll was held on the evening of Monday, April 25, at various locations around the county seat. Local schools were again well-represented, as visual, musical and guest artists shared their talents with local citizens. The annual free event showcases the talents of Barbour County residents each spring.

Several days later, the 2015 Barbour County Art Show awards ceremony was held at Alderson Broaddus University, with student artists, parents, teachers and administrators from all nine schools participating. The annual celebration, along with the Spring All-County Music Concert and various drama productions, allows Barbour County Schools to highlight the importance of fine arts in the curriculum each year.



Student artwork was on display at the college in the Daywood Gallery at Burbick Hall, from May 6 through the program evening of May 9. The recognition and awards ceremony took place at 6:00 p.m. in Wilcox Chapel. Light refreshments were served to the nearly 90 participants and guests following the program.



Barbour's Knights and Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe Honored in May

Three Barbour County eighth graders were honored in Charleston on May 6 as they officially became Knights and Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe Society. Zachary Hart, Autumn Edmond and Gabrielle Kittle, all students in Sarah Harris' social studies class at Belington Middle School, were among more than 200 students who were recognized for their knowledge of West Virginia history and culture.



State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Michael Martirano, inducted students from all 55 counties during the ceremonies at the Culture Center. Nearly 15,000 students have been inducted since the program's inception. The annual contest originated in 1931 and some 22,000 students participate each school year.

PBHS Honored With Prestigious Jennings Randolph Award

Philip Barbour High School has received the Jennings Randolph Award from Secretary of State, Natalie Tennant, shown here, center, with



social studies instructor, Brian Moats. The award is given annually to schools that register 100% of its seniors to vote. PB is one of just seven from across the state to achieve this feat this year, as members of Inspire WV motivated classmates to enroll through their Civics classes. Philip Barbour's Inspire ambassadors were, left to right: Corrine McDaniel. Tristen Furby and Cadie McNaboe

Awaits Final WVDE Confirmation; Available on Barbour County Schools Website

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