

The Bridge



Pre-1900 Photo of the Covered Bridge

Volume 10, Issue 4

Summer, 2019



Important Dates

May 24	Graduation Day for PBHS Class of 2019
May 24	Final Instructional Day; Report Cards; 3-Hr. Early Dismissal
May 27	Memorial Day Holiday - Schools Closed
May 28	Planning/Preparation Day for Staff
May 28	Board of Education Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
May 29	Parent-Teacher Conference Day
May 30— June 28	Out of Calendar Days
June 10	Board of Education Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
June 24	Board of Education Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
July 8	Board of Education Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
July 22	Board of Education Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
Aug. 12	Board of Education Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
Aug. 26	Board of Education Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.

Many years ago, back in the late 1980's and early 90's, the summer days of mid-July were often the most peaceful and productive of the year. Aside from the mailman, someone needing a transcript or a teacher picking up materials, I was often the only person in the building, a far cry from the usual controlled chaos of 1000 teenagers trying to grow up and get ready for their places in the world. Such solitude gave me, as principal, brief periods to reflect on the ups and downs of the prior year, tie up any loose ends, and make plans for the approaching term.

I should point out that, although the original Philip Barbour High School was structurally sound and maintained, it was far from air-tight. The wind and rain were not the only intruders, as members of the animal kingdom paid visits quite often as well. In addition to the usual insects and mice, there were birds and bats, frogs and salamanders, a possum, snakes, stray dogs and even a chicken (before my time, but on good authority). One time, a momma cat raised her litter of kittens in the first floor maze of heating vents and registers.

And so, as I completed an errand near the gym one hot summer day, it shouldn't have surprised me that an object I noticed against the exterior door at the end of the hallway near the canteen turned out to be a big expired toad. It had clearly been there awhile, pressed up against the glass. When I picked it up, he was dry and nearly weightless. More paper mache than animal, it reminded me of a leftover piece of the Colonel's extra crispy chicken. As I unlocked the door to dispose of the poor thing, I saw a puddle nearby in the graveled driveway and set him down in the middle of it, just in case.

At the end of the day, as I made the rounds checking doors, I remembered the toad and opened the door beyond the canteen. The puddle was empty; there was no sign of him.



Now, I suppose that a hungry dog might have sauntered past that day and found a quick snack, but that would ruin my point. I knew that amphibians were resilient creatures and could sometimes survive beyond expectations with little to no moisture. I'd like to think that he somehow absorbed enough water to escape his fate, find greener pastures and live on. It brought to mind some old sayings about never giving up and "where there's life, there's hope."

As educators, we've all encountered kids who have dried up and shown zero interest in learning, to the point that we're ready to turn our backs on them and give our best to others who seem to care. It's easy to become cynical (I have) and give up, but we never know when that one last effort might be the spark that brings a youngster back from the brink and gives him or her a fighting chance in school, in life. Thanks for your many efforts throughout this year and enjoy your summer respite – you've earned it.

- Doug S.

Thanks for the Memories!... County Retirees to Be Recognized

The Barbour County Schools administration and Board of Education will officially recognize a group of nine professional and service personnel who have retired over the past year. These staff members will be honored during a special ceremony at the Closing of Schools meeting on Tuesday, May 28 at Philip Barbour High School. The 2019 group represents over 250 years of service to the children of Barbour County and, while congratula-

tions are in order, they will be greatly missed. Sincere gratitude and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement are extended, alphabetically, to the following personnel:



Donald Auvil – Kasson School
Diana Bibey – Junior Elem.
Delores Bonnell – Junior Elem.
Philip Bowers – Philip Barbour
Kim Jennings – Philippi Middle
Marsha Nestor – Multiple Schools
Twila Smith – Philip Barbour
Brad Stuart – Belington Middle
Dottie Talbott – Belington Elem.



Sun Shade Structure Grant Awarded to Junior School

Junior Elementary School has received word that its 2019 grant project for a permanent sun shade structure has been selected for funding by the American Academy of Dermatology. The \$8000 project was prepared by the JES administration, with help from Barbour County Schools.

The large pavilion, to be strategically placed on the school's playground behind the school, will provide solar protection and a cooling station for students during recesses, physical education classes, and after-school and community events.

Junior's staff recognizes that overexposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun is a serious health hazard, and looks forward to providing the shelter to help protect its students from skin cancer and other heat-related health problems. Construction is expected to occur during summer of 2019.

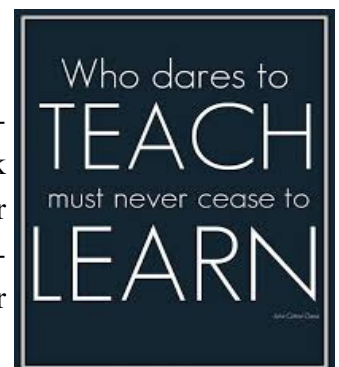
The school met grant guidelines regarding sun-safety/skin cancer awareness programming by supplementing its health lessons with EPA's SunWize curriculum, special events, guest speakers, support from a local dermatologist, and by using materials from the American Cancer Society.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities Are Announced

Teachers are reminded that several Professional Development opportunities have been scheduled for the summer break period. These include:

- **Classroom Instruction That Works** (for PMS Teachers): May 30-31 at Philippi Middle.
- **Curriculum Mapping, Common Formative Assessment Development:** See your school principal for specific dates.
- **DNA Math for K-5 Teachers:** June 18-19 at Philip Barbour High School.
- **Big Picture Shift for all Math Teachers K-12:** June 24 at Philip Barbour High School.
- **Response to Intervention for All Teachers:** August. 5-6 at Philip Barbour High School..

For answers to questions, teachers may check with their principals, or contact Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Kittle, for further information..



TOY, SPOY Nominees to be Recognized at May 28 Program

Barbour County school employees who have been selected at the local level as Teacher of the Year and Service Person of the Year will be recognized in the Closing of Schools program to be held at Philip Barbour High School on Tuesday, May 28. The 8:30 a.m. gathering will feature tributes to those who have retired during the year, as well as to the school-level nominees for the county's TOY and SPOY honors for 2019-20. Barbour County's Teacher of the Year and Service Person of the Year will be announced from among the candidates, listed alphabetically, below. This year's awards are being sponsored courtesy of the McDonald's Corporation.



Teacher of the Year:

- **Diana Bibey:** Junior Elementary
- **June Collins:** Philip Barbour H.S.
- **Melody Faulkner:** Belington Elementary
- **Ellen Gould:** Philippi Elementary
- **Crystal Gray:** Kasson Elementary/Middle
- **Carla Knotts:** Philippi Middle
- **Melanie Gribble:** Belington Middle

Service Person of the Year:

- **Debbie Bolyard:** Belington Elementary
- **Matt Edge:** Philip Barbour H.S.
- **Diane Martin:** Philippi Elementary
- **Cyndi Mayle:** Philippi Middle
- **Deloris Phillips:** Junior Elementary
- **Kent Phillips:** Transportation Dept.
- **Leslie Sandridge:** Kasson School
- **Sam Wagner:** Belington Middle



Board Meeting Dates Announced for Upcoming Summer Months

Following are the planned meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education during the summer months of 2019. The July and August dates occur during the 2019-20 school year and are tentative (*) pending prior approval by the board. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

- **May 28 — Board of Ed. Office**
- **June 10 — Board of Ed. Office**
- **June 24 — Board of Ed. Office**
- ***July 8 — Board of Ed. Office**
- ***July 22 — Board of Ed. Office**
- ***August 12 — Board of Ed. Office**
- ***August 26 — Board of Ed. Office**

“Skate Night for Books” Blends Literacy and Activity for JES Students & Families

For the second year, more than 75 students and family members traveled to the local Skate Zone facility for a night of reading and fun.



Junior Elementary School, in partnership with Barbour County's Title I program and Leaders of Literacy, hosted an evening of skating blended with drawings for selections of free books for summer reading. More than 320 books went home with students and their home libraries to help meet literacy goals and decrease the chances of the summer loss of reading skills. When student names were drawn, they reported to the book tables to make their selections. Those unable to attend made their choices at school the next day.

Junior Elementary School Receives Top WV Sustainable Schools Grant Award for 2019

The students and staff at Junior Elementary School were excited to learn this spring that the JES proposal to begin a green healthy biking program was selected as the top project in the state. The West Virginia Sustainable Schools organization presented two 2019 awards: \$5000 for the first place proposal and \$1000 for second place. The planning and proposal for the grant was submitted by the school administration, with assistance from Barbour County Schools.



The school plans to use the funding to purchase sets of bicycles for use by grades 2-3-4 and tricycles for grades PK-K-1, along with a set of 25 safety helmets. Arrangements have been made with a county business to provide safety training sessions for the children. The cycles will be used during recesses, physical education classes, and 15-minute "brain breaks" during academic classes.

The campus at JES has a safe paved walking trail and a parking lot conducive to biking. This project is a logical extension of the successful JES *Daily Mile* walking program, a response to Fitness-



gram data and to remedy student inattentiveness. The walking has helped students improve alertness in class, and cycling will add an interesting new level of exercise.

The class sets of cycles will allow children to use muscle power and work off excess energy, gain focus, and enjoy healthy fun pedaling with friends. And, as part of Junior's *Kid Reach* program, the school will invite families to sign out bikes and ride with their students on campus and around the school grounds during supervised outings..

Busy Times at Kasson School !

The final nine-weeks has seen a flurry of extra activities at Kasson Elementary-Middle School. In recent weeks, some enrichment highlights include:

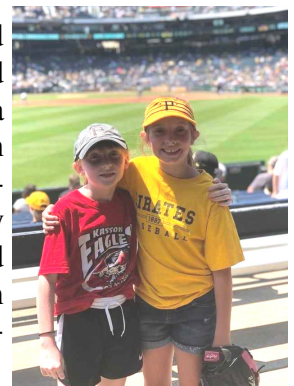


Jess White, an education specialist for NASA, recently visited the school to discuss engineering and led the students in constructing rockets that they actually launched on the school playground in a competition to see which design traveled furthest.



The school's KidREACH/REACH.U students and their parents visited Adaland Mansion on May 1 to learn about 19th century Barbour County, and enjoyed cookies and tea while visiting the past.

The school's annual field trip for students, families and staff was to PNC Park and a Pittsburgh Pirates Education Day baseball game. Sponsored by the PTO, the May trip featured baseball-themed workbooks presented to each student related to math, physics and language arts skills.



Career-Technical Center Students Earn Accolades During Spring

FBLA students from Philip Barbour High School took full advantage of a chance to compete at the 2019 West Virginia State Leadership Conference earlier this spring. Eleven students placed in the Top Three in their respective events, earning opportunities to represent West Virginia at the FBLA National Leadership Conference later this summer in San Antonio, Texas. Winners, below, included: Savanah Hart, Cameron Whetzel, Jordan McGee, Ruston Seaman, Maela Carr, Kiara Vanscoy, McKenzie Carpenter, Riley Domingues, Kaitlyn Fowler, and Micah Harris. Congratulations are extended to all of these students and their club advisor, Gerald Furby, right.



Additionally, PB's McKenzie England was recently recognized with presentation of the prestigious Governor's Workforce Credential. Only two percent of West Virginia Career-Tech completers in the state earn this honor, which is based upon achievements in academics, technical training and work readiness.

Finally, fifteen seniors were recognized at Philip Barbour's Awards Day program for being members of the 2019 New Tech graduating class. This marks the fourth official New Tech Class to complete the rigorous course of studies at PB. Honorees will receive symbolic cords in the four NT colors to wear during Commencement Exercises on May 24, for their excellence in use of technology, presentation skills and collaboration on major projects.

56th Philip Barbour Commencement Exercises at PBHS Gym on May 24th



The Philip Barbour High School Class of 2019 cordially invites family, friends and the public to the school's 56th Commencement Exercises. Approximately 150 graduates will participate in the ceremonies, to be conducted in the high school gymnasium at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, May 24. The traditional Baccalaureate Service will be held at Wilcox Chapel on the campus of Alderson Broaddus University the previous evening, Thursday, May 23, also beginning at 7:00 p.m.

KidREACH Students Meet Officer Rocco

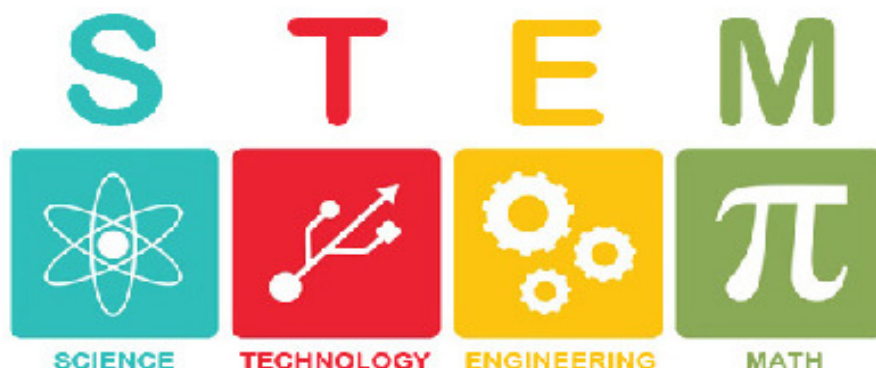
Students attending Kasson's after-school KidREACH/REACH.U program during April were excited to meet one of the newest Barbour County Sheriff's Office members, Rocco. Deputy Brett Carpenter and K-9 handler, Officer Gonzalez, described the German Shepherd's role within the department and conducted some interesting demonstrations. The event



was made possible in part through US and WV Dept. of Education grants as an ESEA 21st Century Community LC activity.

Summer Stimuli: Let Students & Parents Know About World Vision's STEM Camps

Available to Barbour County Students Courtesy of a 21st CCLC Grant

**summer + STEM x camp(4)**

**Students can attend up to 4 different
STEM-focused camps,
right here in Barbour County!**

June 3-7: The Sound of Science with T.J. Dalton
Bringing music to life

June 10-14: STEMxFit with Crystal Gray
Get fit, don't quit—Commit 2 B U

June 17-21: STEM Cafe with Christina Holbrook
Come play with your food

June 24-28: Adulting 101 with Jamie Green
Growing up is hard to do

+ For any incoming 7th through 9th graders

+ Limited to 20 students per week

+ Lunch provided + Transportation available

BONUS: These camps will be held at PBHS, allowing your
student to become more familiar with the school

Contact World Vision with any questions, 304.457.5270

Funding for this 21st Century Community Learning Center is provided wholly or in part by a grant from the United States Department of Education under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title IV Part B, with grant administration carried out by the West Virginia Department of Education.