



The Historic Carrolton Bridge

# The Bridge

Volume 13, Issue 4

Summer, 2022

Greetings to all,

Mr. Woofter has asked me to share a message on his behalf regarding the closing of the 2021-22 school year. So, I've cobbled together some thoughts and ideas that may or may not resonate, but hopefully are worth pondering. Upon spending the past 50 years under contract to Barbour County Schools, I can say without question that public educators and service personnel face more challenges today than ever before: exploding technology, health and safety, bullying and discipline, budgets, family involvement and poverty issues, among others. On the other hand, there have never been greater opportunities for those entrusted with today's students to make huge and rewarding differences in their lives in this rapidly changing world.

The conclusion of another school year is largely a time to celebrate successes and accomplishments, but it also gives each of us a chance to **recharge, reflect or retool** (hopefully all three). To take a few weeks to clear the mind and rest the body is a blessing that many occupations do not afford—where school issues can be put aside or allowed to simmer on the back burner. At the same time, it's a chance for quiet reflection on what worked, what didn't, and why or why not. Then, instead of dusting off old lesson plans for recycling, we can create experiences that not only include our gems from the past, but embrace best practices in the field, along with applications to current events, the job market and other factors that will impact our next pupils.

Some say that students are different today. Actually, kids are still kids and start out like they always have. But, they've been bombarded by many influences, both good and bad, that those of us from earlier generations never dreamed of. For example, the concept of the "nuclear family" has changed dramatically in the past half century, with many life lessons now learned not at home, but through the television, computer or I-phone. Certainly, today's youngsters can learn so much about the world and topics of interest on demand digitally, but they're also exposed early to adult content and blurred messages about right and wrong. Today's kids are much less likely to spend time outdoors, socializing, exploring, exercising and learning about nature first-hand. For many, responsibilities like chores have been greatly diminished. When things come easily, sometimes kids will find their sense of appreciation and caring/sharing hampered. I say this knowing that many (most) children still exhibit great morals and work ethics, but the learning environment is fraught with distractions, and the wise educator will be aware of these to help students navigate such choppy waters.

I remember telling students in the past that there were two types of people that were intolerable to me as a principal: bullies and liars. I believe that any Venn diagram of undesirable behaviors would reveal intersections with these two qualities frequently, and the sooner they can be weeded out the better. Also, students often understand sport analogies. When kids are ready to give up, frustrated with their performances or reputations, remind them that while adults are well into the game of life (I'm in the fourth quarter), they are still in the pre-game warm-up phase, learning and growing daily, with every hope for a successful career.

Finally, starting with a list of 24 quotes that might hold meaning to educators heading into a summer break, I've whittled them down to two. First, Martin Luther King, Jr. said "**Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.**" Maybe it was 90%-10% book learning in the old days, but our roles have changed out of necessity to where *character* is somewhere approaching 50-50 today. The second quote is by Carl Buehner: "**They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.**" A smile, a (verbal) hug, a head nod, a softball question to an anxious kid, a friendly after-class chat, a compliment—these can create ripples far beyond the grade book or report card. Yes, you truly have some of the most important jobs in the community. God bless you for what you do. Have a wonderful summer! -



### Important Dates

May 27	End 2nd Semester; Report Cards Issued
May 30	No School: Memorial Day Holiday
May 31	Planning / Prep Day for Closing of School
June 1	Parent-Teacher Day for those in need
June 2-7	OSS Days: June 7 end of 200 day year
June 13	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
June 20	School Holiday: West Virginia Day
June 27	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
July 5 & 11	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
July 25	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
July 4	Holiday: Independ- ence Day
August 8	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.
August 10	Registration Day for New Students
August 11-12	Staff Development / Prep for Employees
August 15-16	Faculty .Senate & Professional Mtgs.
August 17	First Instructional Day—Grades K-12
August 20	First Instructional Day for Pre-Kind.
August 22	Board of Education Meets at 6:00 p.m.

## 59th Philip Barbour H.S. Commencement Exercises Held at Fairgrounds on May 20th



A total of 122 members of the Philip Barbour High School Class of 2022 turned their tassels from right to left as they officially became alumni at the conclusion of this year's commencement exercises on the evening of May 20th. The well-attended annual event was held at the county fairgrounds. The graduating class included 49 students with cum laude or higher honors designations. A variety of pins, cords and sashes were on display to commemorate honors or program affiliations.

Following the processional, accompanied by the PBHS Band, Associate Principal, Joseph Bowen, welcomed the class, family members and guests, Senior Class President, Graylin Floyd, and Student Council President, Isabella McNaboe, shared their memories of the past and thoughts about the future with their classmates. The Class Song, "Gone, Gone, Gone" was led by Jaylan Weese. A highlight of the evening was the keynote address by PB alumnus, Sarah McCauley Vismans (Class of 2011) who shared words of advice and encouragement for the class.

Principal, Brandon Antion, followed with his first commencement address as principal to the Class of 2022 and then formally presented the graduates to Superintendent, Jeffrey Woofert, who received them on behalf of the Board of Education and the community.

During the concluding presentation, each student was introduced by Tonya Ferguson, CTE Director, with Board President, Joanne McConnell handing out diplomas as graduates shook hands with the dignitaries on the stage. Student Council Vice-President, Audrey Williams conducted a moment of reflection that featured West Virginia native, Bill Withers, and his rendition of "Lean on Me." Following the traditional tassel and ring ceremony led by Graylin Floyd, Jaylin Weese led her classmates in a final singing of their Alma Mater.

## Ten Employees Will Be Honored on Retirement at May 31 Program

The Barbour County Board of Education and scores of colleagues will officially recognize a group of 10 professional and service personnel who, as of late May, have retired from the school system since July 1 of 2021. These professional and staff members will be honored in a special ceremony to include video tributes during the Closing of Schools program at Philip Barbour High School beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 31.



This group represents some 300 years of service to West Virginia and Barbour County children. While congratulations are in order, they will be greatly missed. Sincere gratitude and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement are extended to the following personnel, listed alphabetically along with presenters:

- ◇ **Carla Boylen (Lisa Heinbaugh)**
- ◇ **Judy Freeman (Mary Beth Hovatter)**
- ◇ **Barbara Harvey (Valerie Cross)**
- ◇ **Ken Phillips (Valerie Cross)**
- ◇ **Lisa Heinbaugh (Jeffrey Woofter)**
- ◇ **Terri Riffle (Mary Beth Hovatter)**
- ◇ **Bob Stafford (Valerie Cross)**
- ◇ **David Taylor (Dr. Felicia Fordyce)**
- ◇ **Jan Woodard (Brandon Antion)**
- ◇ **Olive Zinn (Ashley Workman)**

## Barbour's 2022 TOY, SPOY Will Be Announced at End-of-Year Meeting

All seven Barbour County Schools will be represented this year by nominees for the prestigious Teacher of the Year and Service Person of the Year awards for 2022. While all are to be congratulated, county winners will be announced at the year-end meeting on May 31. They will then become eligible for consideration as West Virginia's Teacher and Service Person of the Year respectively in competitions to be completed in early summer, with ceremonies to be held in Charleston prior to the opening of the 2022-23 school year.

Following are the participating county schools and their representatives for the 2022 **TOY** and **SPOY** awards:

Belington Elementary School: **Paula Townsend**

Belington Middle School: **T.J. Dalton**

Junior Elementary School: **Kendyl Taylor**

Kasson Elementary / Middle: **Cheryl Hawkins**

Philippi Elementary School: **Tamara Burner**

Philippi Middle School: **Andrea Schoonover**

Philip Barbour High School: **Trista Dalton**

\*\*\*\*\*

Belington Elementary School: **Paulette Bailey**

Belington Middle School: **Stephanie Skidmore**

Junior Elementary School: **Briana Park**

Kasson Elementary/Middle School: **Misty Castle**

Philippi Elementary School: **Cyndi Mayle**

Philippi Middle School: **Suetta Durst**

Philip Barbour High School: **Tammy Hill**



## 2022 Golden Horseshoe Winners to Receive Honors on June 14th

In early May, the West Virginia Department of Education announced the 2022 Golden Horseshoe winners for Barbour County. They include the following eighth grade honorees: **Griffin Hart, Belington Middle School, Clay Frey, Kasson Middle School, and Dayton Morrison, Kasson Middle School.**

Since 1931, students have been honored as Knights and Ladies of the Golden Horseshoe, having demonstrated exceptional knowledge of West Virginia history through the annual state administered exam. This year, 221 winners will join the ranks of Mountain State citizens who have won this prestigious award. The local county winners will have an opportunity to be recognized at the state capitol during a special Golden Horseshoe ceremony on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston.



**When School Is Closing Soon**  
By Janiel Wagstaff

When school is closing soon,  
my heart gets excited!  
But, I'll miss my friends and teacher  
so my feelings are divided.  
I think of all I've learned,  
like math, writing, and reading.  
I'm proud of my accomplishments  
and how I've been succeeding!  
So, here's to summer months of fun  
and to the next year, too!  
I'll always remember this school year  
and how much I grew!



## BOE Meeting Dates Established for Summer Months

Following are the anticipated meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education for the upcoming summer months. *Those marked with asterisks are tentatively scheduled until formally approved by the Board.* All sessions will begin at 6 p.m.

- **June 13** @Board of Ed. Office
- **June 27** @Board of Ed. Office
- **\*July 5** @Board of Ed. Office
- **\*July 11** @Board of Ed. Office
- **\*July 25** @Board of Ed. Office
- **\*August 8** @Board of Ed. Office
- **\*August 22** @Board of Ed. Office



## Final Recertification Reminder

Educators in Barbour County Schools who need to renew teaching certificates are reminded of the approaching June 30 deadline for 2022. The renewal process can be completed at any time this spring. Process questions may be directed to Homer Talbott, executive secretary, at the Board of Education office at 457-3030 (extension 1031).

## KEMS Principal Looks Back at an Exciting School Year



As another school year comes to an end at Kasson Elementary Middle School, I look back at our successes and see so much growth within our community of learners! I have been beyond blessed this year to be welcomed into a school that was already thriving with passionate teachers, dedicated service personnel, caring community members, and excited students.

We welcomed parents and students back with an in person Meet the Teacher night. We held a successful Trunk or Treat in the month of October with lots of parents attending classroom parties and a scarecrow competition. In November, we held our first Kasson Thanksgiving Dinner cooked and served by the Kasson Staff. In December, we held our first Story Book Forest with every classroom decorating a tree in the theme of a favorite book. February, we held Valentine's Day parties and a Sweetheart Dance for parents and students to attend together. In April, we had a schoolwide Easter egg hunt and Easter Bonnet competition with certificates donated by Dairy King in Philippi. We also held a Kasson talent show. Students were able to watch a movie in Fairmont as a reward. Finally, the kids carried on the tradition of their Fall Hayride, the Pumpkin Drop, the school carnival, and a schoolwide dance.



We have had great achievements in both athletics and academics. Our countywide football team played Taylor County Middle in the conference championship game and won! Kasson was also represented in cross country, soccer, and baseball. We had Kasson teams for volleyball and boys and girls basketball. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir worked hard this year and the band sounded amazing! Kasson placed third in the Literacy Fair, third in division 7-8 for the Literacy Fair,

and had two 8<sup>th</sup> graders place for the Golden Horseshoe!

In the closing month of school, our itty-bitties will be visiting Hovatter's Zoo, our upper elementary students will be visiting Smiley's in Deep Creek, Maryland, and our middle school students will be enjoying themselves at the Jump Pad in Morgantown. Students will be completing their General Summative Assessment and rocking the scores! I am so excited to see their growth that students and teachers have worked so hard to improve this year! To celebrate, the front office has rented several large bounce houses and water slides, a dunk tank, and will create their own slip 'n slide with the help of the Philippi Fire Department. The school will still compete in their basketball tournament games coached by eighth graders, and our eighth graders will still go on their traditional 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. End of year celebrations will also occur for our Pre-K students, K students, 1<sup>st</sup> grade students, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students moving up to the middle school, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students gowning up to move to the high school.



We have gone from wearing masks and quarantining to being maskless. We have taken 6 foot apart stickers off of the floor, taken away directional arrows, and have instead started collaborating with one another and sharing laughter and smiles! We are enjoying our new gymnasium bleachers and paved walking trail. We are also enjoying our sanded volleyball court and disc golf courses that was only possible with the awarded grant by the Barbour County Community Foundation.



I'm sure there are things that I am forgetting, but the point is, Kasson is a great place to be. We will be losing Mr. Taylor as he retires after this year, Ms. Levesque to Belington Middle School, and Jamie Short to Junior, but we have great staff members ready to step up and become an Eagle. I think I can speak for every Kasson staff member in saying, Kasson is such a great place to be. I am beyond grateful and fortunate to be a part of the Kasson Family. Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.

Yours in Education, Dr. Felicia Fordyce