



The Bridge

Volume 3, Issue 1

September, 2011



Important Dates

- Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday:
No School
- Sept. 6 Five-Year Planning
Committee Mtg. 8:30
- Sept. 12 Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Sept. 22 BCS / A-B Reception:
4 pm; Phil. Town Sqr.
- Sept. 26 Bd. Of Education Mtg.
@ BOE Office; 6 p.m.
- Oct. 1 GED Examinations:
CTEC at 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 3 ISE Day: No School
(tutoring available)
- Oct. 4 Special Governor's
Election: No School
- Oct. 21 Last Day of 1st Nine-
Weeks Grading Pd.
- Oct. 22 Report Cards Are
Distributed



Hi Folks,

Please allow me to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Joe Super and I am humbly honored to be the new superintendent for Barbour County Schools.

Our Board of Education and administration are set, our principals continue in their positions, our teachers are with us as are our service personnel, and we welcome our new employees. Yes, we will continue to go through some transitions, but it will all be for the good of the primary purpose for which everyone is here: For the Good of Our Students. Knowing that, I truly believe we have the key components in place to become *THE* educational leader in West Virginia.

We are up and running and, for the most part, with very few glitches. I can't thank all our staff enough for the great work that was accomplished over the summer preparing the facilities for the students. Much has happened and will happen in the upcoming year. If you will indulge me, I'd like to elaborate on a couple of those "happenings."

If you have driven by the high school lately, I am sure you couldn't help but notice the progress on the new bleachers. I was up there today and what a view from the top! The complete installation is set for the middle of the month, followed by a walk through inspection. Our plan is to have dedication ceremony at our September 30th home football game.

Right now one of the most pressing issues we face as a county, as a community, is our high level of students deciding to drop out of school. Our community is rising to the challenge to assist our efforts to present welcoming, inviting, yet stimulating academic environments to offset that problem. We are working with the West Department of Education on an Innovation Zone Grant that, if we are successful, will focus on changing the culture of the school with a major emphasis on how we deliver the curriculum at all program levels. As we move forward in the process, we will keep everyone posted on our progress.

The power of integrity, diligence, and an ethic of hard work cannot be overstated or appreciated enough as it speaks volumes to the continued success of our school system. It has, it does, and it will continue to make a difference.

I welcome the opportunity to meet all of you. If you are in town and have a couple of minutes, I encourage you to stop by, introduce yourself, and chat with me – my door is open! It is an exciting time to be in education in Barbour County Schools and I know that, as we continue to move forward, we can count on your support.

Gerald Furby Is Named Barbour County's Teacher of the Year

Barbour County's 2011 Teacher of the Year, Gerald C. Furby Jr., shared a recent experience that reminded him why he chose teaching as a career. "I had a student that came in to drop out of school one morning. I saw him in the office and said I was glad to have him back in school because I had not seen him for several weeks. After our conversation, I left the office still not knowing that he was dropping out! Several weeks later he came up to me at Sheetz, shook my hand and said, 'Thanks to you I am graduating from high school!' If I had not talked to him that morning like I did, he would have filled out his paper work to drop out and he would not have graduated! He was truly sincere and I was truly touched!"

Gerald has been a part of the education community for the past decade, including the four most recent years as a Business Education teacher at the Barbour County Career and Technical Education Center at Philip Barbour High School. After spending time in other career fields, he realized that he was "meant to help children reach their dreams and fullest potentials."



Gerald Furby, center, receives congratulations from Barbour County Schools superintendent, Joe Super, and Phillip Barbour High School principal, Lisa Heinbaugh.

Mr. Furby was recognized by his peers at the Opening of Schools general session at Philip Barbour High School on August 16th and will be one of 52 county representatives honored at the 2011 West Virginia Teacher of the Year banquet held at the Embassy Suites Complex in Charleston during early September.

Marsha Mayle Is Honored as 2011 Service Person of the Year

Marsha Mayle has been named Barbour County's new Service Person of the Year. She has spent more than five years serving the children of Barbour County in various aide positions, including that of special education aide at



Philippi Elementary School during 2010-11.

With past experiences as a school volunteer and a substitute employee, Marsha feels that the variety has helped her adjust to many different settings. But one thing remains constant, "I love working with special needs students. It is so rewarding to see them improve each day and see them accomplish something that they've worked so hard for. The Special Olympics was a great experience. Seeing how much determination the children have is very inspirational. It makes me want to work even harder to help them."

Transportation Fleet Improvements Noted



The Barbour County Schools bus fleet is in the midst of a positive transition as three new school buses have been purchased to replace three that were recently retired and sold by sealed bid. Of the two 2012 Thomas 77-passenger vehicles, one is currently on the road while a second bus will be placed into service later in September. |

In addition, a new special needs school bus will join the fleet by late-fall or early-winter, according to transportation supervisor, Carl Bolton. For added security, each new bus will feature state-of-the-art four head cameras, which will help to monitor and record student movement and behavior from four different angles.

School-Community Summit Establishes County Beliefs and Needs Partnership Explores “New Tech Schools” Concept

More than a dozen area agencies and organizations were represented on Thursday, August 25, as Barbour County Schools kicked off a campaign to increase the county’s graduation rate and student achievement levels through innovative programming. Nearly forty participants attended the event, which was designed to evaluate and remedy the causes behind high dropout numbers and persistently low academic progress in recent years. Barbour County Schools is currently developing a comprehensive dropout prevention plan that seeks some \$300,000 in funding over the next three years through a competitive West Virginia Department of Education Innovation Zone grant. The proposal will address local needs at the secondary, middle and elementary levels.

During the workshop, partnership members reached consensus on several beliefs that will guide the county’s efforts. Some of the key concepts included: the need for greater breadth and depth of student engagement; promotion of a positive and nurturing school climate; recognition that dropout and achievement challenges often begin at the earliest grade levels; and the importance of strengthening of links within the school-parent-community partnership.



The day-long slate of meetings and workshops was held at and hosted by Barbour County’s new 911 Center and was coordinated by the Barbour County Board of Education. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joe Super, welcomed and thanked the community partners for their interest and input, while discussing the challenge before the group. The centerpiece for the summit was a presentation on the popular and growing New Tech Schools network by representatives, Jon Reinhard and Paul Buck, followed by a working lunch, small group discussions and a concluding strategic meeting at Philip Barbour High School.

If approved and implemented, Barbour County’s New Tech School program would become the first in West Virginia. Housed at the Philip Barbour High School Complex, this “school within a school” would provide services and support to enable fundamental rethinking of teaching and learning. New Tech’s philosophy is based upon three primary elements: a culture that empowers, teaching that engages, and technology that enables. The culture component is vital, according to Jon Reinhard, New Tech’s regional director of the Midwest. In fact, the culture of empowerment—which focuses on trust, respect and responsibility— sets the tone for the entire educational experience. Project-based learning—the teaching that engages—involves students in defining problems, group planning, research and investigation, guided activities, developing solutions, and presenting those solutions. The one-to-one ratio of fully-equipped computers to students enables the level of learning and experience that is mandated in our technology-driven economy.

Among those invited to participate in the summit were: local and state legislators, the judicial community, law enforcement, Alderson-Broaddus College, Fairmont State University, Pierpont Community and Technical College, the West Virginia Department of Education, the Barbour County Ministerial Association, World Vision, local parents, the WVU Extension Office, the Barbour County Health Department, the Belington Wellness Center, Broaddus Hospital, the Economic Development Office, the Chamber of Commerce, members of the Barbour County Board of Education, Philip Barbour High School teachers and administrators, the Philippi Lions Club, and the Philippi Main Street organization.

Out with the Old and In with the New!



The long-anticipated upgrade of athletic facilities at George Byrer Field at Philip Barbour High School is underway as installation of new state-of-the-art bleachers nears completion. With a seating capacity of 3800, the steel-framed, aluminum decked unit replaces the 50-year old wooden structures (foreground) that date back to the school's opening. Trimmed in Columbia blue and white, the bleachers are topped by a modern six-area press box that features additional roof access. The \$800,000 project was funded by residual dollars from Year Ten of the Philip Barbour High School bond, budget digest support from Delegate Mary Poling, and a contribution by the PBHS Foundation. A pre-game ribbon-cutting ceremony has been planned for the Colts' September 30 contest..

Another sign of recent progress is the demolition and removal of the old maintenance building at the Philippi bus garage property. Unused for several years, the space created will be used for an improved parking area for school buses. County maintenance equipment, supplies and materials are now housed at the career and technical education center and the transportation garage. The project was completed at little cost to the county, as the demolition crew completed the task for salvaged items.



Meeting the Breakfast Challenge

To kick off the 2011-2012 school year, West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jorea Marple, has issued a challenge to all county schools systems. Knowing that children who eat breakfast are more alert and better prepared for learning, Dr. Marple asked principals to consider shaking up the morning routine to encourage more students to eat breakfast at school. Schools were given the options of trying "Breakfast After First," "Grab & Go Breakfast," or "Breakfast in the Classroom." Schools could also come up with ideas of their own for changing the nutrition environment to promote greater breakfast participation.

According to Child Nutritionist, Rebecca Nesbitt, Barbour County Schools is meeting the challenge head-on:

PBHS implemented the "Grab & Go Breakfast." Students no longer have to carry a tray for breakfast.

Instead, they grab a paper bag, placing their breakfast items inside to make them more mobile with their meals.

PES combined the "Grab & Go Breakfast" with "Breakfast in the Classroom." Students come with their class to the cafeteria to get their "Grab & Go Breakfast." They return to eat their breakfast with their classmates in the classroom.

BES is using first semester to work on sending students to breakfast by classroom so that they may eat with their classmates.

KEMS has implemented a multicultural program during breakfast time rather than simply social time and may look at implementing one of the other options at the beginning of second semester.

PMS and BMS are both working on some scheduling options for implementing a breakfast change at the beginning of second semester.

MVES, VCES and JES have combined all three options for their breakfast program. Students get their "Grab & Go" breakfasts with their classmates after their first class is over and eating it in the classroom.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Welcome Aboard!** County school employees, along with students, parents and members of the community, are all cordially invited to attend a reception for Barbour County's two new educational leaders at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 22. Dr. Joe Super, superintendent of Barbour County Schools, and Richard Creehan, president of Alderson-Broaddus College, will be welcomed at the Philippi courthouse square during the two-hour program that will feature music by the school system's all-county chorus, the Philip Barbour High School band and musical groups from A-B.

➤ **Considering Retirement?** The West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board has announced its schedule of TRS-TDC Retirement Planning Seminars for the fall of 2011. For specific sites or further information, visit the CPRB website found at <http://www.wvretirement.com/>. The presentations and question-answer sessions will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- Logan, WV: Thursday, September 22
- Wheeling, WV: Monday September 26
- Bridgeport, WV: Tuesday, September 27
- Elkins, WV: Wednesday, September 28
- Martinsburg, WV: Thursday, September 29
- Beckley, WV: Wednesday, October 5
- Mineral Wells, WV: Thursday, October 6
- Charleston, WV: Tuesday, October 11
- Summersville, WV: Wednesday, October 12
- Huntington, WV: Thursday, October 13

Shake It Off and Step Up!

Author Unknown



A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule. The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule 'braying' - or - whatever mules do when they fall into wells. After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead, he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened...and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical! But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back...a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back...HE SHOULD SHAKE IT OFF AND STEP UP! This he did, blow after blow.

"Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up!" he repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on SHAKING IT OFF AND STEPPING UP!

You're right! It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, STEPPED TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE WALL OF THAT WELL! What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him...all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity.

THAT'S LIFE! If we face our problems and respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness, or self-pity...the adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to benefit and bless us!

