



Philippi Covered Bridge

The Bridge

Volume 5, Issue 1

September, 2013

Hi Folks,

Just a short greeting to start the year... It seems like only yesterday that we were closing school for the summer, and here we are again opening our doors and counting noses of new students, as well as those returning.

Over the past couple of years we have seen much change as we have grown with new legislation and policies for, as it seems, just about everything. I make no bones about this coming year as we have issues that will need addressing. My sleeves are rolled up ready for the challenges we will face with enrollment and related budgetary concerns. The new teacher evaluation system and Senate Bill 359, with associated WV Policy 5000, will more than likely cause some angst, but we will work our way through those as we have done in the past, with our focus being on what is best for our students.

After 40-plus years in education, the support and guidance I have received has truly been rewarding and, as I enter this year, I personally cannot thank you enough for the same you have given me during my tenure. I welcome your input as we take the next steps for our communities in Barbour County, our school system and our students. My door remains open to all! I trust if you have a need or concern, and believe I can help, that you will come and see me.

And, as always, please remember now that our schools are open to drive a little slower and watch out for the little ones, and even the big ones, who may not be watching out for you. And also remember to come out and support the very best that West Virginia has to offer: the staff and students of Barbour County Schools!

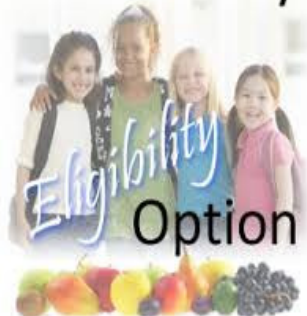
Respectfully,

Dr. Joe Super



Community

New CEO Program Provides Free School Meals to Most



Barbour County Schools is pleased to announce that its participation in the new Community Eligibility Option (CEO) program has allowed students in eight of the nine schools to receive healthy breakfasts and lunches at no charge to their households during. As part of the National School Lunch/Breakfast Programs, CEO works to provide universal free meals in schools with high percentages of low-income students, while reducing administrative requirements and increasing participation. All Barbour County elementary and middle schools have qualified for the program during 2013-14. During the first two weeks of the new term, officials estimate that an increase of 125 meals have been served daily.

Warm Welcome Extended to New County School Staff

The opening of the 2013-14 school year finds a total of twelve new professional and service staff joining the ranks at Barbour County Schools.



As of early September, the following personnel were adding their skills and talents to provide the best possible educational experiences for Barbour County students. Best wishes for a productive and rewarding year are extended to: Jing Yan, teacher, PBHS; Daniel Mouser, custodian, PBHS; Stephanie Bailey, LPN/aide, Kasson; Clark Freeman, bus operator; Marty Waybright, bus operator/mechanic; Michael Wanstreet, bus operator; Kimberly Barcus, teacher, PBHS; Evalene Bartram, teacher, KEMS/PMS; Amanda Sweet, teacher, VCES; Shannon Gibson, teacher, PMS; Wendy Phillips, teacher, PBHS; Angela Thompson, cook, KEMS.

Thank You and Farewell to Retirees

The Barbour County Board of Education, Superintendent, Dr. Joe Super, and the administrative staff of Barbour County Schools have expressed appreciation for the dedication and service of the fourteen professional and service staff members who concluded their careers in education between July, 2012 and June, 2013. Best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement are extended to the following employees, who represent more than 400 years of experience:

Ruby McDonald, Carol Edge, Janis Zambelli, Carol Hovatter, Judy McDaniel, Nancy Burner-Ware, Mike Poling, Rick Cleavenger, Kristie Freeman, John Hickman, Gloria McLean, Philip "Lynn" Upton, Carl Bolton and Jimmy Runion.



Career-Tech Center Improvements Completed On Time & Under Budget

Students at Philip Barbour's Career and Technical Education Center returned to a new and improved facility, as the coordinated efforts of many helped bring the summer SBA Needs Project in on time and under budget. The \$1.6 million initiative included more than \$200,000 in local contributions through the county's new Energy Performance Contract. District officials praised the maintenance and custodial staffs from across the county for their hard work in closing the 2012-13 school year on site, and then helping prepare the building for the new year. The six major components in the project, including new HVAC, fire alarm and sprinkler systems, ceiling replacements, technology upgrades and expanded space for collaborative learning, will be completed by bonus improvements made possible by the savings in cost realized throughout the process. Additional renovations will soon include areas such as roofs on auxiliary buildings, replacement of some exterior doors, and new floor tiling in (8) eight instructional areas. The project goal is to meet the facility's major health, safety and academic challenges and to provide Barbour County students with a truly 21st Century learning environment.



The project is to complete upgrades that will reduce energy and operating costs, and improve the safety through the lighting, electrical, speaker, technology, and mechanical systems.

Philip Barbour Complex Career & Technical Center

James B. Phares
State Superintendent of Schools

Barbour County Board of Education
Dr. F. Joseph Super
Superintendent

Thrasher Engineering
Clarksburg, West Virginia

Wendell Energy Services
Clarksburg, West Virginia

\$212,447 Funding by Barbour County
\$1,402,305 Funding by:
School Building Authority of West Virginia
Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Richard Thompson
Speaker of the House

Jeffery V. Kessler
Senate President

West Virginia School Building Authority
Dr. Mark A. Bertone
Executive Director

Earl Salinger
Governor's Secretary, Chair

Ernie Butler, Vice President
Eric Lane, Secretary

Alvin Gabriel
Phyllis Hester
Robert Harwood
Tom Langel
L. Wade Long Jr.
D. Jane Murrell
James N. Phillips
Nicholas Prewett

“ Investing in West Virginia's Future “

The Parable of the Fern and the Bamboo

Sometimes told from a religious perspective, this short story teaches about perseverance and faith. It has several applications to educators...

There was once a man who got so sick of life, he quit his job, severed all relationship ties and headed into the woods for one last reflection.

There he saw a meditating wise man and told him why he was there.

"Can you give me one good reason not to quit?" the man asked.

The wise man responded to his question with another question, "Look around here. Do you see the fern and the bamboo?"

"Yes, I do." the man replied.

The wise man continued, "When I planted the fern and the bamboo seeds, I took very good care of them. I gave them light. I gave them water. The soil is rich. The fern quickly grew from the earth. Its brilliant green covered the floor. Yet nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo.

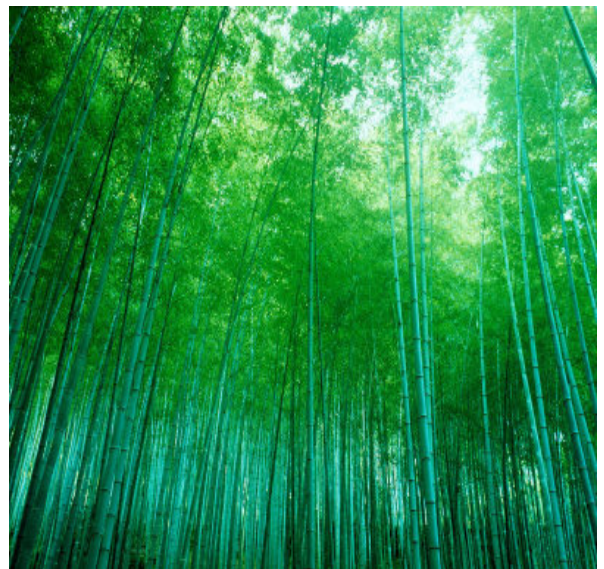
On the second year the fern grew more vibrant and plentiful. And again, nothing came from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit on the bamboo.

On the third year, there was still nothing from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit. On the fourth year, the forest floor was carpeted with lush fern. Yet, again, nothing came out from the bamboo seed. But I did not quit.

Then on the fifth year, a tiny green sprout emerged from the earth...the size of your thumb. Compared to the fern it was small and insignificant. But just six months later, the bamboo had risen to over 100 feet tall. You see, it had spent the last four years growing roots. Those roots made it strong and gave it what it needed to survive and flourish.

All this time that you have been struggling, you have actually been growing roots. The growth of the bamboo was not magic. Yet it towers above the fern in the end. Don't compare yourself to others.

The bamboo has a different purpose from the fern. But together they both make the forest beautiful. The wise man then looked pointedly at the man and said, "Your time will come. Take your roots and you shall rise high and strong, just like the bamboo."



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **GED Graduation Held:** On July 8, 2013, a new class of Barbour County GED graduates was honored by the Board of Education. Some 27 adults and Option Pathway students received congratulations and awards during the annual event. During the past six years, 201 local citizens have earned GED credentials through the local Adult Basic Education program, with 511 non-traditional students receiving diplomas in Barbour County since 1993.



➤ **PR Assistance Soon Available:** Barbour County Schools is in the process of forming a partnership with Alderson Broaddus University's Communications Department to provide internship opportunities for college journalism students and assistance to county schools and departments in the production of news articles and features. Further details will be available soon, and interested personnel may contact Doug Schiefelbein for additional information.

➤ **Grant Writing Support Just a Call Away:** With discretionary funding for special projects in short supply, county schools, departments and educators may consider looking at grant opportunities to support program needs or wants. If you have a project and a source that you'd like to pursue, whether a mini-grant or something on a larger scale, feel free to get in touch with Doug Schiefelbein for technical assistance or thoughts on how to present your idea in the most favorable light.

County Administrators Assume New Roles for 2013-14



As of the first week of September, five school administrators had been named to new positions for 2013-14. It is anticipated that at least two more will join the county ranks in the near future.

Mark Lamb, shown above, is the new principal at Philip Barbour High School. He is joined at the campus Career-Technical Center by director and associate principal, Tonya Ferguson. Former PBHS principal, Lisa Heinbaugh, is now the Director of Title I and PK-5 Curriculum and Instruction. Mike Ferguson has taken the helm as principal at Belington Middle School, while Jennifer Swift is the new administrator at Kasson Elementary/Middle School.

Dispensers Installed Countywide Seen as Efficient and Cost-Saving

Most school facilities in Barbour County have seen an influx of new dispensing equipment in restrooms and other areas during the early days of the new school year. Motion-activated paper towel and hand soap dispensers and single-sheet toilet paper holders were professionally installed under a new contract with Staples effective in 2013-14. Following the mandatory government bid process, the company has provided the hardware and installations at no cost to Barbour County Schools, which will pay only for the consumable products. The new plan calls for Staples to provide next-day service on deliveries and repairs, allowing county maintenance and custodial staffs more time for other tasks at school facilities throughout the district.