



The Bridge



The Carrolton Bridge

Volume 3, Issue 1

October, 2011



Important Dates

- Oct. 4** Special Governor's Election: No School
- Oct. 10** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE
- Oct. 13** Safe Schools Team Meets, BOE, 4:15 pm
- Oct. 21** Last Day of 1st Nine-Weeks Grading Pd.
- Oct. 22** Report Cards Are Distributed
- Oct. 24** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE
- Nov. 1** Middle School P-T Conferences
- Nov. 2** Elementary School P-T Conferences
- Nov. 3** High School & CTE P-T Conferences
- Nov. 11** Veterans Day Holiday Schools Closed
- Nov. 12** GED Testing, 8 am, CTE Center
- Nov. 14** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE
- Nov. 21 to 23** Out of Calendar Days Schools Closed
- Nov. 24** Thanksgiving Day Schools Closed
- Nov. 25** Out of Calendar Day Schools Closed
- Nov. 28** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm, BOE

Barbour County Schools' New Five-Year Plan Goals and Objectives Are Approved for 2011-12

During September, Barbour County Schools' Five-Year Planning Committee approved the following goals for 2011-12 to reflect the new direction that has been set for schools in West Virginia by Dr. Jorea M. Marple, State Superintendent of Schools:

Goal #1: All students will meet or exceed state, national and international curriculum standards that incorporate acquisition of 21st century skills through engaging opportunities in the arts, world languages, health and physical education, technical education, as well as the core subjects of reading/English/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies as evidenced by NAEP, WESTEST 2, TechSteps assessments, CTE assessments and formative assessments.



Goal #2: All students will develop the personal skills and dispositions of wellness, responsibility, cultural awareness, self-direction, ethical character and good citizenship in an environment that is caring and safe as evidenced by increased attendance rates, declining suspensions and expulsions, and improved wellness indicators.

Goal #3: All students will graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary education and career success through personalized pathways and guidance that focus on productive and satisfying lives.

Goal #4: Through the use of Global 21 content, context and technology tools, students will develop and utilize 21st Century Learning Skills to master the content standards/objectives and to prepare them for successful entry into the workplace or post-secondary education.

New Playgrounds Serve Junior Elementary School

Barbour County Schools and Junior Elementary School recently received a West Virginia Department of Education grant of more than \$42,000 to renovate and equip two playground areas at the school. Only 11 schools across the state were selected during the competitive grant process. Matching and in-kind contributions by Junior's PTO, the board of education and area businesses added another \$28,000 to the effort.

Completed in September, the project features a large, safe central playground structure and improved landscaping on the main play area, while a new PK and kindergarten playground has been established on the north end of the school property. It replaces a condemned ECE play area and features a smaller recreation



station on an expanded play area with a new cemented patio area. The cooperative project marks the first significant playground improvements at JES since it opened in 1980, replacing the old metal equipment that dated back to the original Junior Grade School in the 1950's.

BMS Team Wins Quiz Show Cash for School

A school team from Barbour County recently competed in a radio station-sponsored quiz contest in Morgantown and came away as the top winner. Belington Middle School was one of three schools from north central West Virginia selected to participate in WVAQ's "Are You Smarter Than Your Principal?" program, with more than \$1000 in cash prizes available to winning teams. The game show was held on October 2 at the Morgantown Mall, which co-sponsored the event along with the radio sta-



tion. Based upon the popular TV show, "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" the game involved questions posed to each school's respective principal, who could solicit help from students. BMS earned \$650 during the afternoon, with the other two schools pulling in \$200 apiece. Belington's team, shown with emcee, Lacey Neff at left, included: Principal, Moke Post, and students, Sean Curtis, Zack Kittle and Cadie McNaboe, who will help decide how to use the prize money at BMS.

New Personnel Join the Barbour County School Team



Cordial greetings are extended to the 21 new professional and service staff members who have joined Barbour County Schools during 2011. They include: Shelley Starkey, Elementary Literacy Coach, Itinerant; Jada Nelson, Reading Interventionist, Belington Middle School; Beth Powell, Speech Pathologist, Itinerant; Alyssa Carpenter, PreK-PreK Special Needs, Philippi Elementary School; Trista Dalton, Mathematics, Philip Barbour High School; Noble Fitzwater, Custodian, Philip Barbour High School; Adam Cheeseman, Multi-Categorical, Philippi Middle/Philip Barbour High School; Twila Smith, Multi-Categorical, Belington Middle School; Brittany Scarsberry, 4th Grade, Philippi Elementary School.

Best wishes for a successful year also go out to: Whitney Reger, Biology/General Science, Philip Barbour High School; Angel McCullough, 1st Grade, Philippi Elementary School; Chad Sinsel, Bus Operator; James Kirkpatrick, Health/Physical Education, Philippi Middle/Belington Middle School; Jennifer Stuart, half time PreK-PreK Special Needs, Philippi Elementary School; Jessica Jones, half time Title I, Mt. Vernon Elementary School; Kayla Bouscher, Science/Mathematics, Belington Middle School; Pamela Cress, Sign Language Specialist/Aide/Transportation Aide, Belington Elementary School; William Cunningham, Bus Operator; Ronald Edwards, Bus Operator; Savannah Jamison, English/Reading, Philippi Middle School; Bruce Howell, Bus Operator.

Critical Skills Tutoring Underway

Barbour County Schools has initiated a new round of daily tutoring in reading and mathematics at all elementary and middle schools as part of Year 3 of the county's four-year Critical Skills grant. Designed to target strategic students, the program provides one





tutor per school to serve students in grades 3 & 8. It is scheduled to operate Mondays through Fridays from October 12 to the end of the 2011-12 school year.


Social Studies Technology Upgraded

A large influx of technology is on its way to teachers and students in Barbour County's social studies classes. A total of \$227,000 in Step 7 funding has been allocated for the purchase of 330 student laptop computers at the middle and high school levels, along with a dozen 30-unit storage/charging carts. Each teacher will also receive a data projector with a ceiling mount, a dedicated laptop and a printer/scanner to help boost student achievement and attainment of curricular objectives. The initiative is aligned with strategies promoted by the Department of Education to use digital resources instead of traditional textbooks.

— Odds' N' Ends —

 **Retiring Soon?** The county administration reminds all personnel who are considering retirement at the end of the school year that December 1 is the deadline for submitting early written notification of intent for the state's bonus program. In completing this process, please remember that a county board may consider the position of a classroom teacher who has provided such notice of retirement as vacant, and the board may immediately post the position as an opening to be filled at the conclusion of the school year. If another teacher is hired to fill the position prior to the start of the following school year, the retiring classroom teacher is disqualified from continuing his/her employment at that position. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact the county office.

 **Energetic Support:** Barbour County Schools was commended during a recent audit for savings related to its energy efficiency program. RESA VII plans to present information on Barbour's efforts in energy cost avoidance to various school systems across the state. Through July of 2011, the county has saved a total of \$897,095 through the strategies and efforts of school employees and the board of education.

 **Help Prevent Bullying:** October has been designated as Bullying Prevention Month. The sixth annual event is co-sponsored by a coalition of educational, social & governmental organizations, and focuses on awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on children, including the surge in cyber-bullying. Resources for educators can be secured from school counselors and found at various websites such as: www.pacerkidsagainstabullying.org.

Option Pathway Program Offers Success Alternative

Students at Philip Barbour High School now have a new avenue to success thanks to the school's new Option Pathway program. PBHS joins other West Virginia schools in blending the GED tests with a career-technical education pathway that gives high school students a chance to stay in school, take the GED and graduate on time.

To become Option students, candidates must be a year or more behind their ninth grade cohorts or be at risk of dropping out of school. After a recommendation/referral process is completed, parents must approve placement in the program. The Option student's plan includes several components:

- *Attends GED preparation classes;*
- *Passes the GED tests;*
- *Completes a 21st Century job preparation program;*
- *Completes the four (4) required core courses in a CTE skilled pathway resulting in certification;*
- *Meets standards on the WorkKeys job skills assessment;*
- *Reaches or exceeds the cut score established by the WVDE on the end of concentration performance assessment.*

The student who is successful in completing all of these requirements will receive a high school diploma.

