



The Bridge

Volume 5, Issue 2

October, 2013



Important Dates

October 4	GED Examination, 8 a.m. Career-Technical Center
October 14	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
October 18	ISE Day (tutoring avail.) No School for Students
October 24	Last Day of the First Nine -Week Grading Period
October 28	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
October 31	Report Cards Distributed;
November 4	Elem. School Parent- Teacher Conferences
November 5	Middle School Parent- Teacher Conferences
November 7	High School Parent- Teacher Conferences
November 9	GED Examination, 8 a.m. Career-Technical Center
November 11	Holiday: Veterans Day No School
November 12	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
November 18	Board of Ed. Meeting; 6:00 p.m. @ BOE Office
November 20	Two-Hour Delay Sched.
November 25 to 29	Thanksgiving Holiday and OS Days (No School)

Hi Folks,

Another month has come and gone and we are finally starting to enjoy an Indian Summer. On a personal side, I always look forward to the Forest Festival; our son is a bagpiper in the Highlanders and marched on Friday and Saturday. Over the years Barbour County has been proudly represented in the Festival, with several of our young ladies serving as festival princesses, and this year was no exception!

Now that our schools have received their academic growth/test score ratings, teachers and staff are immersed, in one form or another, to ensure student success. We are fortunate in that the West Virginia Department of Education and the RESA VII staff are working with us to that end. My thanks to Mr. Schiefelbein and staff members whose efforts have been invaluable as we continue to seek grants to assist with student success. On October 1, we submitted an application for the continuation of our Innovation Zone Dropout Prevention Grant, which has focused on students staying in school while accepting and wanting accountability for their own learning. Our target remains the same with the new submission, but now we seek to further our relationship with the New Tech Schools model. The early success shown by improved test scores and higher attendance rates by the randomly selected students in the program were truly remarkable during the first year. We will know in December if our proposal is selected.

It is great to see our student-athletes competing again. For me to grab a night out of the office is real therapy, watching them play regardless of win, lose or draw. I cannot encourage you enough to take time, better yet - make time, to come out and watch our kids compete. Golf has completed a successful season, but you can still catch our student-athletes involved in soccer, volleyball, cheerleading, football and cross-country. And don't forget our band, The Pride of Barbour County. No matter the arena, come out and you will see some of the best, if not THE BEST, in the state!

Aside from wondering where the past 66 years went, September was certainly interesting. I thank you for the personal support you gave me over the past month. Along with the academic/instructional aspects of the superintendency, I am well aware of my financial obligation to you. I fully realize and accept that tough recommendations have to be made. Rest assured I will continue to make them, and from there, tougher decisions have to be made. With that, now is the time we ALL need to be part of the solution so that ALL of our students can benefit. As always, I value your input and, as always, my door is open to all!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Fitzwater Named Barbour County's Teacher of the Year

Barbour County educator, Cynthia Fitzwater, has been named the district's 2014 Teacher of the Year. Cynthia, a first grade teacher at Belington Elementary School with 26 years of experience, was presented an honorary plaque at the 2013-14 Opening of Schools event in August. In addition to her classroom duties at BES, she has also co-taught education classes at Alderson Broaddus University, and has received training to present the Common Core to colleagues through RESA 7 and the Teacher Leadership Institute.



The spark for her interest in education can be traced back to her early experiences as a babysitter, where she enjoyed watching youngsters grow, mature and learn. While still a teenager, Cynthia knew that she would find career happiness as an elementary school teacher.

Highly regarded by her fellow teachers and supervisors, Mrs. Fitzwater exemplifies the qualities of professionalism, volunteerism, leadership, dependability and the willingness to use innovative strategies to motivate her students.

Cynthia's philosophy of education begins with the understanding that her students come to her with various life experiences, knowledge levels and attitudes. She feels that teachers "should create environments that are conducive to learning." If children see the setting as inviting, safe, friendly, with clear and consistent classroom management standards in place, they can then be guided and challenged to become the best readers, thinkers and independent learners possible. Her key to success is to "approach students and issues with humor, patience, understanding and love."

Sharon Cross Honored as 2014 Service Person of the Year



Sharon Cross was named Barbour County's Service Person of the Year on August 20th during the opening ceremonies held at Philip Barbour High School. She currently serves at the central office in the multiple

capacities of attendance, curriculum, staff development and service personnel call-out secretary.

During her ten year career with the school system, Sharon has earned the reputation as "a 'go to' employee when something needs be completed on time and with excellence" according to one of her supervisors. Other adjectives used to describe her professionalism were: hard working, efficient, ethical and caring. Her behind-the-scenes work in the attendance office has helped the county see decreases in truancy and high absenteeism cases, and in the numbers of dropouts reported as well.

Beyond the school day, Mrs. Cross is known for her school and community service and volunteerism. She has served for the past fifteen years as a prominent booster and "band mom" for the Philip Barbour High School band program.

In addition to her rewarding work with The Pride of Barbour County, Sharon has helped coordinate various school trips, and plays major roles in the school system's annual Young Writers Contest and Student Art Fair.

Sharon Cross joins an impressive listing of service staff selected for this honor in recent years who have gone beyond the call of duty for the benefit of the children of Barbour County.

Changes in Principalships Noted

In addition to the summer administrative moves mentioned in the September edition of The Bridge, three more positions were filled as the 2013-14 school year got into full swing. Jennifer Swift, formerly principal at Volga-Century and Junior Elementary Schools, has taken on the same duties at Kasson Elementary-Middle School.

Meanwhile, Andy Sigman (right) has been newly appointed to the dual role at Volga-Century and Junior. Mr. Sigman comes to Barbour County Schools from Ohio County, with this marking his first venture into administration.



Finally, former Tech Education instructor, Rick Daugherty, has left the classroom to join the administrative team at the Philip Barbour High School Complex as its newest associate principal. Best wishes are extended to these three principals for an exciting and productive year.

October 1 Enrollment Totals 2,463

The official student membership "raw count" for 2013, as submitted to the WV Department of Education on October 1, shows a total of 2463 pupils enrolled in Barbour County Schools. This reflects a slight decrease (-6) from the raw enrollment of 2469 reported last October 1.

Individual school enrollment totals include: Kasson Elementary/Middle School—210; Belington Elementary School—362; Junior Elementary School—136; Mt. Vernon Elementary School—67; Philippi Elementary School—456; Volga-Century Elementary School—43; Belington Middle School—214; Philippi Middle School—249; and Philip Barbour High School Complex—726.



State Retirement Seminars Scheduled

The Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB) is sponsoring its annual Retirement Seminars during October of 2013 for members of the West Virginia Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System (TDC Plan). Whether you are new to public employment or nearing retirement eligibility, attending a seminar will provide you with an opportunity to learn about your annuity benefits and options and better prepare you for determining when you will be eligible to retire. Sessions are scheduled around the state throughout the month of October. The final seminar will be held in Elkins at the Holiday Inn Express on Wednesday, October 30, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Early Retirement Notification Incentive News

The Finance Office has issued a reminder that the date for classroom teachers to submit early written notification of their intent to retire in order to receive the \$500 bonus authorized by WV Code 18A-2-2(g) is **January 15**. In completing this process, please remember that a county board may consider the position of a classroom teacher who has provided 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. Though not required in code, Barbour County Schools is also offering a \$250 early notification bonus to service personnel who notify the board by January 15 of their intentions to retire at the end of the school year. For more information about the early notification process or to secure the necessary form, interested teachers may contact the Finance Office at 457-3030 (ext. 136).

Deductions to Begin for Organization Dues

Payroll deductions for all organization dues (e.g. WVEA, WVFT, WVSSPA) will begin on October 15th. Dues will be deducted in sixteen (16) equal installments from paychecks following that date. Personnel with questions about this process may contact Amanda Huff (ext. 136) in the Finance Office for answers or more information.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Two-Hour Delay Dates Set:** The remaining dates for the two-hour delay schedule have been announced. In addition to the recent September 25 delay, future dates will include: November 20, January 29 and March 26. These dates occur in months that do not contain an ISE Day, and are set aside for data analysis, PLC meetings and school improvement efforts at the respective schools.

➤ **Lights On!**

The West Virginia Statewide After-School Network is



sponsoring a *Lights On!* evening on October 17 to recognize after school activities throughout the state. In fact, WVSAN plans to observe the week of October 14-18 to emphasize West Virginia's 150th birthday. If your school does something noteworthy during the week, contact WVSAN with a summary so that the group can share with state legislators.

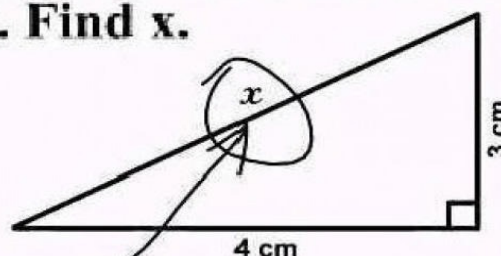
➤ **Staff Development Opportunities:** A total of four (4) professional development classes for new teachers (up to three years of experience) is being offered at Lakeview on October 15 & 17. The academy will conduct programs on Classroom Management I and II, Teaching Diverse Learners and Ruby Payne Part I or II. Interested educators should contact assistant superintendent, Jeff Kittle, for more details.

In addition, Philip Barbour High School will be the site of a staff development session on October 18 for training on the use of the Running Records, a program designed to help teachers assess student achievement and then use the information to differentiate instruction. The ISE Day presentation, scheduled for 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m., will be presented by Jeff Kittle and Shelley Starkey, and is geared towards all county elementary and middle school ELA instructors.

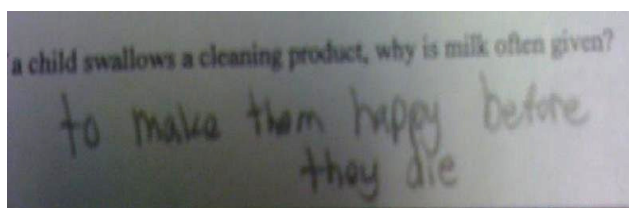
More 'Real' Funny Student Answers



3. Find x.



Here it is



Transparency Worksheet 23 Hard and Soft Water

1. Briefly explain what hard water is.

ice

2. Note that calcium is one of the solids dissolved in ocean water. Describe two ways by

1. If you were setting up an aquarium for your little brother or sister in an effort to interest him or her in sea life, would you choose barnacles or seahorses?

Seahorses

Why would you make this choice?

Seriously? You want me to choose between a seahorse, a very exotic beautiful sea animal, or a barnacle, a creature that just sits around and does nothing. You've got to be kidding me. What kind of an idiot would be like 'oh, let's make a super fun aquarium and fill it with barnacles!'

Remaining 2013-14 Assessment Schedule Announced (Revised 10-3-13)

Oct 7 - 11	BENCHMARK 1: MATHEMATICS AND RLA 9-12 (PBHS BLOCK Classes)				
Oct 14-18					ISE
Oct 21-25	Act Explore and Plan: Grades 8 and 10				
Oct 28-Nov 1	Writing Benchmark 2 / Act Explore and Plan: Grades 8 and 10 Make-Up Window				
Nov 4-8	Writing Benchmark 2				
Nov 11-15	Vet. Day	BENCHMARK 1: MATH AND RLA 3-12			
Nov 18-22	BENCHMARK 2: MATH AND RLA 9-12 (PBHS BLOCK Classes)				
Nov 25-29	Thanksgiving				
Dec 16-20	BENCHMARK 3: MATH AND RLA 9-12 (PBHS BLOCK Classes)				ISE
Dec 23-27	Christmas Break				
Dec 30-Jan 3	Christmas Break				
Jan 6-10	Running Records				
Jan 13-17	Running Records//Writing Benchmark 3 // BENCHMARK 3: MATH AND RLA 9-12 (PBHS BLOCK Classes)				
Jan 20-24	ML King Day	Running Records			
Jan 27-31	Running Records				
Feb 3-7	BENCHMARK 2: MATHEMATICS AND RLA 3-12/Writing Benchmark 4 Feb 3-Feb 14				
Feb 10-14	WESTEST 2 Online Writing General Testing Window: Feb. 10 - April 25				ISE
Feb 17-21	WESTEST 2 Online Writing Middle School Window: Feb 10 - March 7				
Feb 24-28	WESTEST 2 Online Writing Middle School Window: Feb 10 - March 7				
Mar 3-7	WESTEST 2 Online Writing High School Window: March 3 - March 28				
Mar 10-14	WESTEST 2 Online Writing High School Window: March 3-March 28				OS
Mar 17-21	WESTEST 2 Online Writing High School Window: March 3 - March 28				
Mar 21-28	WESTEST 2 Online Writing Elementary School Window: March 24 - April 18				
Mar 31-Apr 4	WESTEST 2 Online Writing Elementary School Window: Mar 24-Apr 18				TP
Apr 7-11	ISE	WESTEST 2 Online April 7 - June 11			
Apr 14-18	*Writing Make-ups scheduled anytime during testing window				CE
Apr 21-25	Spring Break				
Apr 28-May 2	WESTEST 2 Online April 7 - June 11//APTA//Running Record				
May 5-9	WESTEST 2 Online/Running Record				
May 12-16	WESTEST 2 Online (Tentative)	E	WESTEST 2 Online/Running Record		
May 19-23	WESTEST 2 Online/Running Record				OS
May 26-30	Memorial Day	WESTEST 2 Online /Running Record			
June 2-6	WESTEST 2 Online				ISE
June 9-13	OS	OS	OS	OS	P

*CTE Global 21 Performance Assessment (Pending): HEAP Health Assessment Ongoing.

Golden HorseshoePractice Jan - Mar Essay Mar 12 MC Apr 12 (Grade 8): Tech Steps (Grade 8); WESTELL (K - 12) Pending
DLM Field Test 1 (1/15 - 2/1; DLM Field Test 2 (3/15 - 4/1) Smarter Balanced Field Test March 18 - June 20
ACT; SAT;PSAT; COMPASS: Pending TECH Steps Gr. 8 Sept.-Apr (6 Modules)

Benchmark 3 Needs to be established for 3-12; Benchmarks 2-3 for PBHS Block 2nd Semester.