

The Bridge



The Old Arden "Blue Bridge"

Volume 8, Issue 3

November , 2016



Important Dates

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| Nov. 7 | PB Theater Class Skit on 2016 Elections |
| Nov. 8 | Election Day— No School |
| Nov. 11 | Veterans Day— No School |
| Nov. 13 | PBHS Fall Sports Banquet: 2:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 14 | Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE |
| Nov. 21 thru 23 | Out of Calendar Days - No School |
| Nov. 24 | Thanksgiving Holiday - No School |
| Nov. 25 | Out of Calendar Day — No School |
| Nov. 28 | Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE |
| Dec. 12 | Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE |
| Dec. 14 and 15 | TASC Equivalency Testing: CTEC |
| Dec. 19 | Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE |
| Dec. 23 | Faculty Senate: Two- hour early dismissal |
| Dec. 23 | End 2nd Nine-Weeks and 1st Semester |
| Dec. 26 | Christmas Holiday - No School |
| Dec. 27 thru 30 | Out of Calendar Days - No School |

Greetings Everyone,

I am writing just a few days before our Thanksgiving break and it is hard to imagine how fast this school year is going. I hope that all of you get a chance to enjoy the break with your family and friends and that you get recharged for the last few weeks of the semester.

When I look back on the beginning of the school year, I can't help but be impressed on what we have accomplished so far. Philip Barbour High School athletics can already claim two State Championships in Ladies Cross Country and Volleyball. The volleyball team repeated as State Champs and knocked off Bridgeport in the finals. The Pride of Barbour County, the Philip Barbour High School Band, was again the highest rated AA Band in the State and our three middle schools came together for a very successful football season for our first consolidated team.

The new school rankings were released by *school digger.com* and several of our schools made tremendous improvements over the prior year. Six of the eight schools that were ranked improved dramatically from the prior year while one school stayed the same and the other had a slight decrease. I am confident that all seven schools that will be ranked next year will see even greater gains in the school rankings.

The State Department of Education is set to release the A-F rankings this week and we are very competitive with our surrounding counties and fared better than some. I am encouraging everyone to take the school grades given to the schools this year, and to use them as benchmarks for what we want to strive for to improve upon next year.

We continue to make personnel adjustments throughout the county. Dave Neff has taken on the position of Personnel Director/Attendance Director/Secondary School Improvement Coordinator/WVEIS County Contact. His previous position as principal at Philippi Middle School has been filled by Debra Conover, the former principal at Junior/Volga-Century Elementary Schools. Her position at Junior Elementary has been filled by Ashley Workman, the former principal/teacher at Mount Vernon Elementary School. Ashley's position at MVES is being filled at this time by substitute personnel.

I have found in my visits to all of the schools in the county that the faculties, staff and students are working toward making this school year even better than last year. I continue to be impressed by the dedication of the employees of Barbour County Schools to seeing that our students are given every opportunity to be successful and to reach whatever goals they have for their futures.

I wish you all a very blessed Thanksgiving and hope that you get to spend some quality time with your loved ones. Thanks!

Happy Thanksgiving

Jff P. Wofford

PBHS Girls Cross-Country Team Captures 2016 State Championship

For the fifth time in the past seven years, the Philip Barbour Lady Colts cross-country squad has claimed the Class AA state championship. The event took place at Cabell Midland High School on October 29 in perfect running weather. The PB squad was led by juniors, Jessica Melvin and Kierra Hodge, who earned All-State honors with their second and eighth place finishes respectively.



Other team members include: Tristen Furby, Brianna Williams, Olivia Frye, Katie Swick, Moriah Mitchell, Cara Kirk and Shania Keene. The Lady Colts, coached by Jim Seaton and Gerald Furby, have dominated the Class AA division since 2010. The top five places per team are tallied on a point basis, with PB' 83 points outdistancing the second-place Fairmont Senior team with 99, The Philip Barbour boys' squad was paced by qualifiers, Tyler Channel and Johnny Mitchell.

Junior Elementary Students Named Champs in "Sumdog" Mathematics Contest

Members of the fourth grade class at Junior Elementary School recently earned regional first place recognition in early October during a large, on-line mathematics competition. The popular *Sumdog* program improves math fluency by allowing students to play games based upon their own personal skill levels in the subject area. A total of 1700 students and 102 teams from across the nation participated, with RESA 7 represented by Barbour, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker and Upshur counties. During the competition, each student answered 1000 questions, with scores averaged as a class. The Junior Bobcats team recorded 885 correct responses, to win the regional contest by a total of 88 points.



Amanda Eriksen, fourth grade teacher at JES, said, "I'm very proud of them. The game is fun and they liked the competition aspect. When they came in, they were really struggling in math, but I've told them over and over again that if they try hard enough, they can accomplish more than they can imagine. This has been a great way to build confidence and reinforce their math skills at their levels."

Maintenance/Infrastructure Purchases & Upgrades Approved By BOE

Several major infrastructure improvement purchases were approved by the Board of Education at its October 24. Recommendations included maintenance and communication projects that have been identified as key to the operation of an efficient and responsive system.

First, as part of a budgeted and scheduled plan for the maintenance department, a new utility truck is being added to the current fleet. The one-ton vehicle will feature an enclosed bed and will be equipped with a tow package. It also has the capacity to be fitted with a plow in case it is needed to replace or supplement other snow removal trucks during inclement weather.

Additionally, the LEA is purchasing a new public address system for Philip Barbour High School. After spending thousands of dollars for repairs in recent years at the county's largest school, the current system does not currently reach any of the first floor and is spotty throughout the remainder of the facility.

Finally, the county is using a multi-phased plan to install a new telephone system across the county. The initial phase includes the main unit housed at the central office. With the exception of PBHS, all other schools will require only new phones and not a server like the one at the board office, where line failures and lack of availability of needed components have necessitated the changeover. The PA system and telephone projects will be completed through the use of general funds.



In the near future, Superintendent Woofert will meet with administrators and faculty senate representatives across the county to develop a further plan for distribution of funds for infrastructure needs (e.g. furnishings, equipment, instructional supplies, etc.) at each on a prioritized needs basis.

Annual Pumpkin Drop Held at KEMS

As Halloween approaches each year, the students and staff at Kasson School participate in the annual "Pumpkin Drop" contest. Coordinated by math teacher, Susan Anglin, and aided by the Philippi Volunteer Fire Department and Commissioner, Jedd Schola, classes engineered packing to protect their falling pumpkins according to strict rules. As shown, happy fifth graders claimed the trophy for 2016.



EWS Provides Dropout Prevention Tool

Barbour County principals participated in a recent Early Warning System webinar to learn more about the powerful tool that can help identify at-risk students as early as first grade. The November 2nd session also provided interventions that can be used to lower risk levels and set students on a path to graduation. The EWS tool individualizes dropout prediction and prevention using an advanced, research-based algorithm that determines the factors that drive dropouts at each school, for each student in grades 1-12.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **TASC Program Update:** The Adult Education Department has announced the following TASC equivalency testing dates for 2016-17 at the Barbour County Career Technical Center:

December 14-15, 2016

February 15-16, 2016

April 5-6, 2016

June 14-15, 2016

Prospective examinees must first contact the ABE instructor, Michelle Gainer, at the Barbour County CTE Center for information regarding classes and testing details. She can be contacted by calling 457-4807 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

➤ **PEIA Hearings Underway: The Schedule...**

Customer Service: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Registration: 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Public Hearing: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

| DATE | LOCATION |
|------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, November 9, 2016 | Big Sandy Arena , One Civic Center Plaza, Huntington, WV |
| Thursday, November 10, 2016 | Tamarack Ballroom A , One Tamarack Park, Beckley, WV |
| Monday, November 14, 2016 | Holiday Inn , 301 Fox Croft Avenue, Martinsburg, WV |
| Tuesday, November 15, 2016 | WVU , The Erickson Alumni Center, One Alumni Drive, Morgantown, WV |
| Wednesday, November 16, 2016 | WV Northern Community College , Auditorium, 1704 Market Street, Wheeling, WV |
| Thursday, November 17, 2016 | University of Charleston , Ballroom, Charleston, WV |



Kasson Middle Team Selected to Compete in Regional Science Bowl



Members of the Kasson Middle School Science Bowl team will enter regional competition on February 3-4 at Fairmont State University when students take on the categories of Computer Design, Science Questions, Minecraft and Lego Robotics. Coached by Dr. Teresa Marsh and Science instructor, Angie McDaniel, the team includes: Seth Harris, Ben McDaniel, Hunter Melvin, Chandler Poling and Shelby Mash.

Walking through the hallways at the middle school where I work, I saw a new substitute teacher standing outside his classroom with his forehead against a locker. I heard him mutter, "How did you get yourself into this?"

Knowing he was assigned to a difficult class, I tried to offer moral support. "Are you okay?" I asked. "Can I help?"

He lifted his head and replied, "I'll be fine as soon as I get this kid out of his locker."

My sixth-grade class would not leave me alone for a second. It was a constant stream of "Ms. Osborn?"

"Ms. Osborn?" "Ms. Osborn?" Fed up, I said firmly, "Do you think we could go for just five minutes without anyone saying 'Ms. Osborn'?"

The classroom got quiet. Then, from the back, a soft voice said, "Um ... Cyndi?"

—Cyndi Osborn, New York, New York