

The Bridge

Volume 1, Issue 3

December, 2009



'Tis The Season...



Dear Colleagues,

Important Dates

December 7	BMS LSIC at 5:30 p.m. Board of Ed. Meeting: 6:30
December 19	GED Exam: 8:00 a.m. at CTE Center (PBHSC)
December 21	BES LSIC at 5:30 p.m. Board of Ed. Meeting: 6:30
December 23	ISE Day (No School for Students)
December 24	Out of Calendar Day (No School)
December 25	Christmas Day Holiday (No School)
December 28	Parent-Teacher Conference Make-Up Day
December 29	CE Sessions Available at (Board of Education Office)
December 30– December 31	Out of Calendar Days (No School)
January 1	New Years Day Holiday (No School)

The first snow of the winter has softly fallen. The landscape is covered in that sparkling shade of white; the air is crisp and cold; and the warmth of those we love is all around us.

At this time of year, our focus is on our many friends, our family, and those that mean the most to us. In my years in Barbour County, I have noticed that the love and generosity our employees show does not stop with our family and friends. I have seen faculties and staffs gather food to take to those who have none. I have seen teachers give out of their own pocket to make sure a child has a gift to open at Christmas. I have seen whole schools “adopt” families, or create Angel Trees to make sure that no one goes without during the holidays. I have seen and been a part of our employees gathering together around the annual Christmas potluck luncheon to celebrate the season and their relationships with each other. Again and again, our employees show me that it is not money that matters, but the bonds between us.

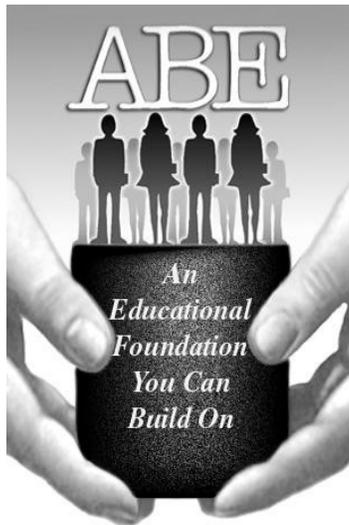
At my monthly meeting with the Faculty Senate Chairs in November, I informed them that I would love to be able to give each employee a wonderful bonus that is so richly deserved, but that our finances would not support such a gift. I asked if there was anything else they could think of that would show the Board of Education’s and my great admiration, respect, and love for each of you and what you do every day to make this community the bright place that it is. They unanimously supported the idea that I consider moving the ISE day from December 16th to December 23rd, so you could celebrate the season together as a faculty without the hardships of doing so while trying to also be all things to our children. What a great idea!

Although it is not as much as the BOE and I would like to be able to give, please accept this small gift and enjoy each other’s company on the afternoon of December 23rd. There will be no staff development to get in the way of the festivities! And as Tiny Tim would say, “God bless us, every one!” Merry Christmas! Ho! Ho! Ho!



Barbour's Adult Basic Education Program Receives State Recognition

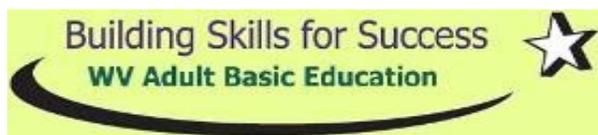
One of Barbour County's smallest programs has quietly but efficiently been serving the district's adult population for several decades. Headquartered at the Career and Technical Center on the PBHSC campus, the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program serves scores of local citizens annually in a variety of ways.



During the recent state ABE conference, held at the Stonewall Jackson Resort in late-October, Barbour County was recognized as one of just seven West Virginia counties to have met all Federal Core Measures for the past eight consecutive years. The others were: Cabell, Lincoln, Fayette, Summers, Mercer and Monroe Counties.

Programs are evaluated on the basis of national standards related to a series of measures and indicators, including the levels of enrollees who successfully attain GED credentials, enter post-secondary education, and obtain or retain employment.

The program's mission is "to enable adult learners to be literate, productive and successful in the workplace, home and community by delivering responsive adult education programs and services." Although the program is probably best known for preparing clients for the GED exam, it helps meet many other needs, including: basic skills and literacy enhancement, along with workforce and higher education preparation. Members of Barbour County's ABE staff are: John Armentrout, instructor; Lisa Heinbaugh, director; Karen Menear, secretary; Doug Schiefelbein, chief examiner; and Richard Daugherty, examiner.



Prevention Resource Officer Program at PBHS Campus Creates A Positive Partnership

At first, the students and staff were mostly curious. But as the new professional on campus has become a familiar face and his role has become defined, the man with the badge has been accepted as an important and welcome asset to the Philip Barbour High School campus. With high visibility and an office facing the school commons area, PB's Prevention Resource Officer fills several roles, including: counseling, deterring criminal acts, teaching law enforcement and educating students on topics as varied as ATV and motor vehicle safety to domestic violence.

Developed as a true partnership among Barbour County Schools, the Barbour County Commission and the Barbour County Sheriff's Department, the program began in the fall of 2008 when the county was selected as a state grant recipient. The matching grant has provided dollars for salary, a PRO vehicle and program equipment. Sergeant Phil Ferguson, a 1984 PB graduate and 17-year veteran, is the current sheriff's deputy assigned to the school. While he has full arrest powers, that role is secondary to that of advocate and aid to the high school students and staff members.

Established in some areas more than a decade ago, the PRO program is now found in many high schools. Studies show a significant decrease in disciplinary referrals and major incidents after a certified officer is installed.

Because the two-year grant is scheduled to expire during the summer of 2010, the school system and the sheriff's office are currently looking at other competitive grants with which to continue the PRO program at Philip Barbour. One such opportunity would provide funding for three years, and the other five years. Based upon its success so far, however, even if a grant is not secured, the partners will seek local or other funding with which to continue the program.



Healthy Snacks = Healthier Kids At County Elementary Schools

Students, teachers, and staff are enjoying a delicious treat several times weekly at Philippi Elementary, Mt. Vernon Elementary and Volga-Century Elementary Schools. These three Barbour County schools were awarded Fresh Fruit and Vegetable grants through the WV Office of Child Nutrition for the 2009-2010 school year. With the help of the schools' terrific cooks and a few volunteers, each of these schools prepares and serves a fresh fruit or vegetable snack to every student at least three days each week. The snacks are generally served during a short break in the mid-morning or afternoon.

The Office of Child Nutrition notes that "In today's eat-and-run way of life, fruits and vegetables are often left off the menu. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides all children in participating schools with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. It is an effective and creative way of introducing fresh fruits and vegetables as healthy snack options. The program's goal is to create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices and increasing children's fruit and vegetable consumption."



So far this year, the students have enjoyed several treats such as, tangerines, pears, kiwi, grapes, honeydew, cauliflower, radishes, green peppers and many more. Principal, Connie Mundy says, "It's so nice for our children to have this opportunity. Some of them are trying these nutritious foods for the first time." Barbour County's Office of Child Nutrition staff is hopeful that the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program may be extended to other elementary schools in the coming years.



... And Smart Foods Equal Smarter Kids, Too!

The Office of Child Nutrition has created a great, new online toolkit to help parents, students, schools and communities get involved in the statewide effort to improve school nutrition. At www.wvsmartfoods.com, moms, dads, teachers, principals and community leaders will find a complete menu of information, tools and web links to help us in our efforts to ensure kids are eating the right foods at school and at home.

The online toolkit is organized around five key aspects of the state's school nutrition policy: *Eating At School is Cool*, *Fruitful Fund-raising*, *Healthy Snacks*, *Rewarding Success*

and *Let's Party, Let's Play*. In addition, www.wvsmartfoods.com offers healthy recipes, school wellness success stories, customized promotional tools and West Virginia media contact information.

To achieve the goal of smart foods and smarter kids, we need to get our entire community excited about good child nutrition. Parents, schools and communities can help make eating at school healthy and cool. One of the best ways for them to get involved is by joining their local school wellness council. To learn more about how you can get involved in your school's wellness council, call 304.457.4807 or e-mail nesbitt@access.k12.wv.us.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ Finance Office Note: School personnel should take note that the December 28th paychecks will be distributed on Wednesday, December 23rd, the last working day before the holiday break.

➤ H1N1 Clinic Update: Barbour County Schools and the Barbour County Health Department continue to work cooperatively to administer the H1N1 flu vaccines to students as it becomes available. The final three clinics are scheduled as follows:

- Belington Middle: Thursday, Dec. 3; 9-11 a.m.
- Philippi Middle: Monday, Dec. 7; 9-11 a.m.
- Philip Barbour Complex: Thursday, Dec. 10; 9-noon

★ Barbour County Schools has received a Healthy Choices Award from First Lady, Gayle Manchin, on behalf of the West Virginia Healthy Lifestyles Coalition for establishing healthy alternatives to soft drinks and improving the health of students during 2009-10.



“There aren’t any icons to click. It’s a chalk board.”

The Crayons



The kindergarten class had settled down to its coloring books, when Stevie came up to the teacher’s desk and said, “Miss Marcy, I ain’t got no crayons.”

“Now, Stevie,” Miss Marcy said, “You mean...I don’t have any crayons. You don’t have any crayons. We don’t have any crayons. They don’t have any crayons. Do you see what I’m getting at?”

“Not really,” replied Stevie. “But what happened to all them crayons?”

School Safety Responses From Local Students Are Encouraging



Results from the national 2008-09 PRIDE survey of students across America were recently released, giving local educators an opportunity to review comparative data. Though not scientific since they were derived from different instruments (Barbour County’s student response percentages came from the local 2008-09 Safe Schools survey), the prompts were virtually identical as they measured the level of safety that children felt in various locations at their schools. Results from Barbour County’s 2007-08 and 2008-09 Safe Schools surveys have been provided to all school administrators, were posted on the BCS website, and are available at the Board of Education office.

Category	USA	WV	BC
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe at school (generally):	20	19	15
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe on the school bus:	26	20	12
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe in the bathroom:	25	23	16
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe on the playground:	25	21	06
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe in the parking lot:	28	23	09
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe in the classroom:	14	14	07
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe in the hallways:	23	20	24
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe in the cafeteria:	19	17	09
Percentage of students who never/seldom feel safe in the gymnasium:	19	16	04