



# The Bridge

Volume 5, Issue 4

December, 2013

*For the Holiday Season ~~~~  
Merry Christmas and  
A Happy New Year ~~~~*

*To All...*

*This card is not new; I make no excuses for using it every year.  
And although I am not the original author, the sentiment  
expressed has always been very dear to me for several reasons.  
My family knows first-hand the miracles of that Silent Night.  
So once again, I want and need to share these words  
with all of you and your families for Christmas~*

*The older I get ...*

*The longer I hold on to a Holiday Hug ...*

*The more I realize Christmas is a matter of the heart ...*

*The tighter my throat gets when I sing Silent Night ...*

*The more I enjoy giving than receiving ...*

*The more I try to see Christmas "through the eyes of a child" ...*

*The longer I sit at night in the glow of the Christmas tree ...*

*The more wondrously beautiful the Christmas Story is ...*

*The deeper my awe at God's Infinite Love ...*

*The more I love Christmas.*

*From My Family to Yours,  
May God Bless All of You ~  
Joe and Debbie Super*



## Important Dates

<b>Dec. 2</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
<b>Dec. 16</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
<b>Dec. 19</b>	Safe Schools Comm. Meeting: 4:15 p.m.
<b>Dec. 20</b>	ISE Day: No School for Students -Tutoring
<b>Dec. 21</b>	GED Testing, 8 am, at CTE Center
<b>Dec. 24</b>	Out of Calendar Day: Schools Closed
<b>Dec. 25</b>	Christmas Holiday: Schools Closed
<b>Dec. 26 to 31</b>	Out of Calendar Days Schools Closed
<b>Jan. 1</b>	New Year's Holiday: Schools Closed
<b>Jan. 2</b>	Schools Reopen on Regular Schedule
<b>Jan. 13</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
<b>Jan. 14</b>	Last Day of 2nd Nine Wks & 1st Semester
<b>Jan. 20</b>	Martin Luther King Holiday: No School
<b>Jan. 22</b>	Nine-Weeks Report Cards Are Distributed
<b>Jan. 27</b>	Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE

## Barbour County Schools Awarded \$300,000 Innovation Zone Grant By Department of Ed.

During November, the West Virginia Board of Education congratulated Barbour County Schools as one of six awardees from across the state selected for project funding during the 2013 Innovation Zone grant process. The grant monies will help to expand the New Tech High School program at Philip Barbour High School. Currently, West Virginia has two existing New Tech High Schools, Buffalo High School in Putnam County and Philip Barbour, which were both established through Dropout Innovation Zone grants two years ago. Awards made during the competitive application process ranged from \$46,000 to the maximum of \$300,000 over a three year period.

“Innovation Zone” is a designation by the West Virginia Board of Education that provides schools with the support and flexibility to collaboratively implement innovation to enhance student learning, which may currently be restrained by policy or code. In addition, the act also encourages schools to focus on strategies that address dropout prevention and recovery. An Innovation Zone designation means that a school or school has been awarded a grant to address student learning or dropout prevention.



“Members of the State Board and I look forward to the progress these new Innovation Zone schools promise to make,” said WVBE President Gayle Manchin. “Innovation Zones are allowing our schools to adapt to changing times and embrace new ideas and new teaching strategies. They also give our schools greater flexibility and allow them to create learning facilities that reflect how children live and learn today and in the future.”

The local application highlighted research-based strategies and encouraging statistical signs of early success in the PBHSC program. The new funds will allow the continuation of the annual contract with New Tech Schools, ongoing purchases of individual student computers and accessories, on-site support services, off-campus training visits and workshops, and late-activity bus services for high school students through FY16. The second New Tech class of freshmen began their studies in August. By the end of the newly-awarded grant period, a total of five incoming classes will have been given the opportunity to participate in this pioneering program.

## — Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Final Retirement Notice:** 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. Also, 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 for the necessary form, interested staff may contact the Finance Office at 457-3030 (ext. 136).

➤ **County GED Program Recognized:** During the 2013 West Virginia GED Examiners Conference at the Charleston Civic Center on December 5-6, Barbour County Schools was honored for having the highest passing rate in the state during the 2012-13 school year. The certificate was presented during the annual awards ceremony for the district's 96% success rate.



## PB Colt Volleyball and Football Squads Reach State Tournaments

The Philip Barbour volleyball team made its twelfth consecutive trip to the Charleston Civic Center in November as qualifiers for the 2013 Class AA state volleyball state tournament. The Lady Colts reached the semi-final round before bowing to the eventual champions from Oak Glen by a score of 3-1. PB senior, Nikki Shriver, was named captain of the AA all-state team.

The program's remarkable run of success for more than a decade was punctuated this fall by a final record of 50-7-3. Led by veteran coach, Heather Halfin, the Colt program continues to be recognized statewide as a traditional powerhouse through emphases on fundamentals and hard work, participation in various camps and clinics, ambitious scheduling and a long line of dedicated student-athletes.



The Philip Barbour football team, meanwhile, saw a successful season come to a conclusion on November 15 in a 53-25 first-round playoff loss to the defending AA state champion Wayne Pioneers. The Colts battled through injuries and adversity to post a 6-4 regular season record to earn the honor of post-season play.

Head coach, Curtis Bodkins, pointed to the experience and leadership of his 13 seniors in moving the program in a positive direction. Post-season honors in football have not yet been announced, but the Colts will be well-represented.

When added to PB's girls' cross-country state championship and runners-up status in the boys' division, the fall season was one to remember.