



The Bridge

Volume 6, Issue 4

December, 2014

*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

- Dec. 8** Board Of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Dec. 12** Tech Team Spending Mtg. 4:15 pm @ BOE
- Dec. 22** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Dec. 23** End 2nd Nine-Weeks Grading Period
- Dec. 24 to Jan. 1** Out of Calendar Days Christmas and New Year: Schools Closed
- Jan. 2** Rescheduled Day of Instruction
- Jan. 8** County Administrator Meeting: BOE Office
- Jan. 9** CE Day—Faculty Senates Meet
- Jan. 12** Nine-Weeks Report Cards Are Distributed
- Jan. 12** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Jan. 19** Martin Luther King Holiday: No School
- Jan. 26** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE

Philip Barbour Certified as Only Digital Citizenship School in West Virginia; Julia Scott Recognized for Leadership

Philip Barbour High School was notified during November that it has been certified as the only current Digital Citizenship School in the Mountain State. The accompanying message congratulated the school and its 2014-15 designation for “exemplary action to provide students with the skills to succeed in the digital world.”



As the project lead, Julie Scott, the media/technology specialist at PB, was also recognized for her role in the school efforts and application process. On her behalf as certified educator, the school will receive a variety of resources from the program’s national sponsors.

Common Sense, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of digital media and technology, has recognized Philip Barbour as a Common Sense Digital Citizenship Certified School for educating its students to be safe, smart, and ethical digital citizens.

According to the group, PBHS has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to use the immense power of digital media to explore, create, connect, and learn, while limiting the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyber-bullying.

County Receives Grant Funding Towards Pug Mill Purchase

County middle and high school art teachers may soon benefit from the purchase of a pug mill to help in the production and reclamation of clay for various projects. A successful \$2000 grant from the Tucker County Community Foundation was written by instructor, Leo Roe, with assistance from the county office. The machine will be housed at Belington Middle School and used by all four schools.



The schools and the county are currently seeking another \$1500 to complete the mill purchase, which will save significant time, effort and money for the schools. The project could benefit up to 1400 students annually.



Leo Roe Named 2014 West Virginia Middle Level Art Teacher of the Year

For the second time in his career, Barbour County art instructor, Leo Roe, has been selected as West Virginia's Middle Level Art Teacher of the Year. Mr. Roe, who teaches art at both Belington and Philippi Middle Schools, first received the recognition in 2001. The honor is awarded annually by the West Virginia Art Education Association.



During a presentation at the November 10 Board of Education meeting, Elaine Benson, Manager of C&I for Levels 6-12, commented that Leo "has maintained the passion for students to create and strive for excellence." Board President, Eric Ruf, added: "I always look forward to the Mr. Roe stories when my daughter comes home from school," reflecting the fun learning environment that is created in the art classroom.

Junior Students Observe Veterans Day & Thanksgiving



During November, pupils at Junior Elementary School took time to learn about Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Sergeant Collins from the Army National Guard came to JES on Monday, November 10. Students were able to look inside his armored vehicle and practice some ceremonial drills. Then, shown above, the Pre-K class learned the history of the holiday as they dressed up and hosted a Thanksgiving Feast for family and friends on November 19.

Calendar Change Affects January 2nd

On November 18, 2014, school was canceled in Barbour County due to inclement weather and hazardous road conditions. WV Code §18-5-45 stipulates that school systems have 180 full days of instruction for students and gives each board of education the ability to reschedule a lost instructional day on any available non-instructional day that is not a legal holiday. The current school year is the first year that school systems are required to make up *all* lost instructional days.

Given the stipulations of WV Code, above, January 2, 2015 has been converted from a non-instructional day to an instructional day to help ensure that the school system achieves 180 days of instruction. This step was approved by the Board of Education to comply with State Code and to prevent days in June at the end of the school calendar from becoming scheduled as instructional days.

As a reminder to employees, regardless of how many lost instructional days the district accumulates, all of them must be rescheduled to achieve 180 days of instruction. All non-instructional days (days designated with **, CE, OS, P) may be rescheduled as instructional days. All days at the end of the calendar, starting with June 9, 2015 and thereafter, may become instructional days if the school system has canceled days of instruction beyond the number of days available for rescheduling as instructional days prior to June 8, 2015. A copy of a revised calendar depicting Jan. 2, 2015 as an instructional day is now available on the Barbour County Schools website..



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **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).

➤ **Online Certification Now Required:** As of December 1, 2014, the State Office of Professional Preparation no longer accepts application processing fees in the form of checks (or cash). All applicants must make payment online at <https://wveis.k12.wv.us/certpayment/>.

Requiring online payments supports West Virginia's efforts to streamline the certification application process. As further improvements are made to the certification process, the office will be implementing additional 'paperless' components of the online system during the coming months. For additional information or answers to questions, please contact Robert Hagerman in the Office of Professional Preparation at 800.982.2378 or via email at rhagerma@k12.wv.us.

Professional Leave Reminders Issued

Barbour County school personnel are reminded that the following steps must be followed when one applies for professional leave.

1. Fill out the professional leave form.
2. Have your principal or supervisor sign the form. An appropriate funding source for the leave must be identified to cover a substitute or travel expenses if needed.
3. Submit professional leave to the BOE at least 2 weeks before the trip and in time to appear on BOE agenda.
4. After the board's approval, put your absence in ESCHOOL Solution as professional leave. Indicate if a substitute is needed.

If time constraints exist on getting approval before the BOE approves it, the board requires an explanation as to why the leave was submitted after the fact. The employee should also make sure that the superintendent is going to recommend approve the leave prior to taking it and incurring any travel expenses.

Students Receive Free Microsoft Office

In order to help our students prepare for success this school year, the WVDE is providing MS Office to every student free of charge. With Office 365, each child will now have access to the latest version of Word, for writing; Excel, for spreadsheets; PowerPoint, for presentations; OneNote, for organization and note taking; and much more. Students will be permitted to Install the program on up to 5 compatible PCs and Macs, plus 5 tablets (including iPad). It can be used with *OneDrive* for automatic device syncing, while gaining valuable skills on the world's most popular productivity software. The Office subscription lasts for as long as the child is a student here. More information and Installation help is available at each school or the BOE office.

