



The Bridge

Volume 8, Issue 4

December, 2016



Important Dates

Dec. 8	County Science Fair: Grades 3-5 @ PBHS
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
Jan. 2	New Year's Holiday— No School
Jan. 3	Instructional Day— School Resumes
Jan. 9	Semester Report Cards Are Distributed
Jan. 9	Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Holiday—No School
Jan. 23	Board Of Education Meets; 6 p.m.; BOE

Greetings Everyone,

The Christmas Holiday is the perfect time for us to count our blessings and to be thankful for all that we have been given. I truly cherish the opportunity that I have been given to work with so many wonderful and dedicated people and I hope that you feel the same way.

Our work with the children of Barbour County gives us the opportunity to have a tremendous impact on the lives of so many students. Our efforts can be so rewarding, but also come with a great responsibility. The children in our care are depending on each one of us to help provide for them an opportunity to do what they dream to do, to help them develop as responsible members of our society and, in some cases, to help them to be so much more than even their own family members believe they can be.

I hope that you have the opportunity to spend quality time with your families over the Holidays, that you get rested and recharged for the second half of the school year, and that you come back in January ready to continue working to make Barbour County's schools the best that they can be.

I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John P. Waffter



Back-to-Back! Lady Colt Volleyball Squad Repeats as Class AA Champions

The Lady Colts of Philip Barbour High School continued their recent dominance of the Class AA volleyball field in West Virginia with a convincing nine-game sweep of three quality opponents during the recent 2016 state championship tournament. Performing on November 11-12 at the Charleston Civic Center, the PB girls claimed 3-0 victories over Herbert Hoover and James Monroe in the quarter-finals and semi-finals respectively, before defeating their Big Ten rivals from Bridgeport 3-0 in the final round.



Head coach, Heather Halfin, commented that “I knew all along the talent these girls had. My problem was getting them to realize just how good they could be. Saturday they stepped up to the challenge.” Coach Halfin was assisted by Brittany Brandon during the Lady Colts’ third overall state championship season and their second in a row. Members of the 2016 squad included: McKenzie Carpenter, Colby Nestor, Kilea Payne, Kayla Harris, Carmen Cline, Jyra Clark Casto, Bailey Nestor, Emma Kennedy, Jenna Brown, Madelyn Mitchell and Maddi Carpenter.

Junior Youngsters Create Personal Ornaments on New 3D Printer

Junior Elementary students recently became engineers, doctors and scientists all in one day. JES is creating academic discoveries with its new 3D printer. The school is striving to add educational growth and enthusiasm for students as they make 3D prototypes. Children will have limitless learning opportunities with the printer, which is suitable for all grade levels. Students study and research to design their own plans before sending them to this innovative machine. They are excited because they see know these printers are used in the medical field and the NASA space program.



The new resource at the school will inspire students to use critical thinking skills to develop their own 3D engineered plans beyond Christmas ornaments, as they set personal goals towards their future endeavors.

Younger Eagles Hear WV Symphony



On November 18, Kasson students in grades 1-4 attended a Young People’s concert performance by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra at the WVU Creative Arts Center. The principal, Dr. Marsh received a mini-grant for transportation reimbursement to allow the students to go. The special concert series reaches some 14,000 youngsters across the state annually.

Legislation Mandates Major Changes in Future of Tuition Reimbursement

Barbour County Schools has been notified that tuition reimbursement will be ending as of June 30, 2017 due to changes in federal legislation that govern the expenditures of federal funds.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which is a new federal program that replaces the No Child Left Behind Act, will take full effect on July 1, 2017. One of the changes brought about by the new ESSA legislation is that **tuition reimbursement for eligible teachers will no longer be an allowable expenditure.**

The procedure for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year will be as follows:

- A teacher requesting tuition reimbursement will follow Barbour County Schools (BCS) Policy as it currently exists;
- All requests for tuition reimbursement will be held until July 15, 2017. At that time a decision will be made as to whether to fully reimburse your request for tuition reimbursement or if your request will be prorated due to a lack of funds to reimburse all requests fully;
- A plan must be in place and on file with the Assistant Superintendent for the classes you need to become fully certified;
- Following completion of a course, the teacher will file a form requesting reimbursement from the State (this form is available through Homer Talbott);
- If the State rejects your request for tuition reimbursement for lack of funds, you may request reimbursement from federal programs;
- If you take a course that will not be completed until after June 30, 2017, you cannot request tuition reimbursement from the State or the county's federal program.

No requests for tuition reimbursement will be granted after June 30, 2017. Please contact Jeff Kittle or Connie Mundy at the county office if you have any questions regarding this matter.



JES Students Learn about Agriculture



The Mobile Agricultural Science Bus paid a visit to Junior Elementary School in late November, spending five days at the school and providing students with hands-on fun and discovery learning activities. Sponsored by the West Virginia Farm Bureau and led by a certified teacher from the agency, the laboratory on wheels provided JES students with a wealth of opportunities to problem-solve, form hypotheses, conduct experiments, use data and draw logical conclusions. Every activity completed by the children during the week met Next Generation CSO education standards.

Kasson Establishes New Robotics Team

Thanks to a Robotics Education grant, Kasson Middle School has created a robotics team in conjunction with its new student technology association. The grant funded the new VEX kits and equipment



while the school's science department paid for the team's registration and entry fees to the regional competition, which will be held at NASA in February. Participating teams will build robots and compete on a 12 x 12 field. The program hopes to include an elementary team in the future. The KEMS middle school team consists of: Mason Halfin, Seth Harris, Hunter Melvin, Chandler Poling and Ben McDaniel. The team's advisor is Angie McDaniel.

— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Finance Office Reminder:** School personnel who receive paper paychecks should take note that the second check of the month will be available at the Board of Education office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 28th. Any not picked up will be mailed at the end of that day.

➤ **Retirement Notice:** The Finance Office has issued a final 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 **March 1**. 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.

Additionally, although not required in code, Barbour County Schools is also offering a \$250 early notification bonus to service personnel who notify the board by March 1 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).

➤ **Another Retirement Notice:** After 43 1/2 years of service to Barbour County Schools, Glenn Sweet will officially retire on the stroke of midnight of the New Year. His career has spanned teaching, school administration and, most recently, county administration duties at Philip Barbour High School, Philippi Middle School and the Board Office. Thank you, Glenn, for all that you've done!



Have a Positive Retirement!

The "Hour of Code" is Upon Us

Computer Science Education Week, December 5-11 in 2016, is celebrated during the last month of each calendar year. Are you ready to introduce your students to computer science or explore a new computing concept with a one-hour activity?



Code.org has launched several new tutorials this year that are now available on the Hour of Code website. Teachers can explore all of this year's offerings using several filter views: find off-line tutorials, activities that work with robots, lessons for experience high-school students, or subject-area tutorials that connect computer science to social studies, math, language arts, and more.

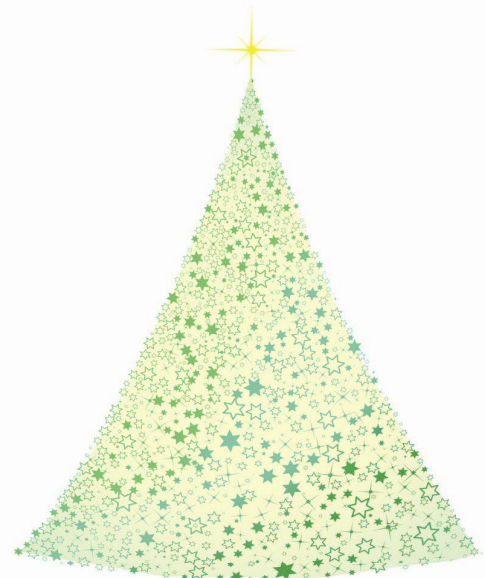
The organization has listed a few suggestions that they think your class might love below. You can check them out at the Hour of Code website (<https://hourofcode.com/us/learn>). Educators are invited to try a one-hour tutorial designed for all ages in over 45 languages, so you can join millions of students and teachers in over 180 countries starting with an Hour of Code.



Christmas Trivia Quiz

Some say it just wouldn't be Christmas without the annual popular *Facts & Trends* Christmas quiz and other activities. So, for your holiday entertainment, here you go!

1. Which American state was the first to make Christmas an official holiday?
 - a. Connecticut
 - b. Alabama
 - c. Alaska
 - d. North Carolina
2. Which state was the last to make Christmas an official holiday?
 - a. Oklahoma
 - b. Wyoming
 - c. Arizona
 - d. Michigan
3. What was the name of the dog that belonged to the Grinch in Dr. Seuss' book *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*?
 - a. Rudolph
 - b. Toto
 - c. Max
 - d. Cerberus
4. Which star led the magi to Jesus?
 - a. Star of David
 - b. North Star
 - c. Star of Bethlehem
 - d. Angel Star
5. Who was Scrooge's dead business partner in *A Christmas Carol*?
 - a. Jacob Marley
 - b. Bob Cratchit
 - c. Tiny Tim
 - d. Bill Sykes
6. Santa's only female sleigh-pulling reindeer, Vixen, has antlers. True or false?
 - a. False. Only the male reindeer have antlers.
 - b. True. Both male and female reindeer have antlers.
 - c. True. But they are really no bigger than slight bumps on their heads.
 - d. False. Some females have been known to have antlers, but that is extremely rare.
7. When you go Wassailing, what is it that you are doing?
 - a. Giving out gifts to your friends and neighbors
 - b. Going out in the woods to cut down your Christmas tree
 - c. Challenging as many of your neighbors as you can to a snow-ball fight
 - d. Going to visit neighbors and receiving goodies
8. In *It's A Wonderful Life* how do you know that an angel has received his wings?
 - a. A light flashes
 - b. It starts raining
 - c. A trumpet sounds
 - d. A bell rings
9. What was pictured on the first stamp printed for the Christmas season?
 - a. Santa Claus
 - b. An angel
 - c. A star
 - d. A rose
10. The poem commonly known as 'Twas *The Night Before Christmas* was originally titled:
 - a. *The Night Before Christmas*
 - b. *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*
 - c. *A Visit From Saint Nicholas*
 - d. *The Night Visitor*
11. Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in what year?
 - a. 1925
 - b. 1700
 - c. 1895
 - d. 1750
12. At Christmas, it is customary to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?
 - a. Holly
 - b. Mistletoe
 - c. Ivy
 - d. Pine
13. Which of these events did NOT occur on Christmas Day?
 - a. Hong Kong fell to the Japanese in WWII.
 - b. Ebenezer Scrooge was visited by four ghosts.
 - c. King Arthur pulled Excalibur from the stone.
 - d. Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor.
14. In Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker Suite*, the nutcracker's main enemy is:
 - a. A girl named Clara.
 - b. The King of Mice.
 - c. Drosselmeyer the Magician.
 - d. Dr. Almond
15. How many sides does a snowflake have?
 - a. 6
 - b. 8
 - c. 10
 - d. 12



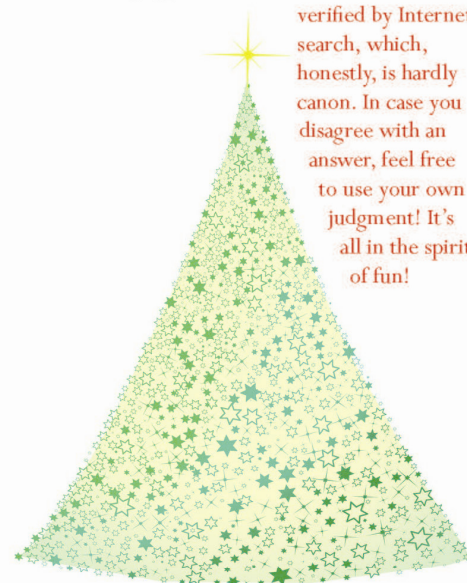
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ANSWER SHEET - answers highlighted in red*

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* All answers were verified by Internet search, which, honestly, is hardly canon. In case you disagree with an answer, feel free to use your own judgment! It's all in the spirit of fun!



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