

# The Bridge



Volume 5, Issue 5

February , 2014



## **Important Dates**

- February 5 Two-Hour Delay: AM  
WT Online Training
- February 5 2nd 9-Week Report  
Cards Distributed
- February 7 PK/K Registration at  
PBHS Old Gym
- February 10 Board of Education  
Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
- February 14 Instructional Day: Dis-  
miss Early = Fac. Sen.
- February 17 Elementary School  
Parent-Teacher Conf.
- February 17 County Math Field  
Day: PBHS 4-7 p.m.
- February 18 Middle School Parent-  
Teacher Conferences
- February 20 PBHS/CTEC Parent-  
Teacher Conferences
- February 24 Board of Education  
Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
- March 3 WESTEST Practice  
Test Window Opens
- March 10 Board of Education  
Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.
- March 18 ISE Day: No School  
Students (Tutoring)
- March 18 Young Writers Night:  
PBHS Aud. 6:00 p.m.
- March 24 Board of Education  
Meets: BOE @ 6 p.m.

Hi Folks,

And just when I was glad January was over, we were hit on the first school day in February with yet another lost day of instruction. Hopefully there will be no more days of sub-zero temperatures, ice and snow covered roads, schools closed with kids missing out and losing out on invaluable instructional time. I know spring is coming – just not sure when.

Now our attention turns to maximizing instructional time, having our public hearings for our 2014-2015 school calendar, working through SB 359 related to personnel season, and preparing a budget for next school year.

I want to thank the many folks who are helping us to address the heating and related issues at Belington Elementary School. The efforts of our teachers and staff at BES and Belington Middle School, along with the cooperation of the students, are making this transition work. Parents and folks in the community also have my thanks for being willing to do what is needed in this situation to work for the benefit of our students.

It was a very humbling honor three years ago to come on board as your Superintendent of Schools. At that time it was my firm intention to honor the three year contract and then retire. At this time I want to express my thanks to our Board of Education for their trust and support in extending the offer to return for another year. I also need to thank all of our staff and those around me... people who have made my job so much better with the expertise and dedication they bring on a daily basis. Again, I am humbled and yet honored for the opportunity to serve the students, staff and the Barbour County community as your Superintendent of Schools.

At this time last year, I told you I have always been straight forward with folks -- that will not change. We do need to recognize that our State is facing a changing and, in some ways, a difficult time for education. Yet, I do believe that purposeful change is needed. The faith and trust I have in all our students, in all our staff, and in our county to meet head-on those changes is unwavering. I know that everyone has our students first in mind. You still have my assurance whatever future recommendations are presented to the BOE will be done only after careful consideration of and for the students and in keeping the system financially sound.

Again, my personal “THANK YOU” to all our folks for your willingness to work with us to be part of the solution.

Respectfully,



## Two Educators Congratulated for New Tech Network Certification

A pair of Philip Barbour High School teachers were notified in late-January that they had been approved as Certified New Tech Network Teachers. Sissy Collins and Trista Dalton received congratulations from the NTN School Development Office in California. The designation acknowledges their deep understanding of the key components in the New Tech model, which includes project-based learning, teaching/assessing 21st Century skills, technology use in the classroom, and the unique culture that empowers students.



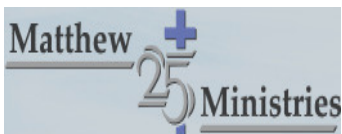
Both Collins, left, and Hathaway have been invited to become leaders in the network by joining other certified



trainers within the growing national program. As members who are committed to reinventing teaching learning, the two county educators will be receive certificates to commemorate their achievements, receive digital icons to identify their statuses and promote their skills, and receive invitations to regional and national NTN events.

## International Organization Lends Helping Hand to Local Schools

All schools in Barbour County will receive the first of several shipments of supplies from the Matthew 25 organization in the coming days. Founded in 1991, the international group provides relief to the needy throughout the world and the USA, including Appalachia, by recovering and then redistributing excess products from corporate America. Allocated according to school population, more than 25 pallets will arrive on Feb. 7th



and will include paper products, student supplies and other items.

## Arch Coal Company Supports Belington Middle School Library

On January 10, Arch Coal President, Don Vickers, and company representatives, Josh Carr and Delbert Weaver, presented Belington Middle School with library funding. As seen below, Dr. Joe Super, Superintendent of Schools, and Elaine Benson, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, joined Michael Ferguson, Principal at Belington Middle, Dr. Teresa Marsh, Middle School Literacy Coach, and Terri Riffle, Belington Middle School teacher at the awards presentation in the school library/media center.

BMS has received funding from Arch Coal for the school's library improvement project. The media resource center was in need of newer materials for student research and reading. Dr. Teresa Marsh wrote grants and requested funding for the project. In response, Arch Coal generously donated funding to buy new books for the library.



The new resources will supplement Belington Middle School's emphasis on reading. The school is also currently participating in the Silent Sustained Reading Program and a reading initiative to encourage the students to read 500 books as a school for a reward activity. Mr. Ferguson has announced further renovation plans for the library, which include new computers and computer furnishings.

## Kasson Students Help Brighten Holidays for Needy Families

The students at Kasson Elementary/Middle School continued a long tradition of giving during the recent holiday season when they contributed more than 1000 non-perishable food items to the Heart and Hand House for distribution to needy families in the community.



For the 20th year, pupils at the PK-8 school helped to stock the local food pantry. The event gives youngsters a chance to aid others, while remaining aware of their own blessings.

KEMS Student Council Advisor, Susan Anglin, said, "We only have 200 students so we asked every student to bring two items. Some brought in bags full. They exceeded expectations and I'm very proud of them." Eighth grader, Jessica Melvin, added, "Some people don't have as much, so we like to give them things they might need, especially during the colder months and Christmas."

## School Calendar Changes Made Necessary By Wintry Weather

Inclement weather and resulting school closures have resulted in the following school calendar changes for the remainder of 2013-14:

Parent-Teacher Conferences for elementary, middle and high schools have been rescheduled for February 17, 18 and 20 respectively. With the PT day removed from the calendar, participation is strictly voluntary. Also, the third nine-weeks have been adjusted to end on April 4th. The final nine-weeks will begin on April 7th, with report cards distributed on April 11th. And, the February 14 ISE Day is now instructional, with a two-hour early dismissal to allow Faculty Senates to meet.

## PBHS to Host County Math Field Day on February 17th; Open to All Barbour Pupils



The 2014 edition of the annual Math Field Day for Barbour County Schools will take place at Philip Barbour High School during the evening of Monday, February 17. Participating students in grades 4-12 will arrive at PBHS at 4:00 p.m. for registration, with competition at the various levels to follow. Volunteers are asked to be at the site by 3:30 p.m. Parents and school personnel are cordially invited to attend the awards program in the school auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m. All students will receive certificates of participation, and the winning mathematicians will become eligible to compete in the RESA 7 completion, scheduled for March 29.

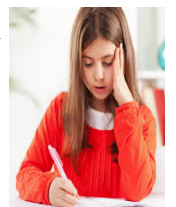
## Traditional Programs Ready to Go During February and March

In addition to the Math Field Day event, other traditional county academic programs have been scheduled for late-winter and spring. Only the county Art Show, usually hosted in May at Alderson Broaddus University, is awaiting final word on a date and time.



The 2014 Golden Horseshoe exam for 8th grade students will begin with the essay portion on February 12, with the multiple choice tests set for March 12 at Belington, Kasson and Philippi Middle Schools.

The annual Young Writers Celebration will take place on March 18 at Philip Barbour High School. Refreshments will be served at 6:00 p.m. with student awards to follow in the auditorium at 6:30.



The evening of March 28 has been set aside for the 2014 All-County Music Concert. The popular hour-long event will get underway at 7:00 p.m. at the PBHS gymnasium. Choral and band rehearsals will take place earlier during the school day.

## — Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Certification Reminders:** If your teaching certification is due to expire on June 30, 2014, the coursework required for renewal and an application for renewal must be submitted to the Personnel Office prior to the opening of the 2014-15 school term. There have been recent changes regarding certification permits and authorizations recently, and staff are encouraged to contact their colleges with any questions. Also, if you have completed hours that make you eligible for advanced salary classification, it is important to submit all paperwork as soon as the class is completed. The county's state aid funding is based in part on current salary information. More importantly, the state will backdate salary increases only up to three months.

➤ **WESTEST Practice Assessments:** School administrators and instructional personnel will provide computer-based practice testing for the WESTEST 2 battery between March 3 and the spring break. These assessments, designed to acquaint pupils with the new format, will include a sampling of released practice items in each of the four core curricular areas. In addition to gauging the readiness of the technology infrastructures within respective schools, the tests will help to familiarize students with computer-based testing procedures and tools such as the online calculator and highlighter.

➤ **Site Readiness Test Rescheduled:** The date of Tuesday, February 25, has been established as the new date for Barbour County's Site Readiness Test for the Spring 2014 administration of WESTEST 2. The 1:00 p.m. technology "dry run" will help school administrators, building coordinators and technology specialists discover and address any problems within the system prior to the actual testing in May. In the case of school closures or other unforeseen circumstances, a backup date of March 10, 1:00 p.m., has been set.

### On-line Writing Assessment Portion of 2014 WESTEST Slated for Upcoming Weeks

County principals, along with building level coordinators and technology specialists completed training for the 2014 On-line Writing Assessment in January and early February 1. The writing assessment, which is an official component of the annual WESTEST 2 battery, will be conducted according to the following schedule windows as established by the WV Department of Education for Barbour County Schools:



\*Feb 10 – March 7: PMS, KMS and BMS

\*March 24–April 18: PES, BES, KES, MVES, JES, VCES

\*March 3–March 28: Philip Barbour H. S.



### Kindergarten & PK Registration Set for February 7th at PBHS

Barbour County Schools will conduct student enrollment for the 2014-15 Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten programs on Friday, February 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the auxiliary gymnasium at Philip Barbour High School. Children who are currently attending a PK program will not need to register. Parents are reminded that, by state code, children must attend a state-approved Kindergarten program prior to entering first grade.

Children who will be five (5) years old before September 1, 2014 are eligible for enrollment in kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. All county four-year olds are also eligible for PK enrollment during the same session. Barbour County Schools participates in a collaborative pre-kindergarten program (WV Policy 2525).