



The Bridge

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December, 2012

*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, Debbie, and Josh Super



Important Dates

- Dec. 10** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Dec. 17** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Dec. 21** ISE Day: No School for Students -Tutoring
- Dec. 22** GED Testing, 8 am, at CTE Center
- Dec. 24** Out of Calendar Day: Schools Closed
- Dec. 26** Christmas Holiday: Schools Closed
- Dec. 26 to 31** Out of Calendar Days Schools Closed
- Jan. 1** New Year's Holiday: Schools Closed
- Jan. 2** Schools Reopen on Regular Schedule
- Jan. 10** Last Day of 2nd Nine Wks & 1st Semester
- Jan. 14** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Jan. 17** Nine-Weeks Report Cards Are Distributed
- Jan. 21** Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Schools Closed
- Jan. 22** P-T Conferences at Elementary Schools
- Jan. 24** P-T Conferences at Middle Schools
- Jan. 28** Board of Education Meets, 6 pm at BOE
- Jan. 29** P-T Conferences at PBHS and CTEC

JES Pumpkin Drop Visit Makes A Splash!

A team of nine students from Junior Elementary School joined teacher, Dawn Kittle, as contestants in the 25th Annual Pumpkin Drop contest at West Virginia University. The October 26th event drew nearly 300 teams from across the state in sparking young imaginations in designing an enclosure or apparatus to protect a pumpkin from damage when dropped from the roof of a building.



While most devices featured forms of parachutes, the Junior group used cardboard, cotton balls, duct tape and bubble wrap to protect their cargo during the 11-story plunge. When it landed, the structure did not burst open but, upon further inspection, the pumpkin inside was cracked, eliminating the local team. The JES team had planned and prepared once weekly after school for about a month before the event, and has already discussed ideas on improving their model for the future.

During the day of learning and fun, the students toured the campus Engineering facility; met WVU President, Dr. James Clements; along with basketball star, Jabarie Hinds, and the Mountaineer mascot (above).



School Cancellation Calendar Updates

With the aftermath of the major storm in October resulting in lost instructional time, a proposal will be made to the Board of Education in the near future to amend the 2012-13 school calendar to change five OS days to Instructional Days. The dates tentatively affected will include: March 18, March 28, May 24, June 4 and June 5.



PB Students Experience Eye-Opening Film on Bullying

On Friday, Nov. 16, some 550 Philip Barbour High School students and 46 school personnel traveled to the Elkins Cinema 8 to view *BULLY*, a 98-minute documentary on peer-to-peer bullying in schools across the country. The 2011 production is the first feature film to show how bullying affects the victims and families, as well as school employees and administrators. Its filmmakers spent the 2009-10 school year tracking the cases of five abused kids, including two who ultimately committed suicide.

While the film is quite disturbing and difficult to watch at times, based on student reactions during the showing, the true grit presentation was eye-opening and heart-touching, bringing many to tears. The PB students were described as "...wonderful, they took the topic seriously and gave the film their full attention." Several students later tweeted their feelings via a twitter account established just for the event (right).



The opportunity to take advantage of this opportunity was made possible through the efforts of Mr. Heath Quint, manager of the Randolph County theater complex, Donors Choose.org, and funding through RESA VII's Safe and Supportive Schools project. Their combined efforts made it possible for the students and staff to better understand bullying and to examine this critical topic free of charge.

County Christmas Programs to Bring December Warmth & Cheer



Students, school employees, parents and community members will all have plenty of chances to catch the holiday spirit in the coming days as Christmas concerts and programs have been scheduled at all nine county schools. The schedule includes:

- * Belington Elementary: December 18 @ 6:00 p.m.
- * Belington Middle: December 18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- * Junior Elementary: December 11 @ 6:00 p.m. (at the Junior Fire Hall)
- * Kasson Elementary/Middle: December 20 @ 1:00 p.m.
- * Mt. Vernon Elementary: December 12 @ 1:00 p.m.
- * Philippi Elementary: December 13 @ 7:30 p.m. (at Philip Barbour High School)
- * Philippi Middle School: December 19 @ 7:00 p.m.
- * Philip Barbour High School:
 - * Band Concert - December 16 @ 2:00 p.m.
 - * Choral Concert - December 18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- * Volga-Century Elementary: December 13 @ 1:30 p.m.



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **Holiday Pay Dates Set:** The Finance Office reminds all employees that pay checks will be issued on December 14 and 28 during the holiday break. The next pay check distribution is scheduled for January 15, 2013.

➤ **Final Retirement Reminder:** The Finance and Personnel Offices would like to remind those personnel who are contemplating retirement in June of 2013 that they should notify the Board of Education in writing as soon as possible of their intentions to assist in staffing decisions for 2013-14. Those who submit such formal notice by January 15 will become eligible for an incentive bonus (\$500 for professional staff and \$250 for service staff).

➤ **Grant Assistance Available:** If you have a great idea and you know of a grant source that can help fund it, feel free to contact Doug Schiefelbein at the Board Office for technical assistance in putting your proposal together: His email address is: dschiefe@access.k12.wv.us.

➤ **ISE Day Training Scheduled:** All professional and service personnel will participate in a two-hour training session at the Philip Barbour High School Complex on the morning of December 21. Staff members are asked to report at 8:00 a.m. to register for the 8:30–10:30 a.m. session, which will address the topic of “parental involvement.”

➤ **Computer-Based GED “On Hold”**
The anticipated launch of computer-based testing for the GED credential in West Virginia has been moved back from its expected launch date of January 2013, as the State Department of Education makes final preparations for the transition. For the near future, paper and pencil exams will continue to be administered in the state.



Christmas Trivia



- ✦ The word *Christmas* is Old English, a contraction of Christ's Mass.
- ✦ The first president to decorate the White House Christmas tree in the United States was Franklin Pierce.
- ✦ Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green.
- ✦ Electric lights for trees were first used in 1895.
- ✦ The first Christmas cards were vintage and invented in 1843, the Victorian Era.
- ✦ "It's a Wonderful Life" appears on TV more often than any other holiday movie.
- ✦ "Rudolph" was actually created by Montgomery Ward in the late 1930's for a holiday promotion. The rest is history.
- ✦ "The Nutcracker" is the most famous Christmas ballet.
- ✦ "Jingle Bells" was first written for Thanksgiving and then became one of the most popular Christmas songs.
- ✦ If you received all of the gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," you would receive 364 gifts.
- ✦ The poinsettia plant was brought into the United States from Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the early 1800's.
- ✦ Holly berries are poisonous.
- ✦ Contrary to common belief, poinsettia plants are non-toxic.
- ✦ Mistletoe was chosen as Oklahoma's state flower in 1893 and later changed to the state floral emblem.
- ✦ In 1843, "A Christmas Carol" was written by Charles Dickens in just six weeks.
- ✦ The first state to recognize the Christmas holiday officially was Alabama.
- ✦ Christmas became a national holiday in America on June, 26, 1870.
- ✦ An angel told Mary she was going to have a baby.
- ✦ Black Friday is not the busiest shopping day of the year. Although it varies, it usually lands sometime in December.
- ✦ Clearing up a common misconception, in Greek, X (chi) means Christ. That is where the word "X-Mas" comes from. Not because someone took the "Christ" out of Christmas.
- ✦ Traditionally, Christmas trees are taken down after Epiphany.
- ✦ More diamonds are sold around Christmas than any other time of the year.
- ✦ In Mexico, wearing red underwear on New Year's Eve is said to bring new love in the upcoming year.