



The Bridge

Volume 9, Issue 2

Winter, 2017

Greetings Everyone,

It is hard for me to understand how quickly time has passed since I wrote my first holiday message to you in December of 2015. It also seems as though the first half of this school year has passed just as quickly as the previous two years.

The holidays are a time for us to get together with our families, celebrate the joys of this special season, give thanks for our many blessings and take time to relax and get recharged for the second half of the year.

However, for many of us, it is also a time to remember loved ones that we have lost. We have had members of our Barbour County Schools family who have lost family members and loved ones this year and for them, the holiday season is bittersweet. I lost my mother to cancer on Christmas Eve in 2004 and Christmas always brings back wonderful memories of her and the impact she had on my life and the lives of countless others.

As you go into the holiday season, I hope and pray that you will get to spend precious time with the people that you love. For those of you who have experienced loss, I hope you are able to find peace in knowing that the memories of your loved ones will never fade and that you are able to find reasons to celebrate with other family members and friends.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a joyous New Year!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff P. Wofford". The signature is written in a cursive style.



Important Dates

- Dec. 22 Faculty Senate: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
- Dec. 22 End Second 9-Weeks and First Semester
- Dec. 25 Christmas Holiday: No School
- Dec. 26 Out of Calendar thru 29 Days: No School
- Jan. 1 New Year's Holiday: No School
- Jan. 8 Report Cards Are Distributed
- Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday: No School
- Jan. 31 PLC Sessions: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
- Feb. 5 Progress Reports Are Distributed
- Feb. 14 TASC Exams at CTE and 15 Center (PBHS)
- Feb. 28 Faculty Senate: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
- March 7 End of Third 9-Week Grading Period
- Mar. 14 PLC Sessions: Two-Hour Early Dismissal
- Mar. 14 Report Cards Are Distributed
- Mar. 19 P-T Conferences for Elementary Grades
- Mar. 20 P-T Conferences for Middle Grades
- Mar. 22 P-T Conferences for High School Grades

**County School Energy Project Completed On Time
Successful Initiative To Provide Future Benefits**

Barbour County Schools' recent Energy Project, funded in part by the West Virginia School Building Authority, was completed within budget and according to plan in mid-December. Entitled "Energy and Air Quality Across Barbour County," the innovative program was approved during the 2015 cycle of SBA Needs awards and was designed to benefit students and mitigate rising energy costs in the district. The total project cost of nearly \$7 million was funded primarily through the grant, with local in-kind dollars equaling some \$2.4 million contributed through the school system's own energy conservation programming.

Following its approval by the state, the project was launched countywide in the late-summer of 2015, with all existing school facilities receiving contemporary upgrades in the areas of new lighting, modern HVAC controls and conservation of energy resources. Barbour County Schools was able to document justification of the expanded plan after finding success during a similar pilot project at the Career and Technical Education Center at Philip Barbour High School earlier in the decade.



The project's Clerk of the Works, Glenn Sweet, stated that "our county was successful in achieving our goals: to improve learning environments for our students and to realize economic relief through energy conservation." Although the project's construction and development components are now complete, the resulting obligations and benefits will continue for many years.

Report on Remedial Needs Among State College-Going Students Provides Encouraging Local Results

A December 7 article in the Charleston Gazette-Mail focused on data from students in the West Virginia graduating class of 2016 who went on to higher education. According to analyses in a report by the Higher Education Policy Commission: Community and Technical College System, a growing number of graduating state students need to take remedial classes to be ready for entry-level college classes. Statewide about 31 percent of college-going seniors from the group had test scores that required remediation.

While of concern to all, the picture is brighter in north central West Virginia, including Barbour County, which, at 14%, ranked fourth lowest in the Mountain State in the percentage of students who were struggling in readiness, behind only Monongalia, Marion and Jefferson Counties. The local 2016 graduates bucked the trend of low socio-economic conditions traditionally being strong predictors of limited college success.



A GOLD STAR SEASON

The fall athletic season at Philip Barbour High School will likely be long-remembered as one of the most outstanding in Colt history. The August to November window saw a state championship, two near misses and the tying of a 53-year old record.



The 2017 edition of Lady Colts volleyball continued the program's recent dominance of Class AA play with its third consecutive state championship in Charleston, topping Winfield in the finals. The state crown earned was the fourth overall for PBHS teams and head coach, Heather Halfin, as the Colts made a remarkable 16th straight trip to the Civic Center. The all-tournament squad featured four Lady Colts: senior Maddi Carpenter; juniors Jyra Casto and McKenzie Carpenter; and sophomore Kilea Payne.



The Philip Barbour Colt football team exceeded all expectations by posting a record-tying 8-2 mark during the regular season. The win total matched the George Byrer-coached squad of 1964, as PB snapped a long losing streak in the opener at Grafton and never looked back, upsetting higher ranked teams in the season's two finales to claim a spot in the Class AA playoffs for the first time since 2013. First-year coach Russ Collett's team was ousted in the first round by a strong Point Pleasant team, but the Colts served notice that they are a program to be reckoned with in the future. PB players who earned all-state recognition include: seniors, Hunter Mason (1st team), Jakob McCord, Hunter Gainer, Matthew McCoy, Cameron Kollo; and junior, Chase Collier (2nd team).



A tradition of excellence continued for the Colt cross-country teams as the Girls claimed second place in the AA state meet and the Boys finished third. Jessica Melvin earned the state individual girls' championship, while teammate, Kierra Hodge, finished fourth. On the boys' side, the Colts were paced by Noah Ward, who came in fourth. Coach Jim Seaton's squads, like their volleyball and football classmates, helped bring "Colt Pride" alive in the fall of 2017.

County Adult Ed. Program to Offer Microsoft Office Specialist Course

In January the Barbour County Adult Education Program will offer a Microsoft Office Specialist class to local citizens aged 18 and older. The semester-long course will be held in the Adult Education room from 1-3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Career and Technical Center beginning on January 10. Adult Education registration and enrollment is required prior to the first class (call 457-4807 for more information). The course can lead to MOS certification for those who complete the course and pass the exam. The program is cost-free to those who meet basic qualifications.

Kindergarten – PK Registration in County Is Set for February 2nd

Barbour County Schools will enroll students for its 2018-19 kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs on Friday, February 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the auxiliary gymnasium at Philip Barbour High School. A make-up date of Friday, February 9 has been established, if needed, at the same time and location.

Enrollment packets will be provided at registration, but they can also be picked up ahead of time on or after January 29 from either Philippi Head Start, 183 Chestnut Street, Philippi, or Barbour County Schools, 45 School Street, Philippi. They can also be downloaded and printed from the Barbour County Schools website.

Children who are currently attending a Pre-K program will not need to register. Parents are reminded that West Virginia code mandates that children must attend a state-approved kindergarten program prior to entering first grade. WVBE Policy 2525 has been amended to adjust the early childhood program age attainment date from age 4 prior to September 1 to age 4 prior to July 1 (e.g. June 30 or earlier). Children turning 4 years of age in July or August will not be enrolled in pre-kindergarten for 2018-19, but will instead enroll for the following school year.



FUND-amental Additions Support Philippi Middle Science Classes



The science students in Angie McDaniel’s classes at Philippi Middle School have benefited greatly by the fundraising efforts of their veteran teacher. The department has raised nearly \$10,000 for needed equipment and supplies through a successful State Department STEM grant and eight Donors Choose awards during the first semester of the current term.

Shown above with Mrs. McDaniel are members of one of the school’s science teams as they study yeast cultures with the department’s new microscope and supplies. The Donors Choose projects have made possible the purchase of everything from cleaning supplies and notebooks to microscopes, balances, programmable Ozobots and 3D doodlers. The STEM grant of some \$2600 will pay for supplies, books and materials for the school’s new semester class in Forensic Science.

“Donors Choose” Funding Program Helps Thousands Each Year & Can Help You Too!

Its slogan is “Support a classroom. Build a future.” The Donors Choose website help makes fundraising fun. You simply post a project, get funded and receive the goods! The website publicizes your idea, keeps track of donations, calculates matches if appropriate and lets you know how close you are to your goal. Nearly 400,000 teachers have received funding from 3 million donors. Visit the website DonorsChoose.org for more information. -DS

Kasson Students Reach Out to Others During Holiday Season

The students and staff at Kasson Elementary/ Middle School continued some long-standing traditions during the past few weeks and added a few others as they observed the period between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day.

The KEMS student council worked with all grades and advisor, Rochelle Nestor, to collect a total of 414 food items to donate to the Heart and Hand House pantry in an annual holiday project (above).



Mrs. Gray’s third graders brought in “boxes for a purpose” to give to needy children in lieu of the usual gift exchange. Among the fun activities was a Holiday Spirit Week, with different daily themes. Included was national Ugly Sweater Day on Friday. Shown at left are seventh grade students, Hannah and Mattie, linked for the day in their two–person sweater. Several staff members and students also spent one of their Thanksgiving break days to decorate the KEMS Christmas tree in the school colors of red and white on the Philippi courthouse lawn.



Finally, Ms. Hoxie’s Community Service class created special cards for senior citizens to enjoy with Thanksgiving dinners deliveries by the local Meals on Wheels service .



PBHS Students Visit Local Coal Mine to Explore Career Opportunities



On November 14, a group of selected students visited the local Sentinel Mining Complex to gain a first-hand understanding of the underground mining industry and what it takes to become a part of the industry. Accompanied by principal, Ron Keener, and teacher, Jonathan Carpenter, the program was coordinated by PB alum, Tom Freeman.

The group spent the greater part of the day touring the facility and participating in presentations on a variety of topics, including: preparing for a career, job applications, safety, logistics, computer-related positions and inspections of the prep plant, equipment and supplies used in mining. While on site, the group enjoyed lunch with employees at the facility. The Barbour County mine is a branch of Arch Coal, Inc., a leading producer of metallurgical coal in the Appalachian region and second largest producer of thermal coal in the Powder River basin.



Board of Education Meeting Dates Set for Winter Months

Following are the established meeting dates for the Barbour County Board of Education during the winter of 2017-18. All sessions are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

- **December 18— Board of Ed. Office**
- **January 8— Board of Ed. Office**
- **January 22— Board of Ed. Office**
- **February 12— Board of Ed. Office**
- **February 26— Board of Ed. Office**
- **March 12— Board of Ed. Office**

Christmas Long Ago

By Jo Geis

Frosty days and ice-still nights,
 Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,
 Sounds of sleigh bells in the snow,
 That was Christmas long ago.

Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,
 Icy-window filigree,
 Sugarplums and candle glow,
 Part of Christmas long ago.

Footsteps stealthy on the stair,
 Sweet-voiced carols in the air,
 Stockings hanging in a row,
 Tell of Christmas long ago.

Starry nights so still and blue,
 Good friends calling out to you,
 Life, so fact, will always slow...
 For dreams of Christmas long ago.

Busy Fall Season Concludes at Barbour Career & Technical Center

An active fall is in the books for Barbour County's Career and Technical Education Center. Some of the recent highlights for Philip Barbour High School's CTE students included the following:

- Ag Mechanics students practiced their tractor driving skills prior to the North Central Region Tractor Driving competition. PBHS students placed 1st and 2nd in both divisions, including large tractor and zero turn lawnmower. All four qualified for the state competition.
- PBHS Career Tech students worked with Audra State Park in October to help with cleanup and repairs. They picked up litter along the trails, blew leaves, and also helped remove an old foot bridge (right) and build/install its replacement.
- The Colts Learn & Play Academy at the PBHS Career Tech Center hosted its Halloween Party/Parade on Halloween. The CTC students enjoyed handing out candy and seeing the 3-year olds in their costumes.
- The Power, Structural, and Technical Systems students had an opportunity to visit KSD Enterprises in Clarksburg on November 16th. Students were able to observe state-of-the-art equipment and actual industry employees working in the fields for which they are preparing through Mr. Freeman's classes. The hospitality of the KSD employees was remarkable and appreciated.
- The Power, Structural, and Technical Systems students have also been busy working to restore three local tractors this fall. They also created a new sign for Junior Elementary School.
- Mr. Antion's STEM students collaborated with the City of Philippi and PBHS art students to create a sign and two structures for the mini-Philippi display on the courthouse lawn (Covered Bridge at left). They also created and programmed the star for the main Christmas tree at the courthouse.



County i-Ready Training Sessions to Be Conducted January 16-18

Assistant Superintendent, Jeff Kittle, has announced that i-Ready training has been confirmed for mid-January. Teachers in the participating elementary and middle schools will meet with their respective consultants during planning periods on the dates listed below. Each participant is encouraged to have questions, relative data and trouble-shooting issues ready for the experts as needed. Teachers will need to have access to a computer with internet capabilities during the training periods.



The i-Ready platform is a blended, integrated learning program designed to personalize learning for all students. It provides valid and reliable growth measures and an individualized instruction platform in a single on-line product that saves teachers considerable time.

Group A: Professional Development Specialist:
Allen Brock, abrock@cainc.com:

- Dates:
- 1/16/2018 - Belington Middle School
 - 1/17/2018 - Kasson Elementary/Middle School
 - 1/18/2018 - Philippi Middle School

Group B: Professional Development Specialist:
Tressa Wright, twright@cainc.com:

- Dates:
- 1/16/2018 - Belington Elementary School
 - 1/17/2018 - Junior Elementary School
 - 1/18/2018 - Philippi Elementary School



— Odds 'N' Ends —

➤ **W-2 Season:** With the approaching end of the 2017 calendar year, many will begin the process of tax preparation. The county Finance Office has announced that 2016 W-2 forms will be included with personnel paychecks during one of the January pay distribution dates.

➤ **Help Build a Bridge:** Has your school, class, department or group done something recently that is wonderful, marvelous or exciting? If so, help get out the good news by submitting your feature, article, announcement, photograph or just some scribbled notes to "The Bridge" c/o Doug Schiefelbein through school mail or to dschiefe@k12.wv.us. Let your principal or supervisor know and we'll be glad to include it in the spring (March) edition.

➤ **2018 WVDE WVLearns:** The winter *eLearning for Educators* online course registration is now open and will remain available through January 9th. Courses will begin on January 10, 2018. For additional information regarding the courses to be offered, changes associated with recertification and salary advancement and the addition of the initial substitute training course, you should visit: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/elearning/news.php>.



Junior Elementary Selected As West Virginia Showcase School

The West Virginia Department of Leadership and Continuous Improvement and West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools, Steven Paine, recently recognized and awarded Junior Elementary School as one of the Department of Education's Showcase Schools in the state. This title was bestowed upon Junior Elementary for demonstrating strong growth and progress in all academic areas.



Shown above during a recent small group activity with first graders is JES teacher, Amanda Baker.

The Junior Elementary staff will next work with the State Office to create a showcase video and then participate in a webinar to share details of their journey to success. This showcase will occur as a regional, online webinar during January 2018.

Principal, Ashley Workman, noted that with so much Barbour County athletic success, student extra-curricular achievements, music and art program accomplishments, and continued academic recognition county-wide, the Barbour County school system is demonstrating exemplary momentum.