

April 2016

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- The teacher request window will be from May 2nd through May 20th. Parents must fill out a **Teacher Request Form**. These can be picked up in the office. I will also be mailing the form to the list serve.
- We will be having a Track and Field Day on June 7th. It will take place at the high school and will be a mixture of team games and a few traditional Track and Field Day events. There will be more information to come.
- Please remember to always report to the office for a visitor sticker.
- I am here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara– Barkell Elementary Principal

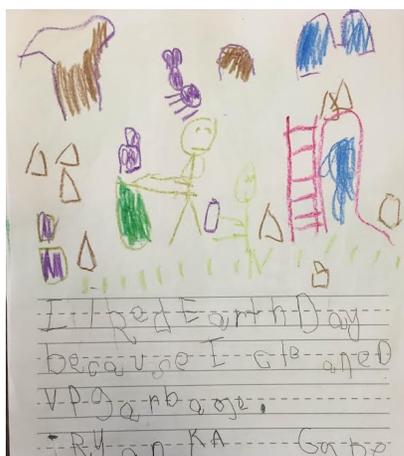


Upcoming Events:

- May 17th 1/2 day for students (teacher in-service in pm)
- May 18th @ 1:30 - Spring Concert
- May 30th No school– Memorial Day
- June 7th Track and Field Day



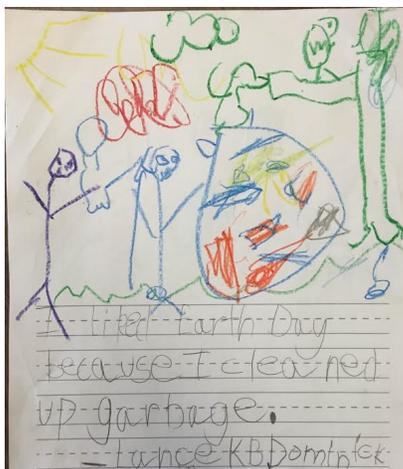
Bulldogs Serving the Community



The kindergartners write about Earth Day.

Last Friday, April 22, all of the students at Barkell Elementary School participated in an Earth Day clean up. The Kindergarten classes cleaned the upper and lower playground and the school forest. They enjoyed cleaning and finding all the toys that had been scattered across the playground. Some of the students also swept the pavement around our play structures to help make it safer and to make it look nice. They thought it was important to keep our school looking nice and to take responsibility for its care. I was proud of all their hard work and that of the other students in the school.

-Mrs. Blessing





Bulldogs Serving cont...



3rd's earth day clean up

We walked into the woods, and someone found something right away! It suprised everyone how much garbage there was out side. We walked to the highway, and there were a lot of Plastic bags and pop cans. There were even some bottles that were empty. We even found a dirty golf ball. That's a lot of garbage!

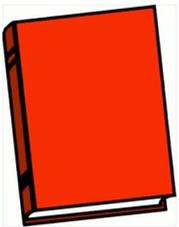
We walked through 1thorns to get a lot of garbage. 1thorns really hurt. There were a bunch of candy wrappers and other snack wrappers too. We were starting to get hungry by seeing all of those snacks and candy wrappers. We couldn't believe how much garbage there was.

Good thing we cleaned up our earth!

By: Mallory & Rayna




Reading is Fun Club



Madison Buschell and I had an idea. What if we had a club where we could meet, read, and talk. That was the beginning of the Reading is Fun! club. We just started our club, and almost instantly we got seven people signed up. Every thursday we meet by the bay window to talk about the books we read in between the meetings. We started out with a book called Jorjaco. We quickly moved on to one of my favorite books, The Best Christmas Present Ever. We have Miss Emma supervising our club meetings and helping it to be organized.

The reason we started Reading is Fun, is so kids have a place to read fun books, and freely discuss them besides our reading groups. I personally think that our club is fun because we can read awesome books, start better reading habits, and learn to think about important questions having to do with books.

Sara, Neva, YC

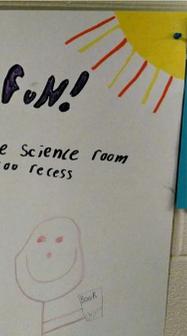


Fourth grade students have created a book club for upper elementary students

Reading is Fun!

Join us in the science room every thursday for 10:00 recess open for EVERY ONE for 4th and 5th grades

Read! Books!





$$E = mc^2$$

Bulldog Scientists



4th graders are measuring temperature to determine the effect of rock salt on the melting point of ice.



Fourth graders are learning about charged particles and static electricity.



Students in Mrs. Olson's class created greenhouse gardens in milk jugs. Tomato plants are sprouting!



Mrs. Pierce's students create stress balls to help with MSTEP testing.



Kindergartners in Mrs. Andress' class learn about botany by growing flowers.



Bulldog Engineers



The students in 3-A participated in a “Bridge Building Challenge”. Using only 2 sheets of paper students were asked to build bridges that would reach across a 6-inch gap, and be 3 inches wide. The challenge was to see which group could design a bridge that would hold the most pennies. If their bridge collapsed students were allowed to keep redesigning their bridge until it was stronger. When the bridge failed it showed the students where they needed to strengthen the bridge. They realized that they needed to make folds in the paper to increase the strength, and add supports underneath. The strongest bridge had sides that were folded up and an arch support underneath it. The winning bridge was designed by Brody Hawthorne, Dustin Pietila, and Max Heinonen. It was able to hold 167 pennies! -Mrs. Davidson

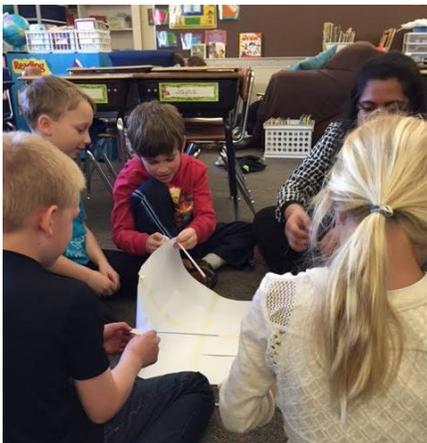


Bulldog Engineers cont..

Second grade classes gained some valuable insight into the field of engineering when four Michigan Tech students from the Society of Women Engineers visited each of the classrooms on Friday, April 22nd. During each session, students were divided into small groups with each group being led by one of the MTU students. In each group, students were given the challenge to create a glider using paper, straws, and tape that would fall to the ground slower than the other groups' gliders. The students eagerly accepted this challenge and were actively engaged throughout the activity. Students thought it was pretty cool to learn at the beginning of the activity that engineers follow the same scientific process that they do when conducting science experiments at school (question, hypothesis, observations, conclusion, etc.).

Second graders worked diligently under the guidance of the MTU students to create and test their design. It was amazing to see the students and hear the rich discussion as they worked together to modify their design when they began to realize how weight and surface area affected the speed at which their glider fell to the ground.

The culmination was exciting when designs were put to the test. All of the groups did a great job! In addition to the activity, second graders heard a brief talk on the field of engineering and the importance of math, science, writing, and working together. It was a valuable and fun experience for our second graders. The MTU students were impressed with the students' behavior and performance as well. When asked at the end if students had fun and were questioned as to whom might be interested in becoming an engineer, there were lots of smiles and hands that shot up quickly. Way to go second graders and thanks to a job well done by the MTU students from the Society of Women Engineers. -Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Garnell, Mrs. Nordmark

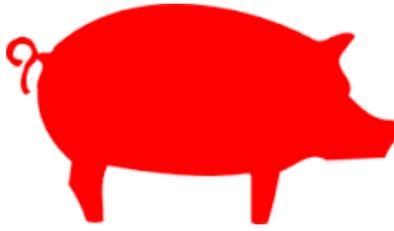


Bulldog engineers hard at work





5th Grade Pig Dissection



Students examine the lungs.



Chris is excited about the dissection!



Jordyn Neher!
 Essay! ^{dissection!!}

Some of my favorite parts of the dissection where, well there wasn't really one it was all a great experience. I personally am a hands on learner, and the dissection was a very awesome and cool experience we dissected on the 27 (April) 2016 we dissected what's called a pig pluck, or cow pluck, which just means it's bigger, a cow pluck's lungs will get bigger, and it's heart is bigger, pretty much everything is much larger than a pig pluck.

We first cut of the tongue and part of the Epiglottis and trachea. We got to put our finger in both the Trachea, and the Esophagus when you swallow your tongue actually pushes a flap over your esophagus, so you don't choke, but if your food did slip down your Trachea, or also know as your wind pipe, your voice box will stop it from going down your throat.

We also got to inflate the lungs with a pipe connected to a ball inflatter to make them grow again like your breathing. we also cut the heart open, and found the valves, and veins, and arteries. we got to stick our fingers in arteries, the veins are very hard well the casing is a hard type of casing. When inflating the lungs you could feel the alveoli inside, and to think all that's inside of you is amazing all together it was an awesome. And gross.



Lily and Katelyn work together to learn about the respiratory system.



Mr. Pertile teaches students about the heart.



Tai, Maari, and Kaylin examine the heart.

Our Dissection

On Wednesday we dissected a cows Esophagus, trachea, lungs, and the heart. The Esophagus was cool but when you cut it made a weird cracking sound. It also carries food down it's smooth! The trachea was next it was cool to it was hard and carries the they air to your lungs. The next one was the lungs were awesome you could feel the alveoli. The next one was the heart it was pretty cool to see what a valve looked like and did. My favorite was the lungs and how they filled up with air and got so big. It was super cool that each part kind of blew up individually. IT WAS AWESOME!! I was amazed when I saw what it looked like...

I just want to thank Mr. Pertile for putting a lot of time and effort to make this possible so thank you very very much Mr. Pertile.

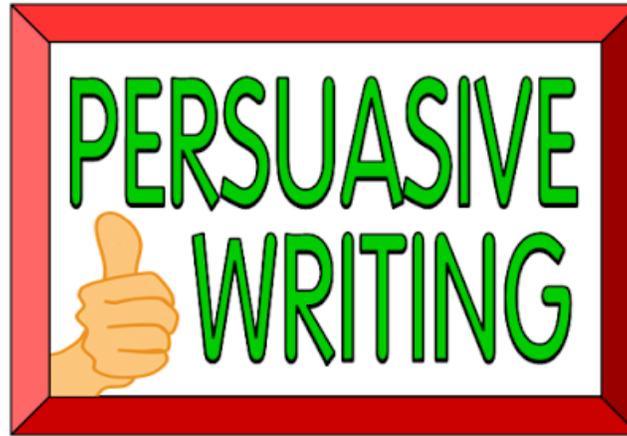
(By: Sarah Anderson)



Students enjoyed this hands on learning experience.



Bulldog Authors



Against More Recess
 By: Alyssa Heru

I do not think we should have any more recess than we already have. If we had more recess it would take away from learning time. You could get hurt or you could wreck your clothes. There would be less times for arguments and fights. These are my ideas for being against more recess.

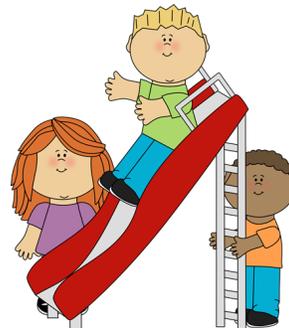
More recess would take away from learning. I would be sad if we missed writing, spelling and reading. Hey! In school aren't you supposed to learn to read and write? If so, recess would take away from learning time and specials.

Kids could get hurt or you could wreck your clothes. Like many people, if you fall you could rip a hole in your knees. Then your mom or dad might get mad at you. Some clothes are very expensive.

Extra recess would be bad for arguments and fights. Some friends get in big fights. Fighting does not get kids together. Everyone gets in fights or arguments some time. Probably a lot more if we had more recess.

I hope these reasons will let you know that I already have enough recess.

My favorite reason why I don't want more recess is you will have less time for arguments and fights. It is also important to learn as much as you can during the school hours. So more recess is a bad idea.



FOR MORE RECESS!

I think we should have more recess time at school. Every kid likes to play outside usually. Kids need to learn to like the outdoors instead of staying inside watching TV and playing video games. Every kid should play outside. Our brains need a break from doing math and all of the stuff you have to do in class. There are a lot of different reasons that we should get more recess.

We could get more exercise by getting more recess. When you play at recess you can get lots of exercise. Playing outside can release your energy by running around and stuff.

When you are in class you gather up a ton of energy. You might yawn daily instead of doing your work. It could interrupt your work time. If you don't have enough recess then you won't do your best.

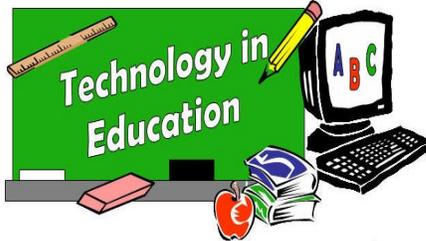
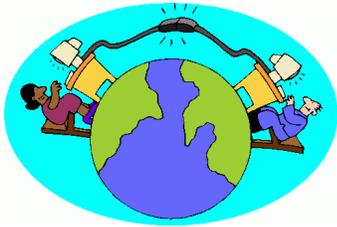
All kids need fresh air. You can get sleepy without it! We stay in a class room for hours and hours and we only get three recesses for eight hours. They are only half an hour. Some are only twenty minutes. We don't want to breath in chains dirt all day. We need more recess time outside.

There are so many different reasons that we should get more recess time. I could write all day, and get one hundred different reasons we should get more recess time. I don't like being cooped up in a class room all day. Our brains need a break and we need to be free for a while. So can you give us more recess time please?

One of the many standards our teachers teach our students is Persuasive Writing. Students are given a topic and are asked to choose a side and write an essay persuading people to accept their way of thinking. Third graders in Mrs. Davidson's class wrote about whether there should be more recess or less recess. Here are two amazing pieces of writing— one for each side of the debate.



Technology at Barkell



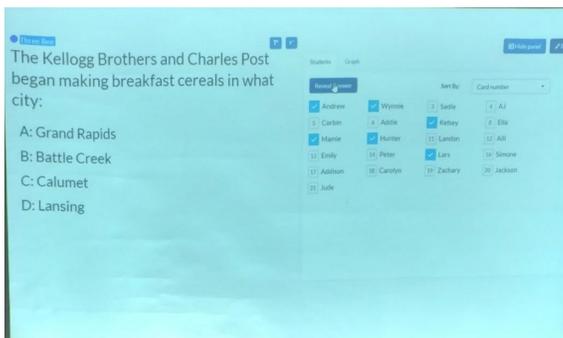
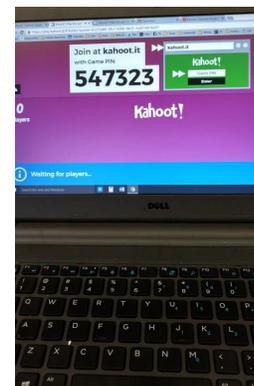
Technology is alive and well and thriving at Barkell Elementary! Teachers have projectors and document cameras to share lessons with students, and some have Smart Boards or Promethean Boards to make interactive lessons even more exciting. Classrooms have multiple Chromebook laptops or iPads that are helpful in differentiating instruction. In addition to the computer lab which students visit one to two times a week, we also have a classroom set of Chromebooks on a cart that are frequently signed out by teachers. Students complete a variety of activities on these Chromebooks in our academic subjects of writing, math, science, social studies, reading, and language arts.

Lately we have discovered some really great interactive websites that are useful for skill reviews in all subject areas. One is "Kahoot" and if your child has already been involved in this quiz competition game, they have probably told you about it. The students are very excited by this website and are very engaged whenever it is played. Multiple choice questions are displayed on the screen via the LCD projector and students, who have signed in with a designated pin number for that quiz, answer as quickly as possible. The first correct answer gets the most points. Kahoot can be done with each child on their own Chromebook, or it can be played in teams.

Continued on next page....



Students gather around the Chromebook for an exciting game of Kahoot.





Technology continued...

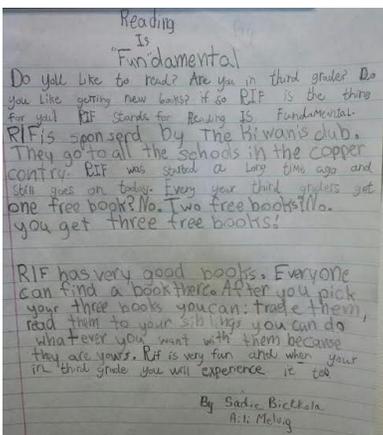


Another game is "Plickers" which is also a question and answer interactive site. Multiple choice questions are again displayed, but the students respond with a card that has an image similar to a bar code or a QR code. The students hold up their card, oriented to the answer they are giving, and the teacher scans the room with either a smart phone or a tablet. The app then records the student's answers. This, again, has been very engaging.

There are many other exciting things, too numerous to mention, happening in our classrooms and computer lab regarding technology preparing our students for the rest of the 21st century!
-Ms. Gades



Students in Ms. Gades' room use their Plickers to answer questions. Plickers give the teacher instant feedback which is used to modify and adjust teaching.



RIF Thank You

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club, Portage Health Auxiliary, and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for their kind donation of books!





Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- **Keweenaw National Historic Park** for helping fund a number of our field trips
- **MTU Society of Women Engineers** for teaching our second graders about engineering
- **The Madsens** for their donation of books
- **Kiwanis Club** for their donation of books
- **Marta Thompson, Christine Riutta, Amanda Rasner, and DJ Rasner** for their help in the classroom



1. Please remember that students need warm jackets, hats and mittens for recess. Please write your child's name on these items so that if we find them we can return them to their owner.
2. All visitors must report to the office. Please do not go to the classroom once the day has begun.
3. Please remember to call the attendance line when your child is absent.

CONGRATULATIONS



Levi Bradway

Levi created a video of a snowman on fire. Levi submitted the video to America's Funniest Home Videos and on April 24th, Levi's video was aired to a national audience! Congrats Levi!

Barkell Elementary needs help with:

- *We are in need of board games (used or new) for our students to use during indoor recess.
- *We are in need of bird seed for our science club/ bird identification program.
- *We need yarn and hooks for our Crochet Club.
- *We are need of extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.

