

December 2015

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- I would to thank everyone who attended our pancake breakfast. Thank you for supporting our school.
- I would like to thank the Barkell PTO for putting together the pancake breakfast and the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity for all of their help in the kitchen. I would also like to thank McDonalds, UPPCO, Superior Lube, and the Memorial Chapel & Plowe Funeral Home.
- Please remember to always report to the office for a visitor sticker.
- Winter Break begins on 12/23. We have no school this day.
- 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:

- *December 23rd– first day of winter break
- *January 7th– vision and hearing rescreening
- *January 21st– PTO meeting @5:00

Bulldogs serving the community



Can A Thon



Barkell Elementary students once again participated in the TV6 Holiday Can A Thon. The students worked very hard bringing in food items to help those in need. Our students brought in a total of 916 food items! Thank you to everyone for their generous donations!



Canathon

This year our School helped people in our Community in need by having a Canathon. It was a fun competition and we were happy to help people in need. Every Class helped to donate food items. The winner was Mrs. Perce's Class. We donated 1721 food items! Our benefit was a pizza party and extra recess. When the Canathon ended we felt good to help people in need.

By: Kaylin Perjam
&
Kysa Keranen





Barkell Pancake Breakfast



THANK YOU SO MUCH to all those who helped make Barkell's annual Pancake Breakfast a success!!! A special thank you to all of our PTO volunteers, as well as Phi Kappa Tau & Joyce Belopavlovich in the kitchen!!! Thank you to Karen Scholie and all the art students who made the awesome decorations!!! Thank you to Heather McGee, Barkell's GE coordinator, for setting up her creative and fun games for the kids!!! Thank you to Cheryl DeLong and the choir for doing an amazing job singing Christmas songs for everyone!!! Thank you to the great NHS students who volunteered to help with various roles!!! Thank you to all the businesses who generously supported this event: McDonald's, Walmart, Superior Lube, Memorial Chapel & Plowe Funeral Homes, and UPPCO!!! And, thank you to all those who sold tickets and attended the event!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

Thanks!!

~Tara -Barkell PTO





$$E = mc^2$$

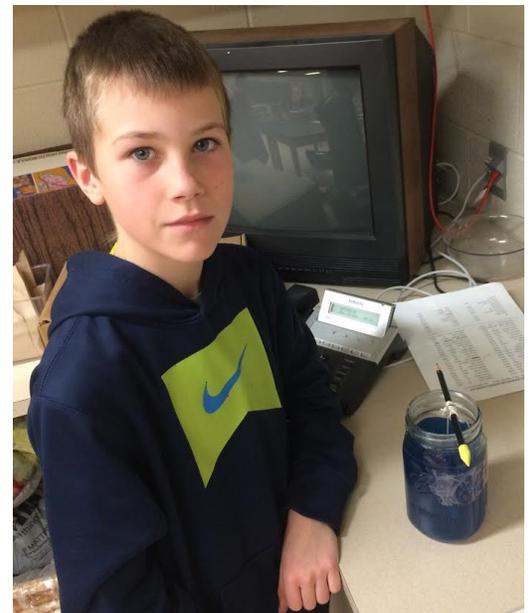
Bulldog Scientists



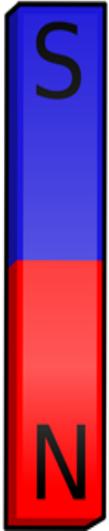
Second graders and fifth graders learning about weights and measures



Barkell students learning about crystallization while making a nice Christmas ornament.



Bulldog Scientists Continued....

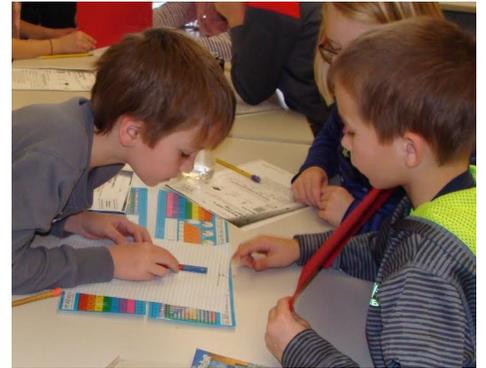


SCIENCE



The student's in Mrs. Davidson's third grade class participated in a magnet activity where they had to find out if a magnet would attract a paper clip if there is something between them. The students measured how far away the magnet was from the paper clip when there was only air between them, paper between them, and a book between them. After several trials they found out that the magnet would move the paper clip without touching it. It worked when their was only air between them, paper between them, and a book between them. This lead into further discussion about magnetic fields. The students had a great time performing this experiment, and they learned a lot!

-Mrs. Davidson



Magnetism



Barkell Christmas Concert

Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Concert!
Thank you to Mrs. Delong and all of the students for their hard



Barkell Students perform in front of a packed house. An estimated 600 people were in attendance!



The students focus on Mrs. Delong and her instructions.

The sun even found it's way into the Barkell Christmas Concert.



The 5th graders gather outside the gym getting ready to take the stage. Due to their intense preparation, nobody is nervous.



Holidays Around the World

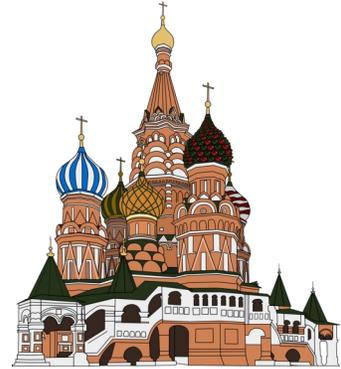
Second Graders Travel Around the World!



This month, second grade students packed their homemade suitcases and prepared passports to “travel” around the world to learn about different holiday traditions. Our “travels” have taken us to Mexico, Israel, Italy, Russia, India, and Uganda. Students have really enjoyed “traveling” to each second grade classroom and learning about the various traditions and completing a variety of fun, hands-on activities such as playing the Dreidel game and making Russian nesting dolls.



To further tie in earlier studies of our community and learn about the culture and diversity in our area, students also completed a family traditions project which they presented to the class. Students eagerly shared their own family traditions through a written explanation along with an item associated with that tradition such as a special food or object. It has been fun and interesting to learn about the various and often unique traditions of our second grade families.



-Mrs. Eddy, Mrs. Nordmark, and Mrs. Garnell



Students playing the Dreidel game as they visit Israel.



Students getting their passport stamped for their visit to Russia



While visiting Russia, students made Nesting Dolls.



Caleb Isaacson
There are a lot of Holidays around the world. The Festival of lights is India. The festival of lights has really bright lights. People put lights outside and inside in homes, on streets, and on lampposts.





Kindergarten News



Our Kindergarten classes continue to be busy and are working hard. In our classes we are continuing to practice writing letters, learning the sounds that they make and we are learning about Math. We wrote our letters to Santa and are working on a lot of projects.

This month in Kindergarten and Young 5's we received a box from the Intermediate School District to learn about animal skins and tracks. We passed the different furs around to feel. They observed the different furs and claws of the animals. They liked how the bobcats felt. Many students were afraid of touching the skunk at first, but after they found out that skunk fur is soft they touched it. Students asked about why there wasn't any porcupine skins in the box, we asked to think why there wouldn't be any. The students thought about it and decided that the quills would be to pokey. One student stated, "Wow! This is so cool". Another said "That the furs were so neat to look at". They also asked about the eyes. They noticed that some of the animals either didn't have any eyes or the eyes were glass. After we observed the different animal tracks. We looked at how the tracks are different and why. We also read a book about the tracks.

For a follow up lesson we will take our students on a walking field trip to our school forest and look for the animal tracks. The students will take a clip board with different animal track prints on their sheets to identify tracks they find in the woods. They are excited to walk and observe.

-Mrs. Blessing





Kindergarten News



Continued...



Our AmeriCorps worker Ms. Emma, has a great amount of background in biology! Through the school year, she has been working with students in grades K-2 outside teaching and exploring our native birds. At recess she has founded a "Bird Club" where students can go and look, listen and even hold birds in our school forest. This week she was able to stop into a few classrooms and give some more in-depth lessons on our native birds. Ms. Emma gave presentations showing different birds with their calls and songs. Students were able to feel and touch feathers and wings of various birds during the presentation. We are so fortunate to have such an expert sharing her wealth of knowledge with our students! Thank you Ms. Emma for your time and efforts to help share your love of birds with us!

-Mrs. Andress

First Grade News



In First Grade, we celebrated "Grinch Day." Students wore green to school to celebrate! We read How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and then did a reader's response writing activity. Students wrote about how they would make the Grinch grin and made a Grinch out of construction paper. It was a lot of fun!

-Mrs. Koivisto



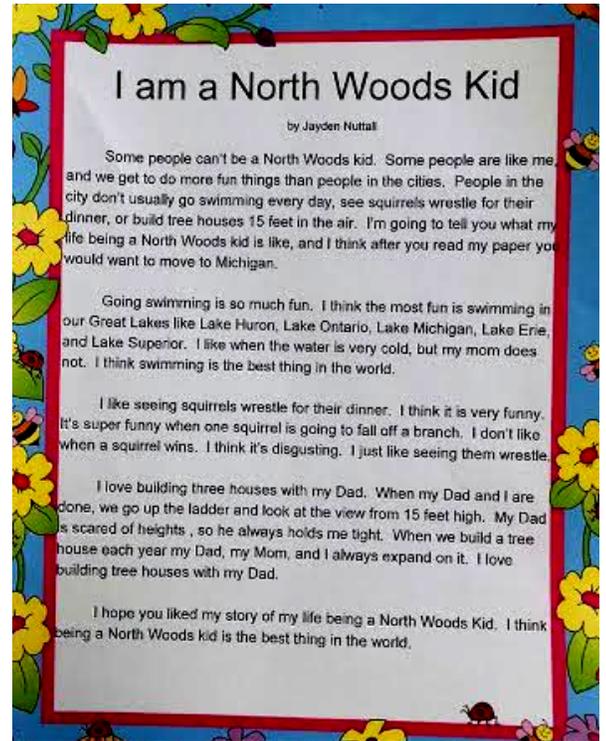


Third Grade News

Bulldog Authors



Earlier in the school year, children's author Aimee Bissonette did a presentation for our students about her book, *North Woods Girl*. As a follow up to the presentation students in Mrs. Davidson's class wrote their own essays about being a North Woods Kid.



Thanksgiving Feast in 3rd Grade



3A's Thanksgiving Feast

At our Thanksgiving feast we had a lot of fun. We made a fruit salad. We also made Pilgrim and Indian hats.

It was awesome making the fruit salad. We all brought some fruit to put in the fruit salad. Then we mixed all kinds of fruits in like oranges, raspberries, apples, grapes, and blue berries. Then we could eat it. It was delicious.

Our class made Indian and Pilgrim hats. For the Indian hats we put feathers on a brown strip of paper and then stapled it. For the Pilgrim hats you fold paper to look like a bonnet. Then you glue a white strip of paper on. They looked great.

Our Thanksgiving feast was a blast! The food was so good and the hats were so cool we had a lot of fun!

By: Brooke Kostela
Rayna Towles

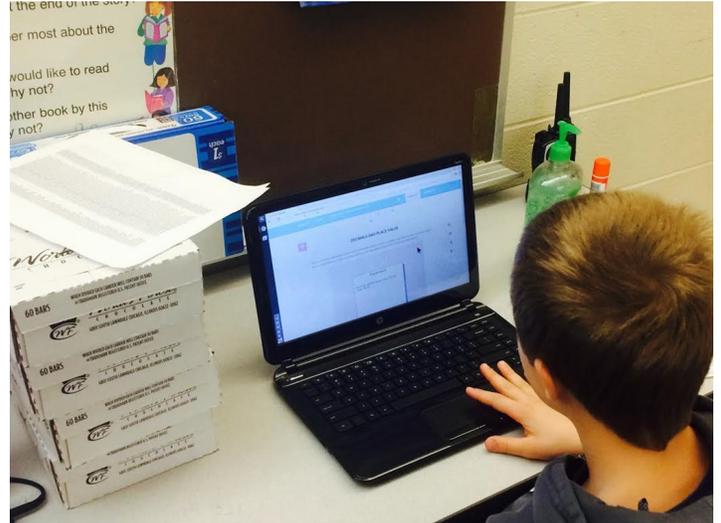


Fourth Grade News



Mrs. Olson's fourth graders work with their first grade Reading Buddies and first grade Math Buddies.

Fifth Grade News



5th graders are working on their Chromebooks. They are accessing Odyssey, where several students are working on 6th grade core content standards in math and science. One of many strategies used at Barkell Elementary to differentiate instruction.



Counselor's Corner

By: Risa Williamson

“My eyes hurt.” “The teacher says I see the wrong letter, but I see the right letter.” When is a good time to know if your child needs a vision exam? Many school aged children do not know that their sight is poor as their sight is just what they know and see ; basically children don't know any better.



According to the American Optometric Association (AOA), children generally should have their first eye exam at 6 months old, 3 years old, and before the start of school and every two years after that.

Some risk factors that may affect eye sight include low birth weight, infection of mother during pregnancy, learning delays, family history of eye sight difficulties, or crossed eyes.

Typically, schools offer an eye screenings which is a basic vision test. If you see signs of poor sight like tired eyes, rubbing eyes, turning the head to read to block and eye, short attention span, confusing letters like 'o' or 'a' and 'p' or 'q', skipping lines when reading, or homework taking a long time, a thorough eye exam may be needed with an optometrist.

For more vision symptoms, please view <http://www.covd.org/?page=symptoms>.



January Classroom Lessons

K & 1—Friendships

Grade 2—Fairness

Grade 3—Role Play Problem Solving

Grade 4—Conflict Management

Grade 5—Be Proactive



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases.
- * **Gloria Dei Luther Church** for their donation of hats and mittens
- * **Elie Alexander** for her donation of mittens
- * **Mr. and Mrs. Eric Little** for their donations of hats and mittens
- * **Mrs. McParlan** for reading to Mrs. Nordmark's students every week.
- * **The Hancock Community** for the tremendous turnout for our Pancake breakfast



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.

Pancake Breakfast Thanks You's

- Phi Kappa Tau
- McDonalds
- Superior Lube
- Memorial Chapel & Plowe Funeral Home
- UPPCO



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 new 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.

