

February 2016

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools

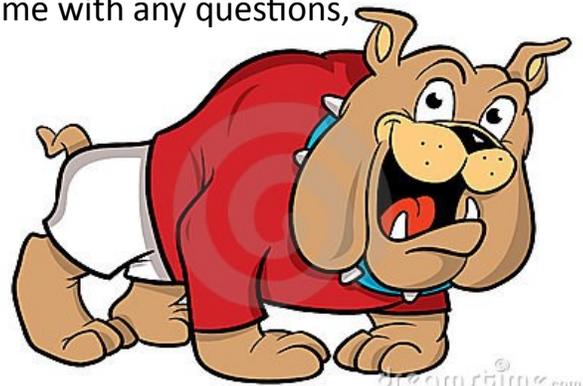


Principal Announcements

- On March 8th, we will be showcasing all of the great things our students do. At 4:30 pizza will be served in the gym. Afterwards, parents will be encouraged to check out the Science Fair, Art Show, writing displays, social studies projects, and “March is Reading Month” displays. We hope to see everyone in attendance for the **Barkell Showcase of Excellence**.
- Kindergarten registration will begin on March 14th. The process is a little different this year so please check out the information found at the end of this newsletter.
- Winter is here. Please make sure that you drive safely in our parking lots.
- 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:

- 3/1 & 3/2 Half days with dismissal at 11:50
- 3/1 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 3/8 **Barkell Elementary Showcase of Excellence** 4:30-6:30
- 3/25—4/3 Spring Break—Classes resume Monday, April 4th.

Barkell Elementary Showcase of Excellence

Featuring the Science Fair and Art Fair



Please join us on

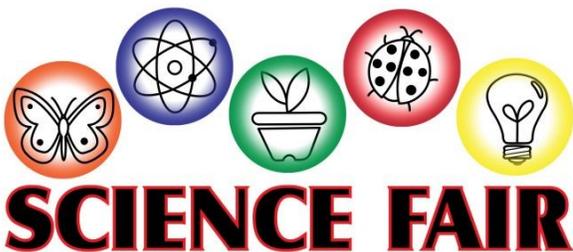
Tuesday

March 8th 4:30-6:30

4:30-5:15 Pizza will be served in the gymnasium

5:15-6:00 MTU student-led science activities

4:30-5:15 & 6:00-6:30 Open House



Please come and join us to celebrate all of the great things our students do here at Barkell Elementary. We have quite an evening planned for you. **Our PTO will be serving pizza in the gymnasium from 4:30-5:15.** Michigan Tech students will be leading some great science activities at 5:15. From 4:30-5:15 and between 6:00-6:30, families will be invited to tour the school to see all of our science fair projects and special art projects. Also on display will be many student writing samples, social studies projects, and our "March is Reading Month" displays. I hope to see you all there!



100th Day!!!



February 11th was the 100th day of school! Students in Young Fives and Kindergarten celebrated in style! Students dressed up as if they were 100 years old! In the morning, an oldies parade of students went through the school. In the classrooms, students participated in a variety of 100 day activities: 100 crowns, read 100 books, bring in 100 items, a 100 snack, self-portraits when 100 years old and blow up 100 balloons! A few of the oldies from KA! -Mrs. Andress



Young Fives enjoyed their 100th day of school!



Students counting their 100 things by ones, fives and tens!



100th Day continued!!!



Mrs. Pihlaja's class with their 100th Day crowns



Mrs. Blessing's class on their 100th Day of school

For 100th Day students dressed up in printed skirts, pearls, eyeglasses, wigs, gray hair, scarves, flannel shirts, ties, suspenders, and drawn on mustaches or beards. The big idea behind this was to show the children that they have grown in 100 days and are now 100 days smarter. Along with dressing up, the teachers also did several different counting to 100 activities with the students. The students and teachers looked wonderful and it turned out to be a very successful 100th day of school. -Mrs. Pihlaja

Kindergarten News



Thank you to Ms. Emma and her friend, Ms. Liston, for coming in to read to our kindergarten class! Ms. Liston is a retired teacher from Lower Michigan! The students enjoyed listening to Rainbow Fish and watching her read with her fish puppet! – Mrs. Andress' Kindergarten Class!



$$E = mc^2$$

Bulldog Scientists



classroomclipart.com

1 classroomclipart.com



4th Grade Science Investigation

Our class did a science project. We tested what insulator is best, to wear in cold weather. We used different materials such as cotton, wool, flannel, fleece, and quilted material. We were split into groups of two. We each got a water bottle filled with warm water, a thermometer, and a sock. When we got outside we covered our water bottle with snow. Every 2 minutes we tested the water with a thermometer. At the end of a two minute period we went snow shoeing. We came back about 20 minutes later and checked our water one more time. We checked our results, but they didn't match our hypothesis. We talked about ways we could do our experiment better next time. It was a fun project!

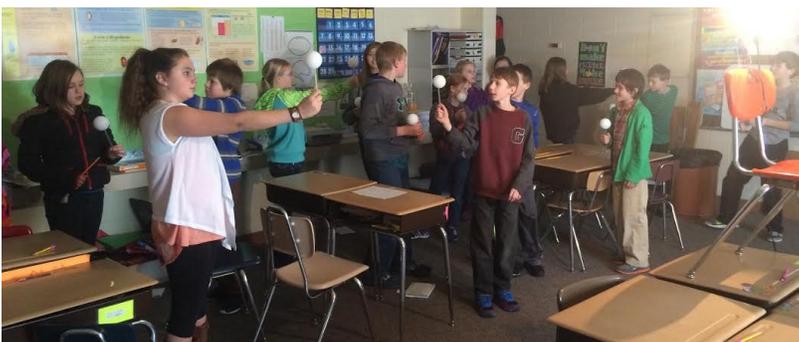
By: Rylie and Elise



5th graders learn about bird adaptations by comparing common household items with birds' beaks.

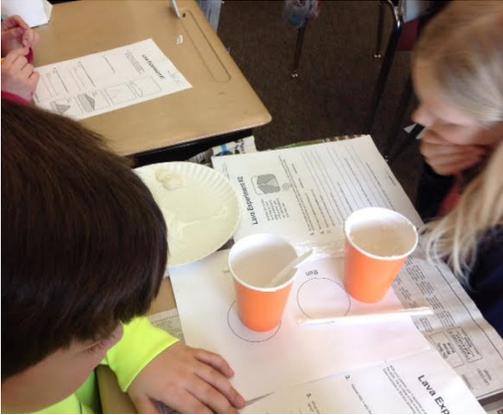
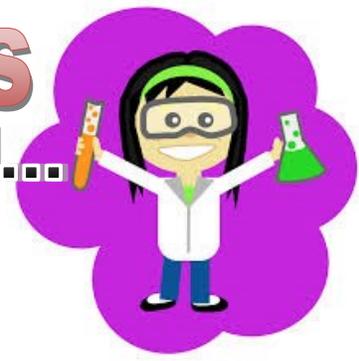


5th graders learn about moon phases using Styrofoam balls to observe the changes in light reflected to Earth. Students also used Oreo cookies to show the various phases.



Bulldog Scientists

continued...



3rd graders learn about how lava flows. They also learn about weathering using sugar cubes.

Healthy Bulldogs



The 4th graders enjoy a nice winter day snowshoeing on the Barkell Nature Trail. They also enjoy a little exercise in the hallway on a cold February morning.



Star Lab comes to Barkell



5th graders enjoy Star Lab.



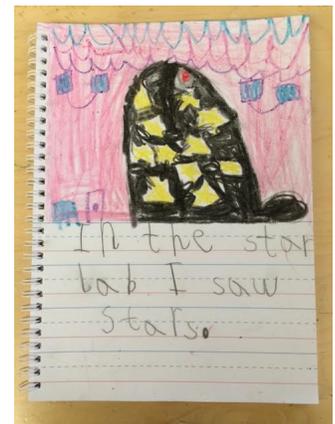
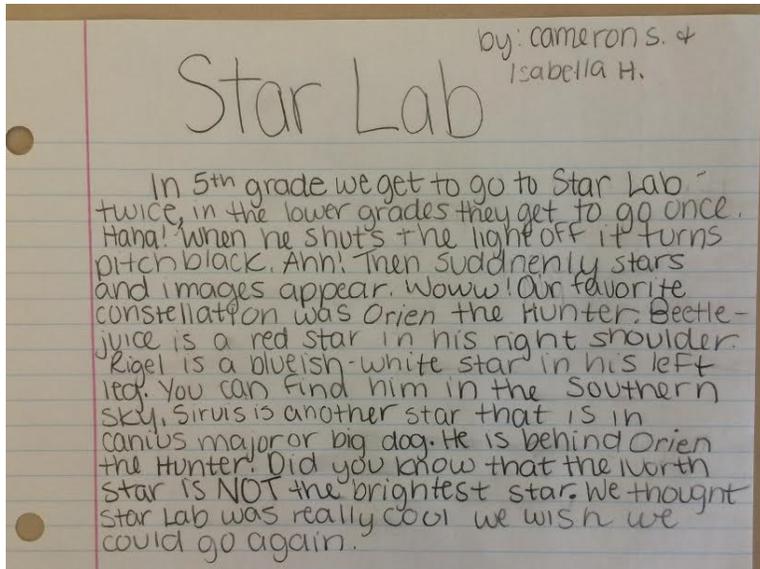
Mrs. Garnell's students debrief after an exciting adventure into Star Lab.



Barkell students learned about stars and constellations. They learned about the names of different constellations and how they were used by different cultures to navigate, tell stories, and determine seasons.



A view from inside Star Lab



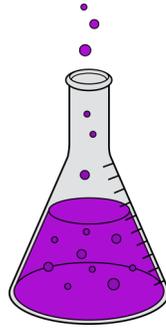
A Young Fives student (Janae K.) writes about Star Lab.



Family Science Night



Students create and test their catapults.



Students learn about animal behaviors by studying skeletons.



A chewing gum investigation helps Barkell students learn about the Scientific Method.



Learning about volcanoes



Kindergarten parents enjoy a fun science activity with their young students.



Students count rings to determine the age of a tree sample.



Regional Spelling Bee



Elijah receives his trophy after the competition.

The Regional Spelling Bee took place in L'Anse on February 17th. Sheianne Brouillette and Elijah Packard represented Barkell Elementary. Fourteen students from around the area competed. Congratulations to Sheianne Brouillette for finishing 5th and to Elijah Packard for finishing 2nd! The top two finishers in each region advance to the U.P. Spelling Bee in March. Elijah will be competing for the chance to become spelling champion of the Upper Peninsula. Good luck to Elijah! We are very proud of both students!



Congratulations Elijah!

Elijah correctly spells a difficult word.

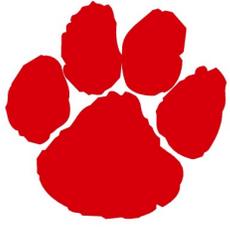
Sheianne calmly spells a challenging word.



Contestants anxiously await the start of the competition.



The Joel Tacey Character Show



The Joel Tacey Character Show visited Barkell Elementary in February. Our students had a great time learning about the importance of making good choices and the positive effect it can have on their lives.



Respect and responsibility were an important part of Mr. Tacey's message.



Mrs. Dupuis amazes the crowd by spinning plates on a stick.



Heikinpaiva Essay Winners



Congratulations to Willa Givens, Damien Colombe, and Mamie Korpela! These three fine authors were the winners of the Heikinpaiva Essay Contest.

Crochet Club



Students in Ms. Gades' Crochet Club enjoy practicing their new skills.





Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases.
- * **Kelly Griffin, Karen Erva, and Debby Vaara** for their donations to our Crochet Club
- * **Wayne Stordahl, Ken Rubin, Jay Green, Maggie Stein, Teresa Shou, Ralph Lund, Robin Mueller, Pattie Lund, and Arlyn Aronson** for their help with our skiing program.
- * **Joan Chadde and Michigan Tech** for Family Science Night.



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.

Kindergarten Registration

Parents may begin registering kindergarten students for the 2016-2017 school year on March 14th. Registration packets may be picked up in the office. They will also be sent out through the list serve and will be available on the district website. Kindergarten Registration Day will be April 14th. Incoming students will have a chance to tour the school and visit a kindergarten classroom. More information will be coming.

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.

