

February 2017

# Barkell Elementary

## Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



## Principal Announcements

- I would like to invite everyone to our 2017 Barkell Elementary Showcase of Excellence on March 9th. Pizza will be served by our PTO from 4-5:30. On display will be our Science Fair projects, Art Fair projects, March is Reading Month displays, as well as multiple other samples of student work. I hope to see everyone there.
- Please remember to write your child's name on their winter gear.
- Please remember that students cannot be dropped off before 7:30.
- Please consider helping out our PTO. They do a lot for our school and could use a few volunteers to help with various events. You do not need to come to all of the PTO meetings to be a volunteer. They are looking for individuals who can help once or twice per year. The PTO meets at 3:30 on the third Tuesday of the month.
- Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara– Barkell Elementary Principal



### Upcoming Events:

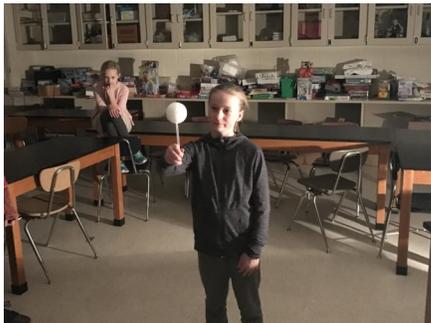
- March 9th                      Barkell Elementary Showcase of Excellence/ PT Conferences
- March 27th                     First day of Spring Break
- March 9th and 10th        Half Days for Students



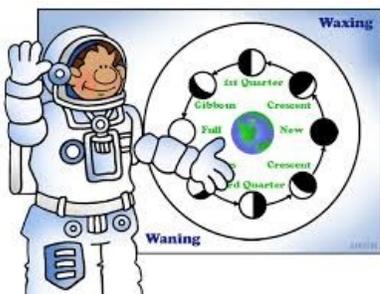
# Bulldog Astronomers



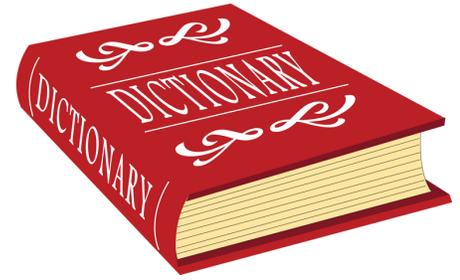
As part of Star Lab week, fifth grade students study the moon phases. Using a light source in a dark environment, styrofoam balls are used to help demonstrate how the light from the sun reflects the different shapes of the moon. The students learn the difference between waxing and waning, the lunar cycle, and the 8 phases of the moon: new moon, waxing crescent, 1/4 half moon, waxing gibbous, 2/4 full moon, waning gibbous, last quarter half moon, waning crescent, and back to new moon.



Students use Oreo cookies to apply what they've learned about the moon phases. Once students demonstrate understanding, they get to eat a snack.



# Fifth Grade Spelling Bee



Congratulations to the 6 2017 finalists for the Barkell Elementary Spelling Bee! Pictured from left to right are: Morgan Sintkowski, Laura Levanen, Lana Aho, Josie Hembroff, Jacob Hallstrom, and Max Brantner



Lana spells a word at the Regional Spelling Bee held in Calumet.



Lana Aho and Laura Levanen pose for a photo after a tough battle for the Barkell Spelling Championship



Laura spells a word at the Regional Spelling Bee held in Calumet.

Barkell Elementary recently hosted our 5th grade Spelling Bee. Each classroom held a competition to determine the top two spellers. After each classroom competition, the two finalists competed against the students from the other classrooms. The six finalists (pictured above) battled it out to determine who the top two spellers of fifth grade are. Congratulations to Laura Levanen and Lana Aho for finishing first and second respectively. Both girls qualified for the Regional Spelling Bee.





# Bulldog Art Club



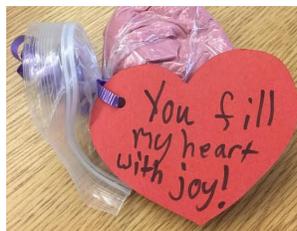
## ART CLUB

The Bulldog Art Club meets twice per week during 10 am recess. Students work on a wide variety of projects including making playdough, beadwork/ friendship bracelets, valentines, etc. This is one of a number of wonderful extracurricular activities available for our students. Thank you to Mrs. Shannon for helping to create this opportunity for our students.

## Art Club



Abby and Natalie create some fine Christmas Cards.



The Bulldog Art Club made homemade play dough which they gave to kids for Valentines Day along with cards.

I LOVE Art+Book Club, because its REAL FUN, you get to do artistic things that you might not be able to do in very many other places. Mrs. Shannon is the BEST!!  
 -SARAH J. ☺

I love art and book club because you can be your self, its really Fun, and Miss Shannon is really nice.  
 - Abby

# Heikinpaiva Essay Contest

Heikinpaiva is here at last! Heikinpaiva is a mid-winter celebration in Hancock, Michigan. This year Heikinpaiva starts on January 10th and ends February 6th. The main date is January 28th. There will be a polar bear dive, wife carrying contest, and the parade.

The polar bear dive is a freezing cold event where people jump into a hole in the ice of the canal. For the polar bear dive you can dress up! It doesn't matter if you use shoes or not. You can jump in any way like a cannonball, dive, belly flop, or front/back handspring. You can dress up like a duck, penguin, and lots more. But you decide! The water is as cold as an ice cube! You are allowed to be a girl or boy to enter. Some people bring a tripod or camera. Just make sure they are water proof! Hundreds of people are there watching you. If you want to enter you must be 18 or older. If you enter you probably have tons of snow!

Enjoy the wife carrying contest! You are able to carry your wife anyway you like, like



Pictured left to right: Jill Berg, Alecia Aho, Natalie Joyal

**Heikinpaiva Essay**  
By: Alecia Aho

Have you ever heard that winters back is broken? That means winter is half way over. There is a Finnish American celebration called Heikinpaiva. It is on Saturday January 28th. Heikinpaiva started in 1999 and has been going on ever since.

At the Heikinpaiva there are lots of awesome games and activities to do like kiksled races, there is a fun game called Molky, another game is the wife carrying contest, also there is a polar bear dive, a tori market (open market to sell homemade goods), world's largest kiksled and vipukelkka (whip sled), There is an beautiful parade, food (like very good nisu) and dance (finnish polka-dancing). Heikinpaiva is an amazing event!

If you do come to this brilliant Finnish American event you should try the wife carrying contest, the kiksled races, and the polar bear dive. To do the wife carrying contest all you need is a wife (or if you are a girl you need a husband). Then you go to the starting line. 3,2,1 go! You carry your wife to the first station and shake the rugs! Hurry, set your wife down and both of you start shaking the rugs. Then you pick up your wife again, and go to the sauna. Quick put your wife down, and take a nice warm sauna. After that you carry your wife to the table and visit some guests. Finally, you carry your wife to the finish line. You might win. Wouldn't that be nice?

Did you know that there is a kick sled race? First, you get one of the kick sleds. Then you go to the starting line. On your mark, get set, go! You start kicking with your foot then you go to the end and turn around and go back to the starting line. You may win. If you do win, yay!

You should try the polar bear dive. It might be cold because they dig a hole in the ice, and you can jump into the freezing waters of Lake Superior. Brrrrrr! It is sooo cold, but fun. You should try the polar bear dive.

So, if you like games and tasty Finnish food you should definitely come to Heikinpaiva. It is fun, exciting, and amazing. I might see you there!

A piggy back ride. You pretend to take a sauna. There is a bucket with pretend water, then sweat at each other 3 times, with the switch. Then you pretend to shake out rugs. Now you drink fake coffee with your friends. You will like the wife carrying contest! It is hilarious!

At 11:00 there is a big parade at the parade there is the Michigan Tech Pep Band. Their colors are black and gold. There is the "Big Louie" which is the biggest kiksled in the world! Dress up! Like a swan or a panda. It's up to you, though! You are allowed to do tricks like a handsand! Have fun!

I hope you enjoy Heikinpaiva! It's going to be a blast! I hope to see you there!

Barkell third graders once again participated in the Heikinpaiva Essay Contest. Congratulations to Natalie Joyal, Jill Berg, and Alecia Aho for each finishing in first place in their classrooms. Please enjoy the winning essays.



Natalie  
You would LOVE Heikinpaiva! It's a Finnish celebration, celebrated by the community. It's in Hancock, MI, about the Finnish culture. There are lots of events for the whole family. It begins on January 10th and goes through February 6, but most of the events are on January 28.

There are lots of events at Heikinpaiva. One of the events is a three day Visikannell making work shop. It costs \$175 dollars and materials are

included. A visikannell is an instrument. The visikannell work shop is January 25-26.

At Heikinpaiva there is also wife-carrying. At that event the husband can carry the wife or the wife can carry the husband. It's like an obstacle course. You have to pretend to go in the sauna, have coffee, and throw a boot. You also have to target your wife from excitement. First one done wins! It's on January 28, after the parade.

Heikinpaiva includes the polar bear dive. It's where you jump into ice cold water. You can wear whatever you want, pants and a shirt, dress up-capes, penguin, banana, cat or mouse, swim suit, shoes or bare feet. It's in the Portage Canal and hundreds of people are watching and taking pictures. It's for people of all ages. It's for people of all ages. It's January 28, 3 p.m.

There are lots of events I didn't get to such as the kiksled race, parade, Finnish hymn

sing and concert, and squeaky cheese making. Now that you know about Heikinpaiva time for a test! Just kidding! But seriously you would LOVE Heikinpaiva!

by Natalie Joyal

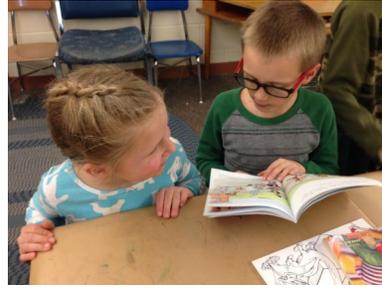




# Kindergarten News



Barkell kindergartners have been participating in a couple of mentoring programs this school year. Barkell second graders have been meeting with our kindergartners throughout the course of the school year as Reading Buddies. Hancock Middle School seventh graders also visited our kindergartners to work on projects to help build community and teamwork. It has been a tremendous experience for all!



On Wednesday, the 25th of January, the seventh grade Self & Community class at Hancock Middle School came to mentor Mrs. Blessing's Kindergarten class. We spent two class periods planning what to do with the kindergartners and our class decided on the "All About Me T-shirts" activity. Everyone had a "T-shirt" outline on a piece of paper and drew their favorite food, hobbies, animals, etc. The 7th graders helped the kindergartners with drawing, ideas, and learning a little about themselves and us. At the end of the class period the kindergartners taught us an ABC game which was very fun to play.

After mentoring at the elementary school the 7th grade students reflected on how it went, and we are all excited to visit again. It was very interesting to see what the kindergartners had to say about themselves; they had many things in common with the 7th graders. At first the kindergartners were very shy, but by the end they opened up to us! They had many different interests and are very good artists and writers. We had a great time with the kindergartners and would love to come back again!

By: Rylie Fuller and Isabella Stewart, Hancock Middle School, 7th Grade





# Second Grade News



**STATES**



Liquid



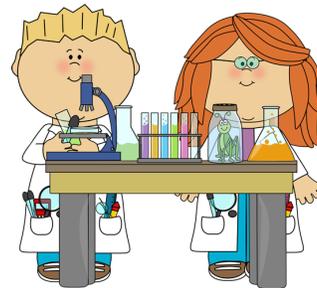
Gas



**MATTER**

It was a beautiful, sunny day and in addition to getting to snow-shoe, students made observations and drew conclusions about what makes ice melt. They also explored properties of and differences between solids and liquids. Thank you to the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Math, and Environmental Education for helping to make this happen!

-Second Grade Teachers

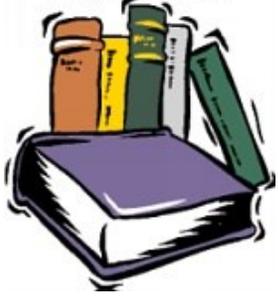




# Third Grade News



## RESEARCH



Mrs. Knuuttila's students are learning research skills on their new Kindle Fire tablets. The classroom received five tablets, cases, and headphones thanks to a DonorsChoose grant written by Mrs. Knuuttila. The students are shown here in small groups practicing their research skills. Each student had multiple opportunities to look up and learn about set topics and topics of their choice. The class has started an optional Mastery Club for students to love to learn. Most of the students in the class are participating.

-Mrs. Knuuttila



Students are given the option to create a poster, video, skit, etc. to share their knowledge and skills.

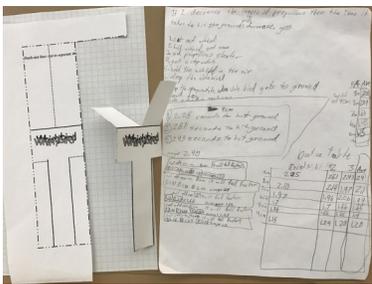




# Fifth Grade News

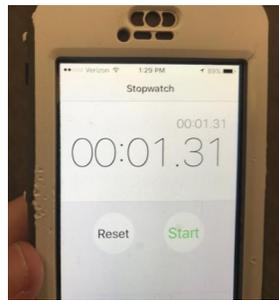


Fifth graders are learning about the scientific method through inquiry-based investigations. "Does the length of the propellers on a whirlybird effect the time it takes to hit the ground?" As the students performed the experiment, they collected data and wrote down observations. Once all the data was collected, we analyzed the results and developed some conclusions. The students designed a procedure and then performed an experiment to try and answer the question. Fifth graders will be applying these skills learned in class on their own science fair projects which are due on March 9th.

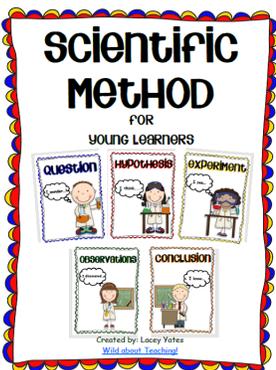


Erik SP #20

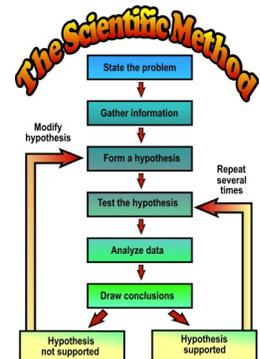
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
2.95	2.20	1.97	1.72	1.36	1.15			
2.34	2.14	1.84	1.62	1.55	1.24			
2.43	1.77	1.66	1.56	1.25	1.28			
2.4	2.3	1.9	1.65	1.4	1.78			



As part of the "Matter" unit, fifth graders are exploring surface tension. Students are predicting and recording how many drops of water they can fit on a penny before it spills over the edge. In class they discuss other times in their lives where they have experienced surface tension. Questions explored: What causes surface tension? How do the molecules act/move in a liquid?



33 drops on a penny. Can you get more?





# PE News

## Bulldog Skiiers



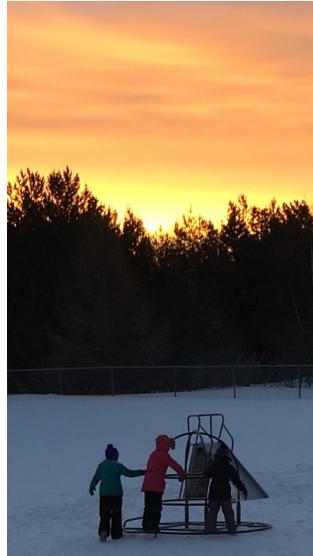
During the month of February, our 1st through 5th graders were treated to our Nordic Ski unit (Cross Country) during their regularly scheduled Physical Education class. This is a great opportunity for our students to gain exposure to the lifelong activity of Cross Country Skiing, and the wonderful health benefit of this aerobic exercise. I would like to thank Mr. Wayne Stordahl, Mr. Ralph Lund, Mr. Jay Green and Mrs. Candy Silvola for their volunteering in helping our students learn the sport (and in helping get the kids in the ski bindings). As well, I'd like to extend our thank you to Arlyn Aronson and the City of Hancock for grooming our Nordic Trail in the front of Barkell Elementary.

-Mr. Salani





# Winter Recess



Students enjoy a nice morning sunrise on a cool February morning.



Huge hockey game on the lower el side of the playground



Despite the cold temperatures, kids still enjoy the playground equipment.



Snow forts and snowmen dominate the Barkell Elementary playground





# Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- \* **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- \* **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- \* **Rich and Trina Barrette/ Beth Shannon** for painting our hallways
- \* **MTU athletes** for their help in PE class
- \* **Beth Shannon** for all of her help with March is Reading Month
- \* **Hancock Middle School 7th graders** for working with our kindergartners



1. All visitors must report to the office. Please do not go to the classroom once the day has begun.
2. Please remember to call the attendance line when your child is absent.
3. Please remember to check the lost and found. We have quite a few unclaimed belongings.

Thank you to Finlandia students for collecting shoes for students in need!



## 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 educational DVDs or VHS tapes for our indoor recesses.
- \*We are in need of extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.
- \*We are in need of yarn and crochet hooks for our Crocheting Club

