

February 2018

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- I would like to remind everyone that Spring Break is from 3/26– 4/2. We return to school on Tuesday the 3rd.
- Winter is here. Please send you child to school with proper winter attire. We also recommend you write your child’s name on their belongings. That will allow us to more easily return lost items to students.
- 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 3:45 on the third Wednesday 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 7th** **Half day for students**
- **March 8th** **Half day for students/ PT Conferences**
- **March 9th** **Half Day for students**
- **March 26th– April 2nd** **Spring Break**



Family Science Night



Students prepare to mine for chocolate chip cookies.



Students learn about the water cycle with a use of a hands on model.



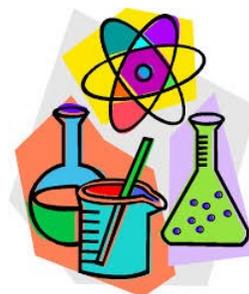
Students play a fun game while learning about water.



Students learn about rocks.



Students learn about mixtures and compounds.



Students learn how sound travels through the use of tin cans and a string.

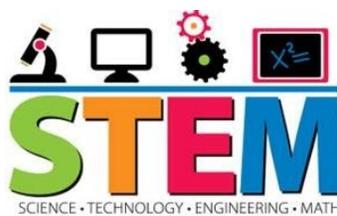




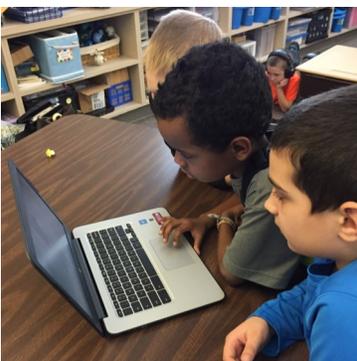
Bulldog Engineers



3C Catapults into STEM- Mrs. Knuutila's students participated in a creative, hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) catapult project during Valentine's week. Students worked in teams to research, build/design, test and modify catapults to later participate in a catapult challenge. The room buzzed with excitement as the teams tested, learned new designs from other teams, and modified their designs to create ultimate catapults. Students tested to find the optimum projectile from an assortment of Valentine candy and the competition was on! On the day of the challenge, candy heart projectiles were launched 15-29 feet with the longest launch soaring over 30 feet. This launch was completed with a catapult made of a binder clip, a spoon, craft sticks and elastic bands. Well done 3C!



Students research cata-



Students record their data.

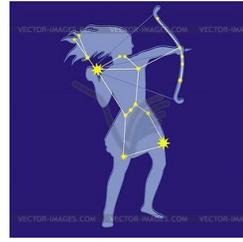


Students watch as they launch their projectiles.





Star Lab



Star Lab comes to Barkell Elementary! All students visited Star Lab in February to learn about a variety of things. Students learned about constellations and stars. Students learned about how stars were used thousands of years ago. Stars were used for navigation, determining seasons and telling stories.



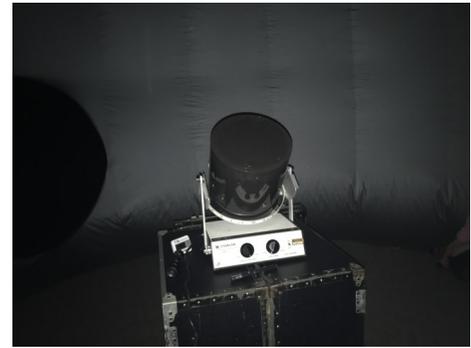
Students pose for a photo in front of Star Lab.



Here are some Native American constellations. You can see Long-sash, which is more commonly referred to as Orion the Hunter.



Fifth graders pose for a photo after learning about the constellations in Star Lab.



Star Lab projector



An inside view of Star Lab. Images are projected on the ceiling using the Star Lab projector.

Starlab

In starlab, we liked learning, and watching the moon phases, constellations of the stars. We also enjoyed hearing about the people who used the stars for telling stories, direction, and knowing what season it is. We learned where stars were like the North star, beetle juice, and more. Mr. Pertile taught us where, and how to find the constellations, and where the moon would be in the sky, and when would it be there. Only 5th graders got to go twice, but Starlab was an amazing experience.

Kelsey Jaehnic, Abby Alholinna,
Addison Pizzi, Simon Ruonavaara



Fifth Grade Spelling Bee



Congratulations to the champion (Lynn Heinonen) and runner up (Bria Anderson) of the 5th grade Spelling Bee.

Barkell Elementary fifth graders once again competed in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The top two spellers from each class competed against each other and the top two fifth graders advanced to the regional Spelling Bee. Congratulations to all who competed. The six top spellers from 5th grade were: Lynn Heinonen, Bria Anderson, Sydnie Scholie, Jadon Packard, Emily Moore, and Hunter LaCourt.



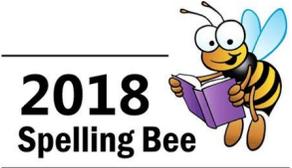
The top 6 spellers enjoy a lunch at Pizza Hut.



The spelling finalists get ready for the competition



The final three contestants take a break before the final round.



Lynn spells a word at the Regional Spelling Bee in the Sylvia J Eskola Auditorium. Lynn finished in 3rd place.



Lynn poses with her trophies.



PE News



Students carefully navigate down Barkell Hill.

Cross Country skiing for our PE students started the last week of January. Each classroom skis four times over the course of a month. We would like to thank Wayne Stordahl for his commitment to the program. Mr. Stordahl has organized the volunteers that help our classrooms on the trails, as well as trail maintenance. Special thanks to the following volunteers: Karen Fenton, Ken Rubin, Susanna Weber, Candy Silvola, and John Diebel. We would also like to thank Arlyn Aronson of the Nordic Club for grooming the trails. We would also like to thank the Hancock Public Schools Foundation for their support in funding the trail groomer.



Students enjoy skiing on a nice sunny day.



Special thanks to Arlyn Aronson and the Nordic Club for the finely groomed trails.



Despite the cold weather in February, students were still able to enjoy our fine ski trails.



Alexandria, Olivia, and Diam brace themselves for the exciting run down Barkell Hill.





100 Day



Barkell Elementary kindergartners and Young 5s students celebrated their 100th day of school in style. Students dressed up like they were 100 years old and paraded around the school.



Ms. Kellett's class poses for their 100 Day photo.



Mrs. Pihlaja's class smiles for their 100 Day photo.



Students parade through the school for 100 Day.



Young 5s pose for their 100 Day photo.



Three grandpas enjoy the 100 Day parade.





Kindergarten/ Y 5s News



Students in Ms. Kellett's class take a break to pose for a photo.

The Kindergarten and Young 5's classes went snowshoeing as a part of their winter wellness and making healthy choices lessons. Students enjoyed a beautiful winter day hiking the trail through our school forest. They also incorporated science lessons as they looked for signs of animals.



Students trek through the Barkell Elementary nature trail. The trail winds through the forest on our property.



Students enjoy a sunny February day on the Barkell Nature Trail.

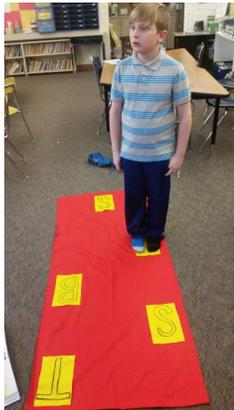




Fourth Grade News



Students in 4B take a verbal reading test by walking a story path to tell the main ideas of a fictional story they read called Gluskabee and the Snowbird. The path has the acronym SWBST (Somebody Wanted But So Then), a main character wanted something but there was a problem stopping them from getting it so they solved the problem then the story's conclusion was...



Mrs. DuPuis' and Mrs. Olson's classes meet every Friday for "B.R.I.M." buddies. BRIM buddies started many years ago as a reading buddy program in March only, but now we meet all through the school year. The first and fourth graders meet to read each week and to do crafts or community service projects. In December we strung Cheerios and cranberries for the birds. In January we made snowflakes to decorate the windows of the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry in downtown Hancock. We're looking forward to doing lots more reading together this year!

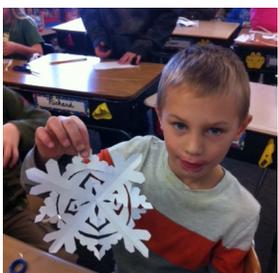
BRIM Buddies
The fourth graders made brims and gave them to Mrs. Dupuis' first graders. The first graders chose what brim they liked, but they didn't know whose brim was whose. It was a surprise to meet our BRIM buddies. What we do is, every Friday Mrs. Dupuis' first grade class comes to Mrs. Olson's fourth grade class. The first the fourth graders listen to the first graders read their A-Z books two times, then the fourth graders do projects. These are some projects we did; string Cheerios, marshmallows, and cranberries, made a pyramid out of hearts, and scarecrows in the fall. We also made snowflakes for St. Vincent's food pantry.
by: Sophie Berryman and Anastasiya Stewart 4c



Barkell fourth graders were visited by Dr. Mike from Portage Health. Students learned about healthy diets and healthy lifestyles.



Dr. Mike's Visit
Dr. Mike is a doctor. He works at Portage Health. Dr. Mike came to visit 4th grade. He talked about how to eat healthy. Dr. Mike said "Eat a rainbow every day, does that mean to eat a bag of skittles?" It does mean that he was telling us to eat a healthy food out of every color of the rainbow. He also talked about wearing a helmet, getting good sleep, and exercising. I learned that a normal 4th grader takes 20-30 minutes to fall asleep. Have you ever met Dr. Mike? Did you know he is my doctor?
By: Mindy J.



Kurt and Dominick display the snowflakes they made for the St Vincent De Paul food pan-





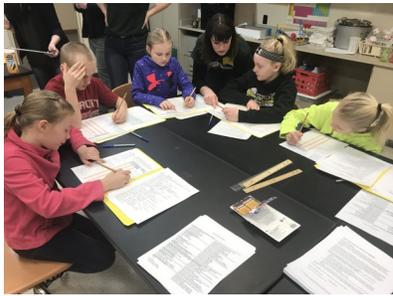
Fifth Grade News



Barkell Elementary 5th graders will be learning about health and fitness through a program funded by MSU and MTU. Students took some basic health tests (height, weight, cholesterol, etc.) as well as a survey to determine what they know about health and fitness. Students will then receive instruction over the course of the next few weeks by MTU students.



Addison has her blood pressure checked.



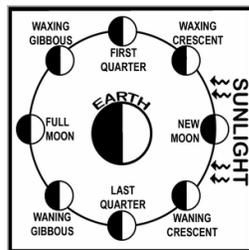
Mackenzie answers some questions.



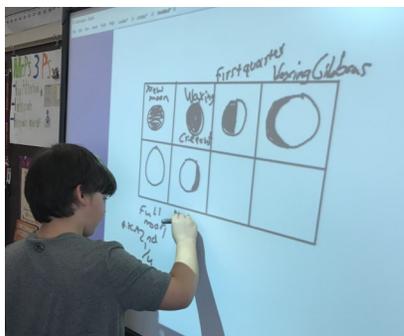
Students explore the phases of the moon, the difference between waxing and waning as well as solar vs lunar eclipse.



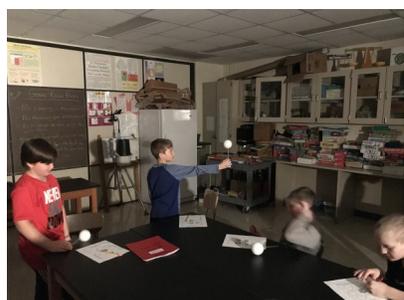
Tianna and Max focus on their research.



Sydney, Mallory, and Jynna demonstrate moon phases with Oreo cookies.



Jackson shows the moon phases on the Promethean Board.



Madeline observes the phases of the moon with her model and a light.



Landon observes the moon phases.



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- * **HEA** for their donation of winter clothing
- * **Christina Gardner** for her help with the Leukemia and Lymphoma fundraiser
- * **Kristy Erickson** for her generous donation



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.

Ms. Gardner speaks with Barkell students prior to the start of the Leukemia and Lymphoma fundraiser. I will provide updated totals in the March newsletter.



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

