

January 2018

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- Winter is here. Please send your 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:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| • February 6th | Family Science Night 6:00-7:30 |
| • February 22nd | Half Day of School (dismissal at 11:50) |
| • February 23rd | No School Mid Winter Break |



Bulldog Authors



Lake Superior - Finding Treasures By Alex Hebert

Lake Superior is fun and cool because I love Lake Superior. I love how shiny the lake is. Digging up the sand to find treasures like agates, green stones, pottery, cool rocks, and beach glass from a long time ago is great. Lake Superior is a real magical sea. Swimming, canoeing, and fishing are all amazing things to do in this great lake.

Finding treasures along Lake Superior beaches is something that I do with my Dad. I love finding treasures. They're all over the place, and there are so many treasures. I don't know where they came from, but my guess is shipwrecks. We have already have so many treasures at home, but I am gonna have more. Every time I go look for treasures I take the cool ones.

I go swimming with my Dad and my sisters in the cold, cold water of Lake Superior at Agate beach. Swimming is awesome, but we only go swimming in the summer. We go to a lot of beaches. I can't count how many times we went swimming, but it is a lot of times that's for sure. There are a ton of lakes to swim in, but Lake Superior is my favorite to swim in.

You can catch fish like salmon, sturgeon, and catfish in the clear, shiny water. It is so much fun. Catching fish in Lake Superior is amazing. It is so big, so a lot of fish live in it. My favorite type of fishing is normal fishing. My favorite part about fishing is catching the fish, but I am allergic to fish so I do not eat it. Lake Superior is the best fishing spot I know.

Lake Superior is amazing. I can't resist doing fun things in it. Finding treasures, swimming, and catching fish in this beautiful lake is spectacular. I'm a Lake Superior loving kid!

Barkell Elementary third graders participated in the North Woods Kids essay and art contest. Students wrote essays about what it means to them to be a kid growing up in the northern woods. They also created art projects depicting life in the northern woods.



Fishing on Lake Superior (By: Les Simonson)

Fishing on Lake Superior is amazing
Salmon and lake trout are jumping everywhere
just waiting for me to come and set up fishing rods
It is so exciting as they bite one by one
We fish until nighttime
We go back to the dock with a lot of fish
And the next day we have fish fries
and swim in Lake Superior
Watching boats go by
dreaming about going fishing again

Lake Superior By Olivia Kangas

Do you know what the other word for Lake Superior is? It is Gitchee Gummee. Lake Superior is a lake I like for many reasons, other than just its interesting native american nickname. The lake can be very beautiful to watch. There are many things to do in Lake Superior. The lake seems like it is always changing its mood.

The water is so beautiful with the sun shining on it. I feel calm when I'm by the lake. The Northern lights are so cool over the water. Fish always jump over the water like salmon, bass, and whitefish. Lake Superior is so fun to watch sometimes.

Swimming is so fun in the summer because if you go in just a little bit it gets deep quick. You can get up to your neck right away. It is so clear sometimes, and you can see where your walking. I like to do front flips, and try to see my hand under the water when I'm out deep.

The lake can be moody sometimes. It can be so moody that it will be mean and take you right in. And it can be freezing cold, but I still love swimming in it. Lake Superior can be a peaceful lake. But sometimes it is wild, dangerous, scary, dark, and very powerful.

Can you believe how lucky we are to live by the greatest lake in the world? People don't really know that. Lake Superior is the best lake in the world in my opinion.

Essay Contest: 1st prize Lauren Larson 2nd prize Alex Hebert
Honorable Mention Les Simonson and Olivia Kangas

Art Contest: 1st prize Lauren Larson 2nd prize Rye Hammerstrom and Les Simonson

Congratulations to these fine students as well as everyone else who participated!



Lake Superior Fun By Lauren Larson

Lake Superior is a lake I love for many reasons. There are so many amazing things to see at this powerful lake. I am never bored at Lake Superior because I can always find something fun to do. Swimming in the lake at my camp is my favorite thing to do.

I like its beauty and waves crashing upon the shore. I love to see fish jumping in the air near the horizon. Seeing the beautiful sunsets by Lake Superior is magnificent. All that time I'm by the lake I can feel its breeze on me, and it makes me feel relaxed.

Jumping off the breakwalls, skipping rocks, and going tubing are some of my other favorite things to do in Lake Superior. I also love finding cool treasures like beach glass, agates, and other cool rocks. Living close to the lake gives me lots of time to do my favorite things.

I like to go fishing, but I can't do that a lot so, I swim deep down and feel the smooth sand at the bottom of Lake Superior instead. It's fresh, clean, cold water is so fabulous. Diving down with my cousins to play games is always a fun thing to do at my camp.

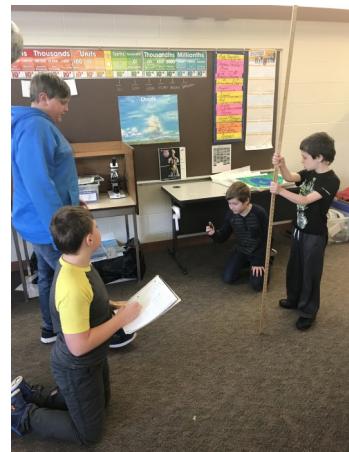
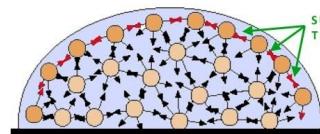
Lake Superior is a such a beautiful place to see. Whether you like swimming, finding rocks, or watching the sunsets you'll still have a great time at Lake Superior. It is always an amazing place to go.



Bulldog Scientists



Students are exploring properties of water in the activity: "Drops on a Penny". Surface tension helps to hold more drops than the students predicted. Sixty-four drops was the record on the Heads side and 69 was the record on Tails.

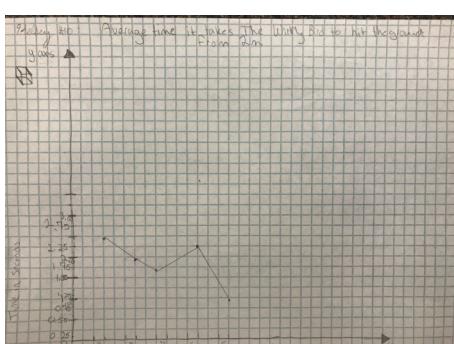


Holsey #10
 In conclusion, the length of the Whirly Bird propellers does affect the time it takes to hit the ground. As we decreased the length of the propellers, the time it took to hit the ground from 2m. decreased. The Whirly Bird fell faster. We had varied results but had minor discrepancies. The group kept bumping the ruler, started the watch early, or late and were loosing/gaining time. The 10cm propeller was cut off, but the stopwatch was the biggest problem. Our other error was trying to keep the propellers up. They kept falling down, and take a long time to keep the propellers up.



	1	2	3	average
9	2.71	2.41	2.33	2.48
8	2.00	1.93	2.03	1.99
7	1.69	1.60	1.65	1.65
6	1.97	1.84	1.84	1.88
5	1.32	1.29	1.43	1.34

- The smaller the propellers the faster it spins
- The slowest whirly bird was the 9cm one
- The fastest whirly bird was the 5 cm one
- Our highest average was 2.48 on our 9cm.
- Our lowest average was 1.34 on our 5cm.
- Our second lowest average was 1.65 on our 7cm.
- Our second highest average was 1.99 on our 8cm.
- Our third highest average was 1.88 on our 6cm.
- Our averages were pretty far apart
- Each cm cut off made the speed decrease



The difference between our 9cm average and 5cm average is 1.14 seconds. The slowest Whirlybird was the 123 average one with 9cm propellers because it took longer to hit the ground. The slowest drop ever was our first try with the 9cm propellers because it took the longest (2.11 seconds). The fastest drop ever was our second try with 5cm propellers which took 1.27 seconds (most of the time) the smaller the propellers, the faster the Whirlybird falls. The fastest Whirlybird was the one with 5cm propellers because it touched the floor before any other Whirlybird. The longest drop of 8cm was try three which was 2.03 seconds. The shortest drop of 9cm was try 2 which was 2.11 seconds long. The biggest/accurate time change was 9cm to 8cm which was 0.49 seconds. The most similar time for all three tries was (we thought it was 6 but it's actually eight) 6/8cm because two tries had the exact same time.



Heikinpaiva Essay Contest



HEIKINPAIVA

Did you know that 40% of Hancock is Finnish? That's why people there are celebrating the 18th annual Finnish Heikinpaiva festival. Heikinpaiva is a mid-winter Finnish celebration. It is from Jan. 10 to Feb. 6. The main day is Jan. 27. There will be many crazy and fun things to try and watch like the polar bear dive and the parade. You can also warm up in the Finnish American heritage center.

The polar bear dive is a freezing event for people (18 and up) who have lots of sisu. You can wear anything and jump in anyway. It will be under the ice on the canal. Don't worry about going under the ice though, because there will be a scuba diver with a rope connected to the ice and a wetsuit. News reporters have interviewed people that do the polar bear dive and they say it isn't as cold as you might think. But remember, no kids.

The parade will be on the main day, Jan. 27. The Michigan Tech pep band will be in the parade and people will be giving out candy for the kids. The parade will also feature the world's largest kick sled. The sled will carry the king/queen of Heikinpaiva. People will carry banners that say things about mid-winter such as "The bear rolls over" and "Heiky divides the hay." You can dress up like anything for the costume contest.

Brr. It's going to be cold so why not check out all the cool stuff going on inside. The Finnish people will be displaying their arts and crafts. Some even bring Finnish treats like cinnamon rolls and nisu. The adults try to get young people involved in things. One of them is the dancing. This will take place in the Finnish American Heritage center.

Remember, it's going to be cold so dress warm. I hope you enjoy the 18th annual Heikinpaiva festival.

By Keith Koivisto

Barkell third graders once again participated in the annual Heikinpaiva Essay Contest. Students in all three classrooms researched Heikinpaiva and then wrote essays on what it means to them and our community. Congratulations to all three winners: Alexandria Hamlett (Davidson), Keith Koivisto (Knuutila), and Ani Smith (DeHerder). The three winners received \$25 and were featured in the Heikinpaiva parade.



Congrats to Alexandria, Ani, and Keith!

Name: Ani Smith

Heikinpäivä

Heikinpäivä! What is this? This is a Finnish-American celebration. It is about St. Henrick's Day. Who can go there? Anyone can go there. There is even sometimes some Finland visitors. Where is this? This is at the Quincy Green in Hancock, Michigan. You might know it as Finlandia University. When is this? Saturday, January 27th is the main day. My three favorite activities are the parade, the kicksled races, and the wife carrying contest, so that is what I'm going to talk about.

In the parade there are lots of costumes and dancers. When is this? The parade is at the La Cantina restaurant in downtown Hancock at 11:00 a.m. What is this? This is a parade that goes through downtown Hancock. Who is this? There are a lot of people in the parade. There are also lots of characters from fairy tales.

Also there is a kicksled race. When is this? This starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. Where is this? This is at the Quincy Green. Why do we do this? This is to entertain you or your children and to give them some competition. What is this? This is a chance for kids to enter a contest. There are three contestants and they each have two runners on their sled. They have to race around a bucket. Who is this? These three kid volunteers that are willing to win this race.

The last example of an event I'm going to talk about is the wife carrying contest. What is this? This is a contest to see if you can carry your wife around every obstacle. When is this? The wife carrying contest takes place after the parade. Where is this? This is at the Quincy Green. Who is this? This is a husband and wife that are willing to go through a lot of tough challenges while trying not to drop your wife or leaving her behind!

The parade, kicksled race, and the wife carrying contest are my favorite activities. You should try them. I've never been to the activities, but I'm sure they're fun. I hope you can go. If you can't, there is always next year. I love Heikinpäivä, I'm sure you'll love it to. Heikinpäivä is probably very fun. These activities are fun and I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

2018 Heikinpaiva Essay
By Alexandria Hamlett

Hey! Have you ever heard of Heikinpaiva? Did you know it's in Hancock? You should go. There are so many fun events. There is the polar dive, wife-carrying contest, and so much more! Did you know that Heikinpaiva started in 1999? It's supposed to celebrate the Finnish-American people in a mid-winter festival.

I don't think I would ever do the polar bear dive. I think I would get frostbite jumping into a pool of water in January. The polar bear dive is people jumping in freezing cold water, near the portage canal, in a bathing suit. I don't think I could do it anyway because I'm eight, not twelve. I think the people who do it are crazy. Maybe one day I'll get enough courage to do it myself.

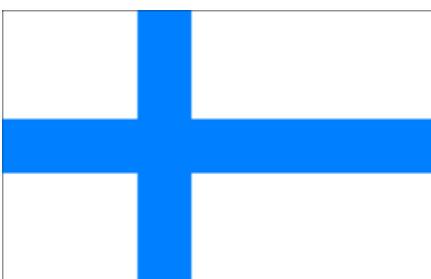
The food and arts and crafts might be my favorite because you can eat nisu (which is finnish bread), cake, pie, and other desserts from the tori market. I love eating food, and it all sounds delicious. I also love drawing, so the arts and crafts would be right up my alley. If you like food and arts and crafts like me this might be just the thing for you.

I won't be able to do the wife-carrying contest because I'm not married. I would love to do it though. The reason I would love to do it is because your husband carries you around, you shake rugs, pretend to take a sauna, hit peoples backs with cedar branches, and sit and drink some coffee with a friend (because a woman needs a break, right?). Finally, you throw a boot and your husband has to measure how far you threw it. If you're married you should definitely try it. I wish I could try it.

I think that Heikinpaiva would be exciting for you. You people of Hancock should definitely go. You could be two or fifty. Heikinpaiva is for all ages. It would be really cool if I saw you there.

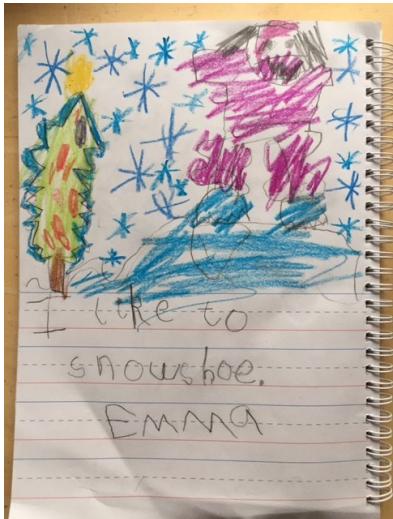


The Barkell Elementary essay winners enjoyed a ride on a float in the parade. Their essays were also on display at the Tori Market.

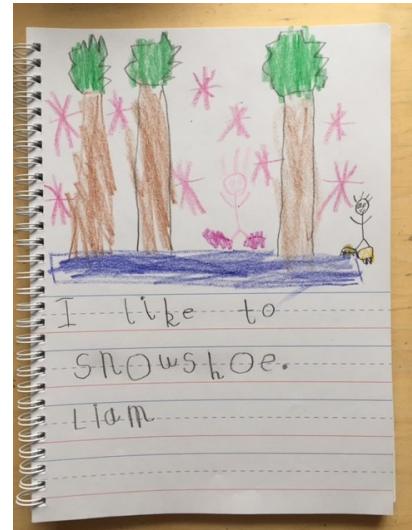




Young Fives News



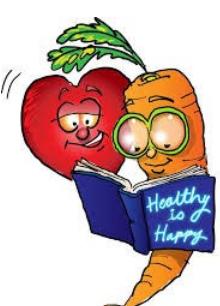
This month the Young Fives have been learning about exercising and eating healthy. On January 18th the Young Fives went outside with their fourth grade reading buddies- Mrs. Liimatta's class- to enjoy some exercising with snowshoes. It was a beautiful winter day to be outside. After our snowshoe adventure the Young Fives came inside to eat a healthy snack. We enjoyed learning about making healthy choices this month.



Students enjoy snow shoeing on our nature trail.



Students from Mrs. Cavis' class and Mrs. Liimatta's class pose for a photo in front of the school sign.



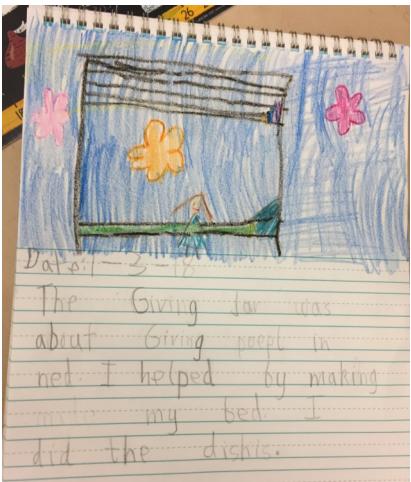
Bryn and Bradey enjoy the snow sensory box.



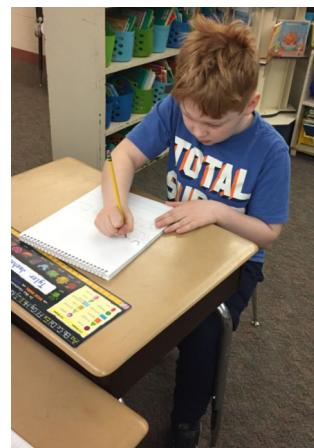
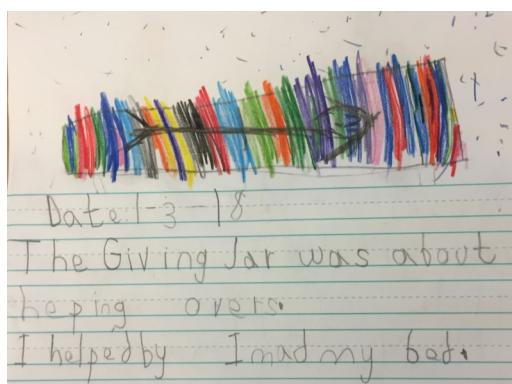
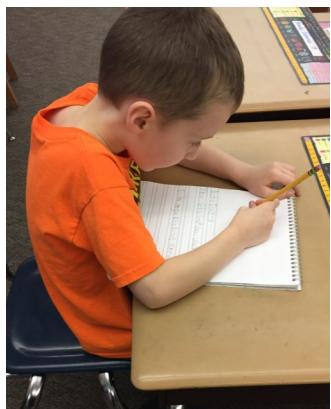
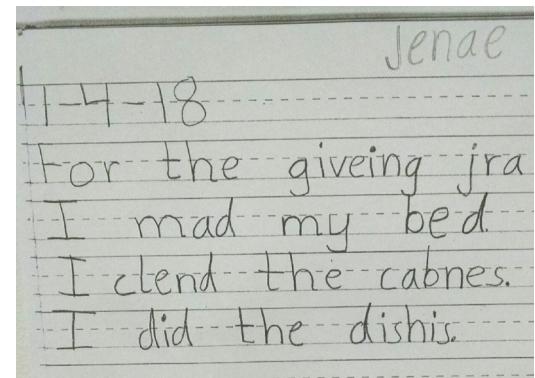
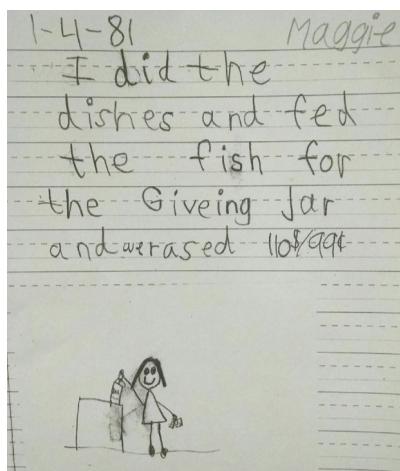
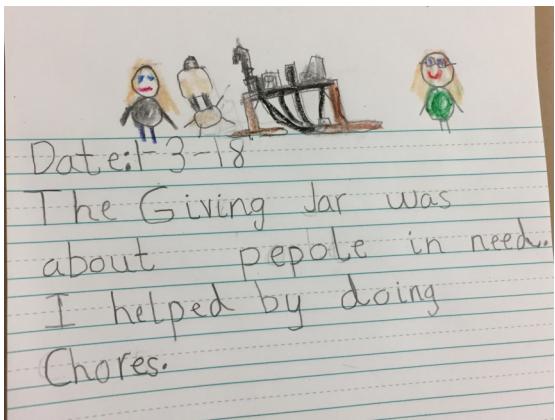
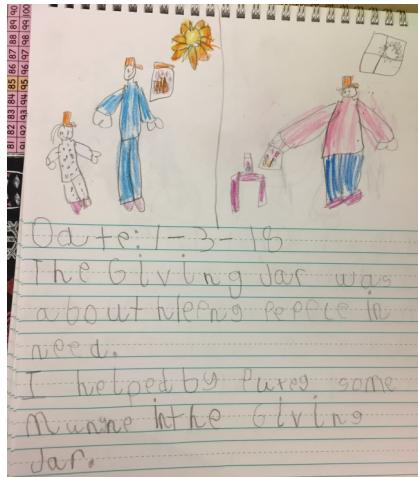


First Grade News

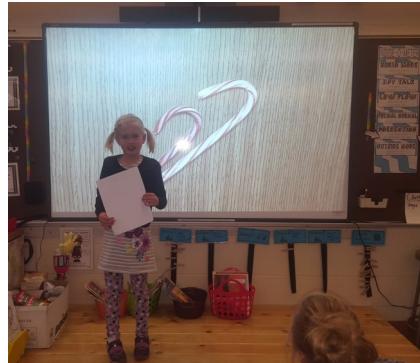
The Giving Jar



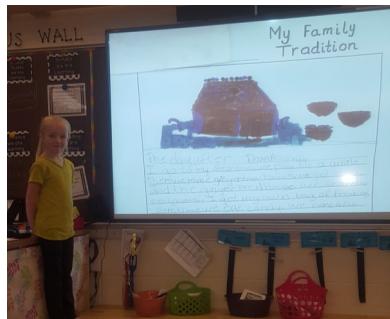
The first graders participated in The Giving Jar, an activity that they do chores at home to earn change/money. They bring in the change, along with a coupon stating which chore they did, and then donate the money to the class Giving Jar. At the end of the holiday season, the money is donated to the Salvation Army Cheer Club. The first graders raised a total of \$110.95. -Mrs. Koivisto



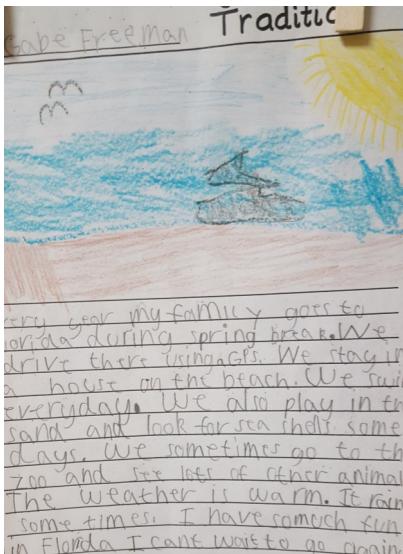
Second Grade News



Jacklyn and Alena discuss their family traditions.



Savanna and Molly play the Dreidel game.



During the month of December, second graders travel around the world! They learn about holiday traditions in Italy, Israel, Mexico, Uganda, Russia, India, and America. During their travels, they read stories, write in a journal, and make a special souvenir to remember their journey. Students also work hard to write about their own unique family traditions. They present their traditions to their classmates and share their artwork and special mementos from that occasion. The kids love the opportunity to share about their own families! -Mrs. G



Students learned about La Befana dolls – an Italian tradition.



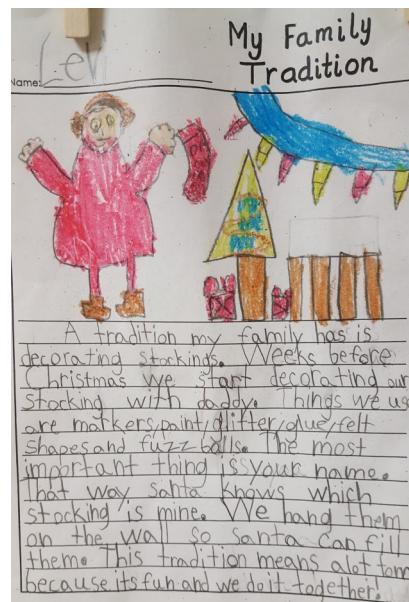
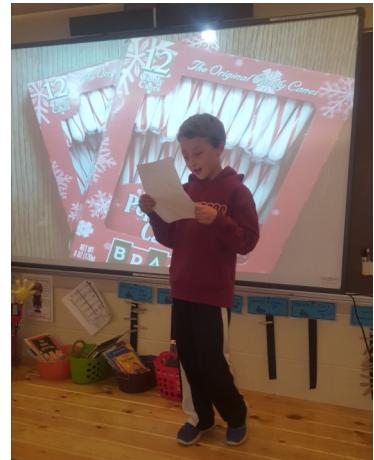
My Family Tradition
La Befana



Brenna learns the Dreidel game.

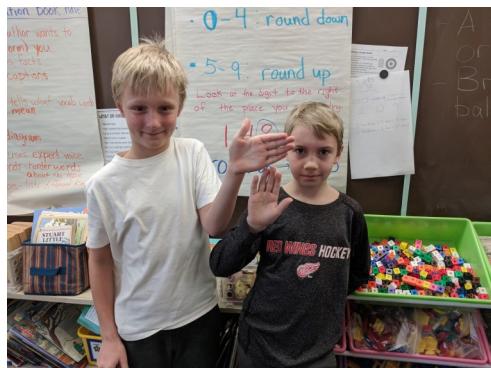


Vince and Anders share their family traditions with the class.





Third Grade News



In third grade, our social studies focuses on Michigan's history and economics. On January 26th, Mrs. DeHerder's third graders celebrated Michigan's 181st year of statehood. We tried a variety of Michigan products including Vernor's ginger ale, Kellogg's Corn Flakes, and Yooper Bars!



Kellogg's

Students in Mrs. DeHerder's class are working on their Informational Writing assignment. Students are writing about a wide variety of topics.



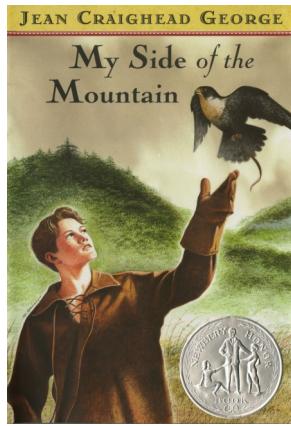


Fifth Grade News



My Side of the Mountain is about a boy named Sam who ran away from his family in New York to live on his great grandfather's mountain. We made a packet, and write a summary for each chapter. We made a tree in our classroom because in the book Sam lives in a hemlock tree. We also made an aspen tree that he uses as his calendar. Every day Sam marks a notch on the tree to know what day it is. He has a trained falcon named Frightful, and a weasel that he calls The Baron. He goes to the library if he has any questions and looks it up in a book. Sam learns how to make a fire, and how to cook his food. He eats stuff from the wild.

-Lynn Heinonen and Kay Pietila



Students enjoy reading in the hemlock tree they constructed in the classroom.



Students made food webs using the types of animals, plants and resources Sam uses in the book.



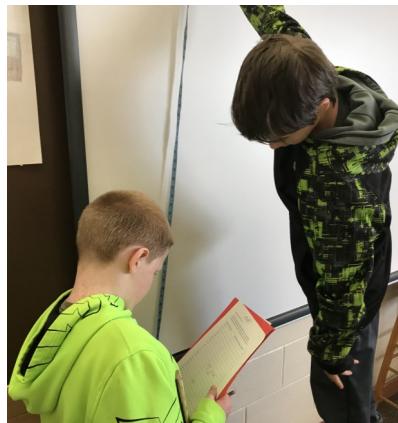
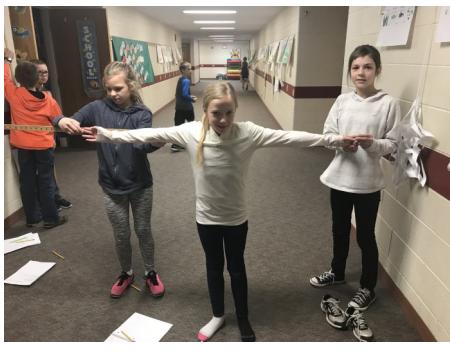
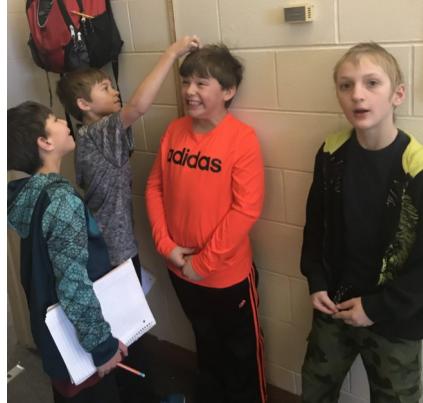
Once a month, fourth and fifth graders (with parent permission) have had the opportunity to work with National Guard's SSG Chris Bates. Officer Bates comes during their lunch time and has a meeting with the students. The students and SSG Bates discuss ways to improve their own lives (healthy eating, good choices, etc.) along with positively impacting the lives around them. The mentoring program is a positive, upbeat and wonderful opportunity for the students to talk with SSG Bates. If there are other students interested please see Mrs. Andress. Last month in December, SSG Bates brought in gifts for all the students. They received t-shirts, water bottles, shaker bottles, and one student won a hoodie! Thank you, SSG Bates!



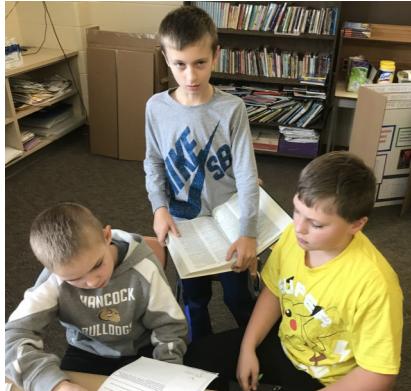
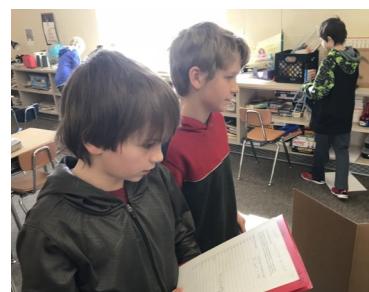
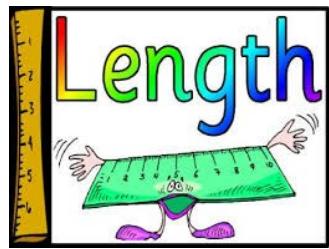
Fifth Grade News cont....



Are You Square- In this activity, students developed a procedure for determining if they are a square, tall rectangle, or short rectangle. The objective of the lesson was accuracy in their measurements. Important discussions arose from the various procedures and whether or not their procedure led to accurate measurements.



As part of our Scientific Investigation Unit, students use the Meter in an exploratory activity. Students find objects that measure specific lengths. During the activity, students learn how to convert between mm, cm, dm and M.



During TIER time, students are reading "Island of the Blue Dolphin". In this activity, students are identifying challenging words in the story and using a dictionary to find the meaning to enhance their understanding.





Barkell Elementary Thanks:

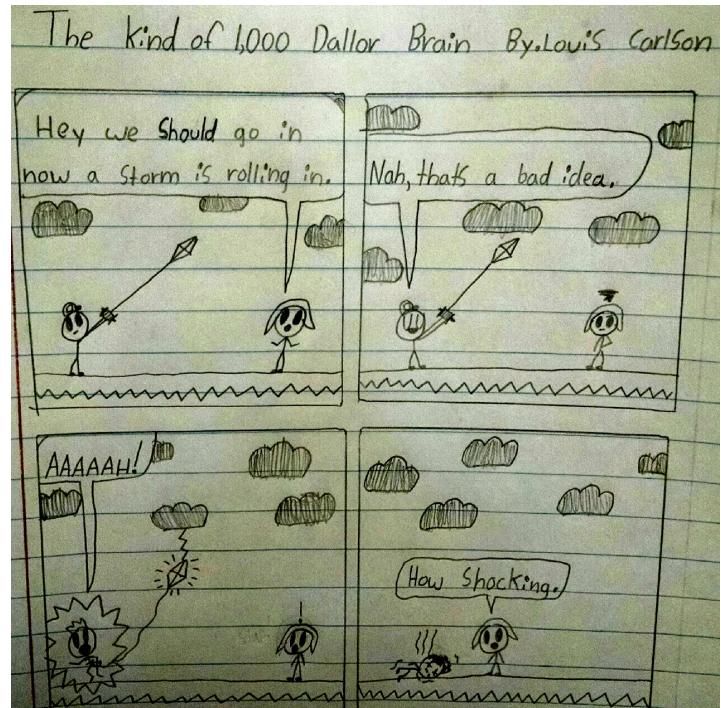


- * Barkell Elementary PTO for all they do for our school
- * Hancock Public Schools Foundation for their many generous donations and purchases
- * Calumet's Hats for Hope Initiative for their donation of hats and mittens
- * Finlandia Student PTA Club for their generous donation of new shoes



School Reminders

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.



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

