

January 2017

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- I would like to thank everyone who attended our Christmas Concert. As always, the support for our school from our community is something we appreciate very much.
- 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:

- February 23rd Half Day for students (dismissal 11:50)
- February 24th No School– Mid Winter Break
- February 28th Family Science Night (6:00-7:30)

Winter Playground Fun



The early elementary boys get a game of hockey in before school starts.



Students begin their day with some fun on the hill.



Barkell Elementary students enjoy building snow forts in the winter time.





Barkell Students Learn About Native Culture

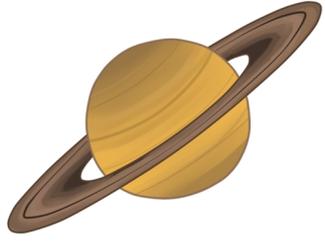


Barkell Elementary was privileged to have had the opportunity to learn about Native American culture in January. Members of the KBIC visited Barkell to teach our students about their way of life. Students learned about Native American history, outfits, dances, music, culture, etc. The show was enjoyed by all.

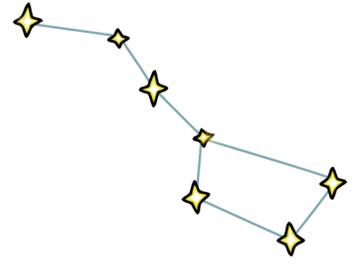




Star Lab visits Barkell



Star Lab visited Barkell Elementary the last week of January. Every classroom will have a chance to visit Star Lab. Students will be able to participate in interactive lessons where they will learn about the planets, moon phases, Native American culture, and a number of other things. Thank you to Mr. Pertile and Mr. Klein for their help with this.



5th graders enjoy the Star Lab.



1st graders enjoy the Star Lab.

Inside Star Lab, students learn the names of some constellations and how to find them by using specific stars. In addition, students listen to stories about how these constellations originated. Students also use the Star Lab to learn about star magnitude, moon phases and planets.



Mr. Klein teaches the 4th graders about the solar system.



Rainbow Kids have the opportunity to learn about stars and constellations. Students learn that stars have been used for thousands of years by people for navigation, sharing stories and traditions, and determining seasons.



Kindergartners anxiously await for their turn in the Star Lab



Physical Education News



During the week of January 16-20, Barkell Elementary PE hosted student-athletes from Michigan Tech University. Members from MTU's Track and Field program and Student-Athlete Advisory Council helped instruct our gym classes, while providing our elementary students with insights as to what college athletes do to prepare themselves in their respective sports (activity wise), and in the classroom. In addition, the MTU student-athletes participated with our students in our base fitness routine and in a fun game

-Mr. Salani



Michigan Tech





Healthy Kids Club



The Barkell Elementary Healthy Kids Club meets every Monday after school. Led by Ms. Sackson, the club focuses on healthy living. Students enjoy a healthy snack each session and learn about living a healthy lifestyle. Students also have the opportunity to engage in fun physical activities. Thank you to Mrs. Shannon and Mrs. Wanhala for their help with our program.



Healthy Kids Club members enjoy a nice healthy snack after school. The snacks are paid for with our Healthy Schools grant.





Kindergarten News



On January 18th the young 5's and kindergarten classes explored gravity and forces outside with snowshoes and sleds. It was a wonderful learning experience and the students enjoyed the beautiful winter weather.

"My favorite part was snowshoeing."
- Sydney Huffman

"We loved throwing snowballs up in the air and watching them come back down."

- Young 5's class



Our seventh grade middle school buddies were helping us make t-shirt pictures about what we like and what we like to do. They took them back to the middle school to display.

They will be coming back at another time to help us with activities. This is how the seventh grade students are helping our community.

-Mrs. Blessing

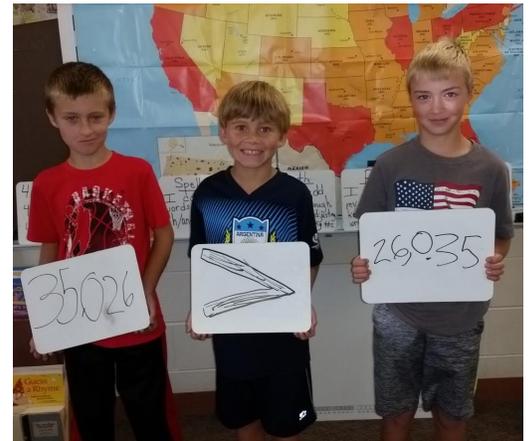
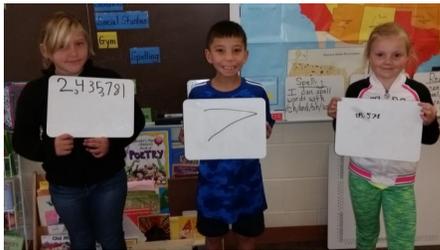
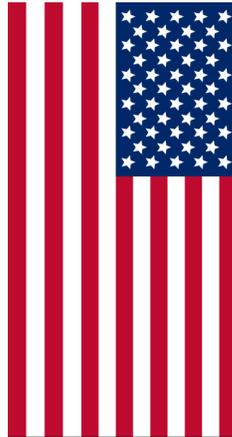
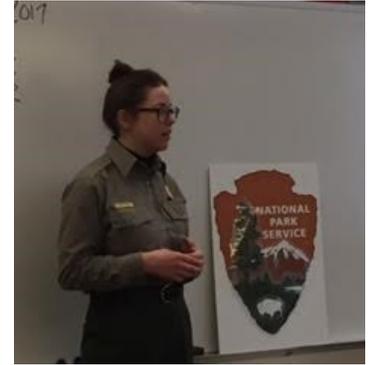




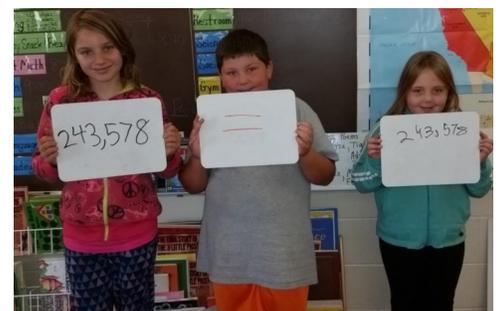
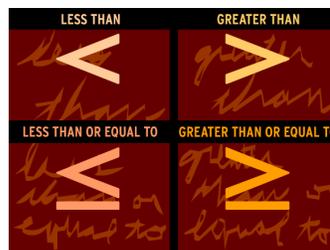
Fourth Grade News



Barkell fourth graders received a visit from the National Park Service this month. Students learned about the many wonderful parks we have in this country, including the ones in Michigan. Every student received a free pass into any national park as part of a nationwide initiative to get young students to visit and learn about our many great national parks.



Students in Mrs. Koskela's classroom studied number sense and inequalities in a fun interactive way.

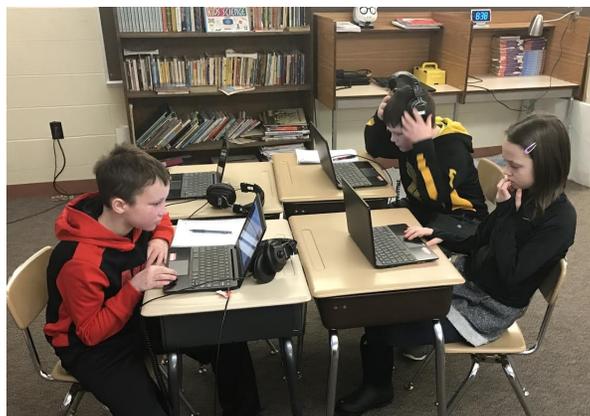
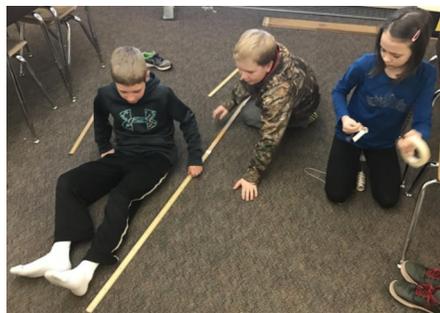
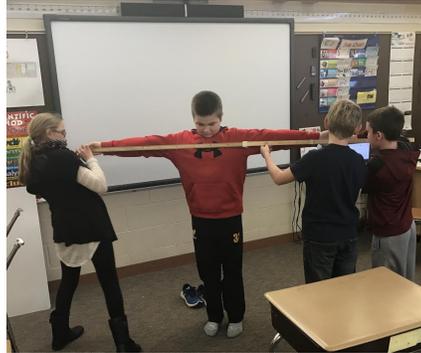




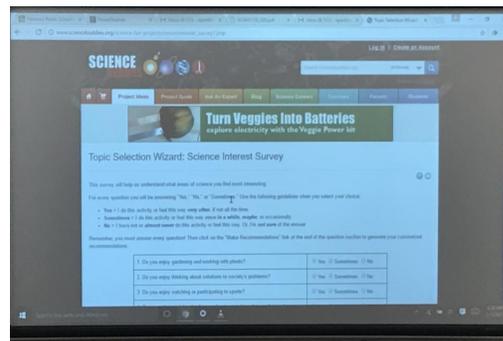
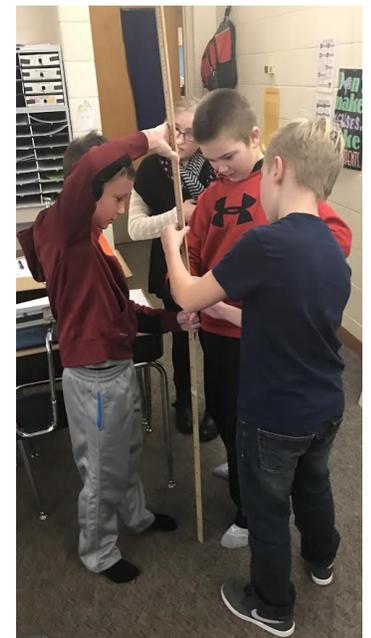
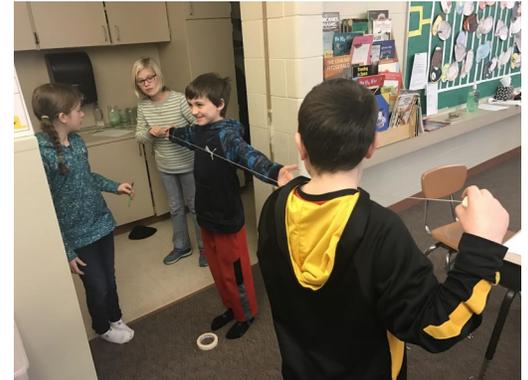
Fifth Grade News



Science



To prepare for the Science Fair, fifth graders are doing Inquiry-Based investigations in science to model and practice the Scientific Method. Students will use these skills to prepare a science fair project of their own. Here the students are developing a procedure to determine "Are You Square". Students are learning the importance of a detailed procedure to ensure accurate results.



Students are researching topic ideas on Science Buddies for the upcoming Science Fair on March 9th. On this site, students take a survey to help lead them to project ideas that most interest them. From there, students can refine their search and begin researching their topic more aggressively.



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- * **Tammy Parmentier, Judy Peterson, Kristin Wanhala, Mrs. Nordmark, Laura Levanen, and Denise Coates** for their generous donation of crocheting supplies
- * **Angela Jaehnig** for her generous donation of craft supplies
- * **Brienne Sporalski** for her generous donation of board games
- * **MTU** for sending us guest readers for MLK day
- * **Phi Kappa Tau** for all of their help with our Pancake breakfast



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 Also Thanks:

The following people for their kind donations to our school:

Karen Sintkowski * Becky Alexander * Shannon Handler
 Frank Powell * Alice Powell * Ada Fehrenbach * Ortners
 Lynne Smith * Louise Madsen * David Boyd
 Ann Rasner * Davin Partanen * Lorin Erickson
 Christine Waldron * Donna LaCourt * Rebecca Bliss
 Katie Kolb * Candace Usitalo * Joan Fenimore
 Susan Birden * Mary Caserio

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 need of extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.
- *We are in need yarn and crochet hooks for our Crocheting Club

