

March/ April 2019

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- Lego Club meets after school on Thursdays and runs from 3:25-4:30.
- I would like to thank everyone for their attendance at our Showcase of Excellence. Our staff and students worked hard to make this happen and we appreciate your support.
- The Teacher Request Window is open until May 17th. Please send me an email if you need another form sent home.
- 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.
- Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara– Barkell Elementary Principal



Upcoming Events:

- 5/8 & 5/22 Early dismissal (1:46)
- 5/27 No School (Memorial Day)
- 5/30 School Picnic @ Barkell
- 5/31 Track and Field Day @ H.S. Track



March is Reading Month



Christopher volunteers for a skit at our March is Reading Month Kick Off Assembly.

March was Reading Month at Barkell Elementary . The students chose "Inventors and Inventions" as the theme this year. The Kickoff Assembly on March 1st featured a presentation from an inventor. Throughout the month, students participated in various activities designed to promote literacy and to get students excited about reading.



Mrs. Olson and her "twin" on Twin Day



Students earned tickets that they could use towards the book raffle.



Third grade students all received a free book.



Mrs. Blessing's scientists



More twins on Twin Day



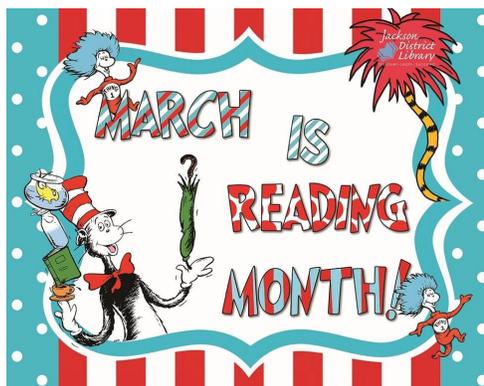
Young 5s and kindergarten students create murals on the final day or March is Reading Month.



Students watch a video at the Kickoff Assembly.



Benjamin as an inventor



Mrs. Nordmark's class was learning about Jane Goodall in reading. They participated in an international live interview with Jane Goodall to learn about helping our planet.



MSU Science Theater



Demonstrating frequency using a fire tube.



MSU Science Theater once again visited Barkell Elementary this winter. Students were entertained by a wide variety of fun, hands-on science demonstrations. Students learned about sound waves, pressure waves, forces, etc. in fun ways that not only informed, but entertained as well.



Mr. Pertile participates in a demonstration.



The presenter shows the audience that the bottom of the jar was blown out by a pressure wave.



MSU Science Theater gets ready to begin their show.



A wet cloth is dipped in alcohol which caused it to burn but didn't blacken or burn cloth.



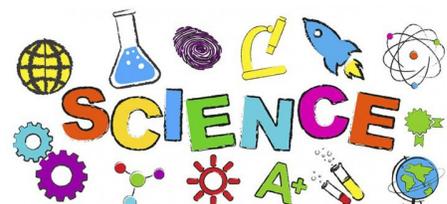
Presenters look for volunteers from the audience.



The presenter demonstrates how force is spread out.

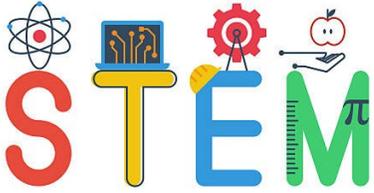


MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

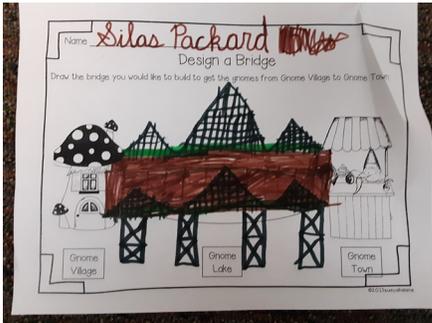
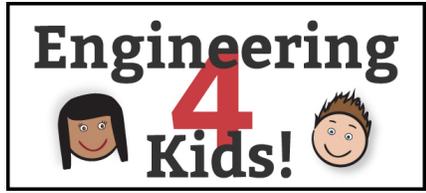




Bulldog Engineers



Barkell second graders celebrated March is Reading Month with a fun STEM activity. Students designed and then built bridges using a variety of materials. Students had to use the engineering process throughout the activity. Inventors and Inventions was our Reading Month theme.



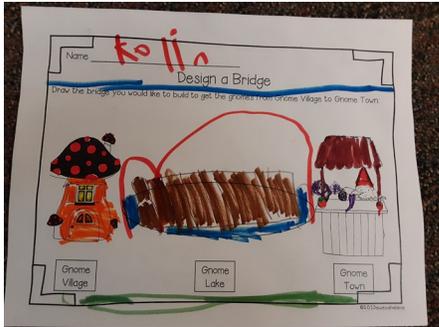
Students had to build a bridge from Gnome Village to Gnome Town.



Students put their engineering skills to the test.



Kirk, Silas, and Kai construct their bridges.



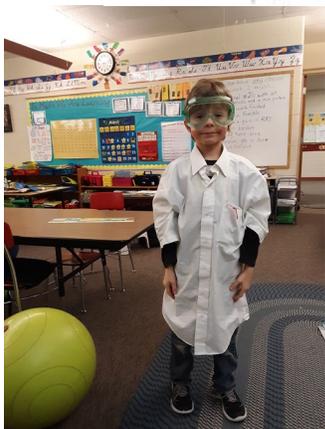
Dominic and Cole work together as engineers.



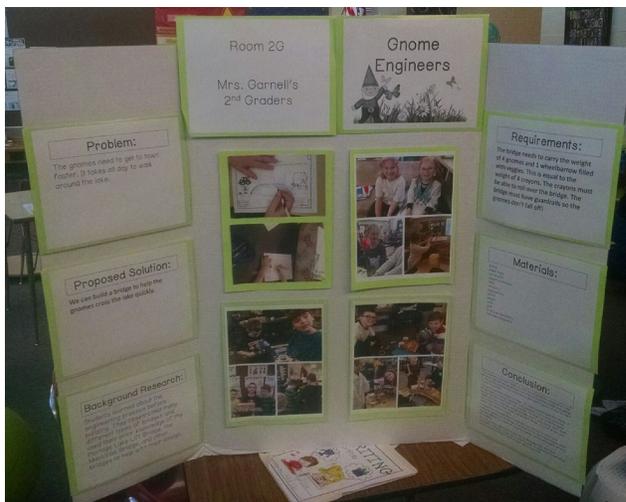
Mrs. Garnell's classroom display



Maggie, Maya, and Isha work on their giant bridge.



Inventor Perin poses for the camera.





Bulldog Scientists



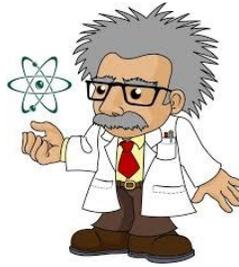
On March 1, the fourth graders worked with Mr. Brian Doughty of Michigan Tech's Math and Science Center to investigate which fabric served as the best insulator: quilt, terrycloth, cotton, fleece, flannel, or wool. The classes worked outside, taking readings from water bottles clothed in a fabric sock. The students used the scientific method, reduced variables, and worked as team mates. The students learned that wool was the best insulator. Well done!



Shelby checks the temperature of her liquid.



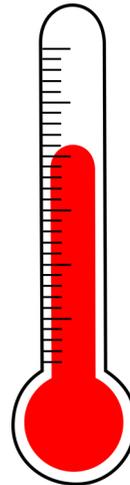
Rebekah and Savannah work together.



Marty and Solomon record their temperature readings.



Students place their insulated cans in the snow bank.



Students record their data despite working in the bitter cold.



Arianna takes a reading.





Young Fives News



The Young 5's and Kindergarten classes learned about dental health during Dental Health week in February. They learned about "sugar bugs" and how to brush their teeth. They also learned how to eat a healthy diet and drink plenty of water in order to help keep their teeth healthy. Students enjoyed a visit from Superior Smiles to learn more about their teeth and visiting the dentist. The students also received goodie bags from Superior Smiles with a new toothbrush, floss, and toothpaste.



Presenters from Superior Smiles teach our young students about dental hygiene.



Mrs. Cavis' class poses for a photo with their healthy teeth.



Young Fives students pose for a photo showing what they received from the presenters.



Barkell Elementary Young Fives students learned about plants and life cycles this spring. Students enjoyed playing in the dirt as they planted flowers for their Mother's Day gifts.



Students take a break from their gardening to pose for a photo.



Young Fives students enjoy learning about plants and life cycles as they plant some flowers of their own.

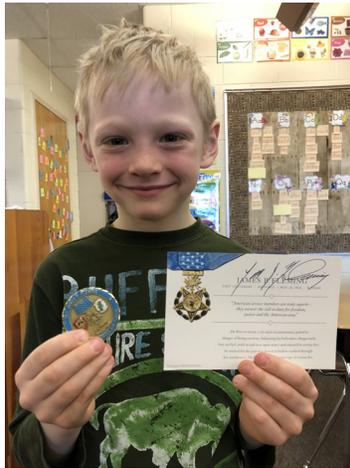
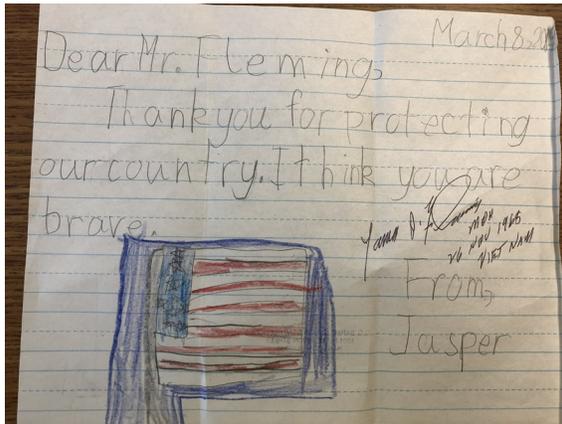




First Grade News



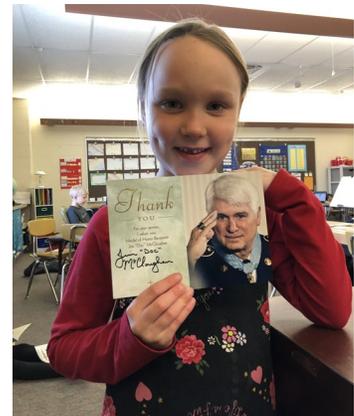
Barkell Elementary first graders recently wrote letters to all seventy two Medal of Honor recipients. So far we have received three responses from those veterans. Students have received letters written back to them along with some commemorative coins signifying their accomplishment. Students have thoroughly enjoyed this rewarding experience.



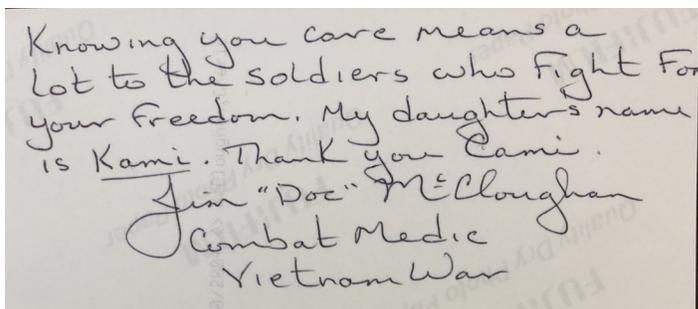
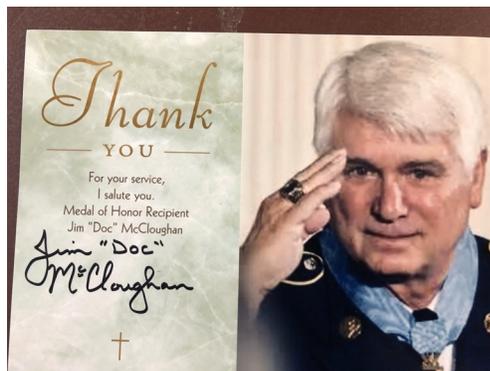
Students in Mrs. Kellett's class work on their letters to Medal of Honor recipients.



Jasper poses with his letter and the medal he received from Mr. Fleming (Medal of Honor recipient)



Cami poses with her post card



Kiri poses with her letter from the Medal of Honor recipient she wrote to.





Fourth Grade Scientists



Which Materials Keep Cold Pop Cold?

Team name Diandra
 Team members: Diem, Leandra

Materials used to create our cozy: bubble wrap, tape, foam sheet, fabric and felt.

We expect that our soda pop will not gain more than 5 degrees in 40 minutes.

Data:

Reading #1	Time <u>9:59</u>	Temperature <u>18.0° C</u>
Reading #2	Time <u>10:06</u>	Temperature <u>18.2° C</u>
Reading #3	Time <u>10:15</u>	Temperature <u>18.3° C</u>

Temperature change (Temperature #3-1), 0.3° C

What happened? We gained .3 celsius.

What we would do differently next time to keep heat out of our can: We would put a bottom to the bottom of the cozy.

Does a can koozie keep cold soda cold? That was the question that the fourth graders answered by creating can koozies and then measuring soda pop temperatures in cans wrapped in those cozies. The resounding answer was, "Yes, of the 26 samples tested, the highest temperature gain was 2 degrees. The control gained 5 degrees in a similar time frame." The students worked in pairs and created the koozies from materials brought from home. The students had fun learning how to keep cold soda cold!

Which Materials Keep Cold Pop Cold?

Team name Monica
 Team members: Monica and Lauren

Materials used to create our cozy: We used cardboard, cotton balls and tape.

We expect that our soda pop will not gain more than 6 degrees in 40 minutes.

Data:

Reading #1	Time <u>9:59</u>	Temperature <u>17° C</u>
Reading #2	Time <u>10:06</u>	Temperature <u>17.2° C</u>
Reading #3	Time <u>10:15</u>	Temperature <u>17.4° C</u>

Temperature change (Temperature #3-1), .4° C

What happened? We gained .4° C.

What we would do differently next time to keep heat out of our can: We would add stir foam instead of cotton balls.



Carter ponders his insulation plan.

Students use a variety of different materials in their quest for the best insulator.



Monica and Lauren take a quick break to pose for a pic...as do Leandra and Diem.



Arianna, Emma, Mari, and Isabel enjoy experimenting with various insulators in this fun science investigation.





Fourth Grade News

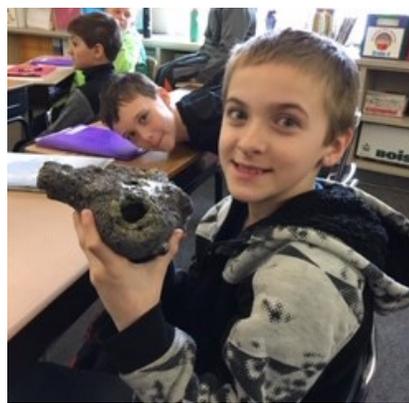


UPPCO presents "Don't be a Path to Ground" to our fourth graders.

UPPCO representatives Mr. Heinonen and Mr. Mattila presented the "Path to Ground" program to our fourth graders, teaching about sources of electricity, how circuits work, and the dangers of mis-using electricity. Each class formed its own human circuit. The children passed around safety gear used by UPPCO linemen, and saw demonstrations of the dangers of electricity. The men discussed the danger of flying a kite near power lines, playing near a substation, and what to do if the children are in an auto accident involving electrical wires. They discussed the purpose of "Miss Dig Flags" (not to put on your bicycle) and the need to call Miss Dig if you are working near utility lines. We all learned good lifelong lessons from this program. Thanks UPPCO for a great program!



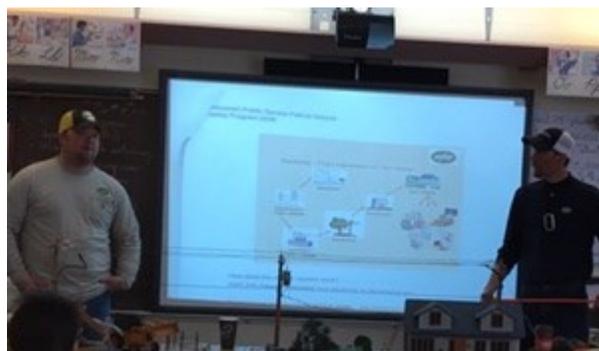
A replica of a city is used to show how electricity works.



Trent shows a piece of melted asphalt used to show the power of electricity.



Students demonstrate how electric travels through humans.



Thank you to UPPCO for their presentation.



UPPCO workers demonstrate electrical safety.





Fifth Grade News

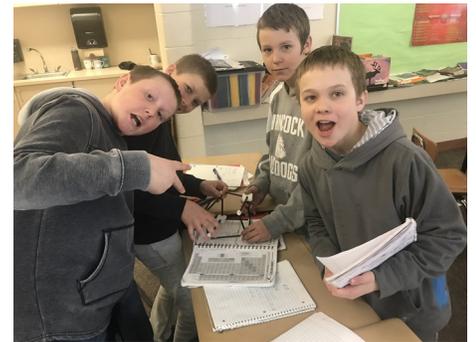
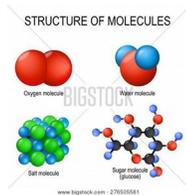


Students worked together to built salt molecules.

Students use Marshmallows as models of atoms to demonstrate molecules and compounds.



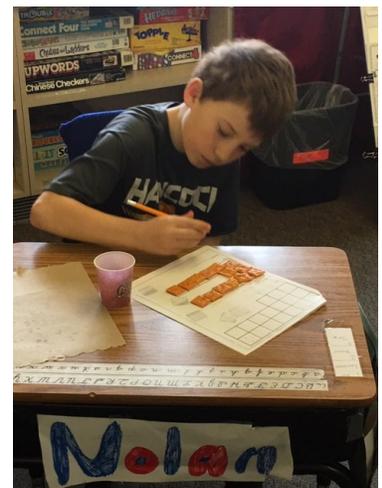
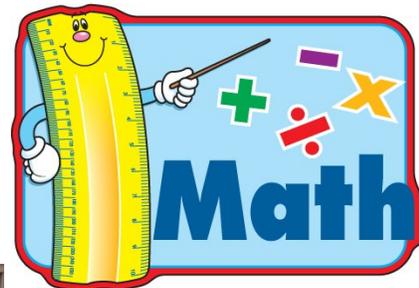
Students pose for a photo in front of their salt molecule.



Third Grade News



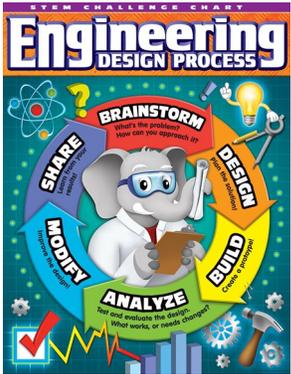
Students in Mrs. Liimatta's class enjoyed some fun hands on math recently. Students used Cheez-Its to help determine the area of shapes.



Samantha, Maribelle, Kyler, and Nolan use Cheez-Its to help determine the area of various shapes.



Fifth Grade Engineers



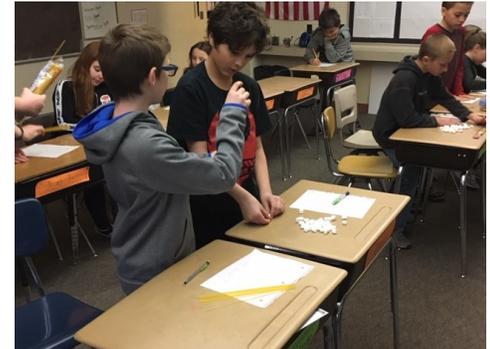
Engineering Ambassadors visited Barkell Elementary 5th graders recently. The MTU students visited as part of a program designed to get students interested in STEM fields. Students were treated to a presentation on the Engineering Process and how it is used to solve problems. Students were then presented with a problem to solve— earthquakes and building design. Students then built buildings and tested them with an earthquake simulator. Students then made adjustments to their design and tested them again. It was a very valuable learning experience for all.



Drew and Brady plan their building.



Brian ponders his design plan.



Domonic and Conner discuss the Engineering Process.



Macy builds her structure for testing.



Ryan and Ethan work on their design.





Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- * **Lisa Mikkola** for her donation of Legos for the Lego Club
- * **Lori Lewis** for her gift of games
- * **Ashley Verran** for her donation of Legos to the Lego Club
- * **Elizabeth Aho** for her donation of shoes
- * **Karen Fenton** for her donation of clothing
- * **Smitha Rao** for her donation of sparkling water
- * **Dede Beauchamp** for her donation of knit balls for indoor recess



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.

Additional Thank You's:

- Karen Anderson** for her donation of water
- Wendy Chynoweth** for her donation of donuts
- Walmart** for their donation of empty boxes and paper bags
- Econo Foods** for their donation of paper bags
- Kate Osborne** for her donation of fruit
- Heather Bradway** for her donation of a tubing pass
- Lori Lewis** for her donation of donuts for staff
- Kati Ek** for her donation of scones

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 Legos for our Lego club

