

April 2022

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- Just a reminder that we have three after school clubs currently running. Lego Club meets Thursday after school and is open to everyone. Girls Who Code takes place on Tuesdays and is open to girls in third through fifth grade. Our newly formed STEM club takes place on Wednesdays and is open to students in grades three through five. The Boys Running Club meets after school on Wednesdays. All clubs take place from 3:20 until 4:30. Permission slips are available at the office.
- Please remember that if you drop your child off at school in the mornings to do so at the main entrance doors.
- 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

- 5/18 Half Day (11:50 dismissal)
- 5/30 No School (Memorial Day)



STEM News



April was another exciting month for our young STEM learners. Students continued to learn about robotics, coding, and circuitry. Students were also treated to an exciting demonstration from Michigan Tech students about their self driving autonomous vehicle. Students enjoyed learning about how the car works and watching it in action!



Second graders check out the autonomous driving car



Students check out batteries and controls



A special thank you to Michigan Tech for bringing their autonomous vehicle



Students check out the driverless car



Fifth graders pose for a photo



Outdoor Fun



Will takes a quick nap in the snow



Claire and Ellie make a snowball



Aliea and Charlotte enjoy hanging outside



Adara and Zoey play on the swings



Students shoot some hoops on a cold day



Eli looks for an open receiver



Young Fives enjoyed an Easter egg hunt



Fifth graders pose for a photo



Fifth graders enjoy some basketball after the snow finally melts from the court



Spring marks the start of Wall Ball season





Young Fives News



It was another exciting month of learning in Mrs. Koskela's Young Fives classroom. Students enjoyed learning about the alphabet in fun and engaging ways. Students also had fun in math class using various items to create patterns. Students also found time to take a break and do a little cleaning around the school on Earth Day!



Students enjoy time with the parachute



Young Fivers create patterns for math class



Evan learns about the letter "B"



Young Fivers learn their letters



Young Fives students pick up trash on Earth Day



Malcolm and Leland show their creations



Leo listens to a story



Students enjoy a quick snack



Matthew displays his block pattern



Second Grade News



Second graders read a book called "Roller Coaster". We were inspired to make our own roller coasters! The class created some exciting rides with plenty of turns and excitement. They really enjoyed this STEAM activity. Second graders also learned more about coding using Code.org. They worked in partner groups to help their character complete the challenge. Students practiced teamwork, communication, and following directions in this STEM activity



Vivienne and Penny work together



Caleb looks on with his partner



Mallory is focused on her work



Elin and Rowyn pose for a photo with their roller coasters



Cooper and Caleb take a break to relax



Will shows his final design



Jordyn works on her project



Kell and Myles work on their roller coaster



Caleb and his final product



Zoey and Vivienne take a break for a quick picture

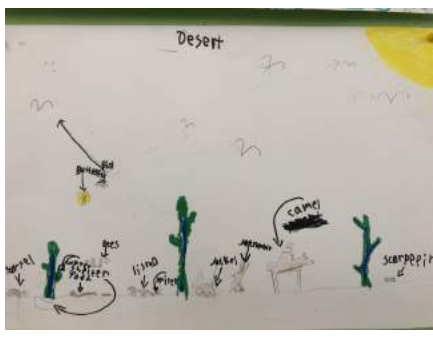
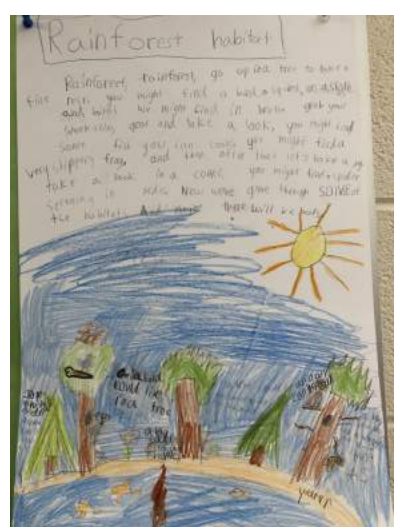
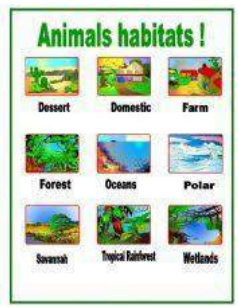




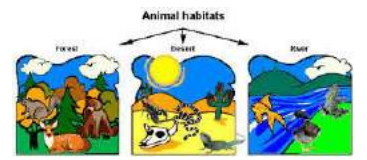
Second Grade News



Barkell Elementary second graders learned about habitats during the month of March. Students enjoyed learning about various habitats and then using their artistic skills to draw pictures of and write about the various habitats that they learned about.



Students created pictures and wrote about the various habitats they learned about



Third Grade News

Students from 3C enjoyed a snowshoe adventure on a sunny winter day. The class went around our school forest looking for some signs of animals and tracks in the snow.



Alaina poses for a photo



Brady takes a quick break for a pic



Students search for signs of animals in our school forest





Fourth Grade News



Fourth graders in Mrs. Limmatta's class have been learning about fractions through a variety of hands on methods. Students used Cuisenaire Rods, Unifix Cubes, and Fraction Bars to help them grasp the difficult concept of fractions. Students also spent the month of April learning about measurement and how to read the fractions on a ruler.



Teagan, Jed, and Rowan use Cuisenaire Rods to learn about fractions

KariAnn and Vivi-ana work with Fraction Bars



Carsen is focused on fractions

Eviona focuses on her work

Amelia and Henry measure items



Rowan measures his white board



Solomon measures his desk

Students measure each other's height



Gracie and Roger use Cuisenaire Rods to compare fractions



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **All Barkell families** for their continued support of our school
- **Marla Oja** for her generous donation of socks
- **Amy Pietila** for her generous donation of socks
- **Pelto Family** for their generous donation of books
- **Tammi Peterson** for her generous donation of snow pants



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.



Students in Mrs. Liimatta's class created decorations for our local food pantry

Barkell Elementary needs help with:



*We are in need of kid size socks for all of the wet feet that come off of the playground

We are in need of board games (used or new) for our students to use during indoor recess.

*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