

December 2019

# Barkell Elementary

## Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



## Principal Announcements

- Barkell Elementary would like to thank our community for the tremendous support they showed for our Pancake Breakfast. We would also like to thank our PTO for all of their hard work. We truly appreciate everything you do for us!
- Please consider writing your child's name on their winter gear. We often find lost items here and would love to be able to immediately return those items.
- Lego Club has begun. It meets on Thursdays from 3:20-4:30. Please let me know if you need a permission slip.
- 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:

- 1/22                      1:46 dismissal
- 1/16 & 1/17            1/2 days 11:50 dismissal (Teacher Records Day)

# Christmas Concert



The Barkell Elementary Christmas concert was on December 12th. First graders through fifth graders performed along with the Barkell Elementary Choir in front of a packed house. Thank you to Mrs Delong and our students for putting on a great show. We would also like to thank the community for their continued support.



Ani reads her lines



A packed house waits for the choir to take the stage



Second graders wish for new teeth



2nd graders and 1st graders prepare to take the stage



No nerves showing from the 5th graders about to perform their last elementary concert



Thank you to Carol Waisanen (pianist) for being a part of our Christmas Concert for decades



1st graders wait for their speaking parts



5th graders play the xylophones and recorders



Third graders perform





# Breakfast with Santa



Santa Claus visited Barkell Elementary this past December. Santa stopped in at Breakfast to say "Hi" and pass out candy canes to the kids. He also made an appearance in a classroom as well as the Bulldog Christmas Shop. Thank you to Ryan Towles for putting us in contact with Santa.



Santa makes an appearance at the Bulldog Christmas Shop



Santa passes out candy canes to students and their siblings.



Santa visits Ms. Sporbert's classroom



Barkell families enjoy a nice breakfast with Santa



Young Bulldogs tell Santa what they want for Christmas

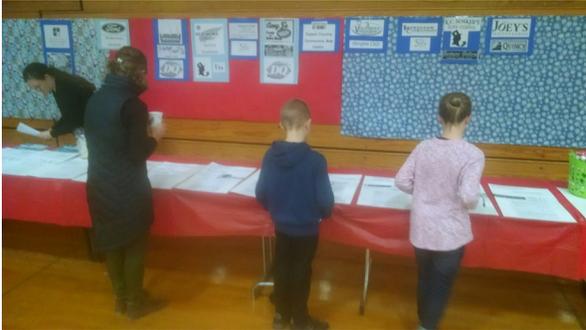




# Pancake Breakfast



Barkell Elementary would like to thank our PTO, the businesses that contributed (please see thank you list on last page), and the hundreds of community members who attended our Pancake Breakfast in December. As always, we truly appreciate your support.



Patrons check out items for the silent auctions. Thank you to the local businesses who contributed.



Families take a moment after eating to check out the Book Fair.



Hundreds of community members enjoy pancakes on a nice December morning.



The Barkell Elementary choir performs in front of a packed house.



The Cake Walk has become a popular tradition at the Pancake Breakfast



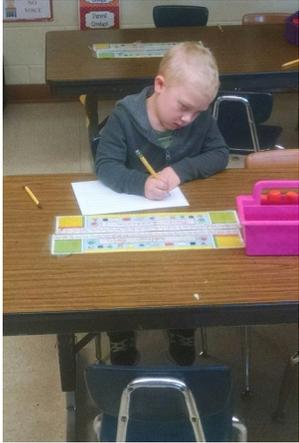
PTO volunteers finish preparing for the rush of hungry guests.





# Kindergarten News

## Bulldog Authors

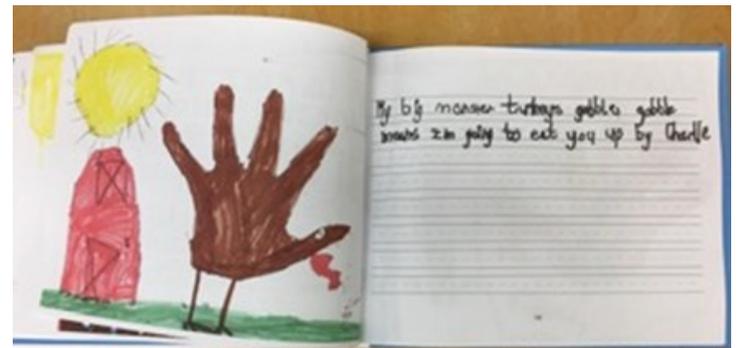
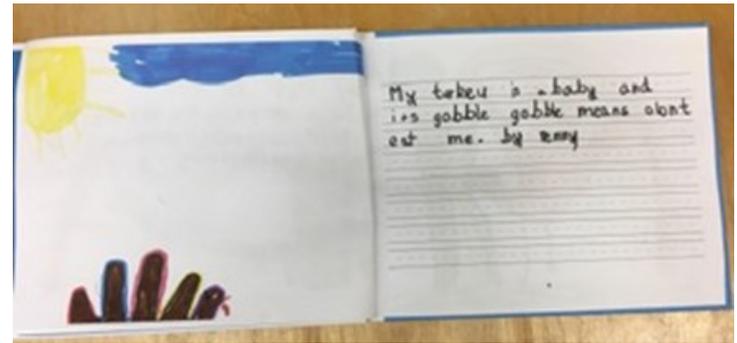
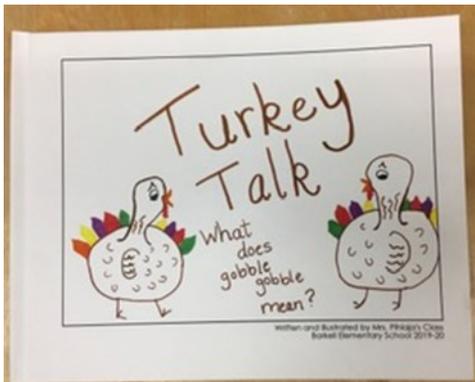


Maverick works on his writing

Students in Mrs. Pihlaja's Kindergarten class published their very first book. During the month of November students learned what it takes to put together a book just like in the stories we read everyday from all kinds of famous authors and illustrators. This year's class worked very hard on writing and illustrating pages for what their turkey's gobble, gobble means.



Jameson writes about turkeys



# Fifth Grade News

Barkell Elementary fifth graders recently wrote Christmas Thank You Letters to our troops over seas. A number of those letters were directed to former Barkell Elementary student, Sgt. Travis Bessner of the United States Marine Corps. Sgt. Bessner greatly appreciated the cards and took a photo to send back to our fifth graders. Sgt. Bessner is currently deployed in the Middle East.

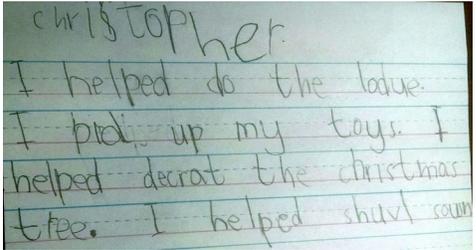
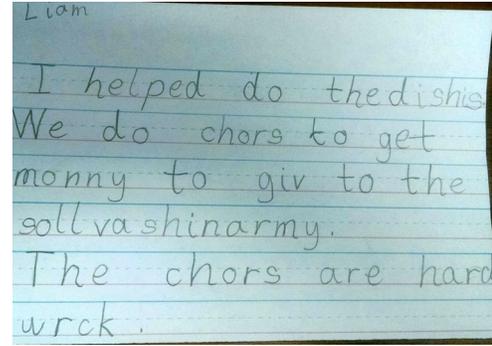
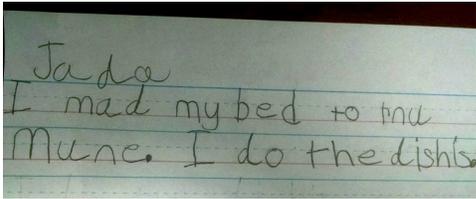




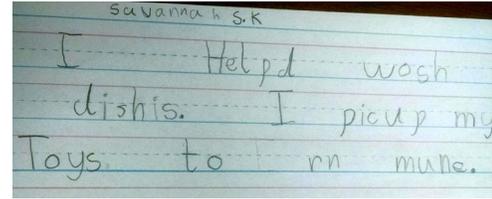
# First Grade News



Barkell first graders enjoyed an eventful December aimed at helping those in need. Students enjoyed Christmas caroling for the residents at Portage Pointe. Barkell first graders also worked hard throughout the month of December doing chores around the home to earn money to help those in need during the holidays. The young students worked hard and earned over \$108 which was then donated to the Salvation Army to help needy families during the holidays. Thank you to Barkell first graders for helping our community.



Barkell first graders pose for a picture in front of their hard earned \$108. 21 check which they donated to charity.



Barkell first graders work hard on their writing assignment. Students were writing about their experience of earning money to help others.



Barkell first graders enjoy a rewarding experience of singing for the residents of Portage Pointe



# Second Grade News



Mrs. Nordmark's class used the Engineering Design Process to find ways to Catch Santa safely on Christmas. The "traps" included alarms made from Snap Circuits, trap doors made from Keva Planks, and pulleys made from Simple Machines that trick Santa into following cookies to where the kids are sleeping. This was a fun way to practice our engineering skills!



Myles carefully plans his trap



STEM



Rylan and Colson design their pulley

Brietta and Ava carefully examine their circuit



Mrs. Nordmark's class engineered hats to protect from the sun and sweat using lunch materials. We imagined that on a field trip in the ocean, the boat hit a rock and sunk. We had to swim to a tropical island. Luckily, a lunch cooler floated with us, so we had food and lunch supplies!



Stormy, Sophia, and Lily work together to build their trap

Students in Mrs. Nordmark's class pose with their engineered sun protection



Meg and Eviona work on their hats



# Second Grade News

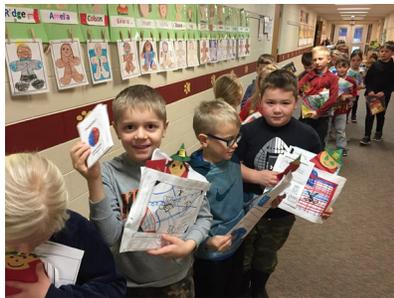


Brietta and Ridge work on their Chinese New Year envelopes

Barkell Elementary second graders once again learned about holiday celebrations around the world. This year students studied Mexico, Russia, Italy, Israel, and China. Students compared and contrasted traditions and customs from these countries to our own country.



Second graders go through customs to get their passport stamped



Eviona and Emery display their Stained Glass Poinsettias from Mexico



Students display their finished products



Jodi works on her Poinsettia





# Second Grade News



Kiri discusses her family's Elf on the Shelf tradition

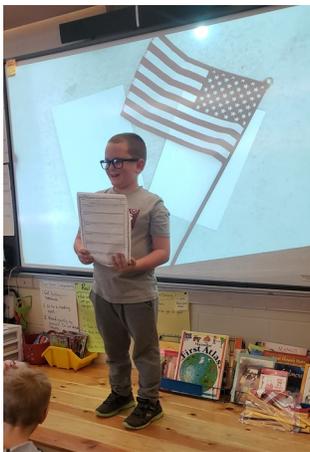


Taylor discusses her family tradition

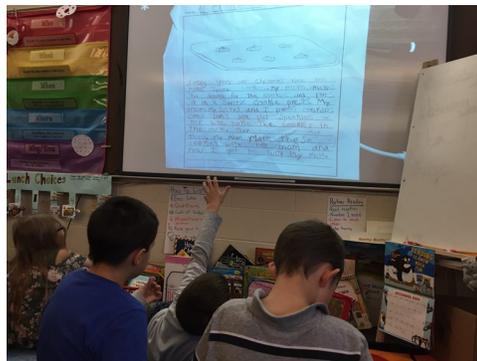


Jariya shares his family tradition

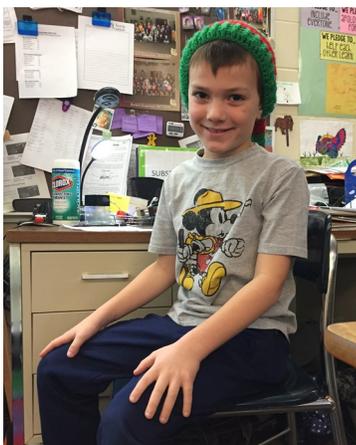
During the month of December, second graders shared their family traditions. We learned about many unique and special family traditions. The presentation includes a write-up that the students read to the class, a colored illustration, an item to show the class from the tradition, and a question/answer session. Students also brought a special item in to share to further explain their traditions. We loved learning more about each other!



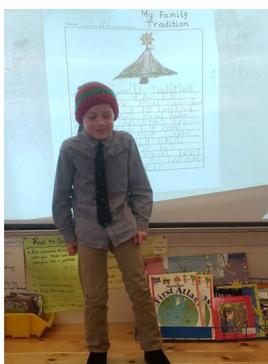
Jed takes the stage



Second graders enjoy learning about family traditions



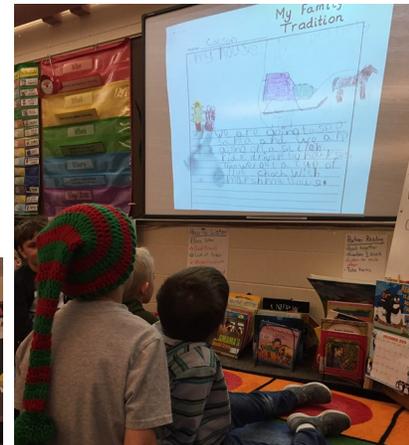
Henry uses the document camera to give his presentation



Sam, Viviana, and Meta teach the class about their family traditions



Mallory speaks from the stage





# Third Grade News



The 3rd graders learned how to give each other compliments this holiday season. Each student picked out 6 names and made a compliment gift to 6 of their classmates. They got to pass out their gifts during our classroom party. This was a great way to learn positive character traits.



## Holiday Sing-A-Long

Barkell Elementary finished out the calendar year with a sing a long in the gymnasium. On the final afternoon before break, all students and staff assembled in the gymnasium to kick off the holiday season with some songs of the season.





# Fourth Grade News



Ms. Ruth Gill, Casper's mom, visited 4O to share about her homeland, Great Britain. Ms. Gill shared an informative program describing Britain's geography and population, money, weather, sports, language, driving rules, music, architecture, and many other topics. We virtually visited a British home, and learned about British schools, including uniforms. We studied British coins and tasted Marmite. Thank you, Ms. Gill for a very interesting program!



Students in Mrs. Olson's class enjoy tasting Marmite

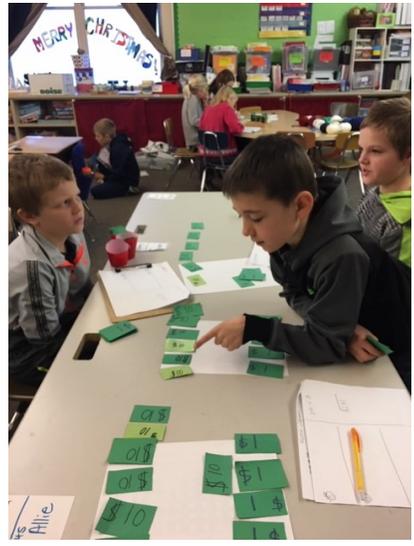


Thank you Ms. Gill for teaching our students about Great Britain.



Mrs. Liimatta's fourth graders learn the concept of division through a fun activity.

4th grade understand long division--The 4th grade has been learning long division. Students in Mrs. Liimatta's class divided money in groups to understand this process. As students pass out money and exchange larger amounts for smaller groups they begin to understand the process.



Students use money to help learn division.



# Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- \* **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- \* **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- \* **Ms. Sporbert's class** for their Christmas decorations
- **All of the families** who donated to the Bulldog Christmas Shop, as well as to our fall fundraiser
- **Ellie Alexander** for her donation of mittens
- **Parent volunteers** who worked the Bulldog Shop
- **Lori's Angels** for their donation to the family Christmas Fund
- **Surplus Outlet and the Upper Great Lakes Family Center** for their donation of jackets
- **Allyson Jabusch** for her Christmas tree donation and **Carol Waisanen** for her clothing 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.

Thank you to the following businesses for their support of our Pancake Breakfast:

**K.C. Bonker's Toys & Coffee**



## 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 extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.
- \*We are in need of Legos for our Lego club

