

December 2023

# Barkell Elementary

## Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



## Principal Announcements

- This is just a reminder that we offer a free breakfast and free lunch to all students. Students are able to purchase a second meal if they have money in their account or have cash with them.
- Stop by and check out the new playground! Please remember that we have a lock box on the fence with a key to the gate. The combination is the four numbers in our address– 1201. We ask that you please remember to put the key back in the box after unlocking the gate.
- 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

- 1/3 First day back after break
- 1/17 Early dismissal (1:46)
-



# Christmas Concert



5th Grade's legendary performance of Carol of the Bells



An estimated 700+ get ready for the show



2nd graders and Y5/K perform for a full house



1st graders get ready to perform



3rd graders exit the stage



1st and 2nd graders take the stage



1st and 2nd graders take the stage



4th graders line up and get ready to go



3rd and 4th graders perform on stage



5th graders perform their last show



Y5s/ K line up for their first ever Christmas Concert



The Barkell 5th grade band kicks off the concert with Jingle Bells



# STEM News



It was an exciting end to the year in STEM class! Kindergarten students made Santa hats for their robots and then programmed them to help Santa deliver gifts to the houses. 1st grade built playgrounds for their robots to play games. They programmed their robots to play games like tag, hide-and-seek, soccer, and hockey. 2nd Graders practiced the Engineering Design Process during STEM using gum drops and toothpicks. Their challenge was to build a bridge that would span 2 paper plates and have enough room for a boat to pass below between the plates. 3rd Grade practiced perseverance with the Pringle Ringle challenge. They had to work as a team to try and build a vertical ring of Pringles using only the Pringles (nothing adhesive), gravity, precision, and patience. 5th graders had to follow recipes to mix, bake, cut, and decorate sugar cookies. They practiced measuring precision and attention to details. It was a fun and tasty way to practice!



Kindergartners and first graders program their robots



2nd graders build their bridges



Third graders display their Pringles



Aaliyah and other 5th graders follow their recipes



Carter and Jackson display their product





# Barkell December Fun



Students sing carols on the day before break



Easton and Justus practice their math skills



Way too many things to choose from



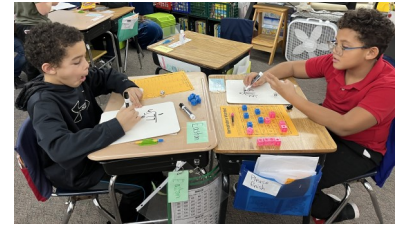
Mrs. Blessing's kindergartners and their Santa artwork



Bulldog Shop in full swing



Rylee and Briggs make cards for residents of the senior facilities in our town



Brooklyn, Hazel, and their fire engine puzzle



Wynter and Quinn practice their reading



Young Fiver floor puzzle



Merida and Kennedy learn about gears



Barkell students watch former Barkell students perform a Christmas play



Remi and Evan enjoy Breakfast with Santa



Colton and Leo pose for a quick pic



3rd and 1st grade reading Buddies display the ornaments they made



Playing in the snow we had for a day or two

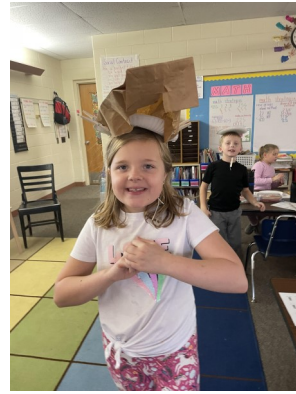
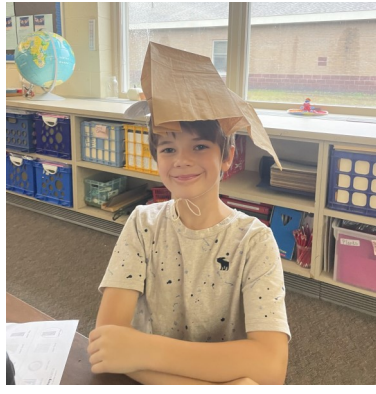




# Second Grade News



Second graders have been having fun with hands on learning activities as we near the holidays. Second graders used the Engineering Design Process to engineer hats in science, to protect them from the sun on their "desert island". Students also enjoyed learning about and teaching their classmates about their holiday family traditions.



Jade, Macaiah, and Ellie show the hats they designed

Second graders take a break from their work



Scott tests out his design

Lola poses for a quick photo

Second graders make adjustments to their design



Bryant, Raelynn, Ivy, and Lacey teach their classmates about their holiday family traditions

## FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



# FAMILY



# Third Grade News



Barkell third graders were recently treated to dental hygiene lessons from our Hancock High School CTE students. We appreciate our HCH students sharing their career-based learning with our young students! Mrs. Garnell's class, like Mrs. Cavis' class, created parade balloons and attached them to their Ozobot robots. Finally, students coded a parade route that their robot had to follow.



HCH CTE students teach third graders



Ryder and James learn about dental hygiene



Third graders design the courses for their Ozobots to navigate



Students gather around to watch the Ozobots they coded make their way around the courses they designed



Seth and Jace make final preparations



Kaisa and Isabelle pose for a photo



Hadley and Kylie show their Ozobot



Chyen decorates her Ozobot

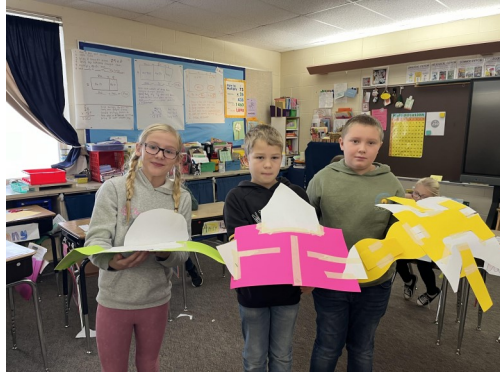




# Fourth Grade News



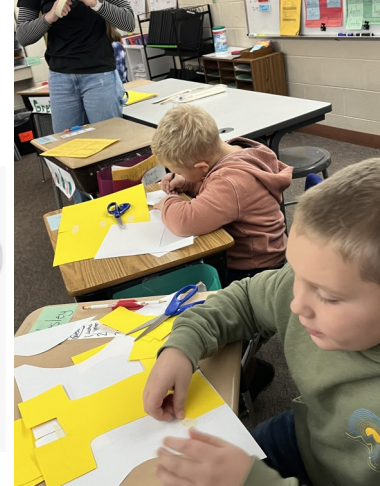
Fourth graders were visited by Engineering Ambassadors of Michigan Tech. They learned about the forces of gravity and lift and designed models of flying squirrels. The goal was to make the model that would glide or fall the longest.



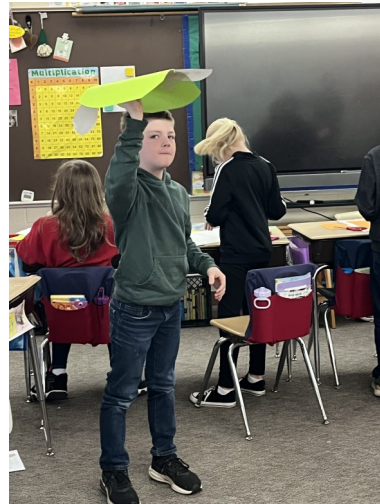
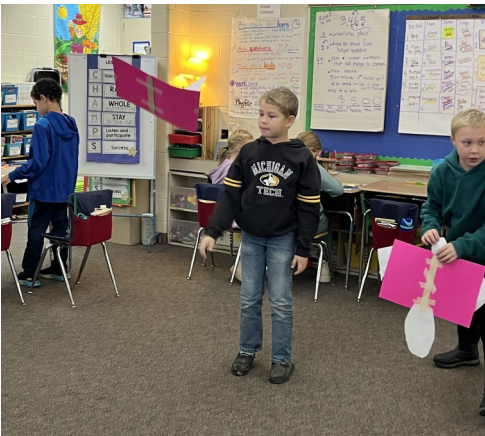
Margaret, Bret, and Wesley won the engineering challenge by designing the model that glided the furthest



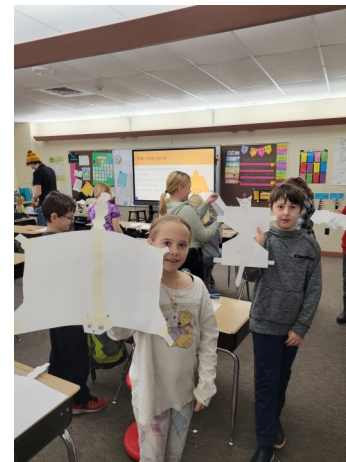
An engineering ambassador from MTU does a demonstration



Maverick and Wesley focus on their work



Brett and Andy test out their designs



Olivia and Merrick



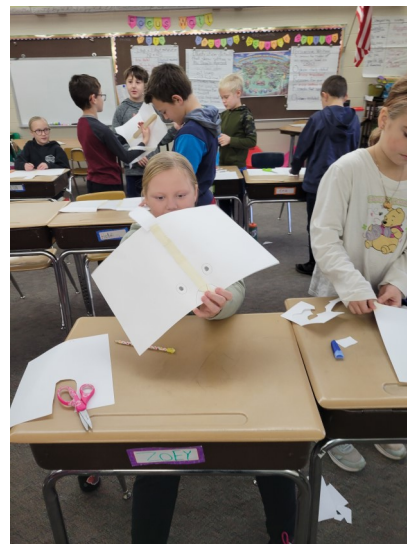
Quinn takes a quick break for a pic



Fourth graders learn about engineering from an MTU Engineering Ambassador



Caleb works on his model



Zoey finishes her project





# Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **Glad Tidings Church** for their generous donation of Christmas gifts
- **Mrs. Nordmark** for her generous donation of hats and mittens
- **Barkell familes** for their generous donations to the Bulldog Christmas Shop
- **Ellie Alexander** for her generous donation of mittens
- **The Rouser Family** for their generous Christams donation
- **Sheri Maunu** for her generous gift of bakery for staff
- **Angel Mission** for their generous donation of winter gear



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 first graders earned \$167.93 for the Salvation Army in December! Students earned the money at home by doing chores and then bringing in the money for the "Giving Jar"

## Barkell Elementary needs help with:



- \*We are in need of small kids snow pants and jackets Size 5 -7/8
- \*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 size 6 boy's underwear
- \*We are in need of boys/girls pull-on pants size 5-7