

January 2019

# Barkell Elementary

## Newsletter

### Hancock Public Schools



## Principal Announcements

- Lego Club meets after school on Thursdays and runs from 3:25-4:30.
- **Family Science Night is February 6th from 6-7:30.** Hope to see everyone there.
- I would like to remind everyone that we go out for recess when the wind chill is zero or above. Please make sure your child comes to school with proper winter attire. It is also a good idea to write your child's name on their hats, gloves, snow pants, etc. We find these items all around the school and are able to return those items when they are properly labeled.
- 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

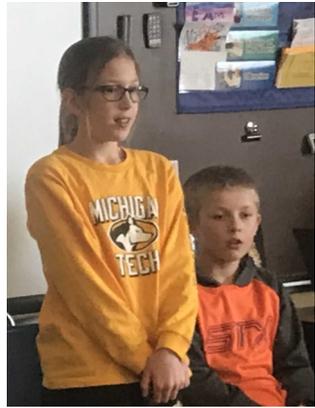


### Upcoming Events:

- **Feb 6th** Family Science Night (6-7:30)
- **Feb 13th and Feb 27th** Early Dismissal (1:46)
- **Feb 22nd** No School– Mid Winter Break



# Spelling Bee



Jayna takes her time on a difficult word.

The 2019 Barkell Elementary 5th grade Spelling Bee took place in January. This is part of the Scripp's National Spelling Bee. Congratulations to all who participated and congratulations to the six finalists: Adam Mikkola, Miranda Oja, Anastaysia Stewart, Mindy Jouppe, Jayna Keranen, and Blake Oja. The top two finishers qualify to go on and compete in the Regional Spelling Bee later this month. Miranda Oja finished second and Adam Mikkola finished first. Well done!



Anastaysia correctly spells a word.



Adam and Maranda pose for a photo in front of the trophy case. Adam finished first and Miranda finished 2nd.



The six finalists get ready for the competition.



Miranda takes her turn while Adam waits on deck.



Blake spells a challenging word.



Mindy successfully spells a difficult word.



Adam spells a word on his way to victory.



Students performed in front of their classmates.



Miranda and Adam pose for a photo after earning their way to the Regional Spelling Bee.





# Bulldog Scientists



The Fifth grade students are learning about the scientific method. In this experiment students developed the Question: Does the length of a whirlybird propeller effect the time it takes to hit the ground from 2 Meters? The students had to develop a procedure, test, collect data, analyze results and write a conclusion based on their findings.

**Materials:**  
Whirlybird template, Scissors, Masking tape, Meter stick, Stopwatch, pencil/pen, data table, paper.

**Step by Step Procedure:**

1. Gather Materials
2. Cut out Template
3. Measure 2 Meters high on wall and mark it.
4. Have stopwatch ready.
5. Place Whirlybird at 2 Meter mark with bottom of Whirlybird at the mark.
6. Person with stopwatch says "drop". Start watch.
7. When Whirlybird hits ground stop watch and record time in data table.
8. Complete steps 5-7 at least 3 times. Record average.
9. Cut 1 cm off of each propeller and repeat steps 5-8.
10. Continue by removing 1 cm at a time until 5 cm have been removed from propeller.

**Data Table**

Whirlybird	Average	Time in Seconds		
		Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
Control	2.48	2.34	2.72	2.37
1cm	2.22	2.09	2.34	2.22
2cm	1.98	1.97	1.90	1.98
3cm	1.69	1.84	1.57	1.63
4cm	1.51	1.50	1.47	1.56
5cm	1.50	1.64	1.56	1.28



Brady drops the propeller while Brian times the descent.

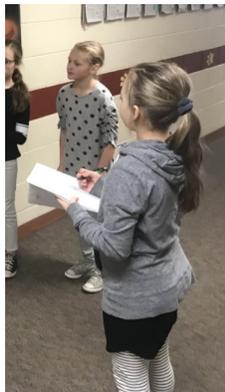


Students collect data to help determine if propeller length affects the time it takes to hit the ground..

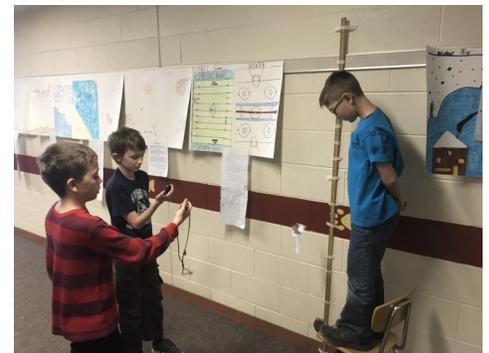
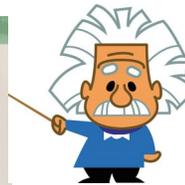


Camryn and Mindy discuss their results.

**SCIENTIFIC METHOD ICON SET**



**Conclusion:**  
In this experiment, I found that as I decreased the length of the propellers, the time it took to hit the ground decreased. The data proved my hypothesis correct. I noticed that the whirlybird spun much quicker with each cm removed. As it rotated quicker it also fell to the ground at a faster rate. As I performed each trial, there were many problems. On several occasions, the whirlybird didn't rotate very well. A few times the whirlybird hit the wall as it fell. We also had to repeat several trials as a result of human error in both starting and stopping the stopwatch to get accurate results. On a few of the whirlybirds we had to drop it 5 or 6 times instead of just 3. We also found it very difficult to get the exact same time with each trial, so once we had 3 good trials, we took the average of the 3 trials to get a number we could use. Our average time decreased with each cm removed from the propeller. We determined that the propeller fell faster due to less air resistance on the propellers. Air resistance is a form of fluid friction. We also found that by changing which side we bent each propeller caused the propeller to spin in opposite directions. This was again due to location of the air resistance on the whirlybird as it fell.



Students record data on their data tables.



Clint and Chad work together recording data.





# Young Fives News



Jordyn and Eero display their healthy snack.

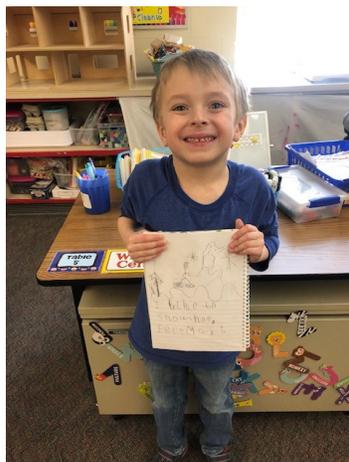
The Young 5's have been busy this month learning about Healthy Foods and Exercise. Included in our Healthy Unit we talked about MyPlate and the 5 food groups through many books and activities. We also learn about making healthy choices for breakfast, snack, lunch, and dinner. Trying new foods and taking a "no thank you" bite was something very important that we discussed. We have been enjoying healthy snacks all month including "ants on a log" and apple slices. We have also been enjoying our new class set of snowshoes out on our school trail. It has been really fun to get fresh air, exercise, and enjoy learning in the outdoors.



Young 5 students enjoy a day of snow shoeing on our nature trails.



Jameson, Caleb, and Eero proudly display some of their healthy work.



Young Fivers prepare to go snow shoeing.



Students pose for some pictures with healthy resources they have been studying



# Second Grade News



Mrs. Nordmark's class participated in the First Hour of Coding nationwide program. The kids had fun designing characters and making them talk and move!



Barkell Elementary second graders learn computer programming skills in a fun way. Students create character and program voices and movements.



Students in Mrs. Nordmark's class put their STEM skills to the test as they engineered traps to catch Santa after reading the book "How to Catch Santa".



August and Kai pose for a picture by their trap.



Tally and Jenae relax after constructing their project.



Students work together using the Scientific Method to engineer their products.



Mabel and Maya begin their work after some careful planning.

**An Engineer is someone who...**

observes and wonders

discovers and creates new things

shares their curiosity

ASKS QUESTIONS

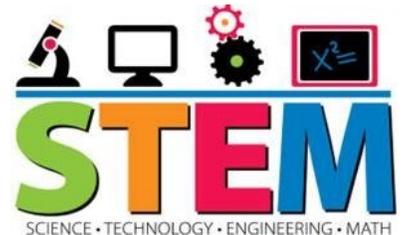
Explores the world around them

CONSTRUCTS INVENTIONS

USES TOOLS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS



**An Engineer is someone like you!**



SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY • ENGINEERING • MATH



# Third Grade News



Students in Mrs. Knuuttla's class participated in a Natural Disaster Project Based Learning adventure. Students selected the natural disaster of their choice. Next, they researched their natural disaster and took notes on the cause, effect, location, interesting facts and how to keep safe. Each student created a brochure detailing their information and went on to develop a project of their choice to share their information with others. Students created LEGO models, wrote songs, created board games, and made newscasts about their disaster. If you need to know something about tornadoes, volcanoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, and blizzards check out the brochures in the hall or ask someone from 3K!



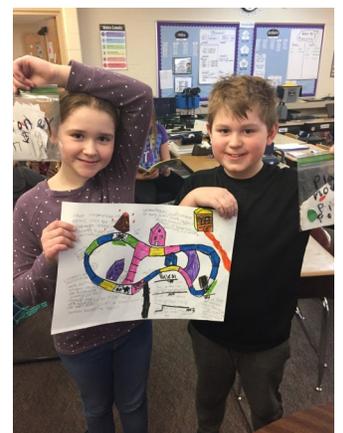
Brandy uses a "Green Screen" for her newscast on earthquakes.



Gage creates a before and after model for his natural disaster.



Sawyer performs a song for his project.



Aubrey and Andrew display their board game.



Eleri reports about tornadoes.



Gena does her news report on natural disasters.

Brenna and Kylie get ready for their news report.

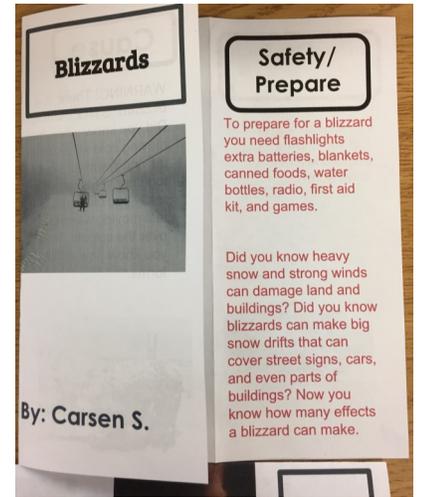


Students create before and after models using Legos.





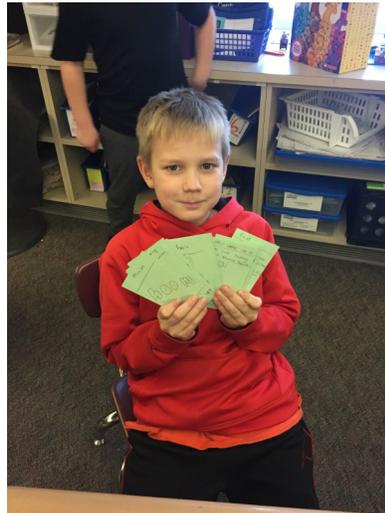
# Third Grade News cont...



Students ultimately ended up with a nice brochure to sum up all that they learned about natural disasters.



Gena gets her screen ready for her broadcast.



Tyler displays the game he created for his natural disaster.



Students enjoyed making their newscasts using video equipment.



Isaac works on his natural disaster model.

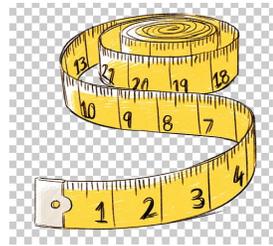




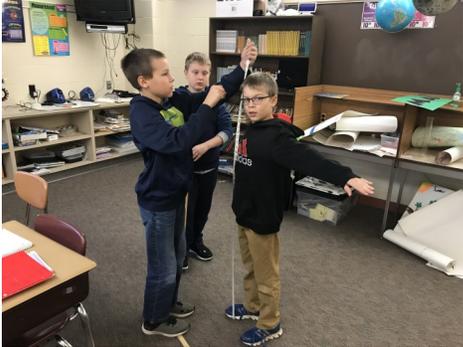
# Fifth Grade News



Fifth grade students in Mr. Pertile's science class are using the Metric System to determine their height and arm span. The objective is to use measurement techniques to ensure accurate results. Students need to record their procedures, make modifications and re-measure to test accuracy.

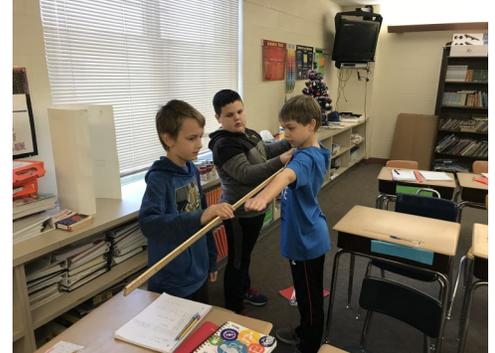


Ted and John measure Charlie.



RJ stretches out to have his wing span measured by Santino and Adam.

Mason and Walter measure Louis.



Fifth grade students are studying Matter. In this activity students are using different substances to create a solution for making crystals. The students also learn how to measure substances accurately.

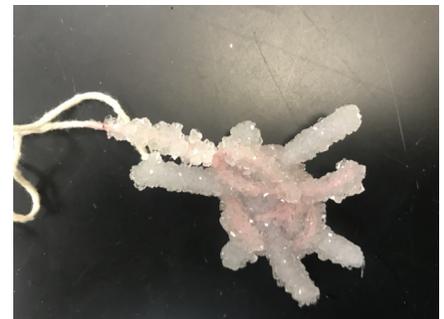


Students enjoy their scientifically created Christmas ornaments.

Ninah and Macy display their projects.



Domonic and Ryan work on their projects.

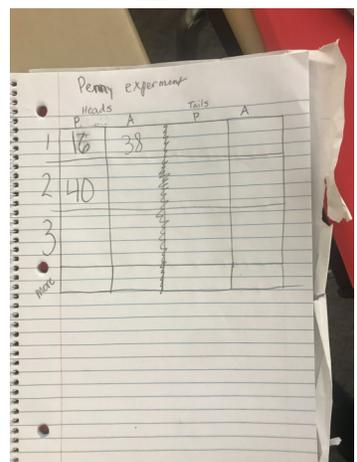




# Fifth Grade News cont....



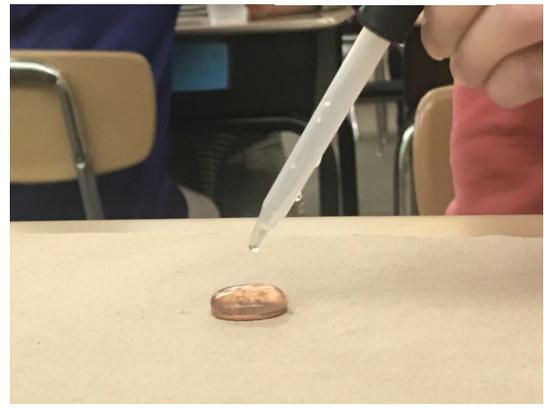
Students are learning about the 3 states of matter. In this activity: How many drops can you get on a penny? Students develop a procedure, hypothesize and test to see what happens. As they investigate, they learn about a unique concept: surface tension.



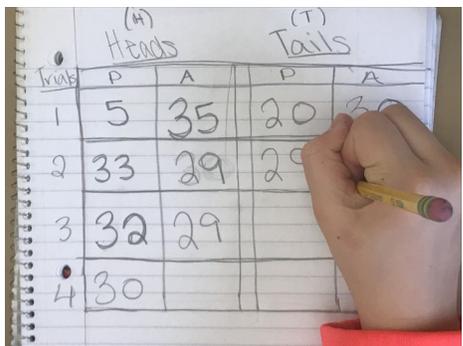
Students record their data on a table.



Emery and Jayna are amazed at how many drops they can fit on the penny.



Students carefully add drops to see how many they can fit on a penny.



Students tested both sides of the coin to see if there is a difference.



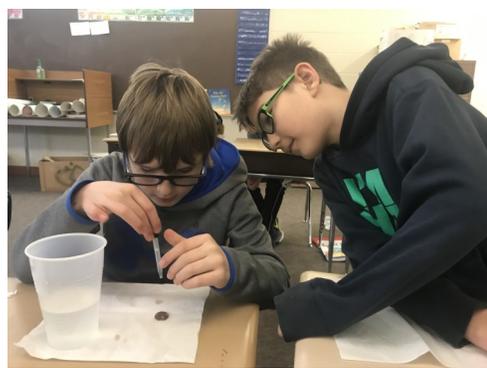
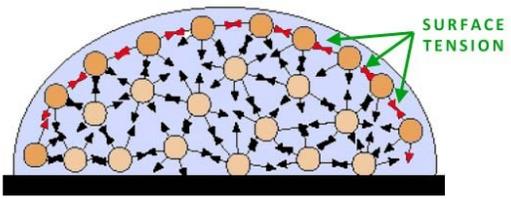
Avery and Kaisa work together as scientists.



Students were surprised by how many drops they were able to fit. What a fun way to learn about surface tension!



Connor and Jax discuss their results.



Domonic and Ryan carefully add drops to their penny.



# Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- \* **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- \* **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- \* **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and to Ellie Alexander** for their generous donations of hats and mittens.
- \* **Kristen Wanhala** for her generous donation of Legos
- \* **Finlandia University PT Assistant Program** for their generous donation of hats and gloves
- \* **Ken Seaton and Kenneth Miller** for their generous support of our fundraiser
- \* **The Brantners and Smitha Rao** for their generous donations of snacks.
- \* **Angie Hebert, Tammy Hall, Connie Pietila, Jessica Harden, Bree Kilpela, Smitha Rao, and Meg Oja** for Santa Shop donations



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 partnered with Finlandia and Michigan Tech to celebrate MLK Day. Students from both universities read stories to our students about tolerance and diversity.



## 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