

April 2024

# 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

- 5/15 Early Dismissal (1:46)
- 5/27 No School (Memorial Day)
- 5/30 Track and Field Day



# STEM News



Students in STEM class have been learning about the engineering process. In third grade, students have been practicing engineering skills by designing bridges that could hold the most cars. They learned about caissons (concrete that is sunk into the bedrock to support bridges), anchorage blocks (concrete towers that support the bridge from land), decks (the road), and tension cables (support cables). Our STEM program also led all of our students outside to the playground during the solar eclipse on April 8. The children had lessons in STEM class about how a solar eclipse happens and how to safely look at the sun. We wore ISO certified safety viewers and hopefully checked the cloudy sky. Unfortunately, during school, all we had was a brief view. The children were allowed to take the glasses home to try and watch after school. The clouds parted shortly after the buses were loaded and most students excitedly reported being able to watch the eclipse from the bus or in their car on their way home! It will be 20 years before a total eclipse is viewable in the Continental United States again.



Walter and Brandt make careful adjustments



Kylie, Ellie, and Hadlley pose for a quick photo



Cheyenne, Jillian, and Claire tweak their design



Everett focuses on his work



Nadine take a quick break



Isabelle, Cheyenne, and Kaisa assemble their bridge



CJ, Marcus, and Matthew work together



James, Bradley, and Addison build their bridge



Students gaze at the sky in hopes of seeing the eclipse





# Spring Fun

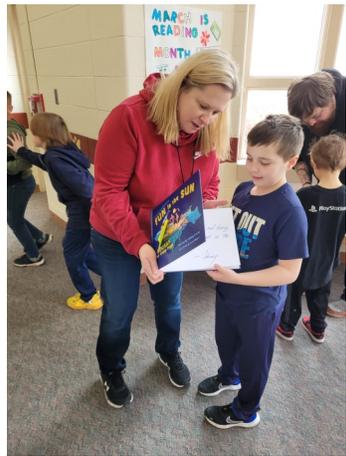


Early EL students enjoy some time in the sand box



Selah jumps rope while hopscotching

Students fill the Gaga Ball pit



Bennett receives the book he won in the book raffle



Play ball!



Jumping rope on a spring day



Students enjoy a game of Four Square



Nice day to relax on the bones



Kindergartners get in a little exercise



Spring means basketball season again





# Second Grade News



Second graders have been reading with and playing board games with their K Buddies. Students have also had fun with STEM activities such as designing roller coasters and learning about habitats. They have learned about the plants, animals, water, weather, and landforms in the habitats. The children are working on two projects with their habitat study: dioramas (with their own 3D designed animals) and a non-fiction book written with Google Docs.



Students research their habitats



Naomi, Hayden, and Evelyn display their designs



Scott helps his K Buddies



Second graders and kindergartners work together



Tad and Jade display their habitats



Bryant, Macklyn, Elias, and Bennett show their work



Ivy and Naomi pose for a photo with their habitats



Naomi focuses on her work



# Third Grade News



Third graders have had a very busy month. They learned about the effects of natural disasters. Then they created a house model and designed multiple solutions to make their house sturdy enough to survive a wind storm. Students also worked in groups to create a unique math art piece. Everyone had the same area but they had to create a different perimeter for each piece. In science, students learned about force. They created hopper poppers which pop up by the force of the rubber band. On Earth Day the third graders planted seeds with generous volunteers from the Hancock Rotary Club. The students are very thankful for their new book and planting supplies. Thank you to the Hancock Rotary Club!



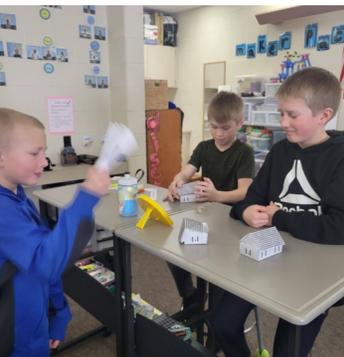
Kylie determines her perimeter



Rotary Club volunteers assist third graders with their plants



James and Walter work on their shapes



Third graders produce wind to test their designs



James and Addison design their house



Third graders focus on their designs

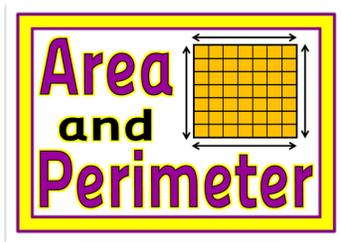
Seth takes a break for a photo



Ryder and Seth work together on their houses



Hadley and Kylie focus on their work





# Fourth Grade News



Students in Mrs. Smith's classroom recently learned about force and acceleration in an egg drop activity with Engineering Ambassadors from Michigan Tech. They enjoyed working with partners to design a container that would cushion the egg and slow it's descent to prevent it from breaking. Students also enjoyed a fun hands on activity in math class designed to help them learn about equivalent fractions. They also took a few minutes to head outside to observe the solar eclipse.



Holden, Merrick, Rylan, and Dennis work on a design to save their egg



An MTU student tests fourth grade designs



Ciara and Mallory take a quick break for a photo



Will and Bailey learn about fractions the fun way



Fourth graders gaze up at the sky with the hopes of seeing the eclipse



Aaron works with his partners on a design



Caleb gathers materials for his design



Charlotte, Warren, and Olivia work together on their design



Mallory focuses on her design





# Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **The Hancock Rotary** for their generous donation of books and planting supplies
- **Karen Fenton** for her generous donation of craft supplies
- **Courtney Babcock** for her generous donation of snow pants
- **Hancock Rotary** for their generous gift of books for our third graders
- **Hancock Rotary** for helping our third graders plant seeds

## School Reminders

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.

## Playground Update:



Nellie enjoys one of our new playground slides on a sunny spring day. This summer, all of the asphalt on the playground is being ripped out and replaced. We are also installing two new basketball hoops (7' and 8') on the lower el side. This will complete our amazing playground renovation!

## 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