

April 2023

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- Barkell Elementary is accepting registrations for the 2023-24 school year. Parents can register at our elementary school office or on our website.
- Breakfast and lunch are no longer free this year for all students. Please fill out a free and reduced lunch form if you have not already done so. Bills can be paid at this link: [hancock.familyportal.cloud](https:// Hancock.familyportal.cloud)
- 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

- 5/10 1/2 Day for Students (11:50 dismissal)
- 5/24 Early Dismissal (1:46 dismissal)
- 5/29 No School (Memorial Day)



STEM NEWS



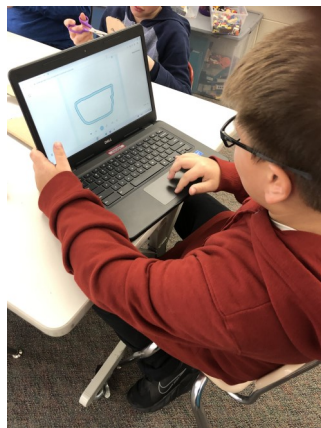
Barkell Elementary STEM students have been learning about technology through a number of exciting activities. Preschool through 1st Grade students had their VEX 123 robots go on an Easter Egg hunt this week. Students used the touch buttons to code the robots to drive to an egg and bump into it with the robot. First grade students used coding cards to begin learning block based coding to control their robots. Fourth graders built their own Operation game. They designed their Operation game pieces and frame in Tinkercad, 3D-printed them, and then designed a circuit with the help of conductive aluminum foil that causes a light to light up when the tweezers touch the outer edge of the holes in their frame. Similar to the game operation, but with a light instead of a buzzer.



Kindergartners enjoy hunting for Easter Eggs



Alaina uses her STEM skills while working on her project



Mason focuses on his work



Fourth graders design their projects

STEM

A close up of an Operation game



Rudy and Christopher design their game



Arty programs his robot



Barkell Elementary students program their robots to hunt for Easter Eggs





Recess Fun



Students enjoy a game of Wall Ball



Students shoot hoops on a nice spring day



Students decorate the playground



Second graders cheer the end of winter, or so we thought



Lilly and Sunnie blow bubbles



Troy practices dribbling

Kindergartners enjoy the sand box



Students enjoy some late winter snow



Springtime means rope jumping and basketball



Nadine shows her hula hoop skills



Art News



Barkell Elementary kindergarten students spent art class celebrating Earth Day.



Havok takes a break for a pic



Kai focuses on his work



Eddy and Mathew work on their projects



Kindergartners work hard in Art class

Kindergarten News

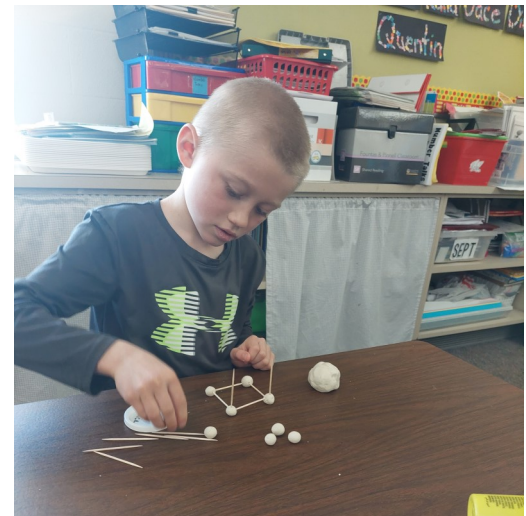
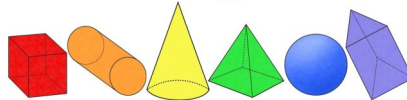
Barkell Elementary kindergartners have been working hard on their math skills. Students have spent the year solidifying their number sense and are now working on shapes. Students enjoyed using Play-Doh and toothpicks to produce three dimensional shapes.



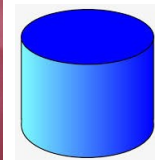
Lilly and Quentin focus on their work

Dace uses toothpicks and Play-Doh to create a cube

Shapes



Kelsey and Calvin show the three dimensional shapes they created



Lavinia creates her three dimensional shape





Young Fives News



Barkell Elementary Young Fives students have had a fun past few weeks as they continue to learn their letters and numbers. Students enjoyed spending time with their Reading Buddies outside on the Book Walk. Students have also had fun honing their engineering skills while building with blocks.



Koledyn works on his creation



Sawyer and Cam display their buildings



Young Fivers welcome back Mrs. Koskela



ABCDEFGHI



Students enjoy a story



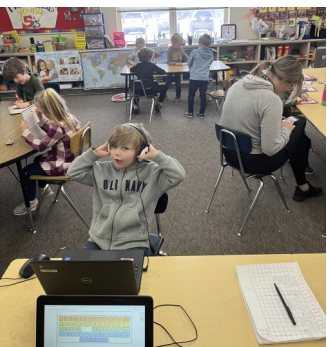
Alora works on her name



Students pose for a group photo



Young Fives work on their numbers and letters



Students work at their learning stations



Students enjoy the Book Walk with their Reading Buddies





K-5 STEM News



Kindergarten and first grade students created playground games for their VEX 123 robots to play with friends. The games included mazes, races, tag, hide and seek, and hopscotch. They thought it was fun to code the robots to play the games. Second graders are learning to use the VEX Go robot kits. One of the building challenges was to build bridges using the kits that were stable, had a way to get on and off easily, and would allow a boat to pass underneath. Fourth graders are building "Creature Bots". These are robots that move without wheels. Their robots will need to be able to traverse an obstacle course that will include going over and around objects in the STEM classroom.



Kindergartners and their creations

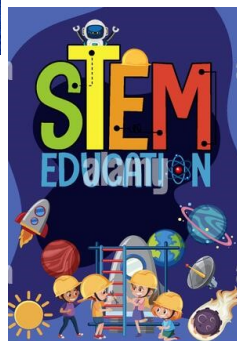


Second graders pose with their bridges

Early el students program their robot to find eggs



Fourth graders work on their "Creature Bots"



Weston and Jeb work together





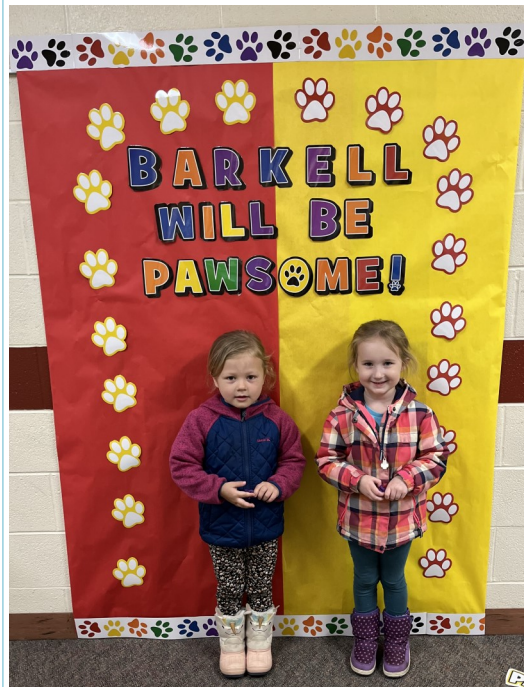
Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **31 Backpacks** for their continued support of our community
- **Barkell families** for all of their generous donations for Teacher Appreciation Week
- **The Beutler family** for their generous donation of socks
- **Janelle Tadgerson** for her generous donation of books and shoes
- **Beth DePasqual** for her generous donation of snacks for students
- **Cody Atkins** for his generous donation of winter jackets



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 held our Kindergarten Roundup this past month. We are excited about our group of incoming students. We are still accepting registrations for Young Fives and Kindergarten. Please call 487-9030 Ext. 6000 with any questions you may have.

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 boys/girls pull-on pants size 5-7