

February 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

- 3/8 1/2 day for students (11:50 dismissal)
- 3/20 Early dismissal @ 1:46
- 3/29 No school– Start to Spring Break



100 Day



February 13th was 100 Day at Barkell. The Young 5s and kindergartners dressed up as if they were 100 years old and paraded around the school. Students also brought 100 objects from home that they counted to help reinforce their number sense. It is always one of our most exciting days of the year!

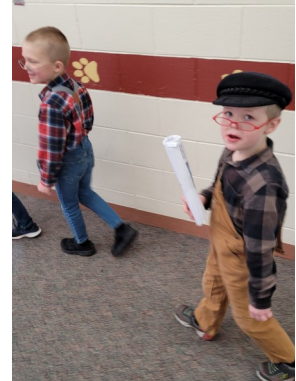


Ms. Pennala's class and Mrs. Koskela's class pose for their 100 Day photo

The Young Fivers lead the parade through the hallways



Old men and old ladies parade through the hall



Ms. Pennala poses with some of her older students



Kindergartners prepare for 100 Day



Students gather in the hallway to watch the parade



Jayla poses for a pic



STEM News



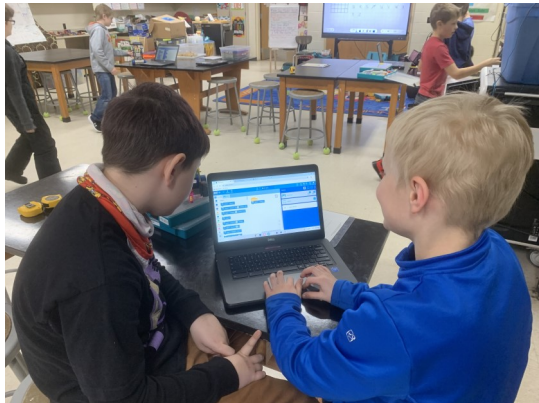
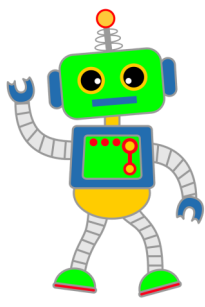
As always, it has been an exciting winter in STEM class! Kindergarten students learned about sensors on robots using Botley Robots. They learned that an optical sensor can be programmed to see colors. They tested using the optical sensors to make Botley follow paths in the STEM classroom. 4th graders have been learning about Robotics Competition using our VEX Go robots. They built robots that would help score points on the Mars Math Mission field. Their team had to then strategize how to score the most points within 1 minute. They work on driving and coding their robots and use math skills to measure distance in their codes. Getting the code just right can be frustrating, but with perseverance they succeed!



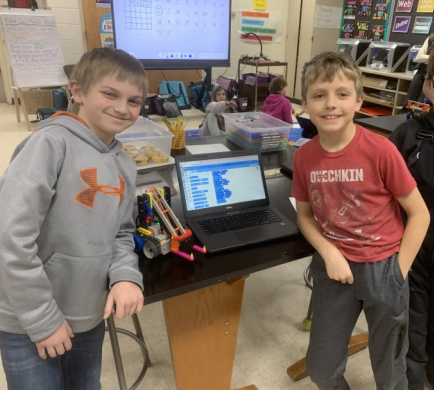
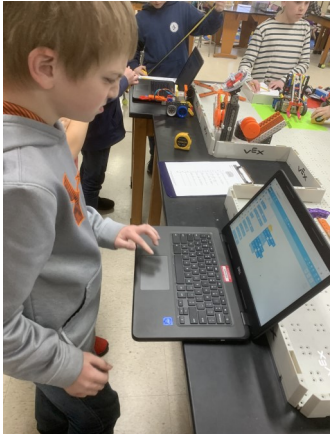
Kindergartners watch the robots they programmed recognize colors



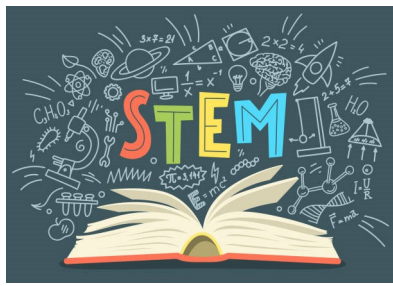
Alina watches her robot perform



Fourth graders program their robots for their mission to Mars



Aaron and Caleb pose for a pic after finishing their coding





Barkell February Fun



Serena and Aadila relax outside



Silas shows his project



Ms. Sturos' class enjoys camping at school



Students enjoy sliding down the hill on a winter day



Ms. Kurttu's and Mrs. Cavis' class display their Valentine's boxes

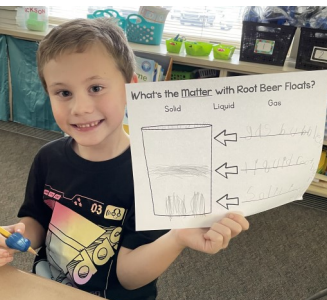


First Grade News

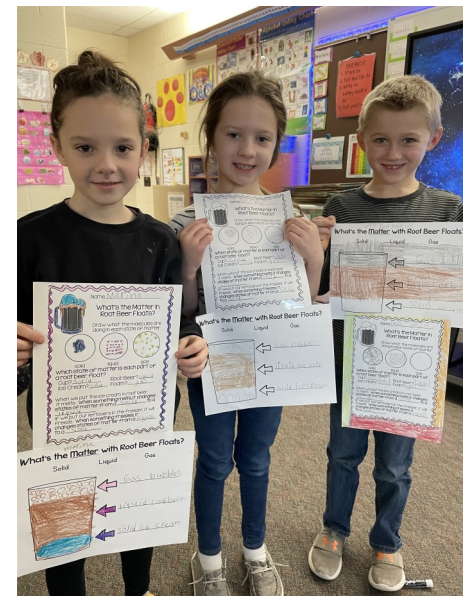
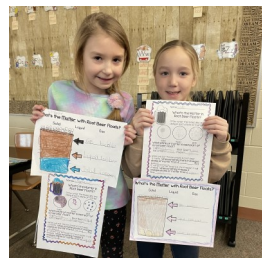
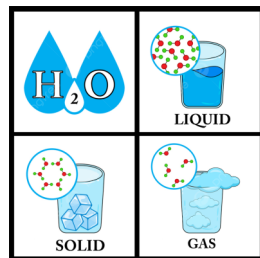
Mrs. Jackson's first graders recently made root beer floats to model what they've learned about the three states of matter. They discovered that the ice cream was the solid, the soda was the liquid, and the bubbles were the gas.



Sunnie, Dace, and Lily enjoy their root beer floats



Malcom show his scientific data



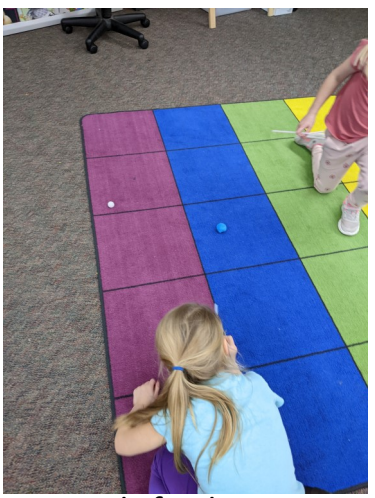
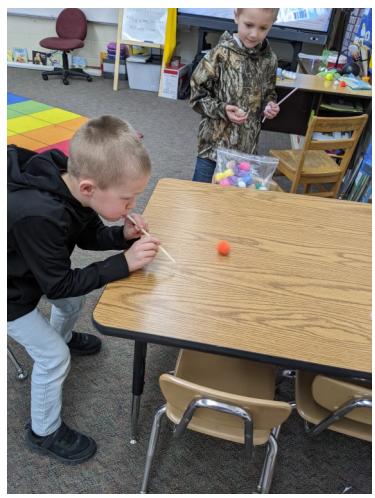
Marina, Braelynn, Dace, Lillyanne and Selah show their hard work



Kindergarten News



It has been an exciting winter for our kindergartners. Students have continued to focus on learning their numbers and letter sounds. Students have also had fun learning about STEM through fun activities such as testing out which ball would move faster, a puff ball or Styrofoam ball. They also tested which would go farther with a strong puff of air. They thought the pig ball because it was lighter. They tested them on carpet, the rug, tables, floor and toys. They had a lot of fun. They figured out the Styrofoam ball went farther because it was smooth. Of course 100 Day was also a major focus this past month!



Students test to see what travels furthest



Mrs. Blessing's class on 100 Day



Students dress up as 100 year olds



Kindergartners count 100 Fruit Loops

Bree enjoys a science experiment



Students enjoy working with their second grade Reading Buddies





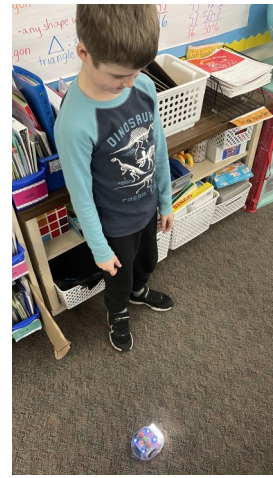
Second Grade News



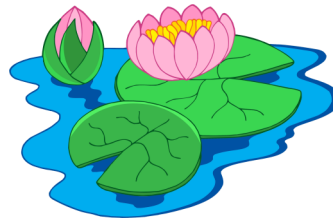
Second graders sharpened their STEM knowledge by learning about plant adaptations. Students learned about the physical characteristics that allow water plants to flourish in their environment. Some examples of adaptations are wide flat leaves and long and flexible stems. Students applied what they learned by making 3D models to illustrate these characteristics. Students have also been spending a lot of time learning about robotics and coding.



The final products on display in the hallway



Payton, Lola, Scott, Jade, and Rayna work with their robots



2nd graders enjoy a fun STEM project



Thomas and Cord display their creations



Tom, Nora, and Ellie take a break for a photo

Macaiah and Emmett show their decorated robots

Third & Fourth Grade News

Barkell Elementary third and fourth graders were recently treated to a presentation about animals from Bob Wheeler. Students learned about animals that lived before the dinosaurs, and how animals have evolved throughout the history of earth. Students also learned about modern animals and the adaptations that allow them to survive. Students had the opportunity to examine various furs and antlers.



Students examine moose antlers

Madeline, CJ, Margaret, and Aadila check out a beaver pelt and deer antlers



Alexis and Aryana pause for a photo



Keira tries on some antlers



Mr. Wheeler teaches 3rd graders about adaptations



Phoenix and CJ hold moose antlers



Brita and Matthew check out a fox



Jessa pets some fur



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **The John Wheeler Memorial Fund** for their generous gift of \$750 for books
- **Andrea Tuthill** for her generous donation of school supplies
- **Catherine Jordan** for her generous donation of educational materials
- **Vicky Vichich** for her generous donation of books
- **KNSC, Candi Silvola, Eileen Stordahl, Karen Fenton, Jay Green, John Diebel, Ralph Lund, Wayne Stordahl, John Pekkala, and Tyler Turcotte** for all they have done to help with our PE skiing program



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 Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club and specifically: Candi Silvola, Eileen Stordahl, Karen Fenton, Jay Green, John Diebel, Ralph Lund, and Wayne Stordahl. The track groomers were John Pekkala & Tyler Turcotte. These folks have made our PE Cross Country Ski Program possible!

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