

January 2016

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- Please remember there is no school on 2/19 and 2/22 for Mid Winter Break.
- 2/1—2/12 Starlab will be at Barkell Elementary.
- Winter is here. Please make sure that you drive safely in our parking lots.
- February 16th is Family Science Night (6:00-7:30). I hope to see everyone here.
- Students from MSU will be coming to Barkell in March to perform a science show for our students.
- Please remember to always report to the office for a visitor sticker.
- I am here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara— Barkell Elementary Principal

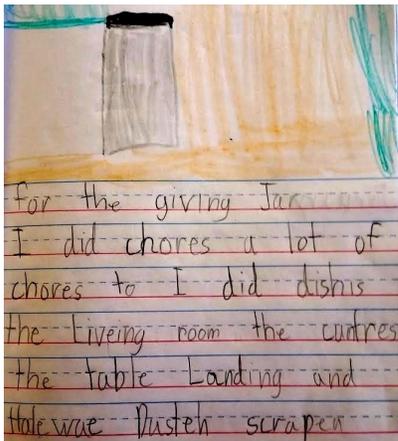
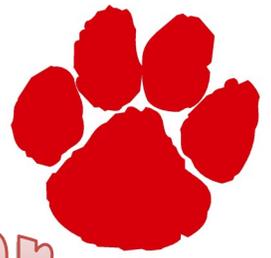


Upcoming Events:

- February 16th 6:00-7:30 Family Science Night
- February 19th— February 22nd is Mid Winter Break
- February 1st— February 12th Starlab will be at Barkell

Bulldogs serving the community

First Grade Giving Jar



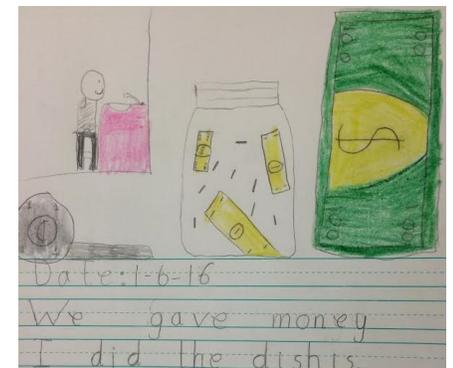
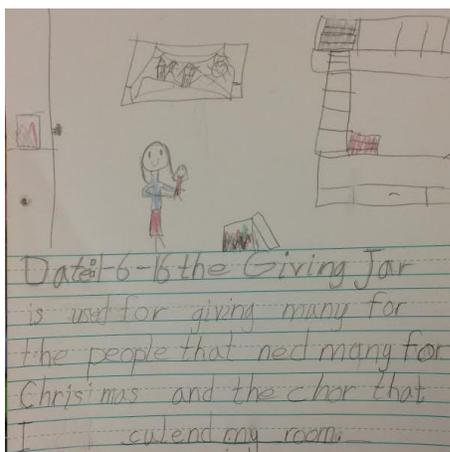
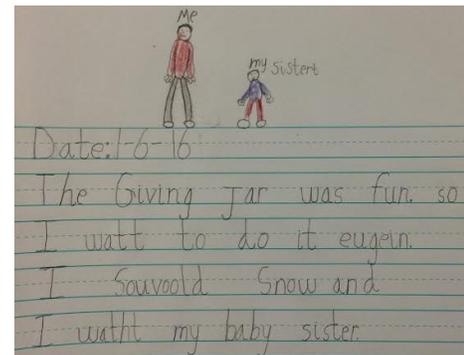
During the holiday season we sometimes are disappointed by the growing "I want" attitude that seems to occur. The first grade does a project with the children. We like the children to experience the true meaning of gift giving by giving a little bit of themselves.

The project works as follows:

The children complete tasks and small chores at home. The parent completes a coupon and returns the coupon with a small amount of change for our classroom's GIVING JAR. The focus is on the doing and not the amount of money given. The children just deposit their change in the jar each morning and share with the class what task they did at home. The week before winter break, we donate our savings to the Salvation Army's CHEER CLUB.

We believe the children will experience a sharing of their wealth with someone less fortunate and a spirit of working together for a special goal. Hopefully, the children will discover the true meaning of gift giving through this type of learning experience.

-Mrs. Dunstan, Mrs. Dupuis, & Mrs. Koivisto





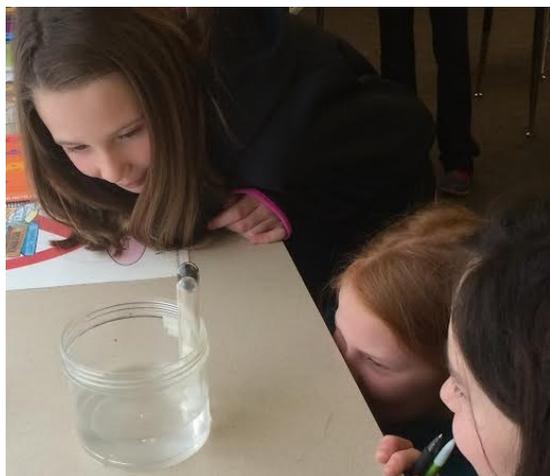
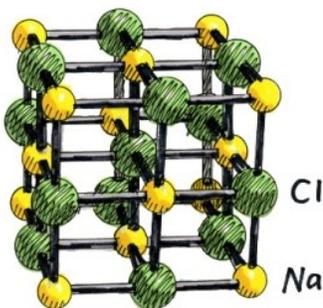
$$E = mc^2$$

Bulldog Scientists

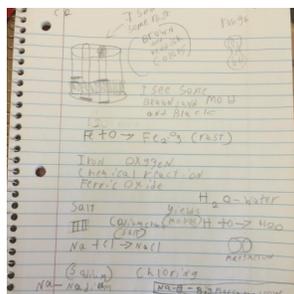


Fourth graders take temperature readings during an investigation about conditions in tidal pools

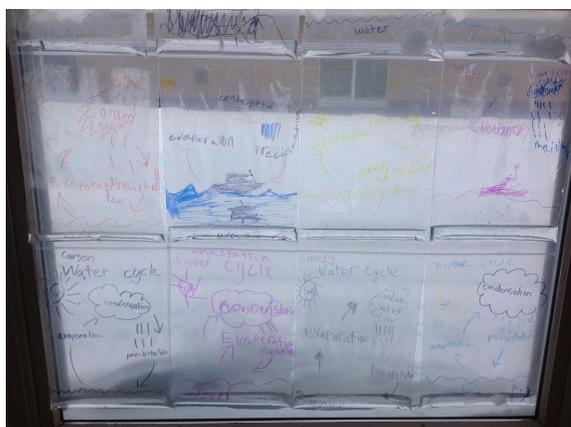
Fifth graders build salt molecules.



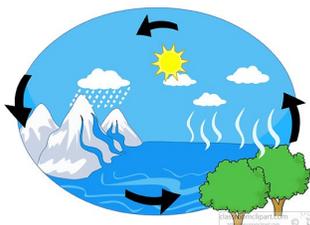
Fifth graders learn about chemical reactions.



Second graders experiment with mixtures



Second grade water cycle experiments



Barkell Students Learn About...

Finnish culture



All about Molky

Molky is a fun Finnish game. You can play it in any season. The game Molky needs a skittle and pins. The pins are numbered 1-12. I will tell you all about Molky.

To play Molky you need twelve pins and a skittle. First, you need to have a group of two or more people. A person has to be the score keeper. Someone will have to go first. The person has to throw the skittle and knock down as many pins as they can. Or you can go for one pin, which if you knock down one pin you get the number of points on the pin. Then the score keeper has to write down how many points the person has gotten.

Whoever gets to 50 first wins. But, say you had 45 points and you knocked down a six. You have to go back to twenty-five. If you get 3 zeros in a row you are out of the game.

Molky is a fun game! If you go to Heikkipaiva you'll see it here. You should try playing it. It is super duper awesome.

by: Lynn Heinonen
Brooke Koskela
3-A



Students from the third grade classes at Barkell Elementary had special guests come and teach them about the Finnish game Molky.



Finnish Culture continued...



Barkell Elementary 3rd-5th graders enjoyed a show put on by the Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Students learned about Finnish culture and the Finnish language. Barkell students especially enjoyed learning and singing a Finnish song.



A Finnish couple, visiting from Minnesota, played some traditional Finish instruments and taught our kids how to sing a song in Finnish. They were very entertaining and I can't tell you how proud I was of our kids. They were very polite and attentive to our guests.

-Mrs. Delong





Bulldog Authors



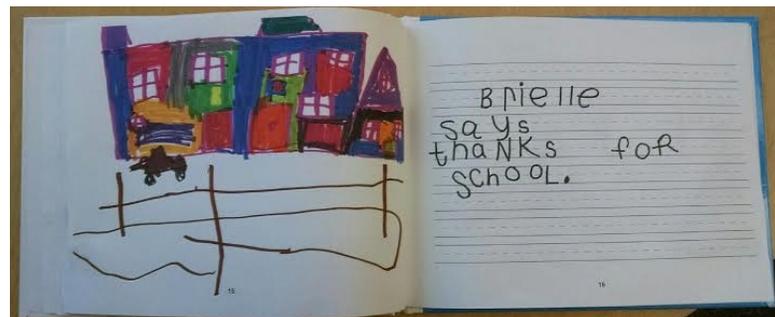
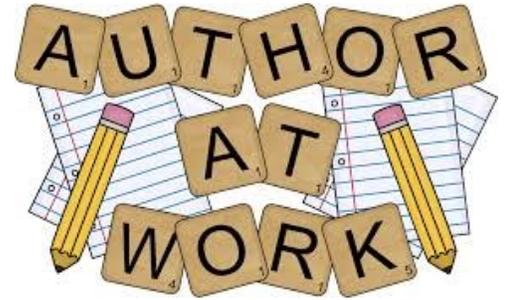
Creative Little Young Fives

The Young 5's worked very hard to make a rough draft and a published copy of their Thanksgiving writing. We put the published pages together and sent them to a publishing company called Student Treasures. The hard copy of the book was delivered early last week and the students were so excited.

"I feel like a real author and illustrator," said Tyler Jaehnig.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young writers to become interested in books and writing. The class did a great job and worked very hard on their book. Excellent job Young 5's!

-Mrs. Cavis





Ornithologist visits Barkell



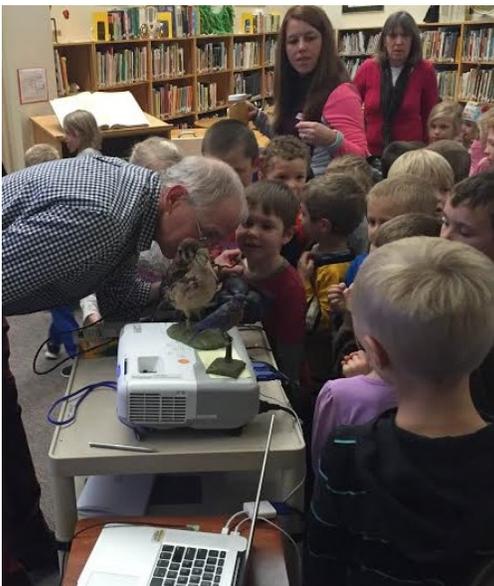
Professor Flaspohler, an ornithologist from Michigan Tech, visited the K-2nd graders at Barkell Elementary to teach them about different bird species, bird calls, habitat, migration, etc.

Dear Mr. Flaspohler
thank you for telling us
about birds I learned that
birds - Cmeenakate And
they have ENmeese
from- Leana

Dear Mr. Flaspohler, Thank you
for telling us about
birds I learned birds fly seth
in win.
from Trevor



Dear Mr. Flaspohler thank
you for telling us about
birds. I learned about
all kinds of birds. birds
are comfiosnd difrente
from matt



Dear Mr. Flaspohler
Thank you for telling
us about birds I learned
that talk to water birds
and they can sing
from. chloe. Bestian



Kindergarten News



The Young 5's and Kindergarten classes have been enjoying the school forest this month. We finally have enough snow to get out the snowshoes and sleds. During January, all classes have enjoyed a hands on science lesson while enjoying the outdoors. Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education field trip coordinator, Marcy Erickson took us on a snowshoeing adventure around our school forest while teaching us about gravity and forces! Marcy provided each class with snowshoes for the afternoon. We also had a pushing and pulling lesson with sleds afterwards. The kids really had a blast enjoying the outdoors. This was a great way to embrace winter while taking a deeper look into the sciences of playing outside.

Perrin says, "Snowshoeing is very, very, very, very, very fun! I learned that gravity pulls us down."

Autumn says, "Sledding was fun with my friends. I learned about gravity from sledding down the hill."

-Mrs. Cavis



Barkell Young 5s students snowshoe on the Barkell Nature Trail.





Third Grade News

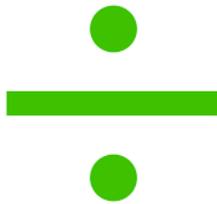


Division in Third Grade

In Mrs. Davidson's class we have been doing division. Dustin Pietila, Annie Simonson, and Bria Anderson say "It is awesome!" We all did a work sheet that had things we had to put into groups. Division is breaking things into groups. We all think it is easier than we thought it would be. Division is so cool!!! It was our first time doing division with grouping. What we did first for the problem $15 \div 3 =$ was we would get counters and lay them out on the table. Then one at a time put them into 3 groups. After that we count it up to see that there are 5 in each group. $15 \div 3 = 5$. Division is the best of all! Addition, subtraction, and multiplication are all easy. Now division is easy too!

By Abby Alhelinna
and Alexander Miller
3-A

Third graders learn about division in Mrs. Davidson's third grade class.




CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Alyssa Hervi, a third grader in Mrs. Davidson's class, who received an honorable mention award for her writing piece in the "North Woods Kids" Essay contest. It was sponsored by the Copper Country Reading Council for area students ages 5-19. They had over 200 pieces of art and writing entered in the contest. Great job Alyssa!



How To Be A North Woods Kid

Being a North Woods Kid is a fun thing that most kids don't get to be. If you are a North Woods Kid you get to do many things. Three things I like to do are watching and listening to the animals in the forest, swimming in the Great Lakes is another thing, and the last thing is observing the trees and flowers. I can't wait to show you the things I like to do.

I love watching and listening to animals. Birds chirping always makes me feel relaxed. You should come to the North Woods some time. You can see bears, fox, eagles and much more in the forest. Being out in nature is a wonderful thing.

Swimming in Lake Superior is a fun thing we get to do as a North Woods Kid. If you are a North Woods Kid you can do this too. You can swim in other Great Lakes like Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, and Lake Ontario. Living by the Great Lakes is so fun.

I love exploring the trees and the colorful flowers around the forest. When you walk into a forest of trees you can smell the tree bark. Being able to live in the North Woods and see trees and flowers everywhere is so fun.

I never get bored being a North Woods Kid. I am always busy playing in nature. Even though I just moved here I already love it and never want to leave.



5th Grade Spelling Bee



Congratulations to Elijah Packard (champion) and Sheianne Brouillette (runner-up)



The 6 finalists for the Barkell Elementary District Spelling Bee are ready for the competition. From left to right: Sheianne Brouillette, Brady Galetto, Elijah Packard, Dylan Dube, William Silverson, and Jared Oja

Both Elijah and Sheianne will compete in the regional competition in L'anse in late February



Heikinpaiva Essay Contest

Heikinpaiva Essay

By: Jayden Daniel Nuttall

This January there is a special event called Heikinpaiva. It is a special Finnish event where many people participate in lots of activities such as the polar bear dive at the Hancock waterfront, the wife carrying contest, the family fun day with kicksled races, and many more. Come to Heikinpaiva because it is a really fun event.

The polar bear dive at the waterfront is really fun...and cold. I want to go, but my mom and dad think I shouldn't because they think I might get pneumonia. I think it looks funny, and anyone can do it. People can do silly tricks into the negative below zero water.

For the Wife Carrying contest it sounds obvious what you do. The man carries the wife. At the start of the contest the man carries the wife to the place where you shake the rugs. Next, they pretend to take a sauna, and hit each other with cedar branches. After that, they pretend to have coffee with friends. Finally, they race to the finish line, and the best team, with the best time wins.

For the family fun day with the kicksled races you must push the sled while running to make it go. You must put one foot on the back of it, and try to steer around obstacles, and finish the race. Kids can do it, and so can adults.

I hope you can go to Heikinpaiva to do all these fun things. It sounds really fun. I hope I can see you there!



Our third grade authors competed in the 2016 Heikinpaiva Essay Contest. Students in all three third grade classes wrote essays about Heikinpaiva. The essays will be judged and the winners will be announced in the February edition of the Barkell Elementary Newsletter.

Heikinpaiva Essay

by Mallory Sporalski

Hurray! Heikinpaiva is here! There is a fun event coming up in January. It is called Heikinpaiva! I'm not going to tell you everything about it, but I will tell some things you can do there. There is a wife carrying contest, polar bear dive, and molky game.

The wife carrying contest is when you need to have a wife. First, the husband carries her to the rugs. Then he drops the wife down, and they shake the rugs. After that they run, and take a quick sauna, and hit each other with cedar branches. Next, they run and pretend to have coffee with friends. Finally, they run to the finish line. The team with the best time wins.

The polar bear dive is where you have to jump in water. Anyone can do it. You don't have to do it though. So, if you want to do it step up and try it. I'm only in third grade, and I'm going to try it. I never did it before. If I don't like it I will never do it again. Oh, I forgot to tell you that adults can do it too!

Molky is a game like bowling. The game will be at the Heikinpaiva. It is really fun. There are groups of 5 people for each game. You need to try to knock the pieces of wood down, and get a score of 50 points. I hope you have fun playing it!

Heikinpaiva is a really fun thing to do. We have it once a year. If you go I hope you have fun!

Counselor's Corner

By: Risa Williamson

Empathy Skill



Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Empathy experts report that empathy is developing as early as 4 years old, and if one has an empathic mind, one has less stress, less mental health issues like depression or anxiety,

or less negative self feelings.



In school, empathy is taught in our reading curriculum especially when students have to identify how a character was feeling at the time or during a guidance lesson where students have to talk about P.O.V. (point of view) of other people. Sometimes our empathic stances bring us to high emotions. For instance, have you ever watched a movie or show or listened to a song that brought you to tears? In an article in Teaching Tolerance, Spring 2016, a young boy wrote about how difficult empathy can be. He wrote about when his cat died, "Maybe they have too much empathy that they have frozen shut from the harshness of the world. If everybody else things they are sooo empathetic, how come they have trouble understanding this [death of my cat]".

Children often display a lack of empathy through behaviors like showing no remorse for harming others, not learning from their mistakes, repeating the same hurtful behaviors, manipulating friendships, or having a greater desire to 'win at all costs'. Thankfully, researchers indicate the empathy can be a taught skill especially if we (adults) train our children how to be kind, thoughtful, and caring.

Here are some questions you can ask your child when teaching empathy at home:

"How did that person feel when s/he was left out of the game?"

"How do you know that person was upset?"

"What do you think it would be like to live in their shoes?"

"How can you show you care?"

"Is this the outcome you wanted? Why is that?"

Remember, it is never too early nor too late to teach new skills!

Upcoming Monthly Lessons:

Grade K & 1: Responsibility - What does it mean? Responsibility activity





Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases.
- * **Steve Erickson** and **Superior Lube** for their generous donation
- * **Michigan Teach** for the donation of lanyards
- * **Michigan Tech students** for reading about MLK on MLK Day
- * **Salolampi Finnish Language Village** for visiting our school
- * **Hancock Public School Foundation** for their purchase of headphones and various science needs



1. Please remember that students need warm jackets, hats and mittens for recess. Please write your child's name on these items so that if we find them we can return them to their owner.
2. All visitors must report to the office. Please do not go to the classroom once the day has begun.
3. Please remember to call the attendance line when your child is absent.

Barkell Elementary Welcomes New Staff:

Ms. Sackson



We are excited to welcome Ms. Sackson to Barkell Elementary. Ms. Sackson is our new Computer Paraprofessional and will also be working in Title 1.

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 bird seed for our science club/ bird identification program.
- *We need yarn and hooks for our Crochet Club.
- *We are need of extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.

