

January 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

- 2/16 & 2/19 No School– Mid Winter Break
- 2/26-3/1 Vision and Hearing Screening
- 2/28 Early Dismissal (1:46)



STEM News



Barkell Elementary students have been having a lot of fun in STEM class! Young 5s and Kindergarten students are learning about what is inside of machines to make them work. They learned about gears, magnets, and electrical circuits. 2nd graders are learning to use the VEX Go robots. These robots are kits that the students build into the robot of their choice. They learn about motors, sensors, and practice driving and coding the robots. 4th graders are beginning to learn to modify robot builds to be able to accomplish a task. They are using a "Mars Base" robot field to try and achieve tasks such as tilting a solar panel, collecting samples, or delivering fuel cells.



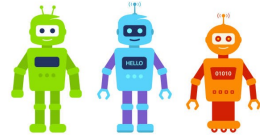
Second graders program their robot to perform various tasks



Young students learn about circuitry and how gears work



Evelyn and Naomi work together



Jade and Nora build their robots



Greta, Jordyn, and Isabelle design their robot



2nd graders stay focused



Macklyn and Bryant pose for a quick pic



Easton and Jameson focus on their work

**SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING
MATH**

STEM TEST BUILD SHARE IDEA
REFLECT MATH QUESTION
RESEARCH TEST ASK THINK
STEM SCIENCE EVALUATE TRY
ART TECHNOLOGY OBSERVE
CREATE DESIGN OUTCOME
GOAL IMAGINE CHALLENGE
ENGINEERING BRAINSTORM
IMPROVE PLAN DISCOVER
MODIFY STEAM EXPERIMENT





PE News



January means it's time for the Barkell Elementary PE Cross Country Ski Program to begin. Students have taken advantage of the mild weather to enjoy cross country skiing on our ski trails. Thank you to the Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club for helping us make this wonderful opportunity for our students happen!



Hadley and Kylie take a quick break



Students enjoy our professionally groomed ski trails



Brandt finishes up his first lap



Addison and Kaisa pose for a pic



Isabelle enjoys an afternoon of skiing



Winter Fun



Students enjoy putting their STEM skills to the test building snow forts during the winter time.





Heikinpaiva Essay Contest



Barkell Elementary third graders competed in the annual Heikinpaiva Essay Contest. After a lesson on Heikinpaiva and it's many traditions, students wrote essays with their newfound knowledge. After careful consideration, winners from each classroom were chosen. As a result, four winners were declared. The winners received \$20 and were invited to be a part of the Heikinpaiva parade. Congrats to all of the students for their hard work!

Heikinpaiva essay
By Matthew Perez

What is the Heikinpaiva? The Heikinpaiva is a mid winter festival. It means Henry's day. Heikinpaiva is on January 27th in Hancock, Michigan. I really like the parade.

Have you ever seen a husband carry their wife? Well now you can at Heikinpaiva there's a wife carry contest. First they have to go to some rugs and shake them out. Next they have to go to a fake sauna. They hit each other 3 times with a cedar branch and the husband puts on a towel to make it harder. Next they go to refreshments and are asked a question. Then they go to the finish line. Some years the wife has to throw a boot for a bonus. The fastest time wins.

Brrrrrrrr! The polar bear dive! That's where people jump into the freezing Portage canal. People can register for \$5 to jump in. You can wear costumes and do really cool tricks like frontflips, backflips, and belly flops. Some just jump in. They say you should get out of there quickly. They have scuba divers in case someone gets stuck under the ice. They also have a tent in case someone gets injured or hurt. And before you jump in they ask who you are and where you're from. The best jump wins cash.

Last but not least, also my favorite... the parade. In the parade you see there's a wife carry contest. There's also people dressed as kalevala characters like Santa and a swan. What's that noise? It's the Michigan tech pep band. I love this event.

And now for some other events like the spiral dance. That's when people dress in Finnish outfits and dance around in a circle while singing. There's also a tori market that has pulla which is sweet bread. Now the last thing is the kick sled race where you have to go around a cone and then race back.

I think the Heikinpaiva will be so fun. So come to Heikinpaiva. Well looks like I'm out of paper so I guess this is the END. P.S the street is Quincy street.



Hadley, Madeline, Claire, and Matthew pose for a photo with their first place certificates



Heikinpaiva Essay
By:Madeline Oja

"Hei-Hei" Have you ever heard of Heikinpaiva? It is a mid winter festival. Anybody can come. There is a polar plunge and the wife carrying contest. Also there is a parade and the tori market. The parade is on Quincy street. It is on January 27th in Hancock, Michigan. There is pulla and kahvia. It is on Saturday. There are games and rides too. A bunch of people come. There are T-shirts and hats you can buy. You should come because it is a fun thing to do. You are welcome to the mid winter festival.

Have you ever heard about the wife carrying contest? Well if you go to the Heikinpaiva... There is a wife carrying contest there. A husband carries a wife and you go to stations. The first station is where you and whoever is with you shake off rugs and then you go to the next station. The next station is where you take a fake sauna. You or the other person throws saunam and you smack the other person with a pine needle branch three times. Then you switch. Your husband has to wear a towel to make it harder. After you both get a turn. You go to the next station and at that station somebody asks you a trivia question and you get refreshments. If you answer the question right you go to the finish line. When you get there their wife throws a boot. They measure it and the best time wins and gets a prize.

Brrrrrrrr! Splash! Have you ever heard about the polar bear plunge? Well, you came to the right place. The polar bear plunge is a thing where you jump into the freezing canal water and there are scuba divers to make sure you don't go under the ice. They cut a hole in the ice and you jump in. Make sure you bring a pair of shoes if you volunteer. The tech band jumps in but only some. You can wear a costume of swimsuit if you volunteer. You get cash for the best jump. There is a tent just in case you get hurt. There are doctors in the tent. With a bunch of stuff you might need. You get interviewed before you jump in the freezing water. They stay in for at least thirty seconds. The polar bear plunge is soooooo fun. You should come and jump in the freezing water or watch.

At the Heikinpaiva there is a parade and there is a St.Henrik sign. There is also the world's largest kikkled and Michigan Tech Pep Band in it. There are



The essay winners enjoy a fun ride in the Heikinpaiva parade



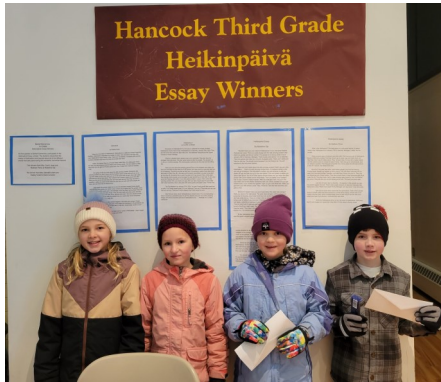
Mrs. Garnell poses with the four essay winners

Third grade essay winners pose for a photo at the Finnish American Heritage Center

people dressed up as kalevala characters too. There are ladies dressed up as villagers in the parade. Any age can come to the parade. There is music and a lady at the parade. There are a bunch of people in the Heikinpaiva parade. A kid wears a big hat with decorations. There are also Finnish book characters. You should see the Heikinpaiva parade.

There are a bunch of other events at the Heikinpaiva like the Tori Marketplace. At the Tori Marketplace they sell "Pulla". It is sweet bread. They also sell Kahvia which is coffee. There are a couple of games or rides like kick sled race and whip sled. Finnish Americans come too. It means Henry's day and they say the bear rolls over. You should come to the Heikinpaiva.

You should really come to the mid winter festival called Heikinpaiva. I like the parade because it has a bunch of kalevala characters and the Michigan Tech Pep Band. There is also a wood carving festival. You should really come to the Heikinpaiva.



Students ride on a horse drawn sleigh through downtown Hancock during the Heikinpaiva parade

HEIKINPÄIVÄ
by:CLAIRE LEVANEN

Tervetuloa Heikinpäivä! It's a fun way to celebrate the middle of winter. Heikinpaiva means Henry's day. Heikinpäivä is on Saturday, January 27th, 2024. They say this is the time when the bear rolls over. We celebrate Hancock and the Copper Country's Finnish Heritage.

There is a parade where people dress up in costumes. They also have the Michigan Tech pep band. The bear spiral dance is after the parade. The parade is at 11:00 a.m. It will be exciting. The most popular costumes are the swan and the talking fish.

Have you ever done the amazing game? There is the kikkled race where one foot is on the sled and the other is on the ground. You race around a cone and there is a lot of cheering. The kids go as fast as they can. It is exciting to watch. Then there is the whip sled for kids. They sit in the sled and the sled is connected to a pole so you don't go zooming off. Someone has to push the pole for it to go around. There is the polar bear plunge where people are encouraged to wear something on their feet. To do it, you jump into freezing cold water. It is on the Quincy Green in a pool. There is the wife carrying contest. First, you shake out rugs, then you take a sauna and hit each other with cedar branches, have a tea party with some guests, and dash to the "Finnish" line.

The Tori Market is on January 27th, 2024. You get Finnish goods like bread/nisus or pulla. It is Finnish sweet bread. It is very delicious if you eat it. There are also rag rugs that you can buy. There are Finnish slippers that I think would be cozy.

Now that you know about Heikinpäivä, you should come. It is very fascinating. I think it would be a wonderful place to go! You should come and see all the amazing things. Oh! And my favorite part about Heikinpäivä is the ... PARADE!!! It is 100% awesome!



The parade pauses so that pictures can be taken of the essay contest winners

Heikinpäivä
By:Hadley Koski

Have you ever been to Heikinpaiva? Heikinpäivä is a really fun Finnish American tradition. Heikinpäivä celebrates the middle of winter. One cool part is the bear rolls over. Heikinpäivä means Henry's Day. There is a Tori Market, a whipsled, wife carrying contest, a kikkled race that is for kids and a polar bear dive!

At the Tori Market there is a Finnish Bread called Nisu. It is really good. There are also rag slippers, artwork, mittens and Finnish goods. The Tori Market is a little store that you can get fun Finnish goods from. Don't forget that it starts on January 27th.

I am going to tell you more about the wife carrying contest. During the wife carrying contest you start a timer and the husband picks up the wife and you run to rugs and shake out the dust. Next you run to the sauna and hit each other with cedar branches and throw fake steam. The husband has to wrap a towel around him after. After you then go to the fake tea party and have fake tea and then they ask them a question. Lastly, you sprint to the finish line and then you wait until other people are done and see who has the fastest time!

One event that sounds really fun to me is the fantastic parade! Some people who will be in the parade are Heikki Lunta, a swan and a talking fish! The parade starts at 11:00 A.M. Another great part is the Michigan Tech Pep Band will be there! They will play their instruments and play songs. They will wear black and white some will wear short sleeves and others will wear funny, talented silly hats! I think the parade sounds delightful! Oh I almost forgot after the parade they do a spiral bear dance everybody dances in a circle. It sounds really fun.

I am going to tell you what events happen in the polar bear plunge. People volunteer to jump into a really cold pool. It is 5 dollars per participant. All participants are encouraged to wear something on their feet. If it did that I would really bundle up and into the sauna right as I get out.

I hope after you read this you might want to come to Heikinpäivä. I hope I taught you a lot about Heikinpäivä! I hope to see you there!



Young Fives News



It's always fun and exciting in Young Fives! Students have had fun learning their numbers and letters. They have also done a lot of exciting STEM projects, as well as mixing in some movement activities and art projects.



Oliver, Parker, and Kai show their projects



Students have fun in STEM class



Kennedy and Hazel pose for a photo



Young Fivers proudly display their hard work



Oliver shows his name

Young Fivers enjoy a movement activity



Merida, Brooklyn, and Thea relax for a picture



Silas and Oskar take a quick break for a photo



Kai and Archie display their hard work



Archie, Oskar, and Mason display their work



Mason and Thea display their masterpieces





Second Grade News



Barkell Elementary second graders recently did a fun STEM activity. Students designed and created structures using STEM Straws. Students enjoyed learning about the engineering process while constructing their projects. Students also enjoyed learning about ecosystems on an outdoor field trip to our school forest.



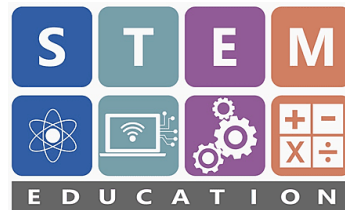
Emmett, Thomas, and Tanner display their creations



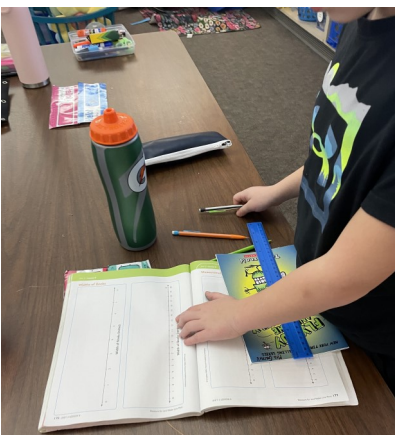
Students enjoy a winter afternoon on our nature trail, learning about ecosystems



Second graders pose for a photo after working hard on their creations



Second graders focus on their work



Practicing measurement



Cord shows his work

Second graders take a break from their hard work for a little fun





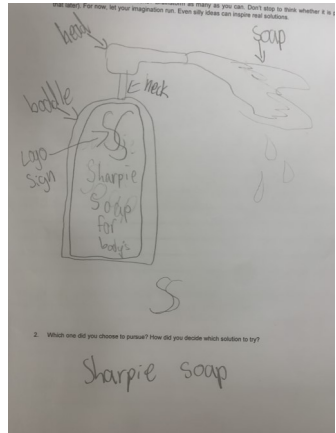
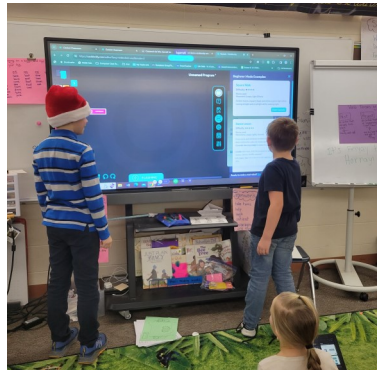
Third Grade News



Third graders have been learning about inventions and innovations using the Invention Convention Curriculum in cooperation with the Henry Ford Museum of Detroit. They are learning about the invention process while trying to create prototypes of their own invention ideas. Students have also been having fun learning about robots, especially the lesson on coding Ozobots taught by their classmates!



James and Walter teach their third grade classmates how to program their Ozobot



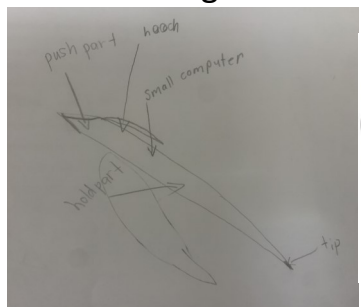
3rd grade inventions



Third graders display their inventions



Third graders work on their inventions in STEM class



Fifth Grade Spelling Bee



Fifth graders recently competed in the district level Spelling Bee. Each classroom competed and the three finalist advanced to the building round. Congrats to the six finalists: Eli Stromer, Liam Jeannotte, Braylin Kyllonen, Jackson Bublitz, Carter Bryan, and Gavin Miller. Eli Stromer finished first and Liam Jeannotte finished in second place. Both students advance to the Regional competition in February!



The six finalists pose for a photo. Congrats to these students for their hard work
Eli finished first!



The six finalists anxiously await the start of the competition.



Liam and Eli advance to the Regional round



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **Martha Dickson** for her generous donation of goodies for staff
- **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church** for their generous donation of hats and mittens
- **Marina Tanasova** for her generous donation of winter jackets
- **Candi Silvola** for her generous donation of games



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.

Lego Club is back! Students have been building some amazing creations during our after school Lego Club. The club meets on Thursdays from 3:20-4:30. If you are interested in your child joining, please request a permission slip.



Payton, Ciara, and Zoey enjoy a Thursday afternoon at Lego Club

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