

March 2021

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- Young Fives and Kindergarten Orientation will take place sometime in April or May. We are waiting to see when we will be able to have an in-person event. In the meantime parents can register their child by calling the office, or by downloading a registration form from our district website.
- I would like to thank our PTO for all that they do for our school including popcorn day, organizing our Read-a-thon, and leading our fundraising drive for new playground equipment. All of your hard work helps make our school a better place!
- 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:

- 4/6 School resumes
- 4/21 early dismissal (1:46)



March is Reading Month



Barkell Elementary students enjoyed a March is Reading Month filled with fun and exciting activities. Students enjoyed numerous dress up days, a children's author visit, a walking book trail, hall decorating, a Read-a-thon, book raffles, and even more. This year our theme was "Under the Sea", so a lot of our activities were geared towards that.



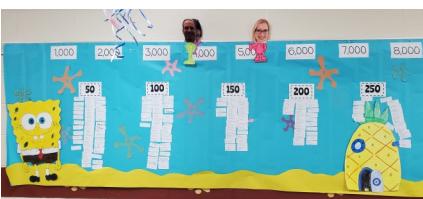
Children's author Leslie Helakoski reads to Mrs. Blessing's class



A jellyfish hangs in the Barkell hallways



Ivy and Ari enjoy a story outdoors



Students chart the progress they have made reading this month



Barkell staff join in on all of the fun



Mrs. Blessing's students enjoy listening to their HS reader



Kindergartners dressed up for Wacky Wednesday



Students choose which book to try for in our book raffle



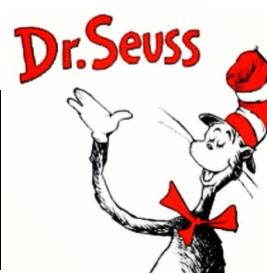
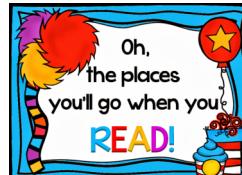
Students enjoy the book walk on a warm winter day



Brinley enjoyed "Hat Day"



Mrs. Blessing's students dressed as their favorite underwater character





Heikkenpaiva Essay Contest



Though Heikkenpaiva was cancelled this year, Barkell Elementary third grade teachers still took the time to teach their students about the traditions involved with what has been an important event for our community. Students learned about the various events and traditions and wrote their persuasive essays persuading their audience to attend the event. As in previous years, The essays were judged and winners of each classroom were declared. Congratulations to Austin Goodall and Eviona Johnson!

Heikkinpaiva Fun

Come see this amazing chilly festival in Hancock, Michigan. This is a celebration of the midpoint of winter. There are some fun events like the polar bear dive, parade, and the wife carrying contest. Join me and my friends today! SPLASH! The crazy people are polar bear diving again! They pick their favorite jump, dive, spin, back flip right into the cold cold water! Crazy people! Some people are wearing funny clothes while they jump into the freezing water. For example one person was wearing a banana costume. They are doing it for a prize. Come polar bear diving now!

This parade is so much fun. If you go there you will love all the action in the parade. There are some people dressed up in costumes. The costumes are Finnish cultures. Some people are holding signs and some people are holding Finnish flags. In the parade there is a big kick sled. The 3rd grade class from Barkell does an essay about the Heikkinpaiva. Then the judges pick their favorites. That student gets to ride on that big huge kick sled. But you probably are wondering why is the kicksled is in the parade? This is the answer. That is what they do in Finland. Go to that parade and see all the Finnish culture!

Have you ever been in a race? The wife carrying contest is the perfect race for you to start off if you have never been in a race. If you don't know what stations there are, these are some of them. Rug shaking , Sauna , and refreshments with friends. Do you want to learn about the rug shaking? At this station you have to shake out the rugs like they do in Finland. At the sauna , you sit on a bench and one person puts 3 back slaps on their back while the other person puts 3 scoops of water on the stove and then they switch. The wife carrying contest has so much laughter and fun. The announcer is teasing. "you forgot your wife". HAHA-HA. It is so much fun. Come try that fun and funny race today.

Do you like festivals? They are so much fun. Especially this one. This festival has so much action. There is a parade and so much more. This year is canceled ugh. But in 2022 it will be alive. YAY!



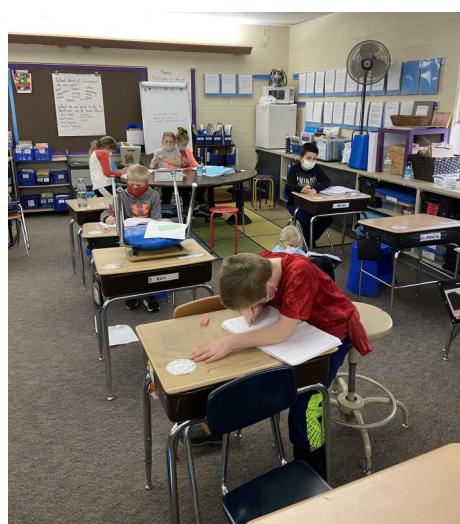
Eviona with her certificate and plaque



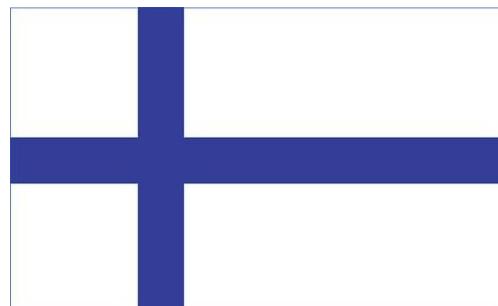
Mrs. Knuutila's students work hard on their essays



Austin poses with his awards



Mrs. Cavis' students focus on their writing



Heikkinpaiva Essay

By: Austin C. Goodall

SPLASH! You are at the Heikipavia Festival. In the Heikipavia Festival there are a lot of events. It's in January. And it is FREE! Go to the Heikipavia next year.

In the Heikipavia one of the events is the Wife Carrying Contest. In the Wife Carrying Contest the husband carries his wife to four stops. The first stop is they have to shake the rugs out. The second stop is the sauna. In the sauna they slap themselves three times with branches. The third stop is the costumer's and refreshments. In the last stop you go back to the crowd and throw your shoe as far as you can. Then they measure it.

SPLASH and BRRRRRR!!!! You are at the Polar Bear Dive. At the Polar Bear Dive someone cuts a big hole in the ice. THEN A BUNCH OF PEOPLE JUMP IN THE HOLE! They do this at the Hancock canal.

In the Heikipavia there is a PARADE! In the Parade people wear costumes. here are some Finnish costumes.....

1. Vainamoinen
2. Iimariinen
3. Sampo

These are three Finish costumes from the Kalevala story. And sometimes there is a band there. In the Parade everyone does a dance called the Bear Spiral. In the Bear Spiral people perform by walking around in circles ... Soon the people form a big SPIRAL! And I can't forget the world's largest kicksleds and don't forget the kick sled race.

Another thing is the Tori Markt. At the Tori Markt you can buy arts and crafts, treats and joulury.

What was your favorite event? My favorite event was the kick sled race. I love to race. Please come to the Heikipavia next YEAR!

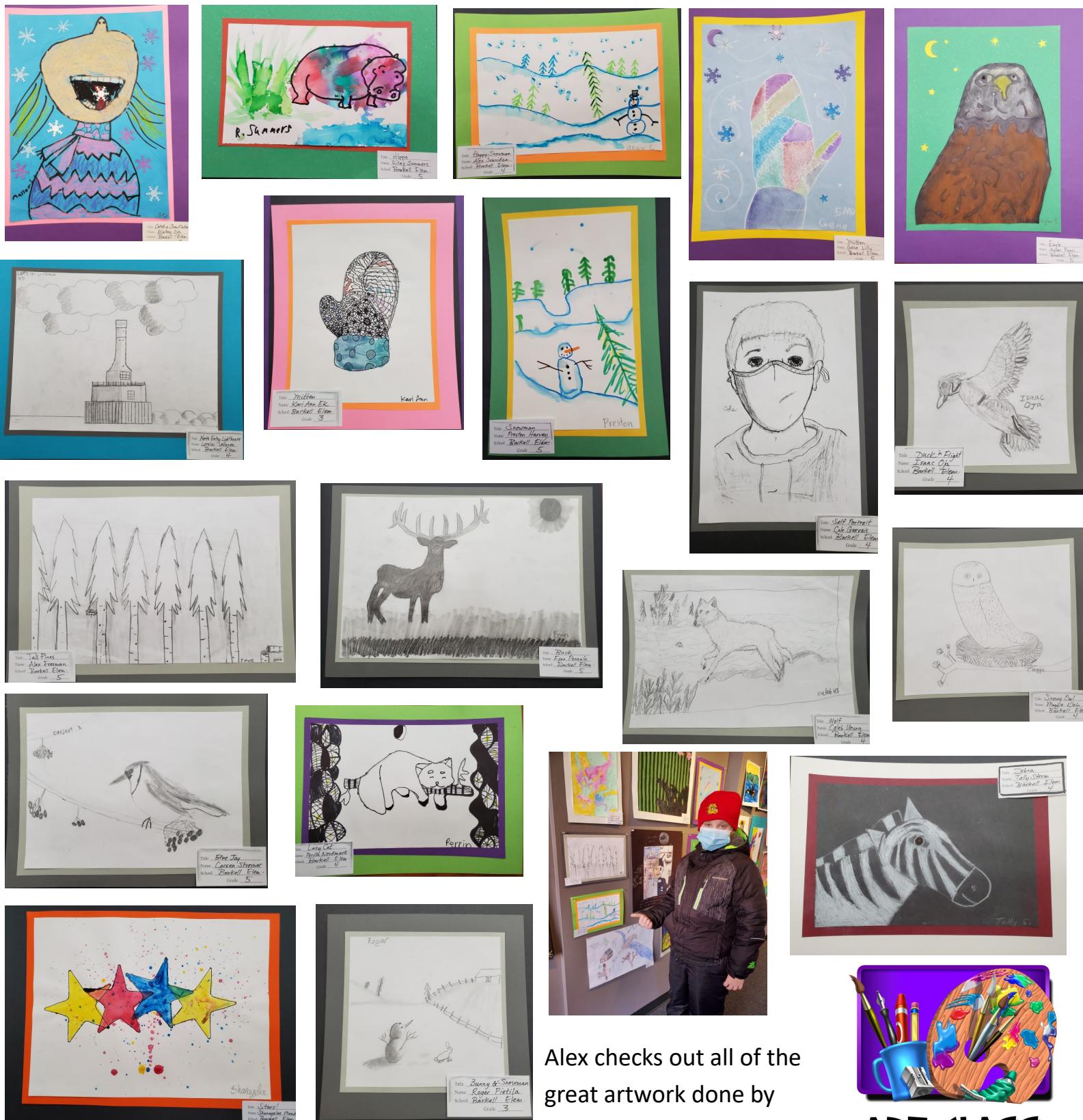
Eviona and Austin pose together for a photo after winning the Heikkenpaiva Essay Contest



Art News



Mrs. Scholie's art students have been making amazing artistic creations all school year. As in past years, some of those creations have found their way to the Community Arts Center in downtown Hancock. Please take a look and marvel at these incredible pieces of artwork!



Alex checks out all of the great artwork done by Barkell Elementary artists



ART CLASS

Young Fives News



Barkell Elementary Young Fives students have been having a lot of fun during March is Reading Month. Students enjoyed a number of guest readers, fun dress up days, an exciting trip down our outdoor Book Walk, and some fun activities to help learn their letter sounds. The students are well on their way to becoming kindergartners!



Mrs. Cavis reads to Young Fives



Lacey, Owen, and Macklyn enjoy reading



Dawson, Macklyn, Lacey, Ramesse, and Owen completed a puzzle



Izabella and Sophia display their letter projects



Owen on Reading A-Z



Students enjoy the outdoor Book Walk



Y 5s students work on their reading



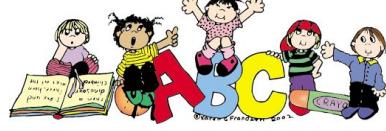
Young Fives students pose for a photo during the March is Reading Month



Jade and Ari show their STEM creation



Macklyn sews a button



Students enjoy one of the last snowy days of the year



Kindergarten News



Kindergartners in Mrs. Carlson's class have had an exciting past few weeks! Students listened to *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess. They wrote how they could help the Lorax take care of the Earth. Then, they colored mustaches and cut them out to look just like the Lorax. Students also had a lot of fun learning about force and motion through hands on experiments.



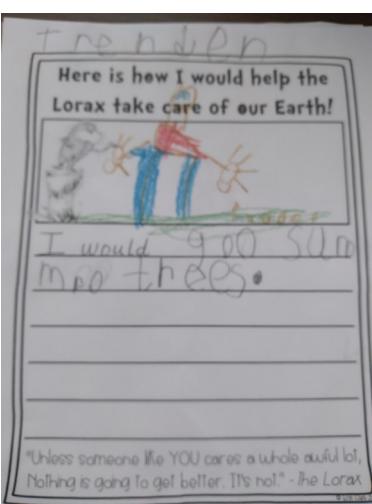
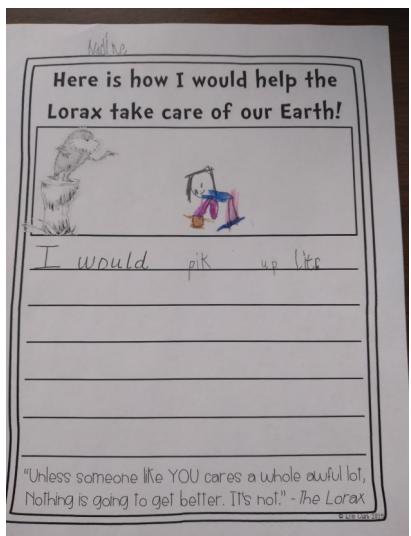
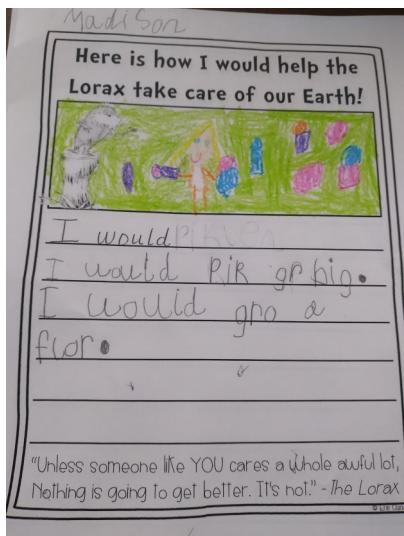
Students show their Dr. Suess drawings



Trendon poses with his mustache



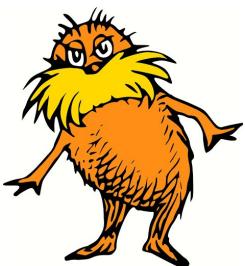
Mrs. Carlson's students pose for a photo



Claire, Trendon, Matthew, and Nola learn about forces



Arshad and Cami perform a scientific experiment



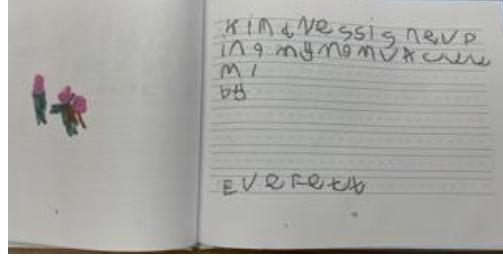
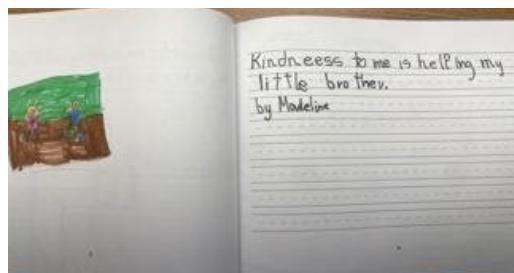
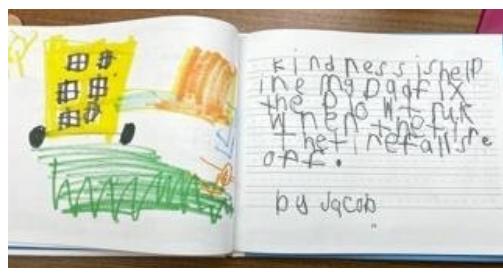
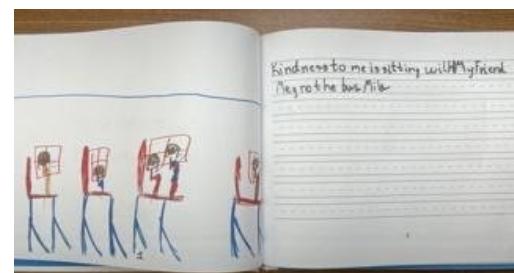
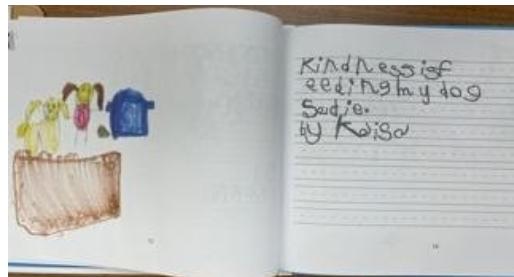
Madison displays her Lorax mustache



Kindergarten News



Back in February, Mrs. Pihlaja's Kindergarten class started working on making a class book. This year's class wanted to share what they do for others as a way of spreading Kindness. These students are super proud of their work and were even more excited to see their work published. Congratulations to our young authors for a job well done!





Second Grade News



Mrs. Nordmark's have had a lot of fun in March! Students used their knowledge of matter to create a mortar for a strong enough foundation for the 3 Little Pigs' house. We experimented to determine which combination would work best: flour/water, baking soda/water, sugar/water, or salt/water. We found out that flour/water makes the strongest foundation as long as you use enough water to get all of the four wet. The kids worked in partner groups to build a foundation and frame with their mortar, straws, and pipe cleaners. The next day, the houses were built using only paper and tape. With the strong foundations, most houses were able to withstand the breath of the Big Bad Wolf (hairdryer)! Students also had fun putting their STEM skills to task by engineering rafts to help the 3 Billy Goats Gruff avoid crossing the troll's bridge. Students also had fun making hands on landforms as they learn about geography.



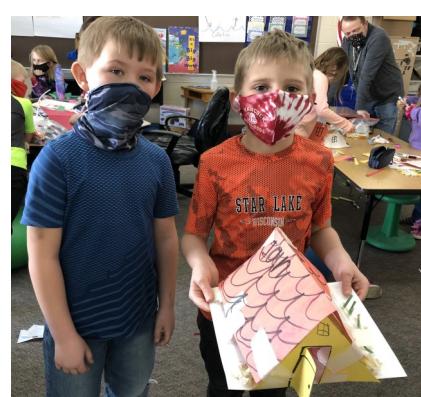
Arvid and Eli display their landforms



Boden and Christopher and their landform projects



Jayla, Alaina, Mason, and Ian show their house



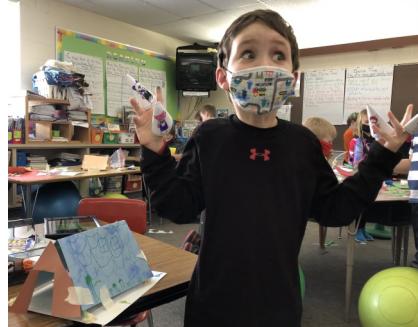
Bryn and Savannah work on their STEM project



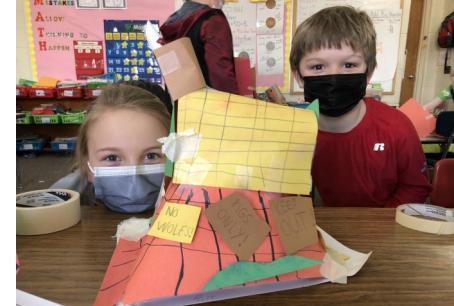
Caleb and Logan take a quick break for a pic



Jayla, Jayla and her class-



Christopher explains his project



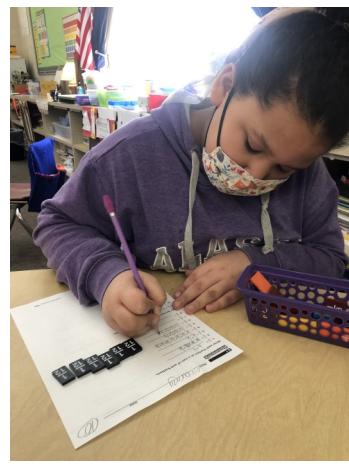
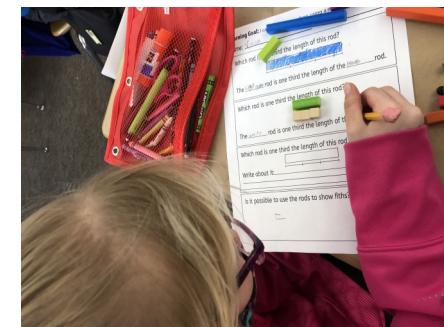
Bryn and Boden take a break for a pic



Fourth Grade News

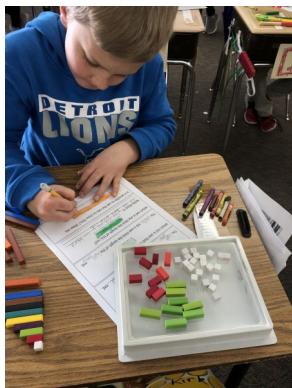


Students in Mrs. Liimatta's class have spent the past few weeks learning about fractions in a fun hands on way. Students have used fraction bars and Cuisenaire rods to compare fractions. Students have also been learning about the Engineering Design Process by building towers with marshmallows and spaghetti. They even had a little time to enjoy our sledding hill on a nice winter afternoon.



Vivian uses fraction bars to compare fractions

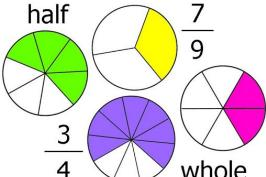
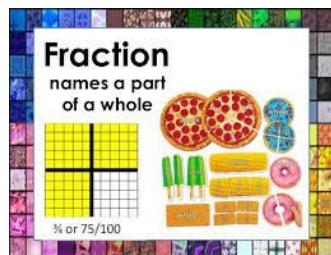
Students learn about fractions in a hands on way



Kirk and Logan work with Cuisenaire Rods



Reid and Reese catch some air!



Brady puts on the finishing touch

Fifth Grade Spelling Bee

Unfortunately, like so many other fun events for kids, The Scripp's National Spelling Bee was canceled this year. However Barkell Elementary fifth graders competed in our own spelling bee. We followed the same procedure as we have with past spelling bees, including the format, as well as using a former list. Students competed against their classmates. The top two finishers in each classroom competed against each other in the Barkell Elementary Spelling Bee finals. Congrats to the seven finalists: Samantha Brentar, Gena Lilly, Dean Pennala, Liam Erickson, Carsen Stromer, Sawyer Martens, and Kalia Oja! A special congratulations goes out to the winner— Liam Erickson, and the runner up— Gena Lily.



Dean correctly spells a tough word



Six finalists pose for a photo after the competition



And then there were two...



Samantha spells a difficult word with ease



Liam poses with his plaque



Liam spells a tough word



Six finalists get ready to begin



The seven finalists were treated to a Pizza Hut lunch



Down to the last three remaining





Barkell Elementary Thanks:

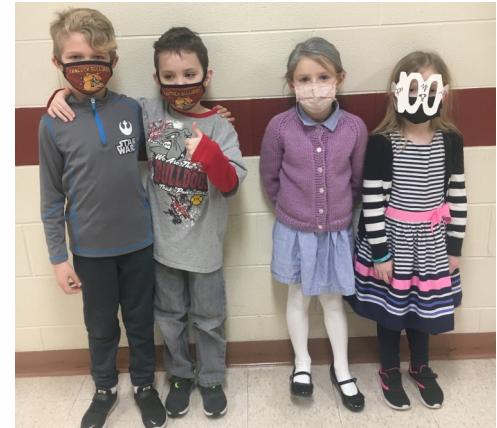
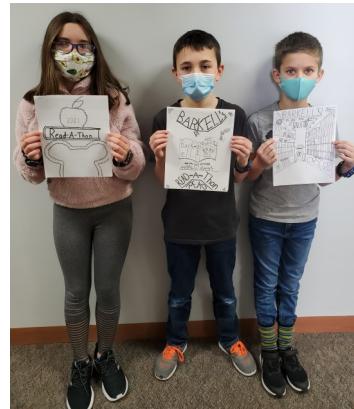


- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **The Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club** for their help with our ski program
- **31 Backpacks** for all that they do for our kids
- **Hancock HS National Honor Society** for reading to our students
- **Mystery Readers** for our March is Reading Month



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.

Congratulations to Maribelle, Jordan, and Liam for winning the Read-a-thon design contest. We would also like to congratulate Liam, Christopher, Anna, and Cora for their incredible job on our bus safety radio commercials!



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 extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.

*We are in need of Legos for our Lego club

