

March 2024

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- **Y5s/ K Registration is from 8:30-5:30 on April 23rd. Parents can however, enroll any-time they would like. Please reach out with any questions at 487-9030 Ext. 6000**
- 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,



Upcoming Events

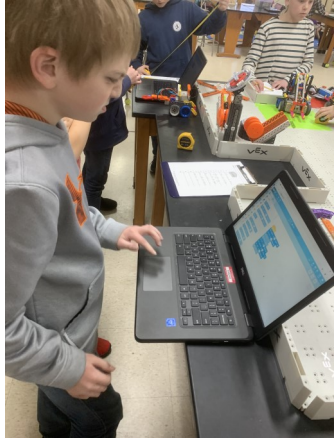
- 4/8 Classes resume
- 4/23 Y5s/ K Registration (8:30-5:30)
- 4/24 Early dismissal (1:46) & Class Pictures



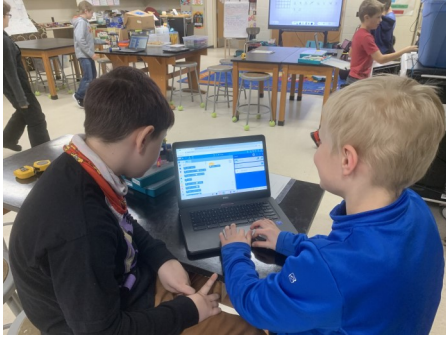
STEM News



Students spent the month of March learning about Coding, Robotics, Circuitry, and much more. All students in Young Fives through fifth grade have been working together to code robots and to build electrical circuits. Fourth 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 worked on driving and coding their robots and used math skills to measure distance in their codes. Getting the code just right can be frustrating, but with perseverance they succeed!



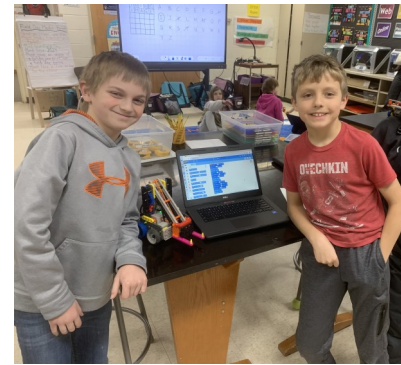
Aaron focuses on his coding



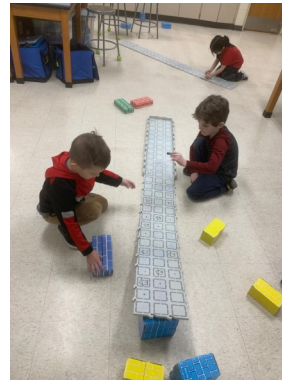
Fourth graders prepare for their mission to Mars



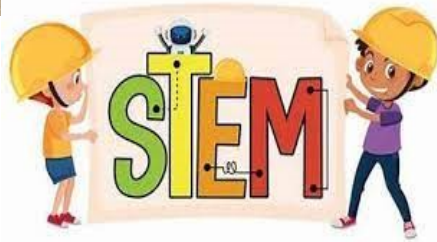
Fourth graders write code for their robots



Elden and Ethan pose for a quick photo



Kindergartners work with their robots



Merida and Brooklyn learn about circuitry



Students watch their robots perform tasks



Alina watches her robot



March is Reading Month



Barkell Elementary kicked off March is Reading Month with a game of Jeopardy. Students from 1st grade-5th grade were contestants and were quizzed on a variety of topics including Book Characters and Barkell Elementary trivia. Our Reading Month theme this year is: Reading Is All Fun And Games! We will enjoy a month filled with dress-up days, drop everything and read times, book raffles, and more!



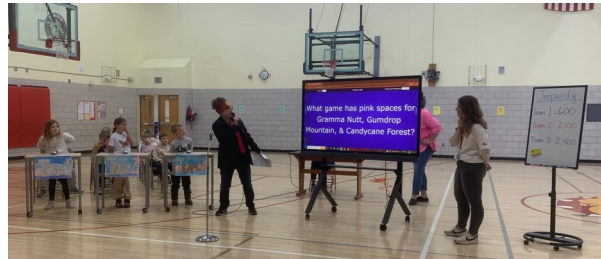
Monopoly and Candy Land on display

Kindergartners place the book raffle tickets they have earned into their book of choice bucket

Anders picks a category

Contestants answer a question about board games

The contestants get ready



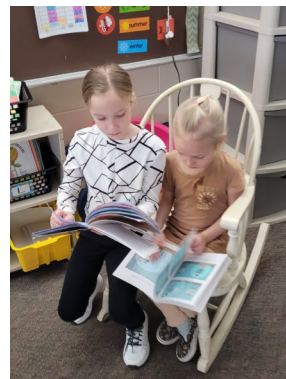
Evelyn reads to her Reading Buddy



Ms. Kerttu's class on Wacky Wednesday



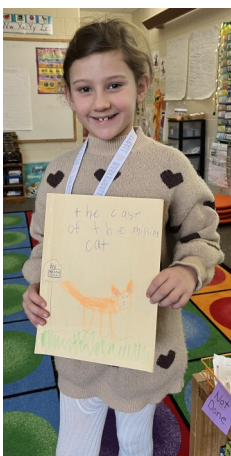
A couple dozen books will be raffled to students throughout March



Selah and Brielle enjoy a good book



Y5s enjoys a Mystery Reader



Naomi wrote her own book about cats



Children's Author Johnny Storm reads his book about the Keweenaw to Barkell students





Young Fives News



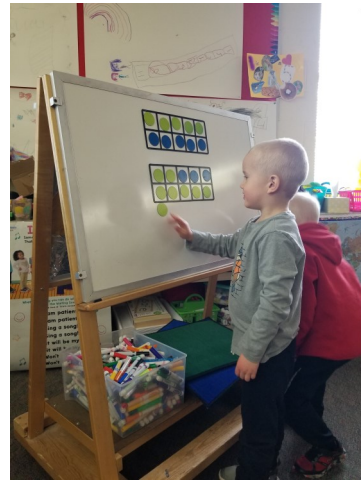
Young Fivers have been working hard learning their letters and numbers. They have also had fun learning from their Reading Buddies. They have certainly enjoyed their first ever March is Reading Month!



HCH NHS members read to Young Fivers



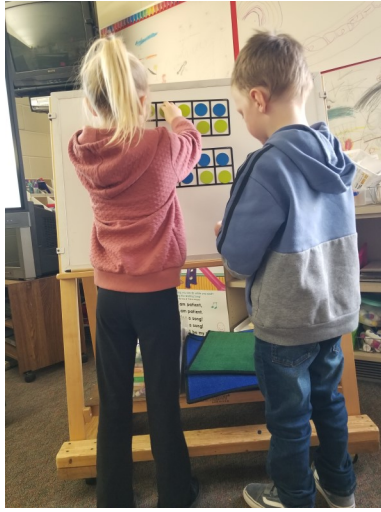
Oliver poses with his Reading Buddies



Silas, Kennedy, and Brooklyn work on their number sense



Oskar and Silas pose with their completed puzzle



Students use 10 frames to boost their number sense



Y Fivers group photo

Winter Fun





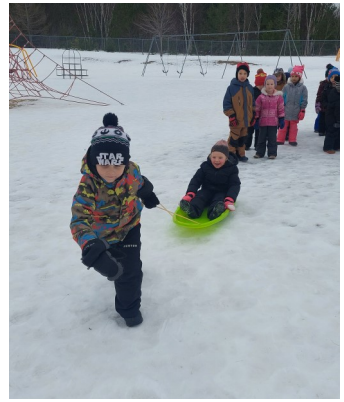
Kindergarten News



It has been an exciting winter for Barkell kindergartners. Students enjoyed an hands on learning experience compliments of MTU Outdoor Science Investigations . They learned about forces, gravity and friction. The kids learned that you need a big force to pull a person on a flat surface, but that sledding down a hill is easier because gravity helps pull you down. They also threw balls into the air and learned that gravity is a force that pulls them back to the ground.



Kindergartners learn about gravity



Students learn about friction by pulling sleds



Hazel enjoys a ride in the sled



Students take advantage of an icy hill for fast runs

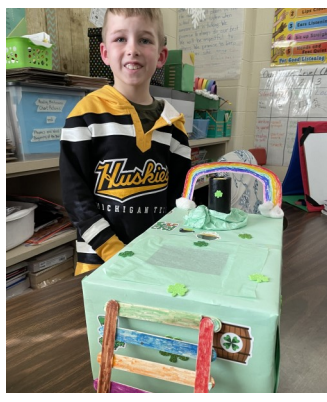


First Grade News



First graders celebrated St. Patrick's Day by trying to outsmart the leprechaun by making clever traps. Then they explained how the trap worked by using the words first, next, then, and finally. Unfortunately, that sneaky leprechaun got away!

Sunnie tempts the leprechaun with free gold



Evan poses with his contraption



Lily, Lillyanne, Brielle, and Brody show their traps



Letty, Braelynn, and Marina are ready to trap the leprechaun





Second Grade News



It has been a busy month for Barkell second graders. Students visited the Keweenaw Historic Park Visitor's Center. Student were treated to a guided tour of the museum and participated in activities to help them learn more about our local history! Students also enjoyed time with their Reading Buddies and a presentation on oral hygiene from our Bulldog high school students in the SLACK club.



Gena and Evelyn read with their Reading Buddies



Second graders pose for a pic with the SLACK Club



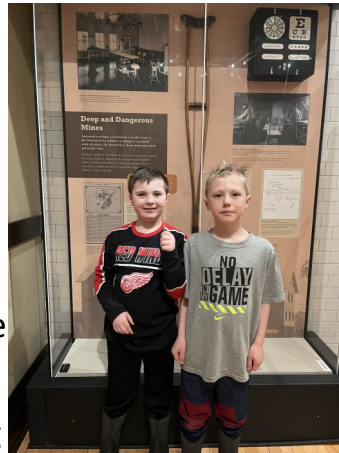
Rayna, Lola, and Payton learn about labor history in the CC



Gabe, Bennett, and Scott are ready to play



Students learn about the dangers of mining



Bennett and Elias pose for a photo



Ellie checks out a strange object



Second graders ask a park ranger questions



Students tour the Keweenaw Historic Park Visitor's Center to learn about our local history



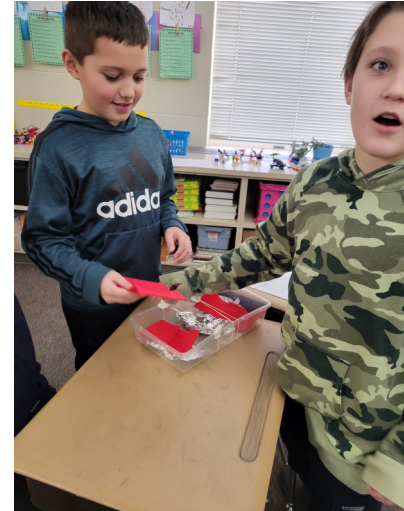
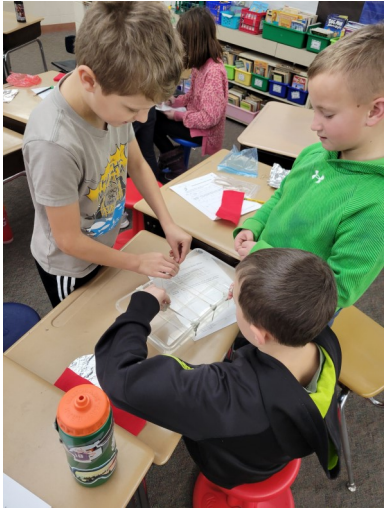
Hayden, Ella, Ivy, and Evelyn take a quick break in front of a Copper Country sign



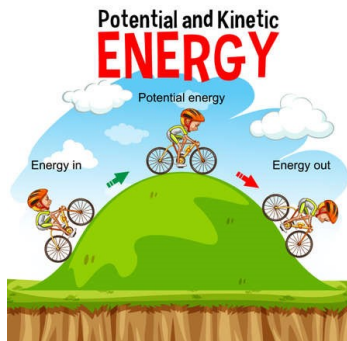
Fourth Grade News



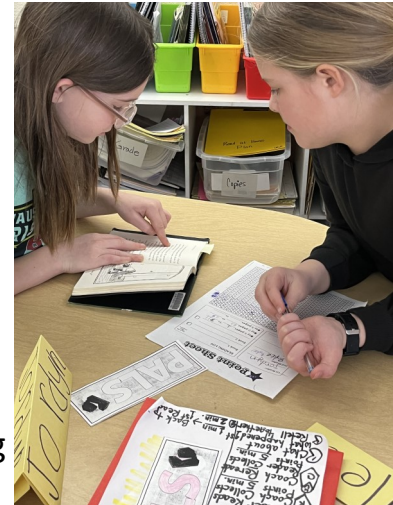
Fourth graders have been working hard this winter. Students have enjoyed learning about sound and energy by experimenting with ways to dampen sound and to store energy. Students also learned about animal adaptations during a visit from Bob Wheeler. Fourth graders have also been working on their reading fluency skills. However they still found a little time to enjoy some sledding on our playground



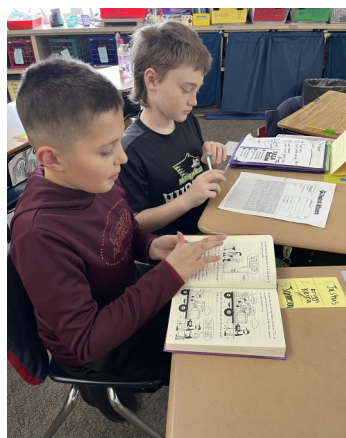
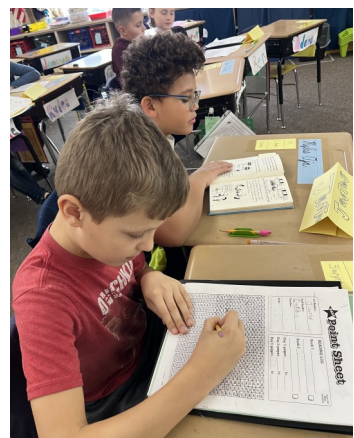
Fourth graders experiment with various materials to store energy and to dampen sound



Jordyn and Rylee work together to build reading fluency



Students enjoy starting as potential energy and then turning into kinetic energy



Justus, Caleb, Rylan, and Jameson sharpen their reading skills



Aaron, Baily, and Elin examine animal traits



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
- **Transnation Title Agency** for their generous gift of goodies for staff
- **Johnny Storm**, Children's Author, for his presentation to our students
- **HCH SLACK Club** for facilitating an Easter Egg Hunt and hygiene lessons
- **HCH NHS and athletes** for reading to our students during 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.



Officer Olson speaks with Mrs. Blessing's and Mrs. Koskela's classrooms about how to be safe.

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