

October 2023

# 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 number 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

- 11-1 Half Day for students (11:50 dismissal)
- 11-21 Half Day for students (11:50 dismissal)
- 11-22 No School– Thanksgiving Break



# STEM News



Young 5's students have been learning Pattern Recognition in STEM class. They have been doing pattern puzzles, reading books about patterns, and creating patterns using the tools and toys in the STEM classroom. Pattern Recognition is one of the foundational skills for Computational Thinking (a problem solving strategy used in Computer Science and other curriculum areas). October is Chemistry month and 2nd-5th grade students are exploring chemical reactions by making slime in STEM class. 2nd and 3rd graders learn about the properties of the ingredients and how they change when mixed together. 4th grade students learn about luminescence (chemical reactions that cause glowing) and phosphorescence (substances that absorb light to glow) while making phosphorescent slime. 5th graders did research to find the perfect slime recipe. Their slime recipes ranged from thermochromatic (color changing with temperature) to edible slimes! Slime week is an exciting time in STEM! Barkell Elementary's VEX Robotics club is off to a great start! This year, 19 students are working together on 4 different robot teams to compete in this year's game: Full Volume. The teams need to design, build, code, and drive robots that can move different sizes blocks into a score zone. They have a chance to compete 4 times this year at Hancock High school. The competitions will be held on Saturdays: November 4, 11, 18, and December 16. We hope to see you there to cheer them on!



Young Fivers work on their patterns

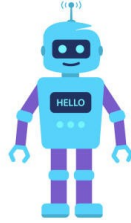


Brooklyn builds her pattern



Slime stretches across the STEM room

Third graders create slime



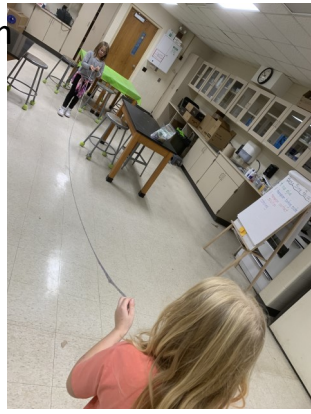
Cheyenne, Isabelle, and Kylie show their projects, along with their flexibility



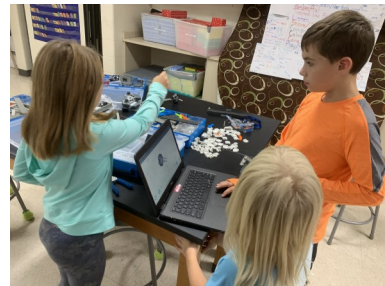
Kylie builds her robot



Students work together to build and program robots



## Chemical Reactions



James and Addison program their robot



# Fire Safety Week



I would like to thank the Hancock Fire Department and the Ripley Fire Department for their Fire Safety presentations on October 9th. Our daycare through third grade students were treated to an assembly in our gymnasium where they learned about how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire. The fourth and fifth graders were treated to an outdoor presentation where they had an opportunity to learn about how to operate a fire extinguisher.



Firefighter Deuweke teaches about fire safety



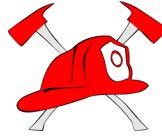
Students answer questions about fire safety



Mrs. Smith gets ready to extinguish



Firefighters demonstrate their protective gear



Students test out their fire extinguishing skills



Fire Chief Lepisto demonstrates how to use a fire extinguisher



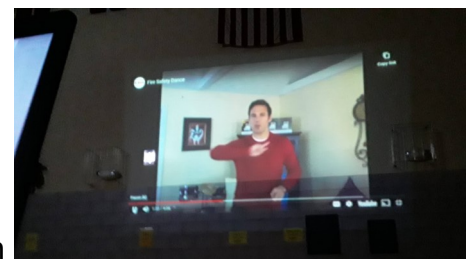
Firefighters set up the demonstration



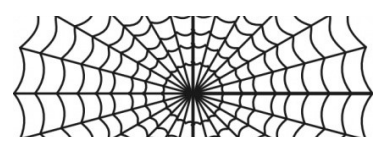
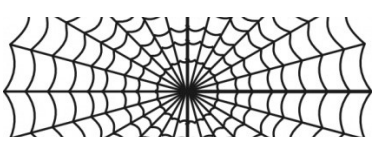
Students watch a fire safety video in the gym



Mrs. Liimatta puts out a fire



# Halloween



Mrs. Dupuis' students bob for apples



Earlier than usual snow brought out the penguins



Cam is ready to excavate some candy



Princesses, cheerleaders, and cowboys parade through the halls



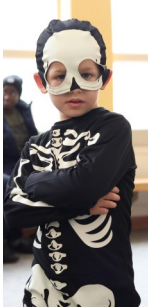
Mrs. Blessing's class poses for a pic



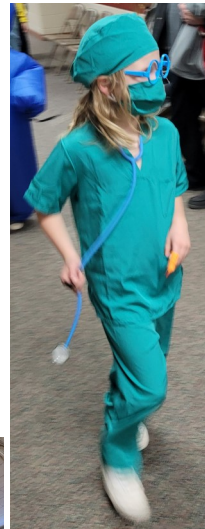
Your package has arrived



Our first graders visited Portage Point and Mission Point



Astronauts and nurses parade through the halls



For a fun Halloween STEM project, fifth graders designed "containers" to cushion their pumpkin to prevent it from smashing during our first annual Pumpkin Drop





# Kindergarten News



Kindergartners have been busy working with their Reading Buddies, learning their numbers, learning how animals survive in the wild, and many other fun and exciting things!



Alora and Payton pose for a quick pic



William and Nellie build a nest



Juno and Colton work together



Macaiah reads with Kase while Emmett reads with Kade



Troy displays his bird house



Evan and Rosa smile for the camera



Maverick and Cord read together



# First Grade News

First graders, much like our kindergartners, have been having fun getting to know their new Reading Buddies. Mrs. Jackson's first graders are paired with Mrs. Cavis' third graders. Students have enjoyed working with, and getting to know their new mentors



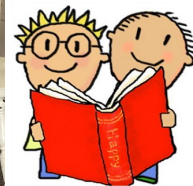
Tanner reads with his buddy



Reece listens to Jessa



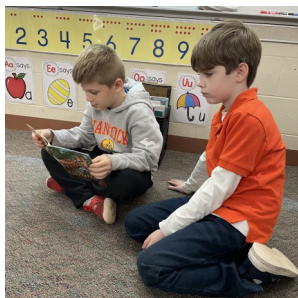
Vinnie reads to Matthew



Lilly and Evan enjoy a story with their buddy



Aadila and Braelyn read together





# Second Grade News



Second graders have enjoyed working with their kindergarten Reading Buddies. They have also enjoyed coding their robots in STEM class!



Second graders code their robots



Cam and Gage work together



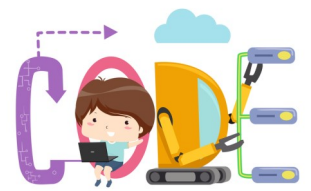
Ava and Hayden work on a project



Lacey helps her K Buddies

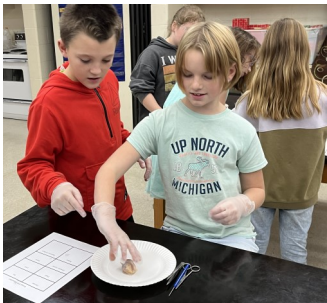


K and second graders work on a craft together



# Fourth Grade News

Fourth graders recently dissected sheep eyes. Students enjoyed learning about the different parts that make up eyes in a hands on way!



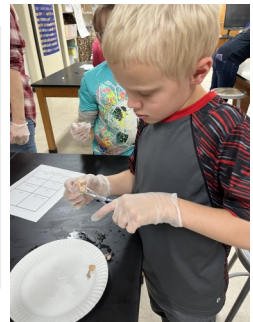
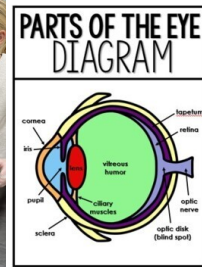
Holden and Bailey work together



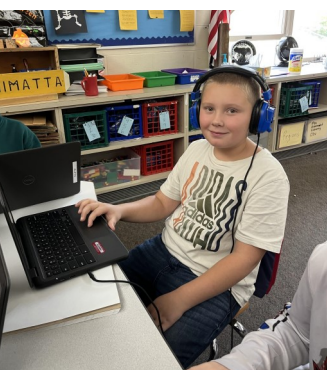
Fourth graders take a quick break from their dissection to pose for a pic



Ciara and Mallo dissect their sheep eye



Dennis and Maverick focus on their work



Wesley works on his Chromebook



Rylee, Briggs, and Easton identify the parts of an eye ball





# Third Grade News



Barkell third graders are learning how to collaborate to solve a problem. They have to get the gummy worm off the boat and through the life saver preserver. This creative activity encourages teamwork, communication, and is a ton of fun! Third graders are also learning about pollination and the parts of a flower. They made bees and they are moving their bees from flower to flower.



Third graders use teamwork to save their gummy worms



James and Walter work together



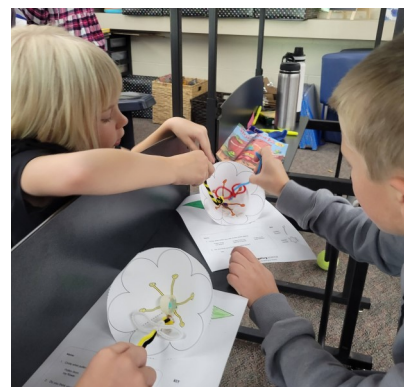
Ryder and Claire display their projects



Cheyenne and her partner learn about pollination



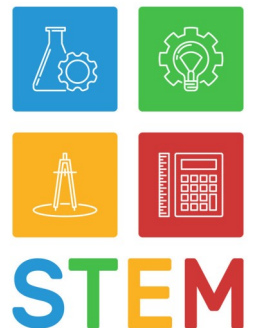
Addison and her partner work on their flower



Seth, Ellie, and Jillian work to save their gummy worm



Ryder helps his partners solve a STEM task



Walter, Kaisa, Addison, and James are heavily focused on the task at hand



# Fifth Grade News



Barkell Elementary fifth graders enjoyed a fall trip to Hanka Homestead to learn about what life was like for Finnish immigrants in the 1920s. Hanka Homestead was a homestead/ farm established in 1896. It still contains many of it's original buildings. Students toured the Blacksmith Shop, Granary, Smoke Sauna, Root Cellar, etc. They enjoyed learning about our local history, and how different life was back then.

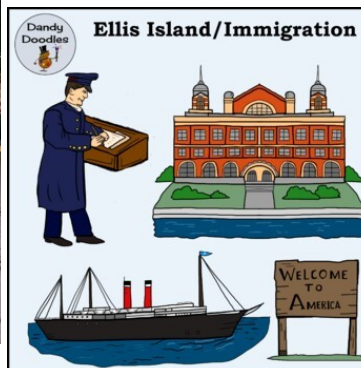


Students learn the roles that each building played in the lives of early Finish immi-



Students learn how food was stored and prepared

Students check out an unfamiliar object



Students check out an old tractor





# Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **Ari Wuebben** for her generous donation of boys socks and underwear
- **Erica Rouser** for her generous donation of boy's pants
- **Range Bank** for their generous donation of school supplies
- **Ari Wuebben** for her generous gift of leggings and socks
- **The Meyette family** for their generous donation
- **The Phillips family** for their generous gift of clothing and shoes

## School Reminders

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 Keweenaw Trucking Company



# KTC



For delivering many loads of wood chips (playground) for free!!

## 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