

September 2023

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- 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.
- Thank you to all who participated in our fundraiser. As always, we truly appreciate your help! We use these funds for items like playground toys, prizes for our weekly prize drawings, extra snacks for kids who need them, etc.
- 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

- 10/10 Picture Day
- 10/13 No school– Teacher PD Day
- 10/18 Early dismissal (1:46)



STEM News



The STEM classroom was busy the first week of school with learning and reviewing rules. Kindergarten students practiced Showing Respect, Teamwork, Staying Safe, and that Mistakes=Learning while doing some fun teamwork challenges. Second graders were practicing their skills with designing 3D prints using Tinkercad. Here at Barkell Elementary, all students in grades 1-5 learn to 3D print! Fifth Graders are inventing the Cars of the Future after reading the book "If I Built a Car." They are using the Engineering Design Process to create models of what their ideal car of the future will be. From flying cars to ones that make cotton candy as they drive, their car inventions may one day be our cars of the future!



Kindergartners work together on their chain



Naomi and Evelyn program their design



Elden, Ethan, and Lane stand by their tower



Fifth graders work on their designs



Brady and Macklyn focus on their work



Barkell students design and create items with our 3D printers



Aaliyah repurposes 3D printer spools for her project



Kindergartners build with blocks



Madeline and Brita pose for a photo



Gavin focuses on his design



4th graders display their tower





New Playground!



Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make our new playground a reality! We would especially like to thank Northern Hardwood for not only donating thousands of dollars of wood chips, but also for delivering it to us for free!



Ryleigh, Aaliyah, and Aryana enjoy the new multi-person swing



Students enjoy the new playground on a foggy first day



Students enjoy the new climber



Our new playground features multiple new slides



Young Barkell students enjoy the new equipment



Barkell students climb on the new Bone Climber



Adam and Jayden relax on a Monday morning



The lower elementary side of the playground features this new play structure



Thank You Northern Hardwoods For the Wood Chips



NORTHERN HARDWOODS



Young Fives News



Young Fives have had an exciting start to the school year. Students have been having fun working in our school garden, learning about the seasons, and of course learning their letters and numbers.

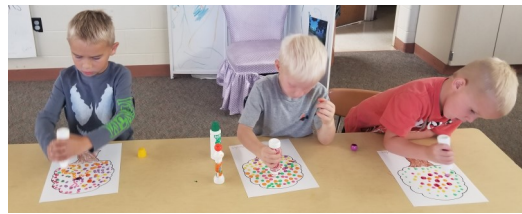
Young Fives harvest potatoes



Oskar creates a fall scene



Merida paints a fall scene



Students focus on their work



Kindergarten News

It has been an exciting start to the year for kindergarten! Students practiced cutting with scissors and making a scissor salad. They used an assortment of paper and made a "salad." Green for lettuce, red for tomatoes and peppers, yellow for cheese, brown for bacon or mushrooms. They also learned from Mrs. Smith's 4th graders about the correct way to use the playground equipment. Students also spent time harvesting vegetables from our school garden.



Elden shows the potato he found



Kindergartners harvest crops from our garden



Troy, Nellie, and Ethan sharpen their scissor skills



Kindergartners focus on their work



Lane and Demi pose for a quick pic



Ethan and Troy carry the vegetables harvested from our garden





First Grade News



First graders spent some time this fall out in our school garden. Students planted vegetables last spring and harvested them this fall. Afterwards they cooked up their crops and had a feast!



Stella and Ryleigh pick potatoes



Dillon searches for potatoes



First graders search for vegetables in our garden



Mrs. Dupuis prepares a meal for her first graders



Mrs. Dupuis' class poses for a picture with their harvest



Fall Fun



Barkell Elementary students learn how to make apple cider



Students enjoy a cup of fresh cider on a nice fall afternoon



Second graders check out the apple press





Second Grade News



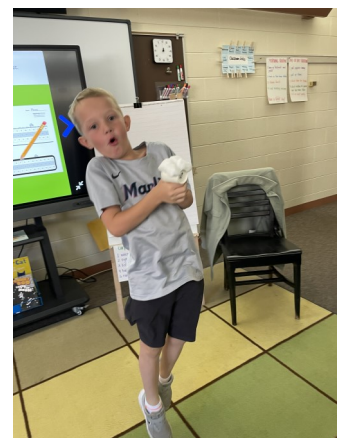
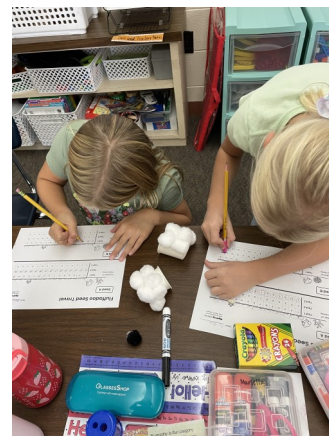
Barkell Elementary second graders have gotten off to an excellent start this school year! Students started out the year with a fun science project designed to teach kids how animals help disperse seeds in the forest. Students created their own "animals" with fur to see how long seeds stick to fur when they hop.



Gena, Raelynn, and Tad test out their seeds



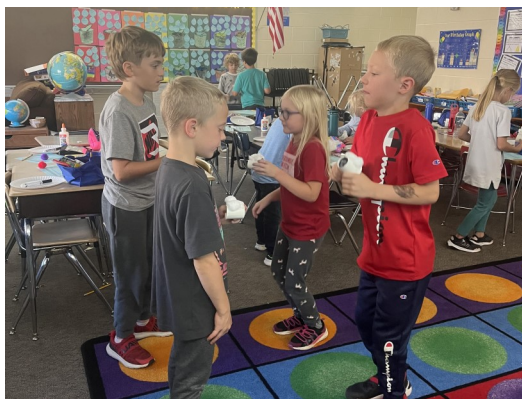
Evelyn and Naomi work together



Anders tries to shake off his seed



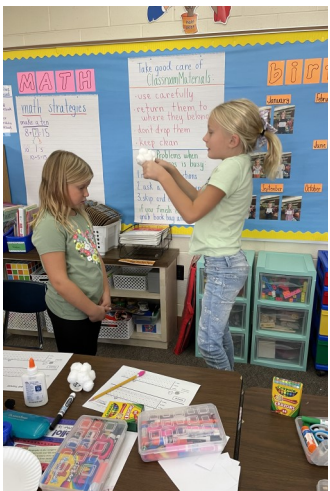
Lola and Rayna display their project



Students hop around to test out their design

SEED DISPERSAL

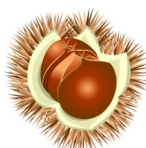
Miss Sturos' students pose for a photo with their furry animal designs



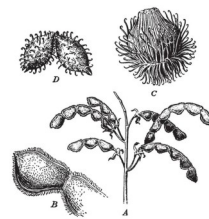
Mariella and Payton work together



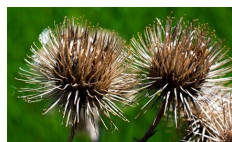
Macklyn and Ella shake the animals they designed to see how much it takes to knock off the seeds



Students in Miss Kerttu's class enjoy a fun hands on science experiment



Macaiah and Cord see how well seeds stick to their fur





Fourth Grade News



Barkell Elementary fourth graders have already begun mentoring their Kindergarten Buddies. Students have enjoyed building relationships with their younger schoolmates through activities such as teaching them about computers, how to use the playground equipment, and of course reading with them!



Kell teaches Remi how to operate a computer



Dennis and Dezmae work together



Evan learns from Will



Bailey shows Amira how to use a mouse



Fifth Grade News

Fifth graders took advantage of the nice fall weather with a nice outdoor field trip with the assistance of Michigan Tech's outdoor field trip program. Students walked to the Maasto Hiihto ski trails to learn about tree identification. Students looked for leaves and learned how to identify various trees and also learned about the different characteristics of our native trees.



Braylin and Jada identify a leaf



Liam and Bruce search for leaves

Students gather around to learn about trees



Gavin and Mason pose for a quick pic



Liana and Bryn study a maple leaf





Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **Northern Hardwoods** for their incredibly generous donation of, and delivery of, wood chips for the playground
- **Northern Heating and Plumbing** for their generous donation to STEM
- **Amanda Klein** for her generous donation of books
- **Vicky Vichich** for her generous donation of new shoes and pants for students
- **Rebekah Stadius** for her generous donation of new boots for students



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 Northern Heating & Plumbing

Thank you to Northern Heating & Plumbing for the large donation that helped our STEM class to get small tools for our littlest learners! These tools are the perfect size for tiny hands and are already helping them learn to love using tools for repairs! (Pictured: Calvin)

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 size 6 boy's underwear

*We are in need of boys/girls pull-on pants size 5-7