

February 2020

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- After school coding classes have begun at the H.S. library. The class is for 3rd-5th graders and meets after school on Tuesdays. NO permission slip is needed and students can ride the school bus up to the H.S. library. The class ends at 4:30.
- We would like to thank everyone for helping with our Read-a-thon fundraiser.
- Please consider writing your child's name on their winter gear. We often find lost items here and would love to be able to immediately return those items.
- Lego Club is in full swing. It meets on Thursdays from 3:20-4:30. Please let me know if you need a permission slip.
- 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:

- 3/4 & 3/18 Early dismissal (1:46)
- 3/23-3/27 Spring Break– no school
-



100 Day



Barkell Elementary kindergartners led the celebration of our 100th day of school. Students dressed up as if they were 100 years old and paraded around the school. Students also brought 100 items of their choosing to help reinforce their number sense. It was a fun day for all.



Students in Mrs. Carlson's class come up with 100 words.



Parents enjoy 100 Day too



An old man strolls through the hallway



A Barkell El. Grandfather enjoys 100 Day



Students parade through the office



Barkell kindergartners parade through the halls



Mrs. Blessing's class poses for a photo.



The Joel Tacey Show



Michigan's Family Funnyman, Joel Tacey visited Barkell Elementary this past February. All students gathered in the gymnasium for what proved to be a fun and exciting show. Mr. Tacey told jokes, did some tricks, and spoke about the importance of being a good citizen and always doing your best.



A packed house anxiously awaits the show



Joel greets the crowd. Joel performed at Barkell three years ago so some of our students remembered him.



Carliann volunteers to assist Joel with one of his acts.



Alex makes one ball turn into 12



Carliann helps Joel juggle by using her head



Alex assists Joel with a trick



Mr. Pertile catches a Frisbee from Joel



Henrick shows off his new hat



Joel juggles multiple objects



Joel shreds a newspaper and puts it back together to the amazement of the crowd



Kindergarten News



Mrs. Blessing's class used the Virtual Reality goggles to study space before we went into Star Lab. They love looking at the planets, stars and other objects with the goggles. Many students thought that it looked great. Here are their thoughts:

“They were cool.” “It seemed like you were falling from space.” “They were colorful.”
“It looks like you are sitting in space.” “You can go to any place.”



Third Grade News



3C was using their estimation skills this Valentine’s Day with a fun activity using conversation hearts. Students first got to estimate several questions. For example, how many hearts were in their box and how many hearts it would take to fit across their desk? Then they got to open their boxes to discover the actual amount. We had a lot of fun with this activity.



Reid, Silas, and Colin work on their estimates.



Students pose for a photo in their red and yellow



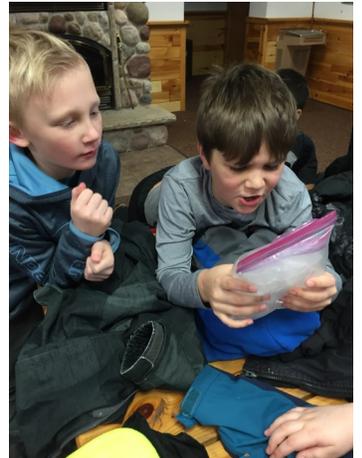
Dawson, Isaac, Dominick, and Cole are focused on their work.



Second Grade News



Second grade went to Nara Nature Park to learn about matter and nature. We learned about the freezing point of water and how salt lowers the freezing point to around 22 degrees. That is why they put salt on the road on warmer winter days. It doesn't work when it is super cold. Another highlight was hiking with snow shoes to explore nature with a scavenger hunt. We found animal tracks, burrows, and different kinds of plants.



Rylan and Max study the melting point of water

Students enjoy outdoor learning on a nice winter day



Jasper takes a quick break

Mrs. Nordmark's class poses for a quick photo with their new friend



Lily displays a pine cone that she found



Students gather for activities in the Visitors Center before heading outside



Barkell second graders are excited about their scavenger hunt!



Students display their scavenger hunt recording sheet.



Students carefully observe ice melting, and record temperatures to determine if salt lowers the freezing point



Second Grade News



Second grade used the Virtual Reality kit to help us learn about landforms and places in the world. We explored Mount Everest, the volcanoes of Hawaii, glaciers in Alaska, the Great Wall of China, and even a city in Pakistan. We compared these areas to our own local landforms and community. It was fun to feel like we were really in these places! We have also been learning about different kinds of maps and how to read them. The class explored relief maps, maps of Lake Superior, maps of Hancock, maps of Michigan, globes, and atlases. Barkell second graders have also been learning about Coding. Coding is a life skill that we do in the classroom and not just on the computers. We wrote codes for a “robot” second grader to travel and collect the letters of our names. Another center was coding our “robot” friends to stack cups. We also have a fun coding board game that a team works together to solve the coding challenges. Finally, we used coding legos to build rovers that we can code with our iPads.



Second graders enjoy using Virtual Reality to learn about the world.



Barkell Elementary second graders study various types of maps



Students have fun learning about Coding



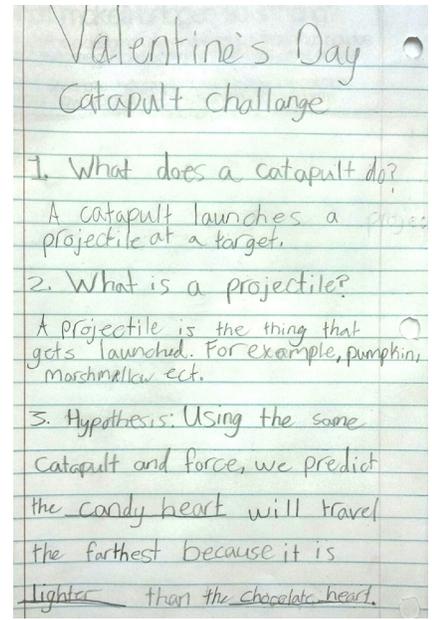


Third Grade News



Maggie and Lorelai help measure the distance

Mrs. Knuuttilla's 3rd grade class researched, designed, tested, and modified catapult designs for the 4th annual catapult challenge. Students were challenged to design a catapult and choose a projectile for distance and accuracy. The farthest projectile flew 47 feet 2 inches!



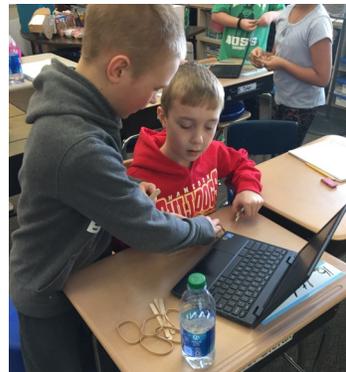
Mrs. Knuuttilla's students display their catapults.



Gunner, Ayden, and Lindy enjoy a fun activity.



Students record their data



Stanley and Stefan design their launcher



Tyler works on his catapult.

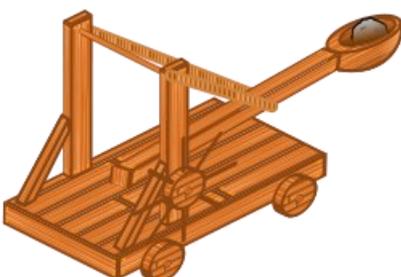


Brady and Reese get ready to launch



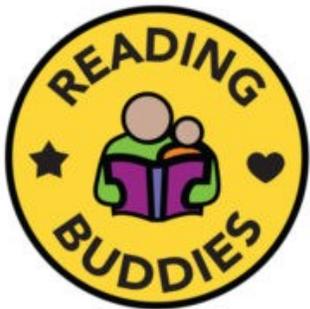
Keila chooses materials for her catapult.

Perrin and Logan display their catapult





Fourth Grade News



40 and 1D BRIM buddies meet weekly to read and to create projects. In January, the students created beautiful snowflakes which are decorating the windows and space at the St. Vincent dePaul food pantry. Managed by a former Barkell kindergarten teacher, Vicky Vichich, the St.Vincent DePaul food pantry is located on Quincy Street in Hancock. The pantry assists all households in Houghton County except those in the CLK school district, regardless of religious affiliation.



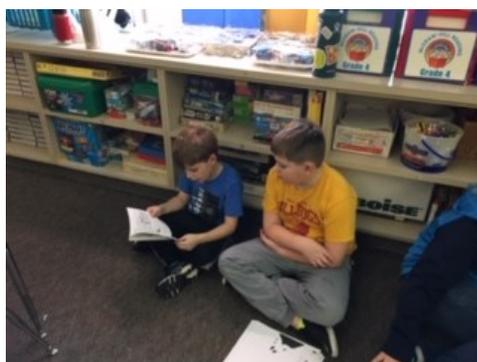
Tia enjoys a nice book with Savannah



Students in Mrs. Olson's class and Mrs. Dupuis' class display their snowflakes.



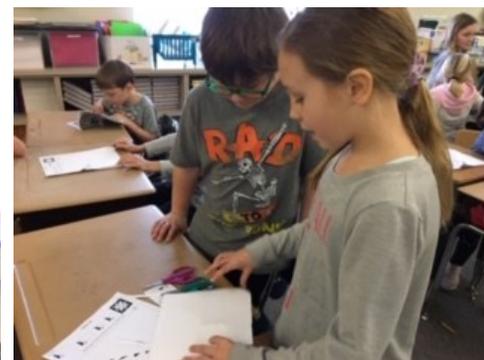
Rudy reads to his Brim buddy



Colter reads to Andrew



Christopher and Marcus cut out their snowflake.



Brenna reads a good book to Caleb



Ian shares a good book with a friend



Barkell fourth graders pose for a picture on Spirit Day



Fourth Grade Engineers



Fourth graders completed a packaging engineering project from Engineering is Elementary called Plant Packages: Thinking Inside the Box. First, students examined everyday objects to begin their journey of discovery learning about technology, engineering, and the engineering design process. Then we read a story called A Gift From Fadil, which took place in the country of Jordan, about two siblings who used the engineering design process to create a plant package as a wedding gift for their older sister. Following reading A Gift from Fadil, the students became package engineers, studying the functions of a package, comparing and contrasting the packaging of common household items. Soon after, the students worked in teams to create and plan their own plant packages following the Engineering Design Model. The students drew designs, created material lists, and worked hard to keep packaging costs minimal to keep the product cost effective.

Name: Zoev Frina, Alana 4L Date: _____

Technology Around Us

1. What is your object? glue stick

2. Draw a picture of your object in this box. Label the parts.

3. What does your object do? What problem does it solve?
The glue stick helps things stick together and without having to let it dry for too long. The glue stick solves the problem of things falling apart.

4. What material or materials is your object made of?
The glue stick is made out of plastic glue and it also has a paper label.

EIE: Designing Plant Packages © Museum of Science, Boston Duplication permitted P-1 Prep Lesson: What are Engineering and Technology? 4-1 Lesson 4: Improving a Package Design

Name: Vince Date: _____

The Engineering Design Process: Five Steps for Engineering Design

Ask: What's the problem? What have others done? What are the constraints?

Imagine: What could be some solutions? Brainstorm ideas. Choose the best one.

Plan: Draw a diagram. Make a list of materials you'll need.

Create: Follow your plan and create it. Test it out!

Improve: Make your design even better. Test it out!

EIE: Designing Plant Packages © Museum of Science, Boston Duplication permitted 4-1 Lesson 4: Improving a Package Design

Name: _____ Date: _____

Functions of Our Plant Package

Directions: Put a in the boxes next to the functions that your plant package needs to meet. Put an in the boxes next to the functions that will NOT be included in your package design.

Function	This function helps us be sure that
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contain	the product stays inside the package.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carry	the product is easy to transport.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communicate	the consumer is given information or instructions about the product.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Display	the product is highlighted by windows or the color, size, or shape of the package.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispense	the product can be dispensed in specific or controlled amounts with pumps, nozzles, or spouts.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect	the product does not get crushed or damaged.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preserve	the product is kept fresh and healthy.

EIE: Designing Plant Packages © Museum of Science, Boston Duplication permitted 4-3 Lesson 4: Improving a Package Design

Name: _____ Date: _____

Designing a Plant Package Engineering Design Process: Ask!

1. What is the goal? We will design a package to carry a plant and keep it healthy.

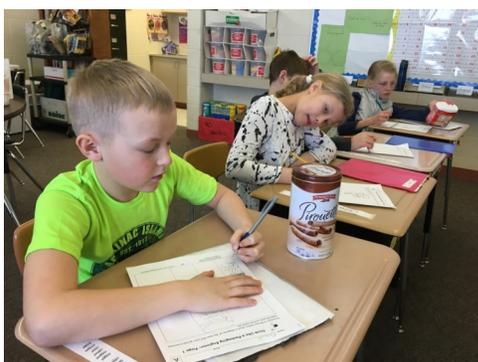
2. What criteria do we need to think about when designing our package?
(a) label (e) contains wetness
(b) instructions (f) get air
(c) protect the plant (g) light
(d) easy to carry

3. What are the needs of the plant that we must think about?
Wetness, air, light, soil

4. What are the needs of the consumer that we must think about?
Easy to carry, instructions, label, see the plant

5. What properties of materials do you think are most important to our package design?
plastic to contain moisture, etc, holes, light can pass through

EIE: Designing Plant Packages © Museum of Science, Boston Duplication permitted 4-3 Lesson 4: Improving a Package Design



STEAM



Fourth Grade Engineers cont...



...Following the plans that they created, the students worked in teams to create the plant packages. The students worked very seriously and showed a lot of creativity in their projects. After creating the plant packages, the students swapped packages and scored each other's products using a rubric. Considering recommendations from peers, the students went on to discuss changes that could be made to the package and described and drew the updated product. The students wrote reflections on their plant package projects, reviewing the functions of a package and explaining their design, how they tested the packages, the results, and how they would improve their packages.

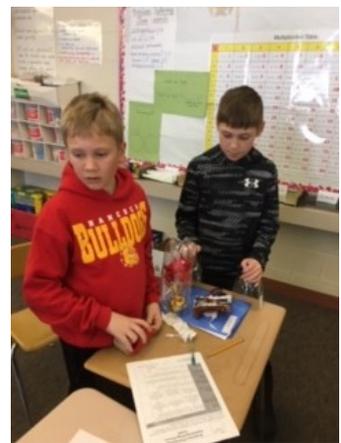
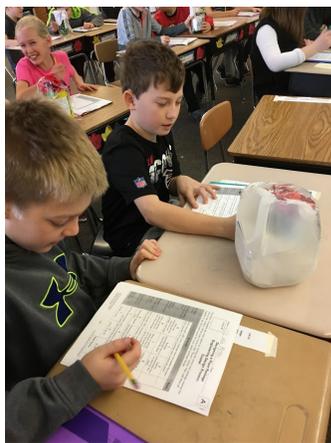
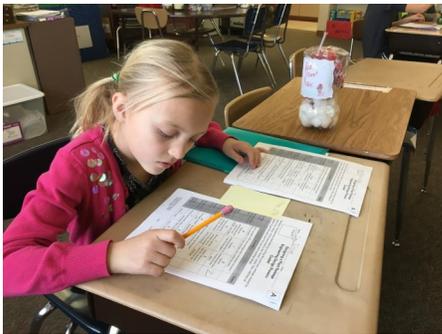
Kalia Oja 4S

Plant Package Reflection

The functions of a package are to contain, protect, preserve, display, and communicate. To contain is to keep the object from falling out of its package or to keep it together. To protect the object is to keep it from not breaking or falling apart. To preserve you have to keep the object fresh. To display your package is to make sure you can see the object from the package. Last of all is to communicate. To communicate is to have a label and directions on your package.

Mindy and I designed our package with a pop bottle, cotton balls, tin foil, yarn, paper (and markers to write on the paper), tape, and ribbon. First we had our pop bottle cut in half. Next we taped on cotton balls to protect it and to make it attractive. Then we made a little handle out of tin foil and tied a little piece of yarn on it so it would be easy to carry. After that we ripped paper to make a label so people know what it is. On our label we put who it is made by and directions so people know about the plant. Also we made our label colorful so it would be more attractive. Then last we put ribbons around the label so it would look cuter. Then our label was done.

We tested our package to see if our plant would fall out or not. Then we saw if we did all things, like contain, protect, display, and communicate. Then we should make a better handle, put understandable directions, and keep the object from falling out. We would make a handle out of something hard like a pipe cleaner. Then with the directions I would say like how much water to give the plant and more information. To keep the plant from not falling out we would make a lid.



HANCOCK SCHOOL PUBLIC LIBRARY

News for Barkell Students and Families

K12 - Career Supports Career Exploration for Youth

The Hancock School Public Library is thrilled to announce a new initiative at the library, K12 - Career. Thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the Portage Health Auxiliary, dozens of brand new books will allow students to explore future careers in healthcare, engineering, entrepreneurship, culinary arts, computer science and more.

These pre-college and career prep books include board books and picture books for young children, giving them an opportunity to explore many different career avenues early on in their K-12 education. You can find the following K12 - Career children's titles and more at the library:

Cats Are A Liquid by Rebecca Donnelly

I Want To Be A Veterinarian by Laura Driscoll

Firefighter's Handbook by Meghan McCarthy

Just Right: Searching For The Goldilocks Planet by Curtis Manley

Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, 10AM - 7PM

Tuesday, 10AM - 7PM

Wednesday, 10AM - 4PM

Thursday, 10AM - 4PM

Friday, 10AM - 4PM



CODE CLUB!

HANCOCK SCHOOL PUBLIC LIBRARY

TUESDAYS @ 3:30PM

GRADES 4-12

Learn how to make apps, games and websites at the Hancock School Public Library's new after-school code club! Using a proprietary coding software called Prenda, kids get to go at their own pace and work on whatever is interesting to them. You may have some kids working with robots, others on websites, and others still on building a video game. That's the beauty of code club!

HANCOCK@PLDL.ORG / 906-487-5925 EXT. 8005



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- **Catherine Jordan** for her donation of toy trucks and cars
- **Roni Lessard** for her donation of winter hats
- **Brooke Beauchamp** for her generous donation of Legos
- **Susan Kivikko** for her donation of new winter boots
- **Everyone** who contributed to our Read-a-thon



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.

Lucy and Mallory enjoy learning about Coding in the H.S. Library computer lab. The class meets after school every Tuesday and is free to all 3rd-5th grade students.



Barkell Elementary needs help with:



- *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