

January 2022

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- Just a reminder that we have three after school clubs currently running. Lego Club meets Thursday after school and is open to everyone. Girls Who Code takes place on Tuesdays and is open to girls in third through fifth grade. Our newly formed STEM club takes place on Wednesdays and is open to students in grades three through five. All clubs take place from 3:20 until 4:30. Permission slips are available at the office.
- Please remember that if you drop your child off at school in the mornings to do so at the main entrance doors.
- 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

- 2/14 Vision and Hearing screening this week
- 2/18 No School– Teacher in service day
- 2/21 No School– Mid Winter Break



STEM News



It has been another exciting month in STEM class. Students continue to learn how to build and program robots using our Vex Robotic System. Students have also been learning about how to build circuits. Our fourth and fifth grade students are currently learning how to design and print 3D objects using Chromebooks and our 3D printers!



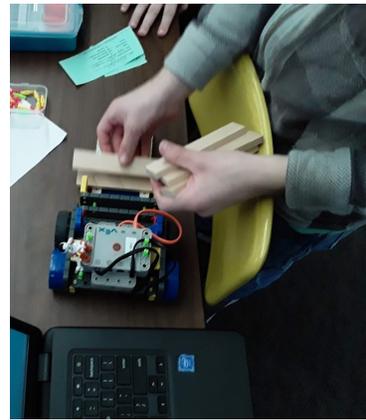
Nate and Perrin program their robot



Shanaylee types in commands for her robot



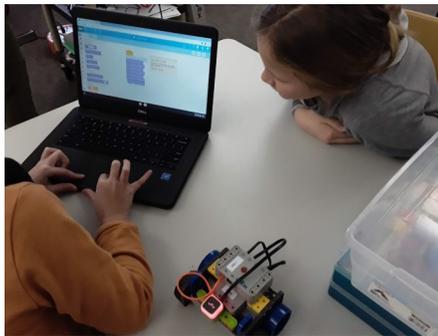
A circuit created by a student



Kendall built a robotic fork lift



Kindergartners learn about a topic before starting their STEM activity



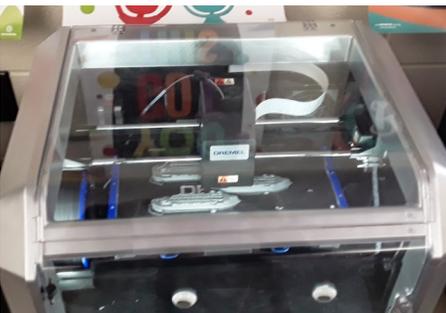
A student programs directions for their robot



Second graders program their robots



Drew, Isaac, Dominick, and August built a functioning radio with snap circuits. The four were able to tune in a few local radio stations



One of our 3D printers produces some battleships



Mr. Knewtson helps some students



Made-line and Sophia work on their design





Spelling Bee



Barkell Elementary fifth graders once again participated in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Each classroom held their own competition and the top three in each room met to determine the school-wide spelling champion. The top two finishers advance to the regional spelling bee in Calumet later this month. Congrats to the finalists: Adalynn Pietila, Isha Haati, Shanaylee Mendez, Maggie Klein, Janae Koski, Lorelai Levanen, and Brooke Pakkala. An extra congratulations goes out to Adalynn, who finished first, and Isha, who finished second. Both will advance to the next round.



The six finalists pose for a photo after the competition



The six finalists take their spots to begin the competition



Students compete for a chance to advance to the regionals



Adalynn poses for a photo with her trophy



And then there were two...



The audience watches on as the spellers compete



Congrats to the two finalists





Art News



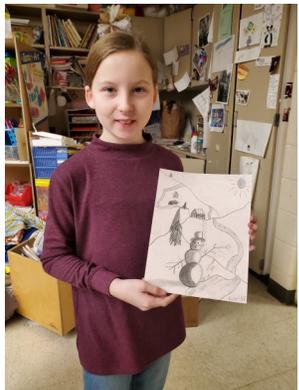
Art students at Barkell learned about picture book author & illustrator, Angie Rozelaar. Angie loves animals, particularly cats. Barkell students had fun creating cats & dogs with scarves (like Angie's), but also put their own style in their work. In other art news we would like to send congratulations to fifth grader, Tally Storm (zebra), third grader, Kit Muonio (cat) and sixth grader, LilyAnn Turnquist (flowers), for entering and winning the student notecard contest. This contest can be entered yearly by any student K-12 from any of our local school districts. Twelve winners are picked each year where we ALWAYS have Bulldog representation!



Tally's award winning zebra, Kit's award winning cat, and LilyAnn's award winning flowers



Leeland and Havok pose for a photo with their shape towers



Keila shows her project



Bryant poses with his artwork



Kindergartners take a break from their work



A student works on their artwork



Tad and Laird focus on their work



Ava works on her cat drawings



Ramesse takes a break





Young Fives News



Students in Mrs. Koskela's Young Fives classroom have been having fun learning about reading with their Reading Buddies. Students have also had fun learning about their letters and numbers in fun exciting ways.



Students learn about the letter O



Young Fivers show their projects



Young Fivers hone their building skills



Students have fun with their reading buddy



Students enjoy a virtual visit with an author



Havok works with his Reading Buddy.

KariAnn helps her buddy



Marley, Leeland, and Havok show their creation



Young Fivers show their domino project



Matthew is excited about his project





Kindergarten news



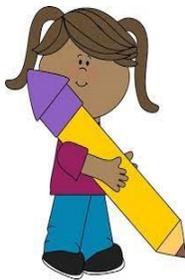
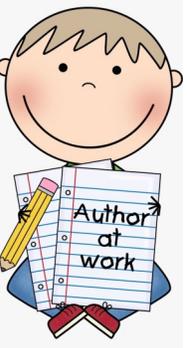
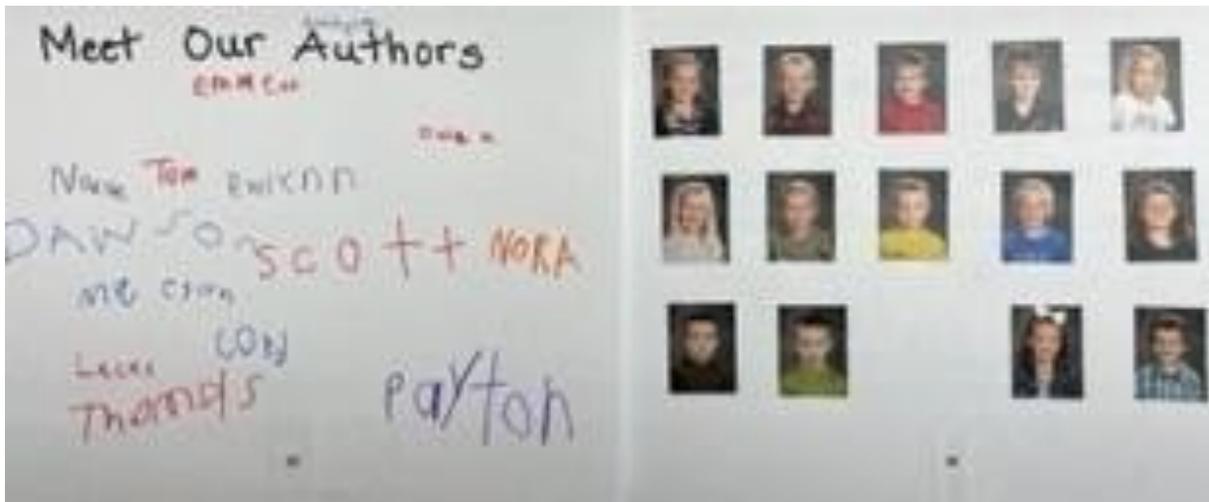
Mrs. Pihlaja's class put together a class book about some silly snowmen at night. Each student created his/her own illustration and writing page for the book. The students practiced writing their ideas onto paper. They then wrote and illustrated their final copies on manuscript pages that are being sent to a publishing company where students will receive their very own copy of the book.



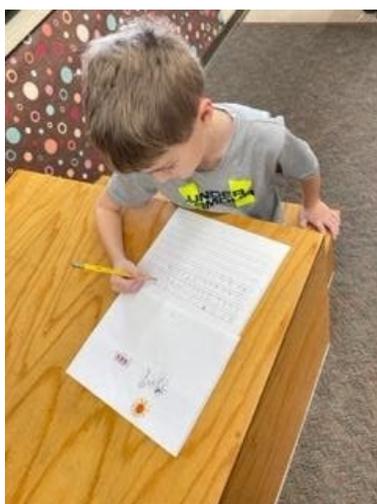
Thomas is all done with his final copy.



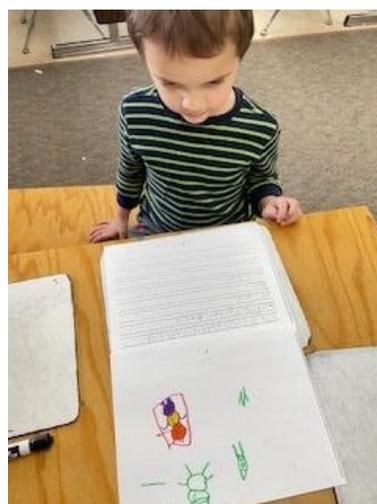
Owen is adding some color to his picture.



Tom is looking over his work.



Macklyn is checking his writing.



Dawson is content with the work he did.



Izabella is working on her writing page.



Indoor recess



A game of twister on a cold day



Damien and Blake play Jenga



Students enjoy a game of Uno on a cold winter day



Kathy and Charlotte play a game of Tic-Tac-Toe



Ava finds shelter



Ian, Arvid, and Liam play a game of Two Cushion Bumpshot



First Grade News

Mrs. Dupuis' first grade students celebrated all students learning their soccer ball words with a soccer obstacle course. The students worked hard learning these sight words and earned the reward. They also got to burn off some energy as they traveled around the course.



Students take a break from their hard work to have fun in the gym and celebrate their reading success



Kylie kicks the ball



Students enjoy celebrating their mastery of site words in the gym



CJ celebrates a goal



Fourth Grade News



Fourth graders in Mrs. Smith's classroom have been learning about energy in science class. They created chain reaction machines to experiment with ways to store and transfer energy.



Emery and Lily use dominoes for their reaction



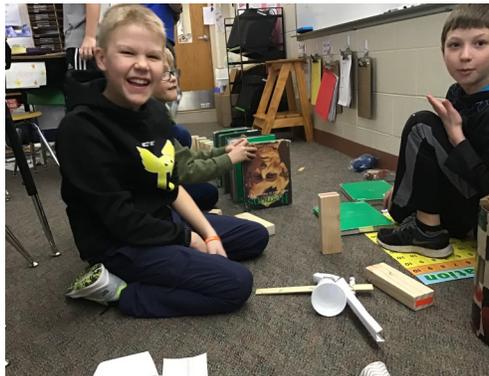
Payton and Taylor work together



Finn and Deacon focus on their work



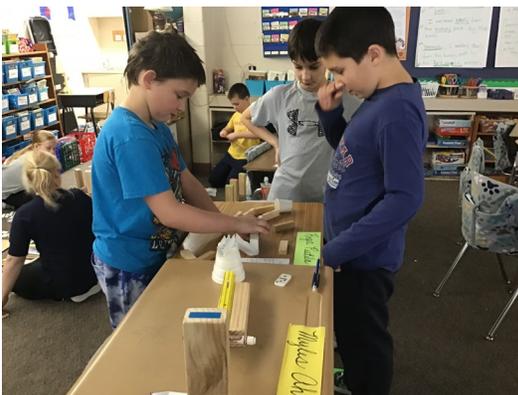
Mason takes a quick break to pose for a picture



Ridge and Leo have fun while working



Jocelyn and Stormy work together



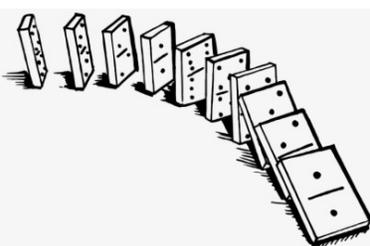
Colson, Solomon, and Myles prepare their chain reaction



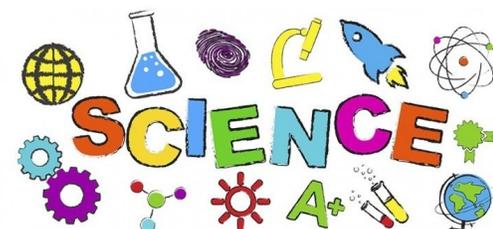
KariAnn and Brietta used books



Roger works with Rowan



Ava and Eloise use Kiva Planks





Fourth Grade News



It has been an exciting hands on approach to learning in Mrs. Liimatta's fourth grade class this past month. Students enjoyed learning about division in a fun and meaningful way. They also enjoyed working with their kindergarten buddies and learning with their Chromebooks.



Jocelyn and Taylor pair up



Solomon and Henry work on their math



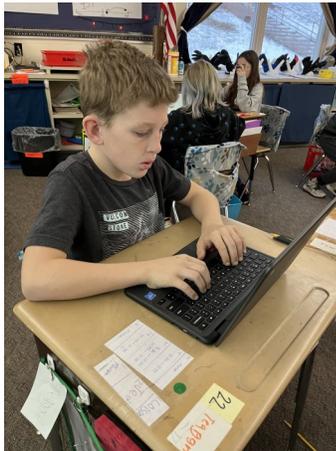
Ava and Stormy work on their reading together



Myles, Viviana, and Ridge solve division problems



Brietta takes a break for a pic



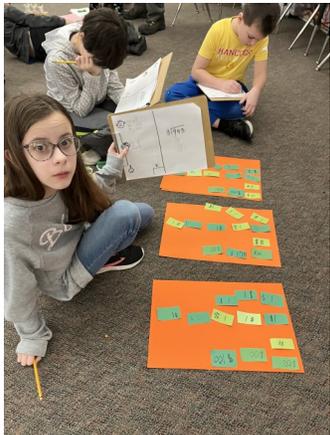
Teagan focuses on keyboarding



Jocelyn reads with her kindergarten buddy



Eviona on her computer



Natasha takes a quick break from her work to show her answer



Mrs. Liimatta teaches division in a hands on way



Students spread out to work on their division problem



Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **All Barkell families** for their continued support of our school
- **Jane Burner** for her generous donation of hats and mittens
- **Keweenaw Art Affair, Inc.** for their generous donation of cash to our art department



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.

Join an afterschool club!

Girls Who Code– Tuesdays from 3:20-4:30

Open to girls in 3rd-5th grade

STEM Club– Wednesdays from 3:20-4:30

Open to anyone grades 3rd-5th

Lego Club– Thursdays from 3:20-4:30

Open to anyone

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