

March 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

- 4/7 Classroom Group Pictures
- 4/15 Good Friday– no school
- 4/28 Kindergarten Round Up



# STEM News



Barkell Elementary ended March is Reading Month with a fun STEM assembly. Students were wowed by demonstrations involving liquid nitrogen, flames, and more! Students in STEM class have continued their work on robotics, circuitry, and 3D printing.



Mr. Knewton walks through a fog created with liquid nitrogen



Fifth graders designed their own 3D printing projects



Mrs. Nordmark creates a bubble with dish soap and liquid nitrogen



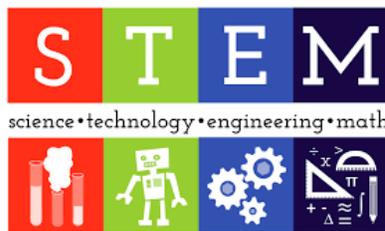
Arty receives a frozen flower



Tyler checks out a balloon animal before it enters the liquid nitrogen



Mrs. Nordmark demonstrates the effects of liquid nitrogen on a balloon



Students enjoy participating in the show by assisting the demonstrators





# Winter Recess Fun



Students try not getting lost in the snow



Naomi looks on as Nora enjoys some fresh snow



Winter swinging



Caleb takes a nap in the snow



Students enjoy the Monkey Bars on a sunny winter day



Macaiah relaxes on the Spider Web



Hockey players scramble for the puck



Students slide down the hill



Students enjoy their new classmate



Players scramble for the puck



Students take a break to pose for a photo





# March is Reading Month



Barkell Elementary celebrated March is Reading Month with a Winter Olympics theme. We kicked things off with an opening ceremony in the gym in which each classroom created their own flag to carry with them for the ceremony. We also had weekly book raffles and a Scholastic Book Fair. Students also enjoyed many mystery guest readers, as well as many other fun activities to celebrate the joy of reading. We finished off the exciting month with a fun STEM assembly in our gymnasium.



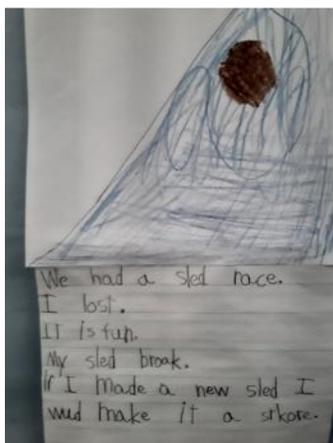
Mrs. Blessing's kindergartners pose for a quick photo before heading out for some winter snowshoeing



Aryana wrote about the fun she had



Ava and Naomi pose for a quick pic



James writes about his sled racing experience



Mrs. Carlson's class parades into the gym for our March is Reading Month Olympics



Malcom and Perrin on Wacky Wednesday



Mrs. Cavis as a mystery reader in Young Fives



Classrooms tracked their reading progress on neat charts in the hallways



Student helpers demonstrate the various special days during the month



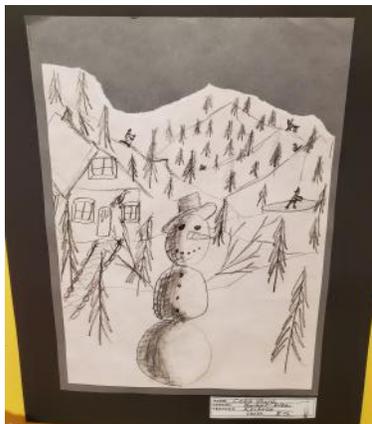
We had a few dress up days, including red and white day



# Art News



With March being Youth Arts Month, The following masterpieces were on display at the Copper Country Community Art Center. Congratulations to all student artists!





# Young Fives News



Students in Mrs. Koskela's Young Fives classroom had an exciting month of learning in March. Students enjoyed many March is Reading Month activities including guest readers, outdoor fun, and learning about recycling. The students say they can't wait until next March!



Fun on the sledding hill



Students enjoy making snowmen



Fifth graders read Young Fivers a story about recycling



Matthew poses with his creation

Young Fivers display the puppets they made



Havok and a guest reader



Evan's 100 Day monster



Letty's 100 Day monster



Students hear a story from a guest reader



Havok's 100 Day monster



Madden poses with his 100 Day monster



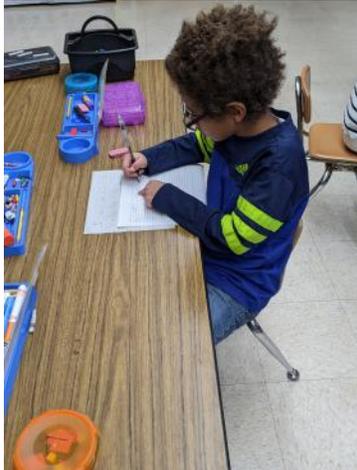
Isaac's 100 Day monster



# Kindergarten Authors



Mrs. Blessing's kindergarten class has been writing their class book. The book is about being kind. The title is *We are Kind*. They worked on writing a sloppy copy, editing, illustrating and making the final copy. They did an excellent job!



Ramesse works on his story



Mrs. Blessing's class poses for a photo with their book

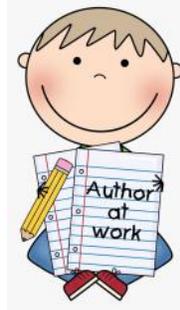
Naomi and Ava read their story



Macaiah focuses on his work



Tad grabs a different color



Sophia and Evelyn read together



Ellie and Ava are working on their classroom books



Students focus on their writing as they create their book





# First Grade News



Barkell Elementary first grade classrooms have had an exciting March of learning. Students made leprechaun traps to practice their STEM skills. Then they had to explain how their trap works step-by-step to other classmates. They also participated in an outdoor field trip about winter warmth. They explored the different ways animals stay warm in the winter.



Students display their leprechaun traps



Ellie works on her trap



First graders get ready for outdoor learning



Students enjoy an outdoor lesson on our nature trail



Karina, Mila, and Jaxon pose with their traps



Kaisa poses for a quick photo



Jace and Seth take a break



Madison and Walter work together



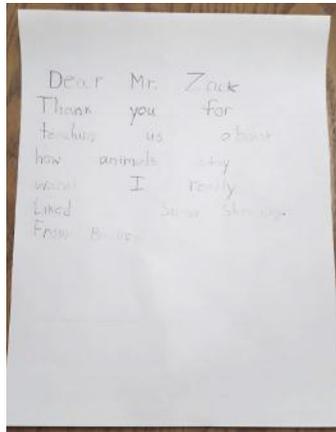
# First Grade News



Students in Mrs. Dupuis' first grade classroom participated in an exciting outdoor learning experience here on our nature trail. Students learned about winter warmth and how various materials can provide insulation for animals. Students used snow shoes to get around in the deep snow.



Students listen to the presenter



Bradley shows his appreciation for the presenter



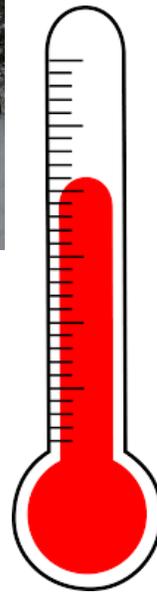
Students look for signs of animal life



Students check out an active animal den



First graders use snow shoes to navigate the school forest



Students ask the presenter questions about how animals survive in the winter





# Second Grade News



Barkell Elementary second graders went snowshoeing in the school forest. We saw tracks from squirrels, rabbits, deer, foxes, and even wolf (probably just dogs:). We even found a bird nest and perhaps a fox den.



Students head out for a fun day of outdoor learning



Students snow shoe throughout our school forest

## M is R Month Winter Olympics



Students enjoy some sledding fun on a nice sunny day



Students get their cardboard STEM sleds ready for the race



Students enjoy some hockey during our March is Reading Month Winter Olympics





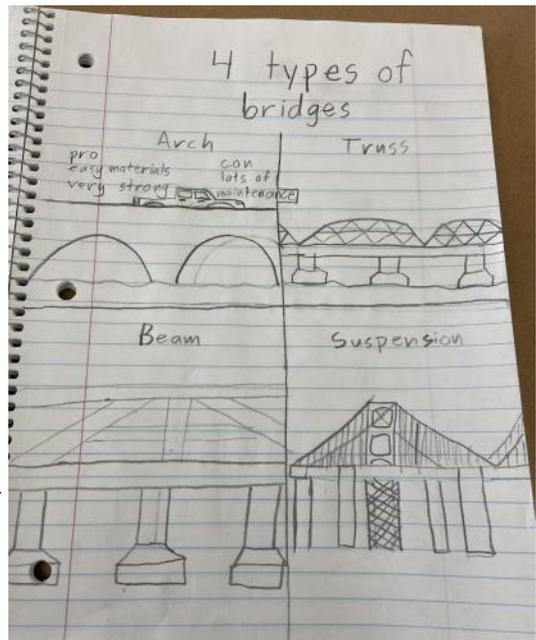
# Third Grade News



Mrs. Knuuttla's class used their knowledge of force and bridges to design their own bridges out of straws, tape, paper clips, yarn, and playdough. The original challenge was to design and create a bridge that could hold 100 pennies. That challenge was quickly met, and the class decided to go BIGGER and STRONGER by making truss and suspension bridges! (They ran out of pennies.)



Weston chooses his materials



Kellan works on his design



The finishing touches



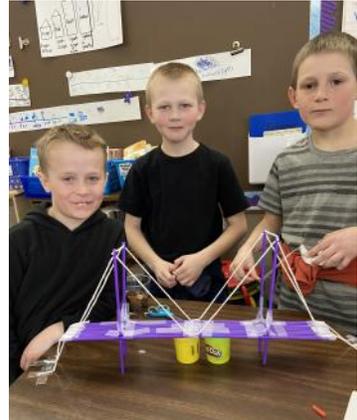
Jeb focuses on his work



Aaliyah constructs her bridge



Third graders reveal their masterpiece



Emmett and Kendall pose for a photo



Kit gets her one hundred pennies ready





# Fifth Grade News



Fifth grade enjoyed a fun hands on outdoor learning adventure courtesy of the Western UP Math and Science Center this winter. Students enjoyed a nice day outside on our nature trail, learning about science.



The Western UP Math and Science Center teaches fifth graders about snow



Fifth graders work together learning about the states of matter



Colin takes a break in the snow



A temperature reading is taken



Students check their thermometers



Drew records his data

Caleb, Brady, and Reece work together



Alex smiles for the camera





# 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
- **Barkell PTO** for their generous donation of staff Valentine treats
- **Finlandia PTA Club** for their generous donation of many pairs of shoes
- **Allyson Jabusch** for her help with an art supply grant
- **MTU** for their generous donation of liquid nitrogen for our STEM assembly



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.



Students earned opportunities to win books during our March is Reading Month weekly book raffles

## 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