

May/ June 2024

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Construction Update:

- The entire parking lot is being repaved and reshaped this summer. There will be a new entrance added so that everything will be one way.
- The entire playground is being repaved this summer. We are also adding a 7 1/2' basket and a 8 1/2' basket on the little kid side of the playground.
- The courtyard (area between upper el and lower el) is being torn up and redone. New drainage is being installed and a new heavy duty type surface will be added so that it will be a usable area in the future. A gazebo, outdoor classroom, picnic tables, etc. will eventually be added.
- The STEM room is being transformed into the new Fab/ STEM Lab. A lot of new equipment and machinery is being installed and we will have the greatest STEM/ FAB lab around by far!
- The front and mid entryway will be redone this summer as well.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara– Barkell Elementary Principal



Upcoming Events

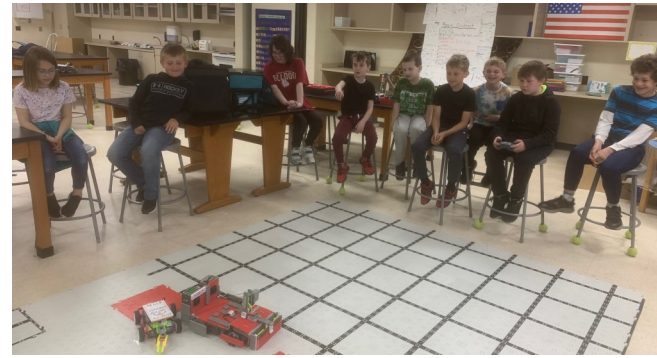
- 6/24 First day of Summer GE
- 8/15 Last day of Summer GE



STEM News

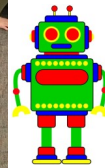
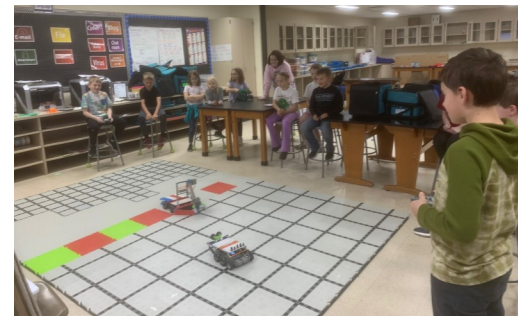
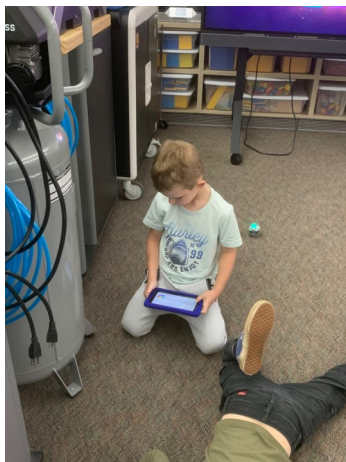
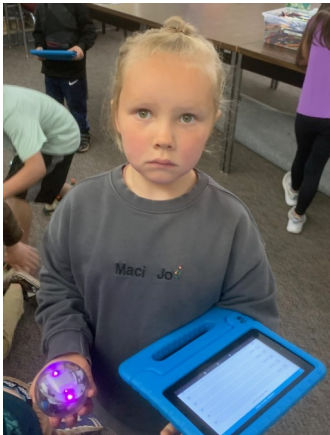


It has been an exciting end of the year for our STEM students! Our Elementary Robotics Club ended the year with a “Battle Bots” challenge. The students had to design a strong robot that could push other robots off of the field. This challenge helped the children to learn how to make a sturdier robot base. This will help them in future seasons to have a more robust robot. Fifth graders programmed microbits to be step counters using their accelerometer functions in STEM class. They then had to make them wearable thinking about comfort, safety, and protection of the parts. We took their step counters outside on the playground to test their functioning. Kindergartners enjoyed programming their Sphero Bolt Robots.

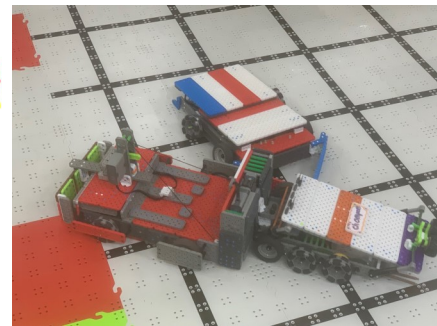


James, Aaliyah, and Bruce show their step counters

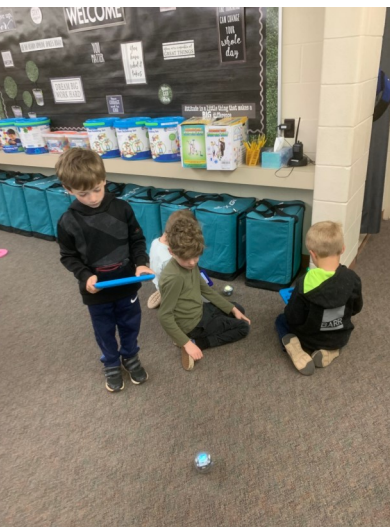
Students battle each other with robots they designed



Robot Battle!



William and Remi drive their robots



Kindergarten STEM students control their robots



Bryn tests out her step counter



Track and Field Day



Kindergartners and fourth graders hop to the finish line



Fifth grade takes on the fourth grade



And they're off...



Ivy and Naomi are neck and neck



Perfect form



Photo finish



Bentley gets ready to jump



Kindergartners get ready to race



Ethan gets ready

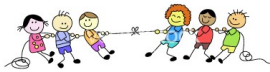
James soars through the air



Pearl lets it fly!



Remi catches some air



Malcolm and Vinnie get ready to race



Kindergartners get ready to pull





Bulldog News



The Boy's and Girl's Running Club poses for a group photo

Henry, Viera, Kiera, and Kylie approach the finish line



Fifth graders pose for a group photo at Fort Michilimackinac and Tahquomenon Falls



Fiona prepares to launch



Fifth graders enjoy a demonstration at an old saw mill



Hunter shoots off his rocket

Avery builds her rocket



Kindergartners take a break in the garden

Scott and Emmett enjoy a snow cone at the picnic



Mallory and Kell with the new bikes that they won

Students pose with their new helmets and locks



First graders enjoy donuts with their dads



Kindergartners enjoy their lunch at the picnic



Kindergarten News



Kindergartners have enjoyed an exciting end to the year. Students had a fun field trip on our nature trail identifying the signs of spring. They also spent time in our school garden. But of course, the highlight of the spring for kindergartners was their graduation ceremony!



Students listen to a presenter discuss the signs of spring



The 2024 graduating class!

Graduates sing for a packed house



Liara and Kai receive their diplomas



Jayla and Merida pose for a photo



Miss Pennala's graduates



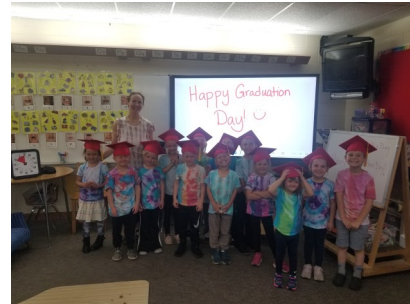
The graduates take the stage



Young Fivers pose for a group photo



Kindergartners farm our school garden



Elден, Ethan, Lane, and Remi Get ready



Mrs. Blessing's students make their graduation t shirts



Second Grade News



Second graders enjoyed a fun science activity by making mountains out of paper and then spraying water to act as rain to learn how the water flows. They also took out some time to pick up trash on Earth Day and enjoy some popsicles. Students also enjoyed a walking field trip through town to visit parks, City Hall, the police station, and Houghton County Arena to name a few.



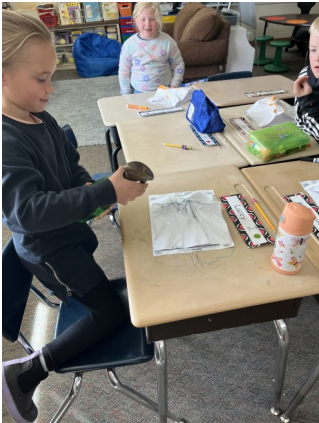
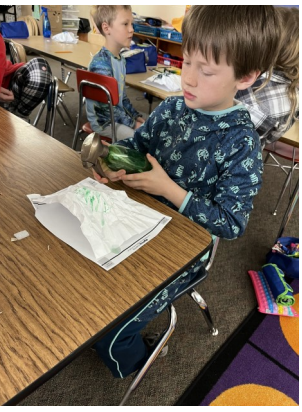
Geena focuses on her work



Ms. Sturos' class take a break for a pic and some popsicles after reading a story and picking up trash on our property



Second graders pose for group photos at the Houghton County Arena and at McAfee Field



Bryant, Evelyn, and Lacy simulate rainfall



Anders and Nora try on police safety gear



Students visit City Hall



Second graders take a quick photo at the park before climbing back up the hill



Second graders relax with some popsicles





Third Grade News



Third graders ended the year learning about some local history. Students enjoyed field trips to Copper Range Museum, Old Victoria, and Adventure Mine. What an exciting way to end the year!



Third graders examine a stope



Students learn about life in the old days at Victoria

Third graders pose for a pic in the mine



Jacob hammers some rock



Nadine and Alexis are ready for the mine



Students learn about Copper Country history from a local historian

Phoenix is ready to mine for copper



Group photo in front of Copper Range



Karina and Kylie pause for a pic



Cami holds on tight



Students get ready to enter the mine

Kaisa examines some copper



Fourth Grade News



4th graders have enjoyed a busy end to the school year. They recently visited the Coast Guard station during Safe Boating Week, where they learned how the Coast Guard keeps our shores safe. They also got to tour the boats and learn how to tie knots. Students also attended a field trip to Quincy Mine to learn about our local history. As if that wasn't enough, they also learned how to make comics using Canva.



Quinn shows her new knot



Aaron, Charlotte, and Dennis work on their comics



Fourth graders take a short cut to Quincy Mine



Students pose for a couple of photos at the mine



Fourth graders learn about how the Quincy Mine operated



Students learn about USCG technology



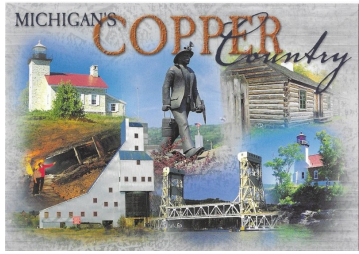
Students learn how to tie various knots at the Coast Guard station.



Jameson and Jordyn try on some Coast Guard gear



Students explore the Quincy Mine





Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- **The Barkell PTO** for all that they do
- **The Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous grants
- **Barkell Families** for all of their generous contributions to Staff Appreciation Week
- **Glad Tidings Church** for all of their help with our outdoor learning trail and classroom
- **Hancock High School athletes** for their help with Track and Field Day
- **Hancock High School CTE** students for helping our students this school year
- **Hancock Police Department** for writing the grant for 3 bikes and a bunch of helmets and locks



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.



Our fifth and sixth grade band took the stage for their spring concert. Students performed a variety of songs in front of a packed house of students and parents. It was an amazing performance!!

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