



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 | NOVEMBER 2024

BARKELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hancock Public Schools
1201 North Elevation Street
Karen Eddy, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- Week of November 4th
Smiles on Wheels
- November 6th
PTO Meeting at 5:30
- November 8th
Picture Retakes
- November 13th
Parent Teacher Conferences
Students dismissed at 11:50
- November 27th-29th
No school
Thanksgiving Break

Save the Date:

- December 10th at 9:00am
Young 5's-5th Grade
Christmas Concert
(Back up date, December 12th, in case of inclement weather/no school)

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Copper Shores, Michael Garrison, Noelle Pinar, and our PTO for the purchase of two accessibility swings for our playground.



As we welcome November, we embrace a month filled with gratitude, reflection, and fun learning experiences!



GSRP LITTLE PUPS

We still have slots available for our preschool program. Children who are 4 years old by December 1, 2024 qualify. Please email Kaydence Pizzi at kpizzi@hancock.k12.mi.us.

WHAT IS WIN TIME AT BARKELL?

WIN (**W**hat **I** Need) Reading and Math groups are a collaborative effort between Title I staff and classroom teachers. All students, based on data, are grouped in order to receive extra support in a specific area of need or for advanced study. These groups are flexible and change often to accommodate student growth. WIN groups create positive learning environments where students can work on targeted areas in reading and math with small groups of their peers.

REMINDERS

All students in grades preschool through 5th grade will be **required** to wear snowpants. Please contact the school if your child is in need of any winter gear. Please be sure to label snow gear with your child's name. At conferences, stop by the lost and found outside the office to pick up any gear your child(ren) may have misplaced.





COUNSELOR CONNECTION

Michael Garrison, Social Worker

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
 - Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.
 - Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.

**Be Present
BE POWERFUL!**



By working together, we can help our children develop a positive attitude toward school and attendance. Let's ensure they have the best chance for success!

HAVE BULLDOG POWER: TIPS TO ATTEND EVERY HOUR!

Did you know that regular attendance is key to your child's success in school? When children miss school, they miss valuable lessons and social interactions, making it harder to keep up with their classmates. Even a few absences can impact their ability to learn and feel confident in their skills.

HERE ARE FIVE HELPFUL TIPS FOR BETTER ATTENDANCE:

1. **Set a Routine:** Create a consistent morning and bedtime routine. Children do the best with structure, so having consistent and predictable times for waking up, getting ready, and going to bed can make mornings easier for everyone.
2. **Morning Motivation:** Start the day with something fun! Play their favorite song during breakfast or have a little dance party to kick off the day with energy and excitement.
3. **Prepare Together:** Involve your child in preparing for school the night before. Let them pick out their clothes and pack their backpacks, making it feel like a fun activity rather than a chore.
4. **Celebrate Good Attendance:** Recognize and celebrate your child's attendance. A simple reward, like extra playtime or a special treat, can encourage them to keep it up.
5. **Keep Communication Open:** Stay in touch with teachers to understand any challenges your child might be facing. Working together can help find solutions and support your child's attendance.



STUDENTS AT BARKELL LEARN HOW TO BARK

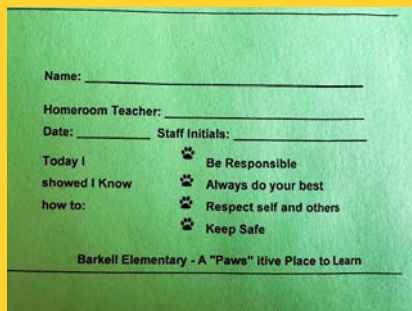


WHY DO WE "BARK"?

At Barkell Elementary, we have established clear, consistent behavior expectations for all students. All expectations are taught to students at the beginning of the year and review throughout the year using BARK.

- B** - Be responsible
- A** - Always do your best
- R** - Respect self and others
- K** - Keep safe

Green tickets are given to our students who demonstrate positive behaviors. Green tickets are put into a weekly grade level drawing for a prize. This encourages a positive atmosphere and motivates students to continue exhibiting good behavior.



We believe that a strong partnership with families is essential for the success of BARK.

We are excited to share with you the Positive Behavior Support system - BARK- that we have implemented at our elementary school. This program is designed to create a nurturing and supportive environment for all students, promoting positive behavior and academic success. This is a proactive approach to teaching and reinforcing positive behaviors in students. The goal is to help children develop self-regulation skills, foster a sense of community, and ensure that every student feels safe and respected at school.

You can help!

- **Talk About BARK Expectations:** Discuss the behavior expectations with your child and encourage them to practice these at home and in the community.
- **Celebrate Successes:** Acknowledge and celebrate your child's positive behavior, reinforcing the message that it feels good to make good choices.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye out for newsletters and updates from the school regarding BARK.





NEWS FROM THE PTO

Next meeting November 6th at 5:30pm



Parents, Gurdians, Teachers, Staff and Community are **WELCOME!** If you want to get involved, we want you!

1 Come to Meetings
THE PTO IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF SCHOOL AND HELPS ENRICH YOUR CHILD'S STUDENT EXPERIENCE. THIS IS A GREAT CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

2 If you can DONATE
ANY AMOUNT YOU CAN GIVE HELPS OUR SCHOOL. EVERY DOLLAR WE RAISE GOES INTO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

3 Give a Helping Hand Make a Difference
WE REALIZE THAT EVERY PARENT IS BUSY. SO WE WELCOME JOB-SHARING ROLES IN THE PTO. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK SO IF MORE PEOPLE COME FORWARD WE CAN SHARE THE WORK, MAKING IT FUN FOR EVERYONE.

Annual Pancake Breakfast:

December 7th, 7:30-11:30



Coming home soon are tickets for each student to sell:

\$5 per person (Children under 5 eat free)

Gluten-free pancakes will be available

What is the Bulldog Shop?



The Bulldog Shop gives our students an opportunity to purchase gifts for loved ones during the holiday season.

Send in gift donations to stock our shop anytime marked PTO! This will be open December 18th - 20th. Teachers will get to select a time for their classes to come and shop.

More information will be sent home along with opportunities to volunteer at each event.

All proceeds raised goes back into school programs and services for our children.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

ROBOTICS

Mrs. Nordmark's Robotics Competition Club is off to a great start! This year we have 8 elementary teams! That is double what we had last year. 27 students from grades 3, 4, and 5 make up this years' teams.

The competition game is called Rapid Relay and the robots have to pass a small plush soccer ball to the other team and score it into one of four goals.

The teams have been working hard since September to build their robots and are excited for our first competition. We will compete on Saturday, November 16 at the Barkell Elementary gym. Come watch the action starting around 10:00am-1:00pm!



LEGO CLUB

Lego club is on Thursdays from 3:20 to 4:20. The students work separately or in small groups to build creations of their own designs.





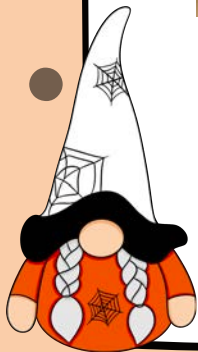
OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



BARKELL PTO FALL FEST



FIRE SAFETY WEEK



ENGINEERING DAY





OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE



PUMPKIN DROP

5th Grade Pumpkin Drop Challenge: Does your team have what it takes to ENGINEER a capsule for a pumpkin, so it can withstand a drop from the lift in the gym?



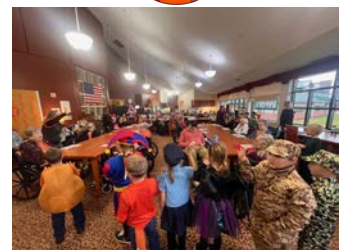
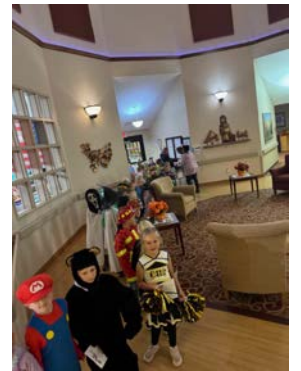
The results....one pumpkin survived and 8 broke!



We got to watch the large pumpkin smash from the Fall Festival!



1ST GRADERS SING AT PORTAGE POINTE





OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



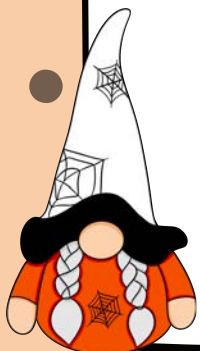
4TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

The 4th grade classes explored McLain's State Park this month. They learned to identify trees and played a fun water cycle game.



BARKELL ELEMENTARY CHOIR

New this year! Mr. Hiltunen is teaching choir to students in grades 3rd - 5th during 10:00 recess on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students who love to sing are welcome to join!



LESSONS IN OUR SCHOOL GARDEN

Mrs. Dupuis' class carved out a pumpkin and put different kinds of trash inside. They added food like apple, strawberry, cucumber, and celery. Also added were plastic water bottle, aluminum juice can, chip bag. The students hypothesized what the pumpkin and contents will look like in the spring after being buried in the ground all winter. They completed their sheets and buried the pumpkins in the garden.

