

September 2015

# Barkell Elementary

## Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



## Principal Announcements

- I would like to thank everyone for helping us get off to a great start to the 2015-16 school year.
- I would also like to thank everyone for their attendance at Open House. The turnout was great and it was nice to get a chance to meet so many of you.
- In the interest of student safety, the playground gate leading to the parking lot will be locked during the school day.
- Please remember to always report to the office for a visitor sticker.
- I am here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara– Barkell Elementary Principal



### Upcoming Events:

\*9/29 Picture Day for k-2

\*9/30 Picture Day for 3-5

\*10/9 No school/ Teacher in-service

\*10/14 All school assembly– The Ned Show



## Barkell Elementary thanks:



- ☺ **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all that they do for our school
- ☺ **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations/ purchases
- ☺ **Mrs. Kyllonen** for her donation to Miss Gades' and Mrs. Dunstan's classrooms



1. Please remember to write your child's name in his/her belongings. This allows us to return items to their owner.
2. Please do not park and leave your vehicle in the drop off and pick up lines.
3. All visitors must report to the office.

### Welcome to Barkell Elementary

Barkell Elementary welcomes Miss Emma. Miss Emma comes to us through Americorps and will be working here for the 2015-16 school year. She will be helping our students with math and language arts. She will also be enhancing our science program with a bird identification/ watching club.

## Barkell Elementary needs help with:



- \*We are in need of board games (used or new) for our students to use during indoor recess.
- \*If anyone has a digital camera (new or used) they would be willing to donate to the school it would be much appreciated. We currently do not have one.
- \*We are in need of bird seed for our new science club/ bird identification program.
- \*We need yarn and hooks for our Crochet Club.



# Barkell Elementary in Action



Mrs. Cavis' students are enjoying Mr. Walter's gym class.



Ms. Gades' students are singing in Mrs. Delong's music class.



Barkell elementary students are having fun at recess.

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## What's new?



Barkell Elementary is excited to announce some new technology we have recently received.

Thank you to the Hancock Public Schools Foundation and the PTO for our three new Promethean Boards.

All of our teachers have received new laptop computers for their classrooms.

We have purchased 30 new Chrome Books for our students to use.



# Classroom News

## 5th Grade Trip to Ft. Wilkins



9-23-15

Maren Olankeho

We went to Fort Wilkins for a field trip on Tuesday Sept 22. We got a tour of the fort by Mr. James. He showed us each of the rooms and explained how they lived and their jobs. He showed us where their use to be buildings. It was a lot of fun. I hope to go have another look at the fort. I enjoyed it.



5th grade went to Fort Wilkins and Mr. Bertie showed us some of the trees there. Both Coniferous and Deciduous. He taught us some things about the leaves, and their identification. One of my favorite was the white pine, but only is it Michigan state tree, but it is also soft and bushy, also in clusters of five. I liked it when we went around collecting leaves, like the common apple leaf and red pine leaf.

When Mr. Bertie showed us some leaves, and talked to us about them, he told us some good facts. Like, seeder wood is good to use to avoid saws, and ash wood trees are being destroyed by little beetle bugs called Emerald ash borers.

When we went around collecting leaves, I got about 10 of them but it was fun to learn about them, and get a lot more leaves for our leaf projects. There are more Coniferous trees than Deciduous, to let you know. And that was our day at Fort Wilkins, discovering new leaves, and their trees.

By: Maylie Kilpela



# Third Grade News



What we have been doing in 3rd Grade (Mrs. Davidson's Class)

In 3rd grade we have been doing a lot of writing. We have been doing math and reading too. In writing we have been making a five paragraph essay on our summer memories. In math we have been doing place value. In reading we have been reading "The Ballad of Mulan". We have also been doing science and social studies. In science we have been learning "Why animals differ". In social studies we have been reading "Meet Michigan". Third grade have been so fun so far!

By: Lynn Heinonen and Rayna Towles



## Rainbow Kids



Rainbow Kids have fun working in the school gardens. We work on weeding and planting. This fall we hope to have sunflower seeds to give to the birds. In the spring we will plant potatoes that we will eat the next school year. We had green beans for a snack they were yum.

# Kindergarten News



The Kindergarten and Young 5 teachers would like to send a BIG THANKS to the many parents for helping cut out and prepare our Ball Words Program! A big THANKS to Mrs. Dupuis for introducing the program and helping with printing and setting up this awesome resource that will help us master our letters and words!

The Kindergarten and Young 5 classes have been busy learning all about school! Together we are learning the expectations, the areas of the school, making friends, and beginning to meet some letter friends! Students are given homework that will help you as the parent stay in tune to what your child is learning about at the time! Encourage your child to talk about their day and the friends they have met or played with! The first few weeks of school are busy and active as students adjust to their new environment. Coming up in October students will learn about Fire Safety! Local fire fighters will come into the building and give a fire safety presentation! Also in October, students will begin to bring home reading log sheets to track books/minutes to work towards earning free personal pan pizzas from Pizza Hut. The Book-It program has been very exciting and successful and the past and we look forward to introducing to the students Thank you parents for staying involved and helping with enrich your child's love to learn! We are excited to begin this new school year!



# COUNSELOR CORNER

By Mrs. Williamson

Welcome back to a new school year!!

Homework is such an important part of a child's education. Homework is an extension of the classroom to reinforce the concept taught. Oftentimes, homework can be such a huge struggle at home especially when the child feels frustrated which may in turn make your frustrated! PBS Parents ([www.pbsparents.com](http://www.pbsparents.com)) has some great advice on how to cope with the child who is struggling with homework

(adapted from their website).

**Let your kids get frustrated.** When kids are having a hard time with homework or a school-related subject, they often explode with anger. Sometimes when the child gets angry, they provoke someone else to feel the same way they do like hopeless or helpless.

**Take a break.** If your child says "I can't do it!" and throws the pencil down, take a little break. Breaks allow the child to calm and restart.

**Don't always try to have a rational conversation.** When kids get out of control about school, they cannot think logically. A cool down is important.

**Let your child make his own mistakes.** It's hard not to correct a child's homework, but most teachers ask you not to take over unless your child asks for your help or the teacher requests it. Teachers generally want to know what the child understands, not what the parent understands about the material.

**Put a time limit on the work.** Most teachers will not expect younger kids to work longer than a half-hour on homework from any particular subject, but ask your teacher for a time limit. If your child struggles (while actively trying) and exceeds the limit, write the teacher a note explaining that's all that could get done.

**Contact the school.** If homework or a project is turning into a dreaded battle, talk with the school. Don't wait!

**Help your child learn how to organize himself.** This is a lifelong skill that can be taught, but it can be challenging to do so. "It's very difficult to teach children to be organized if it is not in their nature (or yours)," says guidance counselor Linda Lendman, M.S.W. "Encourage your child to label everything. Develop strategies, like the 'must-do list' before you leave school (put math book in backpack). Schedule a weekly 'clean out the backpack and clean off your desk' time so papers don't build up. Be patient, and try not to place blame."

**Recognize that school work will never be conflict-free.** No one ever raised a child without a homework battle. You are not alone!

