

September 2016

Barkell Elementary

Newsletter

Hancock Public Schools



Principal Announcements

- I would like to thank everyone for helping us get off to a great start this school year.
- Thank you to everyone for attending Open House. As usual, the support we received from our families was outstanding.
- We will be starting our Fall Fundraiser October 7th. It is similar to the fundraiser we did last year. More information will come home on the 7th. Thank you for your help.
- 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. The PTO meets at 3:30 on the third Tuesday of the month.

Sincerely,

Dan Vaara—Barkell Elementary Principal



Upcoming Events:

- October 14th Half day for students
- October 18th PTO meeting at 3:30



Barkell Welcomes New Staff



Barkell is excited to introduce our two new custodians. Kevin Kallainen is the new morning custodian. Stanton Evans is the new afternoon/evening custodian at Barkell Elementary. We would like to welcome both to our staff.



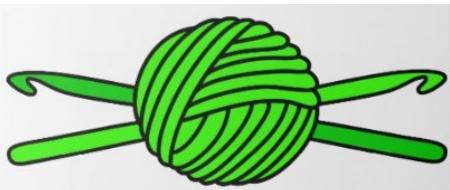
Mrs. Hoekstra is an Upper Peninsula native from Iron Mountain. She is also a recent graduate of Northern Michigan University in Elementary Education, Science, and Spanish. Mrs. Hoekstra enjoys crafts, reading, and spending time with her dog Aspen.

Erica Aho is a Copper Country native and a recent NMU graduate with a Master's in Learning Disabilities. You may recognize her from the 2014-15 school year when she was here part-time. She taught for one year at Dollar Bay Schools, and now she is back full-time in the Resource Room. She is happy to be here with the wonderful staff, students, and community at Barkell Elementary. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her dog, hunting for antiques, playing the flute, and attending music or theater events.



Having been born and raised in Hancock and being gone from the area for 10 years, Mr. Salani and his family returned to Hancock in 2002 where he took on the role of Athletic Director for Finlandia University. During his 14 years as AD, he also coached collegiately the sports of hockey and golf for the Lions. In addition, Mr. Salani coached for several years in the Michigan Tech Hockey Develop Camps, and continues to this day to volunteer as a coach and board member of the Copper Country Junior Hockey Association. This fall season marks the first season of his helping coach the Hancock Football team under Head Coach Ted Holmstrom

Bulldog Crochet Club



I'd Rather Be Crocheting!

Ms. Gades' Crochet Club is meeting once again this school year. The group has already had a number of crocheting sessions. Students are extremely excited about this wonderful opportunity and have created some excellent projects. We look forward to seeing the students progress throughout the year!



Crochet





Finnish Artists Visit Barkell



Barkell Elementary 3rd through 5th graders had the chance to learn about Porvoo (Hancock's sister city in Finland) from two Finnish artists. Päivi Mikola and Hannimari Heino taught our students about Porvoo, Finland. Students learned about the culture, language, climate, and customs of our sister city. They also learned about Finnish art and design. Thank you to both for visiting our school!





Anthony Ianni visits Barkell



Anthony Ianni visited Barkell Elementary this September. Anthony is a former Michigan State basketball player who was diagnosed with Autism at the age of 4. Anthony tours the country to speak with schools about being accepting of others, treating everyone with respect, and always giving your best.





Building Healthy Communities



I am excited to announce that Barkell Elementary was one of approximately thirty schools in the state of Michigan to receive a Building Healthy Communities grant through Wayne State University. The grant is worth approximately \$10,000. Through the grant we will receive 2-3 thousand dollars in playground and PE equipment, healthy snacks for the entire school once per month, a stipend to pay for an after school Healthy Kids Club coordinator, health lessons taught by a health professional, and a few other things. The Healthy Kids Club will meet Mondays after school starting on October 10th. I will provide more information about this tremendous opportunity throughout the course of the school year.



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
Blue Care Network
of Michigan



5th Grade Visits Ft Wilkins



The Barkell Elementary school 5th grade classes went to Fort Wilkins. We all went with Mr. James, he showed us the log houses, and told us about a girl who died in a latrine, and she was famous. Mr. James let us play with fake food from the bakery, and he showed us where the single men slept. Mr. James showed us where the families slept.
Zoey Mcellar

The Barkell Elementary Fifth Grade went to Fort Wilkins on a field trip. Mr. James taught us about where people lived, what they did, and what they ate. It was really cool to go inside the cabins and learn about them. A lot of the Fifth Grade loved when we got to go in a jail cell and see what it was like.
Morgan Sintkowski



Playground Fun!



The boys take a moment to rest and pose for a photo.



Nothing like swinging on a nice fall day



Getting in some jump rope before the snow comes

Nobody Hula-Hoops better than Barkell students!

The monkey bars are one of the main attractions for the early el students.





Barkell Elementary Thanks:



- * **Barkell Elementary PTO** for all they do for our school
- * **Hancock Public Schools Foundation** for their many generous donations and purchases
- * **Dave's Marathon** for allowing us to use their sign for important school announcements
- * **Family Dollar** for their generous donation of school supplies
- * **Maija Stadius** for volunteering to help with packet pickup
- * **Zachary Lark** for his generous donation of school supplies



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.

Message from Mr. Salani

"I'd like to thank Principal Vaara, Superintendent Healy and the Hancock School Board for allowing me the opportunity to work with your children. I am passionate about Health and Physical Education, and will work in a way and environment in which provides an enthusiastic atmosphere of learning for the children. At the core of what we'll be doing, general fitness will consistently be applied across the PE curriculum while the children learn about the way their bodies develop physically. And as each 'season' moves through the year, the PE curriculum will also mirror the activities and sports of the respective parts of each season. I will be providing updates and information regarding our PE Curriculum through this news letter periodically, so stay tuned. Please also know that you are invited to provide feedback and/or questions when you have them at any time."

Barkell Elementary needs help with:

*We are in need of board games (used or new) for our students to use during indoor recess.

*We are in need of educational DVDs or VHS tapes for our indoor recesses.

*We are need of extra art supplies for our indoor recess arts and crafts program.

