



The Cornell Chronicles

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE
CORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

IMPORTANT DATES

NO SCHOOL

September 25 - Staff PD

IMPORTANT LINKS

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[LUNCH MENU](#)

[CORNELL STAFF DIRECTORY](#)

[ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES](#)

[CARLINE SIGNS](#)

[BUS ROUTES/SCHEDULE](#)

[PTO WEBSITE](#)

[2023-2024 FLYERS](#)

[SCHOOL PICTURE INFO](#)

CONTACTS

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A Message from the Principal

2023-2024 Fall Parent/Teacher Conference dates for Cornell Elementary are October 17, October 18, and October 19. This year, we are implementing a new scheduling tool called *MyConferenceTime*. If you have children who attend Kinawa, Chippewa, or OHS you may be familiar with this scheduler--which is ad-free and very simple to use!

Staff are currently setting up *MyConferenceTime* information and will send out the Cornell scheduling link in classroom newsletters the week of October 2! I will also push out additional information/reminders to you via email as we approach the conference period! We are excited to share your child's growth with you!

~Mrs. Ojerio, Principal

Cornell Elementary Information

School Hours

Full Day: 8:50am-3:45pm

Half Day: 8:50am-12:00pm

PTO Information

Our next PTO Meeting will be held on September 27 @ 9am in the Library! Learn more @ the Cornell PTO Website

"Together...educating with excellence,
inspiring each learner for life."

News and Updates

Wolf of the Week!

Congratulations, Cornell Wolves! You are being acknowledged as a Wolf of the Week! Thank you for showing others what it means to be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe at Cornell!

September 15

KDG: August H, Pranav K, Landon M & Gromm S.

1: Jasper R, Emerson B, Ava A & Emma S.

2: Viya M, Alice H, Vera M & Noora A.

3: Allie S, Harriet S, Alexander T & Cameron M.

4: Elena B, Sarvesh S, Olivia G & Adelyn P.

September 22

KDG:

1: Kerielle W, Ben S & Gavin M.

2: Kiara C, Michael S & June C.

3: Aria R, Juliana R, Preston M & Isabella G.

4: Hanna A, Rohan S & Yujin J.

Golden Spoon Awards

Congratulations to the following classrooms who are being acknowledged for being a shining example of what it means to be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe in the Lunchroom!

September 15 & 22

KDG: Schoen & Casson

1: Schuesler & Gutierrez

2: Pignataro & Andersen

3: Tousignant & Dykeman

4: Sinila & Price



September Character Trait

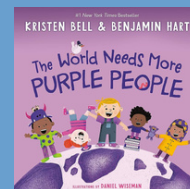
Kindness

At Cornell Elementary, kindness means being generous and considerate of others' needs. Showing kindness might look like giving a "high 5" or fist bump, letting someone else go first, helping others, taking turns or simply smiling!



The following children's literature selections focus on themes of friendship and belonging:

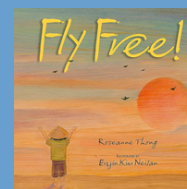
The World Needs More Purple People
by Kristin Bell



The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade
by Justin Roberts



Fly Free!
by Roseanne Thong



One Green Apple
by Eve Bunting



*A Hat for Mrs. Goldman:
A Story About Knitting and Love*
by Michelle Edwards



Cornell Paw Pledge



Cornell's PAW PLEDGE....

Today I will do my best to be my best.
I will listen.
I will follow directions.
I will be kind and honest.
I will respect the rights of others.
I can learn and I will learn.
I am proud to be me!

We recite the school pledge together each day during Morning Announcements! Please take some time to review and practice at home.

OPS Homecoming Spirit Week at Cornell Elementary

October 2-October 6

Monday- Mismatch Monday
Tuesday- Hat Day/Creative Hair Day

Wednesday- Color Day

K - red
1 - orange
2 - yellow
3 - green
4 - blue

OR anyone can wear rainbow colors!

Thursday- Team/Jersey Day
Friday- Okemos Colors/Spirit Wear

News and Updates

(continued)



Student Spotlight

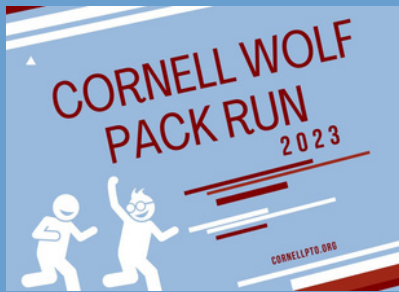
Mrs. Price's 4th grade class was supportive, calm, and caring during an emergent situation last week. We are so proud of the way students showed concern for their classmate and followed adult instructions last week!

Shout out to the following classes for reaching their PBIS Goal last week: 1-Gutierrez, 3-DeLadurantaye, 2-Pignataro & K-Petersburg! We are well over 1/2 way to our schoolwide goal and Fall Celebration!

Thank you to the students in Mrs. Coy/Mrs. Godette's 4th grade. The class is doing a great job of showing empathy for others!

Shout out to Mrs. Nahat's Kindergarten students! Their class did a great job during their first visit to the library with Mrs. Keller!

Shout outs in Mrs. Schoen's Kindergarten class. The students did an excellent job coming up with examples of when someone else filled their bucket during the week!



Cornell Wolf Pack Run 2023

Our annual Wolf Pack Run is scheduled for:

September 29th from 1:40-3:30pm!

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

All packets are due September 28!

Grade Level Schedule:

1st Grade 1:40pm

4th Grade 2:00pm

3rd Grade 2:20pm

2nd Grade 2:40pm

Kindergarten 3:00pm

Group photos will be taken and passed on to classroom teachers, so don't worry about taking your own as you are cheering on your child!

Reminder: No pets allowed on campus during this event!



Cornell Happenings

A Message from the Office!

Please be reminded:

If you would like your child to participate in the Breakfast Program at Cornell, plan to arrive at school at 8:30am and ring the doorbell at Door 1! Breakfast ends at 8:45 am. The only exception to this is students arriving late by bus. Food service workers also have a schedule that we need to respect. Thank you!

Cornell Elementary is still looking for an additional employee to serve as a member of our wonderful Lunch Crew! If you or someone you know are interested, please call us at 517-706-5300 or email: tracy.ojerio@okemosk12.net. Thank you for your consideration and for passing the word along!

Fall Benchmark Assessments

The Fall NWEA Benchmark Assessment Window has closed. Our Instructional Coach, Classroom Teachers and Learning Lab staff have been working with students to complete make-up assessments and drill deeper with diagnostic skills assessments, as we approach our Fall Data Meetings at Cornell and the beginning of our Best Fit Groups. Please expect Parent Reports and information to come home in you child's October 6 Friday Folder.

More information:
[Cornell NWEA Student/Home Toolkit](#)

OPS Happenings

DEI Tidbits

As we put the [Okemos Public Schools Equity Plan](#) into action, we rely on the guidance of a diverse district-wide group of people. The Okemos Public Schools' Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Coalition (DEIAC) is committed to creating a culturally responsive and sustaining school district in which students, staff, caregivers and community recognize, accept, celebrate, and value the diverse attributes of one another. The DEIAC will offer perspectives to inform meaningful and relevant action throughout OPS to ensure that we are meeting the academic and behavioral needs of ALL of our students.

Expectations of the DEIAC:

- Review [OPS Equity Plan](#) on a yearly basis (Did we do what we said we'd do? Who's benefiting from what we're doing? Are we trending in the right direction?)
- Review OPS Equity Plan every three years to determine if our goals and strategies still align with the OPS Strategic Plan. Are we getting the outcomes we want/need?
- Identify data to be collected to monitor goals (qualitative and quantitative)
- Analyze data
- Monitor progress toward equity goals
- Seek input and identify priorities to share with the Board of Education and Core Leadership Team
- Provide feedback and guidance to work teams
- Inform district professional development planning
- Provide updates to BOE and community

An [application](#) process occurs every two years, and, with the exception of students, a minimum of a two-year commitment is appreciated. Each year, members will be asked to reflect on their participation in the DEIAC and to provide feedback regarding the group's dynamics, purposes, and facilitation in order to continuously improve.

DEI Tidbits (continued)

A subcommittee of the DEIAC members will review the current composition of our membership, determine criteria, review applications and select members, and membership will be limited to 25 people.

Criteria considered by the subcommittee will include:

- Role (e.g. staff, student, parent, community member)
- Grade level band
- Reasons for applying (Do reasons align with equity plan's guiding principles?)
- Attributes (e.g. experiences, skills)

For more information, contact Dr. Lara Slee, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, lara.slee@okemosk12.net, 517-706-5011.

OPS Trunk or Treat

TRUNK OR TREAT 2023

OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATION DEPARTMENT

WHEN

Sunday, Oct. 29th, 4-7pm

WHERE

Okemos High School Stadium Parking lot

More Info Here:

<https://www.smores.com/tyw0g>

Sign Up Here:

<https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/special-events/>

What is Trunk or Treat?????

Participants decorate their vehicle trunk (or covered space if you prefer) to a theme. Participants dress up in costumes to match. You can hand out tricks or treats to students as they come by. Students dress up in their favorite costume or fall clothing and trick or treat from vehicle to vehicle in a safe place, seeing all of their friends. Students, clubs, staff, sports groups, etc are encouraged to work together, creating exciting trunks! Come hungry and enjoy your favorite Food Truck for dinner!

More Info Here:

<https://www.smores.com/tyw0g>

Sign Up Here:

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DID YOU KNOW?

One of the ways we help our students to grow is to fill their “tool box” with strategies for being independent problem solvers. Here are some of the strategies that are in kids’ tool boxes at Cornell:

A BUG AND A WISH

Sentence stems are helpful tools to guide students to advocate for themselves. When someone or something is bothering us, we can say...

It BUGS me when you _____ . I WISH you would _____ instead.

This strategy helps to communicate our needs, and gives a suggestion for a replacement behavior that wouldn’t bother others.

STOP - WALK - TALK

A CONFLICT RESOLUTION STRATEGY

If someone is doing something that is bothering you, say STOP. If they stop... great job!
You’ve solved the problem!

BUT.... If they don’t stop - WALK AWAY.

If that does the trick, way to go! You’ve solved the problem.

BUT... If they still don’t stop - TALK to a grown up.

*If something is DANGEROUS, TALK TO A GROWN UP RIGHT AWAY!



WHAT ARE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Restorative practices are one tool that we use in Okemos to help support students in responding to and resolving conflict. Restorative practices focus on giving individuals the skills needed to navigate the impact of their words and actions. The goal of using restorative practices is to have students repair the harm that has been caused, whether intentionally or unintentionally. It is also a way for students to connect to each other on a more personal level.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE IN SCHOOL?

When a conflict arises between students, a staff member will lead a restorative meeting. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their feelings, actions, and solutions through these meetings. The staff member will allow time for each student to explain what happened from their perspective using these questions:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking of at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what happened?
- In what way have they been affected?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?

If your child comes home from school upset about something that happened, you can help us practice going through a restorative conversation:

- First, validate their feelings: "I hear that you are upset because..."
- Use some of the restorative practice question prompts that we use at school from the previous section
- Remember that we do not share information about other students or information about your child with other families
- If you are concerned or would like to share what happened, feel free to contact your child's teacher or other school staff

For more information on restorative practices, you can view this video: [Restorative Practices](#)