From Principal Sermak:

**Important Dates:**

- **February 12**: Count Day
- **February 13**: Touch of Class charity luncheon (tickets on sale now- see below)
  
  "Surviving (and Maybe Even Liking) Your Teens" at Chippewa, 7pm

- **February 17 & 18**: No School

- **March 9**: Spring Sports begin (be sure you have a current physical on file)

**Touch of Class (all-school charity lunch on February 13):** Tickets are $7.00 each and can be purchased at [https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/high-school/touch-of-class-gr](https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/high-school/touch-of-class-gr) or during the lunch hours for cash or check (made payable to: OHS- Touch of Class). Lunch menu includes: Olive Garden Tasty Twist and Pepsi. If there is a financial need, please contact a counselor.

**School News:**

**HS Teachers as Authors on Feb 6th during flex:** Interested students are invited to a special flex presentation Feb 6th in the library. Four of our OHS teachers: Mrs. Huntley, Mrs. Skoutelas, Mrs. Reed and Ms Geyer will talk about their books and answer questions.

---

**Puerto Rico June 2021**

Don't miss out on the chance to see what beautiful Puerto Rico has to offer...including El Yunque - which hosts the island's famous coquí frog and a diverse ecosystem! There's a lot more to experience! Don't miss out! Plus, take advantage of early enrollment savings! Please contact Señora McNeil if you have any questions at elizabeth.mcneil@okemosk12.net

-or-

check out the website for more information about this great opportunity!

Go to [educationaltravel.com/register](http://educationaltravel.com/register)  
Trip ID: Okemos-2021
Counseling News:

**Senior Scholarships:** Take time to come into the Counseling Office to browse through the scholarship binder. We have the **Tyler Oakley Scholarship** available (due 4/22/20), the **“Heart of a Mom” Honorarium** (due 5/1/20), the **Never Back Down Scholarship** (for lacrosse athletes due 5/1/20) and the **Okemos Masonic Scholarship** (due 3/2/20).

**The Early College @ LCC Informational Session:**

**Sophomores** - Interested sophomores are invited to an informational session about The Early College in the Kiva during Flex on Thursday, February 6. Parents interested in learning more about the Early College can find more information and the schedule of evening presentations at [https://www.lcc.edu/community/college-credit-in-hs/earlycollege/](https://www.lcc.edu/community/college-credit-in-hs/earlycollege/). Only sophomores are eligible to apply to this program. See Mrs. Akers for more information.

Athletic News:

**Athletic Calendar:** [https://www.okemosk12.net/domain/3116](https://www.okemosk12.net/domain/3116)

**Participation Fee:** [https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/athletics/#/list](https://okemosk12.revtrak.net/athletics/#/list)

**Home games Week of February 3, 2020**

**Tuesday 2/4**
FR/JV/Boys Basketball vs Haslett- 4:00/5:30/7:00

**Thursday 2/6**
Skiing- MBHSSA Division Championships @ Mt. Brighton  
FR/JV Boys Basketball vs Holt- 5:30/7:00  
Boys Swim/Dive vs St Johns- 6:00

**Friday 2/7**  
Hockey vs Port Huron Northern- 6:30

**Saturday 2/8**  
Wrestling- CAAC Blue League Tournament- 9:00  
Diving- Okemos Invitational- 9:00

We have a student group that is helping update the bulletin board outside the athletic office with **Okemos Graduates that are playing sports in college.** We need help identifying those players we are missing. We would like a digital picture of them in their college uniform or other college team apparel. Just the individual, not a group picture. Please send those pictures to [brian.fuller@okemosk12.net](mailto:brian.fuller@okemosk12.net). We will also request pictures from our current seniors, once they get in school and have the chance to get their uniform.
Spring Sports Seniors- We will take a picture in uniform in the next few weeks to replicate this for Spring Sports seasons.

Spring Sports season begins on March 9th, but only for those athletes that have a completed physical on file in the athletic office. Please take care of this so you don't miss out on the start of your season! Spring Sports down time is from March 1-8, no organized team activities are allowed during the down time.

Booster’s Club: The Booster Club is moving forward with the Banner Project. We will be selling sponsors for each sport’s banner at a cost of $300 with $100 going to the sport of the sponsor’s choice. If interested in sponsoring or providing a business who might be interested, please contact Kari Ann Brown at kariann1963@gmail.com. We will have our next meeting Monday February 24, 2020 at Henry’s Place at 7:30. Please join us!

Okemos Varsity Hockey
Senior Night
Please join us
Friday Feb. 7th @ 6:15pm
Suburban Ice East Lansing
to celebrate our senior players
(Game to follow at 6:30pm)

District News:

Headlee Restoration for Special Education: On March 10, 2020, Ingham Intermediate School District will have a question on the ballot regarding a Headlee Restoration for Special Education. In the Ingham ISD service area, which includes our district, the Special Education Millage has eroded .2438 mill since 1988. As a result, Ingham ISD has been collecting less revenue than originally approved by taxpayers for special education students.
This restoration would cost homeowners with a market value of $125,000 or a taxable value of $62,500, $15.24 per year or $1.27 per month. If approved, this restoration would generate approximately $2,300,000 for students with special education needs. If not approved, it will not reduce your home property taxes.

Every registered voter who lives in our school district, whether a property owner, or not, is eligible to vote. For more information, to review frequently asked questions or view the ballot language, please visit the Ingham ISD website at www.inghamisd.org.

Dear Okemos Public School families,

There’s an organic community garden at Kinawa available to OPS families!

Several years ago, Montessori teachers and families constructed a hoop house and raised garden beds behind the tennis courts at Kinawa Middle School. A dedicated group of parent volunteers revitalized the garden in 2016. The Kinawa Community Garden (KCG) now has 26 community garden plots in raised beds (including 10 hoop house beds which afford year-round gardening), a well-fenced perimeter, weather-responsive irrigation, a Montessori classroom garden, a raspberry patch, herb beds, and art installations!

We're currently accepting applications for 2020. Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis within priority status.

Please submit completed applications electronically to kinawagarden@gmail.com or to the Kinawa Main Office. Electronic application and payment is preferred. Hard copies will be available next week at Central, Kinawa, and Chippewa, likely outside the main or guidance offices. After reading the attached application and agreement (which has lots of additional information), let us know if you have any questions!
**Kinawa Community Garden Application**

**Application Deadline:** February 1 for Priority A (all Montessori Families), February 15 for Priority B (all OPS Families)

**Name of Head Gardener** assuming responsibility for the plot(s): ____________________________

**Phone:** ____________________________ **Email:** ____________________________

**Preferred method of contact:** [ ] Email  [ ] Text  [ ] Call  [ ] Other: ____________________________

**Family Members** (name of each family member, including each child’s grade and school):

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

**Our children are in the Montessori program in Okemos Public Schools:** [ ] yes  [ ] no

We would like ___(#) garden plot(s) for one growing season (approx. 35-45 sq ft, $20.00 each).

Our family requests a total/partial waiver. [ ] yes  [ ] no  We are able to pay: $ __________

We prefer a hoop house plot [ ] outdoor plot [ ] no preference [ ]

[ ] We are returning gardeners and would like the same plot(s) as last year.

[ ] We are new gardeners and would like to select our plot #(s): ______

[ ] We are new gardeners. Please assign the plot(s) to us.

As part of the Kinawa Community Garden Agreement (see next page) gardeners are required to work 10 hours for general facility maintenance, or they have the option to buy out of that commitment at a rate of $10/hour.

Our family would like to work _____ and buy out of _____ of the required 10 hours.

[ ] We are able to help with: [ ] leadership team  [ ] mowing/weed whacking  [ ] repair work/carpentry

[ ] tasks as necessary  [ ] Other: ____________________________

Applications are only considered complete with payment and Kinawa Community Garden Agreement (next 2 pages).

[ ] We attached a payment of $ __________ in [ ] cash  [ ] check (payable to Kinawa Community Garden).

[ ] We have submitted a payment of $ __________ through PayPal

Should requests exceed plot availability, payment will be returned to all applicants who are not assigned a plot. Please turn in your Application and Kinawa Community Garden Agreement either electronically to kinawagarden@gmail.com [with PayPal payment] or hand them in at Kinawa’s Main Office (with cash or check). You can also mail them to Kinawa Main Office: attn: Kinawa Community Garden; 1900 Kinawa Drive; Okemos, MI 48864.

For Administrative Use:

Signed forms received by ____________________________ on ____________________________ at ____________________________ via mail/email/in-person.

Payment of ____________________________ received by ____________________________ on ____________________________ at ____________________________ via PayPal/mail/in-person.

Garden Plot #(#s) Assigned for this season ____________________________
**Kinawa Community Garden Agreement**

Gardeners understand that Kinawa Community Garden (KCG) is an organic, school-affiliated community garden and, as such, the work done in the garden and the condition of the facility reflects on Okemos Public Schools.

1. Each garden plot (35-45 ft, raised bed) is assigned around March 1 in exchange for a contribution of $20; the agreement expires when the plot is assigned the following year.

2. The family responsible for each garden plot will participate in general facility maintenance and/or committee work of at least 10 hours per calendar year, and log the worked hours as indicated by the current KCG Leadership Team. *These hours are in addition to time spent maintaining the assigned plot(s).* Work hours can be contributed by any member of the family (e.g., 2 adults and 1 child working together for 2 hours during one of the garden’s Group Work Sessions have fulfilled 6 of their 10 hours). Families may choose to “buy out” their work responsibilities at a rate of $10/hr, payable to the Kinawa Garden account.

3. Per District policy, only Okemos school families can work in the garden while Kinawa school is in session. Okemos school families must sign in at the Kinawa Guidance Office before entering the garden, and must sign out when leaving the garden. All other individuals are invited to work in the garden up to 30 minutes before the school day starts, and starting 30 minutes after the school day ends, or when school is not in session.

4. Children are encouraged to work in the garden, and adults are responsible for their own safety and the safety of the children they are supervising.

5. Gardeners agree to keep the general facility clean and orderly, including removing trash, composting garden clippings, cleaning and putting away equipment, and maintaining the garden shed.

6. Some equipment is available in the garden storage shed for general use. The combination for the shed lock for this growing season will be distributed to head gardeners. Gardeners may not share the combination with individuals who are not directly involved with the Kinawa Community Garden.

7. Gardeners will report any broken tools or things in need of repair to the KCG Leadership Team. If part of the facility or equipment needs immediate attention, gardeners will please ensure timely contact and follow up.

8. *Motorized vehicles must not be driven onto the grass to access the garden unless given specific permission to do so by the KCG Leadership Team.* They have to be parked in the parking lot. Gardeners may use the on-site wheelbarrow to transport heavier loads from their vehicle in the parking lot. Gardeners must not drive down to the garden to unload.

9. Each gardener is responsible for at least weekly maintenance, upkeep (including timely weeding and harvesting), and takedown of the assigned garden plot(s). All healthy vines and stalks should be chopped for composting. Diseased or infected plants should be bagged and removed from the site.

10. As an organic site, the application of synthetic herbicides (weed killers), pesticides, and fertilizers to the garden plots is prohibited. Only organic, USDA approved products can be used.

11. After reasonable notification, produce left unharvested becomes the property of the KCG Leadership Team.

12. If a gardener cannot maintain the assigned plot(s) for any reason, the family shall either enlist a fellow gardener to help or contact the KCG Leadership Team. If a plot is not properly maintained, the lead gardener for that plot will be notified with specific instructions from the KCG Leadership Team. If plot maintenance issues are not remedied in a timely fashion, the KCG Leadership Team may revoke the plot privileges without refunding the payment.

13. Gardeners will respect others’ plots, and will refrain from growing tall plants along boundaries that would shade neighboring crops.

*Kinawa Community Garden*  
1980 Kinawa Drive, Okemos, MI 48864  
kinawagarden@gmail.com
14. By November 1, gardeners with an outdoor plot are responsible for leaving the plot as they found it in the spring. Special permission needs to be obtained from the KCG Leadership Team in order to over-winter perennials. String, stakes, fencing, trellises, signs, etc. also have to be removed.

15. Gardeners with a hoop house plot are responsible for tending the plot through the fall and winter months. If the gardener would like to surrender the plot for the rest of the contracted time, the gardener must notify the Leadership Team and leave the plot as they found it in the spring. String, stakes, fencing, trellises, signs, etc. also have to be removed.

16. The KCG Leadership Team and all gardeners shall indemnify and hold harmless Okemos Public Schools from and against all liabilities, damages, fines, penalties, demands, forfeitures, claims, suits, causes of action, or any other liabilities or losses, including attorneys’ fees, arising out of or related to the KCG.

Please sign below and return with your KCG Application. You may turn in the document electronically or you may submit a hard copy. If you submit a hard copy, submit only the Application and the portion below this line so that you keep a copy of the Agreement for reference.

As members of the Kinawa Community Garden, each of us has read and will follow the KCG Agreement.

Electronic Signature Agreement (for electronic submission only): By typing your name in the Signature section below, you and all family members are signing this Agreement electronically. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this Agreement. You consent to be legally bound by this Agreement’s terms and conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant / Head Gardener (print)</th>
<th>Applicant / Head Gardener (signature)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Signatures of Family Members (with date)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (print)</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name (print)</td>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name (print)</td>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name (print)</td>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kinawa Community Garden 1900 Kinawa Drive; Okemos, MI 48864 kinawagarden@gmail.com

Board of Education Meeting Summary- Please click on the link for a summary of our latest meeting of the Okemos Board of Education: [https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/520](https://www.okemosk12.net/Page/520)
Chippewa Parent Group invites you to mark your calendar for our evening speaker meeting on February 13th at 7pm in the Large Group Meeting Room. Jana Aupperlee will present "Surviving (and Maybe Even Liking) Your Tweens and Teens." Jana is a nationally certified School Psychologist, a Licensed Psychologist in the state of Michigan, the Training Co-Director of the Mid-Michigan Psychology Internship Consortium and the Director of the Ph.D. program in School Psychology at MSU. Her research interests include cognitive-behavioral therapy for children and adolescents with anxiety, depression and challenging behaviors and helping parents/guardians to promote mental health at home. All are welcome! Please see our flyer below and/or our Facebook page for event details.
Okemos High School is full of talented students, from actors to filmmakers, athletes to artists, dancers to scriptwriters, and more. The OHS Talent Show, *Okemos Has Got Talent: Season 2*, is the place where the entire student body can learn how to put up a production, showcase their abilities, and work with a wide cross section of the OHS community. It also happens to be the same night as the second annual Pancake Dinner, so audiences get some comfort food before the show and the Department raises funds to support future theatrical productions. It's a win-win!

Okemos High School's production of *Okemos Has Got Talent: Season 2*, preceded by the Pancake Dinner, runs February 8 only. Dinner costs $5 and runs 5:45p-6:45p. The show starts at 7:00pm and also costs $5. Tickets may be purchased at the door on the night of the show or at [www.okemostheatre.com](http://www.okemostheatre.com).

*Okemos Has Got Talent: Season 2* is directed by Chad DeKatch, supported by a 25-member student production team, and boasts a cast and crew of over 50. For more information and other inquiries contact Chad at chad.dekatch@okemos12.net.

*Okemos Has Got Talent: Season 2 & Pancake Dinner Schedule:*

5:45 pm - February 8 - Pancake Dinner
7:00 pm - February 8 - Performance

*Okemos Has Got Talent: Season 2 & Pancake Dinner Tickets:*

Pancake Dinner tickets - $5
Show tickets - $5
Both - $10

Tickets are general seating and can be purchased at our website ([www.okemostheatre.com](http://www.okemostheatre.com)) and also available at the door (OHS Auditorium, 2800 Jolly Road, Okemos, MI 48864).
Please join us for a discussion about

**MSU Programs for**

**Children in Grades 2 - 12**

Speaker: special guest Susan Sheth or Jessica Bilodeau
from MSU’s Office of Gifted & Talented Education—”GATE”

Monday, February 10, 2020
Okemos Public Library (4321 Okemos Road)
7:00 p.m.

SOAR is an organization of parents, educators and others in the community who support high-ability students. We strive to address the unique academic, emotional, and social needs of high-ability children.

SOAR needs new faces and fresh ideas! Consider making a difference for your high-ability child by joining SOAR. It is a wonderful opportunity to network, share information, and advocate for your child.