



The Cornell Chronicles

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE
CORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

IMPORTANT DATES

1/2 Day of School

(12:00pm Dismissal)

January 13

NO SCHOOL

January 16

EARLY RELEASE

(1:50 PM Dismissal)

January 25

WINTER ASSESSMENT WINDOW

January 9-27

IMPORTANT LINKS

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[LUNCH MENU](#)

[CORNELL STAFF DIRECTORY](#)

[CARLINE SIGNS](#)

CONTACTS

Cornell Elementary School

4371 Cornell Rd.

Okemos, MI 48864

517.706.5300

Tracy Ojerio, Principal

tracy.ojerio@okemosk12.net

Jennifer Darjes, Admin. Assistant

jennifer.darjes@okemosk12.net

Nisreen Abulibdeh, Clerk

nisreen.abulibdeh@okemosk12.net



A Message from the Principal

Happy New Year Wishes! The month of January is a great time to review the celebrations of 2022 and set new goals for 2023, both personal and school related. As your school leader, I will continue my 2022 focus on "building positive relationships," as our team looks forward to fostering our Cornell Elementary theme *Growing Together* in 2023! We have laid a strong foundation for continued growth and we cannot wait to see your Cornell Wolves shine in the new year ahead! ~Mrs. Ojerio, Principal

Cornell Elementary Information

School Hours

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

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

Early Release: 8:50am-1:50pm

PTO Information

Our next PTO Meeting will be held on **January 18** from **6-7pm** 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 to our Cornell Wolves who were acknowledged for being Respectful, Responsible!

December 9

K: Prashi P, Evie I, Reiland R, & Lucas J.

1: Lily P, Krithin Y, & Priya B.

2: Alexander T, Eunchan O, Gia C, & Nyla G.

3: Adelyn P, Advith M, Ollie K, & Mia M.

4: Vivaan M, Elsa L, Zeke S, & Aidan C.

December 16

We took a break for Spirit Week and will return to normal procedures on 1/6/23!

Golden Spoon Awards

Congratulations, Cornell Wolves! You are being recognized for excellent Cafeteria behavior:

We took a break for the week of 12/16!

Coming Soon: First Winners of 2023 will be recognized on 1/6/23 😊



January Character Trait

Honesty

At Cornell Elementary, when you are honest, you speak the truth, you present yourself in a genuine and sincere way, and you take responsibility for your feelings and actions.

Some examples of honesty might include:

~returning something that belongs to others

~choosing to follow the rules

~doing the right thing, even when no one is watching

DEI Tidbit

OPS is committed to supporting the social, emotional, and mental well-being of each person in our learning community. The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) defines social and emotional learning (SEL) as “an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.” SEL leads to improved academic outcomes and behaviors in our schools, and students with strong SEL skills are more likely to graduate from high school, complete a college degree, and obtain stable employment in young adulthood. For more information about SEL, explore the [CASEL](#) website.

Staff Member Showcase



**Mrs. Jennifer Darjes,
Administrative Assistant**

Mrs. Darjes is our amazing Administrative Assistant at Cornell! She has been a member of our team for 15 years, as a parent & lunch supervisor previous to moving into her current position. When she is not at school, Mrs. Darjes enjoys gardening, playing with her dog named Mathilde, and being outside as much as she possibly can!



Mrs. Nisreen Abulibdeh, Cornell Elementary Clerk

My name is Nisreen Abulibdeh, but Mrs. A for short. I have worked at Cornell for about 10 years and this will be my second year working in this position. I have also worked as a lunch supervisor and then as a classroom aide for Kindergarten and 2nd grade. I was born and raised in Jordan. I moved to Michigan with my husband and three children Bana (27), Tala (23), and Mahmoud (19) about 17 years ago and I later had my youngest Yara (15). Outside of school I like to cook, bake, spend time with my family, and spend time with my cat Mr. Weenie.

News and Updates

(continued)



Student Spotlight

4th Graders had a wonderful trip to the State Capitol building! We made our school community proud by demonstrating respectful, responsible, and safe behaviors while outside of our normal classroom walls! They even had a special visit with Gov. Whitmer!

Alyvia in Mrs. Hixson's 3rd grade class found money on the playground and turned it into an adult. Thank you for practicing honesty and allowing a peer to be reunited with their lost Book Fair money!

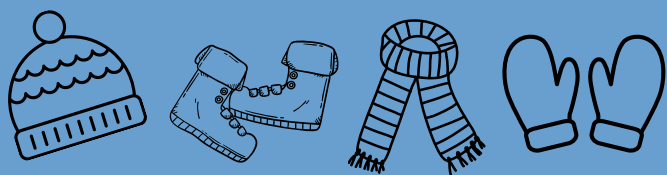
Mrs. Schoen's Kindergarten class is doing a great job learning about important people in our community and how we can be grateful for the services they provide.

Mrs. Casson's Kindergarten class is doing marvelous at following directions and filling their marble jar! We are so proud of our kindergarteners!

We are grateful for the amazing conduct of all K-4 students as we celebrated Winter Spirit Week before break! It was lovely to be silly with our students and enjoy their positive sense of school spirit!

Return to School

As the snow melts & returns, our play areas can be very wet & muddy! Please continue to send your child to school with a winter coat, hat, gloves, snow pants and boots. Extra socks and a change of clothing are great to keep in the locker, too! All K-4 students will go outdoors daily for AM/PM Recess and Lunch Recess unless it is snowing! Label EVERYTHING--Thank you!



Knob Hill Fire: Community Support Info

On 12/21/22 members of our OPS Family experienced a devastating loss due to fire damage in the Knob Hill Apartment Community. In response, our greater Okemos community wrapped around in a tremendous effort to support! Click on an icon below to learn more or consider continued support in the weeks and months to come. Thank you!



OPS Happenings



Okemos Public Schools has partnered with Child and Family Charities to provide a mental health clinic within Okemos High School. This opportunity is made possible because of the Expanding, Enhancing Emotional Health (E3) grant through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Adolescent Health Center Division. The clinic will provide on-site comprehensive mental health services from mild to moderate severity of need. There will be a full-time therapist at the OHS clinic five days a week and will be able to serve all OPS youth ages 5 to 21 years. If you're interested in services for your student, please complete this [referral form](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Lara Slee, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Email: lara.slee@okemosk12.net
Phone: 517-706-5011