



# The Cornell Chronicles

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
CORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## IMPORTANT DATES

### EARLY RELEASE

March 8 (1:50 PM Dismissal)

### HALF DAY

March 23 (12:00PM Dismissal)

### NO SCHOOL

March 14 Records Day/P-T Conf.

March 24-31 Spring Break

## IMPORTANT LINKS

DISTRICT CALENDAR

LUNCH MENU

CORNELL STAFF DIRECTORY

GLOBAL CORNELL INFORMATION

OMP SPAGHETTI DINNER

CORNELL STRONG T-SHIRT ORDER

## CONTACTS

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## A Message from the Principal

Greetings! We are excited to share your child's progress with you during our upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences, scheduled March 13-23! If you have not signed up, please [click here](#) for K-4 classroom sign-up links! Links close on 3/10/23, after which you will need to schedule conferences directly with your child's teacher. You should also find updated Reading Growth Plans and Winter NWEA MAP Growth Family Reports in this week's Friday Folders!

~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 **March 15** 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 a shining example of what it means to be Respectful, Responsible and Safe!

### March 3

**K:** Kella M, Ethan M, Landon M, Jasper R, Emma S, & Amarie M.

**1:** Mae G, Brendan A, Maven R, Noah S & Yeonjae H.

**2:** Izzy F, Olivia G, Juliana R, & Ellie G.

**3:** Nalinaa G, Wenzel K, Libby M, & Elena B.

**4:** Karissa H, Balil J, Eva R, Eloise O, Momoka M, & Shawn L.

## Golden Spoon Awards

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

**K:** Mrs. Petersburg's Class!

**1:** Mrs. Hall's Class!

**2:** Mrs. Malkus's Class!

**3:** Ms. Mason's Class!

**4:** Mrs. Price's Class!



## March Character Trait

### Teamwork

At Cornell Elementary, teamwork means cooperating with others to meet a goal. If you are using teamwork, you might be listening, taking your turn, contributing your strengths and your ideas, considering the strengths and ideas of others or cheering on your teammates when they are trying something new or challenging. We are better together!

## DEI Tidbits

March is Women's History Month, during which we celebrate the contributions women have made to the United States and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history. You can learn more about Women's History Month on the following websites:

- National Endowment for the Humanities
- National Archives
- National Park Service
- Smithsonian Education
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

SBSK is a platform that allows disabled and neurodiverse people of all backgrounds to share their stories. It's an organization that "seeks to normalize the diversity of the human condition under the pillars of honesty, respect, mindfulness, positivity and collaboration." Check out the [SBSK website](#) to meet new friends whose life experiences may be very different from your own.

# March is Reading Month!

## Read Together, Grow Together!

Every student and teacher at Cornell Elementary will receive a copy of a book free of charge based on their grade level to read with their families at home. The school will provide a reading calendar, activities, and guidance throughout March 2023 to celebrate March is Reading Month and encourage family literacy. Books were purchased by the Cornell PTO through Schuler Books in Okemos.

Grades K-2



Grades 3-4



Our focus will be on two separate books this year. We believe that there are many benefits of two separate titles, such as allowing for deeper conversations with older students and more age appropriate content for younger students.

Click each book above to learn more!

### March 10 Author Visit: Laurie Keller!

Cornell Elementary School is excited to host Michigan author and illustrator, Laurie Keller on March 10th! She will meet with all grade levels and share her expertise with our Cornell students, both as a writer and an illustrator! Students have been enjoying her work in the library as they prepare for her visit. Click [here](#) to learn more about Laurie Keller and her books!

# News and Updates

(continued)



## Student Spotlight

Shout out to our 3rd grade students who visited Potter Park Zoo last week! Students were respectful, responsible and safe the entire visit, while engaging with the docents and animals in an educational, yet fun manner! Way to go, Cornell Wolves!

Kindergarten students have done an outstanding job as they work together and follow directions during learning centers! They had so much fun celebrating the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day together, as well! Keep shining, Kindergarteners!

A big shout out to ALL of our Cornell Wolves, who have fallen right back into our school routines, despite so many days off from school in February! Students have exhibited flexibility with scheduling, used patience & teamwork to follow directions and applied their knowledge of the Cornell Behavior Expectations to make their learning environment calm, caring and welcoming for all.

## PHASE Board Opportunity

Okemos Public Schools has 4 positions open for the Personal Health and Sexuality Education Advisory Education (PHASE) Board beginning the 2023-2024 school year. More [information](#) can be found here. The [application](#) can be found here.

## OMP Spaghetti Dinner

It's Spaghetti Dinner Time! After a two-year hiatus, Okemos Music Patrons is excited to once again bring together our community for this long standing tradition. The Spaghetti Dinner, a lively evening of music, food and fun, will be held on:  
THURSDAY, MARCH 9th, 2023 @ 4:30-7:30 pm.

[Event Information](#)

[Volunteer Information](#)



## District Policy

The Board of Education conducts ongoing review of existing and proposed new policies as they relate to current educational practice. It is the practice of the board to give all policies, new or changed, a first reading at a public meeting, with final action taken no sooner than one month from the date of first reading. New or changed policies are posted to this page on the OPS website following first reading. Comments or concerns may be emailed to the Board of Education ([board@okemosk12.net](mailto:board@okemosk12.net)) prior to the "Date to be Adopted."

# OPS Happenings

## Kinawa Community Garden

Dear Okemos Public School families,  
There's an organic community garden at Kinawa available to OPS families!

Over 10 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 32 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, raspberries, rhubarb, strawberries, herbs, and art installations!

We're currently accepting applications for 2023. Plots for new gardeners are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please submit the following Google form application electronically. Payment should be submitted after plots are assigned. After reading the attached application form (which has lots of additional information), let us know if you have any questions!

<https://forms.gle/1KAmGQAgMU7vCesH6>

Cultivating Community,  
Kinawa Community Garden Leadership Team

