



January 7, 2025

Volume 2025 Issue 1

# The Cornell Chronicles

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
CORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## IMPORTANT DATES

### 1/2 DAY DISMISSAL

January 17 @ 12:00PM

### NO SCHOOL

January 20

### EVENTS

Mobile Dentist January 27 & 28

## IMPORTANT LINKS

[DISTRICT CALENDAR](#)

[LUNCH MENU](#)

[CORNELL STAFF DIRECTORY](#)

[ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES](#)

[CARLINE SIGNS](#)

[BUS ROUTES/SCHEDULE](#)

[PTO WEBSITE](#)

[IMPORTANT FLYERS](#)

## CONTACTS

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## A Message from the Principal

Happy New Year, Cornell Elementary Families! As we step into a fresh year, it's the perfect time to reflect, reset, and set meaningful goals with your children. Encouraging them to think about their aspirations, both big and small, can build confidence and a sense of purpose. Together, let's start 2025 on a positive note by establishing strong routines, including arriving to school on time each day, ready to learn and grow. We look forward to working alongside you to make this year one of growth, achievement, and joy for our students. Thank you for your continued partnership!

*~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 January 22 from 9-10am in the Library!

Learn more @ the Cornell PTO Website!

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

# News and Updates

## January Wolves 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!

### Coming Soon!

Welcome Back, Wolves! Do you want to earn the recognition of being a "Wolf of the Week" this month? Here's a few tips to set you on the right path:

1. Be Respectful! Use kind words and actions with all Cornell students and staff!
1. Be Responsible! Stay on task in class and finish your work on time! Do the right thing, even when no one is looking!
3. Be Safe! Use a safe body in every Cornell space!

## Golden Spoon Awards

Thank you for keeping our cafeteria spaces neat and welcoming! We appreciate your Strong Wolf attitude:

### Coming Soon!

### How can a grade level earn the Golden Spoon?



1. Follow expectations for Movement & Voice!
2. Clean up trash from table and floor!
3. Practice Kindness and Respect!



## January Character Trait

### Honesty

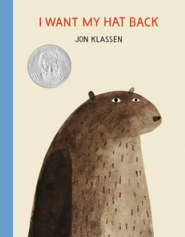
Honesty means we are truthful in what we say and do. It means people can rely on us because we have integrity. Honesty is the basis of a trusting relationship. Encouraging honesty and demonstrating integrity contribute to fostering a positive school culture at Cornell Elementary.

The following children's literature selections focus on themes of being honest:

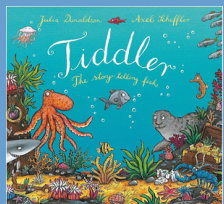
*The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot*  
by Scott Magoon



*I Want My Hat Back*  
by Jon Klassen



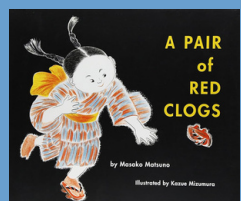
*Tiddler*  
by Julia Donaldson



*The Sad Little Fact*  
by Jonah Winter



*A Pair of Red Clogs*  
by Masako Matsuno



# Cornell Paw Pledge



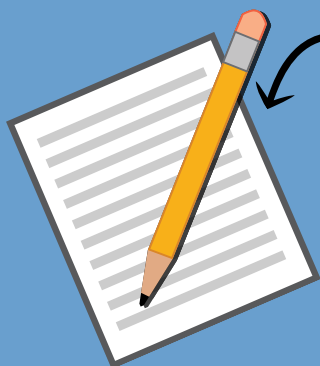
Cornell's PAW PLEDGE....

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!

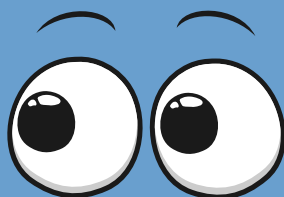
We recite the school pledge together each day during Morning Announcements! Please take some time to review and practice at home. We included our Cornell Behavior Matrix to review before returning from Winter Break! Scroll to the final page in the newsletter to view!

## We Want Your Feedback!

The Cornell Learning Community works hard to have clear expectations and give recognition to kids for their positive choices throughout the school day! Please take a moment to share your feedback in this [SHORT SURVEY](#) as we continue to grow and learn to best meet the needs of all kids! Your feedback will be used by the Cornell CR-PBIS Team to improve our systems and focus our energy on areas that need improvement. Please use the link above or click on the paper below!



**Click Here!**



# News and Updates

(continued)



## Student Spotlight

Shout out to ALL 4th Cornell Safety Patrol Members! Monday, we saw "new safety" peer training occur on campus, both in the AM and PM!

Welcome to the Patrol, 4th graders! Thank you for taking on such a big responsibility to assist in growing this program and keeping students safe!

Shout out to Mrs. McNeilly for making Cornell beautiful each day! Check out some of this great student artwork!



Welcome to all of our newest Wolves who are joining the Cornell Pack this week! We are excited to have you as a member of our school family and cannot wait to get to know you better! ❤️

## Report Cards and Winter Assessment Data

NEW IN 2025: All K-4 Report Cards will be available for review on PowerSchool in January! Parents/Guardians who have created a PowerSchool account with the information sent in December will be able to log in to access Semester 1 Report Cards starting January 31st! Cornell Elementary School will discontinue printing/sending paper report cards home with students this school year. Instead, the Cornell Office will email Semester 1 Report Cards to all K-4 Families, where the option to print will be left up to personal preference.

Winter NWEA Family Reports and Reading Growth Plans (when applicable) will come home in the January 31st Friday Folder. Information specific to the K-4 NWEA Assessment, Family Letters and Assessment Guides can be viewed on the OPS Assessment website:

[NWEA Parent/Guardian Information](#)

## Changing Seasons

Winter is upon us and the temperatures are dipping! Please be sure to send your child to school with a winter coat, hat, gloves, snow pants, and boots. Extra socks are great, too! And don't forget gym shoes! Many parents do this by sending a reusable SNOW BAG containing items for the day! All K-4 students will go outdoors daily for AM/PM Recess and Lunch Recess unless we experience extreme cold temperatures! Thank you!

# Cornell Happenings

## A Message from the Office!

### Mobile Dentist @ Cornell

**January 27 & 28**

Forms went home If you'd like to have your child's teeth cleaned at school please fill out the form that will come home in the Friday Folder!  
Return the form to school by January 10th!

You can also sign up [ONLINE!](#)  
Scan the code on the sign up sheet!



### Vision & Hearing Screening

**January 27 & 28**

for students in Grades K, 1, and 3 only! Any other families with hearing/vision concerns may contact the office for more information!

### Save the Date!

This year's Grade 2-4 Music Performance is Wednesday, **February 5th at 6:30-7:30pm** in the Okemos High School auditorium. Students should plan to arrive at 6:15 to meet with their class. More info to come as we approach!

# OPS Happenings

## 2022 Bond Updates and Info

Interested in the progress of the 2022 Bond? Scan or click to learn more! The Okemos Bond website is updated regularly with new information!



Here are some FAQs that might also address your wonderings! [FAQs](#)

## Safety and Security Updates

One of the District's top priorities is to provide students and staff with a safe educational environment, which includes an environment free from gun violence. Your proactive efforts in securing firearms and ammunition are vital to keep children safe.

An Amendment to the state Firearms Act, effective February 2024, makes it a crime to improperly store or leave a firearm unattended in the home when someone knows or reasonably should know a minor is, or is likely to be, on the premises. Any unattended firearms must be unloaded and locked with a locking device or stored in a locked box or container. For more information please visit [Health and Human Services Firearm Safety](#).

Each of our schools have a limited amount of firearm locks available in the office to help our families comply with the law and to keep our students safe. For more information, please contact your building's main office, the Administration Building at 517-706-5002, or the [Director of Safety and Security](#). We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance firearm safety measures at home.

For more important safety resources, including how to report a safety concern, please visit our [Safety and Security page](#) on the district website.

# January

Celebrate Black History Month by learning more about [African American heritage](#) in the Lansing area. Lansing has been home to many Black innovators over the years who have positively impacted their communities. For example, Lansing-born Dr. Alexa Canady was the first black female neurosurgeon in the United States. She was the chief of neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital of Michigan from 1987 until her retirement in 2001. Visit the [Greater Lansing website](#) to learn about other influential people, Black-owned establishments, sites of interest, and much more.

## PowerSchool Access for Elementary Families

This is a friendly reminder to create a PowerSchool account or add your elementary students to an existing account if you haven't already done so. PowerSchool is an essential tool for viewing your child's Semester 1 Report Card in January.

During the week of December 9th, the district sent an email containing the Access ID and password specific to your Cornell Elementary student(s). These details are required to set up your account or add your child to an existing account.

If you did not receive this letter or need assistance with the process, don't hesitate to get in touch with our office!

Thank you for taking the time to look into this matter. We appreciate your continued partnership in supporting your student's education!



Educational Series for the Okemos Community

## **RAISING RESILIENT WOLVES:**

**WELLNESS STRATEGIES FOR  
STUDENT SUCCESS**

# **SLEEP, NUTRITIOUS MEALS, AND POSITIVE INTERACTIONS ON YOUTH'S MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28**

**7 - 8 PM**

**KINAWA AUDITORIUM**

**Kea Norrell-Aitch, Michigan State University Extension in the  
Children and Youth Institute**

Save the date:

Stress, Mental Health, and Sleep: A Practical Guide

February 12, 2025 7 - 8 PM

Yijie Wang, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Qi Huang, Ph.D. Candidate

Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University



# CORNELL PTO

## WINTER/SPRING 2025

### SCIENCE NIGHT

**Save the Date  
for Science Night!  
Friday February 28th,  
6:30-8pm**

Students present science projects and families enjoy a fun night of science at Cornell. Come and learn about STEM professions, see special science presentations, wildlife, and student science projects.

**Is your child interested in submitting a science project?**

Information on how to submit a science project will be available soon on both PTO's website and social media pages.

### PTO MEETINGS



**Jan. 22, 2024 - 9 AM Cornell**

**Feb. 19, 2024 - 9 AM Cornell**

**Mar. 12, 2024 - 6:30 PM Virtual**

**Apr. 16, 2024 - 9 AM Cornell**

**May 21, 2024 - 9 AM Cornell**

**All are welcome to attend,  
we look forward to meeting you!**

### CORNELL CLEANUPS

Stay tuned for two spring cleaning dates to keep school grounds looking great. Great volunteer opportunity to do with your Cornell student(s)!

## UPCOMING PTO EVENTS

Be on the lookout in Friday folders as well as our social media for more information on events



### HENRY'S PLACE AND ASIAN BUFFET

RESTAURANT NIGHT, 4926 MARSH RD, OKEMOS

**January 7th**

4-8 PM

Support Cornell PTO and a local restaurant when you eat out at Henry's Place or Asian Buffet. A portion of all sales will be donated back to Cornell PTO.

### CULVER'S RESTAURANT NIGHT

5140 TIMES SQUARE DR, OKEMOS

**February 3rd**

5-9 PM

Enjoy dinner at Culver's of Okemos North. A portion of all sales will be donated back to Cornell PTO. This is also a fun volunteer opportunity for your Cornell student(s).

### SCIENCE NIGHT

Enjoy an evening of STEM family fun!

**February 28th**

6:30-8 PM

### LAUNCH HALF DAY MEETUP

1982 W GRAND RIVER AVE, OKEMOS

**March 7th**

Noon - 8 PM

Jump on over to Launch for some half day fun. 20% of Cornell admission will be donated back to PTO.

### TEACHER POTLUCK

Help us to treat the dedicated Cornell staff to a potluck lunch. Be on the lookout for a signup.

**March 13th**

### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Stay tuned for teacher appreciation week suggestions.

**May 5th -9th**

### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Mileage club finale! Raffle baskets, food trucks, inflatables, live music, and more!

**May 16th\***

6:30 PM - 8 PM

\*Rain Date of May 19th

### FIELD DAY

Students participate in fun outdoor games with their classmates during school hours.

**May 30th\***

\*Rain Date of June 2nd

To get updates and more information on the above events and fundraisers, as well as learn about additional events and volunteer opportunities please visit our website, and make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

[www.cornellpto.org](http://www.cornellpto.org) | [www.facebook.com/CornellPTO](https://www.facebook.com/CornellPTO) | Instagram @CornellPTO

FUNDRAISING NEVER  
TASTED SO GREAT

# CORNELL PTO RESTAURANT NIGHT

Join us for a night out on Tuesday January 7! No need to mention the fundraiser when you eat at Asian Buffet or Henry's Place. Cornell PTO will receive a portion of all sales for the night!

TUESDAY  
JANUARY

7

4 - 8PM

**ASIAN BUFFET**

4920 Marsh Rd., Okemos

**HENRY'S PLACE**

4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CORNELL PTO  
AND A GREAT LOCAL RESTAURANT