



February 3, 2025

Volume 2025 Issue 2

# The Cornell Chronicles

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
CORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## IMPORTANT DATES

### NO SCHOOL

February 14 & 17  
Presidents' Day Weekend

### Grade 2-4 Music Performance

February 5 @ 6:30pm at OHS  
Students should arrive at 6:15pm

## 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

Our students never cease to impress us with their commitment to learning and outstanding accomplishments. Whether mastering new math skills or showcasing creativity through writing, each day brings new opportunities for growth. We are so proud of their hard work and enthusiasm! February is a great time to highlight the power of kindness. Throughout the month, our school will engage in activities that encourage acts of kindness and empathy. Together, we can foster a community where every child feels valued and supported.

*~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 February 19 @ 9-10am 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!

### January

KDG: Layla C, Wesley F, Sloak G, Lily J, Arif S, Teddy C, Dursun T & Neil J.

1: Lavya J, Chloe K, Camryn A, Matthew S, Amyra S, Jazaraah F, Charlotte J, Nora H, Olivia C, Peter M & William O.

2: Evie I, Max K, Beau S, Link Z, Nandaki V, Ananya M, Jihye S & Bethany M.

3: Charleigh J, Sree M, Viya M, Greeshma K, Ella J, Riven V, Jaina S & Sophie S.

4: Isabelle A, Aayush S, Joe H, Julian M, Eli G, Cam M & Eddie T.

## 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. We had a couple of short weeks where we did not choose a grade level to recognize!



**January 17: 2nd Grade**  
**January 31: Kindergarten**



## February Character Trait

### Perseverance

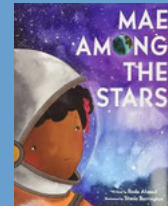
Perseverance is continuing to work toward a goal, even if there is a delay or difficulty in achieving it. Sometimes we say that when things get tough, never give up! Encouraging our students to persevere contributes to fostering a positive school culture at Cornell Elementary.

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

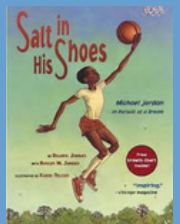
*The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*  
by Rita Loraine Hubbard



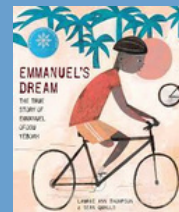
*Mae Among the Stars*  
by Roda Ahmed



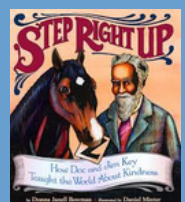
*Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream*  
by Deloris Jordan



*Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosa Yeboah*  
by Laurie Ann Thompson



*Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World About Kindness*  
by Donna Janell Bowman



## Message from the Office

Over the past several weeks, we have seen an increase in cases of strep throat, influenza, stomach flu, and fevers in multiple classes/grades at Cornell. If your child complains they are not feeling well, please err on the side of caution and evaluate the situation. If a child has been diagnosed with illness or if fever/symptoms persist, do keep them home. Remember to contact the main office to report absences when your child is not attending school. Please reference the [Parent/Guardian/Student Handbook](#) for specific guidelines about student illness.

## Schoolwide Assembly: Mr. Basketball Jones!

February 19th we will have a

### SCHOOL-WIDE CELEBRATION

and enjoy a motivational assembly with Jim "Basketball" Jones! Mr. Jones is an author, too! If you'd like to order any of his books at special pricing, he will bring them on Friday! Please return the form linked below, along with payment, to your child's teacher by February 19th if you'd like to order!

You can also get his books on Amazon:)

[Jim "Basketball" Jones Book Flier](#)



**Strong Wolf, Strong Pack!**

# News and Updates

(continued)



## Student Spotlight

2nd Grade has had a lot of fun working on some team-building activities to refresh their sense of our classroom "team" after returning from winter break!

Shout out to the following classrooms for reaching their PBIS goals: Gutierrez, DeLadurantaye, and Hall!

4th Graders utilized our Everyday Speech curriculum deeply this week and practiced believing in themselves, keeping a growth mindset, and coping with tough emotions.

3rd and 4th graders represented our school wonderfully at the Wharton Center while seeing the string trio - Time for Three!

4th grade students in Mrs. Price's class also kindly welcomed a new friend this past week! Students stepped up to model classroom procedures and routines, taking our new friend on a tour of the school, and making sure she felt included and welcomed into our classroom family!



## Kinawa Garden

Come join us in the Kinawa Community Garden this year!

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 facility in 2016 for use as a community garden for Okemos Public Schools. The Kinawa Community Garden (KCG) now has 35 community garden plots in raised beds (including 10 hoop house beds which afford year-round gardening), a well-fenced perimeter, weather-responsive irrigation, herbs, berries, perennials, a composting system, and art installations!

Applications for 2025 are now open! After plots are assigned to our returning members, applications completed by 5pm on Feb 22 are selected at random. Although we usually have a waitlist at this point, we continue to accept applications; remaining plots (if any) are then assigned as first-come, first-served. Hoop house plots can be used starting early March! The application has additional information.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/qx9XGKwc9kf6Xfqt7>  
Questions? [kinawagarden@gmail.com](mailto:kinawagarden@gmail.com)



Cultivating community,  
Laura Freidhoff, Erica Boyan,  
Stacy Tapscott & Amira Vojic

# Cornell Happenings

## DEI Tidbit

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.

## Grade 2-4 Music Performance

This year's music performance for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students is Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30pm in the Okemos High School auditorium. Students should arrive at 6:15 to meet their class.

The performance will be about an hour long, and students are encouraged to dress nicely! This is a once-a-year event and we hope all students will be able to participate!

To open more seats for families, 4th grade students will meet in the **HS Choir Room** and watch the livestream of the concert until it is their turn; 3rd grade students will go backstage to the choir room during the 4th grade performance. Parents should pick up 3rd grade students from the **HS Choir Room** after the performance concludes.





# NEWS FROM THE OKEMOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

February 2025

## OEF APPLE Awards

### Valentine's Day!

February and Valentine's Day, a perfect time to say 'thank you' to those who have impacted our lives in a meaningful way. A perfect time to say 'thank you' to the teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, administrative assistant, custodian, librarian, food service worker, bus driver, specialist, etc. who has impacted your child and/or family in a meaningful way.

The Okemos Education Foundation is offering APPLE Awards to honor all staff. For a \$20 donation to the OEF, families can purchase a 5x7 color, personalized certificate for their honoree. An APPLE award recognizes those who show an Amazing Performance in Promoting Learning and Education (APPLE) This can be any of the Okemos Public School staff who has touched the life of your student and/or your family. Proceeds help the Okemos Education Foundation give financial support to all seven of our schools.

To order an APPLE Award, visit [www.oefsite.org/apple](http://www.oefsite.org/apple).

Orders must be received by Friday, February 7, in order to be delivered by the 13th.

