

## They'll Make You Proud

You may have read the story in the newspaper: **U.S. News and World Report** ranked Okemos High School 4<sup>th</sup> in the state of Michigan and 392<sup>nd</sup> in the nation. Given that there are nearly 22,000 high schools in the country and over 830 in Michigan, this places Okemos in the top 2% of high schools nationwide and in the top *one half percent* in the state.

And while the entire Okemos community can look with satisfaction at the high levels of college readiness and math and reading proficiency that placed us in the 99.5 percentile statewide, we believe the *real* story of our schools transcends test scores and magazine rankings.

For behind those test scores and graduation rates, there are hundreds of daily episodes of deep learning that intensify our students' curiosity, draw on their creativity, and call upon them to apply what they've learned from a textbook or lecture.

Here is a behind-the-scenes look at some of the things our students are doing.



Cornell's recycling center was one of the initiatives created by students to achieve their status as an official Michigan Green School.

For three years, Cornell students have applied the environmental principles they learn in the classroom to maintain the school's status as an *Official Michigan Green School*. This year, by sustaining fifteen ongoing environmental initiatives,

they earned the prestigious Emerald Award from *Michigan Green Schools*, a non-profit dedicated to helping Michigan schools protect the air, land, water, and animals of our state. Some of the environmental initiatives Cornell students participate in include:

- Extensive recycling of Styrofoam trays, cardboard, drink pouches, snack bags, and composting food scraps.
- Winning a grant needed to create a natural habitat for birds and butterflies.
- Nurturing plants in a solar greenhouse.
- Promoting school-wide Earth Week activities.

**Bennett Woods and Cornell 3<sup>rd</sup> graders** assumed the role of wildlife researchers at Potter Park for the week-long Big Zoo Learning Experience this year. For five days, they observe an exotic species, learn about its life cycle and natural habitat, observe the zoo's staff in action, employ scientific methods to solve problems, and record what they've learned in words and pictures.



Hiawatha 4th graders get set for a ride in a bateau.

**Hiawatha students** participated at a living history encampment at Lake Lansing, where they met with re-enactors portraying Mukwa La Femme, a Metis woman, a Native Warrior, and French Voyageurs. Their trip into Michigan's past included a ride in the Voyageurs' *bateau* (a large canoe-like boat used by early fur trappers) on the lake, a game of

*baggataway* (a Native American version of lacrosse), and preparation of a traditional meal using 18<sup>th</sup> century cooking methods.

**Upper Elementary students at Central Montessori** temporarily transformed their classroom into a museum that illustrated how the Native American tribes of the Three Fires Confederacy (the Chippewa, Ottawa and Potawatomi) lived. Students in three classrooms each focused on one of the three tribes, and researched their tribe's lifestyle, including their clothing, food, subsistence strategies (hunting, fishing, and gathering) and shelter. They then constructed and displayed small-scale shelters, baskets, jewelry, and other items representing their tribe.



The trading post is open for business in this Central Montessori classroom museum.

**Over 300 Kinawa Exploratory Art students** formed a special partnership with the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at MSU this year. As part of the "Wharton Center Arts Integration Project," fifth and sixth graders created scenery and artwork to support four Wharton productions – *West Side Story*, *The Addams Family*, *Les Misérables*, and *Memphis*. Artwork was on display in the main foyer at the Wharton Center during each production and was available for sale, with the proceeds going to a fund to provide assistance for student field trips to the Wharton Center.

## Okemos Education Foundation

## OEF Trustee Changes

## OFFICERS

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Catherine Ash**	Pam Kiewer
Deb Baughman***	Craig Lazar
Kim Burzych	Minesh Mody
Kelly Carrier	Chris Nugent
Sue Hallman	Lisa Webb Sharpe
Alicia Hopping	Ron Styka
Terry Hughes	Angela Wilson
Martha Kliebert	

Robert Miller  
*Ex-Officio*

\*\*Superintendent of Schools  
\*\*\*Board of Education Representative

The OEF is pleased to welcome two new Trustees, Lisa Webb Sharpe and Angela Wilson.

**Lisa Webb Sharpe** and her husband, Felix, are the proud parents of three children, Felix II, Justen, and Alexandra and have lived in Okemos for almost 10 years. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in personnel and industrial relations from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Business Administration degree in international business from Wayne State University. She is a member of Habitat for Humanity and has served on the Okemos Public Montessori PTO.

With unanimous consent of the LCC Board, Lisa was appointed as Senior Vice President for Finance, Administration and Advancement in November 2009, with responsibilities for college non-academic operations, including finance, purchasing, risk management, facilities and real estate, external affairs and development, human resources, information technology and the LCC Foundation. During her time at LCC, Lisa has focused on settling expired labor contracts, balancing budgets and updating Campus facilities and infrastructure.

Prior to accepting this role, Ms. Webb Sharpe served as Director of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget, which provided cost-effective business services to government. Before her service in DMB, Webb Sharpe served as Governor Granholm's cabinet secretary and policy director. In that position, she worked closely with all state departments on operational and policy issues. She also led development of the Cabinet Action Plan, tracking and measuring department performance and was a key factor in Governing Magazine rating Michigan as one of the best managed States in the country. Earlier in her career, Lisa also served in Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer's cabinet, following which she became director of housing services for the Traverse Group, an environmental engineering firm.

**Angela Wilson** moved to Okemos with her husband, Jeremy, and daughter, Alexandra, in 2008 from Pittsburgh, PA. Angela is President of the Okemos School District Parent Council and a member of Bennett Woods Family Council. She has worked on passage of the Building and Site Sinking Fund Millage and is

*Continued on page 9*

## Message from OEF Chair

As the OEF's 27<sup>th</sup> year comes to an end, it is a chance to reflect on a year in which the foundation's grants have had more impact than ever before on student experiences and opportunities. In 2011-12, the OEF provided \$166,500 for 70 grants and awards that benefitted every student in the district. Since the creation of our Strategic Fund two years ago to supplement our existing grant programs, the cumulative total reaches \$238,600!



Dean Bolton - OEF Chair

As you look over the list of grants from the last two years on page 7, you will see the depth and breadth of our support. The list


includes innovative enhancements to classroom instruction, textbooks, unique educational experiences, and clubs and activities that provide wonderful opportunities for students to expand on their classroom experiences, grow their talents, develop leadership skills, find friendship and learn the importance of community service in their lives.

Our Partners in Education, our donors - Okemos parents, community members, businesses and district staff - are the real heroes who have made all this possible with their financial support. I would like to express my appreciation to all of them on behalf of so many - OEF trustees, Okemos Public School's faculty and staff, and most importantly, the real beneficiaries: all Okemos students.

We are proud that Okemos schools receive national recognition as schools of excellence and OEF Partners in Education should be proud that they play a pivotal role by supporting the grants and awards our incredible teachers use to enhance the educational experience of Okemos students.

As we look ahead to next year, it is clear that the OEF will need to continue to serve an important role in meeting students' needs. We have already committed to providing \$70,000 to continue support for clubs and student activities next year. We also remain committed to providing the classroom grants and teacher awards that have always been at the core of the Foundation's support.

Thank you to all of you who have donated to the OEF in the past, and please know that we need your continued support to sustain the vital programs and opportunities that make our schools some of the best in the state and nation.

If you have never considered supporting the OEF, I hope that after reading this newsletter and exploring our website you will join us and make an investment in our students and their education. I can think of no greater return on investment than seeing the light of learning, knowledge and experience shine in the eyes of our students. Please help us make a difference for each and every Okemos student! 

## Message from our Superintendent

In the fall OEF newsletter article entitled "Our Focus in 2011", I highlighted the professional goals I established for the 2011-12 school year. The final goals were a result of a discussion with the Board of Education reflecting a truly philosophical, as well as a practical, approach to creating reality from a shared vision for the Okemos Public Schools, our youth, our families, our staff and our community.

Philosophically, our vision for the future continues to include encouraging, challenging and supporting every student in his/her pursuit of achieving his or her full academic, artistic, athletic, civic and social potential. My ability to successfully achieve the established goals was dependent on the time, energy and expertise of our dedicated and talented staff, our supportive parents and our committed and motivated students. So, this is how WE did this year!



Dr. Catherine J. Ash  
Superintendent of Schools

A Strategic Planning Committee consisting of members of the Board of Education, teachers, parents, administrators, support staff, high school students and community members was established to develop a strategic plan that will focus our efforts on the priorities identified by our school community.

The committee determined that the mission, vision and value statements, as well as the K-12 learner outcomes developed in 2006 were still meaningful and relevant. Through analysis and discussion, our mission statement, "Together... educating with excellence and inspiring learners for life" was validated. This statement truly captures our collective commitment to maintain quality programs that meet the needs of all of our children within a collaborative and

productive environment. There were minor edits to our belief, value and vision statements, as well as our K-12 Learner Outcomes to more accurately reflect our commitment to our diverse student population and to supporting and enhancing the education of all students. The committee identified seven (7) critical issues to focus our efforts: curriculum and instruction, diversity, facilities, finances, organizational capacity, social issues and technology. Broad goals and strategies were developed to guide the district's strategic direction. Currently, leadership is developing the operational plan, which will include detailed and specific strategies for accomplishing the established goals. The strategic plan is part of an ongoing process, not an end result, and its successful implementation requires commitment on the part of the Board, administration, staff and community.

*Note: You can find the 2012-16 Strategic Plan on the Okemos Public School's website: [www.okemosschools.net](http://www.okemosschools.net)*

### Building and Site Sinking Fund -

There are ongoing expenses associated with maintaining safe and functioning buildings and grounds. Another goal was to pursue a successful renewal of the .9919 mills for the Building and Site Sinking Fund. Funding acquired through a Building and Site Sinking Fund millage is separate from a public schools' general fund. A district must use the Building and Site Sinking Fund for capital improvements (Examples: roofs, windows, playground structures, parking lots, athletic fields) or for major repairs. If this source of funding doesn't exist, costs associated with major repairs, as well as normal and necessary updates of a district's facilities would have to be covered through the general fund. The general fund is the funding source for educational programs and services. If a portion of the general fund has to be allocated for major repairs, then the dollars available for educating and servicing students and families would be less.

On November 8, 2011 Okemos voters overwhelmingly supported the renewal of the Building and Site Sinking Fund millage. As a result, this millage is estimated to generate over \$1 million each year for the next ten years. This summer, projects include renovating the hallways and restrooms in the Chippewa auditorium

area, roof replacement at Hiawatha, a new boiler at Okemos High School and new carpet in various locations throughout the district. Thank you to the Okemos Public Schools' community! Your continued support and commitment to educating our students has not gone unnoticed and it is greatly appreciated!

### Substance Abuse and Our Youth -

During the 2010-11 school year, there were several alcohol and drug related incidents involving our adolescents that generated a heightened level of concern by our faculty, parents, students and community. This was the impetus for a third goal. It's important for us to acknowledge that alcohol and drugs are accessible by our students and that they are choosing to use these substances in a variety of settings, for a variety of reasons. As a school community, we need to make every effort to establish a culture that promotes healthy and informed choices.

During the 2011-12 school year, I established a district-level committee comprised of high school and middle school administration, parents, teachers and counselors, as well as high school students, prevention professionals and law enforcement. As a foundation for our work, committee members engaged in common learning experiences, as well as identified, discussed and analyzed our current reality. This work informed the development of mission and vision statements which will guide our future actions. Prior to the completion of the 2011-12 school year, the committee will identify the "critical issues" associated with alcohol and substance use by our youth, and develop broad strategic directions to focus our efforts.

In 2012-13 and beyond, the work will continue. We are committed to sustaining our focus and engaging students, parents, staff and community through words and actions in our effort to "establish a culture that promotes healthy and informed choices".

### Student Achievement/Growth -

As part of the school improvement process, we have reviewed and analyzed testing data and identified areas of focus within the core academic program. We continued our focus on improving the reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency of our most at-risk learners in

*Continued page 6*

They'll Make You Proud *continued*

*Kinawa Art students creating the Wharton Center lobby display for "West Side Story."*

The OHS Press Newspaper staff earned a "Gold" rating from the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association in April and several of our student journalists received awards for their individual work.

### Citizenship and Community Service

Fundraising and food drives have become a routine event at all of our schools.

Routine, but in our view, always remarkable.

A few examples:

- Each year at Thanksgiving, fourth graders in the **Hiawatha Leadership Club** create fundraising posters and announcements, go shopping with donated money, and sort, organize and box the food for distribution. They also assist with the "backpack" program, which sends food home on the weekends with students who may not have enough to eat at home.
- **Montessori students** raised money to buy books for schoolmates who cannot afford them.
- **Okemos High School students** who participate in Project Prom solicit donations, collect gently-used dresses, and organize a dress sale and fashion show to ensure that classmates who might otherwise not be able to afford to do so, can attend their prom.
- The **OHS National Honor Society** organizes Red Cross Blood Drives as well as food and fundraising drives at the high school.

A group of **Okemos High School students** bypassed the beaches during spring break

and volunteered at several non-profits serving the poor, homeless, and elderly in the Atlanta area.

The **Kinawa C.A.R.E.S.** school-wide initiative provides opportunities for students to master the skills and acquire the habits of being Cooperative, Accountable, Respectful, Empathetic, and Safe. Sixty Kinawa fifth graders, for example, have routinely visited with senior citizens residing at the Ingham County Medical Care Facility. These visits are the high point in the lives of many of these residents, especially those who no longer have the opportunity to interact with children. The students and senior residents play board games, read together, and just talk with each other.



*Chippewa students Stephen B., Caroline S., and Ravi B. were the top winners of this year's America & Me essay contest.*

**Chippewa students** have reminded us of how fortunate we are to live in this community, state and nation. Three students were recently awarded achievement certificates for the essays they submitted to the 43rd annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. (This year's theme was "My Personal Michigan Hero.") Earlier in the year, 8th graders staged an assembly that honored veterans. Chippewa Boy Scouts presented the colors, the choir performed several patriotic songs, and eight students read essays they had written for the occasion. After presentations by several local veterans, another student closed the assembly with a moving rendition of "Taps."

**Over 550 high school students** have participated in at least one ACTION-sponsored service event this year. Student volunteers have served meals at local soup kitchens and the Ronald McDonald House,

played bingo at the Ingham County Medical Care Facility, performed music for Alzheimer patients, teamed up with the Meridian Senior Center to assist local senior citizens, and hosted a Bowl-a-Thon to support Sarina's Superheroes, a cross-age mentoring program.

Each year, the **Senior Volunteer Project** provides the high school graduating class with opportunities to give back to the community that has supported *them* for the past 13 years. This year, our **graduating seniors** fanned out across the region to serve at:

- Ele's Place, a nonprofit that helps children to cope with the death or life-threatening illness of a parent, sibling or other close family member or friend
- Assisted- and independent-living facilities at Burcham Hills, Carriage Lane Apartments, and the Ingham County Medical Care Facility
- The Okemos Public Library
- The Ronald McDonald House
- St. Vincent Charities

**High school ACTION volunteers** regularly mentor or tutor students or assist teachers at Chippewa, Kinawa, and all three of the elementary schools. And high school students aren't the only cross-age mentors. A half dozen **fourth graders at Hiawatha** give up their recess or other activities each day to serve as kindergarten helpers.



*OHS ACTION students mentor elementary students twice a week after school.*

### Global Citizenship

**Bennett Woods students** crossed the cultural barriers that often separate neighbors by partnering with the *A+ English Language School*. The *A+ School* is a program offered by Okemos Public

### They'll Make You Proud *continued*

School Community Education to help foreign-born adult learners achieve proficiency in reading, writing and speaking skills in order to pursue higher education, obtain or improve employment, and participate more fully in our community. These adult English Language Learners enjoyed a guided tour of Bennett Woods and then practiced their English as their student tour guides interviewed them. The A+ English Language School learners returned the favor by organizing an International Fair, at which they shared their customs, games, food, and dances with Bennett Woods students.



*Bennett Woods Students at the International Fair hosted by the A+ English Language School to celebrate their partnership.*

Sixteen families of Okemos high school students studying German hosted 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> graders from Radebeul, a small town located near Dresden, Germany, for several weeks in April. The German students attended classes at Okemos High School, visited various landmarks throughout the state, and experienced the everyday lifestyle of a Michigan teenager. In June, a group of Okemos students will fly to Germany for a three-week visit, live with the families of the German students who were their guests, and will sample the day-to-day life of a German teenager and polish their German language skills. This is the tenth time in the past eighteen years that Okemos and Radebeul students have participated in the *German American Partnership Program*, supported by the United States and German governments.

Some of our students have not been content to simply *learn* about life in other countries. Having learned about the hardships facing many people in developing countries, they have

harnessed fundraising skills to relieve those hardships and save lives.

For example, while studying Africa in their geography classes, **Chippewa students** decided to combat malaria—which kills nearly 3,000 children every day in Africa—by raising money for *Nothing But Nets*. This volunteer organization provides insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets to African families that cannot afford to purchase them. The nets protect a family of four by stopping the mosquitoes that carry the disease from biting during the night, while the insecticide kills the mosquitoes that land on the nets, preventing them from infecting others who lack nets. The nets cost \$10 each, so the \$6,900 raised by Chippewa students provided 690 families with these life-saving nets.

**Montessori fifth and sixth graders** led efforts at Kinawa to raise money for *Helper International*. Students created and sold construction-paper hearts and thread bracelets to help raise \$650. Since \$20 can provide an impoverished family in a developing country with a starter flock of 50 chickens, the students were able to help dozens of families. The chickens provide family members with protein (a good hen can lay 200 eggs a year), control insects, and fertilize gardens. And since the recipient families commit to share with their neighbors the offspring of the livestock they receive, the Montessori students will continue to have a positive impact for years.

### Redrawing the Boundaries of What is Possible

We'll conclude our behind-the-scenes tour of our schools with a look at the three-year **OHS Honors Research** program that enables our high school students to become practicing scientists. During their sophomore year, they master basic experimental methods, statistical analysis, and ethics; select a topic of interest; and identify a mentor (typically a faculty member at Michigan State University) who shares their research interests.

During their junior year, the students develop their hypothesis and research methodology with the help of their mentor, and begin conducting their research. By the beginning of their senior year, students complete their research and

begin writing a scientific paper that they will submit to international science research competitions sponsored by INTEL, Siemens, Google, and others.

Here, in alphabetical order, are some of the things our student scientists are doing:

- Amir A. experimented with ways to phosphoresce proteins, so that scientists could more easily observe DNA translation, the process by which proteins are made.
- JoAnn B. used fossil records and mathematical analysis to study an extinct primate, and her findings forced her mentor to re-write earlier scientific papers to reflect her discoveries. As an INTEL and a SIEMENS semi-finalist, she was recognized as one of the top 100 students performing discovery science in the nation.
- Monica C. employed statistical analysis to study the correlation between facial and/or cranial characteristics and their genetic pool.
- Cody H. studied the immune response of plants in order to better understand how they resist disease and developed a model for understanding human immune responses to pathogens. An INTEL finalist, he presented his work in Washington, D.C. to an audience that included numerous Nobel Prize winners and President Obama.
- Jino K. developed software codes aimed at enabling computers to "see" and identify objects. He shared his project at a national conference of computer scientists.
- Kelsey K. researched Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a type of Muscular Dystrophy that she herself suffers from, and so impressed her mentor that she was invited to speak at a national conference in Washington, D.C. for physicians.
- Keenan N.'s research aimed at determining why some fish produce more eggs is being studied by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as they seek to increase trout and salmon populations in Michigan rivers and lakes.
- Yash P. studied the effect of stress on cellular responses in mice, to better understand how to make cells stronger during disease. He presented his work at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Division sponsored by Department of Defense.

### Superintendent's Message *continued*

identified subgroups (economically disadvantaged, African-American and students with disabilities). We utilized the results of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), the ACT Explore and Plan tests, the reading and mathematics AIMSweb assessments, Everyday Math and Reading Street assessments, and classroom performance measures to plan instructional strategies that will yield positive outcomes for all of our students.

Throughout the 2011-12 school year, we continued the implementation of the Reading Street Literacy Program and the 90-minute literacy blocks at the elementary level. We held data meetings to plan for the flexible grouping of students during Tier II or Good Fit times, planned specific interventions based on student need, and carefully monitored the progress of struggling learners to adjust the instructional strategies as necessary. The outcome: student academic growth and achievement! Okemos Public Schools' students continue to achieve at some of the highest levels reported across the state. Even though we are proud of our performance, we continually analyze the outcomes, consciously reflect on our practice and consistently strive to do better!

As stated previously, these were lofty and important goals! Achieving success truly resulted in meaningful and essential outcomes for all of our children . . . our students. Thank you for joining me in focusing our energy, time, efforts, expertise and support, moving us closer to making our vision a reality.

Even though I was able to highlight our successes, our work is not done! We are always striving to provide the best possible educational experience for our students, helping them to realize their potential. Be assured, we do not believe that we have reached our destination. Instead, together . . . we will continue on this important and relevant journey.

### They'll Make You Proud *continued*

- Rachel S. studied different aspects of cancers in the gastrointestinal tract.
- Claire W. discovered a novel way to try inducing death in insect pests by genetically decreasing their resistance to environmental stresses. Her work could lead to a decrease in the use of chemical pesticides.

Several thoughts occur to us as we reflect on all of the things our students are doing.

First, we see a direct connection between our high school placing at the top of national and statewide rankings, and the fun and challenging learning that begins in kindergarten and continues across all grade levels.

Second, if our students' actions today are an accurate predictor of the kinds of things they will accomplish throughout their lives, we have reason to be optimistic about the future of our community, state, and country.

Finally, everyone reading this article has reason to take pride in the things we have described here. As parents, teachers, voters, community members, and OEF contributors, you all support, directly or indirectly, the classrooms, the activities, and the students who make Okemos an exceptional place to learn. **OEF**

## Okemos School Board Candidates Needed!

Three seats on the Okemos School Board will be on the ballot for the November 2012 election with the following terms of office:

- One partial term expiring December 31, 2016. Candidate would be seated on the board at the first regular meeting following the election; and
- Two four-year terms expiring December 31, 2016 based on current board policy. The Board is discussing the possibility of changing to six year terms. A decision will be made in June 2012.

Terms of office on the Okemos School Board begin January 1 and end December 31. Interested citizens must file an Affidavit of Identity and a nominating petition (minimum 40 signatures) at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office (Central Park Drive/Marsh Road) by **4:00 p.m. August 14, 2012** to be placed on the November 6, 2012 school election ballot. A \$100 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a petition.

Nominating petition forms may be obtained from the school board office

(Okemos Road at Mt. Hope) or from the Township Clerk's office. You may also obtain a copy of the Affidavit of Identity from the Secretary of State's website at [www.mich.gov/sos](http://www.mich.gov/sos). Meridian Township Clerk Mary Helmbrecht is the Election Coordinator for Okemos Public Schools. Citizens may call 853-4300 with questions concerning the election process.

# OEF Provides \$238,600 to Help All Okemos Students!

During the past two school years the OEF has provided \$238,600 to support academic and extra-curricular programs district-wide, helping Okemos Public Schools achieve its mission of "Together...educating with excellence, inspiring learners for life."

Our grants and awards benefit every student in the district. OEF grants enrich educational opportunities and promote innovation in the classroom. Strategic Fund grants provide funding for programs, activities, or purchases that have been reduced or eliminated from the district's budget. Connie Osborn Deits Science Enrichment grants increase the understanding and appreciation of science for our students. Lee Gerard Professional Development Fellowships provide opportunities for our teachers to conduct projects focused on improved learning for all students. Commitment to Excellence Award recipients are awarded a grant to support their continued contributions to education.

## 2011-12 Grants

### OEF Grants

Touch Math Software – Cornell - \$365  
 Yearbook Cameras – Okemos High School - \$650  
 Cultural Materials for Montessori Curriculum – Central - \$808  
 Leveled Readers – Bennett Woods - \$1,000  
 Student Response System – Okemos High School - \$545  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classroom Books – Bennett Woods - \$317  
 Geometric Materials – Central - \$300  
 Origo Fact Sets and Flash Cards – Central - \$357  
 Edmark Reading Program – Bennett Woods, Cornell - \$1,003  
 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom Books – Bennett Woods - \$250  
 Science and Math Supplemental Materials – Central - \$716  
 I pads for Special Education Instruction – Hiawatha Basic Classrooms - \$1,248  
 Ipad for Speech-Language Instruction – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha, Kinawa, Chippewa - \$1,872  
 I pads for Student Achievement Improvements – Okemos High School Resource Room - \$624  
 Kindle E-readers for Differentiated Instruction – Bennett Woods - \$736  
 Fraction Cubes – Bennett Woods - \$450  
 Zoophones Language Arts Program – Hiawatha - \$900  
 Waders for River Study and Salmon in the Classroom Program – Kinawa - \$700

### Strategic Fund

Textbooks – Chippewa, Okemos High School - \$70,000  
 Safety Patrol Supervisors – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha - \$12,926  
 ACTION Community Service Club – Okemos High School - \$5,380  
 Knowledge Masters Open – Chippewa - \$1,128  
 Drama Club – Okemos High School - \$1,128  
 Art Club – Bennett Woods - \$1,128  
 Drama Club – Hiawatha - \$1,128  
 ACT Preparation Workshops – Okemos High School - \$1,822  
 Culinary Club – Central - \$1,128  
 Earth Club – Cornell - \$1,128  
 Cross Country Club – Kinawa - \$1,128  
 Art Club – Chippewa - \$1,128

World Language Clubs (2) – Okemos High School - \$2,256  
 SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) – Okemos High School - \$1,128  
 Earth Club – Okemos High School - \$1,128  
 Archery Club – Kinawa - \$1,128  
 GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) – Okemos High School - \$1,128  
 Yearbook Advisors – Chippewa and Okemos High School - \$7,173  
 BSU (Black Student Union) – Okemos High School - \$1,128  
 Asian Club – Okemos High School - \$1,128  
 Science Olympiad Club – Okemos High School - \$1,413  
 Student Council – Okemos High School - \$3,555  
 Student Government – Central, Cornell, Hiawatha, Kinawa, Central - \$5,641  
 Quiz Bowl Team – Okemos High School - \$3,385  
 Class Sponsors (4) – Okemos High School - \$8,994

### 2012 Visiting Author *Co-sponsored by Summit Community Bank*

Allison Stoutland and Cathy Hofer – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha - \$4,046

### Connie Osborn Deits Science Enrichment

MSU Seeds of Science Field Trips – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha - \$2,079  
 Bennett Woods Family Science Fair - Bennett Woods - \$300  
 I pads for Science Instruction – Okemos High School - \$3,600

### 2011 Commitment to Excellence Awards

Susan Casey – Chippewa - \$1,000  
 Kevin Culling and Mark Stice – Chippewa, Okemos High School - \$1,000  
 Denise Daberko – Okemos High School - \$1,000  
 Kathy Lanzetta – Hiawatha - \$1,000  
 Marisa McCormick – Kinawa - \$1,000  
 Patricia Treilstad – Deputy Superintendent - \$1,000

## 2010-11 Grants

### OEF Grants

Geometry Templates – Okemos High School - \$340  
 Edmark Reading Program – Kinawa & Hiawatha - \$1,000  
 Geometry Manipulatives – Central - \$682  
 Speech Development Software and Books – Early Childhood Basic Classroom - \$560  
 Decimal Unit Manipulatives – Central - \$995  
 Flip Video Cameras – Okemos High School - \$486  
 Assistive Technology Reading Pens – Okemos High School - \$460  
 Social Studies Books – K-12 Libraries - \$2,130  
 Math Exploratory Games – Kinawa - \$375  
 Books for Reluctant Readers – Kinawa - \$500  
 Fitness Equipment – Chippewa - \$400  
 Guitar Lab – Kinawa - \$1,000  
 Albanasi Math materials – Central - \$615  
 Take Home Reading Program – Cornell - \$2,000  
 History of Fundamental Needs Materials – Central - \$530  
 Ipad for Differentiated French Instruction – Okemos High School - \$650  
 Alphabet Sets – Central - \$290  
 Self-Published Positive Behavior Books – Cornell - \$500  
 Math Concept Materials – Central - \$575

### Strategic Fund

MSU Seeds of Science Field Trips – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha - \$2,079  
 ACT Preparation Workshops – Okemos High School - \$1,478  
 Music Program Transportation – Chippewa, Okemos High School - \$1,392  
 Adobe Suite Software – Okemos High School - \$6,500  
 Study Island Math Software – Kinawa - \$1,689  
 Art and Food Exploratory Supplies – Kinawa, Chippewa - \$2,000  
 World Language Clubs (2) – Okemos High School - \$2,170  
 Read Naturally Software – Bennett Woods, Central - \$6,400  
 Art Club – Bennett Woods - \$1,085  
 Earth Club – Okemos High School - \$1,085  
 Drama Club – Hiawatha - \$1,085  
 SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) – Okemos High School - \$1,085  
 Culinary Club – Central - \$1,085  
 Knowledge Masters Open – Chippewa - \$1,085  
 Art Club – Cornell - \$1,085  
 Knowledge Masters Open – Kinawa - \$1,085  
 Drama Club – Okemos High School - \$1,085  
 Helping Hands Community Service Club – Kinawa - \$1,085  
 Art Club – Chippewa - \$1,085  
 GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) – Okemos High School - \$1,085  
 Art Club – Okemos High School - \$1,085  
 BSU (Black Student Union) – Okemos High School - \$1,085  
 World Religion Textbooks – Okemos High School - \$2,141

### 2011 Visiting Author *Co-sponsored by Summit Community Bank*

Shelley Gill – Bennett Woods, Central, Cornell, Hiawatha - \$4,460

### Connie Osborn Deits Science Enrichment

Dissection Supplies – Okemos High School - \$150  
 Solar Green House - Cornell - \$2,000  
 Science Books - K-12 Libraries - \$1,500  
 Enhancing Science Olympiad - Okemos High School - \$1,000

### Lee Gerard Professional Development Fellowship

5/6 Montessori Program Development - Kinawa - \$2,142

### 2010 Commitment to Excellence Awards

Dr. Catherine Ash – Superintendent - \$1,000  
 Heather McNeilly – Cornell and Central - \$1,000  
 Don Poore – Kinawa - \$1,000  
 Matt Prinz and Josh Coty – Chippewa - \$1,000  
 Linda Yaske – Bennett Woods - \$1,000

**“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”**

**–Benjamin Franklin**

A gift to the Okemos Education Foundation helps support excellence in educational programs and services for Okemos students now and in the future. The OEF is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For your convenience, we accept online credit card donations at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org).

OEF Partners in Education are donors who contribute \$50 or more annually with recognition and benefits at various levels of giving. More information about OEF Partners in Education recognition can be found at [www.oefsite.org](http://www.oefsite.org).


Now more than ever before, it's up to all of us to maintain the quality of education for Okemos students. Thank you for considering a gift to the OEF!

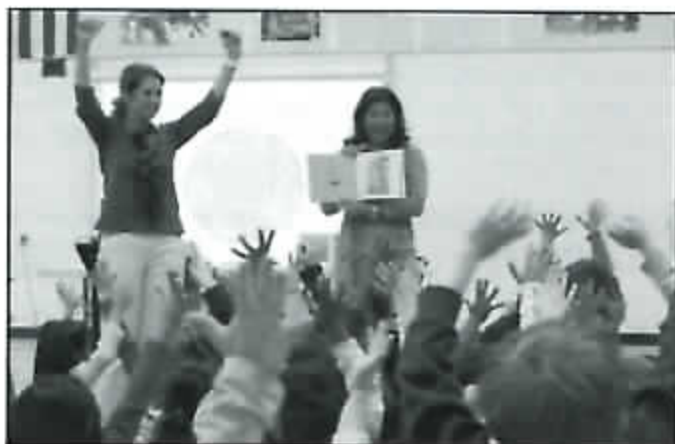


OEF Trustee Changes *continued*

erving as treasurer of the Okemos Citizens Millage Committee. She is an advocate for education policy aimed at improving the future competitiveness of Michigan children, providing legislative testimony and published commentary on this issue. A native of Toledo, OH (formerly Toledo, MI) Angela earned a B.A. from University of Toledo and is a current fellow in the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University.

**Thank You**

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Kelly Carrier and Kathy Warner who are both leaving the board after many years as Trustees. Kelly was instrumental as a liaison between the Foundation and Okemos teachers and Kathy served admirably as our Secretary for her entire tenure. We thank them both for their years of service to the OEF! 

**2012 Elementary Author Visit**

*Cathy Hofer and Allison Stoutland reach for the sky with Okemos students during the 2012 Author Visit co-sponsored by the OEF and Summit Community Bank.*

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Donations of \$500 or more qualify for complimentary tickets to the OEF Awards Banquet on November 15, 2012.

Yes, I'd like complimentary tickets. Please contact Alicia Hopping at [hoppinga@aol.com](mailto:hoppinga@aol.com) to reserve your seats.

*The OEF is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.*

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### 2011 OEF Award Recipients



OEF Award recipients were honored at our annual banquet in November. Front row (l-r), Special Recognition Award recipient: Lori Greenberg, at-risk aide at Cornell Elementary; Commitment to Excellence Award recipients: Patricia Trelstad, Deputy Superintendent; Susan Casey, science teacher at Chippewa 7-8; Marissa McCormick, Montessori teacher at Kinawa 5-6. Dan C. Wertz Founders Award recipient: Kathleen Manning. Back row (l-r), Volunteer Service Award recipient: LouAnn Stark-Dykema, Okemos Music Patrons; Commitment to Excellence Award recipients: Kathy Lanzetta, kindergarten teacher at Hiawatha Elementary; Kevin Culling, band teacher at Chippewa 7-8; Mark Stice, band teacher at Okemos High School. Dan C. Wertz Founder's Award recipient: Clark Manning. Not pictured is Commitment to Excellence Award recipient Denise Daberko, science teacher at Okemos High School. 



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