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A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Simonton Families,

Thanks to all of you who attended conferences in February. We had an excellent turn-out and I appreciate your involvement in your child's education. We have some exciting events that showcase our students this month starting with Leadership Day on March 8. Please join us from 8:30-10:30am.

In addition, Kindergarten Enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year has started! We are now taking enrollment for kindergarten students (children who are 5 by August 31, 2017). If you have a prospective kindergarten student please call the office for enrollment paperwork.

If your child is at Simonton on open enrollment, please submit an open enrollment form for the upcoming school year. Open Enrollment forms are available in the office and can also be found online at www.jocombs.org.

Thank you for your continuous support. Have a wonderful March!

Student Leader of the Month

Congratulations **Chloe Gonzales!**

You have been caught shining with character! You are the student leader of the month for March's character trait of Responsibility.

Great Job!



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KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Families!

Kindergarten is a third of the way through and we are headed into the home stretch. Everyday we are working hard to be ready to go to first grade! In reading we are going to be talking about Dr. Seuss, and reading some of his classic stories. For his birthday on March 2nd we will be doing some fun crafts to go along with his stories. In phonics we are working on our digraphs (two letters that make one sound) wh, sh, th, ch, and ck. We are reading them in words and using them to spell. We are also building our sight word vocabulary each week. In math we are working on number partners up to the number 7, and seeing teen numbers as 10 + more. We will also begin to see the partners of 10. As always our kindergarten goal is to count to 100 independently. Most students have reached this goal, encourage them to count on from any given number or to count past 100. Students have been practicing adding and subtracting in 5, but we are going to start introducing adding and subtracting up to 10. Everyday the kids grow a little more and we are so proud to be a part of their early education. Keep up the amazing work!

1st GRADE NEWS

We really enjoyed meeting with all of you at Parent Teacher Conferences. In Math, students will learn about telling time, geometry, length measurement, and equal shares. They will distinguish between defining and non-defining attributes of shapes and compose shapes. Students will continue working on reading with accuracy and prosody. They will also be learning about long vowel sounds and vowel-consonant-e syllable in one-syllable words. The students will be using Double Bubble maps in writing to compare and contrast. We hope you and your family have a wonderful spring break! Please have your child read, practice addition/subtraction math facts, and trick word flash cards.



2nd GRADE NEWS

In March, 2nd graders will use their informational text knowledge to ask and answer questions related to maps, like atlases. This will coincide with our map reading unit in Social Studies. In Foundations, we will continue work with our long vowels, and begin using vowel teams when reading and writing. In writing, we will also continue our informational writing. We will also do some fun March holiday story writing. We will be reading, answering questions, and creating graphs in math. We will also focus on telling time using both digital and analog clocks. We hope every one has a fun and restful Spring Break!

3rd Grade

We enjoyed meeting with parents for Parent Teacher Conferences. Thank you for all of your support. This month in reading, we will finish up our biography unit. Students will be reading different biographies. They will choose one person and then make a poster and present it to the class. When we return from spring break, we will begin our unit about the emergence of the modern United States and the Westward movement of settlers. In math we will begin to review everything that we have learned so far this year in preparation for the AZ Merit test. We hope that everyone has a wonderful Spring Break!

4th Grade

Hello Parents,

This month the students will begin reviewing for the AzMERIT and AIMS. Attendance at school is always important, but these next two months are super important. In math students will continue to work on fractions and decimals and introduce lines and angles.

Our field trip is a go! We are scheduled to visit The Grand Canyon on Thursday, May 11, 2017. There will be a Parent Information Night this month to discuss the trip and the expectations

5th Grade

Dear Families,

Welcome to March! He have some fun and exciting activities coming your way. To start off we will be having our Egg Drop Activity the day before spring break. Please look for the flyers to come home. Then after spring break we will be starting our state projects that students will be working on during 3rd quarter.

In science we will be learning all about the human body. This includes the nervous, digestive and skeletal system.

It is nearing towards the end of the year! Please make sure students are reading nightly!

Have a great month!

6th Grade

March is here, which means quarter 4 is upon us! As quarter 3 comes to an end and spring break approaches, we are finishing up final projects, assessments, and activities. In reading and writing, we are practicing our researching skills and our argumentative writing skills, as well as continuing to learn about various social issues, as we begin working on the Heidelberg House Project. In social studies, we are creating cookbooks, murals, diagrams, and other projects as we learn about Ancient Rome. In science, we are studying the ocean, its many layers and its amazing creatures. Quarter 3 was a huge success, and we are all looking forward to beginning the final 9 weeks of the year!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Jump Rope for Heart event. Students were taught the importance of social kindness, working with others, teamwork and safety. Lessons included cardio vascular health with plenty of aerobic exercise.

As the weather warms up we will be heading outdoors for some exciting field sports. Students are always encouraged to bring a water bottle and dress accordingly for the outdoors. Flip flops are not allowed in P.E. Please remind your child to wear proper athletic shoes on their P.E. days.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

For the Preschool for Outstanding Student (POPS) our unit is on shadows, reflections and spring. We will be looking at the concept over and under. Also we will learning about the letter Z and S and their sounds. For the unit our color is purple and the shape is diamond.

OPEN ENROLLMENT/BOUNDARY EXCEPTIONS:

If your child is at Simonton on Open Enrollment, please fill out and return a request for next school year. Reminder: An open enrollment request needs to be submitted for each child, each school year. Open Enrollment forms can also be found online at www.jocombs.org. Click on the "Registration" button at the top. Then find the the form on the left-hand side. **Applications must be received by April 15.**

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT:

We are accepting enrollments for the 2017-2018 school year. If your student is going to Kindergarten next fall, we welcome your enrollment now. Your child must be five by August 31st. If you would like to have your child tested for early Kindergarten enrollment (turning 5 after August 31st), there will be testing provided at the District Office on 4/26 and 5/17 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Please call 987-5300 for more information. Enrollment applications are available in the front office or on line at www.jocombs.org

BAND NEWS

March is a busy month in the band world! We start with our Spring Concert , which will be held at Ellsworth Elementary School on Tuesday, March 7. All band students are expected to attend! Just as in our winter concert in December, students should be on the stage ready to practice, at 5:00 p.m. The doors will open for parents at 5:30, and the concert will start at 6:00. Come & see the progress that all band students have made!

Next is March 11, but just for one Simonton Stallion Band member. Congratulations to Daphne Valencia for being selected to the Arizona 6th Grade All-State Band! Daphne will rehearse all day on the 11th, with a concert at the end of the day, at 5:00 p.m. This festival is being held at Shadow Mountain H.S. in Phoenix.

On Wednesday, March 22, several 6th grade students will be performing with the 6th Grade Honor Band at the Combs H.S. Band Concert & Dinner Under the Stars. This is a fundraiser for the high school band, but the 6th graders are providing a portion of the musical entertainment for the evening.

This performance is partly in preparation for the following day, March 23rd. This is when the Honor Band will travel to Alhambra H.S. in Phoenix to perform at the Arizona Elementary Band Festival. They will receive scores and comments from judges, and then one of the judges will conduct them and offer ways that they can improve their playing. What a great opportunity for these motivated students!

Orchestra News

Dear Parents, I was so happy for the great job our orchestra students did at our last performance. We are busy working towards our next performance on May 3 at Combs High School. Some musical concepts that our Beginning Students will be working on are: Eighth Notes, Accidentals, Medley, Pinky "A," and $\frac{3}{4}$ time signature. Advanced students will work on the following musical concepts: Slurs, Dotted Rhythms, Playing Harmonies in rounds and songs, mastery of the "C" Scale, Accidentals, and Syncopated Rhythms.

Mr. Guido Lavorata,

Director of Orchestra: Combs Traditional Academy, Ellsworth, Simonton, and Harmon Elementary Schools

NEWS FROM PTO

Thank you to all that came to our school Book Fair to support our school library. We had an amazing turnout. We are happy to announce that we are having our first school dance of the year on Friday, March 10th from 6-8pm in the Multipurpose room. Please watch for informational flyers to come home with your student. Simonton spirit t-shirts and sweatshirts are available for purchase. You can pick up an order form in the school office or email us and we can send one home with your student. There will be no PTO meeting for March. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the PTO for the 2017-2018 school year, you can contact us by email – simontonpto@gmail.com or on our Facebook page- SimontonPTO.

Parents:

If you have not already done so, please click on the link below to complete this parent survey for the District Office. It will take less than 10 minutes and is done just once per family. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Combs2017>

Read Across America Spirit Week

Monday, February 27th -“Thing 1, Thing 2” Grab a friend and dress alike.

Tuesday, February 28th-“Book Character Day” Dress up like a character from your favorite book.

Wednesday, March 1st-“Wacky Wednesday”

Let’s get silly! Wear your clothes backwards, inside out, or mismatched.

Thursday, March 2nd-“The Cat in the Hat” Wear your favorite hat.

Friday, March 3rd-“Sleep Book” Wear pajamas or comfy clothes for some special **READING** time!

LEARN, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE, DREAM

IT'S TIME TO ORDER YEARBOOKS!

Pre-order your 2016- 2017 Simonton Elementary School Yearbook today!

This month the yearbook can be pre-ordered for just \$18. Cash or check (must be exact amount) can be sent in to Mrs. Lovelady in room 327. Checks can be made out to Simonton Elementary School.

MAKE A TAX CREDIT DONATION

Take advantage of the Arizona Tax Credit. We have tax credit forms in the front office, or you can go on our website at www.jocombs.org to print the tax credit form. When filling out the form online, please ensure you check the box for Simonton Elementary for any amount up to \$400 (joint filing), or \$200 (single filing) that will be used for extra curricular activities. Thank you for the donation.

YOU CAN FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

@simontonrocks. If you don't have a Twitter account, but would still like to receive our updates via text message, follow these easy steps:

Type :40404 (as the recipient)

Type "follow@simontonrocks"

(in the message area)

That's it. You will now begin to receive our Twitter updates, even without an account.



Reading with Ms. Bonadio

March 2017



Story Book Games

(Primary K-2nd Grade)

It's fun to read, and it's fun to play games. Why not enjoy both at the same time? Here are three book based games that can encourage your child to read and help improve his/her comprehension skills.

Storybook Match Up

Read three short books together. On separate cards have your youngster write or draw the following from each book, two characters (teacher, monkey), two settings (school, zoo), and two events (drove a magic bus, ate bananas). Shuffle the cards, deal three to each player and put the rest facedown. On each turn, draw one card and chose one card from your hand to discard. The winner is the first person to collect one character, setting, and event from the same story.

Beach Ball Toss

Start by reading a story aloud. Then use a marker to write discussion questions on strips of making tape. Stick each one on a different colored section of a beach ball (examples, "What word best describes the mood of the story?", "What is another way the story could end?"). Have everyone stand in the circle and toss the ball. When you catch it, answer the question that's facing you.

Referenced from Reading Connection March 2012, 2013

Dictionary Games

(Intermediate 3rd-6th Grade)

These two contests can help your child learn about words and become more comfortable using a dictionary.

1. For this guessing game, your youngster picks an unfamiliar word from the dictionary and reads it aloud. Then, copies it's definition on a slip of paper while everyone else writes what they think the word means. Next, your child collects the definitions and reads them to the whole family, and each player guesses which one is correct. Let another person pick a word, and play again.
2. In this competition, players try to think of words with multiple meanings. For example, meriam-webster.com lists six definitions for plane. Each person thinks of a word and writes it down. Then, they take turns looking up their words in the dictionary and reading the definitions aloud. The person whose word has the most different meanings scores a point.



Meeting a Reading Challenge



As your child reads more difficult books and articles, he may sometimes struggle to understand the material. Here are practical tips to help your child overcome hurdles and become a better reader.

Begin at the End- Have him/her skim a chapter summary or a novel's back cover. Getting an idea of what the selection will be about may make it easier to understand it.

Say What It Means – Suggest that he/she read for several minutes and look away. Then they can try to finish one of these statements: I think this part is about _____” or “This section is trying to say _____”. Putting the text in his/her own words may clarify the meaning.



Read Out Loud- Your youngster can try slowly reading the selection aloud. This will provide extra time for the ideas to sink in. Also, his/her comprehension is likely to improve by seeing and hearing the words.

Take A Break- If your child doesn't understand what they are reading, they can step away and come back to it. They might go for a walk or work on another assignment. Perhaps it will make more sense when they look at it with a fresh eye.

Finish It- Encourage your child to read all the way to the end of a section. A later sentence or paragraph may clear up the confusion. Then, he/she can go back to the beginning and read it again.

Read Aloud Favorites For (K-2nd Grades)

- ***A Pocket for Corduroy-*** During a visit to the laundromat, Corduroy realizes his overalls are missing something, a pocket. So the stuffed bear decides to search for one. Just like Don Freeman's first *Corduroy* book, a little girl Lisa saves the day by fixing his overalls. (Also available in Spanish)
- ***That's What Leprechauns Do-*** No one has ever found the end of a rainbow, so it's a great place for leprechauns to hide their pots of gold. In Eve's Bunting's story, three little leprechauns almost miss rainbow – and lose their gold- because they're busy making mischief.
- ***Swirl by Swirl-*** Nature is full of things with spiral patterns: a chipmunk curled in its den, an elephant's trunk wrapped around its mother's tail, a wave crashing onto the shore. Your child will enjoy searching for all the swirls in Joyce Sidman's nonfiction book.
- ***The Incredible Bug-Eating Boy-*** It appears that a bite has been taken out of this book by Oliver Jeffers. Once your child reads it, she'll understand why! It's about a little boy who can't stop eating books. At first, he gets smarter, but then he feels sick. How can he break the habit?

Book Picks For 3rd-6th Grades

- ***What Came from the Stars-*** The key to winning an alien war may be the necklace that landed in Tommy Pepper's lunch box. The trouble is that Tommy doesn't know how important the necklace is. He'll have to save the world in this science fiction adventure by Gary D. Schmidt.
- ***Chocolate: Riches from the Rainforest-***Where does chocolate come from? And what do parrots have to do with chocolate production? This nonfiction book by Robert Burleigh teaches readers about the history of chocolate, from its early origins to today's candy bars. Includes fascinating facts and mouth-watering photos.
- ***Mary Poppins-***When the Banks family was looking for a new nanny, they never expected someone like Mary Poppins to show up. This classic tale by P.L. Travers follows the children's adventures with their magical caretaker. (Also available in Spanish)
- ***Jim Ugly-*** Jake's father is presumed dead. Did he run off with a missing treasure? With the help of his dad's unruly dog, Jim Ugly, Jake must avoid a bounty hunter and other outlaws who are looking for his father. A tale of the American West by Sid Fleischman.



**MARCH
2017**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Mar 1 Early Release – 1:35 pm	Mar 2 STUCO meets – 3:05 pm Chess Club – 3:05 pm Spirit Week: Wear Your Favorite Hat Day	Mar 3 Lighthouse Mtg. – 7:25 am February Stallion Stampede – 2:55 pm Spirit Week: Wear Your Pajamas Day
Mar 6 Lead Assembly 8:15 am Farm Bureau Visits 1 st Grade Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden	Mar 7 Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00 Art Club 1 & 2 – 3:15-3:45 pm	Mar 8 Early Release – 1:35 pm Simonton Leadership Day 8:30-10:30 am Governing Board Meeting at CMS – 6:00	Mar 9 Chess Club – 3:05 pm	Mar 10 End of 3 rd Quarter 5 th Grade Egg Drop – 9:00 4 th Grade Presentation – Our Water Our Future – 12:15-2:45 pm Simonton/PTO Family Dance – 6:00-8:00 pm
Mar 13 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	Mar 14 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	Mar 15 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	Mar 16 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL	Mar 17 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL
Mar 20 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY NO SCHOOL	Mar 21 Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00 Art Club 1 & 2 – 3:15-3:45 pm	Mar 22 Simonton Battle of the Books – Battle 3 – 8:30 am Early Release – 1:35 pm	Mar 23 AIMS Science – 4 th Grade Chess Club – 3:05 pm 4 th Grade Field Trip Parent Meeting – 5:30 pm	Mar 24 Report Cards Go Home 3 rd Quarter Awards Assembly – 8:30 am – 5 th /6 th Grade 9:30 am – 1 st /2 nd Grade 10:15 am – 3 rd /4 th Grade
Mar 27 Lead Assembly 8:15 am Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden	Mar 28 Spring Picture Day Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00 Art Club 3 & 4 – 3:15-3:45 pm	Mar 29 Early Release – 1:35 pm	Mar 30 Chess Club 3:05 pm STUCO Meets – 3:05 pm	Mar 31 Golden Ticket Lunch w/Mrs. Cruz – 11:15 am Stallion Stampede – 2:55 pm