



Kathryn Sue Simonton  
40300 N Simonton Blvd.  
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140  
Attendance Line: 480-987-5332  
[www.simonton.jocombs.org](http://www.simonton.jocombs.org)



May 2017  
Volume 6, Issue 9

## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Simonton Families,

It is hard to believe it is May! Where has all of the time gone? Thank you so very much for supporting us through this year but we are not quite done! We will be showcasing our students through the entire month.

### **Some highlights this month include:**

May 3rd- Combs Mass Orchestra Concert at CHS

May 4th – Combs Mass Band Concert at CHS

May 9th – 4th-6th Grade Social Studies Night from 5:00-6:00pm

May 11th - 4th Grade field trip to the Grand Canyon

May 12th – Simonton Family Dance 6:00-8:00pm

May 18th – Kindergarten Celebration 5:30 pm

May 19th – Simonton Water Day

May 22nd – Honor Awards Assembly & Patriotic Day

May 23rd – Last day of School (12:00 dismissal)

We continue to be impressed with our students and their academic progress. We work hard to celebrate our successes along the way. This month students will be updating their Leadership notebooks to reflect growth over the course of the entire year!

Thank you for all of your continuous support and for choosing Simonton Elementary School. We appreciate all you do for our community of learners.

Happy May,

Mrs. Cruz, Principal

## Student Leader of the Month

Congratulations

Daycee Shurtleff!

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



L  
E  
A  
D

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Families:

We are winding down our year and have so much fun stuff planned! We are currently having our kindergarten ABC countdown. Each day we do an activity centered around that letter of the day. The kids are having a blast reviewing all of the letters they have learned. We are also practicing for our Kinder Celebration Program that will be on May 18th at 5:30. The kids are very excited to perform for their loved ones. Not only are we doing these fun things but we are still working on our math and reading skills. We are working on our fluency in reading and not reading like a 'robot'. Students are also working very hard on their math fluency in addition and subtraction. Please keep working with your students, they have grown so much and are ready to make the journey to First Grade!!

## 1st GRADE NEWS

In Math, students will continue adding 2-digit numbers and review skills they have learned throughout the year. In Foundations, they will be learning multisyllabic words and adding suffixes -s, -es, -ing, and -ed. Please continue to read fluency passages and nonsense words daily to prepare for the final DIBELS assessment for First Grade.

First Graders, we are so very proud of you and all of your hard work. You have learned so many new skills and concepts. We have truly enjoyed our year with you, watching you grow, and learn. Please remember to practice reading, writing, and math facts over the summer. You are all very special and we will miss you greatly! We hope you have a fun filled and safe summer! Be sure to come back and visit us next year.

## 2nd GRADE NEWS

Wow. Can you believe May is already here? Time has flown by with our amazing bunch of 2nd graders this year! In reading this month, we will focus on locating information and proving our answers using proof from the text, in both narrative and informational texts. In writing, we will complete our autobiographies, write a biography about a friend, and then write a comparison piece between the two. It will be both challenging and fun! In math we will practice our addition and subtraction with regrouping skills using numbers up to 1,000. Then we will finish the year with measurement word problems. In science, we will complete our weather unit and learn all about how and why weather happens. We will focus on the water cycle, clouds, precipitation, wind, thunder and lightning, and rainbows. Remember, our reading goal is 87 words per minute. Keep practicing those fluency activities at home each night. We are so close to meeting our goal!

## 3rd Grade

In reading this month, our stories will feature different habitats. We will read both fiction and nonfiction texts as we learn more about habitats. Students will be writing a report about an animal that they have selected, and they will be presenting their report in class. In math, we are reviewing word problems and two-step problems. Word problems are very difficult, so make sure that you are offering extra support as your child completes his/her homework. As the school year draws to a close, we just want to thank all of the parents for the support that we have received during the year. We have loved working with your children and have enjoyed the year that we spent teaching them. Please keep working with them over the summer and make sure that they continue to read every day!

## 4th Grade

Hello Parents!

The time is here! The time is HERE! We are going to The Grand Canyon this month! The students have been learning so much about Arizona and are so excited to see The Grand Canyon.

This month students have their written Arizona report due and their state symbol project due. Reports will be turned in for a grade. State symbols will be presented in class during the day, shown off to the school in the afternoon, and presented to the community at night. What a fun year this has been! Let's finish strong! Have a great summer!

## 5TH GRADE

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to the last month of school! As the year winds down we will be doing many fun activities as a school and in class. We are wrapping up with our state reports and will have a curriculum night to display all of the students tri-fold displays. Don't forget to come!

We have worked really hard this last quarter learning about graphic novels. Students will be creating and working on their very own graphic novels in class. We are also finishing up our human body unit this month as well. Students have learned about the skeletal, muscular and nervous systems.

It has been a great year. We have loved getting to know each and every student. Have a great summer!

## 6th Grade

Hello, parents and families! Can you believe that it is already May? We in sixth grade have a busy month ahead of us as we prepare for the ending of the quarter, the last month of school, and the upcoming transition to middle school. As our year is drawing to a close, students should be finishing up their country reports and tri-fold boards by May 5th. Curriculum Night is on May 9th, and everyone is invited to attend! Social studies project from 4th-6th grade, including our country report tri-folds, will be but on display in the multipurpose room from 5:00-6:00 PM. Please come show your support and check out all of the amazing work our students have done! In addition to our reports, we will be finishing up our math unit on statistics, our science unit on the human body, and our reading unit on poetry. The end of the year is an exciting time, and we have so many fun things to accomplish by the end of the year!

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Thank you Simonton families for all your help making field day a huge success. The students had a great time. The canopies were very appreciated out in the sun and made the day so much more enjoyable. Water and Otter Pops kept everyone hydrated and happy. We sure appreciated having the parents out there giving their time and supervision. Our 5th and 6th grade volunteers were excellent leaders for our stations and so helpful with the younger grades. They really shined out there. Special shout out to our 5th and 6th grade teachers for organizing our student leaders. (See pictures below)

Remember those P.E. shoes to participate in our most fun activities of the year. Students wearing flip flops will not be allowed to participate.

I hope you all have an active and fun summer!





## Health Office News

I can't believe we are nearing the end of our school year! If your child has any medications or supplies in the health office, they will need to be picked up by the end of the school day on May 23rd. Medications cannot be sent home with students. Any medications not picked up at the end of the last day will be discarded. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the health office. Thank you for a great year and have a wonderful summer!

## NEWS FROM PTO

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year is upon us and in just 3 short weeks summer vacation will be too!! It feels like just yesterday it was the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Where has the time gone? We want to thank this entire community for your support throughout this year! We want to give a huge thank you to Principal Cruz for all of her support this year and for all the wonderful things she has done here at Simonton. We look forward to seeing what we will accomplish next year.

We still have a few activities planned for this month. First though, a big thank you to everyone who came to Skateland night on April 28th. A great time was had by all. Our final PTO meeting of the school year will be on Wednesday, May 10th at 3:45pm in the teacher's lounge. We will be voting for and introducing next year's PTO board. We look forward to seeing you there. We are excited for our first ever Simonton Hoedown on Friday, May 12th from 6-8pm. Information was sent home with your student about this exciting event. Waterday will be on Friday May 19th. If you are interested in volunteering please email us [simontonpto@gmail.com](mailto:simontonpto@gmail.com).

Have a Safe and Happy Summer!!

# PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are in the last month of school and looking forward to the activities going on in our classrooms. In May we will be reviewing all of our letters, shapes, colors, and concepts from the year. Look for more information from your child's teacher in regards to end of the year festivities.

## Orchestra News

It has been a very rewarding school year for our Orchestra Students. On May 9 Orchestra and Band will be hosting a **"Recruitment Night/Instrument Petting Zoo"** at Ellsworth School. Music and Arts Music Stores will be providing instruments for your child to try in order to help them choose what instrument they would like to study for the 2017-2018 school year. 4th and 5th grade parents, watch for a flyer to come home in the next week with details about this event.

Mr. Guido Lavorata, Director of Orchestra:

Combs Traditional Academy, Ellsworth, Simonton, and Harmon Elementary Schools

## BAND NEWS

Mark your calendars for May 4th - on that day, ALL band students from the district will descend upon Combs High School for the annual Mass Band Festival. The event will conclude with a concert open to everyone in the CHS gym, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Come and see this spectacular concert event!

## IT'S TIME TO ORDER YEARBOOKS!

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

The yearbook can be pre-ordered for just \$20. 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.

## 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](http://www.jocombs.org)

## 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](http://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.**

## **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](http://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.



**MAY  
2017**

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>May 1</b> Lead Assembly 8:15 am Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden Galileo Post-test – all week STAR Reading - all week DIBELS Test – all week	<b>May 2</b> Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00 Last Day for Art Club – Groups 1 – 4 Meet – 3:15-3:45 pm	<b>May 3</b> Early Release – 1:35 pm Orchestra Field Trip – 1:00-7:00 pm Mass Orchestra at CHS – 6:00 pm	<b>May 4</b> Band Field Trip – 12:30-7:00 pm Mass Band Concert at CHS – 6:00 pm	<b>May 5</b>
<b>May 8</b> Lead Assembly 8:15 am Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden Galileo Post-test – all week STAR Reading - all week	<b>May 9</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Social Studies Event 1:45-2:45 Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00 Social Studies Curriculum Night – 5:00-6:00 pm	<b>May 10</b> Early Release – 1:35 pm Simonton PTO Meeting – 3:45-4:30 pm Governing Board Meeting at CMS – 6:00	<b>May 11</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Grand Canyon STUCO Meeting – 3:05	<b>May 12</b> Lighthouse Meeting – 7:25 am 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip to IDEA Museum – 9:00-1:30 pm PTO Family Square Dance – 6:00-7:30 pm
<b>May 15</b> Lead Assembly 8:15 am Pre-School End of Year Celebration – Times TBA Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden Galileo Post-test – all week STAR Reading - all week	<b>May 16</b> Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00 <b>LAST DAY FOR PRESCHOOL</b>	<b>May 17</b> Early Release – 1:35 pm Early Kinder Testing at Harmon - 4:00-6:00 pm	<b>May 18</b> Golden Ticket Lunch – 11:00 am Simonton Kindergarten Celebration – 5:30-6:00 pm	<b>May 19</b> Leadership Meeting – 7:25 am Simonton Water Day
<b>May 22</b> Lead Assembly 8:15 am 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Awards Assembly – 8:30-11:00 am 8:30 – 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade 9:20 – 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade 10:10 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Patriotism Club Lunchtime Event Patriotism Club Parade – 2:00-3:00 pm Garden Club -3:05-4:00	<b>May 23</b> <b>Last Day of School</b> <b>Students released at 12:00 pm</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 25</b>	<b>May 26</b>  <small>Shutterstock · 184073601</small>





Reading with Ms. Bonadio

May 2017



## Adventures with sidewalk chalk

Make your sidewalk a colorful canvas for your child's reading and writing adventures this summer. Here's how.

### Hit the target

Your youngster will write and read words with this game. Help him draw a target and write one word in the bull's-eye, three words in the next circle, and five words in the outer circle. To play, stand a few feet away, and toss bean bags (or socks filled with dry beans) at the words. If you hit a word, read it aloud and erase it. Score 1 point for outer words, 5 points for ones in the middle ring, and 10 for the bull's-eye word. Tally your scores. Then, write new words, and play again.

### Guess the sentence

Have your child stand at one end of the sidewalk with his back to you. Starting right behind him, write a sentence—one word per sidewalk square. He walks or hops backward so he sees one word at a time and reads them aloud. Before he hops over the last word, ask him to guess what it will be. He'll practice using *context*



clues to figure out unknown words. Next, let him write a sentence for you.

### Gather objects

This activity lets your youngster practice following written instructions. Draw a big triangle, and next to it, write what your child should put inside. For instance, you might write, "Find one short twig, one medium twig, and one long twig." He has to read the directions and put the correct objects in the triangle. Finally, ask him to draw a different shape and write instructions for you to follow.♥

## What's our word of the day?

Big words might sound scary to your youngster, but they don't have to. Demystify—there's a big word!—them by starting a word-of-the-day ritual in your house.

Each day, someone posts a new word on the refrigerator. You might find words in a book, in the newspaper, or on a food package. Look for words that sound interesting or are fun to say, such as *vibrant*, *astounding*, and *mesmerized*.

Together, look up the word and read its definition aloud. Then, use it all day long. By the end of the day, your child will have added another word to her vocabulary!♥



Referenced from Reading Connection February 2014



Book  
Picks

## Read-aloud favorites

■ **Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum**

Almost 100 years ago, after much trial and error, a candy factory worker came up with a recipe for bubble gum. Walter Diermer's product was a huge success, and it saved the failing company. This non-fiction book by Meghan McCarthy includes fascinating facts about gum.

■ **Owl at Home**

One cold winter night, Owl is home alone. He wonders whether, if he runs fast enough, he can be both upstairs and downstairs at once. He's also curious about the two bumps under his covers—why do they move when he moves his feet? A cozy read-aloud by Arnold Lobel. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ **Tap the Magic Tree**

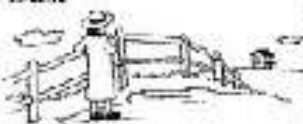
This story by Christie Matheson asks your child to tap the pictures, shake the book, clap his hands, and more. After he makes each movement and turns the page, "magic" happens—the bare tree grows leaves, apples drop to the ground, and snowflakes fall from the branches.

Book  
Picks■ **Noah Webster: Weaver of Words**

Noah Webster is most famous for his dictionary, but in this biography by Pegi Shea, readers will discover other ways he shaped our language. He wrote books teaching children to read and spell, and he helped create the American version of English—changing British spellings like *colour* and *traveller* to *color* and *traveler*, for example.

■ **Out of the Dust**

After a tragic accident kills her mother, 11-year-old



Billie Jo must decide if she should forgive her father and stay in Oklahoma or leave and seek a better life. Karen Hesse's novel in verse describes the Great Depression in the Oklahoma dust bowl. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ **The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation**

Jonathan Hennessey uses a graphic-novel format to explain the Constitution. The book covers everything from the Founding

Fathers who wrote the document to the articles and amendments that guide our government more than 200 years later.

Fun  
with  
Words

## Magazine word games

For quick ways to improve your child's vocabulary and spelling skills, look no further than your nearest stack of magazines! Play these games.

**First and last.** Call out two letters. Players take a magazine and race to locate a word that begins with one of the letters and ends with the other. For E and M, your youngster might find *emblem* and *marmalade*.

**The longest word.** Ask your child to choose a letter. Then, each player opens a magazine to a random page and writes down the longest word he can find that starts with that letter. Read your words out loud. Let the winner pick a new letter, and play again.

**Synonyms.** One player says any word (*tall*), and everyone searches their magazines for synonyms, or words that mean the same thing. The first person to spot one (*towering*) chooses the next word to find synonyms for. Tip: Consult a thesaurus if you're not sure whether a word is a synonym. ■



**THE LOVE OF BOOKS IS THE ROOT OF ALL HAPPINESS**

# Combs Kidz Summer Camp

At Ellsworth Elementary  
Monday—Friday  
May 24—Aug 1

Camp Hours  
6:30 am—6:00 pm

Camp Rates  
Registration Fee  
\$25/student

Full Day  
Daily Rate \$30.00  
Weekly Rate \$130.00

Half Day  
Daily Rate \$15.00  
Weekly Rate \$70.00  
(Half day is 6:30–12:30 OR  
Noon–6:00 No Exceptions)

All Field Trips \$7.00

Summer School Rate  
Attend After Summer  
School  
\$100.00 / week

20% Sibling Discount  
20% Employee Discount  
DES approved



Questions?  
Call 480-987-5310



## SUMMER FUN AT COMBS

Weekly Themes

Field Trips to:

Peter Piper Pizza, Harkins, Laser  
Tag, Sea Life Aquarium, Bowling,  
Swimming and many more to come

Arts & Crafts

Ping Pong

Technology

Indoor & Outdoor Activities

Science Experiments

Wii Games

Register Online!

Look for the "Camp Programs" page under the "Community Education" tab on the [www.JOCombs.org](http://www.JOCombs.org) website. If you already have a DayCare Works account, please log in to the existing account and use the "registration" tab.

Camp can be paid on a weekly basis. Choose and pay for camp days by 4:00 pm on Friday for the upcoming week.

# J.O. Combs

## Food Service Department

---

301 E. Combs Rd  
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140  
480-987-5312

Dear Combs Families,

The Food Service Department would like to take a few moments to pass along some helpful information for the upcoming school year.

- **Meal applications** for the 17/18 school year will be available in July online or at your child's school
  - Ensure the school has an updated address and phone number
  - Only one completed application per household
  - Allow 10 business days for processing
- 
- **Meal modifications for intolerances/allergies/IEP** require proper documentation with the food service department
  - Forms are available online or in your school cafeteria
  - Form must have omissions and substitutions listed
  - Form must be completed and signed by your child's medical authority
- 
- **Courtesy Meals** will be provided to students who forget money or have forgotten lunch at home
  - Charges will no longer be allowed for the 17/18 school year
  - Sign up for ezschoolday to add money to your child's account and/or monitor their account activity

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Roorda**

Food Service Supervisor



# SUMMER



## Lunch Buddies

### Helping kids eat healthy

Spend time with friends and enjoy meals at no cost while school is out.  
Open to ages 18 and younger. No application is needed.

**Location:** Ellsworth Elementary School

**Dates:** 5/30/17-6/30/17 Monday-Friday

**Times:** 7:15-8:30 & 11:00-1:00

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

Visit [azsummerfood.gov](http://azsummerfood.gov) or text **FOOD** to 877-877 for more information.

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -- SNAP through the Arizona Nutrition Network. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# ALMUERZO

## de Verano entre Amigos

### Ayudando a los niños a comer saludable

Pasa tiempo con tus amigos y disfruta de comidas sin costo durante las vacaciones de verano.  
Para estudiantes hasta los 18 años de edad. No se necesita solicitud.

**Ubicación:** Ellsworth Elementary School

**Fechas:** 5/30/17-6/30/17

**Horarios:** 7:15-8:30 & 11:00-1:00

**Comidas:** Desayuno y Almuerzo

Visita [azsummerfood.gov](http://azsummerfood.gov) o envía el texto: **COMIDA** al 877-877 para más información.

Este material fue financiado por el Programa de Ayuda de Nutrición Suplementaria de USDA -- SNAP a través de la Red de Nutrición de Arizona. Esta institución ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

# Summer Kick-off

## COW CHIP BINGO



Presented by:

**COMBS HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL BOOSTERS**

**Saturday, May 20, 2017**

**12-3pm (food served 12-2)**

**To purchase tickets visit**

**[www.combscoyotesfootball.com](http://www.combscoyotesfootball.com)**

**Ticket Cost: \$20 per ticket**

**(includes one meal and a bingo square)**

**Additional meal tickets \$6 each**

**1st Prize -\$1000**

**2nd Prize- \$500**

**3rd Prize- \$250**

**(you DON'T have to be present to win,  
squares will be randomly assigned,  
prize money is pending us reaching our  
fundraising goal.)**

**Water Activities,**

**Entertainment,**

**Soda Rush,**

**& more!**



# YOUNG COYOTES SUMMER CAMP

May 30th - July 28th

Monday- Friday | 6:30am - 6:00pm  
Hosted at Ellsworth Elementary

Check out the Calendar of Events!



J.O. Combs

# SUMMER CAMP

**MAY 24 - AUGUST 1**  
**HOSTED AT ELLSWORTH ELEMENTARY**



## OUR FUN ACTIVITIES

Weekly themes, Arts & Crafts, Ping Pong,  
Technology, Indoor & Outdoor Activities, Science  
Experiments, Water Days, Weekly Field Trips!

**LIMITED  
SPACE!**

## DAILY AND WEEKLY PRICING OPTIONS

Combine with Summer of Learning Classes for all day fun!

**[WWW.JOCOMBS.ORG](http://WWW.JOCOMBS.ORG) COMMUNITY EDUCATION TAB**





# Summer of Learning Enrichment Classes!

Hosted at Ellsworth Elementary

June 5 - June 29

ROBOTICS

FITNESS

Art

Dance and Cheer

And Many MORE!

Theater

GROSSOLOGY!

[www.jocombs.org](http://www.jocombs.org)  
Community Education  
Tab