

*At Simonton we LEAD
Learn, Empower, Achieve, Dream*

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The Simonton Star



OCTOBER, 2015

A Word from Our Principal

Happy Fall!

Thank you everyone for an amazing first quarter. Our students and teachers continue to work hard. As we begin our second quarter, continue to encourage our students to be LEADERS in and out of school! Our students are involved in many events and we love to showcase our students. If you have pictures to share please send them to simontonyearbook@gmail.com.

October is full of fun events!

- **October 4—PTO Spooktacular meeting—all parents are welcome!**
- **October 10-17 is Fall Break. School will be closed. Enjoy time with your family and friends!**
- **Tuesday, October 18—School resumes**
- **Friday, October 21—First Quarter Awards Assembly**
- **Friday, October 28—Spooktacular family event from 5:00-8:00pm**
- **Monday, October 31—Halloween Parade**

More information will be provide for all of these events.

Thank you again for all of the family and community support! We appreciate it!

**Sincerely,
Mrs. Cruz**



We would like to send a big thank you to Cub Scout Troop 631 who sponsored a supply drive to support our Simonton students.

A big thank you goes out to the Pinal County Sheriff's Department for making time to describe your roles in the community to our San Tan Classrooms.


We would like to thank the community for all your continued support to our Simonton Stallions!



Thank you Troop 631!



October

<p>Oct. 3 Spirit Week Pep Assembly Day</p> <p>Lead Assembly 8:15a</p> <p>Site Council Meeting 3:30pm</p> <p>Garden Club 3:05-4:00pm in the Garden</p> <p>Love and Logic 6-7:30pm</p>	<p>Oct. 4 Spirit Week Tacky Tuesday</p> <p>Assembly Club Meeting 7:55pm</p> <p>Lego Robotics Club 3:05-4:00pm</p> <p>Art Club A meets 3:05-3:45pm</p> <p>Preschool Pathfinder 3:05-4:00pm</p> <p>Spooktacular Planning Meeting for PTO, Staff and families 4-5pm</p>	<p>Oct. 5 Spirit Week Sports Day</p> <p>Early Release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15a-1:35p</p> <p>Governing Board Meeting 6:00-7:00pm at Combs Middle School.</p>	<p>Oct. 6 Spirit Week PJ Day</p> <p>STUCO Meeting 3:05-4:00pm</p> <p>Art Club F meets 3:05-3:45p</p>	<p>Oct. 7 Spirit Week Best Dressed Day</p> <p>Fall Picture Day</p> <p>Deadline for Gifted Testing Requests</p> <p>First Quarter Ends</p> <p>Patriotism Club 3:05-4:00pm</p>
<p>Oct. 10</p> <h2 style="font-size: 2em;">Fall Break - No School</h2> <p>Oct. 11</p> <p>Oct. 12</p> <p>Oct. 13</p> <p>Oct. 14</p>				
<p>Oct. 17</p> <h2 style="font-size: 2em;">No School</h2>	<p>Oct. 18 School Resumes</p> <p>6th Grade Biz Town</p> <p>Lego Robotics Club 3:05-4:00pm</p> <p>Art Club B meets 3:05-3:45pm</p> <p>Preschool Pathfinder 3:05-4:00pm</p>	<p>Oct. 19 Early Release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15a-1:35p</p>	<p>Oct. 20 Farm Bureau visits 1st grade 9:40-10:40</p> <p>2nd Grade Hygiene Class From Pinal County Health Dept. 1:30-2:30</p> <p>Art Club meets—Club D 3:05-3:45pm</p> <p>STUCO meets 3:05-4:00pm</p> <p>Homecoming Parade—line up at 4:30pm at Ranch Elementary</p>	<p>Oct. 21 Report Cards go home</p> <p>Awards Assembly</p>
<p>Oct. 24 Lead Assembly 8:15am</p> <p>Garden Club meeting 3:05pm-4:00pm in the garden</p>	<p>Oct. 25 Lego Robotics Club 3:05-4:00pm</p> <p>Art Club C meets 3:05-3:45pm</p> <p>Preschool Pathfinder 3:05-4:00pm</p>	<p>Oct. 26 Early Release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15a-1:35p</p>	<p>Oct. 27 2nd Grade field Trip to Sea Life Aquarium</p> <p>Art Club meets—Club E 3:05-3:45pm</p>	<p>Oct. 28 Lighthouse Team meets 7:25am</p> <p>Stallion Stampede 2:55pm</p> <p>Spooktacular 5P-8P</p>
<p>Oct. 31 Lead Assembly 8:15am Halloween Parade: 10am for AM pre-k 2pm for K-6 and PM pre-k</p> <p>Garden Club meeting 3:05pm-4:00pm in the garden</p>				



Bond Frequently Asked Questions

The J.O. Combs Unified School District Governing Board has scheduled a special bond election for November 8, 2016 to address facility, transportation and technology needs. All registered voters living in the J.O. Combs School District boundaries are eligible to vote either through early ballots or voting at polling sites.

What is a bond?

A bond allows local voters to approve additional funding to use for capital items such as school buses, building repairs and renovations, new construction and technology. Bonds address the school district's capital needs.

Why is J.O. Combs requesting additional capital funds?

Over the past 7 years, J.O. Combs Unified School District has experienced a reduction of over \$7.6M in capital dollars. Because of the reduced state funding, school repairs have been deferred, older buses have remained in service, and technology has not been updated. Lack of acceptable facilities has impacted student programs and department efficiency. The increased capital funding will address the most immediate needs in these areas and will allow the district to plan for future growth.

How will the bond funds be spent?

The distribution of bond funds is as follows:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • School and building renovations and improvements | \$6.6M |
| • Technology | \$5.5M |
| • Student transportation (buses) | \$3M |
| • Auditorium with classrooms and athletic storage facility at Combs High School | \$8.6M |
| • Maintenance, transportation, and district service facility | \$13.1M |

What will be the cost of the proposed bond?

The estimated cost of the bond is \$7.23 per month on a \$100,000 home and would be funded by an estimated \$0.86 tax rate per \$100 of the net assessed valuation used for secondary property tax purpose.

How will the bond funds be distributed?

Funds raised through bonds go directly to the local school district, unlike state tax funds that are allocated to school districts throughout the state. Bonds offer local control to the community.

How can we be sure Combs will spend the money the way it was intended?

Each year, the school district administration proposes the annual budget, which is then reviewed, finalized, and approved by the community-elected governing board. The Combs District has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past six years.

Spooktacular is coming....

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate and treasure our Grandparents!!!! We passed out donuts, coffee, lemonade and water to everyone who came. Thank you to everyone who purchased photos and to those who put a little something in our donation basket. We really appreciate your support.

Thank you to all the families that came out and supported our Fall Book Fair. It was our biggest fair to date and what a pleasure it was to be able to celebrate it this year with all of our wonderful Grandparents.

Thank you to all the families that supported our fall fundraiser with Butter Braid Breads. All of the money raised goes right back into our school.

The Spooktacular is almost upon us. It will be held on Friday, October 28th from 5-8pm. Informational flyers were sent home with your student. We are still in need of volunteers for the evening; please let us know if you are interested.

Thank you to everyone who has brought in Box Tops! Remember, we are still collecting box tops to raise money for our school, so don't forget to bring them in. Congratulations to our September winners: Mrs. Avery's 4th grade class and our XCat classes. Way to go!!!

Please note that there will be NO PTO meeting for October.

If at any time you have questions about any of our PTO activities or on how you can join the PTO don't hesitate to contact us. You can contact us by email at simontonpto@gmail.com or on our Facebook page- Simonton PTO and for any general school updates please check out the school Facebook page: Simonton Elementary School.

Student Leader of the month

Congratulation
Haylee Gonzales

You have been caught shining with character! You are the student leader of the month for October's character trait of Trustworthiness
Great Job!





Kindergarten News

We had an amazing month of September! We enjoyed our apples unit a lot! Thank you for all the wonderful apple donations. October is going to be another amazing month. We will talk about Fall and Seasons, pumpkins, bats, and spiders. We are continuing to count to 100 so keep on practicing! We are working on adding numbers together through stories, writing our numbers to 10, and working on our shapes. Letters are beginning to be formed into simple three letter words as we continue to build our letter sounds. We are also working on parts of a sentence such as capital and punctuation. We are also able to check out books now from the library, please make sure you send books back on library day!! Have a wonderful October!!

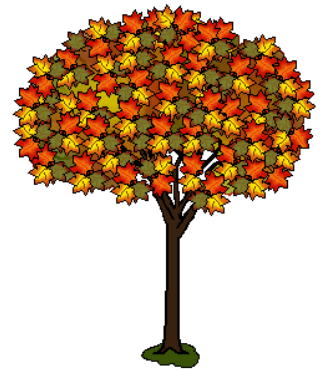
1st Grade News

At Simonton
we
LEAD

- ⇒ Learn
- ⇒ Empower
- ⇒ Achieve
- ⇒ Dream

We really enjoyed meeting with all of you at Parent Teacher Conferences! We are very proud of all the First Grade students! For the month of October, we will begin some science exploration on pumpkins and learn about the Five Senses. We will continue working on addition and subtraction equations, story problems, and unknown partners. In Language, we will continue using Thinking Maps to help us with our writing assignments.

We will also be learning about base words, suffix -s, and glued sounds. Please reinforce skills learned in class by doing homework with your child each night. Remember to read and fill out your child's reading and fluency logs daily. We look forward to seeing you all at the Simonton Spooktacular!



2nd Grade News

Second grade will have a busy October. In math, we will be learning an important second grade math skill of addition with regrouping (carrying). We will learn many different strategies. Your child may choose which they like best for homework. In reading, we will relate to characters we read about in poems, and notice similarities and differences between poems

and stories. In writing, we will continue to focus on narrative stories. Later in the month, we will write informational research papers on ocean animals in preparation for our trip to the Sea Life Aquarium in late October. In science, we will start our human body systems unit including our Slim Goodbody videos. We will visit Slim on our February field trip! Be on the lookout for sign up genius emails for help and

supplies in the upcoming Simonton Spooktacular and classroom parties. We hope everyone has a restful fall break and comes back refreshed for quarter two!

Your 2nd Grade Team
Mrs. Burkhead
Mrs. Schimel





3rd Grade News

We have had a busy year so far in third grade! In the next few weeks, we will complete our units on multiplication and we will begin our fraction unit. We will learn to understand what a fraction is, and then we will locate fractions on the number line. We will also learn to compare fractions and discuss equivalent fractions. In reading, we will begin an author study. We will read 3-4 books by the same author and talk about what is similar about all of the books and what is different about all of the books. It should be a lot of fun for the students. We will be having our fall parties at the end of October, so look for information from individual teachers with details about the parties! Thank you for everything that you do at home to support your child in 3rd grade! We appreciate it!

4th Grade News



Hello Parents,

October is going to be a blast! Students are continuing to work on multiplying several digits. Towards the end of the month, students will begin to practice division. In reading and science, students will combine non-fiction text with informational text. Students will explore the wild world of animal and plant adaptations. Towards the end of the month, the students will begin their large research project, The Wax Museum. More information will be given. Be sure to keep up with what's going on in 4th grade by reading the class newsletters/blogs. Classroom parties will be on Monday October 31 starting at 2:00pm. The annual school wide Halloween parade will begin 2:15.



5th & 6th Grade News

5th Grade: We hope that you all have a fun and safe Fall Break! When students come back there will be a lot to do. Students will continue to read from *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and then start their study on Natural Disasters. Students will be learning about tornados, hurricanes, floods, volcanoes and earthquakes. In writing students will be working on a mystery writing prompt called Harris Burdick. We are so excited for this one and it is right in time for fall.

Please make sure you are checking Jupiter grades every week as teachers are adding assignments on a weekly basis. Have a Spootacular October!

6th Grade: Happy October, everyone! What an exciting month that sixth grade has in store. Fall Break is October 10-17th, and our JA Biztown field trip is the day that we return to school, October 18th. We have been practicing for our jobs at Biztown, and we are ready to have our field trip! In addition, students have been learning to add color to their writing using figurative language, as well as learning about decimal operations, fraction operations, and ratios and proportions in math. I am very excited to begin Quarter 2 with all of our amazing sixth grade students!

District News

Congratulations to Iris Telfer, Ellsworth teacher, for receiving the Esperanza Latino Teacher Award from Chicanos Por La Causa! This annual award recognizes just four teachers across the state for their impact on future generations. We are proud of Mrs. Telfer and her dedication to Ellsworth students.

On October 17th, several colleges will be visiting Combs High School from 12:15pm - 1:15pm to share information with the community about advanced education degrees. If you are interested in learning more about Bachelors or Masters Education programs, please come visit with school representatives. As a bonus, food trucks will be on-site ready to serve you and your family a great lunch!

Mark your calendar for October 22nd and plan on attending Parent University from 9am - 12pm at Ranch Elementary. Parents can select from a wide-range of classes including STEAM in the Kitchen, Understanding the IEP process, Kindergarten Readiness, and Internet Safety just to name a few. We hope to see all our parents at this event!

Keep your children active while school is out of session at Combs Kidz Fall Break Camp! Children ages 5 - 12 can spend time with friends, make new friends, and hang out in a safe environment. Campers can also go on fields trips to the movies and bowling. Check out the Community Education tab at www.jcombs.org under Camp Programs for details and registration.

Your Vote, Your Voice

Arizona 2016 Primary



August 19

Last day to request an early/mail ballot.



August 24

Last day to mail in ballot to ensure it's counted.



August 30

Primary polls open at 6 a.m. & close at 7 p.m.

Independents may select a partisan ballot at the polls Aug. 30.

2016 General Election



October 10

Registration deadline to vote



October 12

Early voting begins



October 28

Last day to request early/mail ballot



November 2

Last day to mail in ballot to ensure it's counted.



November 8

Election day polls open at 6 a.m. & close at 7 p.m.

Source: Center for the Future of Arizona's voter information

AZEDNEWS

For more like this, go to AZEdNews.com

Student Editor



- ♥ Habit one Being Proactive. I was being proactive when I decided to read for an hour instead of watching TV.
- ♥ Habit three Put First Things First. I was Putting First Things First when I did my chores before I went outside to play.
- ♥ Habit four Think Win Win. I was doing Think Win Win when my friend and I played outside for fifteen minutes and played inside for fifteen minutes.
- ♥ Habit seven Sharpen The Saw. I Sharpened The Saw by working hard.

FROM YOUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

ANGELA ALBERS, LMSW

After a more than five year absence, **KidsCare is back!**

KidsCare is Arizona's version of a federal health-insurance program for children and families who aren't eligible for Medicaid or AHCCCS, Arizona's affordable-health care program, or don't have access to employer-sponsored health insurance.

How does the program work?

Parents insuring their children in KidsCare pay a monthly premium depending on their household income.

- Monthly premiums can range from \$10 for one child in a household at the lower income range and up to \$70 for multiple children in households at the upper income range.
- The annual family income for a household of four at 133% FPL (Federal Poverty Level) is \$32,319 and at 200% FPL is \$48,600.
- KidsCare offers the full array of AHCCCS benefits. Eligible children will receive their coverage through health plans contracted with the AHCCCS Administration.

Families will have their eligibility conducted by the Department of Economic Security (DES) as part of a holistic eligibility determination.

To get **FREE**, in-person help across Arizona, Visit: www.CoverAZ.org Call: 1-800-377-3536

Reading...oh the places you'll go...

Reading with fluency:

Children who do not read with fluency sound choppy and awkward. Those students may have difficulty with decoding skills or they may just need more practice with speed and smoothness in reading. Fluency is also important for motivation; children who find reading laborious tend not to want read! As readers head into upper elementary grades, fluency becomes increasingly important. The volume of reading required in the upper elementary years escalates dramatically. Students whose reading is slow or labored will have trouble meeting the reading demands of their grade level.

What parents can do to help at home

Support and encourage your child. Realize that he or she is likely frustrated by reading.

Check with your child's teachers to find out their assessment of your child's word decoding skills.

If your child can decode words well, help him or her build speed and accuracy by:

Reading aloud and having your child match his voice to yours

Having your child practice reading the same list of words, phrase, or short passages several times

Reminding your child to pause between sentences and phrases

Read aloud to your child to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds.

Give your child books with predictable vocabulary and clear rhythmic patterns so the child can "hear" the sound of fluent reading as he or she reads the book aloud.

Use books on tapes; have the child follow along in the print copy.

From Reading Rockets.com



Orchestra Notes...

Beginning Orchestra Students: are becoming more proficient at moving and holding their bows while learning to read music without having to write letter names over their notes. **Advanced Orchestra Students:** Are becoming more proficient at playing Dotted Quarter Note/Eighth Note (Hiccup) Rhythms, and Quarter Note/Two Eighth Notes (Shuffle) Rhythms. Many advanced songs require this ability, and so we are practicing scales and songs that include these rhythm patterns.

Thank You,

Mr. Guido Lavorata, Director of Orchestra:
Combs Traditional Academy, Ellsworth, Simonton, and Harmon Elementary Schools



What we are doing in Band:



This month's focus in all Band classes is PRACTICE RECORDS!!! Every band student is given a blank practice record each Friday. They are to write the number of minutes each day that they practice in that week (starting on Friday). Practice records are to be signed by parents and turned in on the following Friday.

The expected practice time is 100 minutes per week, as it fits the student's schedule. Treat practice time as regular homework, and there won't be any problem fulfilling this expectation!

Please be aware: **There WILL be a practice record to fill out during fall break.** It will be a slightly different format, and the students will bring it home on October 7.

Thanks!
Mrs. Steele
ksteele@jocombs.org

Pave The Garden of Awesomeness!

Our garden club is gearing up for the annual fall tree planting. Thank you to San Tan Landscape Management for all your support and for the donation of a tiller for the garden! We are very grateful for your generosity. Garden Club meets every Monday after school till 4:00pm.

Let's Pave the Simonton's Garden of Awesomeness! We have four options for you to choose from on the 6 x 9 pavers.

- ♥ One line of text \$25
- ♥ Two lines of text \$27
- ♥ Three lines of text \$29
- ♥ Simonton Stallion Logo with one line of text \$30

Order forms are available in the front office.

