

At Simonton we LEAD
Learn, Empower, Achieve, Dream



The Simonton Star

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A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Simonton Families,

We are in the fourth quarter! I am amazed at how fast times flies. Over the past few weeks our students have been taking the AZMERIT test. This testing will continue throughout April. This is an exciting time for students to show us what they know!

Mark your calendars for some fun events!

April 12- PTO Meeting at 3:45pm

April 25 -District Battle of the Books at CMS

April 26- Simonton Field Day

April 28-Skateland Party from 6pm-9pm

Don't forget to review the calendar in our newsletter for more information about upcoming events. In addition, I am excited to announce that our school has officially had the third year of our Leader In Me grant renewed by the I Am a Leader Foundation. Simonton staff will be receiving training before school starts in August from the Franklin Covey Company.

Thank you for your continuous support! We appreciate all you do for Simonton. Happy April everyone!

Mrs. Cruz

Student Leader of the Month

Congratulations **Livia Lunt!**

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

Great Job!



LEAD

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Families!

I hope you all had a great spring break! Here in Kinder-land we are hitting it strong! We will be focusing a lot on writing this quarter. The goal in kindergarten is to be able to create a detailed picture and a sentence to match. The picture will give details about the story that they are not yet able to write about. We will be starting our caterpillar butterfly lifecycle unit. We have live caterpillars and will be watching them turn into a chrysalis and butterfly. We will be releasing them after their metamorphosis into the school garden. Our language and math centers/ activities will have a butterfly theme to them. This is one of the favorite units of the year (what am I saying... they are all favorites!) In math we are still working on number partners up to 10 and adding and subtracting in 10. Students are also practicing teen numbers as 10 and more. We review these foundational skills and present them in many ways to help build a strong foundation in number sense. Thank you for the continued support you constantly give to your kindergartner. It is deeply appreciated.

1st GRADE NEWS

In April, our classes will be learning about objects/materials and recycling. In Math, students will learn to add 2-digit numbers. Students will be working on phrasing and reading with expression in Reading. In Foundations, they will be learning about long vowels sounds, compound words, concept of syllable in multisyllabic words, and syllable division rules. In May, The DIBELS benchmark test will be administered to our First Graders. The students' goal, for the Nonsense Fluency assessment, is to be able to read 58 correct letter sounds and 13 whole words in one minute. Their Oral Reading Fluency goal is to be able to read 47 or more words per minute. Please help your child practice meeting their goal by timing them daily on their homework reading passages.

2nd GRADE NEWS

Second graders will have a blast in April! We will work on reading and understanding maps. Then we will create some maps of our bedroom, Arizona, and North America. In math, we will continue our unit on graphing, and get to survey, tally and graph questions asked to other students. In reading, we will practice locating narrative elements like characters, setting, and plot using thinking maps to show what we know. In writing, we will work on How-To paragraphs, and follow each other's directions to be sure nothing is left out. In Foundations, we will continue working on long vowel teams, and determining which spelling option to use when writing words. Students are making great growth in reading and math goals. Remember to practice fluency with your child every night. We are really focusing on it hard this last quarter, to be ready for 3rd grade!

3rd Grade

We have been busy reviewing and preparing for the AzMerit test. Testing will take place from March 27th through April 13th. During this time, please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. They also need a good breakfast every morning so that they have energy to think. During the month of April, we will be learning about the westward movement and the emergence of the modern United States. This learning will take place during reading and social studies. In math we will continue to review everything that we have learned so far this year. We will also begin to focus on solving two-step word problems.

4th Grade

Hello Parents!

This month is a big month in school! Our students are taking the AzMERIT tests to show off how much they have learned this year. A few great test taking strategies are: get a good night sleep the night before, eat a good breakfast the morning of testing, and come to school ready for show off all that has been learned!

Field trip information- Field trip permission slips, and \$15, should be turned in this month for our trip to The Grand Canyon. Fourth grade will be having another parent meeting this month.

5TH GRADE

Dear Parents and Families,

April is here and it is the last quarter! This month is a very busy month for 5th grade. Students will be working on their state reports in class and at home. Please make sure to look regularly at the packet that came home as it contains important due dates and deadlines. All students have been given their assigned state and are now in the process of gathering information for the written report. This assignment will be worth a total of 400 points so please make sure students are staying on track with the assigned due dates.

This month we will be taking our AZ Merit test so please make sure students are getting good nights rests and a good hearty breakfast before school.

This quarter we are reading graphic novels in class and learning about the different components to a graphic novel. We are also learning about photo essays. At the very end of the quarter students will take all the information learned about these two subjects and create their own graphic novel about an assigned photo.

Have a great month from the 5th grade!

6th Grade

Hello parents and families! April is a busy month for sixth grade. First, we will be continuing our AZMerit testing the first Monday and Wednesday in April. To ensure your child's success on testing days, please make sure they come to school well-rested, on time, and having had a healthy breakfast. During April, we will also be working on our Country Report projects. Students will be conducting research, writing reports, and constructing tri-fold boards displaying an assigned country in the world. In order to complete this project, your child will need multicolored index cards and a cardboard tri-fold board. Please contact your child's teacher with specific questions on the report. Finally, throughout April we will be studying human anatomy in science, literary analysis in reading, and understandings of both negative numbers and statistics in math. Fourth quarter is such a busy and exciting time!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Simonton will have Field Day on Wednesday April 26th. We are looking for Otter Pop and water donations. All donations are appreciated and may be left in the front office. Volunteers are needed to help out with this fun event. Stations will be set up for each class group to rotate through including the hydration station. Activities will include; Standing long jump, 40 yard dash, softball throw, obstacle course, soccer ball kick, tug-o-war and hydration. To sign up for a station and volunteer, please contact Mrs. Baldenegro by email. rbaldenegro@jocombs.org

Important testing days are coming up. Please help your child do their best by ensuring they get plenty of sleep and well balanced meals. Moderate physical activity before school like brisk walking, jogging or riding a bike can help get oxygen moving through the body to stimulate the brain.

The weather is warming up and students are dressing cooler. Please remember proper athletic shoes on P.E. days. It is dangerous to perform most physical activities in flip flops. During our hockey unit, students who are not wearing closed toe shoes will not be allowed to participate.

Rena Baldenegro

PRESCHOOL NEWS

This month in preschool, our unit is On the Move. We will be exploring methods of movement and participating in fun learning transportation activities. Our concepts are fast, slow and push, pull. The color is blue and the shape is octagon. We will be working on S blend sounds.

NEWS FROM PTO

We would like to thank all the families who came to Little Caesar's in support of our school. We truly appreciate your support.

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2017-2018 PTO board. If you are interested in running for the PTO please email us at simontonpto@gmail.com. We will be accepting all nominations at the April PTO meeting. Skateland night will be Friday April 28th at the Skateland in Mesa. Watch for flyers to come home with your student.

Keep collecting and sending in those box tops. Money raised goes directly back to each classroom.

LEARN, EMPOWER, ACHIEVE, DREAM

Orchestra News

At 1:00 pm on May 3rd, all the Elementary Orchestra Students in our district will be bused to Combs High School to practice. Some of the Combs High School Orchestra Members will be there to provide mentoring for our elementary students, and some will even perform with us later that evening at 6:00 pm. Last year the PTO provided pizza and punch for our students. A letter will be sent home with more details with requests for chaperones. Please put this event on your calendar and invite friends and relatives; you will not want to miss this!

Sincerely,

Mr. Guido Lavorata

BAND NEWS

Congratulations to the District 6th Grade Honor Band! This group is made up of students from all 5 elementary schools. On March 23, they participated in the ABODA Area Concert Band Festival, where as the youngest band in attendance, they received a rating of "Excellent". Great work, kids! Participating students from Simonton include Vanessa Carrizosa, Daycee Shurtleff, Daphne Valencia, Maegan Wycoff, and Quinton Kendall.

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

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

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 \$19. 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. The price will be \$20 starting May 1st.

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.**

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

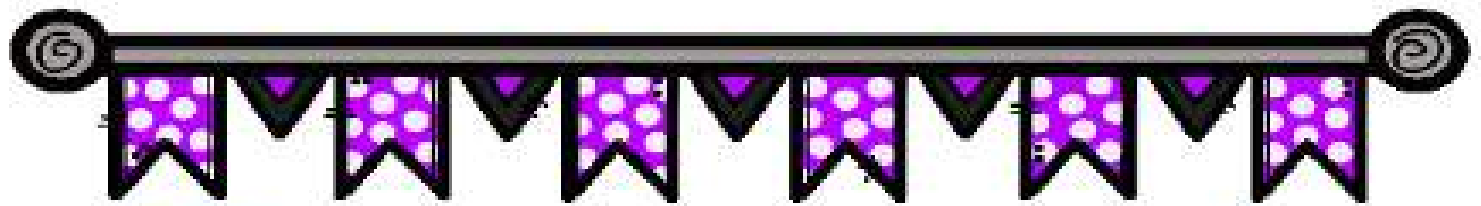
@simontonrocks. If you don't have a Twitter account, but would still like to receive our updates via text message, follow these easy steps:

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

April 2017



Standardized Tests

Choose to do Well

True or false: standardized tests are tough. The answer depends on how prepared your youngster is. Here are four ways to help him handle their test week.

1. Explain that the tests will show how much he has learned. Encourage him to try his best but don't put so much emphasis on them that he feels stressed.
2. Practice the test format. For example, your child might have to read a paragraph and answer questions. Using one of his textbooks have him look at the questions at the end of a section first and then read the passages.
3. Limit activities the night before tests. You may want to avoid having guests for dinner or skip his brother's baseball game, if it means being out late. Be sure your child gets to bed on time and sets an alarm for the next morning.
4. On the test day, give him an energy-boosting breakfast. Try to include both protein (eggs, yogurt, milk) and carbohydrates (oatmeal, toast).

Picture This

Short Notes about Reading

1. **Picture This:** Good readers form mental pictures as they read. To improve your child's comprehension, read a book without letting him see it. Then, ask him to guess what the illustrations look like. Examples: how are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy.
2. **Who's Point of View:** a story can certainly change depending on who's telling it. Let your child see that firsthand as he explores point of view in his writing. Try this. Have him write about a family outing from different people's viewpoints. For each narrator, he should think about how that person's experiences and personality would shape the story. For example, How might his baby sister describe her first picnic? ("Mommy is always telling me not to throw food on the floor, but today we actually ate on the ground!") His dad may have seen it differently. ("Our picnic was nice, but the softball game afterward, was the best part".

READING

is to the

MIND

what

exercise

is to the **BODY.**



Read Aloud Favorites For (K-2nd Grades)

- ★ *The Finney Fowl Up* - Who took star player Big D's lucky bat? Mike and Casey are watching the Boston Red Sox practice when a mystery unfolds. Now the two nine year olds must find the bat to help their team win the game. The first book in David A. Kelly's Ballpark Mystery series.
- ★ *Hippos Can't Swim* - Hippos bodies are too dense to float but sea turtles can swim as fast as 35 miles per hour. this nonfiction book by Laura Lyn DiSteno and Hannah Eliot includes fascinating facts about various animals, such as raccoons, kangaroos, and great blue herons!
- ★ *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad* - When Lulu wears her ladybug costume, she becomes a superhero-Ladybug Girl! Her latest "mission" is to apologize for hurting her friend's feelings during a playdate. Part of the Ladybug Girl series by David Soman and Jocky Davis. (Also available in Spanish)
- ★ *More Than Moccasins* - The hands-on activities in Laurie Carlson's book introduce your child to different aspects of Native American cultures. He can learn to make simple toys and crafts, play traditional games, and communicating using codes. each set of instructions includes tidbits about Native American history.

Book Picks for Intermediate Grades

- ★ *Ramona Quimby -Age 8* - Ramona faces new challenges as she enters third grade. If starting a new school isn't enough, there's also the eraser-stealing bully, an egg that suppose to be boiled (but isn't), and her best friend's difficult little sister. Part of the Ramona series by Beverly Cleary. (Also available in Spanish)
- ★ *Music Investigate the Evolution of American Sound* - How have history and technology influenced music? Author Donna Latham explores the history of music in America, from patriotic tunes and folk songs to hip-hop and rock 'n' roll. This nonfiction book also gets into the science of sound- and encourages readers to make their own music.
- ★ *Locomotion* - Jacqueline Woodson's novel is written as a series of poems by 11 year old Lonnie Motion (nicknamed "Locomotion") who lost his parents in a fire. Inspired by a school writing assignment, Lonnie finds poetry a good way to express his feelings and cope with changes in his life.
- ★ *How to Speak Dog/How to Speak Cat* - Can your children tell what their dogs or cats are thinking? Sarah Whitehead's nonfiction books help them understand tail-wagging, purrs, and other behaviors. also includes games to play with pets, training tips, and pet care facts.

Talking About Books


Many books written for children are enjoyable for adults, too. Try reading the same book your youngster is reading, and use these tips to discuss it. your child will build reading comprehension-and he'll be glad to have you for a reading pal.

1. **Share a memory**- What did the book make you think of? Perhaps the main character reminded your youngster of a friend, or maybe the setting is similar to a place you use to live.
2. **Discuss the author**- Did you and your child like the writing style? Read the "About the Author" page, and talk about how the writer's life may have influenced the book.
3. **Invent your own ending**- Take turns sharing your ideas for a different ending to the book. Idea: Find a "reader's guide" to the book in the library or online-the questions can be a good place for starting your conversations.



**APRIL
2017**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>April 3</p> <p>Lead Assembly 8:15 am</p> <p>Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden</p> <p>Site Council Meeting – 3:30 pm</p>	<p>April 4</p> <p>Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00</p> <p>Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00</p> <p>Art Club 1 & 2 – 3:15-3:45 pm</p>	<p>April 5</p> <p>Early Release – 1:35 pm</p>	<p>April 6</p> <p>Chess Club – 3:05 pm</p>	<p>April 7</p>
<p>April 10</p> <p>Lead Assembly 8:15 am</p> <p>Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden</p>	<p>April 11</p> <p>Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00</p> <p>Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00</p> <p>Art Club 3 & 4 – 3:15-3:45 pm</p>	<p>April 12</p> <p>Early Release – 1:35 pm</p> <p>Simonton PTO Meeting – 3:45 pm</p> <p>Governing Board Meeting at CMS – 6:00</p>	<p>April 13</p> <p>Chess Club – 3:05 pm</p> <p>STUCO Meeting – 3:05</p>	<p>April 14</p> <p>SPRING HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>April 17</p> <p>Lead Assembly 8:15 am</p> <p>Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden</p>	<p>April 18</p> <p>Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00</p> <p>Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00</p> <p>Art Club 1 & 2 – 3:15-3:45 pm</p>	<p>April 19</p> <p>Early Release – 1:35 pm</p>	<p>April 20</p> <p>Chess Club – 3:05 pm</p>	<p>April 21</p>
<p>April 24</p> <p>Lead Assembly 8:15 am</p> <p>Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden</p>	<p>April 25</p> <p>Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00</p> <p>Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00</p> <p>Art Club 3 & 4 – 3:15-3:45 pm</p> <p>Battle of the Books – CMS 6:00 pm</p>	<p>April 26</p> <p>Early Release – 1:35 pm</p> <p>Field Day</p> <p>Early Kinder Testing at District Office – 4:00-6:00 pm</p>	<p>April 27</p> <p>Farm Bureau visits 1st Grade – 9:40 am</p> <p>Chess Club – 3:05 pm</p> <p>STUCO Meeting – 3:05 pm</p>	<p>April 28</p> <p>Lighthouse Meeting – 7:25 am</p> <p>Golden Ticket Lunch with Mrs. Cruz – 11:15 am</p> <p>Stallion Stampede – 2:55 pm</p> <p>Simonton PTO Skateland Night – 6:00-9:00 pm</p>
<p>NOTE: AZMERIT Testing 3/27-4/13</p>				 <p>shutterstock - 184273601</p>

DISTRICT OFFICE NEWS

Combs Kidz Summer Camp is a fun and safe place for your students this summer. They will enjoy field trips, guest speakers, specialty classes, and much more! Check out the flyer for details.

The Combs Education Foundation was formed in July with the mission of providing scholarships to graduating Combs High School Seniors and mini-grant to Combs teachers. We are very excited to be awarding the first \$1000 scholarship to a senior at the May 16th Awards Night. Watch for future ways that you donate to the Combs Education Foundation and make a difference in students' lives.

Enrollment for the next school year is ongoing, and we need your help spreading the good news about our schools to your neighbors! Registration packets are accepted at all schools until June 8th and then the district office until July 14th. Register early to help us in planning for the next school year. Check out the latest edition of the [J.O. Combs newspaper!](#)

If your student does not meet the August 31st birthday cut-off for Kindergarten registration, s/he may be eligible for early entry. Testing information can be found online at www.jocombs.org under the Community Education tab, Kinder Options link. Testing dates are April 26th, May 17th, June 14th, and July 19th.

J.O. Combs Unified Sports

J.O. Combs is excited to begin its 3rd season for Unified Basketball. Unified Sports are sponsored by Special Olympics and are AIA supported. Unified basketball games are conducted in 8 minute quarters with a running clock. The team consists of "Athletes" and "Partners." Athletes are students with special needs specifically with intellectual delays. Partners are typically developing peers and can be students with IEPs without intellectual delays. The team practices at Combs High on Mondays and Thursday. The athletes are from both our middle and high school.

For 3 years consecutively our Co-Coaches have been Varsity Basketball Coach, Mr. Kirk Fauske, and Previous Varsity Girl's basketball co-coach, Ms. Jette Thompson. Mr. Fauske has been teacher special education at Combs since the fall of 2009 and Ms. Thompson is a Counselor at both the high school and Combs Traditional Academy and is in her 4th year at Combs.

The Unified Teams play 5 games and then have the opportunity to participate in a Saturday tournament held at Perry High School in Chandler. This season we play against Higley, Chandler, Queen Creek.

Away vs. Florence High 4-13 @ 6:00pm

Home vs. Higley High 4-20 @ 6:00pm

Home vs. Hamilton high 4-27 @ 6:00pm

Home vs. Queen creek (Senior Night) 5-4 @ 6:00pm

Away vs. Chandler High 5-11 @ 6:00pm

Pinal County Provider Fair

Friday, April 21st, 2017

10 am to 2 pm

Florence Library

778 N. Main St, Florence, AZ

Food Truck
On-Site



Raffles!!

**Meet with Pinal County Providers and Stakeholders
&**

Learn about Services and Resources

Available to Children & Families in Pinal County

For more information on the event please contact:

Sarah Kennedy at (520) 866-7077 or SKennedy@courts.az.gov

For Providers interested in registering to participate please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pinal-county-resource-provider-fair-tickets-31999712000>

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 \$ 20.00
Weekly Rate \$130.00

Half Day
Daily Rate \$ 15.00
Weekly Rate \$ 70.00
(Half day is 6:30—12:150 PM
Noon—6:00 No Exceptions)

All Field Trips \$7.00

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

20% Sibling Discount
20% Employer Discount
BES approved



Questions?
Call 480-987-8310

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.JCCombs.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.