

At Simonton we LEAD
Learn, Empower, Achieve, Dream

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The Simonton Star



February 2017

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Stallion Families,

It's hard to believe it is February. Our students continue to work hard each day achieving small victories towards their end of the year goals.

The month of February starts right away showcasing our student talents in our variety show on February 2. Kindergarten Round-up will be held on February 7 at 6:00pm. If you have a student starting kindergarten in the fall, this event is for you! Spread the word to neighbors and friends with kindergarten aged students to attend our event. Lego Robotics, 5th Grade students and preschool students will be presenting at SCITECH on February 18. This is a free family event at Combs High School. For a complete list of events, please see the attached February calendar.

As we continue to honor the leader in each of our students, we are planning our annual Leadership Day and will be hosting this event on March 8. Mark your calendars - We would love for all of our families, friends and community members to join us.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Mrs. Cruz, Principal

SIMONTON SITE COUNCIL

Our next Site Council meeting will be on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 3:30. We welcome all families and community members! Site Council advises and assists in the development and implementation of our district and school mission. The council also serves as a sounding board for developing new ideas and planning for the implementation of the ideas. If you are available on February 6 at 3:30, we would love for you to join us!

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Is it the cold or the flu? Here are some common symptoms that might help you determine what is causing you to feel under the weather!

Cold

Fever- None

Headache- Mild

Body Aches- Mild

Fatigue- Mild

Sneezing- Often

Cough- Mild to moderate

Sore Throat- Mild to moderate

Flu

Fever- Present and can be high

Headache- Severe

Body Aches- Severe

Fatigue- Moderate to severe

Sneezing- Unusual

Cough- Possible (can lead to Pneumonia in severe cases)

Sore Throat- Mild to moderate

STUDENT LEADER OF THE MONTH



Congratulations **Riley Arndt!**

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

Great Job!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

STUDENTS JUMP FOR THEIR HEARTS AND HELP SAVE LIVES

Students at Simonton are jumping at the chance to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 5 killers. February 6th through the 17th Simonton will host its annual Jump Rope For Heart event to raise money for the American Heart Association, which funds lifesaving heart and stroke research and community and educational programs for our youth.

Jump Rope For Heart teaches students how physical fitness benefits the heart and shows them that volunteering can be a fun and positive experience for the whole community. The need to educate children about the importance of physical activity couldn't be timelier. According to recent studies, about one-third of children ages 2 to 19 are overweight and obese.

"By including physical activity into their daily routines, kids can significantly reduce the onset and burden of heart disease," said Molly Pearce of American Heart Association. "By raising money through Jump Rope For Heart, we are preventing heart disease and obesity for the next generation of Americans. Kids are literally jumping into a heart healthier life while becoming passionate about raising money for other kids with sick hearts."

For 38 years, millions of students have jumped rope and learned about heart health and how nutrition and physical activity can help prevent heart disease and stroke. Jump Rope For Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and SHAPE America-Society of Health and Physical Educators.

Please help our students help others by making a donation. If you would like to help more, call your nearest American Heart Association office at (local phone #) or call 1-800-AHA-USA1 (1-800-242-8721). You can also visit us online at heart.org/jump.

Kindergarten News

Families!

February is here and with it some great fun and learning! We will have some fun with Phil the groundhog, study community helpers, learn about friendship, and then wrap the month up with Dr. Seuss! We are working hard on sounding out three letter words and our sight words to help us read. You can help your child by practicing chopping words into sounds and working on rhyming words. Students are also working hard on the addition and subtraction fluency. This is a great activity you can do at home to using snacks, sticks and rocks, beans, or stuffed animals. These students are growing so much more each day! Keep up the amazing work!

1st Grade News

For the month of February, the First Grade students will learn about Presidents and American Symbols. They will learn to organize, represent, and interpret data in Math. Students will also use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve Compare problems. In Reading, they will be identifying story elements and retelling stories. In Foundations, the students will be learning vowel team sounds, suffixes, segmenting and blending up to 5 sounds. They will also continue to use thinking maps to organize their writing assignments. Please read with your child every night for 20 minutes and record on reading log. We look forward to meeting with all of you at Parent Teacher Conferences to discuss your child's progress.

2nd Grade News

February is a fun month for 2nd graders! We start off the month with our trip to the Orpheum Theater in Phoenix to see the Slim Goodbody Bodyology Show. In this show, we will be reminded of all the different body systems we learned about earlier in the year, and maybe even meet Slim himself.

In reading, we will begin a fun folktale and fairytale unit, where we compare and contrast different versions of the same story. Later we will write our own version of one of our favorites and share it with the class.

In math, we will continue our work with subtraction using ungrouping (borrowing). This is an important skill for 2nd graders to master. We will learn many different methods to complete the equations, your child is welcome to choose the one that fits them best for homework and testing.

In writing, we have finished our penguin research and will be using it to write reports and comparing papers about penguins. Later, we will practice our letter writing. In December, we touched on it while writing letters to Santa, and this month we will dive in a little bit deeper.

In social studies, we will learn about the westward expansion of the United States. We will have stories, and interactive activities. It should be fun.

Be looking for information from Mrs. Burkhead or Mrs. Schimel regarding procedures for class Valentine's Day celebrations. Also, be on the lookout for a SignUp Genius for conference timeslots. We will see you all there!

3rd Grade News

This month in reading, we will finish our unit on folktales and fables. Your child should be able to identify the lesson or moral of a story. In mid-February we will begin our unit about biographies. Students will be reading biographies and completing an assortment of projects as they learn about people who have made a difference in the world. In math we will finish our place value unit and begin our geometry unit. We will study triangles and quadrilaterals and identify their characteristics. We will learn to categorize various shapes according to their characteristics. We will also review area and perimeter. In Science we will be studying plants. We will learn the functions of different parts of a plant. Near the end of February, we will begin our Social Studies unit about the Civil War. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14th with a valentine exchange. Watch for more details as the time gets closer. We appreciate everything that you do to support your child in 3rd grade! Thank you!

4TH GRADE NEWS

This month fourth grade will continue to focus fractions in math. In reading, we will be looking into the genre of non fiction with a focus on comparing and contrasting. In science, the students will finish up with electricity and move on to magnets. This month students will be starting to track their daily behavior colors. The purpose of tracking the daily colors is in regards to the field trip to the Grand Canyon. Students will need to earn their seat on the bus by reaching their set behavior goal. More information about the trip is coming!

5TH GRADE NEWS

5th graders will be doing so many fun things this upcoming couple of weeks! We will be starting Watson's go to Birmingham-1963 in honor of Black History month. We will also be finishing up our Solar System unit. Students will be given a space alien project to work on at home. Students will also be given their Egg Drop assignment. We will have the activity the day before Spring Break. Look out for these two assignments coming home. Have a great month!

6TH GRADE NEWS

February is going to be a busy month for sixth grade! On February 1st, Combs Middle School will be hosting an open house for the families of sixth graders at 6 PM. Please come to the open house if you have questions about middle school, or if you would like to visit the campus with your child. On February 9th, representatives from the middle school will be visiting Simonton in order to allow the sixth graders to choose the electives that they would like to have in middle school next year. This is an exciting process, and we are all eager to get started! In class, we are busy learning about authors' purpose, argumentative writing, and volumes of 3-D shapes. February may be a short month, but it is packed full of fun learning opportunities!

POPS PRE-SCHOOL

February is upon us and exciting things are happening in your child's POPS classroom. In February we will be engaged in classroom activities that explore the earth, sky, weather, seasons, and space. Listen for the vocabulary words and conversation starters that your child may bring home from the classroom. We will also be completing hands on activities that involve the color of the month; pink, shape: heart/crescent, and the concept of top/bottom.

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

Band News

Band students are working hard to prepare for their next concert, which is coming up. The Spring Concert will be on Thursday, March 2nd, at 6:00 p.m. We will again be combining with Ellsworth Elementary, and they will host the concert at their school this time.

4th grade parents - please consider bringing your 4th grader out to one band and one orchestra concert this semester, to help them get excited about joining one of these great ensembles next fall! It's not too early to generate that enthusiasm!

Future band performance dates include:

Thursday, March 23 - District 6th grade honor band performance at Arizona Elementary Concert Festival, Arcadia H.S., Phoenix.

Thursday, May 4 - Annual Mass Band Festival - Combs High School. This involves ALL band students from all schools, and will culminate in a gala concert beginning at 6:00 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FROM THE LIBRARY

The Book Fair is Coming! The Book Fair is Coming! Please be watching for our upcoming spring Scholastic Book Fair starting Friday, Feb. 17th and going until Friday, February 24th located in Simonton's library/media center! The theme for this book fair is, "Happy Camper Book Fair"! What a great opportunity to purchase books for upcoming camping trips and future summer vacations! We will also have our Simonton **online** Scholastic book fair starting Thursday, February 16th and open until Friday, March 3rd at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/nnmsmqy> . All books purchased through our online book fair are sent directly to your student at Simonton and there is no shipping charge. Please be watching for our book fair flyer with an attached schedule coming home in February!

Thank YOU for such amazing children to work with!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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.

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.

***SWCMA KARATE IS OFFERING AN "AFTER SCHOOL MARTIAL ARTS PROGRAM". REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SWCMA.COM . ONLY \$90 FOR 6 WEEKS OF CLASSES. ***

DISTRICT NEWS:

The 2nd Annual Combs SciTech Festival is February 16th from 6p-7p at Combs High School! Students from all schools will show off what they have learned about Science & Technology in Society. Attendees will have fun learning about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) with hands-on activities. Get your passport stamped at key locations on campus to receive your special treat! See the flyer for all the great businesses partnering with Combs.

We offer gifted blanket testing for 3rd grade students. We have scheduled testing at each elementary school the week of February 13th. 3rd grade families will receive additional details including information on how to opt out of this testing via email.

If you or someone you know is looking for a career in education, plan on joining us March 21st from 4pm -7pm at the Combs Job Fair. Open positions include cafeteria staff, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and classroom teachers. Please see the flyer for more details.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=3e046dbc8e&view=att&th=159dce78a57329a5&attid=0.1&disp=inline&realattid=f_iyeye0qn0&safe=1&zw

February is National CTE Month! Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes are a great way for high school students to get a jump on their future and learn marketable skills. New classes have been added for the 2017-2018 school year! Check out the CHS course catalog for more information.

READING WITH MS. BONADIO FEBRUARY 2017

Parents and Guardians,

Children learn to read by reading! Just as you would take your child to sports practice or dance lessons, reading is a skill that needs to be practiced daily. I will provide you with tips to make reading fun and practical at home each month. Try them out and watch your child soar as a reader.

Story time: 20 minutes of magic

Experts recommend that parents read to their children for at least 20 minutes a day. It's cozy, it's fun—and it teaches your child skills he can use when he reads on his own. Consider these suggestions for fitting a memorable learning experience into just 20 minutes.

Pick the time and place. Try to find times when you can slow down, snuggle up, and read. Choose a place that's free of distractions, especially electronics. You'll show your youngster that reading takes priority over the TV and the phone.

Read to everyone. Have more than one child? Read to them all at once! It's a nice way for siblings to bond. Plus, when a little one stops you to ask what a word means, an older sibling can take pride in explaining it. Tip: When you have time, try to give each youngster his own read-aloud slot.

Introduce new books. Start a new tradition in just 20 minutes. Favorite books are often passed down through generations—use story time to share books you loved as a child. Your enjoyment will shine through as you read, which can inspire your youngster to love reading, too.♥

Be a Spelling Family

Learning to spell doesn't end when you finish school. Show your youngster that spelling is a lifelong endeavor with these ideas that will help her study for spelling tests and learn new words:

- Hold a family spelling bee. Give your child words from her school spelling list. On your turn to spell, she gets to pick a word from the dictionary to try to stump you. Play double or triple elimination to make your spelling bee last longer.
- Have each person learn to spell at least one new word per week and add it to a list on the refrigerator. Your youngster might add words she likes from books, such as neon or velvet. Adults can choose long words like onomatopoeia or lackadaisical—seeing these on your list will introduce your child to big words that are fun to say.

"I do believe something magical can happen when you read a good book." — JK Rowling

FUN WITH WORDS

Bluff-ulary

Is a carnivore an animal who loves carnivals or one who eats meat? This bluffing game is a fun way for your child to use his imagination while learning new vocabulary. Use a vocabulary list from school (or a list of fun words that you brainstorm), and write each word on an index card. The leader turns one word, face-up and on a separate index card, secretly writes its definition. Next, each player (including the leader) writes a made-up definition on a separate index card. The trick is to write a definition that other players will think is real! The leader shuffles the cards, including the one with the correct definition, and reads them aloud. Vote for the one you think is real—and score a point if you're correct. You also score a point if someone chooses your fake definition. Continue playing, word by word.

Newsletter Referenced by: Reading Connection November/February 2016

Primary Books (K-3rd Grade)

■ *Kitten's First Full Moon* (Kevin Henkes)

Is that a bowl of milk in the sky? An adorable kitten sees the full moon for the first time and tries her hardest to drink from the "bowl." But no matter what, it never seems to get closer. After a night of mishaps, she returns home to a surprise on her porch. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Mama Panya's Pancakes: A Village Tale from Kenya* (Mary and Rich Chamberlin)

In this story about sharing, Adika and his mother go to the market where Mama Panya makes pancakes. Even though she doesn't have much money, she cooks enough to feed everyone in the village. Includes facts about Kenya, greetings in Kiswahili, and, of course, a pancake recipe!

■ *Her Idea* (Rilla Alexander)

A little girl named Sozi has a big imagination and is always dreaming up ideas. Like many kids, she figures she'll do something with them later. Then an unlikely helper gives Sozi the perfect place to save her ideas— and the motivation to follow through.

■ *I See a Pattern Here* (Bruce Goldstone)

Patterns are everywhere—in nature, on buildings, and on your youngster's clothing. This nonfiction book will encourage your child to look for patterns, and figure out what comes next in the patterns pictured.

Intermediate Books (4th-6th Grade)

■ *A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans* (Laurence Yep and Joanne Ryder)

Miss Drake the dragon tells the story of her new pet human, a 10-year-old named Winnie who refuses to behave like a pet. But watch what happens when Winnie's drawings of magical creatures come to life and terrorize the town!

■ *Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France* (Mara Rockliff)

Bright illustrations, historical details, and a healthy dose of fun are packed into this nonfiction book. After Dr. Franz Mesmer claimed that waving an iron wand over sick people cured them, Benjamin Franklin used the scientific method to prove Mesmer a fraud.

■ *Zack Delacruz: Me and My Big Mouth* (Jeff Anderson)

Being a "nobody" keeps sixth-grader Zack Delacruz out of trouble. Then, he defends a classmate from a bully's attack and gets more attention than he can handle. Suddenly he's responsible for the school dance fund-raiser—can he pull it off?

■ *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia* (Miranda Paul)

When plastic bags piled up along roadsides in Gambia, Isatou knew something needed to be done. This book tells how her campaign to recycle the bags by crocheting them into purses benefited both the environment and the community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Compassion Queen Creek
Saturday, March 4th, 2017
8am – 2 pm at Combs Middle School

One person can make a difference, BUT a team of people, uniting their resources, offering their talents, and serving sacrificially can transform a community.

Our Purpose

Compassion Queen Creek (CQC) exists to provide a one-day FREE Medical /Dental Clinic with a Social Service Fair that is focused on serving the uninsured or under-insured in the Queen Creek /San Tan Valley area.

Our desire is to establish a long-term network of resources that will go beyond the day of the event, by providing a list of organizations and businesses that will continue to meet our guest's needs.

A team of professional and nonprofessional volunteers give of their time and talents to transform the community and create a safe place where our guests can feel loved and valued.

Our event includes a total of 17 teams that serve in specific ways to reach our community and meet their physical, mental, and spiritual needs all in one day.

Services We Provide

Medical:

Basic Exams, Pediatrics, Vision Screenings, Well Women, and Prescriptions

Dental:

Cleanings, Fillings, Extractions, Emergency Treatment, and Prescriptions

Social Services:

Haircuts, Taxes, Food Boxes, Hygiene and Clothing Drives, Community /Mental /Children's Health Resources, and local Church ministries

Family Activities:

Face Painting, Bounce Houses, Games and Live Music

Childcare is provided for our guests while they are in the Medical /Dental appointment

Lunch is provided for all our guests and volunteers

We are able to provide these services because of the collaborative efforts of local medical and dental professionals, social services, businesses, churches, and volunteers just like you!

Get Involved

Serve Your Community

Make a Difference

Volunteer!

We need both medical /dental professionals and non-professional volunteers to serve on various teams in order to meet all the needs of our guests.

Donate!

We need medical/dental supplies, equipment, and more. We have a list of specific items we currently need on our website.

Give!

We need churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals who have the financial resources to support CQC. We encourage you to visit our website to learn how you can support this incredible event that is changing lives right here in your community.

compassionqueencreek.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<p>Feb 1 Early Release – 1:35 pm</p> <p>Combs Middle School Open House for 6th Graders – 6:00-7:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 2 Variety Show for students 2:00-3:00 pm</p> <p>Variety Show for parents 6:00-7:00 pm</p> <p>STUCO meets – 3:05 pm</p>	<p>Feb 3 Q3 Progress Reports</p> <p>Lighthouse Mtg. – 7:25 am</p> <p>2nd Grade Field Trip to Slim Good Body – 8:15 – 1:30 pm</p>
<p>Feb 6 Lead Assembly 8:15 am</p> <p>Jump Rope for Heart – 2/6-2/17</p> <p>Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden</p> <p>Site Council Meeting – 3:30-4:30 pm</p>	<p>Feb 7 PCSO for Kinder – 9:45 am</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>Kindergarten Roundup – 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	<p>Feb 8 Rural Metro for Kinder – 11:45 am</p> <p>Early Release – 1:35 pm</p> <p>Governing Board Meeting at CMS – 6:00</p>	<p>Feb 9 Combs Middle School course selection for 6th graders – 1:15-2:45 pm</p>	<p>Feb 10</p>
<p>Feb 13 Lead Assembly 8:15 am</p> <p>Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden</p>	<p>Feb 14 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>Feb 15 Early Release – 1:35 pm</p>	<p>Feb 16 Math 20/20 – 5th grade – 8:00-3:00 pm</p> <p>STUCO Meets – 3:05-4:00 pm</p>	<p>Feb 17 Lighthouse Meeting- 7:25-7:55 am</p> <p>Stallion Stampede – 2:55 pm</p> <p>Book Fair – 2/17-2/24 – in the Library</p>
<p>Feb 20</p> <p>President's Day – NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>Feb 21 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>Feb 22 Early Release – 1:35 pm</p>	<p>Feb 23</p> <p>Parent/Teacher Conference – EARLY RELEASE – 11:15 am</p> <p>AM POPS Only</p>	<p>Feb 24</p> <p>Parent/Teacher Conference – EARLY RELEASE – 11:15 am</p> <p>PM POPS Only</p>
<p>Feb 27 Lead Assembly 8:15 am</p> <p>Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden</p>	<p>Feb 28 Golden Ticket Lunch w/Mrs. Cruz – 11:30 am</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>			



JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL

Combs

The Combs Unified School District

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow



SCITECH

FEBRUARY 16TH 6PM--7PM

AT COMBS HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS FROM ALL SCHOOLS WILL DEMONSTRATE
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN SOCIETY

COMPUTER TROUBLE? COMBS IT DEPARTMENT WILL BE THERE TO CHECK IT OUT!

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCES AND BOOTHS:

AZ SCITECH
BANNER IRONWOOD RADIOLOGY
AZ SCIENCE CENTER
MAD SCIENCE
AZ FARM BUREAU
STRATUM LASER TAG

CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE--
STEM & SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS
RADICAL REPTILES
GAME TRUCK
MESA UTILITIES
AND MORE!



The Leader in Me[®]

great happens here

The Leader in Me process truly enhances all aspects of our school community. Stephen Covey's 7 Habits are evident in our staff, students, families, and community as we work together for student success. *The Leader in Me* empowers all of our students to be leaders of their own learning and lives.

The staff and students of Kathryn Sue Simonton Elementary invite you to see our students and the 7 Habits in action!

LEADERSHIP DAY

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017
8:30-10:30 a.m.**

**Kathryn Sue Simonton Elementary School
40300 N. Simonton Blvd.
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
Please RSVP: 480-987-5330**

