

At Simonton we LEAD
Learn, Empower, Achieve, Dream

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The Simonton Star



January 2017

A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year Simonton Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxing break. This is the time of year when many of us evaluate previous goals and accomplishments and start setting new goals. Our students and teachers will begin doing the same goal review and goal setting process over the next few weeks. It is exciting to see all the growth students are making. The students are eager to share their successes especially since they have been tracking progress over the course of the year.

In the school breezeway, we are tracking our school-wide goal: all students will read at grade level or grow one year plus 20%. When you have a moment, check it out!

Many events will be on campus this semester showcasing our students. Please review our calendars, teacher newsletters and weekly updates for information. As always, I appreciate your continuous support and thank you for being a Simonton Stallion.

Warm Wishes,

Chasity Cruz ,
Principal
Kathryn Sue Simonton Elementary

Our students LEAD: Learn, Empower, Achieve and Dream!

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 7 at 3:30, we would love for you to join us!

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

It's cold and flu season, here are some tips for staying healthy and keeping our school healthy too!

- *Wash hands frequently
- *Cover coughs and sneezes
- *Keep sick children with any of the following symptoms at home
 - Fever (must be fever free for 24 hours before returning)
 - Persistent cough
 - Vomiting and/or diarrhea
 - Severe sore throat or ear pain

Please contact the health office with any questions!

Congratulations
Abigail Brokaw!

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

Great Job!

STUDENT LEADER OF THE MONTH



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A new year is a great time for new goals. Families can set simple fitness goals together. So much can be accomplished with a simple goal. Family time walks, runs, bike rides, activities in the park, games or any kind of physical activity can bond a family. The endorphins released during physical activity can create a fun atmosphere for happiness. What could be better than a happy family all together? Start with a simple goal such as 30 minutes of daily physical activity together. It could just be walking around the neighborhood.

January brings some fun outdoor team sports for students. We will be playing softball and soccer with an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship. Water bottles are always welcome to P.E. class. Please make sure your child has proper clothing and shoes on their P.E. day. Dress them in layers so they are not too cold and can remove coats and sweaters as they warm up from the activities.

FROM YOUR PTO:

Happy New Year Simonton Stallions!!!! We hope that everyone enjoyed the Holidays and are relaxed and refreshed for the start of the 2nd semester. We are excited for 2017 and all that it will bring. Go Stallions!!!

Thank you to all the families who came to Polar fest. It was so much fun being able to help all the kids write their letters to Santa. We want to give a huge thank you to Mrs. Rivera and the amazing student council for coming and volunteering your service for the day. We couldn't have done it without you.

Please plan to join us for our next PTO meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at 4pm in the teacher's lounge.

Watch for information to come home with students about a fun upcoming activity on Friday January 20th. We are excited to host an evening at Skateland.

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. All of our information is on the school website. You can also contact us by email – simontonpto@gmail.com or on our Facebook page- SimontonPTO.

Kindergarten News

Families,

Thank you for all the support to make December fun! As we jump into January we will be having fun with winter themes. We will also be celebrating the 100th day of school! Math is expanding into adding and subtracting and discovering number partners up to 10, and seeing term numbers as ten and more. We will be creating shapes from other shapes and working on those visual skills.

1st Grade News

Happy New Year to you and your family! For the month of January, our classes will be learning about weather and the four seasons. We will be working on solving problems with three addends, numbers through 120, and adding/subtracting tens in Math. In Reading, we will be identifying story elements and retelling stories. In Foundations, we will be learning about vowel team sounds and closed syllable vs. open syllable. We will also be using adjectives to create descriptive and detailed sentences in writing. Please remember to have your child read daily.

Ms. Pareti & Mrs. Spooner

2nd Grade News

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fun and restful break! Second grade has a fun January planned. We will be continuing our informational text unit on penguins looking at text features and finding the main idea in a text. In math we will begin learning an important second grade skill, subtraction with ungrouping (borrowing). We will spend a long time on this skill as it is key for second graders. In February our second field trip to see Slim Goodbody will happen! Be sure your trip fees are paid in full soon. Chaperones will be chosen as soon as we get back from Winter Break.



3rd Grade News

We hope that everyone had a relaxing break! We are ready to get back to work and we are looking forward to a successful 3rd quarter. This month in reading, we will be studying fables, including a few fables and folktales from different countries. We will be learning how to identify the lesson/moral of the story. We will be studying Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome in Social Studies since many fables came from Ancient Greece. In math, our focus will be place value. We will be rounding to the nearest ten and nearest hundred. We will also practice addition and subtraction with regrouping. Thank you for everything that you do at home to support your child in 3rd grade! We appreciate it!

4TH GRADE NEWS

Hello Parents,

Can you believe we are half way done with the school year? In math this month we will begin to talk about measurement and fractions. In science and reading, students will continue to explore erosion and the ways in which Earth changes using information text. Be on the look-out for more information regarding our Grand Canyon Field Trip scheduled for Thursday May 11, 2017.

5TH GRADE NEWS

Dear Parents,

We hope you had a great Winter Break and everyone stayed safe and warm. We are back to school and are ready to go. This quarter students in reading will be learning about theme, moral and messages of stories. We will also be learning about poetry. Students will have tons of fun with poetry. We will be learning about the different types of poems, we will then make poems and turn them into books. This quarter we will be reading *The Watson's go the Birmingham-1963*. This book is a historical fiction book about a family back in the 1960's during racial inequality. In math we will be working from Chapter 5. Students will be learning all about dividing. They will learn how to long divide and divide with decimals. Have a great month!

6TH GRADE NEWS

Happy New Year from 6th grade! I hope everyone has had a safe and restful winter break. As we enter into a new year and a new quarter, our students will begin the long transition into middle schoolers! We anticipate a trip to the middle school, and a visit from middle school representatives to introduce our students to some of the classes that they will be able to take next year at CMS. We will also begin our new reading unit as we study some contemporary social issues, continue our social studies unit as we learn about ancient China and India, and our math units as we explore three-dimensional geometry.

I am so excited to begin!

POPS PRE-SCHOOL

An exciting month for preschool as we will be exploring animals! Our unit of study is Jungle to Desert, letter sounds are K, G, concepts are cold/hot, the shape is oval, and the colors are black and white.

ORCHESTRA NEWS

Dear Simonton Parents,

Please mark your calendars to attend our Orchestra Concert. Please make a note that our concert will be Hosted in the Cafetorium at Simonton Elementary School located at 40300 North Simonton Blvd San Tan Valley, AZ on January 31 at 6:00 pm. I am very proud of the progress our orchestra students have been making, and I would love for you to attend to help cheer these wonderful deserving students on. See you there!!!!

Sincerely,

Mr. Guido Lavorata

Director of Orchestra: CTA, Ellsworth, Simonton and Harmon

BAND NEWS

The first concert is history, but the work isn't finished! Please make sure your child is practicing their instrument regularly (and logging their time on a Practice Record), so we can continue to improve in the New Year. Regular band classes resume immediately upon return to school in 2017!

6th graders - the district honor band application is out! Make sure you have turned yours in, and watch for emails with more information about this exciting ensemble.

Student Reporters

Habit 4- Think Win- Win means to be equal and everyone can win at something everyone wins and loses.

Habit 6- Synergizing means that working together is better than being alone.

Habit 7- Habit seven means sharpen the saw , balance feels best when you spend all day at school you should spend time at the park or play outside.

Habit 1-Habit one is being proactive. Being proactive means making sure you get good grades and make sure you are doing what people expect you to do.

DISTRICT NEWS

January brings good news and great community events you won't want to miss!

Make sure to check out the special edition of the Ledger all about Combs! Keep a look out for the next publication in February.

http://www.copperarea.com/pages/wp-content/uploads/12_7_16-Combs-Ledger.pdf

Combs Middle School has several exciting new elective courses to choose from including Photography, Graphic Design, TV/Film Production, Coding, Weight Training, Teens 'n Teaching, Introduction to Medical Professions, and Leadership Development. These and other elective classes provide students an opportunity to explore future careers and interests.

Jan. 25th - Combs High School Open House at 6 pm. Parents, incoming 9th graders and new students are invited to tour the school and learn about CHS.

Feb. 1st - Combs Middle School Open House at 6 pm. Parents, incoming 7th graders and new students are invited to tour the school and learn about CMS.

Feb 7th - Kindergarten Round-up at Ellsworth, Harmon, Ranch, Simonton Elementary Schools from 6 pm - 7 pm. Parents will tour the school and talk to teachers while students enjoy activities in the classroom.

Feb 9th - Kindergarten Round-up at Combs Traditional Academy from 6 pm - 7 pm. Parents will tour the school and talk to teachers while students enjoy activities in the classroom.

Feb 16th - District SciTech Festival will be hosted at Combs High School. Students from around the district, as well as community organizations, will demonstrate Science and Technology in Society. Join us for a fun evening highlighting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) projects and professions.



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 support.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jan 2 Winter Break – No School	Jan 3 Winter Break – No School	Jan 4 Professional Development – No School	Jan 5 SCHOOL RESUMES Star Reading – K-8 STUCO Meets – 3:05-4:00 pm	Jan 6 Lighthouse Meeting- 7:25-7:55 am Star Reading – K-8
Jan 9 Lead Assembly 8:15 am Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden	Jan 10 Report cards go home Variety Show sign-up forms due 5 th Grade Presentation from the City of Mesa – 9:00-11:00 Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00	Jan 11 Early Release – 1:35 pm Governing Board Meeting at CMS – 6:00	Jan 12 Simonton Spelling Bee – 8:30-10:30 Variety Show Auditions – 3:05-4:30	Jan 13 Simonton 2 nd Qtr. Awards Assembly – 8:30-11:00 Variety Show Auditions – 3:05-4:30
Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day No School	Jan 17 Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00	Jan 18 Early Release – 1:35 pm Simonton Battle of the Books – Battle 2 – Media Center – 8:30-10:30	Jan 19 STUCO Meets – 3:05-4:00 pm	Jan 20 Lighthouse Meeting- 7:25-7:55 am Talent Show participants notified Simonton Classroom & Group Photos Simonton at Skateland-PTO Event – 6:00-9:00 pm
Jan 23 Lead Assembly 8:15 am Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden	Jan 24 6 th Grade visits CMS – 9:00-11:00 Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00	Jan 25 6 th Grade band students to Phoenix Symphony – 8:30-1:15 Parent/Superintendent Council Mtg – 11:30-1:00 Early Release – 1:35 pm	Jan 26 6 th Grade visits CMS 9:00-11:00	Jan 27 Golden Ticket Lunch w/Mrs Cruz – 11:00 am Stallion Stampede- 2:55 p
Jan 30 Lead Assembly 8:15 am Garden Club -3:05-4:00 pm in Garden Talent Show Practice – 3:05-4:30	Jan 31 Lego Robotics -3:05-4:00 Preschool Pathfinders – 3:05-4:00 Talent Show Practice – 3:05-4:30 Orchestra Concert – 6:00 pm in MPR			



Reading With Ms. Bonadio

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.

Everyone Reads

Show your youngster the importance of reading by talking about books on a regular basis. Consider these everyday tips.

- "Today I read..." Tell your child what you read at work or in your spare time. You could describe the dishes on the new menu at your restaurant or mention a suspenseful mystery that's keeping you on the edge of your seat. Ask her to tell you what she's reading, too.
- "I know who'd enjoy this book..." Point out what relatives or friends might like to read. While looking at the "new arrivals" shelf at the library, you could say, "Uncle Rick loves science fiction. Let's tell him about this book." Then, encourage your youngster to be on the lookout for other books to recommend.♥

"Fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and all the nooks." — Dr. Seuss



Be a Reading Family



Did you know that children read more when their parents are readers too? Consider these ways to get your family excited about reading together.

Collect Frequent-Reader "Miles"

A trip around the world is almost 25,000 miles. Let one book = 2,500 miles, and have a race to see who will be the first to read her/his way "around the world". Bonus: Your child will practice math skills, too, as he/she tallies up the miles.

Become Super-Sleuths

Encourage your child to draw conclusions by reading short mysteries aloud. Try a book like *Five Minute Mini-Mysteries* (Stan Smith) or read online at kids.mysterynet.com. Before revealing the solution, let each person make a prediction and tell what clues tipped him/her off.

Crank up Some Karaoke

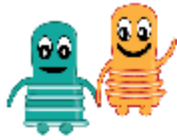
Help your child find song lyrics online. Then, put on music, and read the words as you sing altogether.

Note: Your child will add words to his/her vocabulary by looking up unfamiliar words in a dictionary.

Play Reading Games

Give your youngster practice at reading aloud accurately with expression. You might hold a contest while reading from a book of tongue twisters. Or make up fill-in-the-blank stories (like *Mad Libs*), and try to read the results without laughing.





January Book Picks

Primary Books (K-3rd Grade)

■ **Mr. Ferris and His Wheel** (*Kathryn Gibbs Davis*)

This is the true story of how an American engineer invented the Ferris wheel. George Ferris designed an enormous steel wheel with fancy cars that fairgoers could ride in, and it became one of the most popular carnival attractions of all time.

■ **Henry and Mudge: The First Book** (*Cynthia Rylant*)

Henry's new puppy, Mudge, quickly grows into a 180-pound dog who walks Henry to school, sleeps in Henry's bed, and occasionally gets into trouble. The boy and his dog learn a valuable lesson when Mudge gets lost. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ **Before After** (*Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias Aréguí*) In this wordless book, pairs of pictures show "before" and "after"—a caterpillar and a butterfly, a pumpkin and a carriage, a snowy winter scene and a lush spring one. Can your child explain how each pair is related?

■ **I Had a Favorite Dress** (*Boni Ashburn*)

A little girl wears her favorite dress every week until she starts to outgrow it. She asks her mom to turn it into a shirt—which she wears every week until it's too small. But that's not the end of it! What will her mom turn it into next?

Intermediate Books (4th-6th Grade)

■ **The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary** (*Laura Shovan*)

Emerson Elementary is closing at the end of the year, and the 18 fifth-graders in Ms. Hill's class want to keep it open. This novel, told in poems from the students' journals, shares their daily struggles with family, friendship, and fitting in, along with their attempts to save their school.

■ **The Future Architect's Handbook** (*Barbara Beck*)

Readers will follow a fictional architect who draws plans for a house. Detailed illustrations lead aspiring young architects through the process— and may even encourage them to come up with their own designs.

■ **White Fang** (*Jack London*)

Your child will see the world through the eyes of White Fang, a wild wolf-dog, in this classic novel. Can the wolf-dog leave his wild life behind and learn to love a human? Read along as White Fang becomes a sled dog and a fighting dog before finally finding a home. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ **How to Turn \$100 into \$1,000,000: Earn! Invest! Save!** (*James McKenna and Jeannine Glista*)

You don't have to win the lottery to become a millionaire. This guide, designed to teach youngsters to be financially smart, offers tips for earning money, setting financial goals, creating budgets, and investing.



Strike Up a Conversation

Good conversation skills prepare your child for group discussions at school. These ideas can help him start and continue conversations.

❖ **Similarities**

To get a conversation rolling, suggest that your youngster talk about shared interests. "I see you're wearing a Colts jersey. I love that team! How do you think they're playing this year?"

❖ **Compliments**

Is there something your child admires about the person? Paying a compliment creates a natural opening for more talk. "That's a cool trick you did on your skateboard. Will you teach me how to do it?"

❖ **Advice**

People love to share their opinions, so asking others what they think is a simple way to start or add to a conversation. "I need to pick out a birthday gift for my cousin in college. What do you think would make a good present?"

Referenced: Reading Connection
January 2017

