

The Simonton Star

April 2016 Newsletter

At Simonton, our mission is to LEAD.

Learn, Empower, Achieve and Dream

Kathryn Sue Simonton Elementary

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A Leader in Me School

Dear Simonton Families-

I can't believe we are already in the fourth quarter. Time flies when we are working hard and having fun! As we closed out March we began taking the AZ MERIT test and I am very excited for our students to 'show what they know.'

This is the busiest time of year on campus and we will be hosting many special events that highlight our students and their accomplishments this year. Below is a list of upcoming dates for you to mark on your calendar.

April 11-Band Concert

April 12-Preschool Meeting

April 15-Progress Reports

April 19- 4th Grade AIMS Science

April 26-District Battle of the Books

April 27- Simonton Field Day

April 29-Skateland Party

Don't forget to review the calendar in our newsletter for more information about our special events.

In closing, I am very proud to announce that our school has officially had the second year of our Leader in Me grant renewed by the I Am a Leader Foundation. During this first year, our focus has been on creating a climate and culture of leadership. Next year the focus will be on integrating leadership and academics. Our staff will be receiving training once again from the Franklin Covey company.

As always, I want to thank the Simonton community for your continued support of our school.

Best regards,
Bradley Shepstead, Principal

Student Reporters



- I was thinking win-win when I thought of a game my friend and I both wanted to play.
- I was beginning with the end in mind when I was saving up my money for a playhouse.
- I was being proactive when I cleaned my room without being asked.
- I was putting first things first when I did my homework and afterwards I played outside.

April 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				Apr. 1 Stuco Meeting 7:45am Golden Ticket Winner Lunch with Mr. Shep
Apr. 4 Garden Club Meeting 3:05-4:00pm	Apr. 5	Apr. 6 Early release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15am-1:35pm Meet and Greet with the new Principal Candidates 6-730pm	Apr. 7 Art Club Group C Variety Show Auditions grades 4-6 3:15-4:45pm	Apr. 8 Variety Show Auditions grades K-3 3:15-4:45pm Deadline for Summer School Scholarships
Apr. 11 Garden Club Meeting 3:05-4:00pm Elementary Band Concert at Simonton for 7:00pm	Apr. 12 Preschool Parent Meeting 6:00-7:00pm	Apr. 13 Early release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15am-1:35pm Governing Board Meeting at CMS 6:00pm	Apr. 14 Art Club Group A Site Council Meeting 3:30pm in the staff lounge	Apr. 15 STUCO Meets 7:45am Progress Reports available in Jupiter
Apr. 18 Garden Club Meeting 3:05-4:00pm	Apr. 19 PTO Meeting 3:30pm AIMS Science for 4th grade	Apr. 20 Early release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15am-1:35pm Progress Reports available in Jupiter. Battle of the Books #3 9:00am in the Library	Apr. 21 AIMS Science Testing for 4th grade students Art Club Group B	Apr. 22
Apr. 25 Garden Club Meeting 3:05-4:00pm Scholastic Awards Night 6:00pm CAC Campus	Apr. 26 Battle of the Books District Level 6:00pm CMS	Apr. 27 Early release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15am-1:35pm Simonton Field Day 8:30-12:30	Apr. 28 Art Club Group C Variety Show Practice 3:05-4:35pm	Apr. 29 STUCO meets 7:45am PTO Event: Skateland Night 6:00-8:00pm



Kinder Families! Spring is here and we are having so much fun with it!! We have been studying weather, rabbits, and caterpillars this March and coming up for April we will learn about plants, rainbows, farms, and Earth Day! We are still practicing our sight word (trick words) and we have been learning to read and spell diagraphs (two letters that make one sound such as ch, sh, wh, th, ck). Keep reading at home everyday! It helps to build vocabulary skills, fluency skills, listening skills, and comprehension. In Math we are working hard on math partners, or what numbers can equal another number (8 is the same as 5+3 or 2+6 or 4+4 or 1+7). We will continue to build fluency in addition and subtraction as well. Having your student in the kitchen is a great place to practice math! Count out eggs then subtract them as you add them to recipes, count out cookies for two people and see how many there are all together, then as you eat them (subtract) see how many are left! Food is always a great way to get kids involved! Most important, don't forget to have playtime everyday! Using their imagination is essential in a child's development. Pretend play is fantastic. Superheros, dolls, kitchen, trucks, legos, whatever sparks their creativity! Happy playing and learning!

Kindergarten



Yearbooks on Sale now!

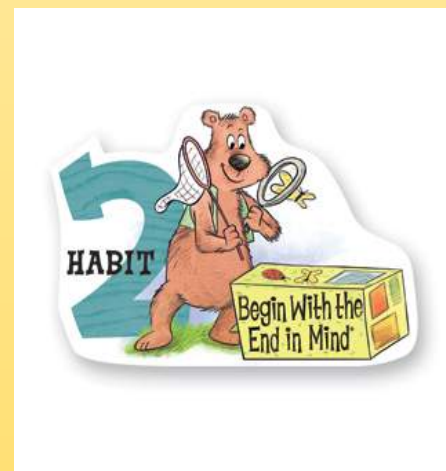
April 1-31 they are \$19 each and in May they will be \$20.

Order forms are available in the front office and we can take cash or check.



In April, our 1st grade 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 words per minute. Please help your child practice meeting their goal by timing them daily on their homework reading passages.

In April, 2nd graders will begin a narrative reading unit focused on comparing similar stories. They will be able to answer the W questions (who, what, where, when, why) about each story. In foundations we will continue reading and writing words with vowel teams and learning the different rules and exceptions for each team. In math we will review place value and move on to numbers and computations up to 999. In social studies we will finish up our mapping unit and begin a unit on life cycles and insects. In writing, we will move on from narratives and write imaginative stories. They should be really fun to read!



3rd grade.....We have been busy reviewing and preparing for the AzMerit test. Our testing window is March 28 – April 15. 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 Ancient Greece and Rome. This learning will take place during reading and social studies. We will compare and contrast ancient Olympics and modern Olympics. We will also discuss some ideas and concepts that the United States learned from Ancient Greece and Rome. Later in the month, we will learn about the westward movement and the emergence of the modern United States. In math we will continue to review everything that we have learned so far this year.

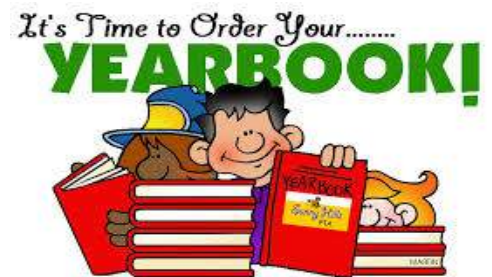


Variety Show is May 3rd!

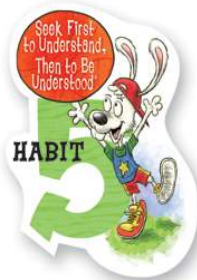


4th grade.....This month starts AzMERIT testing and AIMS science testing for our fourth grade students. Not all students are testing on the same day. The only test that all 4th grade students are taking on the same day is the AIMS science, on April 19th. Our students have been preparing for this all year. It's time to Shine! Our students have finished the 4th Grade Mission Statement- S.M.I.L.E.-

- Support myself and others
- Make and effort
- Invest in myself
- Lead out loud
- Everyone matters



5th grade.....Where has the time gone! April is already here. As you know the students for the last quarter have their final major state project that is due. All projects are due no later than May 6th. Please make sure students stay on track with all the check points along the way. This last quarter we will be reading Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies. We have many fun activities and projects we will be doing in class for this literature study. As we wind the school year down please make sure students are reading their AR books nightly and turning in their weekly reading logs. Have a great month!



6th gradeWe have a busy month ahead! In addition to AzMERIT testing, sixth-graders will continue learning about Analyzing Statistics and the Volume of a Rectangular Prism in math. In reading, they will work on the Heidelberg Project and their social action projects. They will explore poetry in writing. In science they will learn about cells and plants, and in social studies they will work on writing their country reports. Students should work on collecting information for their tri-fold boards at home throughout the next few weeks.

The Orchestra

Parents Please Mark Your Calendar!

Our 5th and 6th grade orchestra students have been working very diligently to prepare for our final Orchestra Concert which will take place at: Combs High School Gymnasium (2505 E Germann Rd. San Tan Valley, AZ) on Thursday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a combined performance featuring students from: CTA, Ellsworth, Simonton, Harmon and Ranch Elementary Schools. The High School Orchestra Students will also mentor and perform with our Elementary Orchestra Students. Your child will bring home permission slips with additional information soon.

Physical Education

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.

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.

Simonton will have Field Day on April 27th in the morning. Volunteers are needed to help out with this fun event. Stations will be set up for each class group to rotate through. 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

Technology

- Kinder - Continuing to work on logging onto the computers independently and learning how to use Google Classroom
- Grades 1 & 2 - Finishing up formatting tools in MS Word
- Grade 3 - Using MS Word to learn about shapes, color-fill, borders and Word Art
- Grade 4 - Creating a cinquain poem with a watermark picture using MS Word
- Grade 5 - Doing Internet research on planets
- Grade 6 - Creating a commercial for our new brand of cereal using MS PowerPoint



April is a busy month in the band world! We are busy preparing for several performances that will happen before the end of the year. Read on!

The annual Spring Concert is planned for Monday, April 11, in the multi-purpose room. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. This will give our audience a chance to see the progress that has been made since December.

Looking ahead - the annual Mass Band Festival will take place at Combs High School on Friday, May 6. This involves ALL of the band students from the entire district, combining for a day of rehearsal and fun, followed by a concert in the evening. Mark your calendars - the concert will be in the CHS gym, starting at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss it!

4TH GRADE PARENTS! Mass Band or the Spring Concert is an excellent way to interest your soon-to-be-5th grader in the world of instrumental music! Please plan on attending and let your child see what possibilities there might be in his/her future!

The Leader in Me

by Angela Albers, School Social Worker

Hello! Spring time is upon us and change is in the air. This month I would like to reflect on some of the changes that have happened at Simonton Elementary due to the Leader in Me. Students and staff have really embraced the 7 habits and they are beginning to become embedded in everything that we do. We began the year learning the habits and really reinforcing positive leadership through our Leadership Tickets. The students are proud of the 7 habits that they display on a daily basis. We also started several Leadership Clubs for our students that allowed them to become a part of all that we do here at Simonton. After all, it is their school, so it only makes sense that they are in charge of the clubs and activities that are provided. Some of the clubs that have worked hard this year are Garden Club, Art Club, Assembly Leaders, Journalism Club, Yearbook Club, Sparkle Club, Patriotism Club, Recycle Club, Student Council, and other clubs that help with various events such as Spooktacular, Battle of the Books, Earth Day, etc.

Our students have been active and involved leaders on our campus. There is still so much more to be done and I look forward to doing even more amazing things in the coming school year. Our first annual Leadership Day is coming in May and we are excited to be able to show you all that we have done this year.

Garden Club News

Simonton's Garden of Awesomeness is partnering with McDonalds! McDonald's has a coffee grounds recycling program and our garden club coordinator Sherri accepted the donation. We are please to be part of this Good Neighbor program in our community. Thank you Sherri for all you do to support the garden!



Health Office News

Until our paths cross again, Nurse Barb says good bye to all the wonderful staff and kids at Simonton and wants to introduce the new medical assistant:

Hi, my name is Jennifer Usher and I am so excited to be the new health assistant at Simonton! I have been in the medical field for 13 years. Most of my experience has been in pediatrics, school health, and emergency medicine. I have been with the Combs district for a total of 5 years and I love the school health setting! I look forward to getting to know all of the students and families at Simonton!



Reading with Mrs. Huston

Tips for Reading Success

What's That Word?

An unfamiliar word can stop a reader in his/her tracks and make it harder to understand what they are reading. If a word stumps your child, suggest that she/he ask these questions.

Am I Pronouncing it Right?

Your child might know the word **delicate** when he/she hears it spoken, but misread it as de-LIE-kate in a book. When a word seems unfamiliar, he/she can check its pronunciation in a dictionary. Tip: Some online dictionaries have audio too. He/she may be surprised to discover that they know the word once they hear it (and how he/she will know how to spell it, too).

Do I Know a Similar Word?

Sometimes a new word will remind your child of a word that he/she recognizes. For example, she/he might read **herbivore** and think of **carnivore**. She/he could say, "A **carnivore** is a meat eater and an herb is a plant, so an **herbivore** must be a plant eater." Then have her/him reread the sentence with that meaning in mind to see if it makes sense.

Are there Clues in the Text?

Examples, explanation, synonyms, or antonyms can help your child understand words. If he/she reads, "To advance in a **profession** like fashion design, it helps to take classes," she/he could realize that fashion design is a career. Therefore, **profession** means **career**. Or She/he may notice the synonym **job** later in the same paragraph. ("Staying on top of the latest information is important in any **job**.")



Let's Go For A Reading Walk

It's springtime-the perfect time to go for a walk. Why not make it a reading walk? Here are fun ways your child can read words in her/his environment while you enjoy the outdoors together.

Match the Card. Before heading out, help your child write words on index cards to match ones he/she might see. For a walk downtown, she/he could write **main** and **sale** or **draw street signs** and **store logos**. If you're going to the park, the cards may include words like **trail** and **playground**. As you walk, have her/him search for each word, read it aloud, and hand the card to you. Can she/he match all of the cards?

Fit a Category. Ask your child to think of a category and look around for words that fit. She/he might want to find words about colors, math, or sports. If math words are picked, she/he may read **one** way, town **square**, and **half** price. On your next walk, have your child choose a different category. Keep track of how many words she/he reads for each one and declare the most popular category!

Spot Little Words. Encourage your child to look for little words within big ones-a strategy that can help her/him read longer words. Look for a long word like **department** or **transportation**. Together, see how many small words you can find in it, such as **part**, **art**, **men**, and **depart** are all in the longer word **department**.



On March 15th, 3rd grade students at Simonton enjoyed a presentation by the Farm Bureau. Students learned about the 5 C's of Arizona – cattle, cotton, copper, citrus, and climate. They also learned about the difference between cattle and dairy cows. They discussed dairy products and by-products of cattle. Afterwards, students were able to make their own homemade ice cream using some of the dairy products that we discussed. Everyone had a great time, and the ice cream was delicious!



We are so excited to announce that the new student designed Leadership T-Shirts are now available! All students had the opportunity to participate in the contest to design the new shirts and through process of elimination the Lighthouse Team selected the final two designs. A BIG thank you goes out to Haylee Gonzales (front) and Levi Potter (back) for your creativity!

Great way to synergize!!

These new shirts are available for \$10 each and we can take cash or a check.