

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

Kathryn Sue Simonton
40300 N Simonton Blvd.
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
Attendance Line: 480-987-5331
www.simonton.jocombs.org

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1



The Simonton Star



SEPTEMBER, 2016

A
Leader in Me™
School

A Word from Our Principal

Dear Parents,

I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for a wonderful start to the school year. All students are working hard and leading the way to a successful year. We have a lot of exciting things planned for our students and families this school year. Our annual Grandparents Breakfast is next, scheduled for Friday, September 9th. We would love to see all of our Simonton Stallions and their grandparents at breakfast.

I appreciate all of our Simonton families, students, teachers and staff. Together we make great things happen. We LEAD—Learn, Empower, Achieve and Dream each day.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cruz

 **YOUR
LIBRARY**



Simonton Families, please mark your calendars for our upcoming fall book fair, Friday, September 9th through Friday, September 16th. Our book fair will have a fun pirate theme with the book fair title being, "It's a Bookaneer: Where Books are the Treasure". :) Please be watching for our book fair flyers and time schedules coming home the week of Sept. 5th.

Thank You for such amazing children to work with! We have had a wonderful start to our new year with us reviewing our library expectations and checking out/in amazing books.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at:

csoto@jocombs.org

Mrs. Soto



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.



We want to thank all the families that came to Meet the Teacher Night. It was wonderful to meet all the new and returning families and we are excited to be here and hope you can take part in our excitement throughout the school year as we continue to LEAD: learn, empower, achieve and dream.

Simonton Elementary PTO always appreciates our parent volunteers, as does the wonderful teachers and staff. Whether you have just 30 minutes or a few hours, your time, your talents and your ideas are truly needed. Please consider chairing an event or just volunteering, it really does make a difference in the lives of our children!

Our annual Fall Fundraiser started on August 22nd. We are excited about the Butter Braids Breads. All orders and monies are due no later than September 9th. Orders are scheduled to be delivered to the school on September 27th.

On Friday the 9th at 7am is Grandparents Breakfast in the multipurpose room. Information will be sent home in your child's folder. Please be sure to RSVP. We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful grandparents enjoying breakfast and having pictures taken with their grandchildren.

The Book fair will be from the 9-16th. Informational flyers will be sent home with all students. If you are interested in volunteering please be sure to email us and let us know.

Looking ahead to October, we are excited for the Simonton Spooktacular. Watch for information to come home this month as we are still in the planning stages. Any and all volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Again this year we are excited to be partnering with a truly hassle-free fundraiser called **Shoparoo!** Shoparoo is fundraising made *easy*. Turn pictures of your everyday shopping receipts into cash donations and sweepstakes entries for our school with this free app. Yep, it's that simple. No more cutting labels, selling door to door, or time-consuming coordinating. Just shop, snap, earn.

Get started today: 1. Use this code <http://app.shoparoo.com/r/mink9111> to download the free Shoparoo app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store 2. Select our school from the list and start taking pictures of your receipts - shop anywhere, buy anything! 3. Earn even more points by spreading the word and inviting others to join. There's no limit to how much money we can raise with Shoparoo - the more supporters, the more we will raise for our school. Check out shoparoo.com to learn more about this awesome hassle-free program.

PTO meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 4:00pm in the teacher's lounge. The meetings are held to discuss both our upcoming events as well as our past events. Please plan on joining us and sharing your time, talents, suggestions, comments and concerns.

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 contact information can be found on our school website under PTO. You can also contact us by email at simontonpto@gmail.com on our Facebook page- Simonton PTO or on Instagram-simontonpto. For any general school updates please check out the school Facebook page Simonton Elementary School or follow us on Twitter @SIMONTONROCKS.

Your 2016-2017 PTO board:

Traci Gilbert, Michelle Kaechelein, Peggy Carter and Betsy Roath





September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			Sep 1	Sep 2
Sep 5 Labor Day—No school	Sep 6	Sep 7 Early Release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15a-1:35p Progress Reports available in Jupiter Grades	Sep 8 STUCO Meets 3:05pm-4:00pm	Sep 9 Grandparents Breakfast 7:00am-7:45am Butter Braid Fundraiser money is due today Fall Book Fair begins Family Football Night at Combs High School
Sep 12 Lead Assembly in the MPR 8:15am Love and Logic Parenting Class 6-7pm	Sep 13 Pre-K and Kinder Hygiene Class from Pinal County	Sep 14 Early Release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15a-1:35p Governing Board Meeting 6:00pm at Combs Middle School	Sep 15 Early Release 11:15am dismissal AM preschool meets. No PM preschool classes Parent/Teacher Conferences	Sep 16 Early Release 11:15am dismissal PM preschool meets. No AM preschool classes Parent/Teacher Conferences
<h2>Fall Book Fair 9/9-9/16</h2>				
Sep 19 Lead Assembly in the MPR 8:15am Love and Logic Parenting Class 6-7pm	Sep 20 PTO Meeting 4:00pm-5:00pm in Staff Lounge Community Health Fair Combs High 6-8:00pm	Sep 21 Early Release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15a-1:35p Bus Evacuation Drill K-6	Sep 22 STUCO meets 3:05pm-4:00pm Mad Science 3:05pm-4:00pm in room 422	Sep 23
Sep 26 Lead Assembly in the MPR 8:15am 1st grade Hygiene class from Pinal County Love and Logic Parenting Class 6-7pm	Sep 27 5th Grade Biz Town Pre-K Bus evacuation drill 9:15am and 1:15pm	Sep 28 Early Release Wednesday Grades K-6th 8:15a-1:35p Sped bus evacuation drill 8:00am	Sep 29	Sep 30 Golden Ticket Winner Lunch 11:00am Stallion Stampede 3:00pm



News from the Kitchen

Please remember to update your free and reduced lunch application for the 2016-2017 school year. Any students that were approved for the program last year will return to full pay breakfast and Lunch on September 14th. Click [HERE](#) for the on line application. Take in to consideration that it may take a few days for processing. Paper applications are available in the front office.

Student Leader of the month

Congratulation Alina Dawson! You have been caught shining with character! You are the student leader of the month for September's character trait of Responsibility.

Great Job!



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 on line, 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 opportunity to serve your students.

**Help Your Child Succeed in School:
Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early**
School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

You can follow us on Twitter

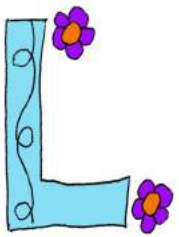
You can follow us on Twitter: **@simontonrocks**, If you don't have a Twitter account, but would still like to receive our updates via text message, follow these easy steps:

- 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.

For more on school readiness, visit attendanceworks.org and reachoutandread.org

Our
Mission is
to:
Learn
Empower
Achieve
Dream



Kindergarten News



Our first month of kindergarten has flown by!! These wonderful children grow more each and every day. This month we have some fun plans to go with our five senses unit, so many fun things in fact we have two weeks dedicated to it!! Then we will move on to one of our favorite units dedicated to all things apples! We will talk about the life cycle and Johnny Appleseed, we will even make Crock-Pot apple sauce! Yum!! We are expanding our number knowledge with counting each day, building numbers, and adding and subtracting numbers. Here are some fun activities to try at home or on the drive.... count as high as you can, play rhyming games, first sounds of words, count all the certain kind of color vehicle while driving, or clean up toys by color. This helps the car ride or cleaning up go faster and encourages students to use new concepts from class in different environments. Keep up the amazing work!!



1st Grade News

Thank you so much for all your generous donations and a fantastic start to a new year! We have had a busy month in our First Grade classes. We have been focusing on learning our classroom rules and procedures. Students have also been focusing on the 7 habits through modeled instruction, practice, and leadership opportunities. All students have created a personal goal in their leadership notebooks.



For the month of September, we will begin science exploration on apples and learn about early civilization. In Math, we will be working on addition and subtraction equations, story problems, and unknown partners. In Foundations, we will be tapping out and writing our CVC words. The students will be learning trick words and digraphs. We will also continue working on word order and forming complete sentences.

We look forward to meeting with all of you to discuss your child's progress at Parent Teacher Conferences.



POPS Preschool

Our unit of study for the POPS preschool will be All about Me and My family. We will be doing learning activities for the color; red and the shape; square. We will also be focusing on P and B for our sounds of the month and our concepts are big/little. See you at parent/teacher conferences!

2nd Grade News

In September, Second Graders will be finishing up their informational text unit focused on context clues and text features. Then they will begin a narrative story unit and practice locating characters, setting and plot. In writing, they will continue our narrative stories, and work on creating interesting topic and closing sentences. They will learn all about the different rules of plural nouns. They will also continue learning about our government and practice how to vote. In math, work problems of all types will continue to be the focus. Look for information regarding a field trip to be coming home soon.

3rd Grade News

We are off to a great start! In reading we have been studying character traits. When you read a book at home, have your student identify some of the character's traits. In math we have been working hard to learn our multiplication facts. Our goal for the year is that 100% of the students in third grade will know their multiplication facts through 12. The students have learned songs to help them remember their count-by facts. Have your student sing you the songs that they have learned. Make sure that you are practicing facts at home too! Thank you for everything you do at home to support your child. It does make a big difference!

4th Grade News

The fourth grade students will continue to work on, and keep track of, their personal and academic WIGs. A portion of this month will be spent talking about natural disasters including how they have helped shape Earth. Topics of discussion will include: glaciers, volcanoes, hurricanes, and tornadoes. In math, students will continue with place values and move in to multiplication. Students will learn to multiply two digits by up to four digits!

5th & 6th Grade News

5th Grade: The school year is officially under way! Students have been learning a lot about fractions this last month. When we are done with Chapter 1 we will move onto decimals. The students have been reading Lemonade War and have loved it! It ties so well into JA BizTown standards. Get ready parents! We are almost to our field trip date. September 27th is the big day. Students will take their knowledge of what they have learned in class and bring it with them to their field trip and apply those skills. Students always have a ton of fun. Can't wait to see you there!

6th Grade: The school year is in full swing, and students have completed their first month of the sixth grade! We have been studying theme, point of view, and plot development, which has helped us strengthen both our reading and writing skills. Students have also been applying their knowledge of fractions and decimals to real-world situations, as well as practicing their ability to fluently add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals. We are loving the lessons and activities that go along with JA BizTown, and we are excitedly awaiting our field trip. The big day is October 18th! The students are so excited to apply their knowledge of economics and money management during their trip to BizTown.

Mrs. B's PE Class

Physical Education is learning to be physically active. Please remind your child to dress for activity on scheduled P.E. days with appropriate foot wear. Ideal shoes are athletic type, properly fitting, with a rubber sole and covered toes. Shoes must stay on the feet during activity. **Students wearing flip flops will not be allowed to participate in running activities and will lose participation points for the day.** Three days of nonparticipation will have the result of an N on the report card. I encourage proper hydration so feel free to send a water bottle to class as the line at the drinking fountain can be long. Students will not be excused from P.E. unless a signed note or email from the guardian is sent to me before class. Voice mails may not be received before class time so email is a much better option. Please feel free to communicate any concerns, ideas or questions you may have about our program. Parents are invited to come and participate with their child anytime. Students will have the opportunity to experience cardio vascular, strength and flexibility exercises along with sport activities. This sampling of activities is to give students the knowledge to expand on physical activity throughout a lifetime.

Each class will begin with a warm-up to get everyone moving. We will then proceed with 7-10 minutes of aerobic, strength and flexibility exercises. The remainder of the class will focus on a skill and/or a game for a brief experience of various sport activities.

I expect all of my students to perform their personal best in my class for an enjoyable, safe and active experience.

Mrs. B.—rbaldenegro@jocombs.org



District News

Combs has a variety of job openings to match your skills and schedules. Openings include food service, custodians, paraprofessionals, and high school coaches to name a few. All job positions can be viewed online at www.jocombs.org under the Employment tab.

Join us for the Community Health Fair on September 20th from 6pm - 8pm at Combs High School. Many health related organizations will be present including HeartSavers CPR, free blood pressure screenings and AirEvac emergency response. Students who participate in the bike rodeo will be entered into a drawing for a free bike! *participants must have their own bike and helmet. We hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars for the 1st Annual Parent University. Held October 22nd from 9am - 12pm at Ranch Elementary, parents can select from conference style sessions ranging from Understanding the IEP process to Drug Prevention in Youth or Navigating Puberty. Free child care will be provided. Look for more information coming home at Parent Teacher Conferences!

Our beginning Orchestra Students are busy expanding their musical vocabulary, and bowing techniques with Wooden Dowels. Soon we will be transferring this information to our real bows and finally playing our instruments. Our Advanced Orchestra Students are learning new notes: F natural; and C natural as we get ready to perform, "America The Beautiful" in honor of upcoming Veteran's Day.

Orchestra



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.

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

For more like this, go to AZEdNews.com

What we are doing in Technology:

- Kindergarten - rules/procedures, proper mouse grip, mouse coordination, click, drag & scroll
- Grade 1 - rules/procedures, mouse skills review & logging on
- Grade 2 - rules/procedures, open/close programs, minimize/maximize screen, navigation buttons & logging on
- Grades 3 thru 6 - rules/procedures, logging on & keyboarding

Mrs. Bonadio's Reading Corner

Why Read 20 Minutes at Home?

Student A reads	Student B reads	Student C reads
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year.	900 minutes per school year,	180 minutes per school year.
1,800,000 words per year	282,00 words per year.	8,000 words per year.



Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.
--	--	--

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

Want to be a better reader? Simply Read.

Leader in Me t-shirts

Purchase our Leadership T-shirts for only \$10! These shirts were designed by our very own Haylee Gonzales (front) and Levi Potter (back)
Great way to synergize!!



Combs Turkey Waddle Thursday, November 24, 2016



Harmon Elementary School
39315 N Cortona Drive
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

7:00 am- Check in
8:00 am- 1 mile family fun run/walk
8:30 am- 5k waddle/run
10:00 am- Course closed
volunteer clean up

This year's benefactor is the Tibben family. Visit <https://sites.google.com/a/jocombs.org/turkey-waddle-combs/> for more details.

<http://www.active.com/san-tan-valley-az/running/distance-running-races/combs-turkey-waddle-2016?int=>