STAR NEWS

February 2024

Dear Simpson Families,

Happy February! We look forward to seeing you soon next month for parent-teacher conferences. In the past we held early release conferences in February. However, I want you to SAVE-the-DATE for Wednesday, March 6th, and Thursday, March 7th for early release days. Students will have early release days and be dismissed at 1 PM. You will once again be able to sign up for your conference time(s) online. Also, please feel free to join me on Thursday,



February 8th for our PTA Starry, Starry, Night Reflections Award Ceremony at 6 PM. Thank you ALL for your continued support! It is an honor to serve as your principal. Have a wonderful February! Proud to be your principal,

Dr. Connery



Dates at a Glance:

FEBRUARY

February 2nd-Digital Learning Day

February 3rd - Sweetheart Dance - click here to volunteer

February 5th-9th-Star Wars (Coin Wars) for Care Team

February 8th-Starry, Starry Night-Simpson Cafeteria-6:00-8:00 PM

February 13th-All Pro Dads-7:00 AM

February 15th, 16th, and 19th-Late Winter Break/Schools Closed

February 22nd-PTA Spirit Night at Knuckies

February 27th - Simpson's Got Talent Show (4th & 5th Grade) Dress Rehearsal

February 29th - Simpson's Got Talent Show (4th & 5th Grade)

As a gentle reminder, we will have our third **Digital Learning Day** (**DLD**) **on Friday, February 2nd.** It will be a staff development day for teachers and students will be prepared to access lessons via their teacher's eClass Pages no later than 9 AM. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the main office.





GCPS Educational Effectiveness Surveys: Opportunity to Participate in Family Survey

Each year, GCPS collects feedback from our families about their child's school as part of our commitment to improvement. This year, the school district is partnering with the Center for Educational Effectiveness to give Educational Effectiveness Surveys (EES) that provide feedback on nine characteristics of high-performing schools. Those characteristics are:

- A clear and shared focus
- High standards and expectations for all students
- · Effective school leadership
- · Strong communication and opportunities to work together
- · What we teach, how we teach, and how learning is aligned with state standards
- Frequent monitoring of learning and teaching
- · Focused professional development
- Supportive learning environment
- · High levels of family and community involvement

In addition, the survey asks about two other areas associated with high-performing schools-district support for improvement and respect for diverse cultures and backgrounds. The survey will be available for parents to complete starting **Thursday**, **February 1st-29th**. We hope you will lend your voice to making Gwinnett County Public Schools the best it can be for our students. Please be prepared to access the link to the Family Survey via Parent Square this Thursday.



The GCPS Caring Award aims to honor outstanding students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels who have gone above and beyond in embodying the values of empathy, kindness, and community engagement. We believe in acknowledging and celebrating the positive impact that our students make in the lives of those around them. There will be two district winners for 5th grade, 8th grade, and 12th grade.

At Simpson Elementary, we invited staff members to nominate students that they felt were deserving of this honor. From those nominations, a committee narrowed it down to our top 3. We are pleased to announce 5th graders **Ethan Egegbara**, **Harper Fahey** and **Kieran Halron** as our finalists for the Caring Award!

Our 2024 Simpson Elementary Caring Award recipient is Kieran Halron! Kieran will move on to the district level. We are so proud of all three of these kind, empathetic superstars!

February is Black History Month

The United States observes Black History Month during the month of February to pause and reflect on the history, cultures, and contributions of African Americans. In 1926, Carter G. Woodson established a week to celebrate the history of African Americans that coincided with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick



Douglass. The week was expanded into a month-long celebration in February of 1976 and remains that way today.

<u>Please see some but not limited to, some of the Black History Month lessons taking place at Simpson:</u>

- Simpson News Network (SNN) Morning Announcements of African Americans who contributed to society
- Computer Science: Featuring famous Black Computer Scientists and Inventors in CS classroom lessons
- Art: Classes are learning about black artists, Alma Thomas and David Drake. Students are
 creating art based on these artist's styles and the work will be displayed in the art gallery in
 February.
- Music: Featuring different musicians throughout music classes (including Ella Fitzgerald and Ella Jenkins in Kindergarten/Stevie Wonder and Motown in 2nd grade); 5th grade is learning about African American musical traditions, etc.
- Spanish: Will have lessons about Afro-Latinos in History.
- Health: Classes are learning about Wilma Rudolph African American Olympic Gold Medalist and Elementary School Teacher who overcame many barriers to her physical health as a baby and young child through her perseverance and determination.

PurposeFull People-Honesty Family Newsletter

School_wide_Honesty_Newsletter.pdf

Download

468.3 KB

Celebrate Simpson Elementary's Reflections Winners at the 2023-2024 Starry Starry Night



Please join Dr. Connery and The Simpson Elementary PTA as they recognize this year's Superstar Artists on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6pm-7pm in the Simpson Cafeteria*



*For those students who are unable to attend the ceremony, we will deliver trophies to the student's classrooms the following week.



Kids Heart Challenge

Staff, it's that time of year again! Attention Heart Heroes: We've kicked off the **Kids Heart Challenge!** We are proud to support the *American Heart Association.* It's time to REGISTER for the challenge and complete Finn's Mission to learn Hands-Only CPR! Parents are welcome to "click here" to become a Heart Hero and earn their child a free wristband:

http://www2.heart.org/goto/SimpsonElementarySchool1 or download the Kids Heart Challenge app.

Please see kickoff videos (long or short version) posted below should you need them again: American Heart Association | **LONG VIDEO** https://vimeo.com/871206048?share=copy American Heart Association | **SHORT VIDEO** https://vimeo.com/871198198?share=copy

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. ~ Coach Kevin Halron

Coming Soon...Pinckneyville Parent Night!



SIMPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Recognized as one of the "Best Elementary Schools" by *U.S. News & World Report*

CONGRATULATOR

Simpson Elementary is in the top 10 for GA Elementary Schools!

According to **US News Report for 2024,** Simpson Elementary

School is ranked #6 as one of the BEST Elementary Schools in the State of Georgia. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well they prepare their students for high school. Simpson is ranked as:

- #1 in Gwinnett County Public Schools
- #6 in the State of Georgia
- https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/georgia/simpson-elementary-school-223330



Simpson PBIS

Greetings Parents,

Simpson Elementary's Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program focuses on a positive behavioral expectation schoolwide. PBIS is an approach schools use to promote school safety and good behavior. With PBIS, schools teach kids about behavior expectations, strategies, and with a primary focus on having a positive prevention, not consequences.

What is PBIS at our school?

A unified set of school wide expectations for behavior in our school. We are Simpson Superstars, so to ensure that students can easily comprehend our expectations, we have established a 5-star approach for appropriate behaviors posted throughout the school. Your child has been learning these expectations since the first few days of school.

What are the 5-Star Expectations at Simpson Elementary?

- 1. Be Respectful
- 2. Be Responsible
- 3. Be Ready to Learn

- 4. Be Safe
- 5. Be Kind

As part of our PBIS process, teachers and other staff members use evidence-based practices to increase student learning and decrease classroom disruptions. To keep students on the rules in a positive manner, we do the following when teaching academics and behavior:

- ▶ Constantly teach and refer to our school-wide expectations.
- Provide students with more praise than correction.
- ▶ Talk to students with respect using a positive voice tone.
- P Actively engage everyone in the class during instruction.
- ▶ Use pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting as we teach.
- P Look for the positive first and provide positive, immediate, frequent, and explicit feedback.

Our students are motivated by receiving STARBUCK PBIS dollar incentives for recognition of positive student behavior. Students spend their Starbucks in our PBIS Store weekly during their grade level buying days. Students can choose tangible items such as erasers, snacks, bracelets, pop its, and more! We also sell coupons for various rewards such as show and tell, tell a joke on the morning news, and positive phone calls home! Lessons on saving and spending have been integrated and students have been eager shoppers!

Buying Days
Monday-5th grade
Tuesday-4th grade
Wednesday-2nd and 3rd grade
Thursday-1st grade
Friday-PreK and Kindergarten

Car Rider Updates!

Car Rider Reminders 23-24.docx

Download

41.5 KB



I Scream You Scream...We All Scream for Ice Cream

Students will have the opportunity to purchase ice cream from a variety of selections during lunch. Ice cream is \$1.00 and will be sold Monday-Friday for all grade levels. Class Parties for ice cream sales are also available each day. Please email your child's homeroom teacher for details.

School Lunch & Parental Visitation

GCPS students will have access to a meal (breakfast and lunch) throughout the year for each child. Student meal costs are listed



below and an adult bar is available for both adult visitors and staff throughout the school year.

Meal prices for elementary students are below:

Student breakfast -\$1.50 Student lunch -\$2.25 Adult Breakfast -\$2.50 Adult Lunch -\$4.00

Come Learn With Us at Little Learners Academy!

_Little Learners Academy-School Flyer (1).pdf

Download

155.2 KB





PLAY2LEARN- HAVE YOU HEARD?

Simpson is excited to offer an opportunity for parents with children ages birth to five!

We are so blessed to have one of our veteran, retired, and former Simpson Kindergarten Teacher, Ms. Sharon Terry! Once again she will be our Play2Learn instructor during the 23-24 SY. Therefore, please help us spread the good news to all of your family and

friends, who may have children in this age range to call the school for additional information.

Want to learn more about how to be your child's best teacher through PLAY? Simpson Elementary is now offering the GCPS from Birth-To-FIVE Program for you and your child!

- Learn how to find teachable moments in everyday life activities
- Learn how to engage your child in play
- Learn how to continue play activities at home and on the or anywhere
- · Learn about your child's educational milestones
- · Learn how to get your child ready for school



CanStoris Photo port - pan16424007

Simpson Safety Plans

GCPS will continue to follow strict guidelines as it relates to safety & security by visitors <u>producing identification when inside</u> the vestibule to check out students (as well as during visiting lunch hours).

In addition, we will continue to follow safety guidelines to minimize the risk of infection and/or spread of COVID-19.

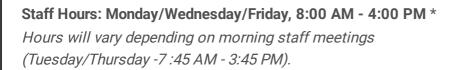
Therefore, if anyone in your household becomes sick and has

tested positive for COVID-19, please contact our school nurse, Amy Norris, and/or your grade level administrator, immediately.

School Hours

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 4:15 PM

All visitors must sign-in at the welcome desk and please be prepared to provide some form of identification upon request.







Administrative Team

Principal- Dr. Taffeta Connery

Assistant Principal- Ms. Brandy Bosak, Grades 1, 3, & 5

Assistant Principal- Ms. Jeanette Johnson, Grades K, 2, 4

Assistant Principal- Ms. Stephanie Wells, Special Needs &

Connections





2024 GASP! flyer.pdf

Download

4.0 MB

YMCA Afterschool 2023-2024 Parent Flyer - English.pdf

Download

1.9 MB

YMCA Afterschool 2023-2024 Parent Flyer - Spanish.pdf

Download

1.9 MB

https://www.gcpsk12.org/SimpsonES

Georgia Platinum Award 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 and 2019! 2010 Georgia School of Excellence!

2012 and 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence!

Proud to be a National PTA® School of Excellence

2021-2023







The PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

When you join the Parent Teacher Association at Simpson Elementary by giving your time, talent and resources, you join our collective efforts in promoting quality education, arts, and community involvement to build a healthy environment and safe neighborhood for all of our families. Because of the generous

support from our parents, grandparents, teachers, staff and business partners we are able to offer many academic and social opportunities that may not otherwise be able to take place.

Did you know the Simpson PTA sponsors and coordinates over **30 programs** each school year through the generous support of our Simpson families and business partners? Every dollar raised goes directly to programs and events that benefit our Simpson Superstar students, staff, and facilities.

Visit our website and join our PTA Facebook page to stay connected!

Mark Your Calendar

February 3 | <u>Sweetheart Dance</u> at Paul Duke HS- tickets required for entry, no tickets will be sold at the door, no exceptions. <u>Please click here to volunteer!</u>

February 5 - 9 | Star Wars Coin Wars Care Team Fundraiser (details below!)

February 8 | Starry, Starry Night (click here to volunteer) + 2nd General PTA Meeting, 6-7 PM

February 9 - 22 | Last chance to order Starburst shirts

February 13 | All Pro Dads, 7 AM

February 14 | Staff Appreciation - Sign Up to donate Gift Cards here, due by 2/12!

February 22 | Joint Spirit Night with PMS at Knuckies, 5-7 PM while supplies last!

February 27 | (4th + 5th Grade) <u>Talent Show Dress Rehearsal</u>

February 29 | (4th + 5th Grade) Talent Show

Volunteer Opportunities

Open and Upcoming PTA Positions

Please click here to see the website for more details!

E-mail <u>co-president2@simpsonespta.org</u> with any questions

Open/Upcoming Committee Roles:

★ Class Coordinator Liaison Co-Chair ★ Reflections Committee

★ Media Center + Book Fair Committee ★ Student Directory Committee

★ Father/Daughter Dance Committee ★ Membership Committee

★ School Supply Kits Committee ★ School Supply Kit Chair ★ Spirit Wear Co-Chair

Open/Upcoming Executive Roles:

★ Incoming Co-President * VP of Communications and Publications
 ★VP of Family and Community * VP of Finance * VP of Staff and Student Services

General Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer to assist with our upcoming <u>Sweetheart Dance</u>

- Volunteer to assist with hanging art for <u>Starry, Starry Night</u>
- Sign-Up to Contribute Gift Cards for February's Staff Appreciation Event
- Volunteer to assist with our upcoming 4th + 5th Grade Talent Show
- Contributing to Special Education Staff Breakfast
- <u>Media Center Volunteers</u> who will shelve books, laminate for the staff, help students check out and return books, and/or complete other small tasks with which Mrs. Dierkes might need assistance. Please note that Media Center volunteer shifts are now only one hour, and this opportunity is open to parents, guardians, and grandparents.

Please visit the <u>Volunteer page of the PTA website</u> to stay current on open and upcoming PTA positions, and general volunteer opportunities.

Sweetheart Dance

Simpson Elementary School PTA will be hosting a Sweetheart Dance at Paul Duke STEM High School on **Saturday, February 3rd from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m**.

This dance will be for our Simpson girls and their date.

Tickets are required for entry - Ticket sales have closed, no tickets will be sold at the door, no exceptions.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this wonderful PTA event, <u>please click here see the signup genius</u> and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email:

fatherdaughterevent@simpsonespta.org.





Q: Will corsages be provided?

A: Yes! Corsages will be provided for all Simpson students at the door.

Q: Are tickets available after the ticket window closes?

A: No. We recommend purchasing a ticket, even if your child is on the fence about coming. The days leading up to the event, many girls change their minds as students start discussing it at school. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate emails requesting tickets after the ticket window has closed, no exceptions.

Q: Will tickets be sold at the door?

A: No. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Q: Should we eat dinner before the event?

A: Yes! Refreshments at the event will be minimal. We strongly recommend eating dinner prior to the event.

Q: How does pricing work?

A: Tickets are \$15 per person. For example: One student and one adult is \$30. Two students and one adult is \$45.

Q: Is this event the same as the Father/Daughter event?

A: Yes. We have renamed the event to be more inclusive of all family dynamics. This event is intended for girls at Simpson and a special date like a father, uncle, grandfather, or other special adult if the previous are unavailable. Mothers, aunts, grandmothers are also welcome. We don't want anyone to feel left out!

Q: What is the dress code?

A: Party attire is perfect! For young ladies, dresses, skirts, or dressy pants and blouses and for adults khakis, dark pants, polos, and button down shirts.

Q: How can I help?

A: We have a signup for volunteers for planning, day-of setup, and day-of staffing. This is a volunteer led event and we appreciate everyone who is able to help out!

Q: What will the dance be like?

A: We will have a DJ, a craft, light refreshments, photo opportunities, 360 video cameras, karaoke, and silent disco. If you see a line, we recommend finding another activity and coming back later.

Q: What if I have a question that isn't answered above?

A: Email us at: <u>fatherdaughterevent@simpsonespta.org</u>. Please note, we will be unable to answer emails the day prior to the event and the day of the event.

Star Wars Coin Wars Fundraiser

Calling all Simpson Superstars!

Please join us for a grade level competition to raise funds for our Simpson Care Team through the Star Wars Fundraiser! **February 5th - 9th** each grade level will have a water jug in Simpson Square all week long collecting your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars, dollar bills, and more! Kids, parents, and staff: start gathering your change and help your grade win for a great cause! The grade level who raises the most funds will be treated with a special surprise!



Starry Starry Night Reflections Awards Ceremony

The Simpson Elementary PTA & Dr. Connery cordially invite you to the 2023-2024 Starry Starry Night Reflections Awards Ceremony.

Please join us as we celebrate our 2023-2024 Reflections Winners Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:00pm - 7:00pm in the Simpson Cafeteria.

Please <u>click here</u> to volunteer to assist with hanging art on Thursday February 1st t 3:45 PM, a week prior to the event!

The awards ceremony will immediately follow the PTA General Membership Meeting. Congrats to all of our Superstar Artists!

Celebrate Simpson Elementary's Reflections Winners at the 2023-2024 Starry Starry Night



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*For those students who are unable to attend the ceremony, we will deliver trophies to the student's classrooms the following week.

Last Chance to Purchase Starburst Shirts

Starburst is our field day event in May.

Students love to wear these color-coordinated shirts throughout the year! Sale will run from February 9 - February 23

Shirts are sold by grade-level and class

No late orders will be accepted | All Sales are Final



Joint Spirit Night Supporting Simpson ES's and Pinckneyville MS's PTAs

NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED | ALL SALES ARE FINAL

Email Kelly@weareblazon.com with any questions

Simpson Elementary School and Pinckneyville Middle School are teaming up for Spirit night at Knuckies on Thursday, February 22nd from 5 - 7 PM (while supplies last)!



PINCKNEYVILLE MS AND SIMPSON ELEMENTARY TEAM UP FOR

SPIRIT NIGHT

SEE YOU AT KNUCKIES ON THURSDAY, FEB. 22 FROM 5 - 7 P.M.

while supplies last!

5215 TOWN CENTER BLVD
PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA 30092



4th & 5th Grade Talent Show

Click here to volunteer!

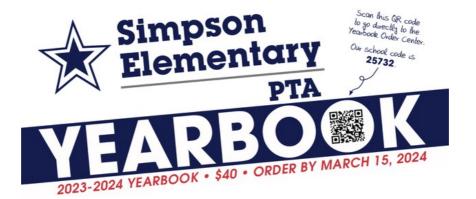


Yearbooks On Sale Now!

<u>Click here</u> to order today to guarantee your copy of our 2023-2024 Yearbook Simpson Elementary's School Code - 25732.

Cost - \$40

Order Deadline- March 15, 2024



- HOW TO BUY A YEARBOOK -

- 1. Go to www.YearbookOrderCenter.com.
- 2. Search by our school name or code above.
- Check to see that you've selected our school.
- 4. Click "CONFIRM."
- 5. Click "ORDER A YEARBOOK."
- 6. Click "ADD."
- Click "CONTINUE."
- 8. Click "BUY FOR STUDENT/TEACHER."
- 9. Enter your student's name to search the list. If it's 16. Click "REVIEW YOUR ORDER." not there, Click "ADD A NEW NAME," and fill out the name and grade. Click "ADD"
- 10. Click "OKAY."

- 11. Click "NEXT."
- 12. Click "CHECK OUT."
- 13. Enter the billing info and click "CONTINUE."
- 14. Choose your payment method:
 - · eCheck or
 - · Credit Card / PayPal PayPal provides a FREE service to split your purchase into four payments every two weeks.
- 15. Check the "TERMS" box.
- 17. Review the purchase summary and click to complete the checkout process. After you complete your order, you'll receive a confirmation email.

After you complete your purchase, if you don't receive a confirmation email, please check your Junk Mail. If it's not there, please call the Yearbook Order Center M-F at the number below to see if your transaction completed successfully. You may also purchase a yearbook from them over the phone. They are happy to assist you.

YearbookOrderCenter.com 866.287.3096

Our school code is 25732.

All Pro Dads

Tuesday, February 13th @ 7:00 AM \$3 CASH per person - includes breakfast for kids Please register here



Thank Yous

Thank you to our **STEM Fair Chair, Shannon Taylor** for all of your work to make the STEM Fair a success.

Thank you to our **SPED Staff Appreciation Chair, Jessica Campbell** for the darling and delicious hot chocolate bar provided to our amazing SPED Team on what ended up being the coldest day of January!

Thank you to our 4th and 5th Grade **Talent Show Committee**, **Stephanie Wamsley**, **Nicole Redelheim**, **and Ann Aguiari** for kicking off the talent show process. The Talent Show Committee has been hard at work collecting applications, assigning and reviewing auditions, and placing acts. We're so excited for the main event in February.

Thank you to our **Business Partners Chair, Heather Reich** for our January Spirit Night at Playa Bowls!

Business Sponsors
Platinum Level Sponsors

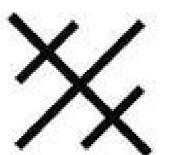


Gold Level Sponsors

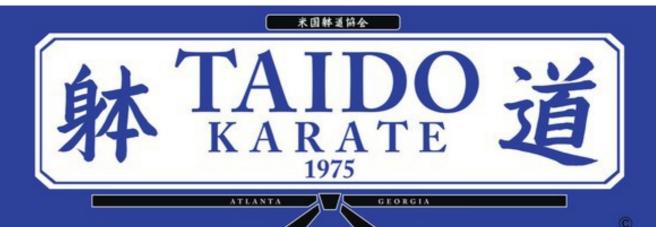


WigganLow TAX RESOLUTION ATTORNEYS

Silver Level Sponsors







MHNASIUM The Math Learning Center

Berkeley Lake 770-881-8462

Bronze Level Sponsors







