

Star News

January 2024

Dear Simpson families,

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing winter break. We are very excited to begin the second half of the school year. As we look towards the future and the new year, I want to take a moment to thank you for the many ways you support our efforts in providing an outstanding education for your children. As we begin the second semester of school, as a gentle reminder I want to take this time to communicate student attendance.



Attendance is important to academic success. Please continue to make sure that students attend school every day, arrive on time, and remain at school for the entire day (unless they are sick or ill). Please make sure that they arrive on time to start the day off right and ready to learn. We want to make sure your child is ready for a great start in the new year!

If you have any questions regarding attendance, please feel free to contact our caring counselor, *Ms. Sheri Terry*. As always, I thank you in advance for your support, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. On behalf of the entire Simpson Elementary Staff, ***Happy 2024! I cannot wait to begin this new year with you!***

Proud to be your principal,

Dr. Connery



Dates at a Glance:

January 4th - Student Return/Beginning of 2nd Semester

January 10th- All Pro Dads at 7 AM in the cafeteria

January 10th - Science Fair Projects Due

January 11th - Science Fair - Students Arrive 4:15 PM, Spectators Arrive 6:30 PM, Awards 6:45 PM

January 15th - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday/Schools Closed

January 16th - Simpson's Got Talent Show Applications Due (4th + 5th Grade) *applications coming soon!*

January 23rd & 24th - Simpson's Talent Show Auditions (4th + 5th Grade) 4-6 PM

FEBRUARY

February 3rd - Sweetheart Dance - [click here to volunteer](#) - *ticket information coming soon*

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

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

In an effort to make space in our **Lost and Found**, all items will be donated by **Monday, January 8th**. Please come and visit the lost and found items located right outside the cafeteria doors. Please try to claim any lost items by the deadline. Thank you!



Our Simpson Annual School-Wide Spelling Bee will be held on January 5, 2024, at 9:15 AM in our school cafeteria with our 4th and 5th grade students. Here is the [zoom link](#), if you would like to attend virtually. Looking forward to celebrating our classroom winners on January 5th!

Hello Simpson Parents,

Starting next week, your students will be given an iReady diagnostic assessment in reading and math. This assessment will help us determine the next steps for your student, academically. Here is some information from the [district website](#) to help you better understand the nature of this assessment. There is no preparation needed. Please see the schedule below.



i-Ready Assessment Windows



Kindergarten Testing Dates							
Date:	Monday 1/8 ~20 minutes	Tuesday 1/9 ~20 minutes	Wednesday 1/10 ~20 minutes	Thursday 1/11 ~20 minutes	Friday 1/12 ~20 minutes	Monday 1/15 ~20 minutes	1/16-1/19
Content Area	ELA	ELA	ELA	Math	Math	Math	Make ups

1st -5th Testing Dates					
Date:	Monday, 1/8 ~60 minutes	Tuesday, 1/9 ~60 minutes	Wednesday, 1/10 ~60 minutes	Thursday, 1/11 ~60 minutes	1/12-1/19
Content Area	ELA	ELA	Math	Math	Make ups

Join Google Classroom
for more information and materials
Code: ghswlre



Simpson STEM Fair

Scan Codes for Detailed Information

Video Explanation



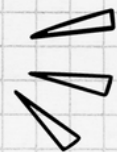
Parent Information:



STEM
Support Sessions



January 10th, 2024: All Projects are Due
January 11, 2024: Project Judging
Students arrive 4:14pm / Spectator arrival 6:30
Awards at 6:45pm



Parent Permission Slip- Simps. STEM Fair.pdf

[Download](#)

115.8 KB



STEM Fair Exhibition!

Simpson Elementary

January 11, 2024
Students: 4:15 arrival
Parents: 6:30 arrival
Award ceremony begins at 6:45.

2023- 2024 STEM Problems

Please visit our [Google Classroom](#) for more information!

1. Ending Food Insecurities
2. Forest Fires and Pollution
3. Fresh Drinking Water
4. Melting Glaciers
5. Heavy Metal
6. Computer Science Solution
7. Student Choice



Google Classroom code: ghswlre

**STEM fair projects will be due on
Wednesday, January 10th. Students
will bring projects to their classroom.**

Lifelines Preventions Lessons

Lifelines Preventions Lessons (3 lessons) will be taught during Health Connections for 5th grade only at the end of January. These lessons are part of our Health AKS 5HE.A.1.b: identify trusted adults and when it might be important to seek healthcare or emergency help for self or others (e.g., self-harm, suicide prevention).

Thank you!

Roshan Finch

Health/SEL Connections Teacher

Lifelines 5th Grade Parent Letter.pdf

[Download](#)

163.6 KB

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.
- Actively engage everyone in the class during instruction.
- Use pre-correcting, prompting, and redirecting as we teach.
- 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

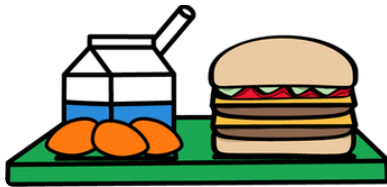
Car Rider Updates!

Car Rider Reminders 23-24.docx

[Download](#)

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

** Please see our new AI-a-carte options for student purchases below. This is a new feature sponsored by GCPS which is being offered, in addition to their regular meal.* As a disclaimer, assortments may change daily based on availability.*

Come Learn With Us at Little Learners Academy!

[_Little Learners Academy-School Flyer \(1\).pdf](#)

Download

155.2 KB

Brains are



not born...



Play-2-Learn

Have you Heard?



52% of children are **NOT READY** to learn
when they enter Kindergarten!

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

Simpson Safety Plans

GCPS will continue to follow strict guidelines as it relates to safety & security by visitors producing identification when inside the vestibule to check out students (as well as during visiting

lunch hours).



© CanStockPhoto.com - clip16424007

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.

Staff Hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM *

Hours will vary depending on morning staff meetings (Tuesday/Thursday -7 :45 AM - 3:45 PM).

Student Hours: Monday - Friday 8:50 AM - 3:20 PM

Students should arrive between 8:20 AM- 8:50 AM.



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



Need Afterschool Care?

23-24 flyer with QR code.pdf

[Download](#)

4.1 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

January 8 | [Sweetheart Dance Ticket Sales Open](#)

January 9 | [All Pro Dads, 7 AM](#)

January 11 | Science Fair

January 16 | 4th + 5th Grade Talent Show Applications Due (applications coming home soon!)

January 22 | [Sweetheart Dance Ticket Sales Close](#)

January 23 + 24 | 4th and 5th Grade Talent Show Auditions, 4 - 6 PM

February 3 | [Sweetheart Dance @ Paul Duke HS](#) (tickets required for entry, NO tickets sold at the door)

February 8 | Starry, Starry Night @ 6 PM

Volunteer Opportunities

Open and Upcoming PTA Positions

[Please click here to see the website for more details!](#)

Open/Upcoming Committee Roles :

- ★ Special Education Class Coordinator Liaison ★ Reflections Committee
- ★ Media Center + Book Fair Committee ★ Student Directory Committee
- ★ Father/Daughter Dance Committee ★ Membership Committee
- ★ School Supply Kits Committee ★ End of the Year + Winter Parties Committee

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 [Sweetheart Dance](#)
- Contributing to [Special Education Staff Breakfast](#)
- [Media Center Volunteers](#) 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 [Volunteer page of the PTA website](#) to stay current on open and upcoming PTA positions, and general volunteer opportunities.

4th & 5th Grade Talent Show | Simpson's Got Talent

 **Simpson
Elementary**
PTA



AUDITIONS JAN 23 & 24
SHOW FEB 29, 2024 @ 6PM!!!

TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE IN FEBRUARY FOR
4TH AND 5TH GRADE ONLY!

More Information :

 talentshow@simpsonespta.org

Keep an eye on Friday folders, applications will be coming home soon.
Applications will be due back by January 16th.

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.

Ticket sales will begin on January 8th and close on January 22nd.

More details to come, but if you would like to volunteer to help with this wonderful PTA event, [please click here see the sign-up genius](#) and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email: fatherdaughterevent@simpsonespta.org.

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.


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

Yearbooks On Sale Now!

[Click here](#) 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

 **Simpson
Elementary**
PTA

Scan this QR code to go directly to the Yearbook Order Center.
Our school code is **25732.**

YEARBOOK

2023-2024 YEARBOOK • \$40 • ORDER BY MARCH 15, 2024

HOW TO BUY A YEARBOOK

1. Go to www.YearbookOrderCenter.com.
2. Search by our school name or code above.
3. Check to see that you've selected our school.
4. Click "CONFIRM."
5. Click "ORDER A YEARBOOK."
6. Click "ADD."
7. Click "CONTINUE."
8. Click "BUY FOR STUDENT/TEACHER."
9. Enter your student's name to search the list. If it's 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.
16. Click "REVIEW YOUR ORDER."
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, January 9th @ 7:00 AM

\$3 CASH per person - includes breakfast for kids

Please register [here](#)

ALL PRO DAD CHAPTERS

SIMPSON ELEMENTARY

REGISTER HERE: allprodays.com/chapters/3240

WHAT WE DO...

All Pro Dad Chapters provide an opportunity for dads to spend quality time with their children that will strengthen their relationship. For one hour each month you'll get to join other dads and kids at school for a fun, memory-making event.

DID YOU KNOW...

when a dad is actively involved in his child's life, the child will have...



Join Us for our next meeting!

LocaNon: Simpson Elementary
The Second Tuesday of Every Month
Time: 7:00 am
Notes: \$3 per person (cash) includes breakfast for kids
*Please register so we have an accurate headcount for cafeteria staff

Dads! Join your kids for breakfast, games, raffles, and a great time!

Here are some reminders:

- Park along the street facing the stop sign on E Jones Bridge
- Any adult family member can bring a child if dads are not able

Register on our website

For more info contact Tony Pirozzi at the following:

TJPIROZZI@HOTMAIL.COM



Let us know if you're coming.
RSVP using our QR code!

FOLLOW US:   
@AllProDad



Thank You

Thank you to our **Arts in Education Committee, Megan Skurski and Meghan Pesci**, for arranging a visit from Peachtree Brass.

Thank you to our **Class Coordinator Liaison, Jordan Mallory**, for planning, organizing, and executing all of the logistics for the winter parties. Jordan contributed an exceptional amount of heart and hard work into ensuring every class had a fantastic winter party. And thank you to all of the **Class Coordinators and parents** who contributed to the winter festivities!

Thank you to our **Spirit Wear Chair, Kelly Loder**, for organizing our winter spirit wear sale and delivering orders to classrooms prior to winter break (with an assist from our **Secretary Misty Ratchford!**).

Thank you to our **Giving Tree Committee, Jillian Friedensohn and Kari Kruckow**, for making the annual Giving Tree Drive such a heartwarming success. Kari and Jillian work directly with Ms. Terri to make wishes come true for some of our Simpson families during the holiday season. Giving Tree is made possible entirely by contributions and donations by families within our school community, a sincere thank you to all who donated.

Thank you to our **SPED Staff Appreciation Chair, Jessica Campbell**, for delivering sweet winter care packages to our SPED staff.

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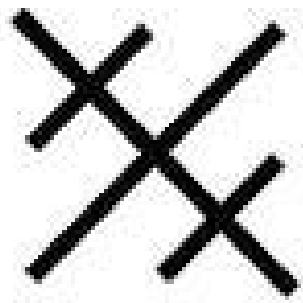
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Taffeta Connery

Taffeta is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters