

Discipline/Traffic

With spring quickly approaching, we just wanted to remind students that proper attire is required while at school. Please remember that all shoes must be secured to the foot at the heel, and no flip flops or slippers will be allowed. Also, students must be covered from shoulder to mid-thigh. Students may wear shorts or skirts as long as they are appropriate length.

PTA

PTA is excited and working hard at planning the end of year Graduation activities for the 8th grade students.

Volunteers are needed!!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Simmons the week of February 27th—March 2nd.



February Students of the Month

Blue Team— Sam Lesiak

Green Team— Libor Gallik

Red Team— Peter Knapp

Yellow Team— David Rafacz

Orange Team— Hussein Salem

Purple Team— Adrian Cetera

Congratulations!

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Nurse's Corner



March is a busy month for health issues. It is Poison Prevention Month, Healthy Nutrition Month, and here at Simmons we will be sending forms for the Smile Illinois Mobile Dentists event home with the students, the week of March 12th. The mobile dentist will be coming to Simmons on May 16th. The Illinois dentists can provide preventative services such as dental exams and screenings, cleanings, fluoride, fluoride varnish, and sealants.

All children are eligible for the screening, cleaning and fluoride treatment. Dental insurances are accepted and grant assistance is available. Medicaid and All Kids cover 100% of the mobile dentist care. Grants provide dental preventive services for children needing financial assistance. Parents will receive a report completed by the dentist regarding cavities and hygiene practices and any follow-up services that may be needed including assistance with a "dental home." The "dental home" concept is a referral to a dentist in the community that will provide treatment and future dental care for the student and your family.

Ideally, students should see the dentist every six months. Preventative care is less costly in the long run and studies show that good Oral Health contributes to overall better health. Students should also be brushing twice a day and flossing at least once a day.

Please read the application carefully and call me with any questions regarding this program. Forms must be returned by April 16, 2012.

Mary Quinn, RN ILCSN

(708) 599-8540



Student Council

Mathletes

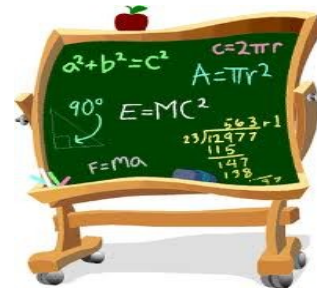
Students shared their warm wishes on Valentines Day by sending a carnation and lovely note. Flowers were sent to BFF's, teachers, administrators and those special people.

Student Council is in the planning phase for our Spring Fund Raiser for Cancer and encouraging all students to do their best on the ISAT.

Meeting Dates March 6th and 27th until 3:00.



The Simmons Mathletes are rounding into shape. We've pushed our brains to the limits and solved some very complex problems, many times in very different ways. The teams have developed a friendly rivalry with each other and they are pushing one another to excel. With the SWIC meet a little over a month away, the teams will be widdled down to the Fab 5 for competition during March. The forecast is bright for our Mathletes and we are eager to see them shine. Listen to the announcements and/or see Mr. Kuzanek in room 250 for more information regarding Mathletes.



PBIS

Promoting Positive Behaviors

Good Character, Good Decisions

PBIS is going strong here at Simmons Middle School. The students are working daily on the 3 R's (RESPECT SELF, RESPECT OTHERS, and RESPECT PROPERTY). Donations for PBIS rewards are being accepted all school year. Students can bring their donations to their first period teacher. Every little bit helps.

Go Knights!

NJHS

PE

National Junior Honor Society



What a great time to be a member of NJHS! We are working hard on all of the details for our annual induction of the Simmons chapter. This event will take place on Thursday, April 26 at 7 pm. Mark you calendars now for this great event held at Simmons Middle School. We look forward to a great ceremony!

Any new members that have met the requirements will be notified before the end of the month.

A reminder to all students in health: unless you are on an athletic team, your PE locker must be cleaned out and the lock taken off. Any unwanted uniforms can be donated for rentals next year. With spring just around the corner, the PE Department is excited to get back outside for activities. During the third trimester students can expect to play softball, kickball, hockey, handball, flag football, flag rugby and more.

All 8th grade members must submit their baby picture and family picture no later than MARCH 5! Please e-mail them to Mrs. Velasco at jvelasco@ridgeland122.com and put your name as the subject line.

NJHS spirit wear is on sale now! Please contact Mrs. Velasco (242) or Mrs. Garcia (128) if interested.

The coming weeks are filled with hard work and great times.



Athletics



The 8th grade girls volleyball team had key wins this month. The girls played a well all around game against Orland Jr. High by defeating them 25-15, 25-12. The other big win was against Conrady Jr. High. This was the girls last home game and gave the fans something to cheer about with a convincing win 25-19, 25-12. The girls are currently in 4th place in the North Division

and are looking to roll on into the tournament with momentum. The post-season tournament starts March 2nd/3rd and will end March 9th/10th.

The 6th and 7th grade girls volleyball had an exciting season. Our overall record which stands with 5 wins and 8 loses cannot express the intensity and skill level the Simmons Knights showed up with at almost every game. Some season highlights include a 16 point come back as a team, 22 and 17 point serving runs by Michelle Labuda and Camyrn Landingham, countless digs by Amanda Bulow, and outstanding net play by our middles Gabbie Smith, Anya Trimble, Jessica Tobin, and Kailee Vopelak. Erica Ruiz and Alexandra Aldape bring not only consistent passing, they bring spirit to the team that provides as the glue for our teamwork. Nicole Moralez and Taylor

Bulow but not be the tallest players on the team, but they sure can spike a ball like they are six feet tall. Julie Walsh's court awareness had saved many great plays, Kailey Greene serves have catch many teams off guard. Finally Sammie Reichert and Allison Yacko's sets have been the foundation for your best plays of the season. As the tournament approaches, we hope to go out with a bang. Great season ladies!

The 6th/7th Grade Boys basketball team has been working hard to prepare for the end of the year tournament. The athletes have made huge strides as far as confidence on the court and ability to defend. Despite a tough season so far, the boys are showing up to each game with a winning attitude and that will carry over into our tournament. Come out and support our Knights as they try to upset teams and get back on the winning track. Go Knights!!!

The 8th grade boys basketball season is coming to an end. The boys have had their ups and downs this year, but are starting to find their rhythm just in time for the tournament. The Knights hope to make some noise in the SWIC tournament which starts on Thursday, March 1st. Lets Go Knights!



Drama

SST

Drama club is having a wonderful time setting up for our next performance Annie!!! Our practice schedule is up on the school website so please remember to check that out.

The performance dates are Thursday May 3th and Friday May 4th. We hope to see everyone there!

Drama



What do you get when you mix milk, dish soap and food coloring? AN AWESOME SCIENCE EXPERIMENT is what! Last month we conducted a colorful experiment which caused milk to be tie dyed. By using whole milk, food coloring and dish soap we saw the soap "weaken the chemical bonds that hold the proteins and fats in solution. The soap's polar, or hydrophilic (water-loving), end dissolves in water, and its hydrophobic (water-fearing) end attaches to a fat globule in the milk." This caused an explosion of color right before our eyes. The next SST meeting is Thursday March 6. Be sure to see Mrs. Velasco or Mr. Blabas if you have any questions. Be sure to check out <http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/experiment/milk-color-explosion> for the detailed experiment.

Declamation

Congratulations to the 2012 Simmons Declamation Team: Stephanie McFann, Alec Sudzus, Xavier Jacquez-Flores, Damian Rodriguez, Mercedes Lopez, Stephania Samantha Izaguirre, Madeline Sievers, Nadia Perez, Viviana Vergara, Jordan Roskos, Sasaby Ibrahimi, Dominica Kalafut, Hajar Souari, & Brianna Castrogiovanni

So far, the team members have received their competition scripts and have started practicing. Some of them have already started to memorize their lines and practice their actions. We certainly have a talented bunch this year! Team members and parents should check the Simmons Daily Announcements for meeting dates and times. The Declamation Team will compete at the SWIC Conference Meet on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Orland Junior High School in Orland Park. Please mark your calendars.

Currently, we are also planning the Fifth Annual "Evening with the Simmons Speech Team." During this evening performance at Simmons, not only will we be competing against one another for our school-wide top honors, but will also be competing for the 7 spots available for our conference meet. The team will also be gaining some great practice performing in front of our peers, parents, teachers, school board members, and district administrators. More information will be forthcoming regarding this special performance, but it is tentatively being planned for the week prior to the conference meet.

Just a reminder: In order to continue to be a member of the Declamation Team, all members must pay the \$50.00 activity participation fee. Checks can be made payable to *Simmons Middle School*. Please see Mrs. Langlois, Simmons Secretary, in the main office to turn in your payment. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Price, Declamation Coach, at (708) 599-8540.

8th Grade

Eighth grade students continue to be hard at work in Simmons. In Math, classes have been exploring exponents and their rules. Students will also be investigating the wonderful world of Geometry. Classes will analyze a variety of shapes, angles, and dimensions along with prove theorems. In Science, classes are studying the cell cycle. Students are learning about Mitosis and Meiosis. To get the full mitosis experience we learned the mitosis dance. Check out our dance on the Simmons web page in Science Files. Soon the science classes will be learning about genetics and heredity. Social Studies classes have been learning about WWI. Life in the trenches during the war was very gruesome. The students have done research on the topic and will be writing letters home describing life in the trenches. Literature classes have been reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry from Mildred Taylor and Advanced Literature has been reading To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Language Arts classes have been focusing on Poetry and Music, featuring the Beatles, the Stones, and the Who, to name a few. As always, please make sure your child has all needed supplies in school and is reading notes nightly to help ensure success during the last year at Simmons!



8th Grade Dance—Friday, May 18th

8th Grade Great America Trip—Monday, May 21st

8th Grade Breakfast/Awards—Tuesday, May 22nd

8th Grade Graduation—Wednesday, May 23rd
(Dates are tentative)

****ALL FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO
GRADUATION ****

7th Grade

We are having a great time in Seventh grade! Social Studies has just completed the Federal Constitution tests! Now we are preparing for the Illinois State Constitution test. While we are dedicated to mastering the information on both of those tests, we are still focused on our regular curriculum - U.S. History and the continuing story of how our government offices were established, how our past and present political parties were defined, and some of the difficult challenges that faced our young nation and people as we began to create an economic, political, and social system that would uniquely define our American Culture. Spanish classes have been having fun learning different foods, relationships, likes and dislikes. In Math we have started Geometry. We are starting by exploring angles, polygons, area, and circles. In Literature we are finishing up reading "Freak the Mighty" and "Hoot." In Language Arts we are working on writing our unsolved mysteries research papers! Red Team science students have finished one of the four books covered throughout the year. A culminating activity of finishing the Forces & Motion book, was the construction of a foam-insulation roller coaster - which they used to demonstrate the concepts of Newton's Laws of Motion, Gravity, Centripetal Force, and Friction, as well as the energy conversions that take place during a roller coaster ride...you can "hear what I'm sayin'..." by listening to THE PULSE - the audio informational program on our website!

Look for our videos - courtesy of Mr. Abramczyk - on the upcoming issue of the SCIENCE FILES - also published on-line!

6th Grade

Sixth grade is really hitting the books after ISAT! Students will be researching, reading novels, studying the earth and ancient civilizations, and finding their love for art. In language arts students are working on biographies. Research for this is almost finished so students will then start on putting together their books. In literature, Orange team is reading Number the Stars and working in cooperative learning groups discussing the novel. They will also be independently constructing projects based around the book. Purple team is studying literary elements and will begin reading a novel after ISAT. In science students are finishing up learning about the rock cycle and will begin to study plate tectonics. Students in math classes are reviewing for ISAT, finishing up proportions and will begin metric measurement. In art, students are finding their inner artist and working on a painting unit focusing on color mixing. As if that's not enough, the very bright and highly able sixth graders will also be studying ancient Rome and Greece. They will be learning about ancient Greece civilization, geography, religion and cultures as well as the rise and fall of empires, But don't worry, unlike early empires in Rome and Greece, there will be no falling in sixth grade, only rising to every challenge we face!

Join us in wishing our students a Happy Birthday!

Fatma Akel
 Ameer Al Hussein
 Rayyan Al Naimi
 Jacob Asfour
 Haneen Awwad
 Agnes Bindokas
 Kailah Bledsoe
 Holly Bulthuis
 Matthew Ciara
 Matthew Corona
 Mia Dixon
 Zachary Dorr
 Daniel Duran
 Robyn Echols
 Angela Ehrlicher
 Natasha Ehrlicher

Almutaz Elamin
 Naji Fariz
 Katelyn Flahive
 Jalen Fox
 Katarzyna Galik
 Matthew Glavin
 Thomas Glodo
 Dominic Goltz
 Kailey Greene
 Ashlee Griffith
 Nicole Gudanowski
 Hailee Horvath
 Nicholas Jutton
 Alyssa Kackert
 Aseel Khatib
 Amanda Komperda

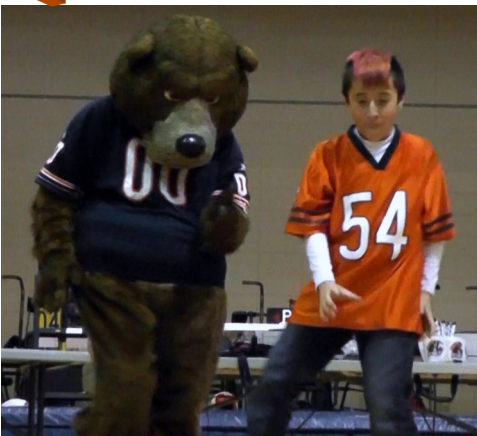
Matthew Komperda
 Patrycja Kucharska
 Mylinh Le
 Iwona Leja
 Andrew Lis
 Essence Massey
 Sergio Mendez
 Jacob Montesano
 Marina Mora
 Daniela Morales
 Jessica Moran
 Amer Natour
 Tyler Orel
 Yousef Qasem
 Abdelrahman Ramadan
 Ahmad Ramadan

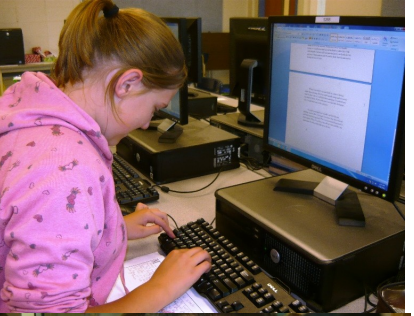
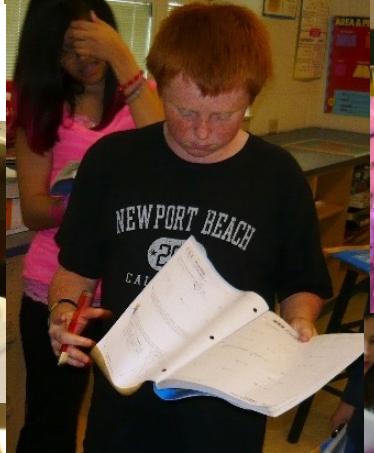
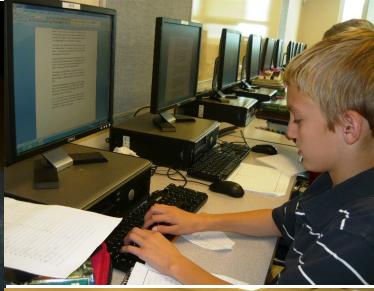
Brett Risley
 Cristian Rodriguez
 Adrian Sandoval
 Ahmad Sarhan
 Brandon Straka
 Brittany Strong
 Caitlin Stump
 Joseph Sweiss
 Cristian Ulloa
 Zachary Waszak
 Savanna Whicher
 Carlie Wilson
 Allison Winn
 Malak Zaidan

March



Pump up the ISAT with Staley





E-Mail

6th GRADE

PURPLE TEAM

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Mr. Hunt
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Mr. John
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Ms. Rusch
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Speech

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ELL

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Mr. Yasin
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