



News from Simmons

This will be the final newsletter for the 2010-2011 school year. This is a very busy time of year at Simmons. Please see below for important dates, upcoming events, and registration dates and times for next school year.

During the month of May there will be a school-wide book drive. Simmons will be accepting donations of new and gently used books which will help to stock the shelves in the library. Students will be competing against each other to see which team brings in the most donations.

Also in May, we will host the last Principal Coffee for the year. Current fifth grade parents are invited to join the principal on May 19th at 9am or 4pm. This month's topic is extra-curriculars. Please join us for an informational gathering and tour of the school.

Last call for yearbook orders! If you are interested in purchasing a 2010-2011 Simmons yearbook please pick up a form in the office and return it with the \$25 fee no later than May 6th.

In June, we will be saying good bye to our current eighth graders. To the Class of 2011, we have enjoyed your years with us at Simmons. We wish you the best in your future endeavors. Please be sure to read the 8th grade section of this newsletter for important information regarding your graduation ceremony. Congratulations!!!

We would also like to extend congratulations and best wishes to our retiring staff - Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Schneider, and Mrs. Beyer. You will all be missed!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Raine, Dr. Raz, & Mr. Gill



Simmons Middle School
6450 W. 95th Street Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708/599/8540 Fax 8015 (simmons.ridgeland122.com)

May/June 2011 / Newsletter

PTA

PTA is looking for volunteers for the PTA District Volleyball Tournament which will be held at Simmons on Friday, May 6th from 2:30pm—4:30pm. If you are interested please call and leave a message at Simmons main office.

We also need your help and support for the 8th grade events. If you can't personally help and still want to be a part of these events, you may donate monetarily to help defray the cost. Any donations are greatly appreciated.

8th Grade Dance is May 27th at 7:00pm—10:00pm and the cost is \$10.00

2011—2012 Registration Dates

August 3rd: 11:00 am—3:00 pm & 4:00 pm—7:30 pm (New Students)

August 4th: 7:30 am - 11:00 am & 12:00 pm—2:30 pm (Open Registration)

August 5th: 7:30 am—11:00 am & 12:00 pm—2:30 pm (Open Registration)

Important Dates

- May 5 & 6—Drama Production 7pm
- May 6—PTA District Volleyball Tournament 2:30pm
- May 12—Smile Illinois Mobile Dentists
- May 19—Principal Coffee 9am & 4pm
- May 19—Simmons Spotlight Night 5:30—6:30pm
- May 24—Band Concert @ 7:00pm
- May 27—Teacher Institute Day—(11:20 dismissal)

- May 27—8th Grade Dance 7pm—10pm
- May 30—Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
- May 31—8th Grade Great America Field Trip
- Jun 1—8th Grade Breakfast & Awards (1:30pm)
- June 2—8th Grade Graduation 7:00pm @ OLCHS
- June 3—6th Grade Field Trip to Medieval Times
- June 10—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (9:00am dismissal)



Nurse's Corner



Below you will find important information regarding physicals and sport physicals for the upcoming school year.

Students entering 6th grade must have a new physical on file in the nurse's office in order to come to school. We have a first day exclusion policy which means your student cannot come to school on the first day if they do not have a completed physical. The sixth grade physical is good for the sports physical if the doctor marks "yes" to the two areas on the physical that says physical education and interscholastic sports. It is good for one year from the date on the exam. If you wish the student to participate in sports throughout the entire school year, get the physical sometime between June and August.

Students entering 7th and 8th grade—A reminder to parents about sport physicals—Sportlink will be coming to Simmons on August 18, 2011 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Students who wish to play sports must have a current sport physical. (A sport physical is good for one year from the date your student was seen by the doctor). Registration is online—you must pre-register your student. This year Sportlink will be accepting insurance!!! I hope this helps save you time and money. Staff, which are associated with the Sportlink program are very professional and give a complete and thorough evaluation of your student's readiness to participate in our sport program. This physical is good for the entire year of sport activities.

For additional information regarding Sportlink or to schedule an appointment:

- Go to www.sportlinkusa.com
- Enter SIMMS for your school code
- Choose service and follow instructions for scheduling any payment
- Download appropriate forms for your choice of service
- Bring completed forms at your scheduled appointment

The Worth Clinic also gives lower cost sport physicals. Call them at (708) 371—3398. They are located at 11601 South Pulaski Road, Alsip, IL 60803. Call early because they fill up fast.

Minute Clinics and Walgreens also do sport physicals. Locations are posted at our main office.

Sixth graders also need a dental exam to be completed by the end of sixth grade. Simmons offers Smile Illinois Mobile Dentists program every May. This year they are coming on May 12th. Forms were sent home and are available in the office.

As always, call with questions about any health issues or programs.

Have a great summer!

Discipline

PBIS 2010



As the weather gets nicer, you do not want to spend your time in detention! Follow the Simmons Three: Respect Yourself, Others and Property. All 8th grade detentions will need to be served in order to participate in graduation.

Dress Code:

Thanks for wearing shoes with backs and appropriate clothing to school! At school make sure that undergarments cannot be seen or you will be asked to change into your gym clothes.

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.

The final PBIS assembly is scheduled for May 27th.

Just Say No

Just Say No Club is looking forward to the Red Ribbon Block Party that will be held Friday, April 29th at the Oak Lawn Village Green between 4:30—6:30pm. There will be games, food, music, and fun. Please stop by and remember to wear blue to represent Simmons!



Attention 8th Grade Parents:

In Order to receive your child's Cap & Gown, all school fees must be paid. Contact the Main Office if you have any questions.

Athletics

Drama

Go Knights!
Go Knights!

Track

This year it has been a very rainy track season. Despite all of the rain, the athletes have been working hard to prepare for the conference meet. The track team has one more meet on Thursday, May 5th. After the final meet only, the conference athletes will practice for the remainder of the season. The conference meet will take place on Saturday, May 14 at Oak Lawn High School. Good luck Knights!

Coach John & Coach Rusch

"Disco Knights"

The drama club performance for "Disco Knights" will be May 6th & May 7th at 7:00pm. Tickets will be \$4.00 if purchased in advance or \$5.00 if purchased at the door.



Student Council

Mathletes

Our cancer fundraiser went extremely well considering the generosity of our Simmons students. We raised \$1,670.31 to help fund research for our local cancer victims.

May activities include appreciating our teachers during the first week of May.

We will also be going on a field trip with more information to follow.



Mathletes had a fantastic year! Congratulations to everyone who was in the club this year. We ended our year with the SWIC competition on April 6th. All students put forth their best effort and turned in great scores. A special congratulations goes to Marcus Favila for finishing in 1st place for the 7th grade division!



National Junior Honor Society

National
Junior
Honor
Society



On Thursday, April 7, NJHS hosted the 37 annual induction ceremony. The event was a huge success thanks to students, staff and family members. Congratulations to all of the 2011 inductees to the Simmons Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society! We are so proud of you! Keep up the great work!

(Sixth grade "Academic Excellence assembly is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 12th. Students being recognized will be notified by Friday, May 6th through a letter to take home. Parents and family members are invited to attend the assembly.)

Our fundraising efforts are not finished yet! NJHS will continue to collect money through the middle of May for "Wounded Warriors". Please donate your pennies to help Simmons win this district-wide fundraiser! All NJHS members will also go to the Palos tobaggan slides and complete a walk to benefit Cystic Fibrosis. We have done this walk for several years and are looking forward to a successful fundraiser.

The end of the school year also brings several fun activities. We are currently scheduling the 8th grade field trip and the annual NJHS picnic. Both events will be very exciting! Listen to announcements for the exact dates.

Declamation



We would like to congratulate the entire Simmons Declamation Team for a great season. First, the team competed against one another at, “An Evening with the Simmons Speech Team” on April 11. After each performance was judged, scores were tallied and ribbons were awarded. The competition was super close and many students performed at their personal best. Third place was a tie between Rebecca Craig and Hannah Ruedy for their Humorous Duet and Melanie Wilson for her Dramatic Interpretation. Second place was also a tie between Samantha Izaguirre for her Humorous Interpretation and Nariman Shehaiber for her Prose Reading. First place honors solely went to Mercedes Lopez for her Verse Poetry Reading. All performers did an awesome job and everyone was very proud. Thank you to Mrs. Hellmer, Mrs. Graton, Ms. Vieni, Ms. McNally, Ms. Lempicki, Mr. Atkins, Mrs. Kirk, Ms. Borchers, Ms. Quinn, Mrs. Beyer, Ms. Rusch, and Mrs. Valderrama for helping out that night. Also thank you to Mrs. Raine and Ms. Raz for their support.

There were even more great performances at the SWIC Declamation Meet at Central Middle School in Tinley Park on April 13. There were 12 schools competing and Simmons did very well, just missing out on earning some medals. The competition keeps getting harder and harder each year. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Wells, who served as a judge at the SWIC meet and Ms. Korkosz for coming out to support us that night. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to the parents, family members, and friends who came out to support us on April 11th and 13th. The team does have one last event. Our end of the year pizza party and some encore performances will take place on Thursday, May 19th during the Simmons Spotlight Night, where the Simmons clubs and activities will be promoted to our future students. Thanks again to everyone for their support this season. Once again, Great job Declamation Team!

Students of the Month

Congratulations to our April Students of the Month!

Orange Team— Brien Akers

Purple Team— Phillip McCarty

Red Team— Jose Andrade

Yellow Team— Athmar Ibrahim

Blue Team— Nariman Shehaiber

Green Team— Damian Stelmach

Physical Education

As the school year wraps up, all PE classes will be enjoying the weather outside as much as possible. Units students will be participating in include softball, kickball, soccer, flag football, ultimate frisbee, sand volleyball and more. At the end of the year, any eighth grader that does not want their uniform may donate it back to Simmons for a rental. Sixth and seventh graders will need to keep their lock and uniforms for next year. We hope you have a very safe and active summer.



6th Grade

Fourth quarter brings art class to the orange team! We have a lot of fun and educational projects planned for orange team art, and so far we have completed two projects and are already in construction with our third! We began the quarter learning about basic art elements line and value through an interesting line shading project. Our second project that is now on display in our display case was a perspective name drawing. Students were introduced to the challenging and advanced concept of perspective and drew their name using those principles. A self-portrait is currently in the works. We're off to a great start for fourth quarter! In math, we are exploring everything and anything you can do with integers—comparing, ordering, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. After that we will be trying our hand at some algebra and one step equations preparing for pre-algebra in 7th grade. Literature classes are discussing books in literature circles. The advanced class is reading Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli and the others are engrossed in Number

the Stars by Lois Lowry. The students are engaging in high level thinking skills within their groups of four. They have the independence to use appropriate strategies to understand what they read. Language Arts classes are busy finding information about the person they are researching for their biography project. We have our sources and now we are taking notes in preparation for writing about our person of interest. There is much work left to do since we have to type them and give a presentation to the rest of the class so everyone can learn. Science is proving to be very interesting so far! We will continue to complete our third book, Earth's Changing Surface. This book explores the topics of maps, soil conservation, and weathering. These topics fit in perfectly with Earth Day! After that, we will continue on to our final book of the school year, Weather and Climate. Our students are looking forward to being a “meteorologist” a day!

7th Grade

Seventh grade had a great end of third quarter! In Spanish, students are learning family member and adjective vocabulary. We are also working on adjective-noun agreement. To practice these skills, students made scrapbooks showcasing and describing their family.

In literature, the red team is reading Soldier's Heart, a novel of historical fiction by Gary Paulsen. The story is based on a real boy, Charley Goddard who fought in the Civil War. The book is about the terrors of war, in particular, the worst battles in history and their effects on a soldier. Charley wrote letters to his mother and the letters were used to create Gary Paulsen's story.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in a utopian society? Advanced literature is finding out the answer to this

question by reading The Giver by Lois Lowry.

In math, we have just finished working with geometry and data. In language arts, seventh grade students are working on completing their research papers.

Students will be working on poetry soon, and continue their study of narrative writing. Also during the 7th grade trip to Springfield, students were able to see the offices of state officials they had learned about for the Constitution test. Our trip also included the Lincoln Museum, a perfect lead up to the Civil War which we will soon be covering!

In science, the students have just finished their roller coaster projects and have begun their sound and light unit. We will be looking at the nature of sound and light and how it affects our everyday lives. Students will

learn concepts like why we see certain colors or how our ears catch sound waves to communicate with our brains.



8th Grade



It is hard to believe we are coming up on the final weeks of the school year. Here are the interesting activities the students will be engaged in during their fourth and final quarter at Simmons.

In literature, students will be using reading strategies to analyze various literacy devices in The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton.

In language arts, students will be working in groups to debate a local issue to the Simmons school community. Following the end of our persuasive unit, students will analyze the meaning behind symbols and literary devices in some of their favorite movies.

Advanced literature students will use their expert literary skills to comprehend and make meaningful connections to Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers. This piece of fiction tells the story of an

American who is sent overseas to fight in the Vietnam War.

In math, students will be focusing on the real world uses of math skills like balancing a checkbook and using percents.

In science, we have just begun the fourth quarter book and are learning about the organization of the human body. Studying this material will be preparing the students for the upcoming rat dissection.

Currently, in social studies we are traveling through the WWII era. Students will be creating dioramas depicting scenes from WWII.

In Spanish, we will end the year speaking about clothing, accessories, and other items found in department stores. Students will use the preterite tense to talk about what happened in the past. Students will learn the names of different professions, hobbies, and sports.

8th Grade Graduation Information

- **Graduation is scheduled for Thursday, June 2nd at 7:00pm at Oak Lawn Community High School**
- **Each family will receive five (5) tickets to the graduation ceremony**
- **Students must be present at both graduation practices to participate in the ceremony**
- **Practices will be June 1st during school and June 2nd at 8am at OLCHS**
- **Students will receive their graduation gowns June 1st – ALL FEES MUST BE PAID IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE GOWN**
- **Students will receive their tickets on June 2nd**

Join us in wishing our students a Happy Birthday!**May—June—July Birthdays**

Mohammed Abdelsalam	Adam Czajka	Samya Jadrawi	Hannah Mustafa	Joshua Santos
Sufa Abusara	Nathaniel Dantone	Quinn Jagodzinski	Jacob Narancich	Valerie Schlee
Lyah Abuzineh	Robert Delgado	Anthony Kackert	Nada Naser	Dominiq Schwartz
Ahmad Adwan	Carly Dillon	Natalie Kaminski	Guadalupe Navarrete	Talon Schwartz
Julian Aguirre	Brandon Dombrowski	Darrell Kelly-Stroud	David Nejdl	Bernie Shanks Jr.
Seneen Ahmad	Sara Elayyan	Jackson Kierna	Kaylee Nemecek	Nariman Shehaiber
Rakan AlAdwan	Amr Elayyan	John Kopera	Victoria Newton	Madeline Sievers
Zenah Alaiwi	Deanna Falaneh	Megan Kusturin	Jason Oprzedek	Matthew Sikora
Shrouq Alakhras	Brittany Faulk	Pawel Las	Mohamad Othman	Jacob Sodaro
Mohammad AlAlfi	Brandon Faustino	Brooke Leach	Molly Pajor	Stephanie Soto
Alia AlAsfar	Alexis Fernandez	Kirsten Lee	Michael Pajor	Pawel Sowizdzal
Esa Al-Madhi	Jacqueline Figueroa	Adam Lem	Jacob Palacios	Hannah Spillane
Sammer Almallah	Brian Finger	William Lewis	Parth Patel	Erin Stabosz
Rawan Alsalthi	Andrew Fita	Alexa Lopez	Melisa Pavlikova	Alec Sudzus
Hadeel Arab	Stephanie Flores	Guissel Lopez	Joshua Prince	Anna Sudzus
Yessica Aragon	Mateo Flores	Mariah Lopez	David Pryor	Klaudia Swigon
Mohammad Ashkar	Emily Fozard	Samantha Lopez	Piotr Przybyla	Michael Szaflarski
Kamal Ashkar	Libor Gallik	Marisa Loya	Ivan Puente	Joseph Teandon
Amina Atiq	Sara Garcia	Mia Loya	Alia Qabalawi	Allison Templin
Audai Awadallah	Danny Garcia	Marcus Mangan	Danielle Quigley	Zachary Thoms
Dunyah Awwad	Miranda Garcia	Jennifer Marciniac	Ryan Quinn	Jonathon Toczek
Jehan Awwad	Tabitha Garrett	Brianna Markusic	Hector Quinonez	Simona Tomczak
Bridget Ayres	Maximilian Gasienica	Piotr Marusarz	Muntaha Rabgie	Michael Trybula
Matthew Barrera	Ivan Georgelos	Alec McCarthy	Jesus Ramirez Salgado	Mikey Vega
Juan Barrera	Selena Godinez	Phillip McCarty	Ashley Regalado	Brandon VonBoeckmann
Piotr Bilek	Noah Goebel	Phazione McClurge	Samantha Reichert	Alexus Walker
Aidan Blake	Sandra Gonzalez	Dylan McCon	Vicky Reitz	Melanie Wilson
Liam Blake	Kali Graziano	Emma McMeekin	Damian Rodriguez	Matthew Witkowski
Brooke Bohne	Mireya Gutierrez	Cory McMullan	Arianna Rojas	Noor Yasin
Edward Brzozowski	Nautica Harrison	Elisa Medina	Ayman Salah	Mansour Yousef
Jack Burkhart	Brenden Haw	Abdel Metwally	Jenna Salah	Sebastian Zadora
Lione Calderon	Kaleigh Hayes	Brittany Mitchell	Odei Salameh	Violetta Zadora
William Caldwell	Alexa Henderson	Ruba Mohamad Khalil	Muhammed Salameh	Sara Zaghmoury
Jeremy Carvelli	Aisha Isa	Mohamed Mohamed	Mahdi Saleh	Robert Zagrodnik
Abel Cavada-Bautista	Wesam Jaber	Areen Mohammad	Brad Sanavaitis	Yasmeen Zain Aldean
Phillip Ceropski Jr.	Abdallah Jaber	Thomas Mora	Francisco Sanchez	Ivan Zavala
Matthew Chlebek	Xavier Jacquez-Flores	Anthony Mungia	David Sanchez	Stacy Zea Lopez
Michal Cison	Jesenia Jadallah	Julia Munoz	Jose Sandoval	Eman Zeidan
Daniel Conrad	Rawya Jadrawi	Sean Murphy	Joselyn Sandoval Martinez	Noor Zuhour
Felix Cruz	Sami Jadrawi	Taylor Murphy	Kayla Santiago	

NJHS Induction



Student Council Headshaving Fundraiser for Cancer



E-Mail

Simmons staff is grouped by teams. Please find below the list of teachers by team.

6th GRADE

PURPLE TEAM

Mrs. Bentley

jbentley@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Folliard

pfolliard@ridgeland122.com

Ms. Korkosz

kkorkosz@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Martin

mmartin@ridgeland122.com

Mr. Hommowun

khommowun@ridgeland122.com

ORANGE TEAM

Mrs. Velasco

jvelasco@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Kirk

jkirk@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. McCarthy

smccarthy@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. O'Connor

coconnor@ridgeland122.com

Mr. Wichert

bwichert@ridgeland122.com

7th GRADE

RED TEAM

Mr. Blabas

dblabas@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Dasbach

mdasbach@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Demma

kdemma@ridgeland122.com

Ms. Lempicki

mlempicki@ridgeland122.com



Mrs. Small

msmall@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Cosich

ncosich@ridgeland122.com

YELLOW TEAM

Mrs. Brooks

hbrooks@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Dow

cdow@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Poetz

jpoetz@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Valerio

cvalerio@ridgeland122.com

Ms. VanHoegarden

mvanhoegarden@ridgeland122.com

8th GRADE

BLUE TEAM

Mrs. Garcia

tgarcia@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Chavosky

mchavoski@ridgeland122.com

Mr. Gath

rgath@ridgeland122.com

Ms. Hornik

ahornik@ridgeland122.com

Ms. Wells

twells@ridgeland122.com

GREEN TEAM

Ms. Borchers

vborchers@ridgeland122.com

Ms. Vieni

lvieni@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Matos

jmatos@ridgeland122.com



Ms. Price

tprice@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Valderrama

svalderrama@ridgeland122.com

PE/HEALTH

Mr. Atkins

aatkins@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Francis

af Francis@ridgeland122.com

Mr. John

djohn@ridgeland122.com

Ms. Rusch

krusch@ridgeland122.com

Administrators

Mrs. Raine

jraine@ridgeland122.com

Dr. Raz

araz@ridgeland122.com

Mr. Gill

agill@ridgeland122.com

Social Workers

Mrs. Daglas

edaglas@ridgeland122.com

Mrs. Wilson

awilson@ridgeland122.com

Nurse

Mrs. Quinn

mquinn@ridgeland122.com

Speech

Ms. McNally

cmcnally@ridgeland122.com

