



## Principal's Message:

Welcome to the September School Newsletter. For those who are new to Simonds, I will send a newsletter each month. In the newsletter, I highlight important events happening at Simonds. You will also be able to read updates from the school nurse, counselor, Boys and Girls Club and other groups around the school. Hopefully you will find this a helpful tool to learn more about what is happening at Simonds.

As we start our third week of school (and our first full week), students and teachers appear to have gotten into the swing of school routines. The past two weeks students in 5th and 2nd grade have been reviewing **school rules** over the loudspeaker each morning. They are reminding students what it means to be safe, responsible and respectful at school. Additionally, students are also beginning the process of AIMSweb testing and other assessments to measure students' current achievement levels. This will help us differentiate instruction and make informed decisions about student placement during our What I Need (WIN) blocks.

Last week Simonds staff visited the Warner Historical Society's exhibit **"250 Years of School in Warner."** It was a really fun chance for us to see how our profession has changed over the years. There were examples of early blackboards, a homemade intercom system and yearbooks from one hundred years ago. For me, this exhibit was a great reminder that schools have changed dramatically over the years and the teachers of the past dealt with a much more limited set of issues than our modern times. Public education has become a much more complex endeavor involving not just the teaching of mathematics and reading. Teachers are more responsible than ever for addressing the individual needs of every student, both academically through targeted instruction and assessment data as well as social-emotionally through our Caring Schools Curriculum and school competencies. While the methods have changed dramatically, the goal remains the same - to develop citizens capable of contributing in meaningful ways to society.

In the Kearsarge School District, we work towards this goal through our mission and vision statements and our district goals. Our district vision is *inspiring learners, committing to community, contributing to a dynamic world*. Each year Simonds staff develop our own building goals linked to this vision and the school board's strategic plan. This year our focus remains on **Competency Based Education**. Over the past few years, teachers have developed grade-level competencies for each subject. These competencies are the 'guide' for our curriculum and instruction. This year we will be working on developing assessments that measure student mastery of these competencies. While some of these measures will be 'traditional' paper and pencil tests, the emphasis will shift towards real-world application of skills. I am looking forward to how this process changes our instruction and assessment practices.

## Important Dates:



Wednesday, September 21 - Open House  
- 6pm - 7pm

Friday, September 23 - 4th/5th Grade to  
KRHS - Take 3 Concert

Wednesday, October 5 - PTO Meeting -  
7:00 pm - virtual

Friday, October 7 - No School - Teacher  
Professional Development Day

Warner Fall Foliage Festival - 10/7 - 10/10

Monday, October 10 - No School  
Columbus Day

Friday, October 14 - Simonds School  
Picture Day

Friday, October 28 - Student Flu Clinic

Monday, October 31 - Simonds  
Halloween Parade - 2pm

Mondays - Fridays - Boys & Girls Club

## Important Simonds Schedule Times

8:10 - Adult supervision on playground

8:20 - Students may enter building

8:35 - School begins

2:50 - School ends - B&G Club & Walkers  
dismissed

2:55 - Bus students dismissed

Please [click here](#) to find the **22-23  
bus routes**.



**NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:** Reminder: All kindergarten and new students to Simonds are required to submit a copy of a physical exam (dated within 1 year) and immunizations prior to the start of school. If you have not submitted this paperwork yet, please do so as soon as possible

Please continue to screen your children for symptoms of COVID-19. Keep your child home and contact the school nurse if they have any symptoms. We are also starting to see seasonal allergies and colds throughout the school. Students still need to show proof of a negative COVID test if experiencing any new or unexplained COVID symptoms (**fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea**). Contact me if you are in need of a home COVID test. [jmeade@kearsarge.org](mailto:jmeade@kearsarge.org)

### **Akwaaba Drumming Ensemble Residency**

We are very lucky to have Akwaaba visiting our school during the week of September 26th. Theo and his drumming ensemble will teach students about traditional African drumming through the week. Their residency will culminate in an all-school assembly on **September 30th at 10:15 am**. All are welcome to attend this assembly in the MPR. If you would like to learn more about Akwaaba, you can read more about them on their [website](#).



**Boys & Girls Club News:** Before (7am - 8:10) and after school (2:50 pm - 6pm) care is available here at Simonds School. Sign up [online](#). Don't forget we are here on vacations but not snow days. For more information contact Jill Curley at [jcurley@nhyouth.org](mailto:jcurley@nhyouth.org). **At this time there is a waiting list**. We are looking for someone to join our staff to work Mondays through Fridays from 3pm - 6:00 pm. If you are interested, please email Jill.



**News from Pillsbury Free Library** - Join Miss Sue on Wednesday, September 21st for the first Craft Day. Registration is required as class size is limited. Please call Miss Sue at 603-456-2289 as well as let Mrs. Grimes at Simonds School (603-456-2241) know your child will be attending.

Miss Sue will be visiting 4th & 5th graders at Simonds School during library class on September 19 & 21 to review the Great Stone Face book "challenge". Be sure to ask your child about it.

NH Saves Button Up Workshop Sept. 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm in person or via Zoom at Pillsbury Free Library 18 E. Main Street in Warner (access via Depot Street). Registration link <https://forms.gle/aipZSdmyZTBGrDjq6>  
The NH Saves Button Up Workshop is a 1.5 hour presentation about how to improve the energy efficiency of your home. It is conducted by certified energy auditor Andy Duncan and covers basic building science principles as well as examples of whole house weatherization measures that will button up your home for the heating and cooling seasons. It also covers energy efficiency funding programs offered by NH utilities and rebates on new technologies and products such as electric and gas appliances and high efficiency electric heating/cooling equipment.

The Pillsbury Free Library will be holding its annual book sale in October at Warner Fall Foliage Festival, Saturday and Sunday October 8-9, 2022, 9 am to 4 pm. Something for all ages! Book and DVD donations will be accepted starting October 1, in SMALL boxes ready for display on sale tables. (Cut-down tall boxes work well.)