



Inspiring learners, committing to community, contributing to a dynamic world

April 2024 Newsletter

Principal's Message:

I hope everyone is looking forward to April vacation. At the Stokes house, we are definitely looking forward to some very needed rest and some visits with family that we haven't seen in awhile. When we return from break, there will be about 35 days of school left before summer break. While it is exciting to think about summer days, there are a lot of 'things' left to do in the school year before summer vacation can happen at Simonds.

Field trips will be starting soon. As a reminder, you cannot chaperone field trips if you have not been **fingerprinted**. The turn-around time for these has been about 8-10 weeks. You should schedule a time with Mrs. Grimes ASAP if you are interested in chaperoning. Even then, I cannot promise that you will be approved by the time of your child's field trip.

When students return after April vacation, we will be beginning some of our spring assessments. Most importantly, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will take the **Statewide Assessment (SAS)** starting during the week of May 28th. Please do your best to ensure that your child is in school for those testing days. Students completed the writing portion of the SAS test in March, which means that students still need to complete the Reading and Mathematics assessment. Our fifth-grade students will also be assessed in Science. The purpose of these assessments is to measure our students' mastery of skills in comparison to grade-level standards. As this is a computerized assessment, students will test using Chromebooks. Test sessions will last roughly an hour and a half each day. You will probably receive more specific information from your child's classroom teacher later in the month. All Simonds students will also complete their **AIMSwebPlus** spring benchmark. There will be more to come on both of these assessments when we return in May.

Before we head on break, we have a lot of exciting events happening here. Thanks to the PTO and MainStreet Warner, Inc., we will be hosting Cynthia Lord, the author of *Because of the Rabbit*, this Thursday. Classes have been listening to the book and decorating their doors in preparation of her visit. Students have also been working in small groups called Simonds Squads on other activities focused on the book, including painting inspirational messages on rocks and playing a game called Two Truths and a Lie. As a culminating event for the Read-a-Thon, we will host [Wildlife Encounters](#) on Wednesday. They will bring animals for us to see and winners of the Read-a-Thon will be announced at this assembly. Lastly, please see page 2 of this newsletter to learn more about our visit with Marek Bennett.

The main office will more than likely be closed throughout break. If you have any questions or urgent concerns, please email me directly. I hope everyone has a restful and safe April vacation!

Important Dates:



Tuesday, 4/16 - 5th Grade to Millyard Museum

Wednesday, 4/17 - Read-A-Thon Celebration

Thursday, 4/18 - Literacy Day Author Visit

Friday, 4/19 - 3rd Quarter Report Cards Go Home

Monday - Friday, 4/22-26 - April Vacation

Wednesday, 5/1 - Virtual PTO Meeting - 7pm

Thursday, 5/16 - No School - Professional Development Day

Tuesday, & Wednesday, 5/21 & 22 - 5th Grade to Camp Coniston - Overnight

Monday, 5/27 - No School - Memorial Day

Wednesday, 5/29 - Kearsarge Spelling League Championship



Marek Bennett - Artist in Residence

Thanks to a grant from the NH State Council on the Arts, Simonds welcomed Marek Bennett last week to our school. He shared his comic books with us and the strategies that he uses to create his work. You can learn more about his projects [here](#). He focused his work with our 3rd graders, helping them create comic books about NH Native Americans as part of their social studies work.



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE: **Tick Reminder** - The weather is warming up and students will be outside even more. Please remember to check for ticks. For more information: <https://tickfreenh.org/> The district will be spraying for ticks in the next few weeks.

Boys & Girls Club News: Applications for summer camp are out! For more information reach out to bleakley@nhyouth.org. Prices increase on May 1st!! Boys & Girls Club will be open at Sutton Central School during April vacation. Please reach out to Justin for more information. Reminder - There are spots open in the before and after school program for the remainder of this school year.



Message from Pillsbury Free Library

April 16th, After school craft- will be an earth day theme, 3-4:00. You must register your child with Miss Sue and Mrs. Grimes.

May 4th, 4:00 at Town Hall, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" performed by several Simonds students and many homeschoolers in the area. "Entrance fee" is a donation to the local food pantry. Please come support our local student theater group.

PLASTIC RECYCLING PROJECT

We are almost there! Thanks to so many plastic donations we have turned in 924 pounds. Stay tuned for our bench dedication!



WYSA NEWS: Spring Soccer is on!

This year it will be provided by [Caramba Soccer Skills Camp](#). It will take place four Wednesdays in May: 8, 15, 22, and 29. **Not the 5/1!** It will cost \$15 per participant, and run from 3pm to 4pm. A WYSA chaperone will take attendance at school release at 2:50pm and check off during pickup. (Please be sure to reach out to the Simonds office if your child is attending.) The only equipment required is proper clothing and sneakers or cleats. We'll provide pop-up nets, cones, balls, etc. Shin guards are highly recommended. [Register on TeamSnap](#).

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

WYSA is in need of many volunteers to fill vacant positions. Please visit www.warnersports.org to inquire how you can help keep our organization going for local kids.



WYSA

ANNUAL MEETING

April 20, 2024 9:30 AM at Cafe One East

**Please Help Preserve
Youth Sports in Warner**

We have several unfilled board positions. We cannot continue operating without new volunteers. See: warnersports.org for more info.