



Principal’s Message:

I hope everyone had a restful vacation and a happy New Year. At Simonds, January always means “benchmarking” time. This is a crucial time for staff to look closely at student learning and determine if current teaching strategies are effectively impacting student achievement. Our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team collaborates with classroom teachers to provide a **comprehensive assessment** plan for each student. This typically means that classroom teachers and specialists assess student progress through a series of reading and math assessments. As a team, we are attempting to create a ‘body of evidence’ to answer the question- are my students making adequate progress? Once assessments are complete, changes may be made to current interventions and What I Need (WIN) groups. I would expect to hear more about this from your child’s teacher towards the end of January. For students in grades K-3, this will also mean a closer look at signs of dyslexia. Due to changes in NH law, every elementary school throughout the state must notify parents if there are warning signs of a specific learning disability in the area of reading. For students who were identified in the fall, our MTSS team will be reviewing assessment results carefully in the coming weeks. This may also mean identifying new students who were not flagged with warning signs in the fall. In each of these instances, someone from the Simonds team will be in touch by the end of this month.

This past Saturday at the Annual District Meeting, the voters in attendance moved forward the proposed Municipal Budget Committee and School Board budget to all voters in March. At that time, Warner will also be voting for a new **school board representative**. Our long-time school board representative, and board chair, Ken Bartholomew will be stepping down at the end of his term. I wanted to publicly thank Ken for all that he has done for me personally and for Simonds students over the past decade. I will forever be especially thankful for his support and leadership through the COVID pandemic. His departure also means that there will be a school board opening in Warner. In my opinion, this position is crucial to the success of Simonds. My hope is that we will find a representative who is passionate about public education and ready to work collaboratively to support KRSD. Please reach out to me directly if you have questions about this opening.

Next Monday is a day off from school for MLK/ Civil Rights Day. For my family, this is always a chance to learn more about the civil rights movement. We started a tradition many years ago of watching a movie each year focused on civil rights. When my boys were younger, we watched sports-related movies such as *Remember the Titans* and *42*. As they got older, we were able to address some more difficult content with movies like *Selma*, *The Butler* and *13th*. This is family time that my wife and I look forward to every year. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the schedule. If not, I hope you have a great rest of the month.

Important Dates:



- Monday, 1/15 - No School - Martin Luther King Holiday
- Friday, 1/19 - End of Quarter 2
- Friday, 1/29 - 4th/5th Grade to KRHS - am only
- Friday, 2/2 - Report cards go home
- Tuesday, 2/13 - No School - Teacher Professional Day
- Monday, 2/20 - Friday, 2/24 - Spirit Week
- Friday, 2/24 - Winter Carnival
- February Break - 2/27 - 3/3
- Crazy 8s - Thursdays - 3pm - 4pm
- LEGO Club - Fridays, 3pm - 4pm except for Friday, 2/23 (ends on Friday, 3/29)



Check out the January PTO News [here!](#)

The Simonds PTO is working on a family directory. If you would like your information shared please complete complete this click [here](#) to submit your information.

NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE:

We are seeing the typical winter increase in illnesses currently at school and within the community. If your child is ill or not well enough to participate for the school day, please keep them home. Please continue to inform the nurse if your child tests positive for COVID. Please contact the Simonds Health Office with any questions.

From Ms. Bragg - School Counselor:

National School Counseling Week
Feb. 5-9, 2024

“School Counselors: Helping Students Dream Big,” sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), will be celebrated from Feb. 5-9, 2024, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as a result of what school counselors do. National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

For more information, please see [Simonds School Counselor LINK](#)



IN WYSA NEWS.....WYSA baseball and softball registration is open. To register please go to www.warnersports.org to register via TeamSnap.



The Kearsarge Regional School District is now accepting preschool applications for the 24-25 school year for KRPS New London and Bradford. The lottery for full day spaces will occur on March 15th.

Apply [here](#).



K-5th Grade Spring Intensive

New London Barn Playhouse - Monday through Saturday, 9am - noon - April 22-27. For more information click on this [link](#)! To complete the survey click this [link](#)!

Message from Pillsbury Free Library

Play practices for "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" are Wednesday's after school, 3-5:00. The group should walk to the library from school together. Please notify the Simonds office if your student is participating.

The library will be closed Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King's birthday.

Next after school craft will be **TUESDAY, January 16th**. Be sure to register your student with Miss Sue and also notify Simonds School. Enrollment is limited!

Boys & Girls Club News: Just a reminder that there is no Boys & Girls Club on Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. B&G Club will be open on 2/13/24 at the New London site for the teacher professional day. Also there will be no Boys & Girls Club on Monday, February 19th as we all have training. There will be school that day. Please let the Simonds office know afterschool plans for your student. Don't forget we'll be at Simonds School for winter break but you need to sign-up - 2/26/24 - 3/1/24.



PLASTIC RECYCLING PROJECT:

So far the Simonds Community has collected over 500 pounds of plastic that normally would be going into our landfills. Please keep sending in your plastic. The program will end September, 2024.

