

Simmons Middle School  
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# Simmons Middle School

*"Learning For Life"*

Sept/Oct 2009

Brian Cain  
Principal

## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

We are off to a wonderful start this year at Simmons Middle School. A great big thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time and efforts. We made Adequate Yearly Progress this year once again, and I want to thank our wonderful, dedicated teachers, and our hardworking students for helping us achieve this goal. Also this comes on top of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders having the highest scores in the system on the state writing assessment. I am very honored to work with such a wonderful group of adults and students. You know our motto at Simmons is "Treat each child as if he/she was your own." We try to keep this at the forefront of our decision-making process. I never want us to forget that we are not working with our "students" but that we are working with our "children."

I want to call your attention to a couple of things as we progress through this first semester. Our professional development focus this year is **High Expectations**. We are working to help our kids realize that if they set high personal and academic goals, with the right amount of effort, support and encouragement, they can realize them. It has been my experience as an educator for the last 20 years that if you set goals low or high, students usually work to attain them. Too often though we allow students to set low or mediocre goals. One aspect of this focus on high expectations has been our use of Friday night school for students who decide to "opt" out of doing their homework during the week. Friday night school has proven to be a very curative antidote to the "I can't do my homework virus." We can't stop the spread of swine flu, but we are working hard to cure the "whine" flu. We also are strongly considering working with you to put students with F averages at the end of the 9 weeks in Saturday school so that they can catch up. All too often kids get behind and don't catch up and this impacts their whole year.

Secondly please remind your students to follow the dress code. Remember hormones are raging at this age, and appropriate school attire is a must. Also our anti-bullying message has really taken hold this year. Our discipline referrals for this issue, and all referrals (knock on wood), are down. Students are being equipped with ways to handle themselves verbally without resorting to immediate "emotional" responses. Maybe all of us could learn this.

For the Baron's game this year, we have three areas of student behavior that we will evaluate to determine which students are allowed to go. They must have good attendance, good grades and very few if any discipline referrals. We will

tell you more about this in the Spring.

Remember, if you need anything, just call the school, but if it is after hours, call me on my mobile phone @ 296-3098. Or you can call Mr. Craig at home (did you really think I would do this ☺). Please let me know if you have anything that you want to discuss, and thanks again for all the support you offer us at Simmons. Remember, we are all in this together.

**Brian Cain**

## CALENDAR

Oct 9.....End of 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks  
Oct 12.....Parent Conference Day  
(no school for students)  
Oct 15.....Report Cards go home  
Nov 11.....Veteran's Day Holiday  
(school and offices closed)

## ATTENTION

**Parents** – Please remember to have your photo I.D. with you when you check-out a student from SMS. This is for the safety of all our students.

**Dress Code** – Please review the dress code in the student agenda book with your child.

**Car Riders** – Any car rider arriving before 7:55am must be dropped off in the back of the school. Only bus riders are allowed in front of the school before 7:55am.

**Physical Education Department** – Please support Simmons Physical Education Department by sending Box Tops and Campbell's Soup bar code labels to the main office.

**Pre-Approved Absences** - All pre-approved absences must be completed and turned in to the student's grade level office 3 school days prior to the requested absence date or the absence will be unexcused.

## A Message from Your PTO President

Wow! There has been a lot going on with your Simmons PTO over the past few weeks:

- ❖ Registration (August 4) - coordinated by Melissa Ethridge and Rhonda Brooks with over 140 volunteers!
- ❖ Grab & Go Breakfast for Teachers and Staff on Institute Day (August 10) - coordinated by Beth Pressley; hosted by Leigh Fitzgerald, Michele Nichols, Anne Cassell Watkins, and Rachael Williams.
- ❖ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Hall Helpers (August 12-14, 17-18) - coordinated by Donna Arcara with over 30 volunteers with helping hands and smiles!
- ❖ Back to School Nights (Aug. 19, 24, & 25) – Robbie Hiden and Chris Nichols helping out with *Express Discount* cards and Forms.
- ❖ **Enjoy the City** coupon book sale (Aug. 19 – Sept. 9) – Jennifer Presley and Gina Wittig diligently tallying our orders and distributing books.

These are just a few of the “events” that your PTO is involved in this year. These “events” have taken many volunteers to make each run smoothly. **Thank you to each of you for your time, dedication, and hard work to “make it happen!”**

If you have not yet joined your Simmons PTO, there is still time! Membership is \$10.00 per family. **Everyone is invited and encouraged to come** to PTO meetings which are held on the first Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Staff Development Room (SDR). All three principals attend, and this is a great way for you to learn what is happening at Simmons Middle School, as well as throughout our community.

Our **Enjoy the City** coupon book sale is wrapping up, so if you still have a book that you have not yet purchased, please do so, or return the book back to school as soon as possible. We are hopeful that we will reach our last year’s total sales, so that Mr. Cain will have the “privilege and opportunity” to dress up as “Lady Cain” at the Enjoy the City celebration!

Our *Express Discount* cards are still available for sale. Each card offers great discounts in the Birmingham metro area. The card sells for \$10.00 and we make \$5.00 profit on each card sold. These cards can be purchased from the front office.

We also have **Simmons BucWear** available for sale. Simmons Dad, Michael McCombs with Promo ID, is helping us with these specialty products. T-shirts are available for sale each week on Wednesday mornings (7:15-8:00 am) throughout football season and at home football games. Be on the lookout on our PTO website for more information regarding Simmons BucWear!

**Free Money for Simmons**....Use your **Publix “Partners for Education” card** when you shop at Publix. Be sure to have the checkout clerk **scan your card before you pay** for your purchases. If you still need to get a card(s), these are available in the front office. Simmons makes a percentage of merchandise sales.....easy, free money for SMS!

We are happy to announce that **your Simmons PTO Gives Back!** At our first PTO meeting (Aug. 21), the PTO voted to transfer \$100 to each of our teachers’ accounts to be used for instructional purposes. These monies were excess funds from our prior year, plus approximately \$400 from this year’s budget. Due to zero state funding and minimal city funding, these dollars are a welcomed sight for our teachers to use for our students. A total of \$6,400 was transferred.

Currently, we are working on updating the **PTO website**, which is located at: <http://smspto.wiki.hoover.k12.al.us/>. You may also access our wiki page from the Simmons Middle School home page; just select the “**SMS PTO**” navigation tab, and you will be taken to our wiki page. We are in the “bare bones” stage, so continue to check back in the coming days/weeks for “information you can use.” We will be posting our approved minutes on the “Board Minutes” tab, so you can stay connected even though you may miss a meeting. We will strive to keep you informed of the latest happenings of your Simmons PTO! Thank you to Keith Fulmer (Technology) for his assistance in helping us with this project!

**Encore Day**....”A Country Autumn” will be on **Tuesday, October 27, 2009**. It is an “all-day” Fine Arts event for our students to participate in presentations and demonstrations by numerous Fine Arts and educational performers from throughout the southeastern United States. Over 65 Simmons students will be performing in the musical, *HONK, jr.* under the direction of Mr. Phillip Butler, Mr. John Kincaid and Mrs. Delle Kincaid. There will also be a Simmons Variety Show, where Simmons students will display their own theatrical, artistic and musical talents. Parents are invited to attend this great event! If you would like to volunteer to help with Encore Day, please contact Anne Cassell Watkins at [acwatkins5443@charter.net](mailto:acwatkins5443@charter.net).

Our next PTO meeting is **Friday, October 2 at 9:00 a.m. in the SDR**. Hope to see you there! I look forward to meeting you and serving as your President. Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

Rachael Williams  
Simmons PTO President  
[simmonspto@gmail.com](mailto:simmonspto@gmail.com)

### 2009-2010 PTO Meetings

August 21 *	January 8
September 4	February 5
October 2	March 5
November 6	April 9 **
December 4	May 7

\*Date changed due to start of school

\*\*Date changed due to testing

# CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jessica Wang for winning her first gold medal in figure skating at the Magic City Classic. The competition was held in Pelham.

## Standard Staff

### Congratulations 2009-2010 SMS Standard Staff:

Editor in Chief: Aqsa Ahsan  
Editorials Editor: Maggie Appelbaum  
Sports Editor: Trevor Blood  
Graphic Designer: Anaya Bauer

News Editor: Kayla Henderson  
Editorials Editor: Mary Claire Shingleton  
Advertising Manager: Meghan Harrison

Reporters: Taylor Amundsen, Holland Bayles, Gracie Bradford, Chris Brady, Micah Briggs, Haley Carter, Lania Cole, Trenton Davis, Rebecca Gillespie, Barden Gray, Abbey Greer, Mary Hannah Higgs, Olivia Jones, Bratie Leery, Kendall Moore, Monica Perkins, Hunter Strickland, Caleb Townes, and Hope Ward.  
Photographers: Katie Brayer, Amber Ellis, Damon Kirby, Micah Smith.

## Cross-Country Team

Congratulations to the Cross Country Team for their race on Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. The girl's team came in first place overall in the girls' meet and the boys came in third, but were only two points out of second place. They all did a great job. Overall places: 2<sup>nd</sup> Alley Barnett and Michael Braswell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mia Sharrow, 7<sup>th</sup> Erin Rooney, 8<sup>th</sup> Katie Hatch and Noah Townes, 9<sup>th</sup> Jaysal Shah, and 13<sup>th</sup> Jake Larson. Great job team!

## Volleyball 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Simmons' 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball Team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Hunstville tournament on August 22. Went undefeated in pool play at the Oak Mountain Tournament on August 29, however, lost to Pizitz in the semi-finals game. Won the Thompson tournament going undefeated, beating Pizitz, Oak Mountain, Chelsea, and Mountain Brook. Simmons players are Maressa Colin, A.K. Downs, Sam Evans, Esther Gachungi, Abbey Greer, Becca Hall, Addison Hoven, Claire Johnson, Claudia McMeekin, Traci Mullins, Morgan Pate, Anna Pressley, Leah Rand, Lizzy Satterfield, and Shelby Wallace. Manager is

## Volleyball 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Please give congrats to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team. They came in first in the Tupelo, Mississippi Tournament. Haley Haggard scored a complete shut out again. She was named to the all tournament team. They also won against Hewitt Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>..

## *The COUNSELOR'S Corner*

**C.A.R.E.** The Student Assistance Program(SAP)/Children at Risk in Education(C.A.R.E.)Team is Hoover City Schools Building-Based Student Support Team(BBSST).

The Team, made up of administrators, counselors, teachers, and support staff, seeks to identify and work with students who may be exhibiting risk behaviors that are interfering with success in the school setting. The goal of the team is to implement services and develop strategies which can assist the students in achieving their full educational potential. Referrals can be data driven or directly from school personnel, students, or parents. You may contact your child's grade level counselor for more information.

**297 SIXTH GRADERS** are transitioning well to changing classes, opening lockers, dressing out for PE, and managing the rotating schedule. Joining 270 students from Hoover City elementary schools are 5 students from local private schools and 22 new enrollees from schools outside our district or state. We welcome all our new students and parents to Simmons!!!

Classroom guidance lessons this year will include the following topics: SAT/ARMT score information and interpretation, tobacco abstinence education, anti-bullying presentation by Crisis Center counselor, and career exploration aligned with individual personality types. These lessons will be presented through the different academic classes throughout the school year.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. (439-2122 or [agloor@hoover.k12.al.us](mailto:agloor@hoover.k12.al.us))

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

## **HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Flu Update:**

I know that everyone, especially our parents, are concerned about the spread of the flu and other flu-like illnesses. All of our school nurses are acting under the guidance of our State Department of Education (SDE) and our County Health Departments for management of illness and the notification process. We are receiving very frequent updates of information as decisions are made. School nurses have specific plans of action for students presenting with symptoms suspect of flu syndrome. We will be diligent in our action to follow that plan for illness, as well as being proactive to protect the health of our school community.

The fever recommendations are the same as the Fever policy HCS has always followed. Fever of 100 degrees or higher will get you sent home from school immediately.

**\*\*Persons must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medications before returning to school.**

We can all be proactive by following these simple steps:

- \*If your child has fever (100F or higher), vomiting, diarrhea or appears ill, please do not send to school.
- \*Wash your hands often with soap and water. Waterless hand sanitizer works also.
- \*Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve, not your hand.
- \*Keep your hands away from your mouth, nose and eyes during your daily activities.
- \*Keep your distance from anyone who is sick- 3 to 6 feet.

**Symptoms to look for:** Cough, headache, runny nose, congestion, chills, fatigue, Diarrhea and or vomiting.

If your child has been diagnosed with the flu, please notify the health room as we must track flu cases in our schools. Thank you for your assistance as we work to keep our students and staff well.

### **For Your Convenience.....**

#### **Direct numbers to the following:**

<b>Attendance Questions</b>	<b>439-2120</b>
<b>Main/8<sup>th</sup> Gr Office</b>	<b>439-2100</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Gr Office</b>	<b>439-2115</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Gr Office</b>	<b>439-2116</b>
<b>Nurse</b>	<b>439-2138</b>
<b>Lunchroom</b>	<b>439-2129</b>
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	<b>439-2121</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>439-2142</b>

# THEATRE TIDBITS

## *Honk Jr.* to be presented

The Simmons Middle School Fine Arts Department will present the Broadway musical *Honk, Jr.* on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and then for the student body on Tuesday morning, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The production will be directed by Mrs. Delle Kincaid, Mr. John Kincaid and Mr. Phillip Butler. Zoe Cruz team 7-2, Katie Brayer team 7-3, Rilee Garrett team 7-3, Haley Carter team 7-2 and Mary Hannah Higgs team 6-3 will serve as the production's assistant directors and stage managers.

Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale has been transformed into a modern musical comedy appropriate for everyone in the family. Written by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe from the *Broadway Junior Collection*, *Honk, Jr!* tells the story of Ugly, who's odd, gawky looks instantly incite prejudice from his family and neighbors. Separated from the duck pond and pursued by a hungry Cat. Ugly must find his way, while his loving mother, Ida, searches for him. Along his journey he not only discovers his true self and glorious destiny, but he also finds love and acceptance.

The cast of *Honk, Jr.* include:

Ugly.....	Ben Tidwell
Coco, the Cat .....	Maya Madden
Ida, the ducklings' mother.....	Hannah Kuykendall
Drake, the ducklings' father.....	Alec Shunnarah
Maureen, a moorhen and Ida's best friend.....	Taylor Amundsen
General Eisenhower V. Greylag.....	Chase Waters
Dot, Mrs. General Greylag.....	Cary Yeager
Henrietta, a Rhode Island Red.....	Morgan Foster
Bainbridge B. Bullfrog.....	Ryan Dunn
Beauregard B. Bullfrog.....	Kahlil Williams
Buford B. Bullfrog.....	Guy Bannister
Grace, a most distinguished duck.....	Radhika Patel
Penny, a beautiful swan.....	Ashley Harris
Sam, the father swan.....	Jacob Luker
Samantha, the mother swan.....	Aubrey Bischoff
Jinx, the Jaybird.....	Cody Hooks
Tobias T. Turkey, the headmaster.....	Trevor Blood
The Boy's voice.....	Daniel Phillips
The Girl's voice.....	Mia Shunnarah
The Farmer's voice.....	The Farmer

### Goose Squadron:

Barnacles.....	Hunter Stricklin
Snowy.....	Livia Barrett
Pinkfoot.....	Samantha Cumming
Chaser.....	Matthew Entekin
Lancer.....	Steven Finley Jr.
Sky.....	Chris Lorimer
Gunner.....	Byron Arroyo
Flew.....	Mia Shunnarah
Squawk.....	Felicia Heath
Garbo.....	Vanessa Hughes
Comet.....	Lea Wood
Diver.....	Allison Click
Glide.....	Katherine Splawn
Free.....	Layne Tosney
Boeing.....	Liam Chaney
Jet.....	Trenton Davis
Feathers.....	Jackson Elmore

### The Duckyard Family:

Asia, a Mandarin Duck.....	Amaria Dudley
Beijing, a Mandarin Duck.....	Katelyn Wooley
Auntie Duck, an Ancona Duck.....	Fallon Phillips
Harpay, a Harlequin Duck.....	Abbey Greer

### Ducklings:

Beaky.....	Autumn Lewis-Douglas
Fluff.....	Gracie Vaughan
Billy.....	Donovan Gagakuma
Downy.....	Daniel Phillips

### Froglets:

Lily.....	Maggie Applebaum
Emerald.....	Nadia Banilohi
Blinky.....	Rebecca Gillespie
Honeydew.....	Breanna Gither
Spring.....	Courtney Jackson
Olive.....	Claire Johnson
Teal.....	Amber Leigh Sands
Sage.....	Madison Naves
Fern.....	Megan Sands
Greenie.....	Elise Swindle
Betty Croaker.....	Keri Tang
Splash.....	Annelyn Veal

**The Simmons' Variety Show** try-outs will be held September 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. The performance is to be the afternoon of Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Complete sign up details will be out soon. Start thinking about what you would like to do now.



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(Board policy, 6.6) No student will be unlawfully excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the Board on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, sex, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status. All career and technical education opportunities are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

**Dr. Barbara Mayer, IDEA Coordinator**

**Dr. Tara Ferguson, Section 504 Coordinator**

**Dr. Deborah Camp, Title II Coordinator (grades K – 5)**

**Ron Dodson, Title II Coordinator (grades 6 – 12)**

**Dr. Barbara Mayer, Title III Coordinator**

**Carol Barber, Title IX Coordinator**

Hoover City Schools

2810 Metropolitan Way

Hoover, AL 35243

(205) 439-1000

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or considerations prohibited by federal or state law (as such laws may from time

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national origin, citizenship, and religious preference. Subject to the limitations set

forth in 4.6.2, the general complaint (grievance) policy (4.6.1) may be used to

present any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment. Inquiries regarding compliance and complaint procedures can be directed to:

**Mary Veal, Equal Opportunity Employment Coordinator**

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