

# W.B. Simpson Monitor

Issue 1 – 11/12

Editor: Christy Tolliver

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## Principal's Corner Mr. Michael Kijowski, Principal

When I was young, my Mom used to always say, "Good things come to those who wait." Like any impulsive youth, that saying drove me crazy. As I grew older, I can now see the wisdom in my mother's words. As you walk through the newly renovated W.B. Simpson, you will see that it was definitely worth the wait. It is hard to imagine that a year ago, we were out at the Dover Air Force Base, split up between three locations, and Simpson was practically demolished. Now, we have successfully transitioned back home to Wyoming. Everything is shiny and new. Our school has been rated "Superior" by the state of Delaware. We have grown from 420 students to 475 students. But most of all, everyone is excited to be working with your children again.

The education field is full of buzz words and acronyms. One word being used extensively is "collaboration". Across the country, educators and policy makers are realizing the power of collaboration. Everyone is being encouraged to collaborate and work with each other. This is our goal for the school year: to increase collaboration between teachers, families, and students. One way we are encouraging this is through Professional Learning Communities or PLC's. Teachers are meeting on a weekly basis to collectively plan lessons and examine student work samples together. To help achieve this goal, students will now be going to "specials" six times a week instead of five times a week. This allows more time for the teachers to collaborate and the special teachers to integrate their subject area into the regular curriculum.

We are also looking to expand our opportunities to collaborate with parents and increase their involvement in the school. For example, this past summer, we restructured each school committee to include a parent and community representative. The PTO has also restructured itself to include more parent participation. We are also continuing with the Positive Behavior Support Program or PBS. This was a huge success because of the large number of parents who helped monitor and run our monthly PBS celebrations. Like last year, the students are still earning PRIDE Bucks when they demonstrate one of the P.R.I.D.E. principles: Positive, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy. Students may cash in their PRIDE Bucks for a variety of rewards. However, we are continuing the tradition of having a special monthly celebration. The students can attend the celebration for 100 PRIDE Bucks. This is where we need the largest concentration of parent support – the monthly celebrations. Our first PBS celebration is on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Let's Go Crazy" with inflatable obstacle courses for the kids to play on. Look for a flier to go home later in the month if you are interested in helping with the September PBS celebration. We definitely need you!

Finally, I want to thank everyone for completing the mountain of paperwork that we sent home on the first day of school. This paperwork helps us keep your children safe and provides them with a first rate education. Thank you for completing the (1.) Blue Emergency Card, (2.) Yellow Delaware Emergency Treatment Card, (3.) Green Student Data Collection Form, and the (4.) Meal Benefit form. I know that many people feel awkward about completing the meal benefit form. In this tough economy, I would encourage everyone to take advantage of qualifying for a free or reduced breakfast/lunch. You never know if you qualify until you complete the form. Please rest assured that all information on the meal benefit form is kept confidential. Also, please make sure that your phone numbers on the emergency cards are current and working. As we saw with the early dismissal for the hurricane, not all numbers were accurate. For your child's safety, we need an emergency contact person with a reliable method for contact. Although summer always seems to go by too quickly, it is great to be back in our new school working with your children. It is fantastic to hear laughter in the hallways again, and awesome to see the smiling faces. It is priceless to witness learning in a classroom. Being in an elementary school is truly a magical experience. Thank you for the privilege of working with your children. It is good to be back home at the new W.B. Simpson Elementary School.

**Congratulations  
Mrs. Heather Childers  
W.B. Simpson 2011-2012  
Teacher of the Year!**



## PTO News

W.B. Simpson PTO meetings for the 2011-2012 school year:

September 12<sup>th</sup>

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

November 14<sup>th</sup>

January 9<sup>th</sup>

February 13<sup>th</sup>

March 12<sup>th</sup>

April 16<sup>th</sup>

May 14<sup>th</sup>

*All meetings begin at 6:30 P.M.*



### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### September

- 2<sup>nd</sup> School for Teacher In-service Date
- 5<sup>th</sup> School closed for Labor Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> Parent Information Night @ 6:00 PM
- 19<sup>th</sup> School Closed for Teacher In-service Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> PTO Fundraiser Kick-Off Assembly Times TBA
- 20<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting @ 7:00 PM – Simpson Elementary
- 28<sup>th</sup> Interim Reports Issued
- 30<sup>th</sup> PBS “Let’s Go Crazy” Celebration Times TBA

**In an attempt to cut down on cost and to help the environment, the Simpson Monitor is available on-line along with breakfast and lunch menus.**

CRHS Football  
 First Home Game:  
 Sep. 9.  
 Kick-Off @  
 7:30P.M.

#### *Reminders*

Please return blue emergency cards, yellow health forms, green data card & meal benefit form as soon as possible.

The CR Report is available online through the districts webpage at <http://www.cr.k12.de.us/>. The CR Report is updated periodically, so be sure to check back often to view district information and the next highlighted school.



## Nurse's Notes

Mrs. Susan Hoffmann, MSN, RN, NCSN  
(302)697-4975 susan.hoffmann@cr.k12.de.us



As our children go back to school, parents may be wondering how to best prepare their child for a safe and prosperous school year. This is often of particular concern for parents sending children to school with special health care needs. Delaware students are fortunate to have a school nurse in every building, every day. School nurses are often the only link to students' health care, and for all students they are a key resource in the back-to-school process. To assist parents, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) developed a checklist of topics to consider ensuring children stay healthy, in school and ready to learn.

### For All Students:

- Inquire if there is a full-time registered school nurse in the building all day, every day.
- Review cough and sneeze etiquette/prevention for spreading germs.
- Make sure immunizations are up-to-date.
- Agree upon a bedtime and wake-up time to ensure adequate sleep.
- Establish a routine for homework and after school activities.
- Establish screen (T.V./video) time limits.
- Wear clothing appropriate for school (for example, the appropriateness of flip flops for the playground).

### For Students with Health Concerns:

- Inquire if there is a full-time registered school nurse in the building all day, every day.
- Advise your school of your child's health concern.
- Bring current, signed health care provider orders for health care needed at school.
- Give permission for the school nurse to speak to the health care provider.
- Provide parent contact information, and update the school with changes.
- Ask if non-nurses will be providing care (for example, who will administer medication) and how will they be supervised.
- Ask about the school's disaster/emergency plan (for example, what health care supplies are needed for your child).

### For Parents:

- Become involved! Sign up for the parent organization (PTA/PTO). Put back-to-school night and other parent/teacher meetings on the calendar. Parent involvement in school is an important predictor of student success.
- Sign up for the school Wellness Committee. Become familiar with the provisions of the school or district's wellness policy (for example, nutrition and activity guidelines).
- Ask about the school's disaster/emergency plan (for example, what procedures should parents expect in the event of a lock down).

And, as always, parents are encouraged to talk to their school nurse and be involved in their child's health care at school. Mrs. Hoffmann can be reached at 697- 4975 or by email at susan.hoffmann@cr.k12.de.us



Welcome to all new and returning families. As your school nurse, I enjoy the very special privilege of caring for your child. Please take a few minutes from your busy day to note some very important information that will help me provide the best care and service to your family:

**Medication:** I am happy to assist students who need medications at school, and request that all medications be brought to school by a parent, guardian or designated adult--not a child for reasons of safety. Medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, will require written consent and dosage instructions by a parent or guardian.

**First Aid for Illness and Injury\*:** We make every effort to safeguard your child's health at school. In the event of a serious accident or emergency, you will be contacted immediately. When a parent or guardian cannot be reached, the student will be transported by ambulance to an appropriate medical facility. To ensure optimum care, it is important to ***update us continually*** with new phone numbers, changes in your child's health, new medications, or anything else that impacts his or her well-being at school.



**Health Screening:** Vision and hearing screening is performed on all **second, fourth and new-to-state** students in accordance with Delaware guidelines. Additionally, students who show signs of vision or hearing difficulty (any grade) may be screened to rule out a problem. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like your child screened at any time during the school year. If a problem exists, you will be notified and referred for further medical evaluation if needed.



**Control of communicable diseases and illness:** Your child's good health is important to me! Hygiene and health are taught and emphasized throughout the year. I will periodically send home information about what's "going around," and will share tips to keep your family well. Please call or see me whenever you are not certain about sending your child to school. **For example, it is vital that students with fever greater than 100 degrees stay home and rest for at least 24 hours.** You are encouraged to share any concerns or problems relevant to your child's health. If you have any questions or would like to meet with me, please do not hesitate to call me at 302-697-3207. Best wishes for a fantastic school year.

*Be sure to check out the nurse's link on the school's web site at <http://www.simpson.cr.k12.de.us/>*

## **Food Allergies:**

Many students attending WB Simpson have life threatening allergies to foods. It is important that teachers, students and parents work together to keep these children safe at school. Here are some suggestions for parents of students with food allergies:

- Schedule a meeting with the school nurse and your child's teacher to develop a plan to keep your child safe
- Supply the school with prescribed emergency medications (such as an epi pen and/or Benadryl). Remember epi pens have a short shelf life and usually need to be replaced annually.
- Ask your child's doctor for a food allergy action plan (such as the following article) and provide the school with a copy.

## **How You Can Be a Pal to Friends Who Have Food Allergies**

It's hard to believe that foods most of us eat and enjoy every day can be harmful to others. But it's true! So if you learn that a friend has a food allergy, take it very seriously.

That means not joking around about it, or teasing kids who have food allergies. And never try to trick someone into eating food they're allergic to! Most of all, try to understand that people with food allergies need your help to prevent serious allergic reactions.

### **Don't share your food with friends who have food allergies.**

Kids love to share or trade food with each other. But for those with food allergies, that can be very dangerous. Never offer kids with food allergies anything from your lunch or snack. Why? Because it may contain an ingredient that's harmful to them. Even if you think the food is safe, it's still not worth the risk.

### **Wash hands after eating.**

Washing your hands after you eat is very important. It's a good way to clean off any food that is on your hands. You'll probably get fewer colds, too!

### **Ask what your friends are allergic to and help them avoid it.**

Learning what someone is allergic to is easy. (Just ask them!) Finding out if foods are safe to eat is another story. Even foods that have ingredient labels can be tricky, since food companies sometimes use scientific names

instead of everyday names. (For example, did you know that casein is milk?) So always remind friends who have food allergies to carefully check the ingredients of foods not brought in from home. If there's any question about a food, tell them not to eat it. Doing without a snack or treat is far better than a trip to the hospital!

Here are some other ways you can help:

Avoid eating food that contains ingredients your friend is allergic to when that friend is nearby.

For birthday parties and celebrations, celebrate with nonfood treats and activities, like games, stickers, songs, and prizes. They're just as fun— maybe even more so— and everyone will be safe.

### **If a friend who has food allergies becomes ill, get help immediately!**

How do you know when someone is having an allergic reaction? Here are some of the symptoms:

Vomiting

Swollen face or lips

Difficulty breathing

Coughing, sneezing, and watery eyes

Skin that's bumpy, red, and itchy

If a friend who has food allergies is showing these signs, tell an adult immediately. Tell them it might be an allergic reaction. Your quickness can help save a life! Remember, an allergic reaction can happen anytime, anywhere, even several minutes after eating.

**So always be on the alert.**

# **Caesar Rodney School District Attendance Procedures**

## **Excused Absences:**

- ~ Student Illness
- ~ Family Emergency
- ~ Religious Holiday
- ~ Death in the Family
- ~ Subpoenaed Court Appearance
- ~ Appointment for Treatment  
(Doctor or Dentist, must provide evidence)
- ~ Suspension for Misconduct
- ~ Legal Business
- ~ Student Pregnancy
- ~ Other Reasons **Pre-approved**  
by the Principal

## **Unexcused Absences:**

- ~ No note Provided by Parent/Guardian
- ~ Missing the Bus
- ~ Oversleeping
- ~ Shopping
- ~ Employment Reasons
- ~ Helping in the Home



A **written excuse** must be provided upon your child's return to school. Please included in the note:

- ~ Name (first and last) of the student
- ~ Date of the writing
- ~ Date of absence(s)
- ~ Reason for absence
- ~ Doctor's note, prolonged illness
- ~ Signature of parent/guardian

## **Tardiness**

Students arriving after 8:35 A.M. are considered tardy and must report to the office with an adult to sign them in and get a late pass. An excused tardy is the same as an excused absence. Proof of an appointment must be provided.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ILLNESS**

Please do not send your child to school if any of the following symptoms or signs is present in the previous twenty-four hours:

- ◆ **Elevated temperature (100 degrees or greater)**
- ◆ **Acute cold, sore throat, or persistent cough**
- ◆ **Vomiting, nausea, or severe abdominal pain**
- ◆ **Repeated diarrhea**
- ◆ **Pus-like discharge from the nose or eyes**
- ◆ **Red or inflamed eyes/lids,**
- ◆ **Suspected and untreated impetigo, scabies, or lice.**



Please contact the school nurse when you are not sure if your child is well enough to attend school. Also, it is wise to contact her when your child is on the "borderline" of being ill. (Be sure to let the school know where you may be contacted in case your child's condition worsens). **SPECIAL NOTE:** If your child complains often of headaches or stomachaches or frequently does not feel well, please notify your physician or health care provider.

*Welcome to W.B. Simpson*

We have been lucky to bring on board new and highly motivated teachers and staff to our new school this year, so each month the Simpson Monitor will feature a new teacher or staff member. Please join us in sending a big **BLUE AND GOLD** welcome to:

**Name:** *Miss Julie Murray, ILC 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher*

**Originally from:** Long Island, NY

**Family:** Mom - Linda, Dad - Rich, Brothers Kyle & Chad

**Pets:** Mini Dachshunds Penny & Copper

**Hobbies:** Bike riding

**Years/Months Teaching:** 2 years 4 months

**Teaching Philosophy:** *“All children have the ability to learn regardless of race, sex and disability. It is the teacher’s job to find a way to make each student successful.”*

W. B. Simpson is officially on Facebook. Look for our fan page where we will post upcoming events to help keep everyone informed.

W.B. Simpson’s monthly newsletter and breakfast/lunch menus are all available on-line <http://www.simpson.cr.k12.de.us/>. If you would like to have a paper copy sent home please submit the form below. Thank you.

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Please send home a hard copy of the monthly newsletter and menus with:

Student’s name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Room #: \_\_\_\_\_

Menu: \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mrs. Wissman**

My name is Jennifer Wissman and I am the school counselor here at W B Simpson Elementary. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year working as an elementary school counselor. Prior to becoming a school counselor I was a classroom teacher for 8 years. I love my role as your child's counselor. I am here in a support role for you, your child/children as well as for our teachers. As the school's counselor my job includes teaching life skills lessons in all grade levels, working with students in small groups, as well as one on one at times. Feel free to contact me at any time regarding your child.

Thus far I have been busy helping students get adjusted and acclimated to our new school, their new grade levels and classrooms. In all of our classrooms students have been learning about a building wide Conflict Resolution Program I have put in place called Kelso's Choices. Kelso's Choices is a program that empowers our students to recognize that they are having a problem and gives them choices to pick from that they can do to solve small problems.

## **C O U N S E L O R ' S C O R N E R**

### **Mrs. Mason**

Welcome back W.B. Simpson/Kent ILC students and families. I am very excited about kicking off this school year with positive home/school communications and relationships. I was happy to see so many of you turn out to tour the school before the 1st day. I am hopeful your desire to stay connected with the school will continue all year. A big part of your child's attitude towards school will be based on **your** attitude towards school and your demonstrated interest in what your child is learning in the classroom. I will provide counseling support to your child while they are here at school, as well as be available as a means of support to you through resource linkage and parent education. I will also be teaching Life Skills to students once/week where they will receive personal/social, career, and academic development instruction. The students will be expected to follow the school-wide positive behavior system, P.R.I.D.E. They will be rewarded with P.R.I.D.E bucks for doing so, which they can save for the end of the month assembly or use to purchase smaller ticket items. I will be giving extra bucks to students who are observed demonstrating self-control under trying situations, or being a "peacemaker" between peers. In the upcoming month ILC parents will receive an invitation from me to participate in a "Coffee With The Counselor" session. This is an informal opportunity for you to come in and discuss any home, student, or school issues you are having while enjoying coffee and doughnuts. Please feel free to bring other children and ask me about getting you here if transportation is an issue. Finally, I will be coordinating several field trips this year for ILC students to promote social and academic enrichment. I cannot stress enough the importance of checking your child's backpack and folders on a daily basis to ensure you are receiving any communications from school which require your attention. Should you have any questions or just need a sounding board, please feel free to contact me at (302) 697-3504. I look forward to working with you and your child.

**Did – U – Know...**

**August is National Smile Month ☺**

**September is Hispanic Heritage Month –  
Hola!**

### **Quote of the Month...**

*The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.*

**B.B King**