

History of

Simpson Elementary School

Simpson was named for Anna Louise “Ludie” Simpson whose family once owned the property on which the school is situated. The Simpson family also owned a great deal of land in the area now known as Peachtree Corners. “Miss Ludie” (as she is affectionately known) was born in Norcross, Georgia in 1887. She graduated from Roswell High School and earned her teaching degree from the University of Georgia in 1910. Miss Ludie was a dedicated social studies teacher until 1962. She traveled extensively around the world including visits to Canada, Mexico, Europe, China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. Her meticulous travel notes have been saved in bound journals. These and other memorabilia are housed at our school. Simpson is proud to be named for this gracious Southern lady who devoted her life to education. Each year, our school celebrates Miss Ludie’s birthday on December 10th and the students enjoy cake in her honor.

Simpson Elementary is known for its students’ high academic achievement. That achievement can be traced to its outstanding staff. These men and women are committed to excellence in student achievement and creating learning environments that are stimulating, attractive, and welcoming. The majority of this experienced staff holds a master’s degree or higher. A number of classroom teachers have the Gifted Program endorsement added to their certification. The two primary

FAST FACTS

Address: 4525 E. Jones Bridge Road
Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

The following have served as principals of Simpson Elementary School:

1993–1999	Shirley Davis
1999–2000	Shirley Millicans
2000–2004	Mary Ray
2004–Present	Bron Gayna Schmit

School Colors: Red, Yellow, and Blue

School Mascot: Sparky the Super Star

Motto: Simpson... Where every child is a STAR

Mission: Simpson Elementary School, in partnership with parents and community, will challenge students to reach their full academic and behavioral potential.

goals of the school’s staff are to maintain:

- 1) high academic achievement levels consistent with our historical performance; and
- 2) a total school positive environment in order to facilitate the continued development of a true learning community for students, staff and parents.

Simpson opened its doors in the fall of 1993 with 880 students. Over the past 20-plus years, the student



population has risen as high as 1,300 students. Currently, the school's enrollment is just over 950 students.

Students have many opportunities to be involved in extensions that support academic achievement. Both Odyssey of the Mind and Future Problem Solving Teams have frequently qualified and placed in state and world championships. Students have enjoyed individual and group recognitions in a variety of other arenas such as media, art, writing and math. Students participate in Student Council, Book Buddies, Simpson Singers and a variety of clubs.

The PTA involves and contributes unprecedented hours and dollars to the activities that support our students and staff. Over the years, the PTA raised money to provide an exceptional cultural arts program for all students, special flooring for the gym, instructional support for teachers, and new computers in classrooms. Through PTA, parents tutor students in reading and writing, serve as room parents, or enjoy working on one of the many committees that support our school. More recently, Simpson's PTA has supported school and community events, including Arts in Education programs; Special Olympics; Fall Family Festival; Cars, Cans, and Car Seats Drive; Toy Drive; One Hundred Ways to Give Drive; and Staff Appreciation Week.

Simpson Elementary School is consistently ranked in the top performing schools in the county and state for high student achievement. In 2012, the school's focus on student achievement resulted in Simpson being named as one of the nation's 2012 Blue Ribbon Schools. The Peachtree Corners school was one of only seven Georgia public schools to receive the award and the only Gwinnett County school to be recognized that year. Principal Schmit attended a ceremony in Washington D.C. that was hosted by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Each school that attended received a plaque and a flag to signify its status as a National Blue Ribbon School.

However, the students and staff of Simpson are not ones to rest on their laurels. In 2016, the school earned five top honors from multiple sources. MSN named Simpson the top elementary school in Georgia. The ranking was based on student math and reading proficiency on state assessment tests and factors like student-teacher ratio, and student life. Simpson also was recognized again by the Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement at the Platinum Level for both "Greatest Gains" and "Highest Achievement" for scores from the past three years on the Georgia Milestones Assessments. This means that not only did the students

perform at the highest levels, they also made great improvements from previous years. Most recently, Simpson earned a Gold award status from the Governor's Office on Student Achievement. The school was in the 97th percentile and earned the "Highest Achieving" distinction on the College Career Ready Performance Index. In addition, Simpson earned the title of Green & Healthy Taking Action School by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and was certified as a Heart-safe School by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

Simpson Elementary is proud to lead the way in academic excellence and in the work to transform teaching and learning. Simpson is a shining star in its community and is an excellent example of a world-class school.