

superstar★09

june calendar

make a splash!

summer's almost here.

last day of school is june 22.



- 1 | PTA School Supplies Fundraiser
- 2-4 | NJPASS Grade 2
- 4 | PTA Art Show and School Concert
- 5 | PTA School Fair
- 9 | PTA School Fair Rain Date
- 9 | Kindergarten Orientation at SM
- 11 | PTA Child's Play Theater Visit
- 14 | Flag Day
- 19 | 4-hour Day
- 22 | Last Day of School, 4-hour Day

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- 6** Elementary News

School hours:

- Full Sessions**
- First Bell 8:40am
 - AM Kindergarten 8:40-11:30am
 - PM Kindergarten 12:30-3:15pm
 - Grades 1-5 8:40-3:15pm

SAVE our PLANET



Reduce your carbon footprint and go green! Please sign up for digital version!
Contact: Sandi Sandoli at 275-3856 or by email: ssandoli@verizon.net

box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!
Yvette Holowczak
ymholowczak@yahoo.com



June
4

PTA Art Show and School Concert
June 4, 2009
 Don't forget to join the party!

here's to another year.

presidents column

Sandi Brand & Sylvia Cutler PTA Co-Presidents



Is it June already? It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone so quickly.

First, we want to say a huge thank you to our entire South Mountain School PTA Executive Board. Our board works countless, selfless hours on so many events for all of our children to enjoy making sure their time here at South Mountain will always be one to remember. We so appreciate all of your dedication and efforts. We also want to congratulate Laura Reichgut as the new Co-President as well as the new PTA board members that were voted in on May 20th.

A special thank you to Mr. Gibbons, Mrs. Samuels, Ms. Dudley, Mrs. Anello, Rick Cannon, and all of our incredible teachers and staff for the overwhelming show of support you show our PTA each and every day.

To all the South Mountain parents, thank you for your continued generosity and volunteering of your time and energy. All of our events are only successful because of you!

Our PTA was really focused this year on improving technology in our school and we are thrilled that we were able to make some significant purchases. In collaboration with the district we are so happy to announce that at the start of the school year, the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms will have smart board technology, new Dell desktop computers, infrared classroom sound systems, and DVD recorders. Our PTA also purchased a new Mac computer for the teachers so that they are able to download material for their classroom iPod listening centers. We will continue to fundraise next year so we can continue to outfit the lower grade classrooms with the same state of the art technology.

We hope to see everyone at our school fair on June 5th. The kids can not wait until that bell rings at 3:15 and the party continues until 5:15. Thanks to the many volunteers who make this day happen and to Party Animals for supplying the fun.

Congratulations to all the 5th graders and we wish you much success in the middle school and beyond.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. See you in the fall.

Sandi and Sylvia



library news

end of semester tidbits

Six Flags — 102 students, representing 70 families, earned free tickets to Six Flags. Those students have also earned tickets for 24 South Mountain teachers. Tickets have been distributed as per the method chosen by each family. If you have not received your tickets, and have contacted Mrs. Ng to select your method of distribution, please contact Mrs. Ng by email immediately.

All library materials must be returned by Friday June 5. Library fines may be assessed for book and materials that remain outstanding past June 8. Final report cards will be withheld if students have not cleared their library records by the end of the school year. The library staff is working on an inventory during the last weeks of school, and having all of the materials back will make the inventory more accurate.

TV Turnoff — Completion verification forms were sent home with all students last week and are due by June 1, 2009.

Children's librarians from the local public libraries will be visiting both schools and introducing their Summer Reading programs. Children enrolled in the South Orange/Maplewood School District are entitled to a library card from each public library, and are encouraged to participate in both libraries' summer reading programs.

Suggested Summer Reading Lists are being created as a collaborative effort between the public libraries' children's librarians, and the school district's elementary school librarians. In order to conserve resources, the lists will not be sent home in paper copy, but will be available on the public libraries' websites, as well as the school district's site, and our school website.

Visit the school website over the summer for various updates, and to view the reading lists, supply lists, and other school news.

fundraising

thank you, thank you!

Maria Shapiro & Laura Reichgut, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

We can't believe that the school year is almost over. We want to thank the entire school community for the constant support of our fundraisers throughout the year. We know that it is hard to keep on giving and we appreciate your involvement. The monies raised this year will go a long way towards helping to enrich your children's education and school life.

The numbers are in for the auction and all we can say is WOW! FANTASTIC, FANTASTIC!!!! With your help we were able to raise over \$27,000. This figure is unbelievable given the state of the economy. The South Mountain Community once again pulled through showing what we are made of and how dedicated we are to our children's education. Most of these funds will go towards the purchasing of smart boards for the classrooms.

Keep a look out for your school supply order forms. Save yourself time and energy and enjoy your last days of summer. Let us worry about your child's school supplies for next year.

We wish you a happy, healthy and safe summer. And once again, thank you for your continued support.

Maria & Laura

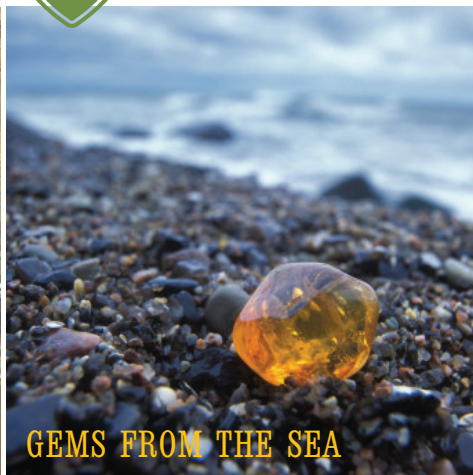


Durand-Hedden House
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Sunday, June 14th, 1-4pm
523 Ridgewood Road
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Gems from the Sea at the Durand-Hedden House

Just in time for summer beachcombing, sea glass expert Richard La Motte will guide audience members in the "science" of sea glass – what to look for and



GEMS FROM THE SEA

where to find it. Using beautiful illustrations from his book, *Pure Sea Glass: Discovering Nature's Vanishing Gems* and real samples of sea glass and antique bottles, he will demonstrate the beauty and evolution of this shoreline treasure.

The Durand-Hedden House is located at 523 Ridgewood Road, Maplewood. Call 973-763-7712 for more information.

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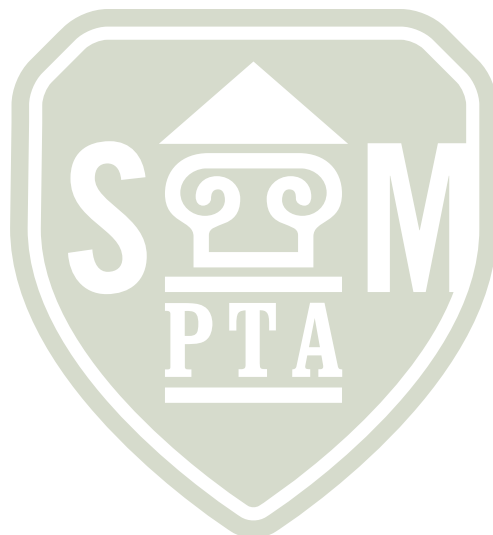
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*South Mountain Students can get this set at a reduced price to find out how or for more information about this set or other Usborne Books contact: Annélisa Blake-Wasden, Independent Educational Consultant, 973 820-1267, or view titles online at www.ubah.com/K1923



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somef news



There's still time to HONOR YOUR TEACHER

There's still time to HONOR YOUR TEACHER with a special "thank-you."

The end of the school year is around the corner. Choose the appreciation gift that teachers prefer over all others: a card with simple words of thanks. For a donation of \$5 or more each, the South Orange-Maplewood Education Foundation (SOMEF) will send a tribute card, personalized with your child's message, to any teacher in any school and deliver them to schools on June 19th.

Honor Your Teacher & Staff Tributes give back to our schools, because proceeds go to SOMEF's Teacher Grants: all teachers may apply for grants for supplemental projects of their own design to carry out with their students next year. Honor Your Teacher Tributes have helped SOMEF to fund 398 classroom grants for a total of \$260,000 since 2000!

IT'S EASY TO ORDER:

Obtain order forms at school or print out at www.somef.org. Complete a form for each tribute you want to send, include your student's personal

message of thanks, and mail with a check for the total amount (minimum \$5 per tribute) to SOMEF, PO Box 84, Maplewood, NJ, 07040. OR ORDER VIA EMAIL: Send all information requested on the paper form to info@somef.org. Orders of \$50 or more may be paid for via PayPal on the website. SOMEF HONOR YOUR TEACHER TRIBUTES MAKE GREAT CLASS GIFTS, TOO!

PLACE YOUR ORDER BY JUNE 8, 2009.

Questions? Call 973-762-3758, or email: info@somef.org.

SOMEF AWARDS SPRING GRANTS

Gary Pankiewicz, Supervisor of English Language Arts and Assistant Principal, Michael Healy, both of CHS, received the 2009 SOMEF Summer Administrator Grants. Mr. Pankiewicz's project is Student Centered Summer Reading, and Mr. Healy's (funded in part by the Anthony Garubo Unity Grant) is Bridge to Success - Trip to Atlanta.

The Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowship

was awarded to Mary Brancaccio (CHS) for Creative Non-Fiction: Telling the Truth at Bard, and to Catherine Evans (Marshall), Sue Donatelli (Tuscan), Kathy Shelffo (Clinton), and Lisa Heumann (South Mountain) for Responsive Classroom Institute, New York, NY. The Riecke Fellows will share the knowledge they gain at these summer learning sessions with their SO/M colleagues at staff development workshops in the fall.

elementary library news

Keep your children reading and learning over the summer with Maplewood Library's Summer Reading Program –

Be Creative @ Your Library!

Participation is easy and free! Simply bring your child to register and pick up a Reading Log at the Main Library or Hilton Branch. Once registered, children will record all of their time spent reading and writing between June 22 and August 7. To obtain their creative prizes, students bring in their Reading Logs during scheduled recording hours. The more they read the more prizes they earn.

Students can also learn about visual and performing arts through songs, art, crafts, games, and author visits such as Maplewood's own Irene Kelly.

Youth Stages will be coming to both the Main Library and Hilton Branch to run Creative Dramatics programs, including dramatic play, story enactment, imagination journeys, theatre games, music, and dance. "Let's pretend" is the norm in creative drama!

In-person registration at the Main Library or Hilton Branch is required for all programs. For more information, go to www.maplewoodlibrary.org or call (973) 762-1622, ext. 5005.

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Second Grade Brownie Troop, #20699 plant flowers in front of the school.