

superstar 10

april calendar

it's here!

spring finally arrives.



- 1 | April Fool's Day
- 2 | Schools Closed for Good Friday
- 5-9 | Schools Closed for Spring Recess
- 13 | Cultural Arts Assembly, pg.2
- 23 | Cultural Arts - Anti-Bullying
- 28 | General PTA Board - Technology in Action, SM 7pm

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Advertising Info

School hours:

Full Sessions K-5

South Mountain:

First Bell 8:05am
8:10am-2:40pm

4-hr Sessions
8:10am-12:10pm

Annex:

First Bell 7:55am
8:00am-2:30pm

4-hr Sessions
8:00am-12:00noon

SAVE our PLANET



Reduce your carbon footprint and go green! Please sign up for digital version of this Superstar newsletter!
Contact: Kim Miller by email at: kdmills@optonline.net



i love earthday



spring recess
april 5-9



box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!

Yvette Holowczak
yvholowczak@yahoo.com



it's spring!

presidents column

Sylvia Cutler & Laura Reichgut, PTA Co-Presidents



We wanted to take a moment to acknowledge that this has been a difficult time for our school community. We have families that have been directly impacted by the tragedies of the earthquakes. The district is facing budget cuts that have all of us concerned about how this will impact on education. We also have families that may be redistricted to other schools if the Board of Education approves the proposed effort to address the overcrowding at South Mountain. We want to show our support to these families if they are required to make a transition to another school, and to let them know that they will be missed at South Mountain. In spite of the challenges our families are facing we move forward with optimism of good things to come.

We are excited to report that our broadcast studio is up and running. The 5th graders are giving daily reports on sports, current events, and school news, in addition to leading the school in the pledge of allegiance. Other classes are taking advantage of the broadcast studio as well, including Kindergarten students reading poetry to the school. This is such a wonderful and enriching addition to our school and the possibilities are endless! We could not have made this happen without the support of all of our South Mountain families. We continue to thank you for your contributions to our fundraising efforts. We would especially like to acknowledge the parents that have helped to spearhead the daily operations of the studio. Our gratitude goes out to Elise Joy, Maria Shapiro and Renee Leviton. Please reach out to Renee at reneeleviton@hotmail.com if you would like to learn more about how you can get involved. And of course none of this can happen without our Language Arts 5th grade teachers. Thank you Mr. Cahn and Ms. Gutkin for your hard work.

We hope to see all of you at our next general PTA meeting — **"Technology in Action"** — on *Wednesday, April 28th at 7:00pm*. Please join us in welcoming Paul Roth, Chief Information Officer of SOMSD, with an exciting demonstration of the new technology at South Mountain! Come observe the use of the smartboards and check out our broadcast studio. See where your generous contributions have been spent to enrich the school day of every student.

We have two exciting cultural arts assemblies coming to South Mountain this April. On April 13th we welcome Jack Branagan, who brings his multimedia program on **Vanishing Habitats-The Earth Speaks** to entertain, educate and enlighten our students about how changes in the earth's environments affect every living thing. Detailed information about this program and Mr. Branagan's many other programs can be found at www.jacksearthmatters.com. This program is 100% funded by a grant to the township of South Orange from the Clean Communities Program of New Jersey and with the support of South Orange Township Administrator, John Gross.

On April 23rd, actor, psychologist, poet Michael Fowlin brings an exciting program on the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention, personal identity and bullying to our 3rd-5th graders. His original and powerful presentations, now seen by over a million people, bring a heightened awareness of these issues and suggest SOLUTIONS to help all of us navigate through these particularly difficult aspects of growing up in as wonderfully diversified community as ours. We would like to thank South Mountain parent and cultural arts coordinator, Russell Kaplan, for organizing such wonderful assemblies this year.

(continued on next column)

Please mark your calendars for Teacher Appreciation Week. Thanks to Maria Witt, Michele Billec and their committee, many special activities are planned for our South Mountain staff. Most of their efforts go into organizing the Parent/Teacher luncheon scheduled for Friday, May 7th. In the past there has been some confusion about whether or not parents are to attend this luncheon. This is an opportunity for you to enjoy lunch with the school staff, so we welcome you to join us! We know life is busy, and work schedules do not always permit, but if you are able to attend this is a wonderful way to show support to the teachers and staff. Whether you are able to attend or not, we welcome your delicious food donations that are the highlight of the event.

We have many wonderful events coming up in the next few months. We know there will be a lot going on, and as always we welcome our help and look forward to seeing you there!

Sylvia and Laura



Elementary Enrollment

At the February 22nd Board of Education meeting, a presentation was made regarding elementary enrollment. While the preliminary projections indicate a growing enrollment over the next few years at our elementary schools, an analysis of building capacity shows there is sufficient space for all students in the current elementary school buildings. Adjustments in elementary boundaries are necessary to use existing classrooms efficiently and avoid the expense to taxpayers of building additional space.

A detailed analysis was completed and a proposal to address the increased elementary enrollment was presented at the March 22 Board of Education meeting. Both presentations are available on the district's website, www.southorangemaplewood.org, under Board of Education, 2010 Board Meeting Agendas.

A community forum on elementary enrollment is scheduled for Monday, April 12 at 7:00pm in the Board of Education district meeting room. Any questions regarding this topic can be emailed to enrollment@somsd.k12.nj.us.

spring is finally here!

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

At long last our children can be outside for recess. It brings a smile to my face to see them out in the fresh air, running around the track, jumping rope, playing four square, drawing colorful pictures on the black top with chalk, or working to keep a hula hoop twirling for as long as they can! It has been a long winter, but spring is finally here! Please remind your child to wear sneakers to school so that they can play safely outdoors. I ask that you talk to our child about safe behavior and the importance of watching out for their peers, especially during recess. This can be the happiest time of the day, but for some the most stressful.

You may have heard from your child about our Morning Broadcasts, live from our broadcast studio. We have been working for several months with our wonderful PTA and the district technology department to create a state of the art Broadcast Studio. Under the guidance and direction of their language arts teachers, our fifth grade students will broadcast news, sports, and school events every morning to the entire school community. A big thank you to our parent experts for their help in getting this off the ground. We hope to give a demonstration of this at our special technology PTA evening in April.

We also have two carts of laptops with 24 laptops in each cart, now available for classroom instruction. At the beginning of the year, I know that many of you were upset that we had lost our computer lab. I spoke to the district about purchasing COWS (Computers On Wheels) for our school. These are now in place and can easily be wheeled into classrooms to use for research, report writing or content area enrichment. I am delighted with this addition to our school. I actually feel that this is a better option for integrating technology into the school day, instead of going into a computer lab. In the lab, the children shared a computer between two children. They now each have access to their own laptop.

You may notice in both schools some serious digging in progress. The kindergarten classes are planning, creating, and planting gardens that will provide opportunities to watch the wonder of plants growing, and the greater delight of eating what you plant, or sharing this with others. You do not have to have a kindergartener to help water, weed or take a small group of kindergarteners outside to watch a bed of soil slowly transform into a garden. Several other classes are also creating a sunflower garden in the back of the big school.

As the days get longer and spring unfolds, I urge all of you to take long walks with your children around town, or up to the reservation, to look for signs of spring. I still remember with joy going on long walks with my mom on the first days of spring, finding tiny wild flowers, listening for birds singing, enjoying the feeling of the sun on my face once more. These are among the most magical memories of my childhood. So, set aside some time, take a walk and enjoy your child's discoveries. You might enjoy it even more than your child!

Tina

contact info:

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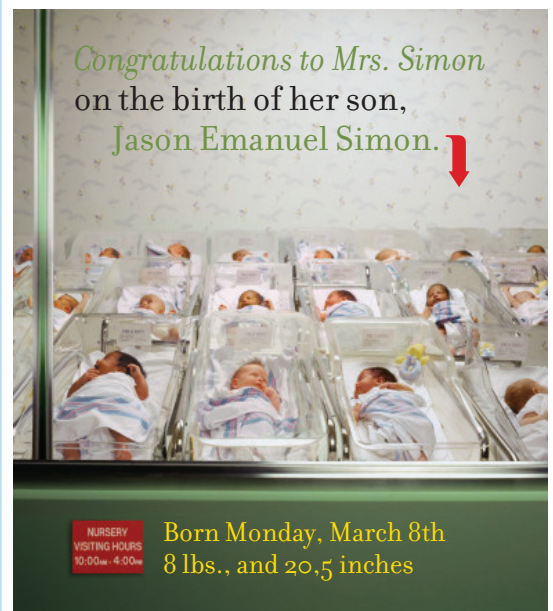
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Recording Secretary

Renee Leviton



hello superstars!

fundraising

Shana Teitelbaum & Marilyn Wright, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

Hello Superstars and Welcome Spring! We hope everyone is enjoying this wonderful springtime weather.

School Spiritwear

Most of you should have received your apparel orders. Due to a vendor delay, some items had to be reordered, however upon delivery of the merchandise the remaining orders will be filled and distributed. We will be receiving a shipment of Spring merchandise shortly, including TANK TOPS, BOYS BASKETBALL SHORTS, GIRLS SOCCER SHORTS, TIE-DYED T'S AND MORE! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your school spiritwear, please contact Shana Teitelbaum at hsteitelbaum@optonline.net or Marilyn Wright at mm.wright@mindspring.com.

Spring Photos

We appreciate all of the families that supported the Spring Photo Day. This fundraiser was a big success! Thank you to our co-chairs Janet Christmann, Priscilla Goldman and Jen Ratner for all your hard work!

Help Support the South Mountain School "Spring Spruce Up" Effort

Please help us spruce up the building front with shrubs and greenery and give the Teacher's Lounge a quick makeover in time for our Spring events and Teacher Appreciation Week. We're accepting monetary donations to purchase landscaping needs and construction materials. We'll also accept donations that include a gently used refrigerator, kitchen cabinetry and decorating items. Please make checks payable to the South Mountain PTA and include **Spring Spruce Up** on the memo line and forward to the PTA mailbox in the school offices. Contact Sylvia Cutler at sylcutler@aol.com with any questions.

Continue to send in your Box Tops and Juice Pouches!!

upcoming event:

School Fair — Monday, June 4th from 5-7pm

Shana & Marilyn

**SM Beautification**

Please join us in our efforts to beautify the school. This Spring volunteers will begin a landscaping project and teacher's lounge makeover at South Mountain. If you are interested in contributing to our costs any amount will be helpful. Please make checks out to **South Mountain PTA** and indicate "**Spring Spruce Up**" in the memo line.



library news

library reminder tidbits

Reminder for families to select South Mountain School Library as the recipient when searching through goodsearch.com (a yahoo-based search engine)

A reminder to keep submitting any and all brands of ink/toner printer/fax/copier cartridges/bottles for recycling to the library (either building), and thank you immensely to those who have submitted cartridges for recycling.

Six Flags Read to Succeed logs have been submitted to Weekly Reader for verification of the 360 minutes read by each child. More than 115 students returned their forms by the deadline (despite 2 snow days the day before the due date!). Tickets should arrive to Mrs. Ng in mid-May. Tickets will be MAILED via USPS (postage donations greatly appreciated), unless you indicate it is okay to send them home with your child.

Battle of the Books for grade 5 is over. As of the article submission due date, the grade-wide battle had not yet been held. Please be sure your 5th grader returns their Battle book promptly, so they can be inventoried and packed away for next year. Grade 4 is in full swing with their reading, and Grade 3 will be starting shortly.

TV Turnoff Ultimate Challenge is winding down. Great job to all those who are participating. Information about the final due date for the completion forms will be in the May newsletter.

first a thank you...

administration

Amy Forman & Julie Saydah, Administration VP Co-Chairs

Thank you so much to all the incredibly generous and thoughtful families who have already contributed donations for outdoor recess!

Here is a quote from one of the parents who happened to be at school when the first group of children went outside and saw all of the new supplies...

"Honestly, the looks on their faces, the smiles, the squeals, one child actually said, 'Oh my gosh! There is so much to choose from I don't know what to do first!' It was the greatest feeling ever to see them so happy, so excited and so appreciative."

Your help has truly made a difference!

For anyone interested, we are still purchasing items and have bins outside the school offices for collecting new and gently used...

- large balls (for four square, etc)
- hula hoops
- jump ropes (especially the individual sizes)

We also very much appreciate the monetary donations that we have received and we have already been able to provide many great outdoor items thanks to your help. Of course, we will continue to purchase additional supplies for our outdoor recess program with any future donations (checks should be made out to **South Mountain PTA**, please note "outdoor recess" in the memo line).

Again thank you very, very much for your support!!!

and a reminder...

We also want to remind you that the South Mountain directory is for school related purposes only. The information published is strictly for the staff and students of the school and is not to be used for business or political purposes under any circumstances.

Thank you,

Amy & Julie



Tsipi Kaplan
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973.761.5866
917.502.0932 cell
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TSIPI KAPLAN



Nominating Committee News

As we head into the Spring, it is time for the South Mountain community to begin the process of filling all open positions on the 2010-11 PTA Executive Board. The first step in that process was to form a Nominating Committee.

Our goal was to select committee members that would represent the South Mountain community. Those members are as follows:

- Jen Stemmermann** (VP - Corresponding Secretary; children in 3rd grade)
- Shana Teitelbaum** (Co-VP - Fundraising; child in 2nd grade)
- Shanease Guion-Davis** (children in Kindergarten and 2nd grade)
- Thomas Mixon** (child in 2nd grade)
- Debbie Otner** (children in 3rd & 5th grade)
- Robin Stephan** - alternate (children in Kindergarten, 2nd & 4th grade)

According to the PTA By-Laws, this Committee should be composed of 5 members whose responsibility it is to present one eligible person for each office to then be voted on by the entire South Mountain community. To reiterate, the Nominating Committee will present the slate for the 2010-11 Executive PTA Board but it does NOT have the final vote. The slate will be voted on by the South Mountain parent body at the general PTA meeting on May 19th.

The positions available for 2010-11 PTA Executive Board are:

- 1- Co-Treasurer (2 years)
- 1- Co-VP, Fundraising (2 years)
- 1- Co-VP, Programming (2 years)
- 1- Recording Secretary (2 years)
- 1- Corresponding Secretary (1 year)
- 1- VP, Communications (**new position** - 1 year)

If you have any questions about what is involved in these positions or being an PTA Executive Board member, please e-mail:

Jen Stemmermann at
jenstemmermann@yahoo.com or
Shana Teitelbaum at
hsteitelbaumoptonline.net

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a busy, wonderful 2010!

programming

Patricia Canning & Marietta Zacker, Programming VP Co-Chairs

It seems as if we have finally turned the corner on Winter and look forward to all of our Spring events where we will take advantage of the nice, warmer weather.

Storytelling Night

Children came dressed in their PJs, found a cozy spot, and were read their favorite stories by parents, Ms. Lehn and other children. Children also ate their favorite snacks while doing a craft that was donated to Meals on Wheels. The new format of Storytelling night enabled us to have an actual StoryTeller, who acted out a familiar story relating to giving. We would like to thank Janet Christmann, Kim Minor and their volunteers for this special night.

save the date!

PTA General Meeting – April 28 at 7:00pm

Technology in Action

See your PTA donations at work through the use of classroom technology. Witness the broadcast booth in action and participate in a Smartboard demonstration with Chief Information Officer, Paul Roth.

May Teacher Appreciation Week – Week of May 3rd

Show your appreciation to your child's teacher. Each day there will be a special "gift" for your teacher culminating in a luncheon for teachers and PTA parent volunteers on Friday, May 7th. Save the date and join us as we invite all parents to attend the teacher/staff luncheon. Everyone is welcome and it is a great opportunity to dine with our hard working South Mountain staff. Show off your cooking or baking skills and donate your favorite dish by contacting: Maria Witt, mariagwitt@yahoo.com, or Michele Billec, mbillec@verizon.net. Thank you Maria and Michele for your hard work with this week of appreciation!

Patricia & Marietta



notable thanks to troop

669

Third grade Brownie Troop #699 with the food donations from the first week of the food drive. Mrs. Visco's third grade class collected the most donations in the first week.

ad notes:

Advertising Info

We have made changes to the advertising section of the Superstar newsletter. The PTA welcomes your personal or business ADs, which are still subject to South Mountain families only.

The new advertising rate card will be sent upon request. For more information, please contact Wendy Miller by email at: wemiller5@aol.com

We are now offering a 10% discount for AD placement in three or more issues, a 15% discount for placement in six or more and a 20% discount for all issues of the newsletter.

For advertising information please contact:

Wendy Miller

email: wemiller5@aol.com

phone: (973) 761-6780

All checks should be made payable to:

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PTA

and sent to her home address:

Wendy Miller

183 Underhill Road

South Orange, NJ 07079

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Advertising Policy

Deadline: the 18th of the prior month when you wish your AD to appear. Contact Wendy Miller at:

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