

superstar 11

april calendar

spring is here!

and its about time.

- 1 | April Fool's Day
- 8 | Roundtable Meeting Annex 8:15am
- 8 | Vote 2011/2012 Executive Board
- 13 | Open Executive Board Meeting 7pm
- ~~27~~ | ~~General-PTA-Meeting cancelled~~
- may 6 | Teacher/Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 19 | Art Show and Spring Concert

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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

roundtable with principal tina lehn annex 8:15am

SAVE our PLANET

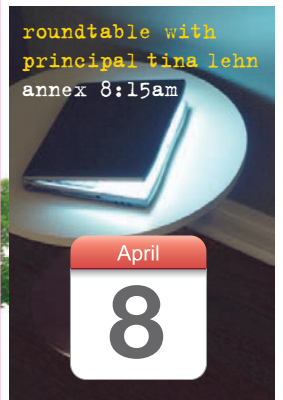


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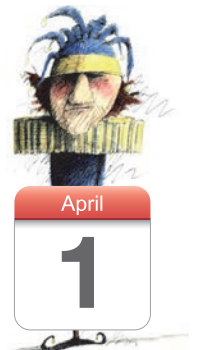
box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!

Yvette Holowczak
yvettewh@gmail.com



april fool's



spring is finally here!

presidents column

Laura Reichgut & Amy Porman, PTA Co-Presidents

Spring is finally here! By the time you read this newsletter, we will be recovering from our auction — Midnight at the Oasis. We hope that regardless of whether or not you could attend, you were able to participate in some of our fabulous raffles. If you did not walk away with a prize in hand, please know that your support and contributions helped make South Mountain a better place for our children. We are well on our way to a new and improved auditorium, and continue to fund academic enhancements and enrichments that impact all of our students. And thank you to all the many volunteers who spent countless hours making this event possible.

We also want to express our appreciation and admiration to David Crutcher, Felicia Hill, Jen Glass and their volunteers for coordinating the Variety Show. We know how much time and work went into producing such a truly awesome evening of entertainment for everyone involved!

March was also a great month for PTA meetings, as we ventured into some new ideas at South Mountain.

Thanks to School Social Work Intern Patience Moore we learned techniques for stress reduction through the practice of Mindfulness. At our general PTA meeting, School in Action, we had the opportunity to hear directly from students about the amazing programs that they can participate in at South Mountain. Then we had the chance to be students ourselves and experience some of the academic activities, games and lessons taught in language arts and math. We give special thanks to the students who presented, along with Principal Lehn, Assistant Principal Samuels and Ms. Simon for taking time out of their busy days for this event. We also had our first evening roundtable with Principal Lehn, which was immediately followed by our first open executive board meeting. We all enjoyed having new faces at our board meeting, and look forward to seeing more members of the community involved in these open meetings in the future.

Our next morning roundtable with Principal Lehn will be on Friday, April 8th at the Annex. If you haven't been able to attend one of these meetings yet this year, we can assure you that these discussions are never disappointing. It has been a wonderful way for parents to get to know Ms. Lehn, and have a better sense of what happens in the school on a daily basis. The roundtables provide parents the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns, and from the feedback we have received, it seems everyone always leaves these meetings with reassurance that our students' best interests are the top priority. At this roundtable we will also vote on the 2011-2012 Executive Board Slate of Officers. Your vote counts, and we hope to see you there! We also invite you to join us at our 2nd open executive board meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 pm.

(continued on next column)

Looking towards May we want to mention that **Teacher Appreciation Week** begins Monday, May 2nd. The Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon is a wonderful way to celebrate our school, and all parents are welcome and encouraged to come! This is an opportunity to have a meal with your child's teacher, and express thanks for all of the hard work they do. We have been told that a fabulous menu and entertainment is in the works, and we look forward to seeing many of you there!

Mark your calendars for a few other important events:

South Mountain Art Show and Spring Concert Evening Thursday, May 19th

School Fair Friday, June 3rd
rain date: Monday, June 6th

School Spirit Day Friday, June 10th
rain date: Friday, June 17th

We'll see you at school!!

Laura & Amy

**Teacher & Staff
Appreciation Luncheon**
Performance by Columbia
High School Choir

May

6



a cheer for spring!

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

I saw the first crocus blossoms this week and I gave a silent cheer! We have had a long, dreary winter, but the days are finally getting longer and warmer, and so, our children can finally go outside to play.

Thanks to our wonderful parents, we have started a recess gardening club for our third and fourth graders. They will be planting vegetables and flowers during the coming weeks. Encourage your child to sign up for this club and learn the joys of getting your hands dirty and watching seedlings grow. Our kindergarteners will soon be planting their gardens in both buildings, guided by our teachers and parent volunteers. If you would like to get involved in any of these undertakings, we would be delighted to put you to work: *no expertise needed!*

On St. Patrick's day, I called my brother in Ireland to wish him a happy St. Patrick's Day. He told me he was going up to the Dublin Mountains for a walk with his family. He got me thinking: it's time to get out of our houses and go for a long...or a short...hike! When is the last time you took your family up to the reservation for a walk or a bike ride?

One of our favorite things to do as a family in winter when our kids were younger was to take a ride to the ocean on a sunny day. Walking along the edge of the water, with the waves crashing on the sand, and no one else on the beach, was a real adventure to my son and daughter, and so much better for our family than another afternoon watching TV or playing video games. *I recommend it highly!*

Tina

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Russell Kaplan *Cultural Arts*
Russell@CommuniKidsNJ.com

Eileen Trinity *SMILE Coordinator*
jcet110198@aol.com

no.

4

SERIES

morning
round
table

Morning Roundtable

Friday, April 8th, 8:15am
Annex

Also, voting for new officers for the
2011-2012 PTA Executive Board!

April

8

Please join us for this special opportunity to meet and talk with Principal Lehn.

We will also be voting for the slate of new officers for the 2011-2012 PTA Executive Board.

Remember your vote counts!

welcome spring!**fundraising**

Shana Teitelbaum & Janet Christmann, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

Welcome to Spring! Hopefully you've all recovered from our crazy winter and are enjoying the outdoors again.

To those of you who supported our school by attending and/or purchasing some of the great prizes at the auction, thank you. It was a special night. We hope you all had fun and love what you came home with.

Thanks to Laura Brown-Mixon and Niv Miyasato, heads of the Decorations Committee, for all their creative efforts! It is because of their group that anyone who was there felt like they were transported to Morocco for the night!

Also, a big thank you to Maria Witt, Brenda Berger and the rest of their solicitation committee. They all did an amazing job securing all the unique and desirable prizes!

Thank you to Jennie Tinkelman and Pearl Louie for managing ticket sales so well. They made it look easy!

Thank you, also, to Tracy Guth Spangler and Nancy Cohen for all their hard work on the Auction program. It looked beautiful and was so useful.

Karen Wolf, Jill Abramson and Julie Fuhrman did a terrific job with the class baskets. Thanks to them and to all the parents who contributed to make these baskets a huge success.

Finally, thank you to Kanani Briggs and Estela Valdez for organizing the Pre-Purchase tickets so that the whole school community was able bid even if they couldn't attend. Awesome job!

Next up, School Fair and School Spirit Day! They're taking place on June 3rd and June 10th so if you need some new Spirit Wear contact Janet or Shana.

Don't forget to keep sending in those Juice Pouches and Box Tops. Thank you to Yvette Holowczak, Julia Cerny, Stacy Maeberth and Katherine Foley for your efforts on our school's behalf.

Shana & Janet



**Open PTA Executive
Board Meeting**

All parents are welcome to attend!

**Wednesday, April 13th
7:00pm in the SM Library**



thanks!

**Midnight
at the Oasis**



Thank you and congratulations to Janet Christmann, Shana Teitelbaum and their amazing and awesome team of auction chairs!

Jill Abramson
Brenda Berger
Kanani Briggs
Laura Brown-Mixon
Nancy Cohen
Julie Fuhrman
Pearl Louie
Niv Miyasato
Tracy Spangler
Jennie Tinkelman
Estela Valdez
Maria Witt
Karen Wolf



happy spring!

administration

Marilyn Wright & Julie Saydah, Administration VP Co-Chairs

Happy spring everyone! We're pleased to announce that recently, four new children have enrolled at South Mountain School:

Maxwell Manchester has joined Mrs. Magnani's 1st grade class.

Shala Anastasio & Sam Manchester
326 Franklin Place
South Orange, NJ 07079
262-989-9213
shala310@yahoo.com

Walter Rae has joined Mrs. Magnani's 1st grade class.

Jahlay & John Rae
432 Lenox Place,
Maplewood, NJ 07040
917-225 4845
jahlayrae@gmail.com

Aaron Saunders has joined Mrs. J. Esposito's 2nd grade class.

Robin & John Saunders
41 Hart Drive North
South Orange, NJ 07079
973-378-3571
saundersrk@verizon.net

Esme Solis-Maurer has joined Mrs. Dorton's 1st grade class.

Ellyn Solis-Maurer
64 White Oak Drive
South Orange, NJ 07079
201-665-3942
ellynsolispr@aol.com

Please join us in giving all of our new families a very warm welcome to the South Mountain Community!

Marilyn & Julie

thank you!

south mountain cares

Kanani Briggs, South Mountain Cares Committee Chair

A big THANK YOU to the families that brought meals for the IHN guests and volunteered at Our Lady of Sorrows in March. The meals were greatly appreciated by the families.

We still have spaces available for volunteering at the Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges on Wednesday, April 20th at 9:15-11am. Families are welcome to participate (school age children only). We will pack bags of food and assist in handing them out to those in need. Please contact me, skbriggs1@gmail.com to reserve a spot.

Enjoy your spring break!

Kanani



cultural arts corner
russell kaplan

The snow has all melted, temperatures are warming up and Spring is upon us. With the outdoors beckoning, our Cultural Arts programming for the year is winding down. Last week, in a fitting adieu to March's showers and hello to April's flowers our schools were visited by honeybee expert, Cliff Sunflower. First, during an entertaining assembly, and then through a series of hands on workshops our students were introduced to the vital roll that honeybees play in our biosphere. Though not a good idea for a pet, this program encouraged our kids to embrace these busy buzzers (not literally, of course) rather than fear them as stinging nuisances.

Our final program for the year is one of our most exciting—our 4th grade Artist in Residency program with SpiritTree. While our 4th grade classes will be charged with creating the art installation, our entire student body and community will have the opportunity to experience the final creation. More information about SpiritTree and the scope of this project will be forthcoming, but for now, know that our school will be filled with the sights, sounds and smells of a working art studio throughout May and June.

Finally, we will be starting to think about next year's programming very soon. Feedback from this year's slate of events and suggestions of programs you might have heard about are much in need. Thanks again for your support.

Russell



Ca

did you know?**communications**

Priscilla Goldman & Thomas Nixon, Communications VP Co-Chairs

Did You Know? The South Mountain Student Council has been busy organizing fundraisers for our school and the community both near and far, championing school upgrades and spreading school spirit. South Mountain Elementary School has a new mascot! Our students have started a school newspaper. Aptly named The Scoop, the Editorial Board is comprised of 4th and 5th graders and the entire student body is welcome to submit articles, drawings, photographs, poems etc. Way to go South Mountain!

As the end of this school year is rapidly approaching, it's time to begin thinking about next year and how you can become more involved in your child's educational experience. Volunteering your time and talents for South Mountain events is a great way to assist in making sure the school and the PTA are able to provide our children with the activities and programs they love.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any public school — every event occurs only because parents just like you are committed to giving generously not only of their valuable resources but sometimes more importantly, their time.

The South Mountain Scoop has parent volunteers that meet weekly with the Editorial Board, The Variety Shows' great success happened because of all the parents and guardians who assisted, organized and planned. Our children had many more options for indoor recess during our very long winter, all thanks to parent and guardian volunteers. The fabulous Midnight at the Oasis Auction this past March is one example of how parents, working together after hours, on weekends, and even during the workday, help ensure that events like that momentous undertaking are a rousing success. Sadly, we also have an example of how the PTA can only work if we have your help - the After School Superstars program, by any measure a favorite with both parents and students, will not be a part of the Spring PTA programming. We simply don't have enough volunteers to allow us to coordinate the program effectively. We are hoping that we will be able to resume this program in the Fall, but that can only happen if more of you decide to donate a little of your time to make it work.

If we all give a little time, the school and our children benefit exponentially. So when making your plans for your child's next school year (and even for the remainder of this year, Spirit Day is just around the corner) please consider volunteering some of your time and energy to the school and to the PTA. There's really something for everyone. Contact us and we can brainstorm all the possibilities.

priscilla & Tom

**library news****grade 5 battle of the books**

5th Grade Battle of the Books is over. The Class Winners were...

Ms Simon's class – Seth, Kayla, Jordan, Daniel

Mr Cahn's class – Nicole F., Caroline, Jonathan, Victor, Josh

Ms. Auerbach/Appenzoller's class – John, Channa, Luc, Karla, Sophia

Ms. Gutkin's class – Sarah A., Sophie, Katie, Matthew, Jared, Sarah P.

And the champions were....Mr. Cahn's team! They scored 64 points out of a possible 80. Congrats to all teams —It was a close match—only one question separated 1st place and 3rd place!

Please be sure your 5th grader has returned his /her Battle books, so the books can be inventoried and packed away for next year.

4th Grade has started their turn at Battle of the Books. Class competitions will be in late April, with a grade-wide competition shortly thereafter. Third grade will be introduced to the Battle of the Books in mid to late April.

Thank you to all the families who have been turning in empty ink/toner cartridges to the library for recycling. The librarian, PE teachers, and office staff greatly appreciate it. The cartridges make it possible for us to purchase supplies at Staples at sale prices and/or as needed, without having to have purchase orders processed and waiting for weeks for items to arrive.

77 students returned their Six Flags Reading Logs by the deadline and are eligible to a free child's ticket to Six Flags. Tickets should arrive at school in May, and instructions for ticket pick-up or delivery will be emailed to families at that time. Please be sure the librarian (Mrs. Ng) has a current/valid email address for your family. ★★★

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many thanks!**programming**

Patricia Canning & Wendy Miller, Programming VP Co-Chairs

Thanks to Patience Moore, social work intern at South Mountain, for sharing her expertise with us through the two Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Practices sessions. Those who joined appreciated Patience's words of wisdom for finding ease through integrating simple, accessible practices into our busy schedules.

What a great night for South Mountain at our annual Variety Show on March 10!! The two shows provided only a glimpse of the many talents we have in our school. We are proud of all of the children who had the courage to perform in front of a packed audience. Hopefully, other children were inspired and will consider performing next year. Special thanks to Felicia Hill, Jennifer Glass, David Crutcher and their volunteers for putting together such a memorable evening!

The School In Action Meeting was very informative. The newly inaugurated representatives from the student government and the peer mediation program, introduced themselves and discussed how their roles support our school.

Also, thanks to Ms. Lehn, Ms. Samuels and Ms. Simon for sharing more about the mathematics and language arts curriculum with us. Ms. Simon demonstrated how the iPhone math apps were being used in the classroom to enhance math skills. You may find some of the suggested games at Livebinders.com. Type in somsd in Featured binders and search for KBeane. It will contain selected math games from our district math supervisor.

As we Spring ahead and think towards warmer weather, please make sure your calendar is marked for our upcoming events, which include:

Friday, April 8**Roundtable with Tina Lehn at the Annex at 8:15am**

We will present and vote for the 2011 PTA Board Slate. Come vote, bring your questions and be prepared for a lively discussion with Ms. Lehn.

Friday, May 6**Teacher Appreciation**

Performance by Columbia High School Choir

As always, remember that we welcome your feedback about any of the PTA sponsored events. Please contact us at: patmatcan@yahoo.com or wemiller5@aol.com. Also, please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help with any of the upcoming events.

Patricia & Wendy



save the date

Art Show & Spring Concert

May

19

ADVERTISE!

We have made changes to the advertising section of the Superstar newsletter. *The PTA welcomes personal or business ADs from South Mountain families and South Mountain Alumni only.* Space is limited, so AD submission is on a first come basis. AD deadline is the 15th of the month for placement in the next month's issue (*this will give us enough time to track down payments*).

For larger display ADs, please inquire. Submissions by email only.

Printed and digital PDF versions will be in color. Subject to change.

For advertising information, including any requests for the 2010/2011 Rate Card, please contact by email:

Thomas Mixon

thomas_mixon@nysp.uscourts.gov

All checks should be made payable to:

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PTA

Drop payment off in the PTA mailbox, communications folder, located in the school office at South Mountain.

classifieds:

Deadline: the 15th of the prior month when you wish your AD to appear. Subject to availability.

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