

superstar 11

digital edition

december calendar

let it snow!

enjoy the holidays.

- 2 | Coat Drive Ends
- 2 | Roundtable with Principal Lehn
- 6 | Midtown Direct Series Meeting:
Nutrition Expert Speaks
- 22 | 4-hour Day
- 23 | Winter Break until Jan 2nd
- jan19 | Roller Skating Party

in this issue:

- 2 Presidents Column
- 3 Principal's Message
- 3 2011 Contact Info
- 4 Programming
- 5 Presidents cont'd
- 5 Reach for the Stars
- 6 Administration
- 6 Communications
- 7 Advertising
- 8 Fundraising
- 8 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:

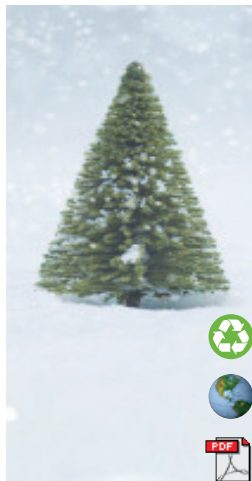
First Bell 7:55am

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 by email at:
smsuperstars.com/newsletter

box tops:

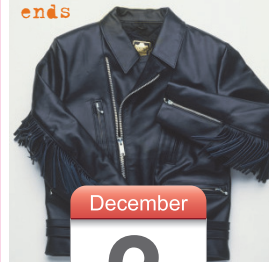
Last chance to bring in those Box Tops!

Stacey Maebert

smaebert@aol.com



coat drive ends



rollerskating party save the date



happy holidays!

presidents message

Amy Forman & Shana Teitelbaum, PTA Co-Presidents

It's still hard to believe that we had our first major snowstorm in October, but we hope everyone was safe and by now all houses and property are repaired. The storm did serve one purpose...to test the district emergency contact systems. Everyone should have received the district "Call 'Em All" recorded phone messages from Superintendent Brian Osborne alerting you of school delays and closings. If you did not, please contact Andrea Dudley at adudley@sommsd.k12.nj.us so that central office can update your contact information. In the future, the Call 'Em All messaging system will be activated for school closings and delayed openings, as well as other occasional pertinent and time sensitive information from our Principal or Superintendent, so it is very important that you are included.

South Mountain Cares continues to encourage all of us to reach out to our community and provide support to those in need. Thanks to Kanani Briggs and Lisa Duggan, the **Annual Coat Drive** was a huge success. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the South Mountain Cares programs, please contact Kanani Briggs at skbriggs1@gmail.com or search on the PTA menu for SMC on our website, www.smsuperstars.com.


November also brought the new **Display My Art program** to South Mountain. We are most grateful to our art teachers, Ms. Jones and Ms. Baglioni, for assisting the children in creating wonderful artwork that was replicated onto free magnets for each child as well as any other goodies you might have chosen to purchase. You should be receiving your items shortly, in time for holiday gift giving. Thank you to Lori Dalvi for coordinating the Big School efforts and to Janet Christmann and Jennie Tinkelman for bringing this new program to our school. We hope you and your children enjoyed the process.

Special thanks as well to the Picture Day Co-Chairs Jen Greenberg, Kim Miller and Jocelyn Clearly for a smooth Picture Retake Day. If you weren't satisfied with the pictures the first go-around, we hope they will be improved upon on the second try.

We would also like to thank everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts this fall. Our goal is 100% participation in our **Annual Fundraising Campaign** and we are grateful to the families that have been able to contribute any amount so far. We know these are challenging times for many but with your help, we can continue to provide enriching cultural arts opportunities for students, program resources for teachers as well as enhanced technology in all our classrooms. You have through the end of the year to make a tax-deductible donation so please give what you can. Remember that every dollar counts.

There are a number of other programs at South Mountain that are only possible with the help of parent volunteers. We want to thank Robin Stephan, Laura Reichgut and Patricia Canning for assisting with the 4th Grade Elementors program (whereby students from Columbia High School come to South Mountain to coordinate recess activities for groups of 4th grade students who will be rotated throughout the year) and special thanks to Randi Mandelbaum for all of her time and efforts organizing this program.

(continued on page 5)



message from the nurse:
get dressed for the
winter.




Dear Parents

Please have your children dress for the weather outside. On clear, sunny days we will go out at recess unless the temperature or wind chill factor is below 20F.

Winter Clothing Checklist:**GLOVES OR MITTENS**

They should be warm, dry and not too snug.

WINTER HAT

This should cover their ears and feel warm.

SCARF

To cover their face on windy days.

LAYERS FOR THEIR UPPER BODY

Layers are the best way to be comfortable. They can take some off when indoors if their classroom is too hot.

COVER THEIR LEGS

Socks, Leggings, Tights to keep their feet and legs warm.

PLEASE Label Clothing so we can return lost items to your children.

still cleaning up...

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

November was certainly an unusual month, and the district is still busy cleaning up after the snowstorm. As the final leaves drop to the ground, the damage to our trees is even more evident. The district needed to reach out beyond our maintenance staff to take care of this damage. Several tree companies have been hired to haul away the many broken branches, cut down dangerous trees, and prune branches that are hanging from limbs. They have been working non-stop. I am hoping by the time this newsletter goes to press that the cleanup will be complete. Thank you to everyone for your patience as we dealt with this.

Our student council members have already had two meetings and are beginning to prioritize what they would like to accomplish this year. It is a privilege to listen to how this group of students articulate what their vision is for our school, and how they feel they can make a difference in our world. Our new student council members are Joshua Burn, Ema Kochi, Ryan Saurborn, Lauren Lake, Quinn Barnitt, Jordan Mohammad and Lily Forman. Congratulations to them, and to all who ran for office. I am so proud of every child who participated.

Everyday your children come to school to learn. Every day our teachers work to help them grow as readers, writers, thinkers, and mathematicians, helping them to become lifelong learners. Our teachers understand that if they are also lifelong learners, their students will benefit greatly. We have several rich professional learning communities in South Mountain. Every teacher participates in one of these. I thought you would like to know some of the topics that our teachers are focusing on this year. They include: Creating Interactive Smart Board Lessons; Using Technology to Differentiate Instruction; Action Based Learning in Kindergarten; IMI: Individualized Math Instruction; and Conferencing in Writing Workshop. Teachers meet every week after school to focus on the area in which they want to grow. It is a joy for me to sit in on these meetings. The teachers take these meetings very seriously: they see them as an opportunity to grow as teachers, and to share with colleagues in the same grade and across grades. It is an honor to be principal in a building in which teachers appreciate the importance of learning not only for their students, but also for themselves.

Tina

December

2

SERIES

round
table

Morning Roundtable

Friday, December 2nd, 8:15am
South Mountain Library

Please join us at our **Morning Roundtable** with Tina Lehn. This is a great opportunity to have smaller group discussions with the Principal, address questions about your child's school and learn more about what they are doing in the classroom.

2011-2012 contact info:

South Mountain PTA Executive Board

Co-Presidents

Amy Forman

amygarysamlily@aol.com

Shana Teitelbaum

hsteitelbaum@optonline.net

Co-Vice Presidents, Administration

Marilyn Wright

mm.wright@mindspring.com

Tracy Guth Spangler

tracy_spangler@hotmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Communications

Priscilla Goldman

p@4elbows.com

Thomas Mixon

thomas_mixon@nysp.uscourts.gov

Co-Vice Presidents, Fundraising

Janet Christmann

janetc973@gmail.com

Jennie Tinkelman

jennie@tink.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Programming

Wendy Miller

wemiller5@aol.com

Nerissa Aschoff

naschoff@verizon.net

Co-Treasurers

Paige Graves

paegraves@aol.com

Barbara Trumpbour

btrumpbour@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Lorry Ripley

lripley@optonline.net

Recording Secretary

Robin Stephan

rstephan@milbank.com

Standing Committee Chairs:

South Mountain Cares

Kanani Briggs

skbriggs1@gmail.com

PTO-Special Education

Marilyn Lehren

marilynlehren@hotmail.com

Cultural Arts

Russell Kaplan

russell@communikidsnj.com

SMILE Coordinator

Eileen Trinity

jcet110198@aol.com

Recess & After School Enrichment

Randi Mandelbaum

randi.mandelbaum@verizon.net

looking forward...

programming

Wendy Miller & Nerissa Aschoff, Programming VP Co-Chairs

We are well into the school year and look forward to all we have in store for you and your family in the coming months.

First up, the next **Roundtable Meeting with Tina Lehn** is on Friday, December 2nd at 8:15 a.m. at the Big School Library.

Nutrition Expert to Present

For the second installment of our **Midtown Direct Series**, we are excited to introduce Carol Caldara, MA CHES and CATCH Nutritionist. Ms. Caldara will share how to use the GO-SLOW-WHOA foods list and make sense of the new MYPLATE for home food purchasing and preparation. She will offer tips to help you and your family eat smart, with tasty and economical meals that focus on local and sustainable foods. The presentation will take place at the Big School cafeteria on Tuesday, December 6th at 8:15am.

For those of you that were unable to attend the first installment featuring Judy LoBianco, the highlights of her energetic and very informative presentation are posted on the Home page of our website, www.smsuperstars.com. Ms. LoBianco addressed childhood obesity and the links between physical activity and academic performance, as well as the school district's physical education and health initiatives. Ms. LoBianco is Supervisor of Health, Physical Education, and Nursing Services of the South Orange-Maplewood School District.

Roller Skating Party Save-the-Date

We are looking forward to a fun evening at the Florham Park Roller Rink on *Thursday, January 19th at 5:30pm*. It's the perfect way to warm up with your fellow Superstars mid-winter. So mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more details!

December Highlights:

Roundtable Meeting with Ms. Lehn (Big School Library)
Friday, December 2nd at 8:15am

Midtown Direct Series: Nutrition Expert (Big School Cafeteria)
Tuesday, December 6th at 8:15am

We wish you and your family a joy-filled holiday season!

Wendy & Nerissa

**Thank you to Cultural Arts Chair
Russell Kaplan for arranging these
assembly programs this year!**

Mayhem Poets September 23

Myth Masters (Grades 3-5) October 20

Queen Nur February 21

NJ Shakespeare Festival A Midsummer's Night Dream
(Grades 3-5) - April 12

Ben Franklin Institute's Science Program
(K-2) Dates TBA

Spirit Tree (4th Grade) Dates TBA

Tuesday, December 6th
8:15am
SM Cafeteria

Midtown Direct Series

The second installment of our **Midtown Direct Series**, we are excited to introduce **Carol Caldara, MA CHES and CATCH Nutritionist**. Ms. Caldara will share how to use the GO-SLOW-WHOA foods list and make sense of the new MYPLATE for home food purchasing and preparation.

get ready for some
rollerskating!
save the date

January

19

annual roller skating night
florham park roller rink



continued from page 2

presidents message

Amy Forman & Shana Teitelbaum, PTA Co-Presidents

We are also grateful to the Broadcast Studio team: teacher advisor Mr. Cahn, Canty Gross, Wendy Miller, Stacy Lima, Marilyn Lehren, Rebecca Rounsavill, Wendy Sachs, Amanda Eigen and especially Jill Abramson for coordinating these efforts! The volunteers are all doing a great job and the 5th graders are having a blast taking turns in front of the camera!

It's also hard to believe that the Fall session of **After School Enrichment** classes will be coming to a close over the next couple of weeks. Thank you, once again, to Randi Mandelbaum for your tireless efforts on coordinating this program as well as to the parent volunteers who supervise your children in the downtime between the end of school and beginning of Enrichment. In addition to the volunteers mentioned last month, thank you to Kanani Briggs, Wendy Miller, Katie Taylor and Deirdre d'Entremont. We look forward to seeing which classes this program will bring in the Spring.

We hope you will be able to join us for a **Roundtable Meeting with Principal Lehn** this year; these are opportunities for small group discussions on a wide variety of topics as well as a time to raise any general questions you may have. Upcoming Roundtable Dates: *Friday, December 2nd* and *Friday, February 10th* @ the Big School (8:15am). We also hope you will help us welcome nutrition expert Carol Caldara for the Midtown Direct Series Meeting on Tuesday, December 6th at 8:15am.

We have a number of activities planned for the New Year. We cordially invite you to our **Annual Family Roller Skating Night** on Thursday, January 19th. Don't let winter keep you at home...join your South Mountain friends for an afternoon of fun! Rent or bring your skates, admission is compliments of the PTA! Details for this event will follow shortly.

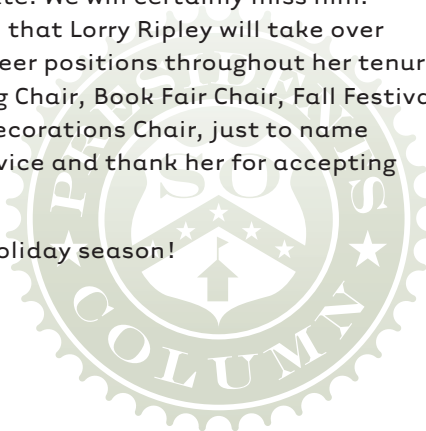
We are also getting ready for the annual **3rd-5th grade Variety Show**, information about "auditions" and rehearsals will be sent home soon. We are so grateful to Felicia Hill and Jennifer Glass for directing once again this year.

Please mark your calendars for Monday, *February 13th* at the Big School for a **Town Hall Meeting** sponsored by the Parenting Center featuring speaker Superintendent Brian Osborne.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Cole for his service as Corresponding Secretary this year. Due to unforeseen work commitments, Jim will not be able to continue his duties but we thank him for all his hard work and dedication to date. We will certainly miss him. We are exceptionally fortunate, however, that Lorry Ripley will take over this role. Lorry has served in many volunteer positions throughout her tenure at South Mountain (5th grade fundraising Chair, Book Fair Chair, Fall Festival Decorations Committee Chair, Auction Decorations Chair, just to name a few) and we welcome her input and service and thank her for accepting this Executive Board position.

We would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season!

Amy & Shana



fundraising

REACH FOR THE STARS
The South Mountain Annual Fundraising Campaign

The Gift of Giving: Give Now, Receive Later!
Receive Your Tax Deduction When You Make a Gift to the Campaign!

Help us meet our goal of 100% participation from our families.

Every gift counts. If every family contributed \$10, our goal would be met!

✦ **Donate by check or online** ✦

<http://smsuperstars.com> and click on the paypal link on the homepage or make your check payable to South Mountain PTA and put it in your child's backpack.

Please contact Lauren Rutkin at lbrutkin@gmail.com with any questions.

looking for a way to support your school and keep your kids warm at the same time?

get a south mountain hat or other stylish spiritwear!

visit:
superstars.com/spirit-wear



a fall whirlwind

administration

Marilyn Wright & Tracy Spangler, Administration VP Co-Chairs

What a whirlwind of a fall—it's hard to believe 2012 is almost here!

The online school directory is just about complete, but if you have yet to send in your information or become a member of the PTA, it's not too late. Go to www.smsuperstars.com, click on the school tab, and then click on school forms. If you do not have Internet access, please let us know, and we'll get you a hard copy of the form.

If you've paid your PTA dues but don't yet have the directory password, get in touch with us so we can send it to you. If your address or any other information has recently changed, or changes at any time during the school year, just let one of us know and we'll make sure it's updated in the directory.

As always, if you have questions, please email or call us. Happy holidays, and enjoy winter break!

Marilyn & Tracy



december is here!

communications

Priscilla Goldman & Thomas Mixon, Communications VP Co-Chairs

Hard to believe that December is here already with the holiday season approaching fast! We know how very busy everyone is with work, family and other obligations, so we wanted to send out a brief reminder of how you can stay informed of all the things happening at South Mountain.

Please visit SMSuperstars.com regularly—it is updated daily with all the events occurring in or around the schools and it has the "411" for important contact information for the PTA, the school as well as community information. It is also a great place to advertise your local business and introduce your business to the South Mountain community.

Are you receiving the weekly email blasts? If you are, then you know how informative they are—providing you with up-to-date information and news pertaining to activities, school closings, PTA meetings, you name it! In addition to the weekly blasts, we also send out email blasts to address developing weather and other situations (who can forget our October snow surprise?) that may affect school hours, closings, etc. If you do not receive these essential email blasts, please email us and make sure we have your correct (or preferred) email address to ensure that you receive them in the future.

We are always looking for new ideas as to how we can provide you with information on South Mountain and the community as thoroughly and conveniently as possible. As always, we welcome any suggestions or comments that you have regarding the website, email blasts, or other communication issues. Feel free to drop us a line anytime.

Finally, we want to wish you and your family a safe, joyous and healthy holiday season!

Priscilla & Tom

thank you superstar
volunteers!



Fran Baron
Lori Dalvi
Christine Fabrizio
Beth Ferguson
Julie Furhman
Jen Greenberg
Canty Gross
Meredith Katz
Beth Kitzinger
Kim Miller
Taydra Mitchell Jackson
Marcela Potocki
Jocelyn Ryan
Julie Saydah
Katie Taylor
Eileen Trinity
Krista Wergeland



national
influenza immunization week
is coming

**CDC - Seasonal Influenza (Flu)
Children, the Flu and the Flu Vaccine**

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm>

December

5

be truly amazing™

Imagine...

better prospects for the school year ahead.



With Kumon Math and Reading your child will sharpen his study habits and build the skills and confidence to achieve more on his own.

That means one truly amazing school year after another.

Call to schedule a FREE Placement Test!

KUMON OF SOUTH ORANGE 973-327-4737

76 South Orange Avenue, Suite LL-04, South Orange, NJ 07079
www.kumon.com/south-orange



MATH. READING. SUCCESS.

877-586-6671
www.kumon.com

©2011 Kumon North America, Inc.



Afterschool & Weekend OT & Speech Sessions Available

NJ's Favorite Kids' Docs 2009 & 2010

Speech/Language & Occupational Therapy
Rachel Fisch-Kaplan, Clinical Director
Laura Martucci, Director, OT Services



Speech/Language Therapy

Receptive & Expressive Language Issues • Oral Motor Therapy
PROMPT • Autistic Spectrum Disorders • Central Auditory Processing Disorders
Stuttering • Articulation Delays • Apraxia • Feeding Issues • Attention Deficit Disorders

Occupational Therapy

Sensory Integration • Handwriting Without Tears • Fine & Gross Motor Weaknesses

57 Union Place, Suite 315, Summit • 908.273.5537 • communikidsnj.com



PIANO for YOU

762-6601

Rewarding and fun.

Ages five and up.

Classical and popular music.

All levels, first lesson free.

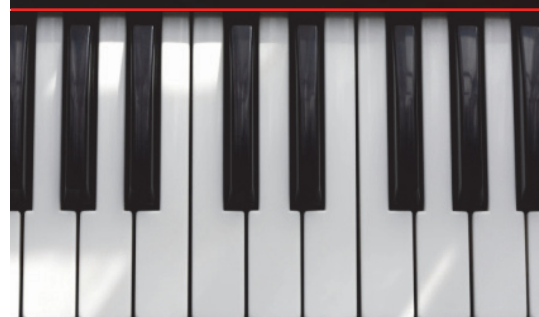


Call Wendy Goldstein.

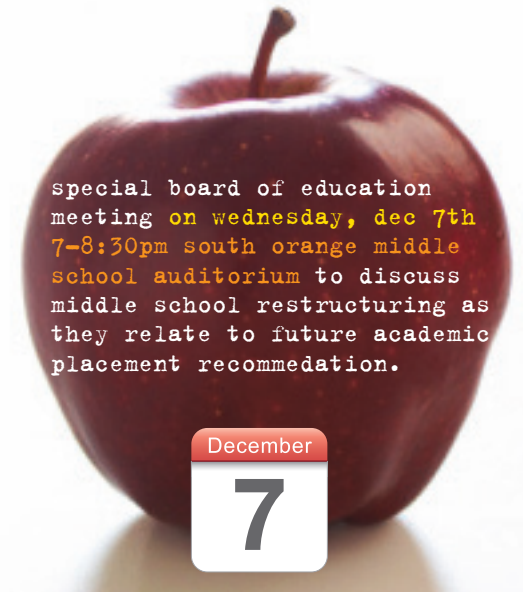
973-762-6601

wendy3637@aol.com

Manhattan School of Music Alumni



special board of education meeting on **wednesday, dec 7th** 7-8:30pm **south orange middle school auditorium** to discuss middle school restructuring as they relate to future academic placement recommendation.



btween SPACES

fresh design ideas for every room

Affordable Home Design Solutions

Color Consults. Redesign. Accessorizing. Sourcing.

To the Trade Discounts. No Job is too Small.

Karen Wolf | 973-220-2171 | kbwolf@btweenspaces.com



thank you, thank you!

fundraising

Janet Christmann & Jennie Tinkelman, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

The excitement of December is upon us. The holidays, the New Year and of course vacation week! As we prepare for the start of 2012 we must take a moment to say thank you to every South Mountain Family that supports our fundraising efforts. Your contributions bring wonderful programs and resources to our school. We are so fortunate to live in such a generous and supportive community.

Thanks to everyone who ordered wonderful creations with your child's artwork from Display My Art. It will be exciting to see the final products. Orders arrive the week of December 12th just in time for holiday gift giving. A big thank you to Lori Dalvi for organizing such a fun and creative fundraiser.

December is the last month for The South Mountain Annual Fundraising Campaign. Our goal is 100% participation and we have a ways to go! From \$5 to \$20 to \$500 each donation makes a difference. Every gift is tax deductible. With a simple click on the pay pal button from the Superstar website or with a check made payable to South Mountain you support and enrich learning opportunities for our children.

Don't forget to clip, save and send in Box Tops. As you are cooking up a storm for the holidays watch for the Box Top logo on products from Pilsbury, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, Hefty and Cheerios cereal. We've collected over 3,000 Box Tops this year and Mrs. Dorton's class is leading the collection with close to 400 Box Tops this fall. Don't forget, the class that collects the most wins a pizza party at the end of the school year.

Happy holidays everyone. Enjoy the time off and again, thanks to everyone who has helped this year. We wish every South Mountain Family a very happy 2012.

Janet & Jennie



Saturday Storytimes At The Maplewood Library

The Maplewood Library presents Saturday Storytimes at 10:30am on the second Saturday of each month. The program is geared towards 4-10 year olds, but all ages are welcome, especially children with special needs. Featuring stories, songs, and movement, with special guest and South Mountain parent Marilyn Lehren on guitar!

Upcoming dates:

Dec 10th, 2011
Jan 14th, 2012
Feb 11, 2012
Mar 10, 2012
April 14, 2012
May 12, 2012
June 9th, 2012

Maplewood Memorial Library
51 Baker Street
973.762.1622 ext 5006



The School District of

**SOUTH ORANGE
& MAPLEWOOD**

**town hall meeting
save the date**

**with brian osborne
at south mountain**

February

13

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 2011/2012 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.
South Mountain Families ONLY!

credits:

Design, Production, Paper donated by
William Kochi
KODE Associates, Inc.

Printing by
KODE Press

