

superstar 11

june calendar

schools out!

last day

june 22nd



- 2 | Incoming Kindergarten Orientation
- 3 | School Fair (raindate 6/6) SM 5-7
- 6 | Incoming Kindergarten Screening
- 16 | Spirit Day (raindate 6/20)
- 21-22 | Half Day School
- 22 | 5th Grade Moving Up!
- 22 | School's Out!

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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

school fair
fun & games

SAVE our PLANET



Reduce your carbon footprint and go green! Please sign up for digital version of this Superstar newsletter!

Go to the website: smsuperstars.com/newsletter

box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!

Yvette Holowczak
yvettewh@gmail.com



school spirit day
rescheduled for
june 16th



what a year!**presidents closing message**

Laura Reichgut & Amy Porman, PTA Co-Presidents


What a year! It feels like yesterday that we were wishing our children good luck on the first day of school. We have so much to be proud of as a school and community, and I just wanted to highlight some of the wonderful improvements made to South Mountain because of your support.

The teachers at South Mountain returned to the school with a beautiful, new lounge thanks to our very own design team. Karen Wolf, Rachel Sullivan and Amy Campione put in many long hours over the summer to create this warm, welcoming new space for our teachers. In the late fall, the third grade classrooms had a makeover of their own! We were thrilled to be able to purchase smart boards for all six classrooms, in addition to a smart table for the Annex library. It is very exciting to see how these technology tools can be brought into the classroom to enrich the educational experiences of our children every day.

There are many other ways in which we were able to influence the school day for our children. Last year we provided mentor texts for every classroom in order to support the language arts curriculum. This year we continued to support this initiative and purchased additional texts for our growing school. The students also returned to a new and improved lunch/recess program. Again because of your support, the PTA was able to purchase additional games and supplies for both indoor and outdoor recess. This program continues to evolve and improve, and would not happen without the hard work of Randi Mandelbaum and Anna Sandler. Thanks so much to the two of them for their commitment to the school! Our social work intern, Patience Moore, brought "mindfulness" to our school. Principal Lehn and many of the teachers were so inspired by the methods used with children to relax, center, and organize their thoughts, that the PTA agreed to fund glitter balls and meditation bells for any classrooms interested in using the mindfulness approach.

The cultural arts program is another ongoing program that enhances the children's school experiences, and again could not happen without your financial support. I express gratitude to Russell Kaplan for organizing such dynamic, memorable and educationally rich assemblies for our students, and we are so fortunate that he has agreed to continue in this capacity for yet another year! This fall we were able to offer our students the After School Superstars Program. Marilyn Lehren and Helene Pamon worked hard to find enrichment classes that would appeal to many different interests, and this program was a tremendous success! A thank you also goes out to Randi Mandelbaum and Ondine Abrahamson for agreeing to coordinate After School Superstars next year. I am so proud to belong to a school community that encourages the children to look past their own interests, in an effort to reach out to others in need. Kanani Briggs has lead South Mountain Cares for the past two years in an effort to serve others in need, and I am grateful to her for passing this passion along to our children. The SMILE program is a wonderful new addition to the many great things happening at South Mountain. In the spirit of reaching out to others, Eileen Trinity and her SMILE volunteers have committed themselves to reaching out and welcoming new families to South Mountain.

(continued on next column)



We've recently introduced a new "mini" grant program for our teachers at South Mountain. This gives our teachers an opportunity to enrich their classroom curriculums with tools not supplied by the district. The teachers seem very excited to begin applying for these classroom initiatives, and of course our specials teachers will have access to the grant money as well. Another area of growth for the school this year was our effort to streamline communications through the Superstars website and weekly e-blast communications. This would not have happened without our new V.P. of Communications – Priscilla Goldman and Tom Mixon. Their presence on the executive board has been tremendously helpful, and they have been instrumental in helping us to get closer to our goal of becoming a paperless school. We owe gratitude to Jamie and Priscilla Goldman of 4elbows for hosting our new website. We hope that by now you have become familiar with the website, and you feel more informed by the e-blast communications. We will continue to strive towards becoming a more "green" school and we encourage all of you to consider registering for e-backpack and bookmarking www.smsuperstars.com into your favorites. As always, we owe special thanks to Bill Kochi for his dedication to making each and every newsletter edition spectacular!

The South Mountain Auction Midnight at the Oasis was a great evening out, and a huge success. The money generated from the auction and "no frills" fundraiser enabled us to begin the first two phases of the auditorium improvements at South Mountain. The sound system was installed just in time for our variety show, which truly highlighted the amazing talents of our Superstars. Thank you to Felicia Hill, Jennifer Glass, and David Crutcher for coordinating another successful show! Due to your ongoing generous support we have also been able to pay for the second phase of our auditorium renovation. We are hoping that by the time our children return to school in September, the new lighting system will be installed and up and

(continued on page 6)

a few months ago...

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

A few months ago I wrote a grant for funds to start a Community Garden in South Mountain, a garden that I hoped would be planned, created and cared for by all of us: parents, faculty and children. We received the grant! It is my hope that we can create this garden before the school year ends and a group of volunteers will care for it over the summer. I would like to create it over the next few weeks, so I am calling out for volunteers to build beds, spread soil and plant vegetables and herbs...perhaps on a Saturday? If you would like to be a part of this, please email me and I will let you know when we plan to meet. Eventually, my hope is that the crops will be available to our school community! More news to follow.

If you wandered by the auditorium in the Big School over the past few weeks, you might have wondered what our fourth graders were doing. They are busy learning about ancient Egypt, creating King Tut's throne, a large river boat, a shaduf, a hippopotamus, and artifacts found in Egyptian tombs and along the banks of the Nile river. The children have been researching life in Ancient Egypt in their classroom as part of this thematic unit, and are writing papers on their findings. I can't wait for you to see the museum they will be creating. It will be open to visitors June 17, 20 and 21. They are working with Spirit Tree, our artists in residence. This was made possible through the generosity of our PTA. I look forward to this becoming a fourth grade tradition.

I hope you had the opportunity to come to the Spring Concert and Art Show. The children's hard work in band, orchestra and chorus led to an evening of musical delight. My thanks to Ms. Wiggins, Ms. Sayanagi and Ms. Bloch for their dedication in helping every child shine! This year, your budding artists displayed their artwork throughout the entire school. If you have not seen it yet, please stop by to admire your children's art. Their work is really beautiful. My thanks to Ms. Jones and Mrs. Baglioni, and to our team of parent volunteers, who worked so hard to transform our school into an art gallery.

As we wind down and begin to think about the summer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many, many people who have made this year such a rich and successful one in South Mountain: To our teachers, who have helped your children soar; to our building staff who have kept the building clean and helped it run smoothly; to the many, many parent volunteers who have enriched our school with additional programming, after school activities, and evening events; to the PTA who said yes with funds and support to every idea and request I brought to them, and last, but not least, to my wonderful assistant, Bonita Samuels, without whom our school would simply not be the unique and special place it is. My thanks to each and every one of you for helping to make our school so very special.

I wish each of our South Mountain families a summer with time to laugh, time to read, time to play, and most of all, time to enjoy each other.

Tina

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happy june!

fundraising

Shana Teitelbaum & Janet Christmann, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

Happy June! Can you believe another year is almost over? It all goes so fast.

It's been a great year filled with fun and fundraising. We started it off selling School Supplies and soliciting donations to our first ever No Frills Campaign. The fundraising continued with the Book Fair, School Photos, Fall Festival; and of course we can't forget the constant collection of box tops and juice pouches! We're ending on a high note with the successful Midnight at the Oasis Auction and a great School Fair (coming up on Friday, June 3rd). Thanks to everyone that participated in it all. Some of you volunteered, some showed up and enjoyed the fun and others donated. In whatever way you've supported our school, please know that we appreciate it and we couldn't improve the school the way we do without you.

Have a great time at the School Fair (June 3rd) and at School Spirit Day (June 16th)! We will be selling School Spirit Wear over the next week so make sure to stock up if you haven't already!

Shana & Janet



after school superstars

**It's Never Too Early To Plan For Next Year!
After School Superstars Returns!!**

We wanted to let everyone know that the After School Enrichment Program will be back in full swing in the fall on Thursday afternoons at South Mountain for Kindergarteners in Team W and 2nd – 5th grades. We also hope to run a smaller program at the Annex on Wednesday afternoons for Kindergarteners and 1st graders. So please keep these dates open! We will have our usual classes in pottery, martial arts, and writing, and of course, we will have fun and games with Mr. K. and Mr. T. Next year, we also hope to offer new classes in jewelry making, science, drama, and choir – plus more! Additional information will be forthcoming over the summer – so please stay tuned and remember to leave room for the South Mountain After School Superstars!

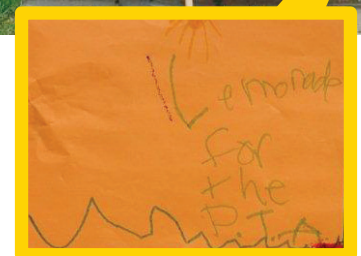
*Ondine Landa Abramson and Randi Mandebaum, Coordinators of
South Mountain After School Superstars*

retirement



Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Leslie Glennon on her upcoming retirement. Mrs. Glennon has been a teacher in the district for 21 years! She has also generously contributed her time for several years as a teacher liaison to the PTA Executive Board. While she will be dearly missed, we want to extend our best wishes for her future happiness.

Also, please join us in congratulating Mrs. Lois Cardillo on her upcoming retirement. Mrs. Cardillo has been a speech therapist in the district for the past 17 years! Best wishes for a joyous retirement!



Special thanks to our Superstars Ariella, Quinn, and Chloe for their gift to the PTA! Great job selling lemonade and thank you for supporting your school!!

looking for volunteers

s.m.i.l.e.

Eileen Trinity, SMILE Committee Chair

SMILE (South Mountain Information Linkup and Exchange) is looking for volunteers to welcome new families to South Mountain School for the 2011-2012 school year.

SMILE volunteers are matched with new families over the summer and reach out to them via phone or email as a source of information about South Mountain School.

The SMILE program volunteer helps welcome new families to the school community, helps answer general questions, and offers to attend the early year PTA meetings and social activities with the new family.

If you are interested in being a SMILE volunteer or have any questions about the program, please contact Eileen Trinity at jcet110198@aol.com or 973-762-5613.

Eileen

a special thanks from the recess coordinators

We want to give a special "shout-out" to our many parent volunteers who helped make recess more enriching and fun this year. It means so much to the children. First, to those parents who volunteered for our indoor-recess program (you are too many to name), we are extremely grateful and cannot thank you enough.

This year, we also ran some special programs. At the Annex, at the suggestion of Mr. K., we had a running/toe token program where the children walked and ran laps and received special tokens each time they completed twenty laps.

A warm thank you to Nerissa Aschoff, Jennifer Lehrman, Wendy Miller, and Eileen Trinity for your dedication in keeping this program going all year long. And at the Big School, we ran several special-activity groups. Alexis Ritter Gubbay inspired 2nd graders with a dance group; Elizabeth Payne and Jennifer Lehrman lent their expertise and organized a 3rd grade gardening club, and Anne Quinn lugged her son's Legos in each week so that 3rd and 4th graders could enjoy Lego building. We want to extend a very special thank you to these individuals for their initiative, creativity, and commitment.

Stay tuned for next year when we hope to reinvigorate the toe-walking program and will be looking for parent volunteers to offer their talents and creativity to lead some (or help with) special activity groups.

Randi & Anna

cultural arts corner
russell kaplan

As you might recall from my message last month, our final cultural arts event of the year is our fourth grade artist in residency with the remarkable sculptors of Spirit Tree. Over the course of the next month our fourth graders will be studying the culture of ancient Egypt and then bringing to three-dimensional life their own versions of Egyptian sculpture, architecture, engineering and painting. During the first week of the project, our students will be creating the backbone infrastructures for the artwork. Three weeks later, when the Spirit Tree Artists return, the students will apply the outer layers to these skeletons, informed by each class's specific area of research conducted during the intervening weeks. Once completed, the entire student body will be amassed so that our fourth grade artists can present the work to their community. A similar invitation will soon be forthcoming for fourth grade parents as well.

As we close the books on one year of programming we now turn our attention to next year. I have received much valuable feedback from parents, teachers and students regarding this year's slate of programming and among the most helpful comments were requests for more grade specific programs whenever possible. Another related suggestion was the idea of doing more cross school collaboration, as we did this year with our program on Greek Mythology. Toward that end I found myself last week, along with hundreds of other PTA cultural arts liaisons, at the Morris Council for the Arts' program showcase for school assemblies. While there, I was excited to view samplings of a number of programs that might respond to these requests, as well as some performances that will be appropriate for our entire student body.

We will be putting together next year's schedule very soon, so if you have heard about any exciting, dynamic and inspiring programs that other schools have brought in, please let us know.

One final thank you for all of your support during this past year.

Russell

what a year! continued**presidents closing message**

Laura Reichgut & Amy Forman, PTA Co-Presidents

running. We are also excited to report that we will be purchasing picnic tables, and hope to have them here in time for the beautiful fall weather so that the children can eat lunch outdoors!

Speaking of outdoors, we have two exciting events still ahead of us this month. I hope to see many of you at the School Fair this Friday, June 3rd at South Mountain. Please remember the fair does not begin until 5:00, and all children must be supervised by an adult. We will have pizza, treats, games, prizes, rides and much more. In the event of rain, the fair will take place on Monday, June 6th from 5:00-7:00pm.

Please note that Spirit Day has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 16th at 1:00 (rain date scheduled for Monday, June 20th). Since this event takes place during the school day, supervision is provided by the South Mountain staff. However, if you are available please feel free to join us out on the field of South Mountain as we witness all of the skills and drills that our Physical Education teachers have been working on with our children all year. Don't forget your Spirit Wear and to get decked out in as much blue and yellow as you can! If you are new to South Mountain, Spirit Day is one of the most memorable and enjoyable days of the year for students, staff and parents.

On a personal note, I just want to thank the families and staff of South Mountain for their support of the PTA. It was a privilege to have had the opportunity to work with Tina Lehn these past two years. It has been such a pleasure working on the Executive Board for the past four years with so many talented and dedicated parents. I have so enjoyed my partnership with Amy Forman this past year, and her contributions as Co-President have been invaluable to me. Amy, you always went above and beyond and I will miss working alongside you. I wish Shana Teitelbaum the best of luck as she joins Amy next year. I am confident the two of you will be a terrific team.

Have a happy, healthy summer!

Laura

a wonderful spring concert



& art show!

**library news****announcement**

All library materials are due no later than Friday, June 3rd.

Six Flags tickets are here and have been distributed. In the event that you have not received a ticket, and were expecting one, please email Ms. Ng at sng@somsd.k12.nj.us

Please continue to save used ink/toner cartridges for the specialist teachers. They were able to purchase much needed and wished for supplies for their programs.

**School Spirit Day
has been rescheduled!**

*Please join us on
**Thursday, June 16th
1:00pm at South Mountain.**
A fun day of skills, drills
and Superstar Spirit!*

June

16

a big thank you!

to all the pta executive board members...

Thank you 2010-2011 PTA Executive Board Members!

Patricia Canning, Janet Christmann, Priscilla Goldman, Paige Graves, Wendy Miller, Tom Mixon, Julie Saydah, Jen Stemmerman, Robin Stephen, Shana Teitelbaum, Barbara Trumpbour, and Marilyn Wright.

We loved working with you!

Amy & Laura

thank you

thank you

thank you!

To all of the parent volunteers that make a difference every day! We couldn't have done it without you!

Jill Abramson, Andrea Alexander, Jane Alexander, Debbie Altamore, Shala Anastasio, Byron Anderson, Monet Armenia, Nerissa Aschoff, Lia Barron, Brenda Berger, Steve Berger, Joy Bellard, Michele Billec, William Billec, Cecilia Bowles-Johnson, Kanani Briggs, Catherine Brikke, Andrea Bromfeld, Marc Bromfeld, Leslie Brothers, Carmela Brown, Ryolin Brown, Laura Browne-Mixon, Goldie Bryant, Amy Campione, Elizabeth Carter, Julia Cerny, Heather Chandler, Janice Chen, Tara Christopher, Jocelyn Cleary, Nancy Cohen Chisolm, Parinaz Cole, Susan Cole, Chrystie Coutinho, Susan Cowan, Alicija Crosby, David Crutcher, Sylvia Cutler, Adrienne Davis, James Davis, Shanese Davis, Ermina de Jesus, Monique de la Cour, Danielle Dunning, Sheryl Eccles, Monique Edwards, Leah Eisenberg, Kara Erhamza, Tiana Evans, Christine Fabrizio, Diane Fastiggi, Lisa Fellen-Saurborn, Joanne Fisher, Katie Fleetwood, Katherine Foley, Gary Forman, John Freedson, Peggy Freedson, Mary Jane Friedrich, Julie Fuhrman, Tara Galatt, Jessica Ganjon, Lisa Garelick, Aimee Garriga, Ben Garrison, Barbie George, Tanya Gibson-Clark, David Giles, Jen Glass, Susan Glick Burrell, Crystal Glynn, Ra Gohagan, Amy Goldberg, Joanne Goldberg, Mande Goldner, Alecia Graham, Debbie Granados, Stacey Greenblatt, Laura Griffin, Canty Gross, Deirdre Guice Minor, Stacey Haebert, Chris Harder, Rebecca Hardiman, Molly Haskins, Sarah Hayden, Felicia Hill, Alice Hirsch, Yvette Holowczak, Casey Holstein, Julie Hutchinson, Kanan Jacobsen, Nicole James, Fabienne Jean, Susan Jennings, Jane Jones, Salma Jones, Betsy Jospeh, Rachel Kaplan, Russell Kaplan, Tsipi Kaplan, Pam Kattouf, Rachel Kinley, Bill Kochi, Lennor Kurjah, Pauline Lacey-Woode, Natasia Lambert, Ondine Landa Abramson, Stacey Lawrence, Wendy Lazarus, Tarquin Learned, Marilyn Lehren, Jennifer Lehrman, Gayle Lemke, Lauren Lerman, Cynthia LeRoy, Stacey Lima, Pearl Louie, Tatiana Lyons, Heather Machado, Kimberly Mackay, Randi Mandlebaum, Lori Martin, Carolyn Maynard Parisi, Peg McBrien, Beth McCourt, Sean McCourt, Jim McGowan, Lauren McKinney, Doria Melendez, Ruth Merriam, Kim Miller, Liz Miller, Kim Minor, Michael Minor, Sapna Mitra, Niv Miyasato, Nena Moran, Jackie Newman, Terri Nitti, Lisa Olender, Dari Olitt, Helene Pamon, Corinne Patruno, Elizabrth Payne, Mercinth Pearce, Yocasta Pena, Leslie Phillips, Debra Plummer, Dinah PoKempner, Faye Poss, Marcella Potocki, Julie Pryma, Kim Pryor, Anne Quinn, Mangala Rajan, Jen Ratner, Eddy Remy, Martina Remy, Jennifer Rinaldi, Lorry Ripley, Laura Riso, Alexis Ritter Gubbay, Victoria Rivkin, Beth Robins, Kim Rosen, Lauri Rothstein, Rebecca Rounsavill, Debbie Roussel, Bill Rowell, Lauren Rutkin, Jocelyn Ryan, Jeanne Sachs, Cigale Sagev, Anna Sandler, Sandy Sandoli, Atsi Schloyer, Frances Schneir, Michelle Schwartzbard, Gretchen Sekel, Maria Shapiro, Jennifer Shirley-Spitz, Kanan Shridharani, Cigale Sigav, Sharon Skeete, Ellyn Solis, Tracy Spangler, Laura Sperazza, Dawn Stith, Elizabeth Stoeber, Karen Sullivan, Rachel Sullivan, Melanie Swanson, Maria Tamayo, Linda Thibodeau, Beth Thompson, Lori Thorn, Tomi Thornton, Reggie Tindall, Jennie Tinkelman, Adena Traub, Eileen Trinity, Pragya Trivedi, Estella Valdez, Alicia Vance, Katherine Vilardi, Tom Vilardi, Millie Viqueira, Rick Wagner, Elise Warner, Joanne Watkins, Adam Weiss, Krista Wergeland, Maria Witt, Stephen Wright, Karen Wolf, and Marietta Zacker.

did you know?**communications**

Priscilla Goldman & Thomas Mixon, Communications VP Co-Chairs

This column brings to a close our first year as PTA Executive Board members and as Co-VPs of Communications. Some of the accomplishments that we are proud of include: the launch of the South Mountain Superstars website; the weekly Superstar email newsletters; developing a logo for the PTA; beginning the transition for a "greener" PTA by posting all pertinent information about school events, upcoming programs, etc. on the website and reducing our reliance on paper fliers; and working with businesses and producing ADs that highlights the vibrant South Mountain business community. None of this would be possible with the support of a great number of people. First of all we would like to thank our publisher, Bill Kochi, whose spirit, hard work, and abundant generosity makes this newsletter possible. We also need to thank the entire Executive Board of the PTA, and especially the co-presidents, Amy and Laura, for their unwavering support as we made our way as first-time board members. Our advertisers, who have consistently supported the PTA through their willingness to place ADs in both the newsletter and on the website, also deserve to be recognized. We hope you support them as much as possible. Mostly, we need to thank the South Mountain community. Whether it was making valuable suggestions on how we can make the website more useful and informative, volunteering your time and efforts at various PTA events, or by supporting us, both financially and with your presence at many of the PTA functions.

You make it all possible, and we want to acknowledge your contribution to our efforts to keep you as informed as possible. As for next year, we are looking forward to continuing towards our goal of becoming even "greener." One of the most exciting things we are hoping to bring to you next fall is having the first day packets online. No more filling out multiple forms with the same information! This and other similar initiatives are being developed now with a plan to execute by next fall. We hope you have a great summer.

Priscilla & Tom

we made it!**administration**

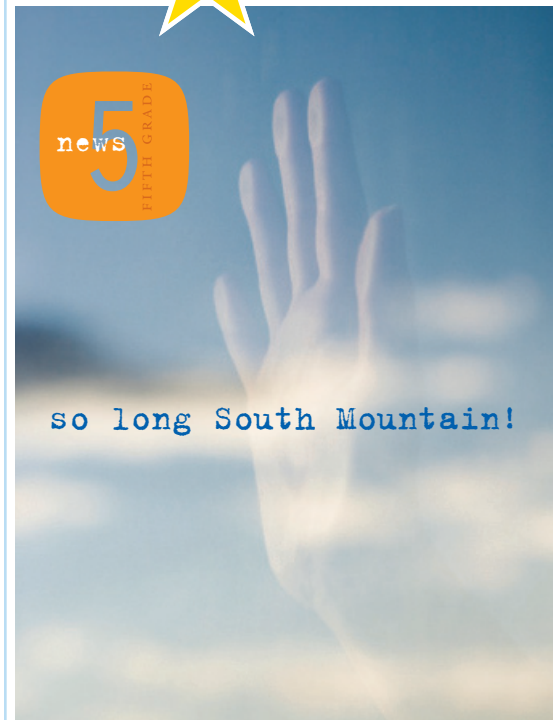
Marilyn Wright & Julie Saydah, Administration VP Co-Chairs

Hello, South Mountain Superstars. We made it! We survived the frigid temperatures, record snow, homework, class trips and teacher contract negotiations. And here we are: no worse for the wear, hopefully physically and mentally stronger and much warmer. We had a great year and we hope you did as well.

The Administration team is so excited to be ordering the student agendas for the 2011/2012 school year and continuing work on the electronic first day packets. The online first day packets will save you time, save our trees and drastically improve the efficiency of our team. Keep your fingers crossed and wish us luck over the summer.

Enjoy your vacation.

Marilyn & Julie



The 5th grade is getting ready to say goodbye to Elementary School but not before doing a lot of celebrating and remembering. The 5th grade year end pool party will be held at the South Orange Pool on June 17th. With swimming, games, food and fun, it should be an awesome time. Yearbooks will be coming out on June 20th and the moving up ceremony is set for the morning of June 22nd. Of course, one of the highlights of 5th grade, the water balloon toss at School Spirit Day, is scheduled for June 16th.

The kids have had a tremendous time this year both working and playing. We want to thank all the 5th grade parents who have helped out in so many ways this year. We would also like to thank the entire school community for supporting the 5th graders and their efforts by participating in the pie sale, fall festival and teacher valentine card fundraisers. Of course, none of the 5th grade activities would be possible without the tireless efforts of the 5th grade teachers: Mrs. Appenzoller, Mrs. Auerbach, Mr. Cahn, Ms. Gutkin and Mrs. Simon and the unwavering support of our Principal Lehn and Assistant Principal Samuels. Lastly, we would like to say what a pleasure and a privilege it has been to work with the 5th graders all year. We wish this special group of people the very best in Middle School and in life.

Congratulations 5th graders—you really are Superstars.

The 5th Grade Committee:

Lorry Ripley (Lintern), Yvette Holowczak and Michelle Schwartzbard



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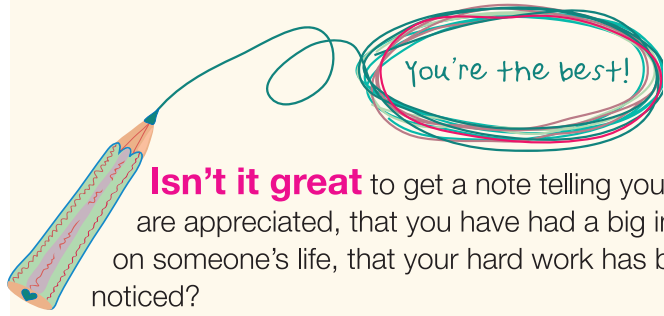
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Email: GreetSuccess@gmail.com
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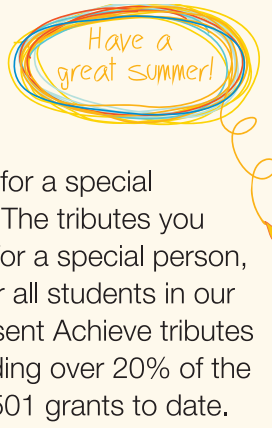
Give the Gift that Gives Back to our schools.




Isn't it great to get a note telling you that you are appreciated, that you have had a big impact on someone's life, that your hard work has been noticed?


The Achieve Foundation's **Honor Your Teacher and Staff** campaign allows families to write special tributes to teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, coaches, secretaries, bus drivers, crossing guards, principals — any district staff member in any school. For a tax-deductible donation of a minimum of \$5.00 for each, Achieve prints these personalized messages on beautiful cards that are then delivered to the recipients at the end of the school year.

Every dollar donated promotes innovation in our schools by supporting Achieve's Teacher Grants that allow any SO/M educator to apply for funds to pay for a special classroom project of his/her own design. The tributes you send not only express your appreciation for a special person, they also enrich the school experience for all students in our school district. Over 2,000 families have sent Achieve tributes to more than 1,000 staff members, providing over 20% of the \$356,000 that Achieve has awarded for 501 grants to date. (See lists of all grants at www.achievethefoundation.com)





2 easy ways to order:

 Use the form below — one for each tribute (make copies or print more at our website, www.achievethefoundation.com).

 Or, e-mail all information requested on the form to: info@achievethefoundation.com

2 easy ways to pay:

 Mail check for total amount (\$5 or more per tribute) payable to Achieve Foundation at PO Box 84, Maplewood, NJ 07040

 Donations of \$20 or more may be made via PayPal at our website: www.achievethefoundation.com

Questions?

Call 973-762-3758 or e-mail info@achievethefoundation.com

The Achieve Foundation is an independent, 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that raises private funds to promote an outstanding public education for every child in the School District of South Orange and Maplewood (NJ).



Please place your order by June 1, 2011.

Tributes fit **any** price range and make great gifts from the whole class!



INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.vstme.nj.us/lps/ca/charfrm.htm>. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

Your Student/Family Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Town _____ E-mail _____

Staff Member: Name _____ School _____

Grade/Position: _____

Please include the following personal message – 25 words or less. Please print clearly OR attach type-written page OR send email to info@achievethefoundation.com

"I want to honor _____ because _____"

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ \$5 minimum per tribute please. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of law.

Please DO NOT acknowledge me publicly on Achieve's donor list.

about us...

the achieve foundation helps students honor teachers and staff

Isn't it great to get a note telling you that you are appreciated, that you have had a big impact on someone's life, that your hard work has been noticed?

The Achieve Foundation, a not-for-profit that has raised over \$1.5 million since 1999 to keep children and teachers on the cutting edge of learning in the South Orange and Maplewood public schools, makes it easy to thank your kids' teachers for a wonderful year.

Achieve's Honor Your Teacher and Staff campaign allows families to write special tributes to teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, coaches, secretaries, bus drivers, crossing guards, principals — any district staff member in any school. Achieve prints these personalized messages on beautiful cards that are delivered to the recipients at the end of the school year.

"We are always so impressed by the original and thoughtful messages the children and their parents send to their teachers," said Deborah Prinz, Achieve Foundation Executive Director. "They get to the heart of the immeasurable role many teachers play in the lives of their students... all ages, all subjects. Teachers tell us there's no better gift at the end of the year."

Tributes can be ordered through June 8 and will be delivered June 20. The minimum tax-deductible contribution for each tribute is \$5. Every dollar donated supports one of Achieve's primary initiatives, its teacher grants. Each fall, the foundation awards grants to district educators for innovative and novel classroom projects that are carried out in the spring.

Hundreds of families have chosen Honor Your Teacher tributes as end-of-year gifts because they express appreciation in children's and parents' own words while promoting educational innovation at the same time.

The foundation's other initiatives include the Achieve Volunteer Tutor Program, the Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowship, Jump Start Family Support and the Columbia High School Auditorium Renovation.

The tutor program matches trained, volunteer tutors from the community with district students who need extra help. The Riecke fellowship allows recipients to pursue summer professional development that leads to improvements in practice, curriculum and ultimately student achievement. Jump Start assists kindergarten through 2nd grade students and their parents who struggle with the transition to the classroom. The Take a Seat Campaign raises funds to augment the district's renovation of the classic Columbia High School auditorium.

For more information about the Honor Your Teacher campaign, go to Achieve's web site at <http://www.achievefoundation.com> or call Monique de la Cour-Lurie at 973-275-1420. Tribute forms have been sent home in your child's backpack and are also available on the Web site.



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(201) 825-1030

summit@brainbalancecenters.com
(908) 517-1101

www.brainbalancecenters.com

enjoy the
summer!



many thanks!

programming

Patricia Canning & Wendy Miller, Programming VP Co-Chairs

May was filled with beautiful weather and tons of activities here at South Mountain!

Thank you, gracias, tak, grazie, obrigado, xie xie, danke, spasibo, asante, today, arigato, hvala, mèsi...to Marietta Zacker and Lia Barron and their many volunteers for a wonderful week of showing our communities' appreciation to our teachers and staff. The week culminated in a wonderful luncheon that looked, smelled and tasted amazing! Special thanks to Tsipi Kaplan and Ben Garrison for coordinating the epicurean and musical delights for the afternoon.

What a talented group of artists and musicians we have at South Mountain! The May 19 Art Show and Spring Concert was truly fantastic! Watch out MoMA, here comes our Superstars! Special thanks to Ms. Wiggins, Ms. Jones and Ondine Abramson and Kimberly Minor and their volunteers for leading and coordinating such a memorable evening!

As we look towards the end of the year, please make sure your calendar is marked for our upcoming events, which include:

Kindergarten Orientation – Thursday, June 2

South Mountain will welcome its newest Superstars!! Our incoming Kindergarten class for the 2011-12 school year will join us in the South Mountain Auditorium for an afternoon of information related to our incredible Kindergarten program.

Roundtable with Tina Lehn – Friday, June 3, SM Cafeteria at 8:15am

Among other topics of interest, Ms. Lehn will discuss fun things to do with our children over summer break. Please join us, bring your questions and be prepared for a lively discussion with Ms. Lehn.

School Fair – Friday, June 3, 5-7pm (Rain date Monday, June 6)

Join us for an evening of fun, including dunk tank (watch South Mountain teachers and parents get dunked!), Nerf tag, inflatables, carnival games and obstacle courses, face painting and fun dancing and contests with a DJ! Dinner and dessert of pizza, cotton candy, sno-cones and ice cream will be available for purchase. Get your pre-paid admission bracelets and tickets so you don't have to wait on long lines!! Look in backpacks for registration forms and information. South Mountain Spirit Wear will also be available for purchase!

Please also bring your new or gently used books appropriate for kindergarten through second grade to the Fair! We will have a box set up for donations to the Rising Stars reading program, which spreads the joy of reading to children in K-2!

School Spirit Day – Thursday, June 16th (Rain date Monday, June 20th)

Make sure your children are dressed in Yellow and Blue!! Mr. Kaesshaeffer and Mr. Tait will once again wow us with their amazing ability to command attention for ALL South Mountain Superstars! Feel free to stop by to witness the physical prowess of our children and staff during the many activities that our Physical Education team organizes!

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



school fair
fun & games

June

3

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.
South Mountain Families ONLY!

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