

# superstar 12

digital edition

march | april calendar

# happy spring!

the vernal equinox  
is march 20th



coming up...



- ▶ SM movie night
- ▶ spring recess
- ▶ student variety show

- mar 8 | 9&12: South Mountain 4-hour days  
for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 29 | South Mountain Movie Night 6:30
- apr 2 | Spring Recess until April 6th
- 12 | Evening Roundtable 6pm  
Executive Board Meeting 7pm
- 25 | SM Student Variety Show

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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

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**box tops:**

**Keep bringing in those Box Tops!**

**Stacey Maebert**  
[smaebert@aol.com](mailto:smaebert@aol.com)



## new and improved

## presidents message

Amy Forman & Shana Teitelbaum, PTA Co-Presidents

Due to our new and improved communications system with regular email blasts (thank you Priscilla Goldman!) we have decided we will try publishing the PTA newsletter once every two months (instead of monthly) for the rest of the year. We hope the eblasts have been helpful and informative and as always welcome your feedback!

We have been able to offer many exciting programs and events at South Mountain thanks to the talent and time parent volunteers have generously shared with our students. We want to express our appreciation to Maia Gilman for teaching an architecture class that culminated in a district wide exhibit encompassing the work of students from all of our elementary schools. We are also so grateful to Patricia Canning and Marietta Zacker for coordinating what we hope will be the first of many One School Two Books evenings. While we were very fortunate to have a mild winter (especially after last year), whether we had rain, snow or shine, Randi Mandelbaum and Anna Sandler and their teams were ready for recess! Thanks to Randi, Anna, Nerissa Aschoff, Jennifer Glass, Leah Eisenberg, Jennifer Lehrman and Julie Pryma for all their time and efforts with the recess clubs. And we are also in awe of Randi's work with the South Mountain Scholars afterschool enrichment program. We know how many hours (and hours) went into creating and organizing two very successful sessions and we are most grateful to Randi as well as assistants Lennor Kurjah, Adriana Compagnoni, Stacey Houghtaling, Janet Christmann, Erminia Kraiker, Kanani Briggs, John Saunders, Katie Taylor, Kristen Mitchell, Sylvia Cutler, Karen Sullivan, Kimberly Hobbs and Nerissa Aschoff. And many, many thanks to Nerissa Aschoff and Wendy Miller for an awesome Family Roller Skating Night!

We hope you will be able to join us for the activities we have planned for March and April. The entire month of March brings a new program to our school, South Mountain Mixers, with many different opportunities to meet and spend time with members of our community. Thanks to Janet Christmann and Jennie Tinkelman for organizing and all of the parent hosts for volunteering! We look forward to seeing many families at the free movie night at South Mountain on March 29th. We are also most grateful to Felicia Hill and Jennifer Glass for taking on the 3rd-5th South Mountain Student Variety Show again this year, now scheduled for April 25th. And we have an Evening Roundtable with Principal Lehn on Thursday, April 12th followed by a PTA Executive Board Meeting for anyone who is interested in staying.

And finally, we want to thank the volunteers on our Nominating Committee, Nerissa Aschoff, Jennie Tinkelman, Patricia Canning, Jill Lam and Michelle Lederman. They will be identifying and recruiting members of the PTA Executive Board for the 2012-2013 school year. Please let them know if you think you might be interested in serving on the board!

*Amy & Shana*



south mountain  
student variety show



April  
25



WELCOME

help support our school  
by signing up for the  
south mountain mixers  
meet and greet

## i want to share...

## principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

So far, the weather this winter has allowed the children to spend most of their recess time outside. It is a delight to see them running track, and playing outdoor games. They come back into class in the afternoon, ready to learn.

The past few months have been filled with rich learning experiences for our children. I hope that you have enjoyed reading your children's published stories: another one will be home soon! Please do not forget to send these back to school in the blue folders.

I want to share with you some of the wonderful things that are taking place in our school that go above and beyond the curriculum. Kindergarten, first and second grade celebrated the 100th day of school in many creative ways! Kindergarteners shared their wonderful 100 Project with each other and with me! I was amazed at their (and your!) creativity. First grade showed me their collection of 100 words with great pride, as well as the many ways they counted to 100 with coins, tallies and sets of ten. I listened to our second graders presenting their poetry to the younger children.

Each second, third and fourth grade class is writing a class book, which will be professionally published. You will have the opportunity to purchase a copy of this book if you would like to. The children are working very hard on making this the best book it can be: there is nothing like the prospect of a professionally published book to make the editing and revision process more acceptable! The book will become a permanent part of the classroom book collection.

Third grade just celebrated Cinderella Stories from around the world at their annual ball. The costumes this year were more creative than I think I have seen since I came to South Mountain. The children loved looking at each other's costumes and had great fun at the ball.

Fourth grade has just finished learning about ancient myths and legends and enjoyed watching the production of *What's the Worst That Can Happen*, written and produced by our very own South Mountain family, the McCourt's, and presented by our students. It was such a success that we took it on the road to share with the Jefferson students.

Fifth grade has been working hard in the classroom. Our teachers know that children need fun built into the school day as well as hard work, and need time to interact with each other in a relaxed environment. Recently, they enjoyed a Dance-a-Thon afternoon.

Our student council has been busy working to make a difference in our school as well as in the world. They have worked with the district food administration to bring paper trays to South Mountain rather than Styrofoam. They also spearheaded a Penny Drive to collect money to help build a library in a school in Ethiopia. I am so proud of what they are doing. They are also working with other students to prepare our first edition this year of *The Scoop*, our school student run newspaper.

March conferences will be here before we know it! Please make every effort to be on time for your child's conference: it is a challenge to make sure that every family has the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher in the allotted time.

By the time you read this, we will have had our first annual One School, Two Books evening. I hope that you all enjoyed reading the book as a family and, if you who were able to make it to our book discussion, enjoyed the evening.

Tina

## 2011-2012 contact info:

## South Mountain PTA Executive Board

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**Recess & After School Enrichment****Randi Mandelbaum**

randi.mandelbaum@verizon.net

## looking forward

### programming

Wendy Miller & Nerissa Aschoff, Programming VP Co-Chairs

We hope you are all enjoying the milder winter. We had so much fun celebrating it with you during Family Roller Skating Night on January 19th. What a fabulous turnout! Our children were so excited for the event that they created such a buzz around it up until the Florham Park Roller Rink opened its doors to us. With such a crowd, it was nice to skate in grade levels while the others took a snack break. At the end of the evening, we were able to allow our 5th graders their last hurrah to David Cook's "Time of Your Life" and a wonderful photo opportunity. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and all the parents and children that helped in any way they could to ensure a smooth evening.

Looking forward, we will be in full swing with the South Mountain Mixer in March. The next Roundtable with Principal Lehn will be on Wednesday, April 12th. So please be on the lookout in early April for more details. We are also deep in preparation for the Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon on May 11th, which closes Teacher Appreciation Week. Updates will be heading your way in the coming weeks from our dynamic co-chairs, Nancy Cohen and Julie Pryma. If you would like to join our list of volunteers for this luncheon, please let us know. Parents are welcome to attend the luncheon as well.

Mark your calendars, and hope to see you at our upcoming events!

*Wendy & Nerissa*



## library news

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

Please consider using **goodsearch.com** as a search engine. Powered by Yahoo!, when you select South Mountain School Library as your charity recipient, the library gets 1 cent for each search completed. It doesn't sound like much, but if each family used it for just one search a day, 300 days a year — the Library could get a check for \$1,200!

**thanks for bringing in all those pennies...we're still counting!**



### Great Job Superstars!!!

The counts are in! You have raised over 12,000 box tops this year! AWESOME! Mr. Jones is now in the lead with Ms. O'Halloran/Perkins at a close second! The winning class will be given a pizza party so keep on clipping!!!

Our next collection will be **TUESDAY, APRIL 10**. If you have any questions, please email me at [smaebert@aol.com](mailto:smaebert@aol.com)

Thanks for your support!  
**Stacey Maebert**  
 Box Top Coordinator



Mark your calendars

**Teacher Appreciation Week**

**Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon  
 Coming on May 11th**



hello everyone

## south mountain cares

Kanani Briggs & Shanease Guion-Davis, VP Co-Chairs

Thanks to the many, many families who have volunteered so far in 2012. The St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Maplewood sends their sincere thank you for those that helped pack, sort and distribute food. Here is a nice note they received from one of the guests of the pantry: "Dear Food Pantry, Thank you for the love and dedication. We appreciate you all. You make the world a better place. Love, Pantry Guest P."

Thanks also to the many families that joined us at Village Apartments senior residence on Sunday, 2/12. Fun was had by all, young and old!

Stay tuned for more information on upcoming food pantry events and other projects that we are working on.

*Kanani & Shanease*



village apartments



senior residence



sunday, feb. 12th

some changes

## administration

Marilyn Wright & Tracy Spangler, Administration VP Co-Chairs

We wanted to let the larger school community know about three teachers who have stepped in mid-year. Stacey Timpson has taken over Mrs. Infante's kindergarten class at the Annex. In second grade, Carol West is teaching Mrs. Esposito's class and Donna Perkins has replaced Mrs. O'Halloran, while those two teachers take care of the important business of having babies. We'd like to welcome all three of them, and we send our best wishes to the new moms!

As always, let us know if your contact information changes so that we can update our online directory, or if you ever have problems accessing the directory itself. There are still a few printed directories available for \$10; contact Tracy Spangler (tracy\_spangler@hotmail.com) if you'd like one.

*Marilyn & Tracy*



PTA executive board meeting  
april 12, 7pm



## show me the money!

## treasury news

Barbara Trumbour & Paige Graves, Treasurers VP Co-Chairs

Many of you ask, "Where do the proceeds from all of those PTA fundraisers go?" For this edition of the newsletter, we're providing details on some of the programs that are funded by the PTA through the funds so very generously donated by the South Mountain community.

**Cultural Arts:** The PTA funded more than \$15,000 of cultural arts programs during the 2010-11 school year, including the Spiritree, Honeybee, Drum Café, Chariot of the Sun, and other artist in residence programs for the Big School and the Annex. For the 2011-12 school year, we anticipate spending of approximately \$13,000 for cultural arts assemblies and projects.

**Technology:** The PTA invested over \$22,000 for SmartBoards in 2010 for installation and deployment in the 2010-11 school year.

**Auditorium Upgrades:** More than \$30,000 has been committed for work in progress to repair and upgrade the lighting and sound systems in the South Mountain School auditorium. We are eager to see the benefits of these investments with the new systems expected to be up and running when we showcase our talented students at this year's variety show.

**Lunch & Recess Programs:** Your contributions have made it possible for the PTA to purchase games and supplies, toe tokens, mediation team shirts, safety patrol belts, and other lunch and recess program items. For the 2010-11 school year, \$2,000 was spent in this category, with another \$2,000 budgeted for 2011-12. An additional \$6,000 was invested in tables to be installed outdoors in time for spring so that our Superstars will be able to enjoy outdoor lunches and activities when the warm weather arrives. (In years past, PTA funding has also allowed us to install new playground equipment at the Annex.)

**Classroom Enhancements:** The PTA runs a mini-grant program for teachers, funding wish list items for individual classrooms, grade teams and specials. In 2010-11, 21 teachers submitted grant requests for books, music, technology, project supplies and easels and \$3,000 has been spent to fulfill requests. Another \$2,500 in requests were submitted so far in the 2011-12 school year for more books and technology, theater scripts, seat sacks, a chart stand, audio CDs, creative materials and more are in the process of being satisfied.

We welcome your ideas and questions on how the PTA supports the South Mountain Schools with its funding.

*Barbara & Paige*



## thank you superstar volunteers!



Nerissa Aschoff  
Tirzah Bonaparte  
Kanani Briggs  
Kathleen Burns  
Patricia Canning  
Nancy Cohen  
Adriana Compagnoni  
Sylvia Cutler  
Leah Eisenberg  
Maia Gilman  
Jennifer Glass  
Susan Glick  
Taheerah Hector  
Kimberly Hobbs  
Stacey Houghtaling  
Lennor Kurjah  
Erminia Kraiker  
Jill Lam  
Taquin Learned  
Michelle Lederman  
Jennifer Lehrman  
Heather Logan  
Stacey Maebert  
Kristen Mitchell  
Tori O'Connell  
Julie Pryma  
Robin Saunders  
Anna Sandler  
Karen Sullivan  
Alishia Taiping-Moccia  
Katie Taylor  
Krista Wergeland  
Marietta Zacker

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(formerly Ms. Feinberg)





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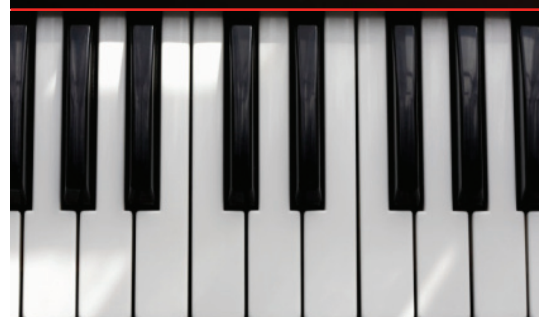


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## march is here!

## fundraising

Janet Christmann & Jennie Tinkelman, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

The arrival of March means we're more than halfway through the school year and the official start of spring is just around the corner. This month fundraising is introducing a new program to help connect our school community. South Mountain Mixers is a great way to meet new families and have some fun while supporting our school.

Thanks to everyone who has already signed up to participate as well as our host volunteers. We have some great events planned this month including flag football, a family scavenger hunt, a spinning class at Flywheel, a Harry Potter wizards bash, a casual cocktail party, a parent/child book discussion and so much more! YOU can still get involved — just volunteer to host an activity in your home. The event is your donation and it can be any activity you want!

We end March with a free all-school movie night event. Please join us for South Mountain Movie Night on Thursday, March 29 at the Big School. Come dressed in PJs and bring a blanket as we watch Buzz, Woody and the Toy Story gang prepare for Andy's departure to college. The Toy Story 3 fun begins and 6:30 and we hope to see you there.

In other news, we have made purchasing Spirit Wear from the SM Superstars website even easier with PayPal. Browse the merchandise, make a selection and your purchase will be sent home via backpack. How simple is that? Wear your school colors with pride in South Mountain Spirit Wear.

As always, keep clipping and sending in Box Tops for Education. This year we've collected over 12,000 box tops. Our next collection date is April 10.

Lastly, believe it or not, we are already thinking about next year! So watch those backpacks for information on purchasing school supplies for next year.

Janet & Jennie



Evening Roundtable **Thursday, April 12th, 6pm**  
South Mountain



evening  
round  
table

Please join us at our Evening 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. A PTA Executive Board Meeting will be held afterwards at 7pm at South Mountain.

south mountain movie night  
march 29



## 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 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:

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