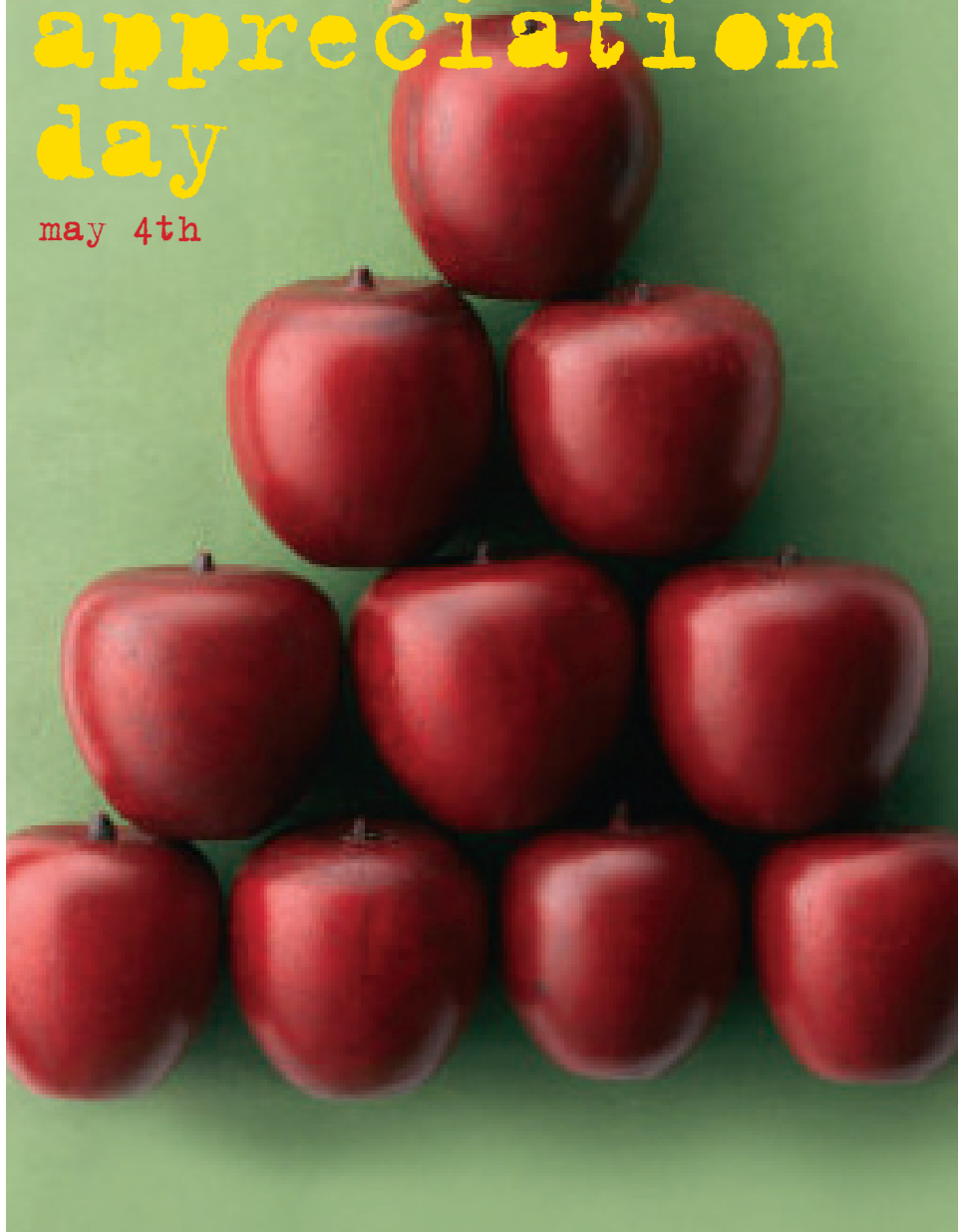


superstar 10

may calendar

thank
you!
teacher
appreciation
day

may 4th



- 4 | Teacher Appreciation Day
- 7 | PTA Appreciation Luncheon 11am SM
- 19 | PTA General Mtg Kirk Smith 7pm SM
- 31 | Memorial Day Schools Closed
- jun 1 | School Supplies Fundraiser Begins
- 3 | SM Spring Concert & Art Show SM
- 4 | School Fair 5pm SM

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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

SAVE our PLANET



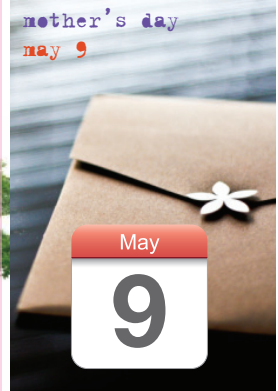
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**Contact: Kim Miller
by email at:
kdmills@optonline.net**

box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!

Yvette Holowczak
ymholowczak@yahoo.com



appreciation time!

presidents column

Sylvia Cutler & Laura Reichgut, PTA Co-Presidents



By the time you read this newsletter, we will be immersed in **Teacher Appreciation Week**. We would like to thank Maria Witt and Michele Billec along with their many volunteers who have planned some wonderful surprises for our South Mountain teachers and staff. Please join us at the Parent/Teacher Luncheon this Friday, May 7th. This is a potluck meal prepared lovingly by our South Mountain families. Regardless of whether or not you have time to contribute, we would love to see parents mingling with the teachers and celebrating our school.

Chores for Change was a tremendous success as our students worked to contribute their own hard earned money for families affected by the earthquake in Haiti. The school raised over \$3,000! Thank you to all of our caring Superstars, and especially to Laura Griffin and Kanani Briggs of South Mountain Cares for organizing this effort.

For our final cultural arts assembly of the year we have the Nai Ni Chen Dance company. They bring their specially created educational program, **The Art of Chinese Dance** to South Mountain on Friday, May 28. A multi-cultural, interactive performance, The Art of Chinese Dance employs dazzling costumes and fantastic props to help transport young people on a journey exploring one of the most ancient cultures in the world. The audience learns the history, geography and the basic practice of traditional dance and students are invited and encouraged to take part both on stage and in their seats, in exploring the elements they learn.

Please join us at 7pm on May 19th at our **General PTA meeting**, as we welcome Kirk Smith, Principal of South Mountain Middle School. Regardless of your child's grade level, it is never too early to learn about what is happening at the Middle School. In addition to Principal Smith's presentation, we will vote on our new slate of Officers of the 2010-2011 PTA Executive Board. We hope to see you there!

We also have several exciting school programs happening during the first two weeks of June. All of these events are a culmination of the skills our students gain every week through the art, music and physical education curriculum. We hope you will help us celebrate the many talents of our students by attending the **South Mountain Art Show and Spring Concert**. Mark your calendars for the evening of June 3rd as we transform the gym to show off the spectacular art exhibits of all of the students grades K-5. Don't forget to also stop in the auditorium for our concert performed by the 4th and 5th grade chorus, orchestra and band. And for those of you able to attend **Spirit Day** in the afternoon on June 11th you will be able to watch the students enjoy some of the games they have learned and practiced in PE.

You will receive more information about each of these events, and the June 4th annual **School Fair**, over the next month. In the meantime we want to thank our amazing group of Specials Teachers at South Mountain for their work throughout the year as well as their coordination of all these celebratory activities!

And finally, in addition to expressing appreciation for our teachers and staff, we are so very grateful to the many parent volunteers who are working on all the special programs taking place this Spring. South

(continued on next column)

United States Census 2010

Get PAID to Make a Difference!

Census jobs are a way to earn money while serving your community. Local Census offices are now accepting applicants to support the U.S. Census Bureau's goal of a complete count. And with communities across the country reeling from job loss, the U.S. Census Bureau has its own way of providing a stimulus to local economies—hiring hundreds of thousands of temporary workers to ensure the 2010 Census is a success.

Great pay. Flexible hours. Close to home.

For additional information about 2010 Census jobs, or to take a practice employment test, please visit their web site at <http://www.2010censusjobs.gov>. To schedule an appointment to take the employment test, call toll free at: 1-866-861-2010.

TTY callers: please use the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Mountain is fortunate enough to have our very own design team, Karen Wolf, Amy Campione, and Rachel Sullivan, who have taken on a much needed makeover of the teachers lounge. Plans for our landscape project are underway thanks to Xiomara Welch and Jane Alexander, along with some help from our 5th grade legacy team leaders, Renee Alexander and Maria Shapiro. And for the 6th year, Melanie Leslie, and her right hand (wo)man, Eve Peterson are organizing their last Variety Show, scheduled for the evening of June 10th, before moving on to the middle school. This is another great opportunity to see how talented our Superstars really are!

Sylvia and Laura

let's read!

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

Principals and teachers often share with parents various ways to help their children become lifelong readers. I have been thinking lately about how we can encourage our children to develop this same kind of enthusiasm for math. Why is it that so many of us in school did not develop confidence in ourselves about our ability to reason, describe patterns, or work with numbers? Why do so many of us have negative or anxious memories about learning math? Why was it that I learned to appreciate how cool numbers are only when I started to teach?

Perhaps no one showed us how fascinating numbers can be: their relationship to each other, the joy of discovering patterns in nature, or the satisfaction of solving riddles. For example, consider the following:

$$10 + 3 = 1$$

$$9 + 4 = 1$$

$$11 + 2 = 1$$

How can this be? (*Hint: think about time...*)

While you may sometimes feel at a loss as to how to help your child with the Everyday Math Program, our children are learning that math is an integral and relevant part of our lives. Whether it is playing basketball, learning a ballet routine, preparing the ingredients to bake a cake, or sharing a bag of candy equally with a sibling, math is all around us. How can you help your children see this, and at the same time help them develop a positive attitude towards math?

So, this month I am suggesting some ways you can nurture your child's math intelligence, build their confidence, and help them to develop an excitement about math:

- Turn off the TV or video games and play board games with the whole family. Games such as Quizmo, Parcheezi, and Chutes and Ladders (with more than one dice) develop children's fluency in basic operations. Battleship and Blokus develop their spatial relations and geometry skills, while Backgammon, Rummy-0, Quatro, Mankala and Connect 4 develop Strategy and Problem Solving skills. Monopoly facilitates an understanding of counting and money. Chinese Checkers, Chess and Backgammon build an understanding of patterns. All of them build children's enthusiasm for numbers, and an increased ability to problem solve and reason.
- Include your child in the counting, measuring and weighing that is involved in cooking and baking. Younger children can count out the items needed to prepare the food and set the table for dinner.
- Let your child pay the bill the next time you use cash at the supermarket or when you are out to dinner. The older children can work out the tip on the bill, providing them with a great opportunity to use percentages in the real world!
- For children who are interested in baseball, check out the statistics on the players over the season: this became a fascination for my son from the time he was seven and taught him more about math than anything else! I have fond memories of him running out to pick up *The Times* every morning, and turning to the sports page to check the latest statistics on his favorite player.
- Help your child develop spatial reasoning by providing building blocks, interlocking cubes, jigsaw puzzles, Rubik's cube, and anything else that involves moving, rotating, or fitting objects together.
- Explore mathematically interesting items like house numbers, fence posts, and shapes and patterns in nature. Examining patterns in nature is a great way to introduce your child to Fibonacci numbers.

(continued on next column)

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Recording Secretary

Renee Leviton

- There are some great websites for math puzzles and games. Here are a few:

— Coolmathforkids.com

— Primarygames.com

— Apples4theteacher.com

— Figurethisout.com

— www.Luminosity.com

One final suggestion: Try playing tic-tac-toe using the digits 1-9 instead of X's and O's. Each player takes turns writing one of the digits. Digits can be used only once. The goal is to get a sum of 15 in any row, column, or diagonal!

Have fun!

Tina

hello superstars!

fundraising

Shana Teitelbaum & Marilyn Wright, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

Hello Superstars! Welcome May Flowers! We hope everyone is enjoying spring and getting ready for the end of year festivities!

school spiritwear:

Spring merchandise is here!! TANK TOPS, BOYS BASKETBALL SHORTS, GIRLS SOCCER SHORTS, TIE-DYED T'S AND MORE! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your school spiritwear, please contact Shana Teitelbaum at hsteitelbaum@optonline.net or Marilyn Wright at mm.wright@mindspring.com.

The Walk-a-thon raised over \$10,000!!! Thank you to all the students and parents who supported this event. We are so pleased that we are considering another Walk-a-thon for the 2010/11 school year.

We are pleased to announce a new fundraising opportunity, **The School Mall**. You will be receiving your information packets shortly, if you haven't already received them. This is an online shopping fundraising event for our school. When you purchase items online at your favorite participating stores, a percentage of your purchase is awarded to our school. Shop and Save — We love it!

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

Upcoming Events:

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

School Supplies — Early June

Thank you.

Shana & Marilyn

We have much to celebrate as we start to wrap up the school year.



SM Beautification



Please join us in our efforts to beautify the school. This Spring volunteers will begin a landscaping project and teacher's lounge makeover at South Mountain.

If you are interested in contributing to our costs any amount will be helpful. Please make checks out to **South Mountain PTA** and indicate "**Spring Spruce Up**" in the memo line.

library news

library reminder tidbits

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

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

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

Battle of the Books for grades 3-4 is continuing through May. Please be sure your 5th grader returns their Battle book promptly, so they can be inventoried and packed away for next year.

TV Turnoff Ultimate Challenge is winding down. Great job to all those who are participating. Confirmation of participation forms will be sent home in mid to late May and will be due back Friday May 28.

Final due date for all library materials is Friday, June 4. All materials must be returned or paid for by then, so the collection can be inventoried. Items which remain checked out will result in library fines which, if not cleared, may delay the distribution of the student's end of year report card. Thank you for your cooperation in seeing that library materials are available for all to use.

welcome...

administration

Amy Forman & Julie Saydah, Administration VP Co-Chairs

We would like to welcome **Penelope Carter** to Mrs. Dorton's 1st grade class.

Jason and Liz Carter

240 S. Ridgewood Rd
South Orange, NJ 07079
773-642-7125
ecarter_esq@hotmail.com
iscarter_esq@yahoo.com

Thank you,

Amy & Julie

**Rezoning: What does this mean for South Mountain families**

By Marilyn Lehren

It's been a roller coaster for South Mountain families on streets slated for school rezoning. The Board of Education formally changed on April 19 school lines for eight streets that currently attend South Mountain Elementary School. The lone South Orange street was taken off the proposal.

What does this mean for South Mountain families? The vote officially changes the school lines for students living on parts of South Wyoming Avenue and Crestwood Drive, and on Collinwood Road, Collinwood Road South, Sunset Terrace, Colonial Terrace, New England Road, Evergreen Place and Washington Park.

New students — meaning children entering kindergarten or families who move in on those streets will attend Marshall and Jefferson elementary schools.

For the children living on those streets:

- Current South Mountain third and fourth grades will remain at South Mountain.
- Current South Mountain first graders will attend South Mountain for second grade, but will then move to Jefferson for third grade.
- Siblings of the students grandfathered will remain at South Mountain.
- Children currently in kindergarten will be moved to Marshall, and current second grader will move to Jefferson next September.
- All students who attend South Mountain as transfer students — and not here for health and safety reasons — will have to return to the school in their home district.

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**Superstars' Hard Work Helps Haiti**

The students of South Mountain School and Annex spent two and a half months performing chores to help make a difference for families who survived the earthquake in Haiti.

From mid January until April 1st, their Chores for Change project raised a total of \$3,023.02 to help children and families in Haiti!

Part of the total came from the 4th Grade Art Class Houses for Haiti Pins Fundraiser, which raised and donated \$395 to the campaign, helping the school break the \$3,000 mark.

On the behalf of all the children at South Mountain, checks have been sent to UNICEF and Save the Children and are already helping in the effort to feed families and rebuild lives.

Special thanks to Laura Griffin and Kanani Briggs of South Mountain Cares for your organizing efforts!



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many thanks!

programming

Patricia Canning & Marietta Zacker, Programming VP Co-Chairs

First, we want to send a special thank you to everyone who attended **"Technology in Action"** Night on April 28. Paul Roth, Chief Information Officer for SOMSD, led South Mountain families on a tour of the technology now available and in use at South Mountain. Mr. Roth demonstrated the use of the broadcast booth, the Digital Whiteboards, the iPod stations and laptops used to support and enhance the curriculum. We witnessed first hand how our children and teachers are benefiting from these additional tools. It was a fabulous hands-on learning experience and an enriching night for all.

and don't forget...

May Teacher Appreciation Week — May 3-7

Show your appreciation to your child's teacher. Each day there will be a special "gift" for teachers — culminating in a lunch on Friday, May 7 for teachers and PTA parent volunteers. It is a great opportunity to dine with our hard working South Mountain staff. Show off your cooking or baking skills and donate your favorite dish by contacting: Maria Witt, mariagwitt@yahoo.com, or Michele Billec, mbillec@verizon.net. Thank you Maria and Michele for your hard work with this week of appreciation!

Last PTA General Meeting — Wednesday, May 19, 7pm

Join us as we welcome the new PTA Board and hear from Kirk Smith, Principal of South Orange Middle School.

Enjoy the May flowers,

Patricia & Marietta



ad notes:

Advertising Info

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

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

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

For advertising information please contact:

Wendy Miller

email: wemiller5@aol.com

phone: (973) 761-6780

All checks should be made payable to:

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PTA

and sent to her home address:

Wendy Miller

183 Underhill Road

South Orange, NJ 07079

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Advertising Policy

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

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