

superstar 11

may calendar

spring concert!

and art show.

may 19th

- 2-6 | Teacher Appreciation Week
- 6 | Teacher/Staff Appreciation Lunch
- 9 | Leap To Success Program
- 11 | Executive Board Meeting
- 19 | SM Art Show and Spring Concert
- jun 3 | School Fair
- 10 | Spirit Day

in this issue:

- 2 **Presidents Column**
- 3 **Principal's Message**
- 3 **Contact Info**
- 4 **Fundraising**
- 5 **Administration**
- 5 **S.M.I.L.E.**
- 5 **Cultural Arts**
- 6 **Communications**
- 6 **Library News**
- 7 **Advertising**
- 8 **Programming**
- 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

teacher & staff appreciation luncheon

SAVE our PLANET



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Go to the website: smsuperstars.com/newsletter

box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!

Yvette Holowczak

yvettewh@gmail.com



nj ask grades 3/4/5 starts in may



teacher appreciation!

presidents column

Laura Reichgut & Amy Porman, PTA Co-Presidents

Most likely as you are reading this, Teacher Appreciation Week will be in full swing. We would like to thank Marietta Zacker and Lia Barron for all of their time and efforts planning a great week for the amazing South Mountain staff who work with our children every day. *We hope that you will join us at the Appreciation Luncheon on Friday, May 6th.* Marietta, Lia and all other their volunteers have a spectacular meal planned along with a few other surprises. This is a celebration of teachers, staff **and** parents so we hope that you can participate. Special thanks to Tsipi Kaplan for planning a wonderful menu and arranging for all of the "chefs-in-training" to assist with the meal!

Our nominating committee has also been hard at work for the past few months searching for candidates for the 2011/2012 Executive Board Slate. Thanks so much to Patricia Canning, Janet Christmann, Susan Jennings, Jennifer Lehrman, James Davis, Gretchen Sekel, Tracy Guth Spangler and Dawn Stith for their efforts to fill the open positions. We know how much thoughtful discussion and deliberation went into finding the perfect candidates! We would like to welcome Nerissa Aschoff — V.P. Programming, Jennie Tinkelman — V.P. Fundraising, Jim Cole — Corresponding Secretary, and Tracy Guth Spangler — V.P. Administration. We are also very excited to have Shana Teitelbaum join Amy as the new Co-President for next year. Congratulations Shana, and thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to our school! These new officers will be a wonderful addition to the PTA Board.

*Please mark your calendars for Thursday, May 19th and come out to **South Mountain for the Annual Art Show and Spring Concert.*** What a great way to celebrate the amazing talents of our Superstars! That evening the school will be transformed into a museum filled with the artwork our students have been creating all year. Please note that the gym will have all 3-D projects on display, which can be taken home that evening. However, we would like to keep the wall art hanging so that the children can enjoy and admire all of their masterpieces. Do not worry, that artwork will be sent home before the end of the school year. The evening would not be the same without listening in on the talents of our 4th and 5th grade chorus, orchestra and band. Don't forget to stop in to the auditorium for the concert! Just a reminder, this evening is for ALL of our South Mountain families, artwork from students at the Annex will be featured as well.

Also please save these dates for upcoming end of year programs...

The School Fair on Friday, June 3rd (June 6th rain date) and **School Spirit Day** Friday, June 10th (June 17th rain date). For those of you who are new to South Mountain, the School Fair takes place in the late afternoon/early evening. Please note: all children must be accompanied by an adult in order to participate. There will be pizza and after dinner treats for sale as well.

School Spirit Day is scheduled after lunch during the school day. Although parents are always welcome to attend, and volunteers are needed and

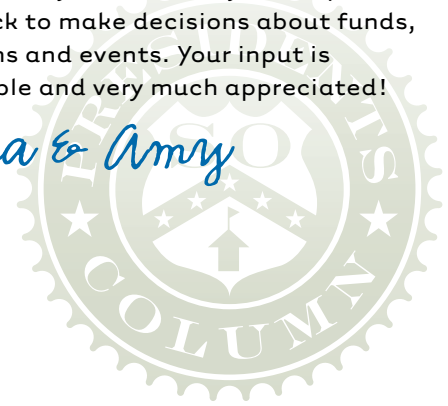
(continued on next column)

appreciated, the students are supervised by school staff as part of their regular school day. More information about both of these events will be sent home toward the end of this month.

By now your children have probably brought home the first edition of the student newspaper The Scoop. This is an exciting new collaboration between students, teachers and parent volunteers, and a wonderful addition to South Mountain. We would like to thank Parinaz Cole, Carolyn Maynard-Parisi, Priscilla Goldman, Bill Kochi and Mr. K. for all of their dedication to this project. Way to go writers and editors, The Scoop is spectacular!

And finally, as we begin thinking about the events that celebrate the end of this school year, the PTA board begins planning for next year. Please keep an eye out for our survey, as we need your help and feedback to make decisions about funds, programs and events. Your input is invaluable and very much appreciated!

Laura & Amy



Teacher & Staff
Appreciation Luncheon
Performance by Columbia
High School Choir

May

6



a busy month!

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

By the time you are reading this, our fifth graders will have created life long memories at Camp Bernie, building a shelter together, hiking part of the Appalachian Trail, supporting each other through an obstacle course and hopefully staying dry!

May is a busy month, beginning with the fifth, fourth and third grade NJASK. The best preparation for this state assessment is a year of good teaching. Our children are ready to show what they know. You can help your child by making sure they have a good night's sleep each night and a healthy breakfast in the morning. Remind your child that you know they will do their best and that is all we expect of them. Mr. Kaeshaeffer, Mr. Tait and I have been working to produce an exercise video we plan to broadcast each morning that will take the children through a fun, aerobic five minute workout at the beginning of each day. There is significant research that shows how vigorous exercise improves performance in tests.

Our kindergarteners have been busy planting the Kinder Gardens. We are all anxious to see the first green shoots coming up through the dirt. Thanks to a dedicated group of parents, our gardening club at the big School is going strong. Look out for evidence of their hard work in the back field. We are nurturing budding gardeners at South Mountain!

Be on the lookout for our fabulous art and music show at the end of May. This year, our school will become a museum of your children's art work. It will be proudly displayed throughout both of our buildings. The children are also getting ready to show their musical talents. The evening promises to be a very special one.

Thanks to our wonderful PTA, we will have an Artist in Residence program in South Mountain at the beginning of June. Our fourth graders will participate in a two week long project on an ancient civilization that will result in the development of a museum, created by our students. They will act as docents, leading visitors through their project. It will be a rich and engaging culmination to their year. We hope that this will become a fourth grade tradition. Read more about this project elsewhere in this newsletter. I am very excited about this new venture.

Tina



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Eileen Trinity *SMILE Coordinator*

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welcome spring!

fundraising

Shana Teitelbaum & Janet Christmann, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

First of all, we want to thank all of you for your generosity and support so far this year.

We have wonderful news to report...the auction raised over \$26,000! This would not have been possible without the participation and help of many, many parents and school staff. These funds will allow us to complete the renovations of the sound and lighting systems of the South Mountain auditorium. (If you haven't had the chance yet, please go to <http://smsuperstars.com/pta/fundraising/midnight-at-the-oasis-video/> to see a video slide show from that night)!

We are starting now to plan and prepare for the School Fair. It will be on Friday, June 3rd from 5 to 7 pm (raindate Monday, June 6th). We will send more details soon but can tell you it promises to be just as much fun as last year!

Shana & Janet



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midnight at the oasis

Seated, from left to right, Janet Christmann and Shana Teitelbaum. Standing in back row from left to right, Laura Browne-Mixon, Brenda Berger, Maria Witt, Niv Miyasato and Jill Abramson. Photograph courtesy of William Hollingsworth.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Midnight at the Oasis and helped make this event such a success!

Special thanks to William Hollingsworth, who photographed the night away. You can view the images in a slideshow at this link:

<http://video214.com/play/LYXyVYa5fovWkNoa0UW9SQ/s/dark>
(DVD copies are available for purchase upon request)

Also, you may view and/or purchase the South Mountain PTA event gallery images individually from William Hollingsworth website at: <http://digital-artistry.smugmug.com>

congrats!

**Announcing 2011/2012
PTA Executive Board Officers**

Co-Presidents

Amy Forman and Shana Teitelbaum

Co-Vice Presidents, Administration

Marilyn Wright and Tracy Guth Spangler

Co-Vice Presidents, Communications

Thomas Mixon and Priscilla Goldman

Co-Vice Presidents, Fundraising

Janet Christmann and Jennie Tinkelman

Co-Vice Presidents, Programming

Wendy Miller and Nerissa Aschoff

Co-Treasurers

Paige Graves and Barbara Trumpbour

Corresponding Secretary

Jim Cole

Recording Secretary

Robin Stephan

The Parenting Center's
Leap To Success Committee
Presents:

**PARENTS AS PARTNERS
CLOSING THE GAP!**



K-2 workshop (7:30pm):
Tina Lehn, Principal SM

3-5 workshop (7:30pm):
Susan Grierson, Principal
Jefferson

May

9

happy May!

administration

Marilyn Wright & Julie Saydah, Administration VP Co-Chairs

Happy May South Mountain Superstars! The year is drawing to a close and we hope you have had a great time so far. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our families who joined us this spring. We hope you have received your directories and have settled in to our community.

The administration team is continuing work on Going Green with the First Day packets. We are moving toward offering the First Day packets electronically. Stay tuned for more news!

Marilyn & Julie



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

teacher appreciation week
may 2-6



cultural arts corner
russell kaplan

First off, a sincere thank you to all the parent volunteers who assisted with our Dancin' With The Honeybees program. Without your help our kids would not have enjoyed this multi-faceted program nearly as much.

As a major recipient of the funds raised at March's Night at the Oasis, our cultural arts initiatives will continue to be able to expose our kids to a wide variety of assemblies, field trips and hands on creative experiences.

Speaking of which, last month I briefly mentioned our artist in residency program that will begin to unfold for our fourth grade students this month. After much discussion about the themes this project might explore we have settled on an art installation that will bring to life the fascinating history of Egypt. With relevance in both our enrichment program's study of ancient cultures and the remarkable unfolding of current events during this past year, our fourth graders will experience the rare opportunity to immerse themselves in an artistic journey that will challenge them to reflect on the past through a contemporary prism.

At the conclusion of their two week residency in June the entire student body along with our fourth grade parents will be invited to join our students as they unveil what we know will become a permanent fixture of inspiration in our school.

Thanks again for your support.

Russell

Ca

did you know?**communications**

Priscilla Goldman & Thomas Mixon, Communications VP Co-Chairs

Can you believe it's already May?! The first issue of the Student Newspaper, The Scoop, came off the presses with great anticipation and fanfare right before spring recess. The Scoop will be published quarterly for the Superstars.

The South Mountain Superstars website is updated daily and is always in need of content. At the request of Superstar parents and guardians we've added the school lunch menu, just in case your student forgets to bring one home. We welcome any other ideas/suggestions from parents, teachers, etc., for posting on the website. Please email any suggestions you may have to Priscilla.

Lastly, there is ad space still available on both the website and in the newsletter. For further information, questions or rates, please email Tom at Thomas_mixon@nysp.uscourts.gov

priscilla & Tom



Students helped to pack and distribute bags of food to those in need at the Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges during Spring Break last month. The visit was one of many community service projects that students and their families have participated in throughout the year as part of South Mountain Cares. Volunteers bagged up pasta, tuna, canned vegetables and other items and handed them out to waiting families. In addition to helping at the food pantry, our students have visited local senior citizens, cooked and served meals to homeless families for the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and participated in the school's food and coat drives.

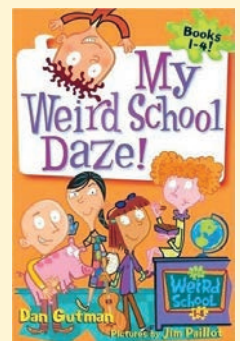
South Mountain Cares, which is coordinated by parent Kanani Briggs, helps to connect our students to the larger community and encourages them to develop an awareness of how they can make a difference in their own neighborhoods and beyond.

Look for more opportunities to become involved before the school year ends.

library news**announcement**

The South Orange Public Library is pleased to announce an upcoming visit by Dan Gutman to our library on May 13th at 6:30 pm with a book signing at Sparkhouse to follow.

★★★



*Congratulations
Jennifer Visco
on your marriage!*



April 16th.



*Midnight
at the Oasis*

HOLLINGSWORTH DIGITAL ARTISTRY

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MIDNIGHT AT THE OASIS CAN BE VIEWED AT
[HTTP://SMSUPERSTARS.COM/PTA/FUNDRAISING/MIDNIGHT-AT-THE-OASIS-VIDEO/](http://SMSUPERSTARS.COM/PTA/FUNDRAISING/MIDNIGHT-AT-THE-OASIS-VIDEO/)
 OR
[HTTP://VIDEO214.COM/PLAY/LYXYVYA5FOVWKNOAOUW9SQ/S/DARK](http://VIDEO214.COM/PLAY/LYXYVYA5FOVWKNOAOUW9SQ/S/DARK)

DVD COPIES AND INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE UPON REQUEST.

PLEASE CONTACT WILLIAM HOLLINGSWORTH AT HOLLINGSWORTH DIGITAL ARTISTRY
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 Email: GreetSuccess@gmail.com
 Phone: 973-325-3187

many thanks!

programming

Patricia Canning & Wendy Miller, Programming VP Co-Chairs

The months of May and June are busy months for everyone. Now is the time to put into action some of the mindful relaxation tips that we learned a few months ago. In May, please join us in honoring our teachers, staff and parent volunteers. In June, please look forward to celebrating the end of another wonderful year.

Teacher Appreciation - A World of Thank You - Friday, May 6th

Thanks to the efforts of Lia Barron and Marietta Zacker, the teachers and staff of South Mountain School will be treated to a special week of "thank you" in many different languages. On Friday, May 6th, the week will culminate with a luncheon, which includes a menu prepared by Tsipi Kaplan, a professional chef, who generously donated her time and skills to create a memorable meal for our teachers, staff and volunteers. Please join us at South Mountain, to celebrate our teachers, honor our staff members and give us the opportunity to personally thank you for all of the time and effort you have contributed to our school throughout the year. Everyone is welcome!

Art Show and Music Program - Thursday May 19th

Please join us at the annual art show where our children's art will be displayed throughout the Big School. We still need volunteers to help mount, set-up and take down the artwork. The music program will immediately follow and as in past years, promises to be an inspiring showcase of our talented 4 and 5th graders.

Looking forward to:

School Fair - Friday, June 3rd

Spirit Day - Friday, June 10th

Patricia & Wendy



don't forget to attend the south mountain art show & spring concert



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.

read all about it!



classifieds:

Deadline: the 15th of the prior month when you wish your AD to appear. Subject to availability. South Mountain Families ONLY!

credits:

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Printing by KODE Press

