

# superstar 12

digital edition

may | june calendar

# are you ready?

summer is almost here!



- may 7 | Teacher Appreciation Week begins
- 11 | Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- 16 | Foster and Adoptive Parent Info
- 24 | Art Show & Concert
- 25 | School Closed (SM ONLY!)
- 28 | School Closed (Memorial Day)
- 30 | Kindergarten Orientation
- jun 1 | School Fair (raindate 6/4)
- 8 | School Spirit Day (raindate 6/11)
- 18 | Elementary School District 4-hr
- 19 | Last Day of School

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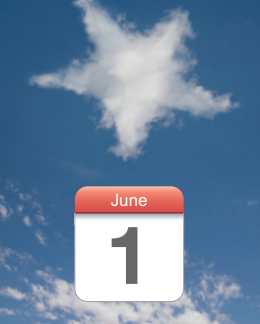
**Keep bringing in those Box Tops!**

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

teacher appreciation week  
may 7



school fair  
fun & games



school spirit day  
raindate june 11



coming up...

art show & concert

school fair

student spirit day



time flies...

**presidents message**

Shana Teitelbaum &amp; Amy Forman, PTA Co-Presidents

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun, but yet it's hard to believe that we've almost come to the end of the school year! We have so much to be proud of as a school and community and we just wanted to highlight some of the wonderful improvements made to South Mountain as a result of your support.

Thanks to the hard work of Priscilla Goldman and 4Elbows, LLC, we were able to put all of the first day packet forms on-line! We have also streamlined the communications process between the PTA and parents via a weekly eblast system. We have tried to go green as much as possible and thanks to Priscilla, Marilyn Wright and Tracy Spangler, we were able to offer you an online directory.

The Big School auditorium had a much needed sound and lighting overhaul, bringing those systems up to state of the art caliber. Hopefully you got to experience these changes first hand while attending the South Mountain Variety Show. We need to thank Jennifer Glass, Matt Glass, Felicia Hill, Kimberly Minor and Doug and Marietta Zacker for all their hard work in helping the children to put on a great show!

The 4th grade class was once again exposed to an Artist Residency program, sponsored by the PTA, which Principal Lehn mentioned in her article on the next page. The PTA and last year's 5th grade class jointly purchased 10 yellow and blue picnic tables which were placed behind the playground at the Big School. Hopefully your kids have enjoyed eating lunch outside in this beautiful spring weather! The recess clubs were expanded this year and we were fortunate to have a great group of parent volunteers and especially Randi Mandelbaum at the helm. Randi also ran the After School Enrichment program in both the Fall and Spring and thanks to her and the many parent volunteers, it was a tremendous success!

Thanks, again, to the support of the South Mountain community, we were able to host our annual Ice Cream Social as well as a Movie Night screening *Toy Story 3* as part of our highly successful new community building program, South Mountain Mixers.

As mentioned in more detail as part of the Treasurers' column in this newsletter, our PTA began a mini-grant program last year which was continued this year. A big thank you goes to Barbara Trumbour for both creating and executing this mini-grant program. We also 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. If you have any feedback on this year's assemblies or suggestions for new programs for next year, please feel free to reach out to Russell or us directly.

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep pace with the rapidly changing technological environment, your donations will be able to fund new ELMO equipment for the 2nd grade classes. With your continued financial support, we would like to expand this to include the 1st grade and Kindergarten classes next year.

We would be remiss if we did not personally thank and acknowledge the work done by Kanani Briggs and Shanease Guion-Davis on behalf of South Mountain Cares as well as by Eileen Trinity as part of our SMILE program.

*(continued on next column)*

They have all worked hard to ensure that both the South Mountain School community as well as those less fortunate families residing in our greater South Orange/Maplewood communities are looked after.

We must also give a very large thank you to Bill Kochi who has once again this year donated his time and creative services in making these newsletters! We are unfortunately losing Bill to the Middle School next year and know that he is leaving us with very big shoes to fill! Thanks, Bill!!

The PTA would like to thank Principal Lehn, Paula Appenzoller and Zippora Auerbach (two 5th grade teachers) who make presentations each month at the Executive Board meetings to keep us informed of the goings-on at South Mountain. A big thanks must also go out to Andrea Dudley, Treena Goodman and Jean Anello for all their support in dealing with all sorts of administrative duties on our behalf! We are truly fortunate to have a principal and teachers who are so willing to work with the PTA for the betterment of the school.

We also must thank all of the members of the Executive Board for their dedication and commitment this past year. They have worked tirelessly to provide the best experience possible for our children and we appreciate all of their efforts.

On a personal note, it has been my privilege to serve as Co-President alongside Amy Forman for the past year. She has always gone above and beyond the call of duty and has set such a wonderful example for what dedication and commitment should look like. South Mountain has been extremely lucky to have had her as Co-President for two years as well as serving on the PTA Executive Board for 4 years. Amy, you will certainly be missed!

Have a wonderful summer vacation!!

*Shana & Amy*

it's hard to believe...

## principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

It is hard to believe that our school year is coming to an end. It has been a wonderful year at South Mountain. Our children have grown as readers and writers, mathematicians and scientists, as well as blossoming in the arts. Take the time to celebrate your child's growth in each of these areas.

During March, our fourth graders worked for two weeks with our artists in residence and classroom teachers to create, and share with the school community, their art and research on world ecosystems. I know that those of you who saw it, and learned from our students, were impressed with our children's work. If you have not seen the ecosystems, you are invited to visit them on our second floor. Thank you to our wonderful PTA who made this possible. I am delighted that this is becoming annual part of our school's enriching experiences.

On May 24th, we will have our Annual Spring Art Show and Concert. The children's art will be proudly displayed throughout the halls of the big school. I hope to see all of you here to celebrate their art, and to enjoy the fruits of the hours of practice they have spent preparing for the spring concert. We will have a "preview" of the students' art in the Annex the week preceding the whole school exhibition, before bringing it down to the big school. On May 24th, you are free to take home the three dimensional art work from the gym. However, please do not remove the art from the bulletin boards around the school. I would like to leave the children's art work up for the remainder of the school year so that the children can enjoy each others' art.

By the time we have enjoyed the Art show and the Concert, the NJASK will be behind us! Fifth grade will take these tests beginning on April 30; third and fourth grade will take them the following week. You have often heard me say that the best preparation for the NJASK is good teaching. I feel blessed to work with teachers who are dedicated, passionate about their work, and committed to every child becoming the best they can be. Our third, fourth and fifth graders have been well prepared for this test and are ready to show what they know. You can help by reassuring them that all you expect from them is that they do their best work. Then make sure they get to bed early the night before each test, and start them off with a healthy breakfast each morning. Last year, our PE teachers made an exercise video that we shared each morning before the test began. We are planning on creating a new one this year that will take the children through a fun, aerobic workout to wake up their minds and reduce their stress! This decision is based on research that shows how vigorous exercise improves performance in tests.

The children are looking forward to our annual School Spirit Day on Friday, June 8 in the afternoon. Our rain date is Tuesday, June 12. Encourage your child to show school spirit by wearing our school colors of yellow and blue.

As we 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 buildings clean; to our secretaries who do much to ensure that our school runs 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. 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

## 2011-2012 contact info:

### South Mountain PTA Executive Board

#### Co-Presidents

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##### Jennie Tinkelman

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##### Barbara Trumpbour

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#### Recording Secretary

##### Robin Stephan

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#### Standing Committee Chairs:

##### South Mountain Cares

##### Kanani Briggs

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#### PTO-Special Education

##### Marilyn Lehren

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#### Cultural Arts

##### Russell Kaplan

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#### SMILE Coordinator

##### Eileen Trinity

jcet110198@aol.com

#### Recess & After School Enrichment

##### Randi Mandelbaum

randi.mandelbaum@verizon.net

## looking forward

### programming

Wendy Miller & Nerissa Aschoff, Programming VP Co-Chairs

In early spring, we had the opportunity to offer our parents some useful tools with the help of some generous experts. We had a wonderful turnout for Karen Weiland's March 30th presentation, "Playground Politics," as well as the most recent Roundtable with Tina Lehn on April 12th. Then we co-sponsored a parenting program with Marshall School on April 30th facilitated by South Mountain parent, Jen Stemmermann, on how to address parent-child power struggles based on Love and Logic principles. We hope you found them to be valuable and appreciate any feedback you may have.

#### Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Now we look forward to the rest of our spring offerings. We begin this month with Teacher Appreciation week scheduled for May 7-11, culminating in a Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Friday the 11th from 10:45-1:00 at the Big School gymnasium. Please join the teachers and supporting staff at the luncheon if you are able and show your personal appreciation for all they do for our families. We will roll out the red carpet to them and treat them like the bright stars they truly are, Hollywood-style. Star-struck fans, please refer to the related flier for teacher lunch times to catch your favorites.

#### Art Show & Spring Concert

The evening of Thursday, May 24th brings art and music. All students from both the Big School and Annex will have their artwork displayed at the Big School, and you are invited to view their art class masterpieces. Annex students' artwork will be gracing the Annex hallways in the days leading up to the Art Show. You may bring the three-dimensional art home that evening, but please leave the ones hanging on the walls. They will keep the hallways bright and lively through June and then be sent home with your child. Immediately following the Art Show, stay and enjoy music by our talented young musicians and singers.

#### Kindergarten Orientation

For those with children entering Kindergarten next school year, please save May 30th for Kindergarten Orientation (time(s) to be determined). There will be sign-ups for screenings then.

#### School Fair

Games, inflatables, pizza, ice cream, cotton candy, a dunk tank, and prizes will be waiting for you at the annual School Fair on Friday, June 1st at 5-7pm behind the big school. It's a time for South Mountain families to come together to celebrate another successful school year...and maybe even dunk a teacher or two.

#### School Spirit Day

A student favorite, School Spirit Day, will be held on Friday, June 8th at 1pm behind the Big School. Transportation is provided for Annex students to join the entire student body for lots of cheering, relays, water fun, and ice pops. Spiritwear will be on sale during the School Fair to get you ready for this special event, which is led by our energetic Physical Education coaches. Please be on the lookout for more details on all these events and celebrate South Mountain School with us.

#### Volunteers

Anyone interested in chairing a Programming event next school year, please let us know. We will be thrilled to hear from you. As this is the final newsletter of the school year, we want to thank all our volunteers and those that have joined us to make this year a truly delightful experience.

Thank you!

Wendy & Nerissa



south mountain  
art show



south mountain  
concert



*We'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing Executive Board members, who went above and beyond the call of duty during this past school year and for some, many years past. Thank you for all your efforts!!!! We couldn't have done it without you and you will be sorely missed!*

Co-President: **Amy Forman**  
 VP - Communications: **Tom Mixon**  
 VP - Fundraising: **Janet Christmann**  
 VP - Fundraising: **Jennie Tinkelman**  
 VP - Programming: **Wendy Miller**  
 Treasurer: **Barbara Trumpbour**  
 Treasurer: **Paige Graves**

## hello everyone

## south mountain cares

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

2011-2012 was a very active year for South Mountain Cares! Thank you to the many families that participated and volunteered for the SMC events throughout the year. We were able to help families in need through our fall festival food drive, the annual coat drive, volunteering at St. Joseph's Food Pantry and the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We also involved local seniors in our schools through our Reading Buddies program and visits to the senior center.

We look forward to another year of reaching out to our community in 2012-2013. If you have an interest in chairing an activity for SMC next year, please let us know!

Have a great rest of the school year and a terrific summer!

*Kanani & Shanease*

## a huge thanks...

## administration

Marilyn Wright & Tracy Spangler, Administration VP Co-Chairs

A huge thanks to all our class parents for doing such an amazing job planning class parties and activities, and for generally helping things run so smoothly for the 2011-12 school year! We couldn't have done it without you:

*Michelle Lederman, Pam Davis, Beth Ferguson, Helene Cartaina, Pam Martin, Jennine Millman, Meredith Katz, Stacey Maebert, Marwa Diab-Abdalla, Lisa Garelick, Cindy Hairston, Terri Cannon-Nelson, Crystal Glynn, Rachel Blum, Jill Abramson, Amy Campione, Anna Sandler, Adrienne Davis, Paige Graves, Jenny Bacon, Kimberly Minor, Sheryl Eccles, Sarah Hayden, Heidi Davis, Julia Cerny, Naseem Rochette, Janice Chen, Lauren Rutkin, Stephanie Smith, Vicki Rivkin, Alicja Crosby, Shanease Davis, Lori Dalvi, Lorry Ripley, Andrea Bromfeld, Nichole Nunes, Carmela Brown, Krista Wergeland, Canty Gross, Jessica Ganjon, Lisa Fellen-Saurborn, Marilyn Wright, Susan Cowan, Michele Billec, Kanani Briggs, Alexis Gubbay, Adena Traub, Maria Witt, Jane Alexander, Dinah PoKempner, Pauline Lacey-Woode, Linda Thibodeau, Lauren Boyer, Celina Herrero, Priscilla Goldman, Amy Goldberg, Robin Stephan, Julie Saydah, Goldie Bryant, Eileen Trinity, Laura Reichgut, Karen Gulino, Deborah Granados, Randi Mandelbaum, Christine Fabrizio, Rachel Sullivan, Kathy Handelman, Wendy Miller, Kim Collins, Tanya Gibson-Clark, Maria Shapiro, Rebecca Rounsavill, Julie Fuhrman, Wendy Sachs and Renee Helfenstein.*

We appreciated all the feedback we received on the online South Mountain directory. We're planning to make it even easier to access and use in the fall. We're currently in the process of selecting second through fifth grade agendas for 2012-13—these homework and schedule planners are provided to your kids each year by the PTA.

Have a wonderful summer. We'll see you next year!

*Marilyn & Tracy*



05/06

school fair  
fun & games  
raindate june 8



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**Elena Spag**  
Phone: 973-325-3187

## appreciating teachers

### treasury news

Barbara Trumbour & Paige Graves, Treasurers VP Co-Chairs

#### Teacher Appreciation through the PTA Mini-Grant Program

In the last newsletter, we shared an overview of the broad array of programs implemented by the PTA to deliver cultural arts programming, technology tools, auditorium sound and lighting system upgrades, lunch and recess programs, and classroom enhancements. In this edition, we'll do a "deep dive" to share details of the PTA's Mini-Grant Program for South Mountain teachers.

Launched in 2010, the mini-grant program provides a simple way for teachers to request funding for specific classroom initiatives. All teachers are eligible, including specials, and the mini-grants provide up to \$100 in funding for a single-class request and up to \$300 for a two-class initiative. We're pleased to see that dozens of teachers have participated, representing every grade level, including quite a few partnerships for initiatives involving multiple classrooms. The process for requesting a mini-grant is easy. Teachers complete a one-page form with their name and a few sentences outlining their requests. The requests are approved by Principal Lehn or Assistant Principal Bonita Patterson-Samuels and submitted to the PTA.

During the 2010-11 school year, mini-grants totaling over \$2,000 were approved for classroom library book collections, easels, e-readers, enrichment project materials, learning board games and software, book-making supplies, partial funding of a document camera, iPod speakers, and a music library. For the 2011-2012 school year, the PTA continues to receive requests and has already funded nearly \$2,400 to provide a digital camera, math games and manipulatives, picture writing literacy program materials, theater scripts, classroom library books, a CD player with music CDs, and a chart stand, with more to come including additional funding for audio-books, additional classroom library materials and classroom organizational tools.

The PTA is thrilled to support the South Mountain teacher community with new and exciting classroom initiatives through its ongoing support of the classroom mini-grant program. Let us know if you have an idea or question about how the PTA supports the South Mountain Schools.

*Barbara & Paige*

#### Teacher Appreciation Week begins May 7 Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon



### thank you superstar volunteers!

**Nerissa Aschoff**  
**Lauren Boyer**  
**Kanani Briggs**  
**Patricia Canning**  
**Jocelyn Cleary**  
**Shanease Davis**  
**Rita Desnoyers**  
**Ifeoma Ezeta**  
**Katie Fleetwood**  
**Lauren Rutkin & Matthew Gerwitz**  
**Yvette Holowczak**  
**Kristin & Whelan Mahoney**  
**Wendy Miller**  
**Kimberly Minor**  
**Lorri Ripley**  
**Gretchen & Terrence Sekel**  
**Jennie Tinkelman**  
**Krista Wergeland**  
**Marilyn Wright**

### Congratulations to the new PTA Executive Board Members for the 2012-13 school year!!

#### Co-Presidents

Shana Teitelbaum  
Priscilla Goldman

#### VP Administration

Beth Ferguson  
Tracy Spangler

#### VP Communications

Meredith Katz  
Robin Stephan

#### VP Fundraising

Lauren Rutkin  
Joanne Watkins

#### VP Programming

Adrienne Davis  
Nerissa Aschoff

#### Recording Secretary

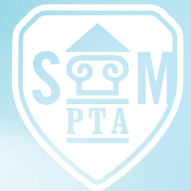
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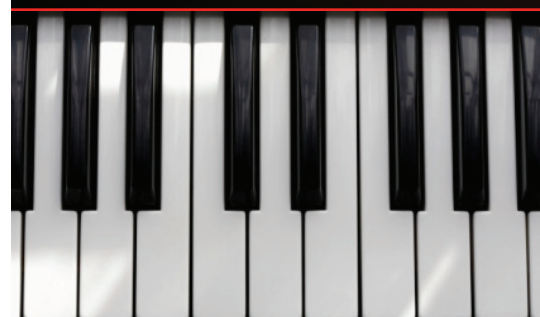


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## the end is near!

### fundraising

Janet Christmann & Jennie Tinkelman, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

The end of the school year will be here before we know it—and what a great year it has been. First, we must say thank you to everyone who supported fundraising this year. A great group of volunteers supported our tried and true services including School Supplies, the Book Fair and Picture Day. New this year was Display My Art and not only did this help bring funds into the school, it gave us some great keepsakes and highlighted our children's creative artwork.

We were true to our word and put the fun in FUNdraising this year with the introduction and wild success of South Mountain Mixers. With a great selection of events, our community proved that playing football, enjoying cocktails with our neighbors and creating edible science projects is not only a great way to have fun but also a great way to support our schools! We'd like to give a special thank you to all of our hosts for organizing such wonderful events! Your donations of time and fun not only helped raised money for our school it brought us closer as a community.

No matter how you pitched in, from the smallest clipping of a box top to a tax-deductible donation to the Annual Fund, every donation helps improve our school. Look for us selling Spiritwear throughout the rest of the year and show your pride in school colors at the School Fair and on Spirit Day! And don't forget, Spiritwear is always available online to be delivered via backpack.

Janet & Jennie



## so long...

### communications

Priscilla Goldman & Thomas Mixon, Communications VP Co-Chairs

The month of May represents lots of things; the earnest beginning of spring, promised May flowers, longer, warmer days and breezy nights, BBQs and family vacations. May also brings to mind the upcoming end of the school year, graduations, and sadly, the end of our two years as Co-VPs of Communications for the South Mountain PTA.

Before saying our goodbyes we want to briefly share some of the successes of the past school year—none of which would be possible without the support and commitment of the parents and students of South Mountain:

- First day packets were completed online for the first time ever!
- Enrichment enrollment was also done online.
- 96% of SM families now receive updated news and information via our E-Blasts, which goes a long way towards the "greening" of our PTA.

A big thank you goes out to our advertisers. Your support helped make this newsletter possible and we encourage our readers to continue to support our local advertisers. Finally, it's time for us to say "so long" to all our readers and the PTA family. Being members of the PTA Executive Board for the past two years has been an enriching and rewarding experience—a lot of work, but laughs as well, and that satisfaction of knowing that we tried our very best to make a positive contribution to the SM community.

Our successes directly correlate to your support. Thank you for your patience, understanding and willingness to share both new ideas and constructive criticism, and for embracing the new, "greener" PTA. We hope you continue to provide the same level of support to our successors and wish you all a wonderful rest of the school year and a fun-filled summer!

Priscilla & Tom



school spirit day  
june 8  
raindate june 11

## 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

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