

superstar★09

october calendar

boo!

trick or treat!



5	Child Health Day
12	Columbus Day
14	PTA Executive Board Meeting
15-16	Parent-Teacher Conference
19-20	Parent-Teacher Conference
21	PTA General Mtg 8:30am (Annex)
21	Picture Day (SM & Annex)
26	SOPAC Movie Day
30	PTA Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser
31	Halloween

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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



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

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

box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!

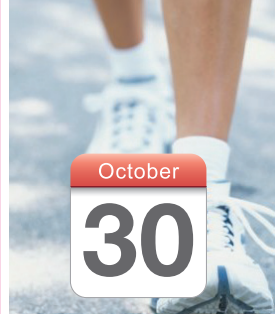
Yvette Holowczak ymholowczak@yahoo.com



SoPAC Movie Day
Oct. 26



PTA Walk-A-Thon
Oct. 30



a successful start!

presidents column

Sylvia Cutler & Laura Reichgut, PTA Co-Presidents



We hope that everyone is settling into the new school year, adjusting to our school hours, and enjoying their classes. We really hope it has been an easy transition for all of our Superstar families. It takes a lot of work and much effort to ensure that the new school year starts off successfully. We thank our **VPs of Administration**, *Amy Forman* and *Julie Saydah* for the enormous amount of time they've spent preparing and disseminating the first day packets. We appreciate your timely completion of the forms, as the information is crucial for the operations of the school and the PTA.

We also thank our **Programming VPs** *Marietta Zacker* and *Patricia Canning* for all of their hard work providing us with a great Welcome Coffee, an awesome Ice Cream Social, and a wonderful New Parent Reception. Our first General PTA meeting was very informative with a budget presentation from our **Treasurers** *Debbie Granados* and *Letitia Campbell*, as well as a discussion led by *Principal Tina Lehn*.

Many thanks also to **Fundraising VPs** *Shana Teitelbaum* and *Marilyn Wright* for kicking off the year with our very successful Book Fair. We're pleased that all of these events were so well attended, and are glad to have had the chance to meet and visit with so many of you. Most importantly, thanks to all of our many parent volunteers, as none of our events can successfully occur without your help. There will be many more opportunities to volunteer and we welcome any time you can spare!

Our first **Cultural Arts assembly** will take place on Tuesday, October 6th. We are very excited for our students to enjoy **The Signature Project**, a truly unique and multifaceted presentation which combines art, literature, and technology. The creator Patrick Dunning presents and narrates this spectacular piece in an Irish Folklore genre of storytelling. Make sure to ask your children for their feedback!

We hope to see many of you at our next **General PTA Meeting**. Please join us at the Annex on the morning of Wednesday, October 21st at 8:30am. The subject will be "How to be your child's best advocate", and facilitators will present and offer helpful suggestions. **Picture Day** is also October 21st, so schedule those haircuts, dress in your favorite bright clothing, and don't forget to smile for the camera.

This month we are very excited for two new PTA events which have never been held before. The first will be our South Mountain School **SOPAC Movie Day** on Monday, October 26th. We invite you to join us for popcorn and a movie on your day off from school. Also, for the first time in many years, we will be holding a **Superstar Walk-a-Thon** fundraiser on Friday, October 30th. Rally your kids to collect pledges, as every lap will make a difference and we promise they'll have lots of fun doing them. We welcome you to come and cheer on our Superstars as they help support their school. The day will include our annual **Halloween Parade**. Additional details about these events will be sent home in the backpacks.

We look forward to this busy month ahead of us. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to us for any questions at all!

Sylvia and Laura



The Parenting Center & The Elementary School PTAs

Presents:

Joel Haber – The "Bullying Coach"

A Presentation for Parents

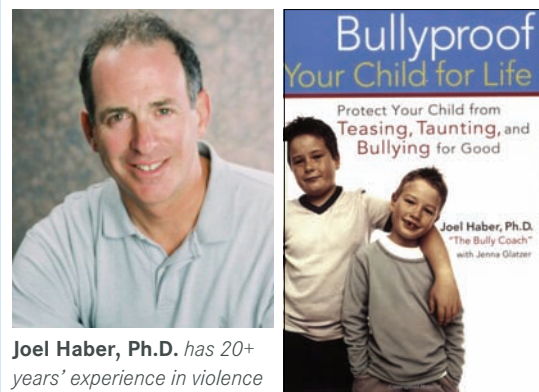
4th and 5th graders are welcome to attend with parents.

October 21, 2009

7:30 - 9:00 pm

Clinton Elementary School

27 Berkshire Road
Maplewood, NJ



Joel Haber, Ph.D. has 20+ years' experience in violence prevention and has worked with thousands of children and adults who are victims of bullying, bullies or bystanders.

imagine a day...

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

By the time you are reading this, you have been to your children's **Back-to-School Night** and have heard all about a typical day at school, what the children will be learning this year, and how you can help your child have a successful year. I hope you enjoyed your children's work that is proudly displayed throughout both schools.

I would like to share with you a little more about our days here in South Mountain. Every day begins with a **Morning Meeting**. This meeting is based on the Responsive Classroom Approach to learning, an approach that is based on a belief that "the greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interaction", and a belief that how children learn is as important as what they learn. The Morning Meeting sets a tone for respectful learning, gives children a sense of belonging to the classroom community, models respect and trust, and addresses the very human need to have fun! I have sat in on many Morning Meetings so far this year and I am delighted to see how teachers and students are having so much fun together, and are helping every child see that he or she matters, and has something significant to add to the classroom community. You may have noticed your children's **Hopes and Dreams** displayed in and out of classrooms. These are a result of some of the discussions that took place during Morning Meetings.

So much has been written about the importance of parents reading to their children every day. It nurtures a life long habit of reading, creates warm childhood memories of curling up on the couch with Dad or Mom to listen to a favorite book, and increases children's attention spans. I know that we believe this but life so often gets in the way and at the end of yet another hectic day we crawl off to bed exhausted, guilty that we didn't get around to reading that chapter or picture book aloud. I remember a second grader in my class who refused to read to me or her parents, yet I knew she could read. When I pressed for a reason, I discovered that she thought if she told her parents she could read, they would stop reading to her at bedtime. Once she found out that they would continue to read to her, she happily read to me, her parents and anyone who would listen to her. I share this powerful story with you to illustrate how important it is to continue to read to your children long after they know how to.

Hand-in-hand with nurturing life long habits of reading is a plea to limit the amount of time your children watch TV, and play computer or hand held games. Soon you will receive information on the TV turn off program. I encourage you to take on this challenge as a family. It may be one of the best ways I know to build family time, read together, or play a board game that might otherwise remain on the shelf. There is so much research on the ill effects of too much TV/Computer time for children, including the effects on their ability to sustain attention in school. So I challenge you this year to join your children in turning off the TV and Games on school nights and settle down to a game of Scrabble, Chutes and Ladders, Rummy Q or a great read a loud book for the whole family.

Tina

contact info:

NEW!
AND IMPROVED

South Mountain PTA Executive Board

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Recording Secretary

Renee Leviton

picture day

October

21

smile



hello superstars!

another success.

Shana Teitelbaum & Marilyn Wright, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

Hello Superstars! Our annual **Book Fair** was a huge success. We appreciate your support and thank you for making it such a great event. Thank you to all the volunteers and the co-chairs, Maria Witt, Kanani Briggs, Janet Christmann, Ann Quinn and Joanne Fisher.

Many thanks to all who took advantage of **The Gift & Wrap Fundraiser**. The paper is beautiful, fun and GREEN. Your orders should be in soon so that you can begin wrapping until your heart is content. Thank you to the volunteers and the co-chairs Kim Miller, Jane Jones and Susan Benslimane.

Get ready to show off those pearly whites! **Picture day** is coming Wednesday, October 21. There are many packages available so please take advantage of the many options when placing your orders.

Get out your walking shoes; we are having a **Walk-a-Thon!!** In fact, you may want to get out your dancing shoes too. This walk-a-thon is sure to be a true party. Friday, October 30 is the date, so don't be late.

Juice pouch recycling coming soon! Keep an eye out for the recycling bins in the cafeteria of the Main school and the Gymnasium at the Annex. Save your juice pouches, help save our planet and raise money for our school.

South Mountain school apparel order forms will be distributed this month. There will be T-shirts, Sweatshirts, water bottles and car magnets available for order.

Mark your calendars for our **Winter Festival** which will be held on Saturday, December 5 from 11am to 3pm. It will be a fun-filled family day and details will follow.

Thank you for all of your support!

Marilyn & Shana

administration

thank you!

Amy Forman & Julie Saydah,
Administration VP Co-Chairs

Thank you to everyone who promptly returned the first day packets. With your time and efforts, the school year is off to an organized start. We've now begun working on the South Mountain School Directory, and will be distributing it as soon as possible.

Thanks also to all the parents who filled out Volunteer Interest and Class Parent Forms. We've passed along your information, and you'll be contacted by the appropriate committee chairs.

And a HUGE thank you to Kim Miller, for organizing the e-backpack and e-newsletter again this year.

Lastly, congratulations to our South Mountain T-shirt raffle winners!

Kindergarten: Abigail Brosnan
1st Grade: Ty Budd
2nd Grade: Tate Olitt
3rd Grade: Adam Kaplan
4th Grade: Samantha Lu
5th Grade: Allie Goldberg

Amy & Julie

WINTER
FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE:
December 5th



mark your calendar!

PTA FUNDRAISER

WALK-A-THON
FUNDRAISER

Friday, October 30th



Our new and exciting fundraiser that encourages our children to live healthy lifestyles!

Walk-A-Thon and Halloween parades location and time:
Annex : 12:30 - 1:30pm
South Mountain: 1:15 - 2:15pm
Costume not required.



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programming

renewed and inspired...

Patricia Canning & Marietta Zacker, Programming VP Co-Chairs

With our **Welcome Back to School Events** - *Kindergarten Open House*, *First Day of School Meet and Greet* and the *Ice Cream Social* - we started off the school year renewed and inspired. We welcomed new friends and families and reconnected with familiar ones. There was another opportunity to do more of the same at the Welcome Parent Reception and general PTA Meeting held on Wednesday, September 30th. We heard from our Principal Tina Lehn and from veteran parents about their experiences at South Mountain. We also had an opportunity to discuss the many things that the parents, guardians and educators collaborate on to support and enrich the students' experience at our school.

Looking ahead:

PTA Meeting — Being Your Child's Best Advocate

Wednesday, October 21, 8:30 am, Annex

The Facilitators will present what you should be doing with and for your child in order to provide a supportive learning environment for him/her. Questions/Answers will follow the presentation.

An Afternoon at the Movies

Monday, October 26, SOPAC

Since there is no school, join us for South Mountain Day at the movies. What a great way to spend an afternoon - friends, popcorn and a movie. Look for upcoming details.

Patricia & Marietta

PTA Meeting
Being Your Child's
Best Advocate

October
21

SoPAC Movie Day
An Afternoon at
the Movies

October
26

advertising 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 Louise Finkelman by email at lsf92@hotmail.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:

Louise Finkelman

email: lsf92@hotmail.com

phone: 973-378-2313

All checks should be made payable to:

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PTA

and sent to her home address:

Louise Finkelman

280 Forest Road

South Orange, NJ 07079

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Deadline: the 15th of the prior month when you wish your AD to appear. Contact Louise Finkelman at (973) 378-2313.

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