

superstar 10

october calendar

trick or treat?

its just around the corner

- 14-19 | 4-hour day: School Conferences

- 20 | Picture Day

- 23 | Fall Festival (raindate 30th)

- 25 | **Schools Closed: Staff Development**

- 26 | Parenting Center Presentation SM

- 27 | Morning Roundtable with
Principal Lehn, 8:15am

in this issue:

- 2 **Presidents Column**
- 3 **Principal's Message**
- 3 **New Contact Info**
- 4 **Programming**
- 4 **Cooking with Kids**
- 5 **Administration**
- 5 **Volunteers Wanted**
- 5 **After School Prgm**
- 6 **Special Education**
- 6 **Parenting Center**
- 7 **Advertising**
- 8 **Fundraising**
- 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

fall festival

oct 23



morning
roundtable
w/principal
lehn
8:15am

SAVE our PLANET



Reduce your carbon footprint and go green! Please sign up for digital version of this Superstar newsletter!
Contact by email at: southmountainPTA@gmail.com

box tops:

Please keep bringing in those Box Tops!

Yvette Holowczak

yholowczak@yahoo.com



to a great new year!

presidents column

Laura Reichgut & Amy Forman, PTA Co-Presidents

We hope that everyone had a smooth transition back into school, and that all of our families are feeling the enthusiasm and optimism for what appears to be a promising start to a great new year!

This year all of the schools in the district are hoping to go as green and paperless as possible and we need your help in our continuing efforts to save money and the environment. If you haven't yet had a chance to explore our new school website, please check out www.smsuperstars.com. We are hopeful that this will be the main method of communication, and that you will utilize the website to stay informed with what is happening at South Mountain. Thank you again to Jamie and Priscilla Goldman of 4elbows for creating and maintaining this website.

September was a busy month with several opportunities to catch up with old friends and meet new families at South Mountain. We truly appreciate the efforts of our Programming VPs, Patricia Canning and Wendy Miller, along with the many volunteers who helped welcome families to the new school year. We hope everyone enjoyed the Kindergarten Meet and Greets, First Day Welcome Coffees, Ice Cream Social, and New Parent Reception. Special thanks to our Treasurers Barbara Trumpbour and Paige Graves for their budget presentation at our first general PTA meeting, and to Principal Lehn for the question and answer session.

We would also like to thank Marilyn Wright and Julie Saydah, our VPs of Administration who have spent many hours organizing first day packets, arranging for volunteers and class parents, and preparing the directory. If you haven't yet returned your completed forms, please do so as soon as possible. We understand that this is a lot of work, but your contact information is crucial in case of emergencies.

Our fundraising is off to a great start with a successful Book Fair. Special thanks to VPs Shana Teitelbaum and Janet Christmann, along with their co-chairs and long list of volunteers. This month keep an eye out for the launching of our "No Frills Campaign" and Picture Day.

We are looking forward to several upcoming October events. We hope to see many of you at our Fall Festival, which we are excited to bring back this year. Please note the new location, behind the Annex. In addition to fall food, activities, and crafts, we will also have a vendor sale with local merchants. A portion of the proceeds will go back to South Mountain, so enjoy a little shopping while contributing to your school!

We also hope you will join us on Tuesday, October 26th at 7:30pm as we welcome Rosetta Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, who will present an overview of grades 3-5 curriculum. This evening is part of a series sponsored by the The Parenting Center and Elementary School PTAs. For more information about the program, including other dates and speakers scheduled, please go to: <http://theparentingcenter.info/speakers.html>

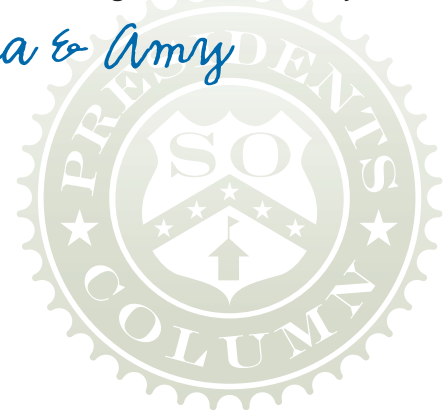
(continued on next column)



We are happy to announce our own series of Morning Roundtable Meetings with Ms. Lehn. The first will be Wednesday, October 27th at 8:15am in the South Mountain Cafeteria. We hope to see you there!

And finally, just a reminder to any new families that have not been connected with a SMILE volunteer, please reach out to Eileen Trinity at jcet110198@aol.com. Thanks again to Eileen and all of the SMILE volunteers for making South Mountain a more welcoming school community!

Laura & Amy



wonderful to see all

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our ice cream social at the end of September. I took a moment during the evening to stand back and look at our parents reconnecting and our children having such a good time together. Our South Mountain spirit is alive and well!

By now you have all been to Back to School Night. You heard the teacher's hopes and dreams for your children this year, and their dreams for themselves. During parent conferences in October you will have the opportunity to speak with your child's teacher about his/her academic, social, and emotional development and address any concerns you may have.

This year we would like to find additional time for math during the school day. The children spend one hour every day learning and practicing math concepts. We would like to extend this time so that teachers can work with children in small groups, and children can deepen their understanding of math through math games. Our math supervisor is working with us to develop or find math games that will deepen our children's understanding of math concepts, improve their problem solving, and get them excited about math. I am hoping to organize a math evening for parents so that we can teach you some of these games to play at home as a family. I will share some of my current favorite games with you: Rummy-O and Set. The latter is a visual perception game of attributes that my son taught me last weekend...and beat me every time. I am getting ready for a rematch!

I hear some of you saying, "Here's one more thing we have to do at home. Where do we find the time for this?" *Well, I have the answer!* I challenge every South Mountain family to participate in TV turnoff this year. Use the time you and your children are not watching TV, or playing video and computer games, to read, play board games, take a walk, or do whatever else you enjoy doing as a family. There are several tiers in the TV turnoff challenge (gold, silver and bronze), that offer different options. You will be hearing more about this from Mrs. Ng very soon.

This year, I want to have regular Round Table meetings at South Mountain to give parents a chance to meet with the principal and talk about our children and our hopes and dreams for our school. Our first Round Table Meeting will be on October 27th at 8:15am. I hope to see many of you there to begin some rich conversations.

Tina

contact info:

South Mountain PTA Executive Board

Co-Presidents

Laura Reichgut (973) 763-6905

feissgut@yahoo.com

Amy Forman (973) 763-5669

amygarysamlily@aol.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Administration

Marilyn Wright (973) 761-7404

mm.wright@mindspring.com

Julie Saydah (973) 327-4482

juliesaydah@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Communications

Thomas Mixon (973) 313-1511

thomas_mixon@nysp.uscourts.gov

Priscilla Goldman (973) 313-2328

P@4elbows.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Fundraising

Shana Teitelbaum (973) 378-9160

hsteitelbaum@optonline.net

Janet Christmann (973) 327-4257

janetc973@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Programming

Patricia Canning (973) 327-4515

patmatcan@yahoo.com

Wendy Miller (973) 761-6780

wemiller5@aol.com

Co-Treasurers

Page Graves (973) 763-2590

p.graves@stern-montana.com

Barbara Trumpbour (973) 275-5077

btrumpbour@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Jen Stemmermann (973) 327-4149

jenstemmermann@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Robin Stephan (973) 763-9241

rstephan@milbank.com

Standing Committee Chairs:

Kanani Briggs *South Mountain Cares*

skbriggs1@gmail.com

Marilyn Lehren *Special Ed Liason*

marilynlehren@hotmail.com

Russell Kaplan *Cultural Arts*

russell.rfk@verizon.net

Eileen Trinity *SMILE Coordinator*

jcet110198@aol.com

no. **1**
SERIES

round
table

Morning Roundtable

Wednesday, October 27th, 8:15am
South Mountain

Please join us at our first Morning Roundtable with Tina Lehn. We are happy to announce our own series of Morning Roundtable Meetings with Ms. 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. *Light refreshments will be served.*

hi all!

programming

Wendy Miller & Patricia Canning, Programming VP Co-Chairs

Patricia Canning is the mother of 3rd grader Jessica and 1st grader Jillian. Before deciding to stay at home, Patricia worked as a business consultant in finance, manufacturing and the non-profit sectors with a Management consulting firm. She currently volunteers with several organizations in and around our South Orange/Maplewood community. This is Patricia's second year as co-chair of programming and is looking forward to a wonderful and enriching programming year.

Wendy Miller is the mother of 4th grader Samantha and Kindergartener Braden. As a "newly retired" mother of two, Wendy is excited to join the Executive Board of the PTA this year. Previously, Wendy spent 17-1/2 years as a Human Resources professional, working within consulting, consumer products and retail organizations. When Wendy is not at the school, you can typically find her at the gym or playing tennis!

The programming team develops and creates programs that enrich our South Mountain community.

Ice Cream Social

We hope that you had a wonderful time at the Ice Cream Social on September 14th! It was amazing to see so many new and returning parents socializing with each other and with the teachers who attended the event! The smiles on the children's faces as they ate pizza and ice cream and played with their classmates and friends were truly contagious! We thank all of the many volunteers it took to plan and coordinate this event, and especially thank Crystal Glynn and Elizabeth Carter, who co-chaired the Social.

New Parent Reception & September General Meeting

It was also great to have such a large turnout for the New Parent Reception & General PTA Meeting. Ms. Lehn shared her plans for this school year, and answered questions from parents. Our treasurers provided a budget presentation, which was voted on by the parent community in attendance.

Fall Festival

We look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 23rd. It will be a true celebration of Fall - South Mountain Style. Local vendors will be there to sell their wares and families will have the opportunity to take sibling photos. There will be fun crafts and activities as well. Also in celebration of the Fall Harvest, we will be collecting food items for local food pantries. We hope to see you all at the Annex for this event!

Upcoming

Wednesday, November 17 - General PTA Morning Meeting on Bullying.

As always, please reach out to us if you have any feedback, ideas or time to volunteer!

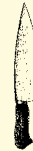
Wendy & Patricia



cooking with kids

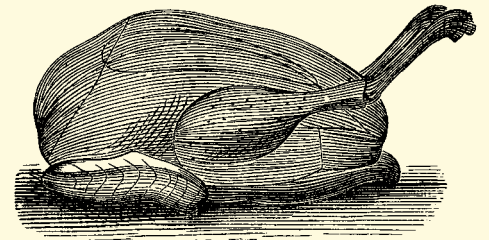
South Mountain parent and chef Tsipi Kaplan will be teaching a parent-child cooking class. For children in grades 3 and up, Kaplan will teach how to prepare spring rolls - a kid-friendly recipe.

TSIPI KAPLAN



Cooking with Kids is sponsored by The Adult School. It will be 7-9 pm on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at South Orange Middle School.

Register @ www.somadultschool.org or call (973) 378-7620. The fee is \$35.



Coming Soon!

South Mountain's
No Frills Campaign!

*No products to buy,
no commission to pay,
no sales to make.
100% of your tax deductible
gift goes directly to fund
ongoing programs
and projects at our school.*



Reach for the Stars

get your forms in!

administration

Marilyn Wright & Julie Saydah, Administration VP Co-Chairs

Welcome back South Mountain Community! We hope everyone has settled into the beginning of school. By now, we should have received your forms from your first day packets. Big thanks to all the parents who submitted their completed forms on or before the September 20th deadline. If for some reason you did not receive a packet you can get one from the School office at the Annex and/or the Main school. This information is very important for both the PTA and the school for emergency contacts and the school Directory. Speaking of the directory, it should be completed by the end of October, maybe sooner, depending on how quickly we receive everyone's information.

We are also well on our way with organizing our class parents. Thank you to all who volunteered for this very important role.

If you have any questions regarding the first day packets, forms, school directory or class parents, please contact Julie Saydah or Marilyn Wright.

Marilyn & Julie



volunteers wanted



Seeking Volunteers for Broadcast Studio

Wanna work with the cutest television anchors in the biz? Parents who aren't easily star-struck are invited to volunteer in the South Mountain Broadcast Studio! The training is easy and in addition to being able to add television director to your resume, you'll have a lot of fun. Please contact Elise Warner elisejoy@optonline.net or Lisa Vilardi tlv350@msn.com if you are interested.



after school

Announcement for After School Enrichment Program



South Mountain will be offering Wednesday after-school enrichment classes Oct. 13-Dec. 8. The 8-week program will offer art, theater, sports and science with fun and engaging teachers at our new After School Super Stars program. Look for registration forms and course descriptions coming home soon. Our PTA coordinators Helene Pamon and Marilyn Lehren say "staying after school has never been so much fun"!

CLASSIFIED

help Wanted

Creative Parents for Special Projects

We have three exciting programs underway and need your help! We are seeking...

- Co-Director & Assistants for the South Mountain Variety Show (grades 3-5)
- Coordinators for exciting fundraising possibilities (with experience and/or interest in public relations/social media)
- Editors for previously recorded video of school events and activities

SOUTH MOUNTAIN PTA

challenging needs...

special education

Marilyn Lehren, Special Education Liason

Special education was hard hit in last spring's budget crisis. The jobs of paraprofessionals — aides who work with children with physical needs and challenging behaviors — were outsourced to an outside agency in a controversial move to cut costs.

This September, 50 new faces are working with special education students in schools in South Orange and Maplewood. The new aides were hired by the Essex Regional Special Services Commission. Only 14 paraprofessionals who were employed by the district last year decided to accept jobs with the commission.

The Special Education Parent-Teacher Organization (SPED-PTO) is closely monitoring the changes to special ed and is also continuing its work to provide parents with the tools and information needed to work collaboratively with the school district and be effective advocates for their children.

On Oct. 28, SPED-PTO will present educational advocate Renay Zamloot and a workshop on Individual Educational Plans, the IEP. This workshop will provide parents with tools and strategies to enable them to become informed and active members of their IEP Teams. Parents will gain a better understanding of some of the key changes to the Special Education Code, learn the art of effective communication — both verbal and written — and understand the importance of keeping accurate and organized records.

Each year, the SPED-PTO holds several meetings to help parents network with other parents, share information about Special Education issues and educational concerns, and understand changing special education laws. The group supports the on-going professional development of district staff regarding special education and encourages the inclusion of children with disabilities in our communities.

Meetings are held in the Board of Education meeting room at 525 Academy Street, Maplewood. They begin at 7:30 pm and will held on Thursday, Sept. 30; Tuesday, Nov. 30; Wednesday, Jan. 26; Tuesday, March 1; and Thursday, April 14.

Marilyn Lehren is the South Mountain liaison to SPED-PTO. If you have a question or concern, please email marilynlehren@hotmail.com.

Registration is limited for the Oct. 28 workshop. Participants are asked to sign up at somaspedpto@gmail.com with their name, telephone and email address.

Marilyn



don't forget picture day



parenting center

Parenting Center & Elementary School PTAs Invite You to Attend:

Parents as Partners: Curriculum Overview with Rosetta Wilson

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Parents will have the opportunity to participate in content-based workshops presented by department staff.

The purpose of these sessions is to give parents a hands-on opportunity to learn about the curriculum and to better understand and support their child's academic experience.

Overview of Grades K-2

Tuesday, October 26th

7:30pm @ Clinton School

Overview of Grades 3-5

Wednesday, October 26th

7:30pm @ South Mountain

support the 5th grade:
its Easy as Pie!



5 support us

To help pay for their special activities and camping trip, the 5th grade is holding a pie sale. Look for details and order forms in your student's backpack. All pies will arrive frozen in time for Thanksgiving. Order extra and have them available in your freezer for all the upcoming holidays! If you have any questions, please contact Yvette Holowczak at yvettewh@gmail.com

fall fundraising event

come to our
fall festival

saturday
october 23rd

local vendors,
fun crafts
and
activities



PIANO for YOU

762-6601

*Rewarding and fun.
Ages five and up.
Classical and popular music.
All levels, first lesson free.*

Call Wendy Goldstein.
973-762-6601
wendy3637@aol.com

Manhattan School of Music Alumni



help wanted!

The PTA is looking for a new coordinator for the South Mountain Drink Pouch Brigade! Drink pouches earn 2 cents per pouch for our school. The coordinator would be responsible for providing containers in each cafeteria, collecting pouches once a month, counting the pouches, and packing and mailing them to TerraCycle. If you can help, please e-mail Yvette Holowczak at yvettewh@gmail.com for details.



SPACES

btween

fresh design ideas for every room

Affordable Home Design Solutions

Color Consults. Redesign. Accessorizing. Sourcing.
To the Trade Discounts. No Job is too Small.

Karen Wolf | 973-220-2171 | kbwolf@btweenspaces.com

a great start!

fundraising

Shana Teitelbaum & Janet Christmann, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

School is off to a great start! Everyone looks great in the new spirit wear so keep on shopping and showing it off! We will be at the Fall Festival on October 23rd with all sorts of new items that will be great for the upcoming winter months.

A big thank you goes out to our Book Fair co-chairs — Joanne Fisher, Anne Quinn, Tracy Spangler and Jennie Tinkelman. The fair was a tremendous success thanks to their help and all the amazing volunteers. We raised a lot of money, bought many of the requested books for the classroom and hopefully you brought some great books home.

Picture Day is coming up on October 20th. Make sure your kids are wearing their best smiles. And thanks in advance to our co-chairs — Jen Ratner, Kim Miller and Jocelyn Cleary. Pictures should be delivered around Thanksgiving. Also, if you want to have a family or sibling photo taken, Life Touch photography will be at the Fall Festival on October 23rd (raindate October 30th). This is a great chance to get some nice pictures taken by a pro in a relaxed, outdoor setting.

Another new program that you will receive information about this month is our **No Frills Campaign**. There are no products to buy, no commission to pay, no sales to make — just pure support from the community of a host of exciting initiatives to enhance our children's learning. Our goal is 100% participation from our parent community...every dollar makes a difference. Thanks in advance to Linda Thibodeau, Lauren Rutkin and Ondine Landa Abramson for their input and assistance with launching this new campaign.

Look out for the **Juice Pouch and Box Tops** collection bins. They should be in soon! Please save all juice pouches (all brands will be collected, such as Honest Kids and Capri Sun) and have your children place them in the collection bins in the cafeteria. South Mountain will receive two cents per pouch. And make sure to cut out and submit those Box Tops! Last year we raised close to \$2000 so let's set the bar even higher this year! Thank you to Yvette Holowczak for all her efforts on our school's behalf.

Finally, we want to take this opportunity to thank all of our amazing committee chairs and volunteers! The new school year is off to a great start and we could not have done any of it without your help!

Shana & Janet



Residency Reporting Hotline

The School District of South Orange and Maplewood has created a Residency Reporting Hotline so that information concerning students believed ineligible to attend district schools may be reported. Please call 973-762-5600, ext. 1749 to anonymously report any information.



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 Priscilla Goldman by email at: P@4elbows.com

For advertising information please contact: **Priscilla Goldman**
email: p@4elbows.com
phone: (973) 313-2328

All checks should be made payable to: **SOUTH MOUNTAIN PTA** and drop off at the assistant Principal's office at the South Mountain School, South Orange, NJ 07079

or mail your payment directly to:
Paige Graves
South Mountain Treasurer
306 West End Road
South Orange, NJ 07079

ADVERTISE!

For as low as \$2.00 you can place an AD. (business card, birthday wishes, etc.) **30 words or less.**

For larger sizes and display ADs, please inquire. Submissions by email only.

Digital PDF version will be in color.

Printed version will be in color for special issues. Subject to change.

2010/2011 Rate Card is now available.
Email request to: P@4elbows.com

classifieds:

Advertising Policy

Deadline: the 18th of the prior month when you wish your AD to appear. Contact Priscilla Goldman at: (973) 313-2328 or P@4elbows.com
South Mountain Families ONLY!

credits:

Design, Production, Paper donated by William Kochi
KODE Associates, Inc.

Printing by KODE Press

