

superstar 11

september calendar

welcome back!

WELCOME

6 | First Day Welcome Coffees & PTA

8 | Ice Cream Social SM 5:30-7:00pm

15 | New Parent Reception 6:30pm

General PTA Meeting 7:00pm

23-27 | Book Fair

26 | Back-to-School (Annex)

27 | Back-to-School (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

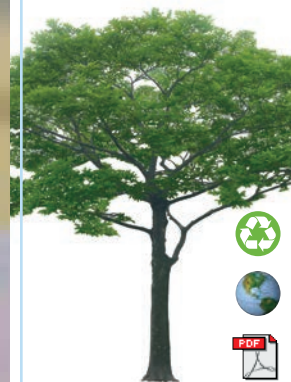
8:00am-12:00noon

ice cream social
meet & greet

September

8

SAVE our PLANET



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

Go to the website: smsuperstars.com/newsletter

box tops:

Please bring in those Box Tops!

Yvette Holowczak

yvettewh@gmail.com



new for 2011-2012

executive board

ice cream social

book fair



book fair
from sept. 23-27

September

23

a new year!

presidents message

Amy Forman & Shana Teitelbaum, PTA Co-Presidents

We would like to welcome our returning South Mountain families along with our newest Superstars to the 2011-2012 school year. The PTA Executive Board and Committee Chairs have all been quite busy this summer planning another exciting year and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events! We also want to thank those of you who responded to the PTA survey last spring. We very much appreciated your time and help and we have incorporated your feedback into the goals for this year and going forward.

As most of you know, we launched our PTA website, www.smsuperstars.com, last year with much success! We urge you to reference the website for the most up to date information about what is going on at our school. This year we will continue our efforts to reduce waste and go green by communicating through our eblasts as much as possible. Please help us by making sure we have your current email address.

And for returning families, you may have noticed that the packets you received on the first day of school were lighter! Thanks to the programming efforts of Priscilla Goldman and coordination from Administration VPs Marilyn Wright and Tracy Spangler, all of the PTA forms are now available for completion online on our website, www.smsuperstars.com! If you do not have access to a computer or need further assistance, please contact Marilyn and Tracy by email (m.wright@mindspring.com, tracy_spangler@hotmail.com) or by sending in a note to them through the school office.

In addition, we hope by the time you read this our new picnic tables will have been installed behind the playground at the Big School! These tables were purchased by funds raised last year by both the PTA and by the recently graduated 5th grade class. We are hoping your children will enjoy the opportunity to eat lunch outside when weather permits. Also, thanks to the generosity of the South Mountain School community, we were able to replace the lighting and sound systems in the Big School Auditorium, a much needed overhaul. Your donations made all of this possible!

September is a busy month with many back to school activities and events. We hope you will join us on Tuesday, September 8th for our Annual Ice Cream Social. Back by popular demand—we will sell pizza and water and the “make your own sundae” is compliments of the PTA. This is a great time to catch up with friends, purchase South Mountain spiritwear and meet new families as well!

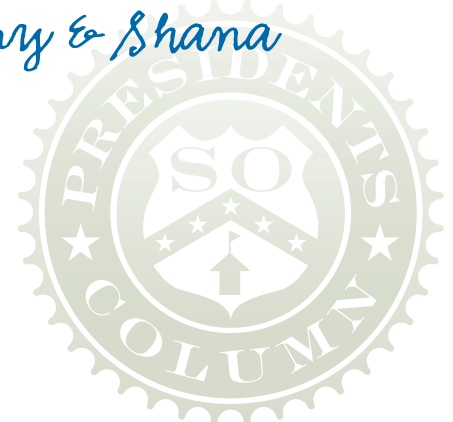
Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 15th for our first General PTA meeting. The New Parent Reception begins at 6:30pm immediately followed by our meeting at 7:00pm. We will have a Q&A session with Principal Lehn along with a presentation of the 2011-2012 budget. Your vote counts, so please come out and learn where our PTA funds go! Also, please note that this is the best opportunity to ask questions and speak with Principal Lehn, as Back to School Night is dedicated to time with your child’s teacher.

Back to School Night is scheduled for Monday, September 26th at the Annex, and Tuesday, September 27th at the Big School. This is an informative night for parents to visit your child’s classroom, learn about the weekly schedule, curriculum and homework and get to know the teachers. Back to School Night is also a wonderful chance to check out the PTA Scholastic Book Fair. What better way to instill the love of reading in our children, while supporting the school at the same time!

PTA programs and events can only happen with the support of many, many people and we truly can’t do it without you! Whether you are able to volunteer your time or donate funds, following is a only a partial list of what you make possible every year...Assemblies and Author Visits, Assignment Notebooks (second-fifth grades), Classroom Enhancements & Supplies, Curriculum Support, Ice Cream Social, Family Roller Skating Night, Fifth Grade Moving Up, Kindergarten Orientation, Recess Program, School Fair, School Spirit Day, Technology including Smart Boards, Smart Tables, the Broadcast Studio and Flip Cameras, South Mountain Minute, Spring Art Show and Concert, Teacher Appreciation Week and Lunch, Welcome Receptions and so much more!

We look forward to another great year filled with memories of fun, friendship and learning. Please feel free to reach out to any members of the PTA Executive Board if you ever have any questions or concerns. We are here for you and we value your input!

Amy & Shana



(continued on next column)

dear families...

principal's message

Tina Lehn, Principal

A very warm welcome to all our new families, and welcome back to our South Mountain community. Our custodial staff have been working hard all summer so that both of our buildings are shining and sparkling clean for the start of our new year. Many thanks to them for all their hard work.

As I write this, I am looking forward to our new school year, filled with joyful feelings of anticipation. Our teachers are refreshed and ready to help each of your children grow and learn new things. They have been in school for several weeks, preparing their classrooms for the start of the year, and eager to share some of their summer learning with the children.

We have some new teachers in South Mountain this year. Mrs. Infante has joined our kindergarten team; Ms. Lewis will teach our additional first grade class, and Mrs. Emposimato will join the inclusion team in fourth grade. We welcome them to our South Mountain family. I am delighted that each of them chose to be a part of our teaching staff and am confident that they will enrich our staff with their expertise and dedication.

I would like to take a moment to welcome all our new families to South Mountain. I hope that your children will have a magical first year with us and will come to school each morning full of the joy of learning. I hope too that you will soon feel a part of our school community. There are so many ways to become involved in South Mountain, through our PTA, in your child's classroom, or in the community garden that we are hoping to get off the ground this fall.

If you have any concerns about your child, please know that our teachers welcome your questions. Mrs. Samuels and I will also work with you to solve any problems.

As we start this new year, my hope is that every single child in South Mountain has a year filled with learning, fun and friendship in our school. I am most happy when I know that your children enjoy coming to school every morning, understanding that each one of them is important. I am delighted to be back to lead our school to even greater things!

Tina

thanks to Starbucks of
South Orange for their
coffee donation for the

**First Day
Welcome Coffees**

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welcome back!

fundraising

Janet Christmann & Jennie Tinkelman, Fundraising VP Co-Chairs

Welcome back everyone! We hope you and your family are settling in to the Fall routine and enjoying the start of school.

*A new year brings with it a new Fundraising Co-Chair — **Jennie Tinkelman**. Jennie's son Jacob is in 2nd grade and her son Jonah is in Kindergarten. Having spent many years moving between New York City and Boston, her family settled in South Orange six years ago and they are glad to be staying put. Jennie was an active member of her son's preschool for many years. In what seems like a lifetime ago, Jennie worked at a public relations firm.*

***Janet Christmann** will stay on for her second year as Fundraising Co-Chair. Janet's son Ben is in 3rd Grade and her son Sam is in 2nd Grade. In addition to serving on the Board, Janet is a graduate student at Rutgers working towards a Masters in Social Work. Before moving to South Orange from Park Slope, Janet worked in publishing.*

The **Book Fair** is coming up soon! It will run from *Friday, September 23rd* through *Tuesday, September 27th*. It will coincide with both The Annex and Big School's back to school nights. Teachers will put together wish lists so please consider purchasing a book or two for your children's classrooms. Thanks in advance to Maria Witt and Sarah Hayden for their help putting together the fair. If any parents are interested in volunteering their time for either fair, please email ariagwitt@yahoo.com or arahhayden@optonline.com.

By now you may have received a flyer announcing the kick off of this year's **Annual Fund Campaign** (formerly known as the No-Frills Fundraiser). Once again, we are aiming for 100% participation. No contribution is too small and every dollar you give goes straight to improving your children's school. Thank you in advance for whatever you can give. And remember, all contributions are tax-deductible.

Coming in October, there will be an opportunity for you to purchase items such as mouse pads, mugs and aprons decorated with your children's art. Information will come home soon and the decorated items will be sent home in mid-December—perfect timing for holiday gift giving. What a great way to benefit your school, make your kids proud and take care of some of your holiday shopping all at one time (and without having to wait on line)!

Photo Day is scheduled for *October 26th*. Retakes will be on November 30th. Start practicing those winning smiles! We will also be offering a chance for sibling or family photos at the Fall Festival (October 15th). These pictures should be available for holiday cards.

And finally, we'd like to thank Maria Witt for all her help with School Supplies this year. It was a success and we couldn't have done it without her help. Thank you Maria!

Janet & Jennie



back again
...

THE SOUTH MOUNTAIN

FALL
FESTIVAL

mark your calendars!
at the annex

save the date

October

15



looking for volunteers

s.m.i.l.e.

Eileen Trinity, SMILE Committee Chair

SMILE is an organization of veteran parents who welcome new families to the school. Volunteers are available to help answer general questions and welcome new parents to South Mountain.

If you are a new parent and have not yet been assigned a SMILE buddy, please let us know and we will make sure someone contacts you!

If you have any questions about the program or are interested in being a SMILE volunteer please contact Eileen Trinity at cet110198@aol.com.

Eileen

after school enrichment update

Keep Wednesdays (Annex) and Thursdays (Big School) Open!

South Mountain's After School Enrichment will be back in full swing in the Fall! The program will run for eight weeks from mid-October to mid-December so as you start to plan your schedules, please keep these dates in mind.

At the Big School, Classes will be offered on Thursday afternoons for 2nd through 5th graders, as well as a special activity for Team W students. For our kindergarteners and first graders at the Annex, we will be running a small program at the Annex on Wednesday afternoons.

We are still finalizing some of the offerings, but we definitely will have our usual classes in pottery, karate, and yoga, and of course, we will have fun and games with Mr. K. and Mr. Tait. We also plan to offer new classes in jewelry making, writing (Wordplay), architecture, and choir—plus more!

Enrollment information will be available in early September. If you have any questions, please contact Randi Mandelbaum at randi.mandelbaum@verizon.net or Ondine Abramson at olabramson@mac.com

Coming Soon...
South Mountain's
Annual Fund Campaign!

REACH
—for the—
STARS

Supports programs
and projects at our
school

Benefits our entire
school community

100% tax-deductible

No products to buy
No commissions to pay
No sales to make

Stay Tuned...

welcome back!

administration

Marilyn Wright & Tracy Spangler, Administration VP Co-Chairs

Welcome back, Superstars! We hope you had a great summer.

We are keeping our promise to make South Mountain a greener school—the online First Day Packet is a prime example of how we are working to reduce the amount of paper we use. We hope you found the process easy and efficient.

The information is very important for both the PTA and the school office so please help us by submitting your completed forms before the September 12 deadline. If you had difficulty accessing the forms or need assistance in completing them, please contact Marilyn Wright at mm.wright@mindspring.com, Tracy Spangler at tracy_spangler@hotmail.com or Priscilla Goldman at p@4elbows.com. You may also send us a note through the school office.

And this year, the directory will be online as well! This way we can get the information to you as quickly as possible as well as continue with our go green initiative. Everyone who signs up for PTA membership will be given access to the directory. Once it is completed, PTA members will receive an email with easy instructions on how to download. You may then print the entire document or just the sections and/or grades you need.

We'd like to thank Priscilla and Jamie Goldman at 4elbows for making the First Day Packet online form process possible. They worked tirelessly over the summer to make our vision your reality!

We are also in the process of organizing our class parents. Thank you to all who volunteer for this very important role. If you have any questions regarding First Day Packets, online forms, the school directory, or class parents, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Marilyn & Tracy



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south mountain cares

Kanani Briggs & Shanease Davis

Hello families!

Welcome to South Mountain Cares (SMC). Throughout the year, SMC will invite you to sign up for various activities that help promote the spirit of volunteerism in our school and community. There will be opportunities for students and their families to volunteer with senior citizens, homeless families and other local organizations that provide outreach into the community.

We have the following projects scheduled for the fall:

Week of October 9th — families are needed to provide meals and volunteer their time for the Interfaith Hospitality Network at Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange. More details will be coming.

Food Drive at the Fall Festival — October 15th — Non-perishable food items will be collected and distributed to local food pantries.

PTA Annual Winter Wear Drive and Coat Sorting — November 14th-December 2nd
Contact Lisa Duggan,
liduggan65@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Please check the website periodically for other events that will be scheduled through the year.

We are still in need of a chairperson for each of the following programs:

Reading Buddies — local senior citizens come into the school and read with the Kindergarten and 1st Graders at the Annex (once a week). There are two sessions, Fall and Spring for 6 weeks each.

Grade Level Volunteer projects — new this year! We are hoping to let the students choose a volunteer project per grade.

South Mountain Cares Community Crisis Team — volunteers sign up to be called upon to assist families in times of need within our South Mountain School community.

Please contact Kanani Briggs, skbriggs1@gmail.com, if you are interested in chairing or helping with any of our activities. We look forward to seeing you and your families at a future SMC event!



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help Wanted

Recess Volunteers

We hope you will consider volunteering for the PTA's indoor recess program. Last year, indoor recess was so much more fun and rewarding for the children, thanks in large part to parent volunteers. This year, we want to focus on having parents lead special activity groups and/or programs.

We are looking for volunteers to run "groups" or help coordinate special recess programs. Last year, we ran some very successful groups at the Big School in dance, gardening, and lego building. We are hoping to repeat these and add others as well, maybe a sketching or writing group, a group focused on a particular craft activity, such as Mexican or basket weaving, or a group which teaches the kids magic tricks or circus skills. These are just examples, if you have

a special talent or creative inclination that you wish to offer once per week for a couple of months or even just a few weeks, please let us know! If you do not feel creatively inclined, but want to assist (the best groups have two parents leading it), we'd love to hear from you as well.

In addition, at the Annex, we especially want to continue our walking/toe token program, which was a big hit with the little ones last year.

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact:

Randi Mandelbaum at
randi.mandelbaum@verizon.net
or
Anna Sandler at
annasandler@gmail.com

2011-2012 SOUTH MOUNTAIN PTA

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Manhattan School of Music Alumni



New Parent Reception

6:30pm

General PTA Meeting

7:00pm

September

15

welcome!

programming

Wendy Miller & Nerissa Aschoff, Programming VP Co-Chairs



We hope you had a wonderful summer and are as excited as we are for the start of a new school year. We are Wendy Miller and Nerissa Aschoff, your programming chairs for 2011-2012.

Please allow us to introduce ourselves:

Wendy Miller — Wendy is the mother of 5th grader Samantha and 1st grader Braden. *"This will be my second year on the Executive Board of the PTA. Before deciding to stay at home, I spent 17 1/2 years as a Human Resources professional, working within consulting, consumer products and retail organizations. When I'm not at the school, you can typically find me at the gym or playing tennis! I am looking very forward to a wonderful and enriching programming year at South Mountain."*

Nerissa Aschoff — Nerissa is the mother of 2nd grader Charlotte and kindergartner Samantha. *"I am excited to be joining the PTA Executive Board and chairing with Wendy. I most recently served on the Board of Directors of Morrow Memorial Preschool. Prior to that, I worked in Finance, structuring and marketing various financial derivative products. I enjoy playing music and dancing in my spare time and can also be found at the gym. I look forward to seeing you and your families at the various South Mountain events."*

We are excited about the programming events we have in place for this year. Included are our annual events such as the Ice Cream Social, the New Parent Reception and the Family Roller Skating event. Also back by popular demand is the Fall Festival. Our yearly survey indicated that our school community valued these events, so we will continue to plan them until you tell us otherwise.

Please mark your calendars for the following September events:

Ice Cream Social — September 8 (starting at 5:30pm) — Our Ice Cream Social is one of the first events for the year where the entire South Mountain Community will get an opportunity to informally meet and greet each other on the blacktop of the Big School.

New Parent Reception & General PTA Meeting — September 15 (starting at 6:30pm) — This is the first formal meeting that welcomes New Parents to the South Mountain Community. During the General PTA Meeting, we will vote on the annual budget and have a question and answer session with Principal Tina Lehn.

Your enthusiasm, as demonstrated from the survey, for the **Midtown Direct Series** led us to continue programming in this area. As it is the Midtown Direct Series, we promise to provide you with information you can use, in one hour, usually after morning drop-off. This year, we plan to have informational presentations from experts on Physical Education for Children, Nutrition for Children, Building and Promoting Good Study Habits, and Bullying. If there are any other topics that you would be interested in adding to this series, please let us know.

These programming events are for you and your families. We are always looking for ways to enhance and provide enriched experiences for our school events. If you have any suggestions or ideas for any of the planned events, please feel free to contact us: Wendy Miller (wemiller@yahoo.com) and Nerissa Aschoff (naschoff@verizon.net).

Wendy & Nerissa

back-to-school
sept. 26 annex
sept. 27 SM



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 2011/2012 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.

classifieds:

Deadline: the 15th of the prior month when you wish your AD to appear. Subject to availability.

South Mountain Families ONLY!

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