

# BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



**Middle School  
September 20**

**High School  
September 27**

Southern Regional High School District  
105 Cedar Bridge Road  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

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# SOUTHERN LIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of Southern Regional High School District



Vol. 51 No. 1

Southern Lights

Summer 2007

## Board Appoints New Leaders



L to R: Superintendent Craig Henry looks over the opening day schedule with Assistant Superintendent Dan MacPhee.

The SR Board of Education appointed Craig Henry as the superintendent of the Southern Regional School District. Henry replaces Dr. James Kerfoot who retired at the end of the 2006-2007 school year. In addition, the Board selected Dan MacPhee to succeed Henry as assistant superintendent. Neither is a stranger to the district.

Henry has a 30 year tenure at Southern. He was hired as a health and physical education teacher before becoming an assistant principal, then principal, and eventually assistant superintendent. He has also coached football and baseball in the district. He holds a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Glassboro State College and a Masters Degree in Supervision Administration and Curriculum from Jersey City State College. Currently he is a member of Rowan University's doctoral program. Henry approaches his new position

with very specific goals. He hopes to rebuild lost programs that will benefit both the students and the community through a new strategic plan and to cultivate a channel of communication with the community to keep them informed.

MacPhee, a Southern graduate, earned his B.A. in Biology from Stockton State College and his Masters Degree in Educational Administration from Jersey City State College. He began his career at Manchester Township High School teaching biology, meteorology, chemistry, and environmental science. He left that district as department chairperson 1997. While there, he was the head varsity baseball coach and assistant varsity football coach. MacPhee came to Southern in August of 1997 as the ninth grade assistant principal and went on to become the Math, Science, and Technology Supervisor. He welcomes this new opportunity as assistant superintendent and looks forward to continuing the level of excellence that defines his alma mater.

## Grant Allows District to Implement Autism Program

According to the Autism Society of America, autism, a complex developmental disability, is the result of a neurological disorder. It affects the normal functioning of the brain, impacting development in the areas of social interaction and verbal and non-verbal communication skills.

A \$350,000 competitive grant from the state allowed Southern Regional to implement an in-house placement opportunity for its students, ages 12-16, who are classified autistic. SR administrators Rick Gunsalus, Kevin Romanowski, and Joe DiPietro along with teacher Heather Kovacs-Schroeck spent the entire 2006-2007 school year designing a program to reduce the barriers that previously resulted in the out-of-district placement of Southern students exhibiting moderate to severe characteristics of autism spectrum disorder. These students are now in an appropriate placement in district where their unique social, educational, behavioral, and physiological needs can be met in a general educational setting.

The program provides a comprehensive applied behavioral analysis (ABA) program that incorporates functional analysis, antecedent interventions, functional communication training, discrete trial instruction, incidental teaching, fluency based intervention, natural environment training, task

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### NEWSLETTER

Linda Y. Sherry,  
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analysis, and other data-based, empirically validated treatment strategies specific to educating students with autism.



Instructional aide Kelly Frischmann works with a student on a pre-vocational sorting task.

Because the diverse, individualized curriculum focuses on pre-vocational skills, life skills, and a curriculum aligned to the NJ Core

Curriculum Content Standards, their classroom includes a kitchen, a laundry area, a bedroom, a computer lab, an occupational therapy/physical therapy/speech room, crisis room, pre-vocational workshop, academic classroom, and the Bridge Café where students will be working with student council members to sell food, beverages, and other items to students and staff daily after school. The café will provide opportunities for the students with autism to practice social skills and functional math skills in an authentic setting.

The program also includes field trips, community experiences, and inclusion activities to expand their skill repertoire. They will interact with non-disabled peers through

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LBI Rotary members (L to R) DiAnne Gove, John Tomaro, and Tom Oakley present their Service above Self scholarships to (L to R) William Russell IV and Kevin McCue.

## Scholarship Awards Display Community Spirit

With the help of a generous community, members of the class of 2007 were the beneficiaries of a record-setting \$567,058 in scholarship aid. Once again local businesses, service groups, civic associations, individuals, and memorial donors displayed their exceptional generosity and support for the students of Southern at the Scholarship Awards Program in June when 895 scholarships were presented to 341 students by 329 donors.

The total represented a marked increase from the \$58,000 awarded that first year to the class of 1985. Over the years, the scholarships have enabled our newest alumni to attend some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country while also providing help to those whose desire it is to attend local colleges or technical and trade schools. The program touches all students of the district and is invaluable in their pursuit of higher education and their dreams. Southern's scholarship program not only serves as a model for other high schools throughout the country but also exemplifies the proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child."

To become a donor, contact Cheryl Barrett in the Human Resources and Scholarship Department at 609-597-9481 Ext. 4412.

## Themes Guide Students through New Year

Both the Middle School and the High School have chosen their building spirit theme for the 2007-2008 school year. Activities and special days are built around these themes to remind students of their goal and to guide and motivate them throughout the year. Once again this year the MS will encourage Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort or **PRIDE** through their theme of *Ram Pride* . . . *Live It* while the HS students are being challenged to be at **HOME** at Southern because *Helping Others Motivates Excellence*. Posters in classrooms, hallways, and cafeterias displaying these messages greeted students on opening day and will remain up all year as reminders of these positive thoughts.

## Students Honor Veterans

SRMS Lightning Team honored 35 veterans along with several town officials at their annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast in May. The program, organized by social studies teacher Lynn Lapsley, included the vocal ensemble and band performing patriotic pieces, the ROTC executing a rifle demonstration, and students reading essays and poems about freedom and what it means to be an American. Students had the opportunity to talk to the veterans and interact with them by asking them questions about their experiences while they were in the military and what their lives are like now. Representatives from the Lightning Team and the Builder's Club concluded the event by presenting a check for \$600 to the Wounded Warrior Project.

The project is a non-profit organization that raises money through private donations. Jane Cosentino, the English teacher on the Lightning Team,



Students (L to R) Kayla Racanelli and Alina Harper present a \$600 check to social studies teacher Lynn Lapsley for the Wounded Warrior Project.

had students write letters to be placed in the backpacks that are provided for those in the Wounded Warrior Project while the Builder's Club raised money selling Courage bracelets within the school. The Kiwanis Club, especially Roy Ravenfield and Buddy Dixon, assisted in the fund raising for this project.

The Wounded Warrior Project recognizes veterans as our nation's greatest citizens. It assists the men and women of our armed forces who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world by providing programs and services designed to ease the burdens of the wounded and their families, aid in the recovery process, and smooth their transition back to civilian life. The project provides comfort items and necessities, counseling, and support for families.



Southern Regional High School Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Kevin Moninghoff, was selected by competitive audition from among a field of more than 100 high school bands in the state to perform as an "Honor Band" at the 2007 New Jersey State Band Gala in April. They performed in a special concert at the War Memorial in Trenton as part of the first annual New Jersey Band Conference. The Gala Concerts are the culmination of a larger, statewide educational program, the New Jersey State Band Festival, which encourages the participation of every high school band in the state. The twelve high school bands that perform in the Gala Concert are chosen through a series of three competitive preliminary rounds in three regions of the state: north, central and south. Because of the high degree of preparation and practice that each band and its individual members devote to this activity, the New Jersey Band Festival fosters personal growth and achievement.

The Southern Regional Jazz Ensemble keeps Jazz alive in Manahawkin by performing approximately 15 gigs per year, which include competitions throughout New Jersey. Southern is proud to have captured two NJIAJE Championship Titles in 2003 and 2004. In 2006 the band received an Honorable Mention (4th Place) at the Berklee Jazz Festival and 3rd Place in Division I N.J.I.A.J.E. Finals. The 2007 performance season yielded 4th place in Division I State Finals and an unprecedented number of awards which included two best saxophones awards – one received at a local competition and one at the preliminary state competition. The Trombone Section was awarded six Best Trombone Section Awards, one of which won them the distinction of the Best Trombone Section in the State at Division I State Finals.

## Enrollment September 12, 2007

**Grade 07 - 526 students**

**Grade 08 - 505 students**

**Grade 09 - 521 students**

**Grade 10 - 522 students**

**Grade 11 - 546 students**

**Grade 12 - 490 students**

**School closings or delayed openings due to storms or other emergencies will be broadcast by radio stations WOBN-92.7 FM, WJLK-94.3 FM, WJRZ-100.1 FM, and also by Southern's SNN channel and by Global Connect, the new calling system.**

## STYLE Expedition Provides Peer to Peer Training

STYLE, the Student Team Building Youth Leadership Experience, trained 20 seventh graders to be STYLE peer leaders in the Middle School. The two day intensive peer to peer training provided skills as well as experiences around the basic themes of Character Education, Team Work, Empathy Training, Anti-Bullying, and Refusal Skills to avoid alcohol and drug use and other at-risk behaviors.

Eight juniors, active in the HS program, were responsible for the training. They not only participated in the same discussions and activities as the seventh graders but also ran many of the activities. The high schoolers received extensive training on how to run these activities in addition to empathy training, healthy relationship training, peer mediation training, interpersonal skills training, public speaking training, and intergenerational training.



Students learn to develop trust as they participate in one of several team building activities during their training to become STYLE leaders.

SRMS Principal Lorraine Airey and Stafford Township Municipal Alliance Coordinator Gail Bott assisted teachers Mike Armstrong, Mike Benson, Sarah Line, Jason Lister, and Karol Doucette in organizing and running the STYLE Expedition. The funding for the program was made possible through a partnership between the Southern Regional School District and the Stafford Township Municipal Alliance. The Stafford Township Municipal Alliance has been a partner in this educational program since its creation 17 years ago.

STYLE peer leaders are students who demonstrate good character traits. They are expected to continue to develop positive character traits, strive to do well academically, and reach out to help others in their school community over the next six years. Each must adhere to the STYLE Code of Responsibility.



High school students exit busses on the first day of school, anxious to begin a new year and meet old friends. The traditional red carpet was rolled out to welcome them.

## Orientation 2007

Orientations for both seventh and ninth graders were held in August. Students and their parents had the opportunity to meet the administrative staff, teachers, and student leaders as well as locate their classrooms and lockers.



English teacher Nancy Patterson helps a seventh grade student open his locker during orientation.



L to R: John O'Hara and Scott Oswald compare schedules at Freshman Orientation.

## In the Classroom



SRMS students from the Riptides team built medieval sand castles on the 17th Street beach in Barnegat Light as part of a "hands-on" project for their

Middle Ages unit. After studying the Middle Ages, they completed extensive research on the early role of the castle including its cultural and historical significance to the region, worked in groups to determine how to build the castle, and then wrote a persuasive paper to be included in their grant application packet convincing an international historical society to bestow the \$10 million preservation grant to them for the restoration of their castle.

SRHS Students applied the concepts of physics they learned throughout the year in the competition events of the 2nd Annual Southern Regional Physics Olympics. Events included Fermi Questions, the Lightest Support Tower, a Paper Helicopter, the Index Card Egg Drop, and the Inertia Ball. The First Place Team in each event received certificates indicating their prowess in the application of physics and the competitive spirit, work, and determination required to eliminate the competition. The Taquitos, the overall winning team, was awarded medals.



The Ocean County Vintage Car Museum presented a living history program to Southern Regional United States History students. They brought

approximately 25 vintage cars to the 11/12 lot and parked them by decade with cars from the "teens" through the 80's being represented. Students experienced "history on wheels" as they encountered, not only the cars, but the history of the time period during which the cars were built.

In conjunction with the JOPERD (Journal of Physical Education Recreation and Dance) initiative of bringing physical education and sports to the forefront, SRMS conducted a series of activities to celebrate National Physical Education and Sport Week. Events included Jock James Day, Jersey Day, Workout Wednesday, and Throw Back Thursday. The week culminated with mini sports camps run by high school athletes. These mini-camps, covering 13 sports, were conducted inside the gym as well as outside on the fields during every class period. After a brief introduction by varsity athletes, students proceeded to their station for the rest of their class. Physical education teachers acted as overseers as the HS students conducted their particular session.

HS social studies teacher Jeff Brown

feels in order for history to be interesting, it must come alive. So he is dedicated to bringing the past back to life through living history presentations. His interactive presentations regarding the everyday lives of American Soldiers during WWI jolted the American "Doughboy" into 2007. Brown dressed in full uniform, complete with many authentic items such as books, clothes, blankets, eating utensils, and a rifle. Students gained a clear understanding of what it must have been like "in the trenches." The presentation concluded with a sampling of food from the time period, prepared by teacher Karen Lederle-Foglia



The National Association for the Education of Young Children designated April as the Month of the Young Child. The N.J. chapter started a literacy campaign called "New Jersey Children and Books - Perfect Together." To fit in with this theme, Cathy Latshaw and Holly Kropinak, teachers of the child development courses, planned activities to encourage reading with the preschoolers in the Learning Lab. One of those was having administrators read to the preschoolers during the month of April. Pictured here is Patricia Ewart, World Languages Supervisor.



## AWARDS

The 19th Annual Superintendents Roundtable Student Recognition Breakfast was held in May in Toms River. The event began with the Presentation of Colors by the Southern Regional School District JROTC Black Watch Honor Guard. The following Southern Regional students and teacher were recognized for their outstanding academic career: Joe Sangiorgio, Ocean County Mayors' Association Scholarship; Jessica Bergin and Michael Wymbs, Ocean County Association of School Administrators Scholarships; Anthony Capriotti, Ocean County Association of School Administrators Scholarships - Ocean County Vocational Technical School - Shared Time Marine Science Program; Leslie Gardner-Longo (Spanish teacher in the HS), Southern's nominee for the Ocean County Superintendents' Teacher of the Year.

The SRHS Consumer Bowl team won 2nd Place in the N.J. State Consumer Bowl Competition for the second time. The following students participated: Crystal O'Grady, Kate MacHugh, Keith Mulrooney, Matt Norman, and Joe Sangiorgio.

The HS Student Council was awarded the Standards of Excellence Award from NJASC (New Jersey Association of Student Councils). This highest and most prestigious award can only be won every five years, and this is the third time Southern has won the award. Only two of these were awarded this year in New Jersey. Advisor Marilyn Dougherty noted, "We have had an amazing year. New programs and ideas keep coming in. The students have wonderful ideas and devote countless hours."

Roman Feldman and Britt Crosby represented Southern Regional at the DECA Conference in Orlando, Florida. Thirteen thousand students from the 50 states, three provinces of Canada, Germany, Mexico and the U.S. possessions of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam converged on the Orlando Convention Center to see who was the best in their respective events. In round one Feldman

and Crosby competed against 150 students in the Buying and Merchandising Management Decision Making Event. They placed in the TOP 20 and proceeded to the final round. In the final round, they finished in the TOP 10 in their event. Advisor Sharon Faith remarked, "That is quite an accomplishment."

Teacher Steven Schaffer reported that 85 students from the district participated in the National Latin Exam (N.L.E.). Fifteen earned certificates of achievement along with four who earned silver medals for high scores. Earning silver medals were Alexis Patrick, Neha Sahay, Katherine Snyder, and Ashley Stefko. Those winning certificates include Sarah Burns, Ashley Feith, Nathan Hem, Andrew Intelli, Matthew Little, Peter Lodato, Jordan McGuigan, Shalynn Ridsen, Steven Russell, Julie Scully, and Kevin Tallon. The N.L.E. also awards scholarships for college and for attendance at the annual American Classical League Institute.

Southern Regional was named as the ShopRite Cup winner in the group IV school category. A formal presentation will occur at the September 28 football game during a pre-game ceremony at 6:45 p.m. Using performance-based criteria, this award honors Southern's entire sports program. The ShopRite Cup, established in 2003 by the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJISAA) and ShopRite, recognizes the best athletic programs in N.J. High Schools in six group classifications. To receive an award, schools must accumulate points based on their performance in championship play in 32 individual sports (fall, winter, and spring) sanctioned by the NJSIAA. Schools receive points for finishing first, second, third, and fourth in group state championships. Prior to the cup, high schools were acknowledged by the NJSIAA for championship performance in individual sports, but the ShopRite Cup is the first award in the state's history that honors the entire sports program using performance-based criteria.

## Picnic Partners Generations



Kissing the Southern Ram (clockwise beginning left front) are Jess Whelan, Mary-Ann Williams, John Dondero, Jr., Linda Washburn, and Josie Bien.

In June at the Intergenerational Picnic, Advisor Rosemarie Tamarato divided participants into four groups for a 50th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt around Southern's campus. The groups had to answer trivia questions about the district and take photos at various locations on campus. One was to

take a picture of the group swimming with the whales outside the science wing, and the other was to kiss the Ram in front of 11/12 building.

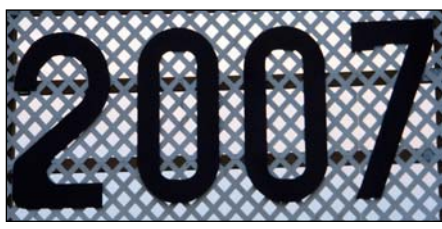
This year's activities also included an ice cream social in April where they read several stories and shared thoughts of "remember when . . ." As adults reminisced, they also explained in detail to the students about life in the past decades.

Swimming with the whales from left to right are Angie Belice, Irene Yash, Krystin Vrabel, Elisa Jacob, Danielle Jacob.





Jesse Dylan Burgher waves to his family in celebration after receiving his diploma.



The 717 members of the class of 2007, the largest graduating class in Southern's history, give their hats the traditional celebratory toss at the end of the graduation ceremony.

## Autism Program

*continued from page 1*

participation in clubs, sports, and events offered to all students attending Southern. This includes electives such as applied technology, food, art, and theatre. Six instructional aides will work directly with the autism students in the program.

To meet the needs of these students' families, a home programming and family training component provides a connection between home and school, allowing for the continued acquisition, maintenance, and generalization of skills. Consultation services by the classroom teacher and/or a behavior consultant, along with direct instruction by trained instructional aides, will also be offered in the home for the purpose of presenting families with suggestions to encourage the carry transfer of educational and behavioral interventions used in school as well as to address specific concerns that may be occurring in the home. Scheduled trainings and committee meetings are scheduled for the faculty to promote the awareness of the district's new program.

## Twilight Program Offers Alternate Approach to Achieve Success

In yet another endeavor to provide educational opportunities for all students, Southern Regional School District has initiated a new program, the Twilight Program, this fall. The Twilight Program offers an alternate approach to achieving academic and personal success. Susan Craig, Program Coordinator, reports, "More schools are recognizing that the traditional school structure and schedule does not meet the needs for all their students. After investigating various alternate approaches, Southern Regional has developed an innovative educational environment." This on-site educational setting targets a select group of students from within the Southern district. Classes are held after the regular school day with an individualized curriculum determined by transcript evaluation and educational needs while at the same time meeting all New Jersey standards of academic success.

Objectives of the Twilight Program include providing a positive learning environment in order to allow each student to achieve his or her individual potential and encouraging students to set personal goals, including the ultimate expectation that each student will earn a high school diploma.

The Twilight Program staff is a dedicated team of professionals working together. They are committed to the students and to the success of this new initiative. Craig states, "The two elements crucial to the program's success are students who are determined to graduate from their home district and a devoted staff able to make a positive difference." Southern is fortunate to have both.

## Did You Know

The district is using a new calling system, Global Connect. This service will further district communications with parents and staff by keeping them informed of upcoming events and school closings.



Three hundred fifty-three students collected \$10 or more and participated in the Middle

School's Mini Relay for Life in June during first period. Along with staff members, they walked the same track that was used by the community that evening on behalf of those students and staff who donated to Relay for Life. It was done as a Lighthouse Initiative Service Project. They wanted to show that SRMS RAM PRIDE cares and wanted the community to know they have HOPE to cure cancer. They raised \$4,118.25 for the American Cancer Society. Supervisor Barbara McHale noted, "The amazing part of that total is it was collected within a three-day period, and the amount is \$203 more than last year." Staff and friends added \$2,671 more for a grand total of \$6,789.25 being raised by the Middle School.

Southern's sailing club and surf team have been reestablished in the co-curricular program. The sailing club was reinstated through the efforts of the Friends of Southern Sailing, an organization which will fund the entire program. The surf team was reinstated through reallocated intramural monies and will continue to compete on the level as done in previous years. They will augment these monies through various fund raising initiatives.

The Southern Regional chapter of REBEL (Reaching Everyone By Exposing Lies) participated in the Big Butt Clean Up in April. Members, along with advisor Kim Fonteix, organized this event to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking and clear the area of cigarette butts. Ecology Club members helped them. NJ REBEL is a statewide youth-led anti-tobacco movement with chapters in all 21 counties through the Communities Against Tobacco coalitions and in 76 New Jersey high schools. REBEL is dedicated to educating peers, middle and elementary school children, and other community members about the dangers of tobacco use.



HS science teacher Ruth Tummey will be competing in the XTERRA USA National Championship race in Lake Tahoe on September 30. XTERRA, a series of off-road triathlon races, is considered to be the "de-facto world championship of the sport." The races include swimming, mountain biking, and trail running. Tummey accumulated points by placing in the top fifteen positions of each race in which she competed. Her top three scores for the season determined her eligibility to compete at the National Championship.

## Adult School Programs Offer Many Choices

Throughout its 50 year history, Southern Regional has undergone many changes; however, its sense of community has remained at the forefront. The Adult School program presents different avenues to different people. To someone aspiring to reach his goal of earning a high school diploma, it presents a clear path and assistance. To someone desiring preparation to be successful in passing the GED, it presents support. To someone wishing to learn the English language, it presents encouragement. Jan Kristbergs, Principal of the Adult School, recommends, "Explore your options and select the one that is right for you."

To community members seeking knowledge, recreation, travel opportunities, and discovering new interests, it presents limitless possibilities. Susan Craig, Enrichment Coordinator, reports that classes are offered in areas of computers, fitness and wellness, hobbies and interests, finance and business, as well as several special interest one-night seminars. Excursions include over 25 trips to destinations including Broadway musicals, shopping trips, museums, and much more.

The fall brochure will be arriving in mailboxes soon. In addition, it can be accessed via [www.srsd.net](http://www.srsd.net) by clicking on the Adult School Brochure link and is also available at several area community locations, including the district's school offices.

Both Craig and Kristbergs invite everyone to browse the brochure and become part of the school community partnership. They concluded, "You won't be disappointed."

### Students of the Month

#### April

Grade 09	Chelsea Cox
Grade 10	Samantha Lowe
Grade 11	Billie Jobson
Grade 12	Kayla Berkheiser

#### May

Grade 09	Hali Bradish
Grade 10	Daniel Kmiechick
Grade 11	Aaron Williams
Grade 12	Caitlin Cotter

## Southern Regional Conducts Adult School Graduation

Southern Regional Adult School hosted its 36th Graduation Ceremony in June. The event focused on the achievements of the 26 graduates of the Adult High School Diploma program but also honored students in other aspects of the instructional program. In addition, the SR Adult School Achievement Awards Fund presented all graduates with a special gift. In keeping with its mission as "the educational center of Southern Ocean County" Southern offers the only evening high school diploma program in the area thus providing a valuable service to all of Southern Ocean County.

L to R: Board Vice President Keith Taeye and Superintendent Dr. James Kerfoot present a diploma to Adult High School graduate, Colleen Cregan.



The color version of the newsletter plus district information is available at <http://www.srsd.net>