

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



**Middle School
September 21**

**High School
September 28**

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Permit No. 34

Postal Patron



Vol. 50 No. 1

Southern Lights

Summer 2006

Board Appoints Assistant Principal

Joe DiPietro joins the SRSD administrative staff as the sophomore assistant principal. He earned a B.S. in special education and a master's degree in educational administration from Rowan University.

DiPietro started his career at Pinelands Regional Middle School teaching resource room and providing in-class support. He went on to teach special education at Brick Township High School in the Pathways Alternative School. Next he spent four years as both a special education teacher and an assistant principal at New Egypt High School. The last three years he has been an assistant principal at Brick Township High School. While there, he was instrumental in the development of small learning communities and teacher leadership teams.

In addition to his duties in the classroom, he has coached football, boys and girls basketball, and track. Outside of school he volunteers his time with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and has even helped to bring the event to New Egypt and Brick Township.

DiPietro feels honored to become a part of the Southern family. He stated, "I am thrilled that I will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students at Southern Regional High School. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect is serving our community by continuing the level of excellence that defines the Southern Regional district."

DiPietro, his wife, and two children live locally. "During our time in town we have been fortunate to reap the benefits of the outstanding students and graduates from Southern Regional in all aspects of our everyday lives," he noted.

In This Issue

Summer with STYLE	2
Scholarship News	2
Veterans Honored	2
Congressional Page.....	2
Track and Field Champion	2
Orientation 2006	3
Awards	3
Students of the Month.....	3
In the Classroom	3
Therapy Dogs	3
Earth Experience.....	3
Adult School	4
Did You Know?.....	4
Graduation.....	4
Math Team	4
Make a Difference Day.....	4

**W
E
L
C
O
M
E

B
A
C
K**



MS Principal Lorraine Airey greets (L to R) Megan Goode, Karlee Olswen, and Amanda Dirschauer on the first day of school. Students were assembled in the cafeteria for a brief orientation that included a video and slide show presenting a snapshot of MS life.

Middle School Implements Reading Initiative

Research-based as well as practice-based knowledge shows that children need strong literacy skills to succeed in school and in life, or they will be at a disadvantage in social settings and in the working world. To meet this challenge, MS teachers met throughout July for a workshop, "Reading in the Content Areas." Based on the latest research, the workshop provided concepts and strategies for the participants to help students better comprehend informational text and boost academic achievement. The teachers are putting this information to practical use through a sustained silent reading program during the students' Lunch and Literacy periods. Lunch and Literacy periods replace study halls. Each Literacy room will contain a supply of books, and students will read during Literacy on a daily basis, supporting ongoing literacy development for all students.

AP English Class Presents New Reading Program

In June, seniors from Joan Wright's Advanced Placement (AP) English class visited the Middle School to present information about the district's new summer reading program to the incoming freshmen.

The program, established by a committee of English department faculty members and school administrators, now provides students with reading options and abolishes the required

BOARD OF EDUCATION

John Reilly,
President
Christopher Taylor,
Vice President
Major Charles H. Coles
Robert Gillice
Preston Godschall
Kevin Lyons
Peter Minotti
Stuart Snyder
Rita Sweeney
E. Keith Taege
Marilyn Wasilewski

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. James Kerfoot,
Superintendent
Craig Henry,
*Asst. Superintendent for
Curriculum & Instruction*
Lynn E. Shugars,
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

NEWSLETTER

Linda Y. Sherry,
Editor/Public Relations

Bronze Ram Arrives on Southern's Campus



A new symbol of Southern pride has been added to the campus landscape – a bronze statue standing over five feet tall and weighing over 300 pounds. The Southern Regional Ram mascot has

long been representative of the power, strength, and perseverance that unites us as one "family." Given as a gift from the Class of 2004, Advisors Susan Craig and Joseph Medica thought that the bronze ram would be an appropriate addition for all future "Rams" to enjoy. Located at the entrance to the 11/12 Building, the Ram will serve to welcome all who enter.



John Tomaro and DiAnne Gove of the Rotary Club of LBI, present their Service above Self scholarships to Brian Baum and Annaliese Luft.

Scholarship Awards Display Community Spirit

With the help of a generous community, members of the class of 2006 were the beneficiaries of a record-setting \$528,530 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 on June 6 when 874 scholarships were presented to 325 students by 334 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.

Students Summer with STYLE

In an effort to ease the transition from the Southern Regional Middle School to the High School, Mike Armstrong, student assistance counselor and STYLE coordinator, initiated a new program this summer called Peer to Peer (P2P). The program links approximately 18 ninth grade students with 18 high school students and will continue during the 2006-2007 school year as a pilot program.

Armstrong hosted training sessions in July for the high school students from Student Youth Leadership Experience (STYLE) who volunteered to be mentors, and in August he held an activity day of boundary breaking and team building activities for the ninth graders and their mentors. This event developed a positive peer relationship between a freshman and a high school student before the school year even started.

P2P participants will communicate via e-mail and phone and in the hallways throughout the next school year. They will meet at least four times during the school year as a large group with the coordinator to participate in team building activities and monitor progress.



L to R: Kelsey Holden (freshman) and Catherine Snyder (senior) travel in shark infested waters as they play a game called Ships and Sharks on the Peer to Peer Activity Day. Although it was basically a race, the goals of the activity were to have fun and to share an experience with the group members. The twist was that it was safe to run when the monitor said "ships." However, if he said "sharks," they had three seconds to get safely into their boat (the hula hoop), or they must start from the beginning. No emphasis was placed on winning and no mention of who won was ever really discussed. It was the experience during the activity that was important. At the close of the activity, participants discussed the experience as a group. The lessons gained from sharing the experience was what the participants took home.

Sangiorgio Serves as Page



SRHS senior Joe Sangiorgio worked as a Congressional page in Washington, D.C., this past summer. He was appointed by Congressman Jim

Saxton to represent New Jersey's Third Congressional District as the Republican page in the U.S. House of Representatives. He lived in a dormitory near the Capitol and worked in the Capitol Building and office buildings performing various clerical duties.

He was honored with his opportunity and shared a few highlights from his trip: *During my three weeks, I worked for almost all of the Republican representatives at some point. I also worked for the GOP leadership including Speaker, Leader, Whip, and Conference Chair and for committees such as Intelligence, Armed Services, Rules, Judiciary, and Appropriations. My jobs included answering phones, delivering messages, handling correspondence and legislation amendments, delivering flags, helping with constituent services, and tallying votes from the clerk's office as the representatives were voting on the floor. I was on the House floor every day and was even on C-SPAN a few times in passing. I met senators and representatives from across the country. It was an amazing experience.*

Students Interact with Veterans

The MS Lightning Team hosted its annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast in May to honor local veterans. The event included a student program of patriotic essays, music, and artwork revolving around the following themes: What Old Glory Means to You, What Does Being an American Mean to You, Freedom, and Veterans. Some of the veterans were uncles and grandparents of the students. William Dondero, former Commander of Beach Haven VFW Post 3729 and former mayor of Beach Haven, related his experiences during WWII. The flag on display, given to the Lightning Team by TSgt. Gary Parker of the Air Force, was flown over the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Headquarters at Balad Air Base in Iraq on March 23, 2006, during Operation Iraqi Freedom in honor of SRMS students and faculty. 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. MS social studies teacher Lynn Lapsley organized the program.

Ted Fitzpatrick, a Korean War veteran and member of Stafford VFW 511, explains the M-1 rifle to eighth grader Brian Gleason.



The Southern Regional Jazz Ensemble captured third place in the New Jersey Division 1 State Jazz Championships in April. The members competed against the eight best jazz ensembles in the state and performed a tremendous program to capture third as well as receive a special award for the best saxophone section performance. In addition, senior guitar player Alex Howley received a Best Soloist award for his outstanding performance, making him one of the best solo musicians out of approximately 50 soloists that evening. Kevin Moninghoff is the director of the SR Jazz Ensemble.

Junior Bill Morey was selected as the All-State Jazz Bass Trombonist. He competed against all the Jazz Band bass trombone players from three regions and emerged victorious. He now represents Southern Regional and the State of New Jersey as the number one Jazz Bass Trombone player.

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

Themes Guide Students through New Year

Both the Middle School and the High School have chosen their building theme for the 2006-2007 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 while the HS students are being challenged to be SWEET and remember Students With Enthusiasm Excel Together.

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.

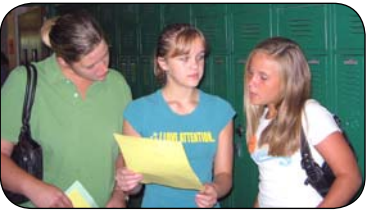
Tauro Competes In China

Senior Danielle Tauro, record holder for the fastest mile in high school for New Jersey, traveled to Beijing, China, to represent the U.S. in the World Junior Track and Field Championships in August. She finished fifth in her heat with a time of 4:24.16 (1,500 M). Tauro has earned numerous titles over the course of this past year. She is the U.S. Junior champion in the 1,500, a Millrose Games and Penn Relays mile champion, and a N.J. state champion. She is also the High School National champion in the mile, and her time 4:39.25 is a National High School Junior Class record and the fifth fastest time ever run by a high school girl. Her career achievements include nine South Jersey, ten state, and six Meet of Champions titles in cross country and track.

School closings or delayed openings due to storms or other emergencies will be posted on srsd.net and broadcast by radio stations WOBM-92.7 FM, WBHX-99.7 FM, WJRZ-100.1 FM, and also by Southern's SNN channel 21.

Orientation 2006

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.



Left to Right: Barbara Byrne and her daughter, Brittany, receive help reading Brittany's schedule from Krissy Ryerson, a Middle School Student Council member, at Seventh Grade Orientation.



Assistant Principal Joe DiPietro helps Patrick Lefanto open his locker during Freshman Orientation.

Revised Ram Researcher Guides Writing

The Ram Researcher, a resource guide to successfully organizing and writing research papers, has been revised and is ready for use by students and staff. The revisions, made by a volunteer committee of English teachers from grades nine through twelve and the librarians from both the 9/10 and 11/12 buildings, were based on recommendations from all English teachers. The new edition brings the guide up-to-date with the latest changes in MLA citations and enables all departments to use the Researcher knowing that the English department is following it in their classrooms. They also reorganized it to be more user-friendly. Topics include note cards, outlines, and works cited. Directions incorporate samples. At the end of the guide is a completed sample paper.

Freshmen will receive a copy in their English classes. Upperclassmen can purchase theirs for one dollar or check out the on-line version by visiting srsd.net and first clicking on the link to the library and then navigating to the virtual library.

Earth Experience Readies for Next Adventure



SRHS students on the 2005 Earth Experience trip prepare for a day of snorkeling and swimming with dolphins in Florida's Discovery Cove.

Earth Experience, an educational travel club with an emphasis on hands-on learning, is planning its next self-funded trip for November 29 through December 3, 2006.

Students, under the advisory of Marilyn Dougherty, will discover more of nature in Florida when they swim with dolphins, swim and snorkel with manatees, feed giraffes, and explore wildlife and snorkel at Crystal Springs. The itinerary includes a 24-hour course leader, seminars, and time to explore various locations. Students keep a daily journal documenting their experiences.

All travel plans are made through World Strides, a student travel company, and the program is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges as well as C.I.T.A. Registration for ninth through twelfth graders is currently underway. Interested students can see Mrs. Dougherty in room 9-9.

In the Classroom

Students and staff did not need to travel to New York, Philadelphia, or Washington, D.C., to view the "Body World" exhibition. Instead they stopped by the anatomy and physiology classes of Joan McMahan and Irene Muzyka as student teams built life-size, anatomically correct human body models known as Miss Anatomy. Students used recycled materials for their original creations. Upon completion they were exhibited in the 11/12 library where staff members judged them for accuracy and creativity. Each year the competition to win the coveted title is fierce.

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 Principal Eric Wilhelm.



History I and II students found a new way to learn history when the Vintage Automobile Museum of New Jersey, Inc. brought at least one auto that was manufactured in each era beginning with the teens to Southern Regional. Students received a brief historical summary of each era the car represented. They were responsible for answering the following three questions about the automobiles in each



era: How are the changes in American society reflected in the automobiles of this decade? Were there any changes

to society as a result of the automobile during the decade? Were there any new innovations or features added to the cars of this decade? Discussions based on these questions were held in class the following day.

Students of the Month

April
Grade 09 Timothy Luedtke
Grade 10 Grace Bohn
Grade 11 Brian Stokes
Grade 12 Brandie Piljar

May
Grade 09 Kevin Ranson
Grade 10 Jillian Harth
Grade 11 Erica Broadbent
Grade 12 Amy Dudas
Shawn Denning



AWARDS

Advisors and students of the Southern Regional High School and Middle School FCCLA attended the 59th Annual Family, Career, and Community

Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference in March at the Cherry Hill Hilton and competed with 900 other students from the State of New Jersey with great success.

Sal Rainone, the advisor for Southern Regional High School FCCLA, was honored as an advisor of the New Jersey State Executive Council. In addition, senior Nicole Mas was recognized for her leadership as co-president of the New Jersey State FCCLA for 2005-2006. Southern Regional FCCLA High School students were all successful in their events. In the Senior Event category, Jennifer O'Hagen and Asha Newman won first place honors for their Storybook Ethics event, Emily Dunn won the silver medal for her Bread Basics, Matt Darcy won a bronze medal for his Luncheon Menu, and Amanda Hoover won a bronze medal for Fashion Design Evening Wear. Dan Hirrel won the gold medal for Bread Basics in the Junior Event category.

Lisa Corbisiero is the advisor for the Southern Regional Middle School FCCLA. It is the first year that this chapter has become a member and participated in FCCLA. Middle School members also worked very hard, and their efforts paid off. In the Junior Event category, Dana Farano won the gold medal for Cake Decorating, Grace Szczech won a silver medal for her Luncheon Menu and a silver medal in the Contemporary Living with Design, Brandi Hines won a silver medal for Bread Basics, Danielle Ruiz won a silver medal for Storybook Ethics, and Grace Szczech, Brandi Hines, and Danielle Ruiz won bronze medals for their group effort in the

Living Classroom Provides Resources for Teachers

Matt Moore, MS special education teacher, was among nine area educators who participated in a conservation and environmental issues workshop at Sedge Island's Natural Resource Education Center. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife uses this unique setting, located within N.J.'s first Marine Conservation Zone just off Island Beach State Park in Barnegat Bay, to teach about the state's remarkable estuarine environment. As part of the experience, participants stayed on the island and lived a conservation ethic. Sedge Island's Wildlife Management Area serves as a nursery for many species of marine animals and birds. Guided by experts, hands-on activities including marsh walks, kayak tours, and conventional fishing, crabbing, and clamming techniques were used to explore the natural and cultural history of the bay.

Therapy Dogs Listen Attentively to Student Readers

Southern teachers and certified therapy dog handlers, Leslie Gardner Longo and Katie Baker, watch as Sage and Brody, their licensed therapy dogs, listen to MS students practice reading aloud after school. A pilot program that began in the spring uses these dogs as part of the Crisis Intervention and Management Team as well as the after-school reading programs in the MS and the HS libraries. They are also available for in-class presentations and lessons on the uses and applications of therapy dogs.





KelleyAnne Essinger, with some help from class advisor Doug Raylman, leads the graduation procession.



Melinda Danko raises her hands in celebration and gives a shout of joy after receiving her diploma.

Math Team Brings Home the Trophies

The seventh grade math team placed second in the Ocean County Math League contest held at Georgian Court College. They received a team trophy as well as individual trophies. The team is under the direction of MS math teacher Barbette Lovas.



L to R: David Baum, Sara Chiodi, Ricky Dunphey, Robert Start, Michael Giordano.

Did You Know

SRHS hosted its Second Annual Reading Program for students from Eagleswood Elementary, All Saints Elementary, Lighthouse Christian Academy, and Waretown Elementary in the 9/10 library this past spring. This year's theme was Disney Days and included 6 LBI Kiwanis members reading stories while 20 high school students performed short plays. Margaret Colvin, advisor to the Key Club, organized the event. In addition to the Kiwanis Club, she was assisted by members of the Key Club, the Mock Trial Club, and the Consumer Bowl Club along with the SR 9/10 librarian and her staff. The students spent two weeks after school creating the scenery and practicing their plays.

STYLE (Student Youth Leadership Experience) recognized students who showed kindness to their peers and teachers by promoting an election in the MS for a "King and Queen of Kindness." Eleven students were nominated by team teachers. These nominees wrote and gave speeches over the classroom televisions about what kindness meant to them and the importance of it in today's world. Out of these nominees, Bobby Bleichner, a seventh grader, was elected King, and Brigid Nolan, an eighth grader was elected Queen.

The New Jersey State Police Internet Safety Unit presented a 45 minute informational program on Internet Safety to MS students. Detective Sergeant Gorden Samartine and Detective Sergeant Stan Fields gave a detailed accounting on how My Space and other chat room web sites can and do become serious problems. They offered examples of how quickly sexual predators, pedophiles, and other questionable individuals can get information on a person by the conversation that takes place in a chat room or on his web page on My Space. In a matter of 30 seconds the detectives had the school, town, state, county, and other information that could lead a person directly to a person's doorstep. The students were very interested. When asked how many had internet access, about 95% of the audience put up their hands. More than 50% of the population also said they use My Space.

AP English Students Present

continued from page 1

summer reading list of books, except for those students entering the Honors English classes. After reading the books, students complete one of three assessments to receive credit for the program. One assessment requires the students to review the book(s) that they have read. The second is more creative. Students can make a collage or draw a picture to represent the book and then write an explanation of their project. The third assessment asks the reader to write three diary entries from the point of view of a character from the book.

Wright assigned the project to her AP students as part of a community service effort. They were responsible for managing the entire venture. Alyssa Abate, Amanda Black, Lyndsay Flanagan, Ryan Gross, and Bill Reuter created a computer spreadsheet to organize the schedule of every presenter and assigned students to teams to work with individual teachers while Lauren Cottrell directed the communication between students, administrators, and the Middle School.

"... added their own creative flair to the reviews ..."

After AP students read their assigned books, they formed groups to talk about their books, plan their presentation strategies, and formulate discussion questions. The weeks of preparation were obvious as the eighth graders listened attentively to the theory behind the new summer reading system and to the mini-reviews by the AP students. Jackie Harth and Sarah Hahn added their own creative flair to the reviews by performing brief skits based on the characters in their novels.

This was the first year for this AP English service project, but positive feedback from both the eighth grade English teachers and their students indicates it will not be the last.

Child-Adult Workshops Added to Adult School Fall Semester

The Southern Regional Adult School continues its tradition of offering informative, enjoyable courses and excursions to community members. The fall semester offers over 110 courses in the areas of fitness and wellness, computer instruction, hobbies and interests, and finance and business making it possible to try something new. Selections include courses that have proved popular in the past as well as a variety of new choices. Among the established offerings are ballroom dance, yoga, watercolor, and computer instruction. New additions include Party Planning, Wines of the World II, and sign language.

Four adult/child craft workshops provide quality time as each adult/child team is guided through the project. Cooking classes focusing on Italian, Creole, Asian and seafood specialties solve the dilemma of preparing the same meals. Jazzercise, tai chi, and Pilates offer new ways to exercise. Tatouage shares a unique home decorating idea.

Trips planned include the Broadway shows *Jersey Boys*, *Mama Mia*, *Tarzan*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone* as well as excursions to Longwood Gardens, the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island, Baltimore Inner Harbor, and more.

In addition, the Adult School continues its long-time partnership with St. Francis Counseling Center to provide GED as well as English for the Foreign Born/English Second Language evening classes

Detailed course descriptions along with additional information regarding the Southern Regional Adult School programs can be found by visiting the SRSD web site (www.srsd.net) or by contacting the Adult School office at 597-9481, extension 4410.



Pete Belice, Ballroom and Social Dancing teacher at the SR Adult School, teaches students and seniors some dance steps at the Intergenerational Picnic.

Students Use Tree Project to Make a Difference



Middle School students on the Thunder and All-Star teams, along with some science classes, planted over 300 trees around the MS campus on Arbor Day. In addition to planting the trees, the students will maintain the trees by watering and pruning them as they grow larger. They obtained the free tree seedlings from the New Jersey Tree Foundation as part of their Celebrate Arbor Day/Make a Difference Day with Trees Project

in New Jersey. Thunder team teacher Matt Moore and All-Star team teacher Patti Carpenter attended a free workshop offered by the foundation to learn the basics of tree planting and maintenance. The foundation offered the free trees to volunteer groups, local governments, non-profit organizations, scout groups, and schools. As a result, 70 volunteer groups planted over 10,000 trees across the state.

Adult School Recognizes Graduates

The Adult School Diploma Program conducted its 35th Graduation Ceremony in June for 22 students. In keeping with its mission as "the educational center of Southern Ocean County," SR 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 President John Reilley and Superintendent Dr. James Kerfoot congratulate Deanna Marie Harkins.



Jessica Palmer receives Southern Regional Adult School's highest honor, the Virginia and Michael DelConte Award. Voted by the faculty, the award is named in recognition of the outstanding service to the program by the late Michael DelConte and his wife, Virginia DelConte, retired Adult School Counselor and presenter, here joined by Jan P. Kristbergs, Principal of the SR Adult School.