



**The Alumni Association** continues to grow in number and support of the school district. Please take the time to register on the Southern Regional Alumni Directory at srsd.net.

**The Home and School Association** consists of parents, faculty and administrators focused upon benefiting all the students at Southern. Membership applications can be found at srsd.net.

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. 51 No. 4

Southern Lights

June 2008

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008!



### Summer Schedule Generates More District Savings

With the success of the conservation program throughout the year, Southern is looking to additional energy savings this summer. Beginning the week of June 23 and ending the week of August 25th, the district will be on a modified summer schedule. District and school offices will be open from Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. "Total possible savings for this



modified summer schedule are \$95,541.42, of which \$31,847.14 comes from eight potential Fridays," reported Dean Adams, Energy Manager. Due to the price of electricity, custodial and maintenance use, savings will fluctuate.

### The Art of Teaching Celebrated

As the school year came to a close, the art of teaching was celebrated to acknowledge staff who guided students along the path to academic success. "The impact of the human interaction will live on," said Superintendent Craig Henry, "the kind gestures you provide will ever be etched in the minds of our students. Thank you for all you do and the degree of care you give." Board President E. Keith Taege said, "After attending the various school events, seeing the dedication, love and support you give to our students amazes me."

Special awards were given to the following staff members: Princeton University Distinguished Teacher- Michael Murphy; Governor's Teacher Recognition Award- Eileen Beirne and Jean Piscopo; Ocean County Superintendents' Teacher of the Year Award- Christine Ryder; NJ State Teacher of the Year Award- Clair Chapter; First Year Teacher Award- Andrew Wright; Custodial and Maintenance Award- Ken Sienkiewicz; Professional Assistant Award - Carmen DeSalvo; Support Person of the Year- Lenore Aceto.



Judy Wardenski, 2007-08 Ocean County State Teacher of the Year and Christine Ryder, Ocean County Superintendents'

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

E. Keith Taege,  
*President*  
Major Charles H. Coles, Sr.,  
*Vice President*  
Kevin C. Lyons  
John Reilley  
Thomas W. Serpico  
Stuart Snyder  
Rita Sweeney  
Christopher Taylor  
Marilyn Wasilewski  
R. Scott Zoladz

### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Craig Henry,  
*Superintendent*  
Daniel MacPhee,  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
Lynn E. Shugars,  
*Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

### NEWSLETTER

Carolyn S. Placa,  
*Editor*



**Southern  
Regional  
Education  
Foundation**

The Education Foundation held its "kick-off" dinner on May 22. Freeholder Jack Kelly, a 1970 alumnus of Southern, hosted the evening's program. "What we do here will have an effect on what is to come," stated Kelly. Superintendent Craig Henry welcomed guests and gave a brief overview of the Foundation's mission and long term goals. "Overall, the Foundation will become a vehicle through which the comprehensive and successful programs that are fundamental elements of the Southern experience can be supported and maintained," Henry said.

The Officers and Board of Trustees of the Foundation were introduced. Andy Davlourous, owner of the Manahawkin Holiday Inn and Stafford Diner serves as chairman. "This is a great town and it has been good to me. I'm happy to give something back," said Davlourous. His generosity was seen through the donation of the facility, food and staff which allowed all proceeds of the dinner to go exclusively to the Foundation. "A successful Foundation needs to educate and involve the entire community to invest in our children," said Ed Walters, vice chairman of the Foundation and President /Founder of the

*continued on page 2*

### In This Issue

Community Connection	page 2-3
Every Day is Earth Day	page 3
Sports Corner	page 3
Big Give = over \$22,000	page 4
Southern's Got Style	page 4
History Comes Alive	page 4
Surf's Up!	page 4
Did You Know?	page 4
Musical Notes	page 4
The Ramsey Awards	page 4



**Decisions for Life:  
Project Crash**

The stadium field was converted into a two car crash site on May 15th. Close to 1,000 juniors and seniors watched and listened as the assembly depicted an actual crash scene and delivered facts about accidents and DWI's.

The assembly began with live actors from the Advanced Improv Class and two damaged cars from South Shore Towing. Stafford Police arrived in cruisers with sirens sounding to assess the damage. Stafford First-Aid, Paramedics and MONOC were next on the scene. Stafford's Fire Department extrication team used the "Jaws of Life" while CPR was administered and officers conducted a DWI test. Maxwell Funeral Home arrived with a hearse to transport one victim.

Concluding the presentation, students received pamphlets donated by SADD. "Our goal is not to scare you, but to give you a realistic look at what happens all over the country," said Principal Eric Wilhelm. Wilhelm advised the students as they participate in prom and graduation activities to "use good common sense. Be safe, be smart and take care of each other."

**Fall Community Enrichment Classes**

The Adult School brochure will be arriving in mailboxes mid-September. Information regarding the Adult Diploma Program, GED, English as a Second Language and Excursions will be detailed. In addition, Enrichment Classes focusing on Hobbies (knitting, painting), Health & Wellness (tai chi, stop smoking seminars), Cooking (seafood, Asian, Cajun), and Finance & Business (real estate, senior issues, investments) will be offered. New classes such as Cracked China Mosaic, Bridge, and Crocheted Wire Jewelry, along with traditional favorites such as; ballroom dance, golf and yoga will be returning.

Start planning now for a fun, educational experience this fall!



**Scholarship Program Awards \$518,065**

From 307 sponsors, 832 scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2008 totaling \$518,065! "Like all things Southern, the scholarship program is renowned," said Superintendent Craig Henry. Donors work tirelessly to raise funds and provide students with opportunities that would not be available. The success of the program is due to substantial community support. "Thank you, donors, for your generosity," said Kevin Tallon, Senior Class President.



Superintendent Craig Henry & Col. Mestemaker presented Amanda McGrath with the Air Force ROTC & Emerging Leader Scholarship.

**Education Foundation (continued)...**

Walters Group. Lynn Shugars, Southern's Business Administrator will serve as Treasurer/Secretary for the Foundation. Other Trustee Members include: Kenneth Arndt, Michael Benson, Franklin Berry, Esq., Norman Bosley, Dr. Charles Coles, Major Charles Coles, Dr. Jamie Cornejo, Janice Dennis, John Gardner, Commissioner DiAnne Gove, Frank Grasso, Dr. Francis Kennard, Robert Kiss, Esq., William Kunz, Jay Mann, Dr. Thomas Massa, Pete Rossi, Chief Paul Sharkey, Christopher South, Edward Toriello and Keith Weidenhoff.



Chairman Andy Davlourous & Dr. Charles Coles

A short video presentation highlighted Southern's partnership with the township while alumni reflected on their school experiences. Pledges were presented by the Southern Regional Education Association and Administration Association. Private pledges were also presented by The Kiwanis Club of Long Beach Island, Orvil Ostberg and The Office of Ciccone, Gotthold and Koseff, CPA's.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Charles Coles, delivered an inspirational speech entitled "Our Time Has Come." "It starts with a mission," Coles stated. "Small or large, all of us can invest in our children's future and ultimately the community at large. Let's make it happen, our time is now!"

**Middle School Hosts Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast**

The Lightning Team hosted a veteran's appreciation breakfast for members of the VFW and Foreign Legion. Along with patriotic decorations, students created a wall of stars that stated the names of family members and friends that served or are currently serving in the armed forces. Students also wrote a letter to a veteran that included a personal thank you. "The students are so far removed

from people in the past. It is a good way for kids to see faces of the people that have changed our history," said Lynn Lapsley, co-organizer of the event.



Keara O'Flaherty & Dana Mullian join Michael Bak at the Breakfast.

The junior ROTC presented the colors while the MS band performed the National Anthem and patriotic selections. Throughout the program students shared original patriotic essays. Brian Carey shared his thoughts of what it means to be an American. "It means to be free, it means opportunity, it means protection." Special guest Mr. John Marcy read the poem "Come Visit My Grave," which spoke of remembering our fallen soldiers on Memorial Day. When asked how he felt about the appreciation breakfast he simply responded "I wouldn't miss it for the world. These kids get to see us as real people."

**American Cancer Society Raised \$185,000 at Relay For Life!**



The Fight Back Express Bus received over 500 signatures from participants at the Relay for Life event held on May 30-31st.

**Resident Artist Inspires Mural**

Resident Len Silidker, an artist in the community, presented the Student Council with the idea of a ribbon mural, similar to one he painted in Israel. The colorful ribbon symbolizes education.



Artist Len Silidker talk to student council members about the mural.

Marilyn Dougherty, Student Council advisor said "It's wonderful having a community member share ideas and work with the students. We hope more residents will come forward with this on-going project." Since January of 2007, the Student Council has led the wall beautification project. "Some murals were already done under Barbara McHale's "Adopt a Wall" program and Joanne Rist's art classes. Staff member, Lenore Aceto also hand-painted several murals," said Dougherty. Other murals are ongoing projects such as The Military Wall which is updated yearly to represent alumni and community members who serve in the armed forces. Paint has been donated by staff, community members, as well as Lowes and WoodHaven Lumber.

For more information, contact Marilyn Dougherty at 597-9481 ext. 2207.

**Southern Regional Adult School Holds 37th Graduation Ceremony**

The Adult School Program conducted its 37th Graduation Ceremony on June 4th. Adult School Principal, Jan P. Kristbergs, directed the event, highlighted by an address from Board of Education President E. Keith Taege. Superintendent Craig Henry accepted the Class of 2008 and spoke to the graduates emphasizing how proud Southern was to supply such a tremendous learning opportunity. "Now you are forever a Ram," concluded Henry.



Anne Nachman & Tom Oakely from LBI Rotary present award to graduate Jared Norton.

Sixteen graduates were awarded diplomas and were presented achievement and scholarship awards from the Long Beach Island Rotary Club, the Southern Regional Home and School Association, as well as the Ensign Arthur J. Platt, Jr. Foundation. Additionally, joining the speakers and presenters were members of the Adult School Advisory Committee: Dr. Michael Costaris, Mrs. Virginia Delconte, Mrs. Karolyn Westberg, and Mr. Ed Barber, along with members of the program's faculty. Special Awards were also given to students in the GED and ESL instructional programs which are offered in partnership with the Ocean County Adult Education Consortium, led by St. Francis Counseling Center. The special awards and gifts were provided by generous support from Mr. Scott Hanula, Mr. Jay Madden, Mrs. Sharon Osborn, the SR Home and School Assoc., Mr. Joseph Silvestri Association, and Mrs. Karolyn Westberg.

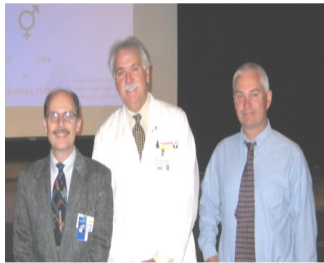
## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ram K

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 70 runners and walkers participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ram K raising \$1,900 for the Girls Cross Country, Track and Field programs. Chris Peters and Rachel Ruggiano of Barnegat were the 5K Men's and Women's Winners. Doreen Rhoades-White of Ship Bottom was the Trail Walk Winner. Jody McLennan, co-organizer of the event, said "The Ram K is a great healthy, community centered event. All ages can participate and join in a fun day."

A new 5K road course was offered this year as well as the trail walk and mile fun run. Ocean Ice Cream and The Rotary Club of Long Beach Island sponsored these courses.

## SOCH and Southern Conclude Instructional Series

On Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> Southern Ocean County Hospital concluded their "instructional series" with Southern. Over the past school year, several SOCH physicians from various specialties such as internal medicine, oncology and orthopedic surgery instructed advanced Anatomy and Physiology classes. An average of 100 students, who were enrolled in the academic science elective participated in each of these medical lectures. "It really has been well received by the kids and a great opportunity for our students to interact with community doctors," said teacher Darren Dorris. Video projections, medical equipment and live organs were included in some presentations. "I learned a lot and really enjoyed the hands-on experience. I got to touch and feel a real heart and liver," said 12<sup>th</sup> grader Whitney Winrow. A question and answer session concluded each lecture allowing students to interact directly with the physicians, who were all experts in their respective fields.



Dr. Marino, Dr. Niewiadomski & Asst. Superintendent Dan MacPhee.

## National Honor Society Hosts Blood Drive with NJ Blood Center



11/12 Library converted into a blood bank center.

The National Honor Society, working with NJ Blood Center, helped transform the 11/12 library and parking lot into a blood drive with students, staff and community members participating. 207 people registered and 175 pints of blood were collected.

Ruth Tummey, advisor for the NHS, is planning two more blood drives for next year. "NJ Blood Services were very impressed with our students and faculty," said Tummey.

## Intergenerational Council's Picnic

Members of the Intergenerational Council participated in their Annual Spring Picnic which featured a Bee and Honey Demonstration from local Bee Keeper Jody Truex.



# Southern Makes Every Day Earth Day



The Fashion Merchandising Class hosted a "Green and Gorgeous" Fashion Show on May 1st. Students modeled garments and accessories from local stores as well as Southern Regional's Cinderella's Closet and Clothing Studio. Ecology tips regarding the environment were presented.

## Birdhouses + Fly-Traps = Mainsail Manufacturing

Mainsail's Manufacturing Class was again contracted to construct Tree Swallow Bird Houses for the LBI Garden Club and Greenhead Fly-Traps for Long Beach Twp. Under the direction of Don Graham and Joe Tomczuk, students worked together as a team to construct products which were requested by these community organizations. For more information or to discuss a project need, contact Don Graham at 609-597-9481 ext. 2070.



Phil Hart, Alex Cullinane & Jesse Demyan add the finishing touches to the Tree Swallow House.

## Congratulations to Andrew McLennan for winning 1st Place in the Arbor Day Essay Writing Contest for 9th graders!

## Athletes Pick-Up for Earth Day

The Girls JV Lacrosse Team helped honor Earth Day by picking up garbage from a number of athletic fields behind the school building. Under the supervision of Caroline Murphy and Laurette Ibe, students helped clean up the lacrosse, soccer and field hockey fields. More than sixteen large bags of garbage were collected for proper disposal. "At Southern, we have a great girls' lacrosse program along with an outstanding facility. One way our team can show its appreciation for what we have is by helping to care for the playing fields," said Murphy.

## Students Were Asked...

### What Can You Do?



Students in Lori Sefcik Period Two Advanced Science Class recognize Earth Day!

Students in Lori Sefcik's Science class were asked to wear green and bring in an item or a picture of an Earth friendly object to demonstrate how we all can help the environment. Students discussed items and pictures such as hybrid cars, light bulbs, solar panels, reusable grocery bags, water bottles, water conservation, solar calculators and energy efficient appliances. "We are not only saving money, we are saving energy," said Sefcik.

## Energy Conservation Provides Environmental & Financial Savings

This year the district implemented a rigorous energy savings program with the help of Energy Education, Inc.. The program, which guarantees savings and requires no new district money has worked to maintain class time comfort and the educational goals of the district. "We are achieving real and significant energy conservation at the district. Since the program began our district has saved over \$353,443," said Superintendent Craig Henry. Electric consumption has declined, natural gas use is down and better water consumption habits are in place. The average reduction for the overall district energy consumption is 25.79%.

Energy Manager, Dean Adams, said this program has been so successful due to the cooperative effort of many. "It is a people program, which includes administrators, teachers, staff and custodians. Everyone has been doing their part in order for the district savings to be successful," Adams said.

According to the EPA, the decrease in energy use from electricity alone is equivalent to taking 129 cars off the roads or planting 267 acres of trees in our community. "We have an opportunity to realize significant environmental and financial savings for decades to come," said Henry.

## Middle School Recognizes Arbor Day

The Middle School Student Council recognized Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony on the front lawn of the school. The annual observance included the history of Arbor Day as well as poems read aloud by middle school students. Music was also provided by the Middle School String Ensemble. "The goal of the Student Council is to recognize Arbor Day annually by planting flowering pear and plum trees along the main drive at the Middle School," said Clair Chapter, co-advisor for the Middle School Student Council.



Clair Chapter and Assistant Superintendent Dan MacPhee celebrate Arbor Day.

## Ecology Clubs Collect Big Numbers!

The HS and MS Ecology Clubs, under the advisement of Kim Fonteix and Liz Calderwood, have helped put into practice the environmentally friendly slogan, "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle." With weekly pick-ups of paper, bottles and cans from each classroom and office within the district, the recycling program averages between 4.5 to 5 tons of materials each month. Due to the significant volume of items, large dumpsters will be provided for next year.

## Sports Corner.....

The Girls' Track Team won the A South Invitational Tournament, Shore Conference, South Jersey Group IV and Overall Group IV! The 4x400 Relay Team of Beekman, Jennings, Cox and Smith won the Meet of Champions. Jillian Smith placed 1st in the National Championships, while Chelsea Cox placed 5th.

The A South Trophy was awarded to the Boys' Track Team, the Boys' Golf Team and the Boys' Volleyball Team.

## Southern Regional's Big Give = over \$22,000!



One walk-a-thon and two pancake breakfasts featuring 9,000 flap-jacks raised over \$22,000 for two students who were diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Staff and students from both the middle school and high school rallied together to organize these fundraisers that helped offset medical expenses for senior Alisha Van Meter and 8th grader, Rachel Materazzi. "These events illustrate our very unique culture of care highlighted by the love and compassion that is at the bedrock of the Southern Family," stated Superintendent Craig Henry.

### Southern's Got STYLE

STYLE, the Student Teambuilding Youth Leadership Experience, trained 20 seventh graders to be peer leaders during *STYLE Expedition*. The two day training provided skills in Character Education, Team Work, Empathy Training, Anti-Bullying and Refusal Skills. Eight high school STYLE leaders also attended as mentors. MS Principal Lorraine Airey, Supervisor Farley Doucette and Stafford Municipal Alliance Gail Bott assisted teachers Mike Armstrong, Karol Doucette, Jason Lister, Mike Benson and Marci Jo Bleam.

A new program, entitled *STYLE Transitions* was offered to 45 senior members in May. Students who will be "transitioning" to college attended discussions in reference to Binge Drinking, Date Rape, Leaving Home, Roommates, Personal Responsibility and Freedom. "It was a powerful and valuable experience for our seniors," said Mike Armstrong, advisor. Additional staff members Christine Ryder, Kate Massimiano, as well as community members Bob Dolan, Heidi Hartmann volunteered their time and expertise. Funding was provided through a federal grant and the Stafford Township Municipal Alliance.

### History Comes Alive

"The history department attempts to make the past come alive," said Robert Johnson, Supervisor of Humanities. For example, Colleen Rechenberg's classes hosted Sgt. Jerry Haley, a Vietnam Veteran, to speak about his experience in the war while Jeff Brown presented a Living World War History Program. Students also experienced an historical antique automobile show outside the 11/12 building. The Vintage Automobile Museum of NJ, Inc. displayed vehicles that were manufactured in each decade. "History in textbooks may allow you to memorize dates and names but when it is put into context and you have a personal interaction, you gain a greater appreciation," Johnson said.



Another "hands-on" educational experience was presented as students participated in a Mock Budget Referendum. Students used actual voting machines, obtained from the Ocean County Office of Elections, to cast their "mock" vote on the budget referendum.

### Elks Lodge Poster Award Winners!

(Pictured L to R)

Elizabeth Whitehead,  
Dana Ring &  
Sean Dinger

(Also pictured Kevin Romanowski,  
HS Special Educ. Supervisor &  
Eric Wilhelm, HS Principal.)



### Surf's Up at Southern Regional!

Children from the Autistic Program are learning how to surf under the direction of resident Michael Lisiewski and several Southern staff members. "It is our goal to provide as many social and recreational activities for our students as possible," said Joe DiPietro, HS Vice-Principal and Autistic Program Supervisor.



Kelly Frischmann, Joe Medica & Michael Lisiewski assist Ray Morris on the long board.

At the St. Francis pool, students learn the art of paddling, pushing-up their upper body and pulling their legs into a squatted position on a long-board. Lisiewski is hopes to operate a two day surf camp with the students along the beaches of Ship Bottom this summer.



Students learned all aspects of building in the industrial arts elective "Fix Anything!"

### Did You Know?

- ✦ Greg Melega will be recognized at the 2008 Photographic Society of America's Youth Showcase from 8/31-9/6 in Portland, OR.
- ✦ Neha Sahay, Dylan Boyle and Matthew Little earned Silver Medals for the National Latin Exam. Certificate winners included: Magna Cum Laude- Taylor Jennings, Paul Blankemeyer, and Ashley Stefko; Cum Laude- Sean Ellis, Joe Graziano, Dylan Guadalupe, Andrew Intelli, Nicholas McLaughlin, Patrick Ryan Morris, Miles Pisani, Steven Russell, Devan Schmid, Julie Scully, James Sieber, and Joseph Volk.
- ✦ The National Art Honor Society welcomed additional members this spring. Though excellence in art was the main criteria, students were also judged in areas of scholarship, character, and service. The ceremony took place in the 11/12 library, which also displayed paintings, drawings and pottery from all levels of the art program.
- ✦ 96 students were inducted into the World Language Honor Society. The five languages recognized in the society are French, German, Japanese, Latin and Spanish. The inductees fulfilled specific criteria in language studies, overall academic achievement, and demonstration of good character.
- ✦ MTV hosted an Open Casting Call at the HS on May 9th. Numerous students were interviewed for the Emmy Award Winning Show.
- ✦ The HS Student Council received The Charity Award from the New Jersey Association of Student Councils for a \$1000 donation to the Valarie Fund, the state council charity for childhood cancer.

- ✦ The 2007 RAM HS Yearbook won First Place in the National American Scholastic Press Competition and earned Best Overall for the 50th Anniversary Edition!
- ✦ Brandon Trainor and Jimmy Morris won the National Library Week "Reading Rocks" Competition at the High School.
- ✦ 2,000 students participated in a "Mini-Relay for Life" during their regularly scheduled Physical Education class. Money was raised for both the American Cancer Society and 8th grader Rachel Materazzi.
- ✦ Over 13,500 books circulated from the MS library this year. This was the result of a new literacy program providing formal and impromptu book discussions and the presentation of new, exciting books via intercom announcements!
- ✦ On May 22, The National Honor Society hosted a prom for the Special Education and Autistic Programs. 27 students enjoyed decorations, refreshments, music and a fun party atmosphere! In preparation for the event, Island Bridal donated dresses and the Brick Cosmetology School helped primp hair, make-up and nails for the ladies.
- ✦ SHOP- *Students Helping Other Peers* was created to allow mainstream MS students interaction and socialization time with special needs children. This student developed and organized program was overseen by Eileen Beirne, Susan Crosta and Janice Conte.

The Superintendent's Roundtable Recognition Breakfast honored the pictured students (L-R): Kevin Tallon, Ocean County Mayor's Association Scholarship; Brooke Meelheim and Jeffrey Seddon, Ocean County Association of School Administrators Scholarships.



### Musical Notes

- \* The Wind Ensemble and Select Symphonic Band placed in the top 4 of the region and performed at the State Gala in May.
- \* The Indoor Drumline won the Novice Class Percussion Title at the Cavalcade of Bands Indoor Championships.
- \* Bass player, Matt Hilblom and singer, Hannah DeGenova were selected into All-State Jazz Chorus for the 2nd year.
- \* Andrew Dunwoody received the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, John Dondero and Brian Coyle received the Woody Herman Jazz Award.
- \* Lauren Migalski received the John Philip Sousa Award, Joe Allen the Patrick S. Gilmore Award and Julia Beekman the Director's Award.

### The Ramsey Awards



Teachers Craig Sackett and Heather Clarey, presenter Filomena Bongi, Humanities Supervisor Bob Johnson and presenter Sam Reilly.

The Modern Media program presented the first annual "Ramsey Awards" on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Students were awarded "The Best In" projects such as, News Brief, Music Videos, Public Service Announcements, Commercials, Silent Movies, "How-To" Demonstrations and Production Elements.