



The newsletter of the Southdown Primary PTA

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PHOTO BY ANYA CARTWRIGHT

The Southdown PTA's social for Kindergartners and 1st graders on Oct. 15 was a great success. Parents and students came together for face painting, tattoos, freeze dancing and more merrymaking. Thanks to all the volunteers for organizing the first-ever event. And thanks to Southdown families for coming out.

A message from the new president

Welcome to Southdown Primary School. We have already gone through Back To School Nights, the Class Parent Tea and an amazing Book Fair. Thanks to our volunteers who spend countless hours trying to make terrific events for our children. A special thanks to the PTA Executive Board, whose members have worked very hard since July to pull our events together for the fall.

The Book Fair was outstanding! Debbie Knowles, Laura Cheshire and Sharon Glazier pulled off a fabulous event and an exciting Family Night. Mr. Dugan and Mrs. Matthews surprised all of us by showing up as Batman and Robin in the Batcar! The children were entertained by great games in the gym. Parents were able to browse books, and all were dazzled by Newsday artist and illustrator Ned Levine and his ability to create superheroes. You can see Mr. Levine's work on our new Southdown PTA website: www.southdownpta.org. It's a work



in progress, so let us know how we're doing. Thanks to Anya Cartwright for creating it. You should also check out the Huntington District Page: www.hufsd.edu, which is full of information.

There are some great events coming up, including the Harvest Festival Oct. 21. The big 4th graders will have a Halloween Dance Oct. 29. And on Nov. 5, there will be the 2nd and 3rd Grade "Minute to Win It" event. Watch the website for details on the just-passed K-1st Grade Social.

Jumping into early November, we have the Southdown Fitness Challenge. This event takes place before school and is a terrific way to get your children involved in physical activity. Mrs. Matthews and the PTA Chairs will contact you via backpacks and the web.

The next PTA meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18. The school board meets at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25 and Nov. 15.

Dawn Weir

Librarian's Corner

By Ellen Blanchard

September has come and gone quickly. It has been a challenging beginning, but I believe we are all settling into our routines.

We had 93 readers participate in our Southdown Summer Reading Challenge, and together they read 1,192 books.

Thanks to the PTA for helping with our celebration. Each child received a certificate of achievement and a small gift.

A reminder: Book Exchange is every morning from 9:20 to 9:45. If your child forgets a library book, is absent or wants a different title, each teacher has a schedule posted in their classrooms.

Our REACH program for all 3rd and 4th grade students is up and running. Each family should have received a letter de-



scribing the program, and the information is available on the Huntington school district website under the SEARCH Program. For questions, call myself or Maryann Daly.

We are looking for parents to help keep the library running smoothly. If you are interested in volunteering, contact me.

Try and find time each day to read with your child, even if they are independent readers. Encourage and show interest in your independent reader's choice of books. Lead by example – if you are reading a book, magazine or newspaper, chances are your child will want to imitate what you are doing. Enjoy your time together, whether you are reading a book together or just sitting side by side reading your own book.



Plant SOS

A wish list has been created at Oakwood Road Gardens for the front beds and walkways of the school. Please contact Donna or Robert if you would like to purchase or help purchase a plant from the list. Oct. 24 is the deadline. Plants will be picked up on Monday and delivered to the school for planting. If you would like to make a donation to the fund, call Kimberley Steinberg at 631-549-4007.

Upcoming events

- Oct. 21** Harvest Festival
- Oct. 25** School Board meeting
- Oct. 29** Halloween Parade, 4th Grade Halloween Dance
- Nov. 3** Fitness Challenge begins
- Nov. 5** 2nd and 3rd Grade Social
- Nov. 9** Pink Link PTA Fundraiser
- Nov. 18** PTA meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Help out with Harvest Festival

By Theresa Matthews

Please wear sneakers and comfortable clothing for Physical Education. Remember your three gym days. Jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters are a must on chilly outdoor days (if wearing boots, bring your sneakers in your backpack to change into for class).

Our Harvest Festival scarecrow activity on Oct. 21 needs plenty of recyclable newspaper. Just drop them off in the gymnasium (Sharpie markers and paper towels, too).

Wham! Bam! Family Night!



**By Debbie Knowles,
Laura Cheshire
and Sharon Glazier**

The Southdown PTA recently held the Fall Book Fair. The theme was "Here's to our Heroes: Reading Saves the Day." It was an exciting event featuring great books for sale and Newsday's Ned Levine, who taught the children to draw their own superheroes. There were games where stu-

dents could stomp out villains, throw bean bags through carnival cutouts and guess which Southdown hero was behind the mask.

The fair went very smoothly, thanks to all the great parent volunteers and our wonderful custodians. Thanks to Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Matthews for sharing their gym space throughout the week, and the YMCA for accommodating us.

PHOTO BY VALERIE KELLOGG