

Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

Executive Director's Newsletter

October 12, 2007

Dear Parents,

We provide parents with this Newsletter as a means of helping you become better informed about events and activities at Sturgis. We hope that this type of communication is helpful. Communication, of course, is a two way street. Please do not hesitate in calling us if you have a question or concern.

Professional Half Day on Friday, October 26: This is a reminder that students will have classes in the a.m. on Friday, October 26 and will be dismissed at 11:45. The faculty will be involved in professional development meetings in the afternoon.

Sturgis Parents Association (SPA): The SPA calendar of events is included on the Sturgis website. You can click on Parent Information and then SPA Calendar. Please note the next meeting date for SPA on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting for the SPA Auction Committee on the same night at 6:00 p.m. Also, please remember that the Sturgis Spirit Cards, with inviting discounts at local businesses and restaurants, are on sale at the school office.

MCAS Among the Best in MA: Sturgis once again ranked among the best schools in the state on the grade 10 MCAS tests that were given in March and May. In English Language Arts, Sturgis tied for 2nd in the state out of 283 school districts with 97% of the students scoring in the Proficient and Advanced categories. In Math, Sturgis tied for 46th with 88% of the students scoring either Proficient or Advanced.

Sturgis Continues to be a Model: With our "IB for All" program, Sturgis continues to be a model of great interest to other schools. The British School of Boston, Brockton High School, and Bow (NH) High School will be sending groups of faculty and administrators to Sturgis during the next month to view how Sturgis implements the IB Programme.

Sturgis Featured in International Newspaper: The editors and publishers of *The International Educator*, a newspaper that is distributed worldwide to international schools and educators, decided to feature Sturgis in an article entitled "Newsweek Ranks Sturgis in the Top 100 High Schools" in their recent edition published on October 1. Please contact the Sturgis office if you would like a copy of the article.

WBZ Boston Channel 4 TV: WBZ TV also featured Sturgis on their 6:00 p.m. newscast a couple of weeks ago. If you missed it, you can view it on the Sturgis website under "Sturgis in the News" or at: http://wbztv.com/projectmass/local_story_263190741.html

Guidance Update: Please check the **Guidance web site** (linked to the Sturgis web site: www.sturgisedublogs.org) on a regular basis as this is our **primary means of communicating essential information to both students and parents.**

PSAT testing information is posted on the site. Parents, please help your child (grades 10 and 11) meet the registration deadline of Friday, October 12th for the **October 17th test at Sturgis** (sign-up details on the web site).

We are still accepting students for the October 26 college visit field trip (priority will be given to juniors). Details about the trip are posted on the web site (a \$10.00 charge to cover the bus).

The Sturgis Wellness Night was well received by parents. Jeff Wolfsberg and Elenie Tsarhopoulos shared their approaches to the sophomore and freshmen seminars. They also provided tips and hints for approaching the difficult topics of substance abuse and sexuality among teenage students. Their resources and other information can be found at this website: www.jeffwolfsberg.com. Also, Anastasia Goodstein discussed her new book, Totally Wired, and shared insight on how teens use technology in social networking, group and personal interaction. Her book is available at the school for a \$12 donation to the Sturgis Student Council (bookstand price is \$13.95!). Learn more about Anastasia at <http://ypulse.com/about.php>.

From the Reference Room: If you missed the Health, Wellness and Safety Night for Parents but you would like to learn more about the topics discussed, you can check out our new acquisitions: Totally Wired: What Teens and Tweens are Really Doing Online by Anastasia Goodstein and Mom, Did You Ever Try Drugs: Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Parenting, Alcohol and Other Drugs by Jeff Wolfsberg. Would you like to learn more about Academic Databases? Come by the Reference Room during Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 19. We will be happy to give you a guided tour!
Marion Weeks and Sara Hannegan, Librarians

Yearbooks on Sale Now: This year, due to students' request, the Sturgis yearbook will be in FULL COLOR! The cost will be \$40.00 if purchased before winter break, and \$45 if purchased after. We will accept cash or checks(made out to Sturgis Charter Public School), and will provide a receipt. Order your yearbook today!

IB Group 4 Projects: Senior IB science students just completed their IB Group 4 lab projects at the marine estuary near Sea Street Beach. One student from each of the courses, including Environmental Systems, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, came together to form small teams of researchers looking at a question that each group developed independently. Then, each student will write up the lab from the perspective of the course in which he/she is enrolled.



StormWatch: Sturgis' student-run newspaper, is now online at sturgiscps.com/stormwatch. A link is also provided on the school's website. Mr. Hyer and Mr. Barrasso, both former journalists, serve as the advisors to the student publication. More news stories, opinions, and photos will be published online than in the print edition, so be sure to check the site often as it will be continuously updated by students.

Parents of Grade 11 IB Diplomas Candidates: If you weren't at the open house last month, please e-mail Jeffrey Hyer, the school's C.A.S. coordinator, your e-mail address so he can efficiently communicate with you regarding your student's progress in the CAS program. He can be reached at: jhyer@sturgischarterschool.com. Also, look for Mr. Hyer's comments on both report cards and progress reports.

Grade 9 Music: The grade 9 Music Appreciation classes are putting their knowledge of note and rest values as well as rhythm into practice by beginning to play djembes (African hand drums) in class. The grade 10 Music Appreciation classes are putting their knowledge of rhythm and pitch together to perform melodies on guitar, piano, and recorder. The freshman and sophomore Chorus classes as well as the Lunch Chorus are preparing five songs of different styles for the Winter Concert set for Thursday, Dec. 13th at 7 p.m. The Junior IB Music class is learning to aurally identify different instruments of the percussion, brass, woodwind, and strings families. The Senior IB Music class is honing their listening analysis skills while beginning to study music from the Classical period. The first Open Mic Night of the year showcased a wide variety of talent by students and teachers alike and raised about \$280 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Sturgis Singers are off to a great start and are working on the national anthem to perform at school basketball games.

Grade 12 IB Diploma Candidates have been working furiously to finish their first draft of their Extended Essay by October 25th. Students are currently consulting with their Extended Essay Supervisors and Advisor Gretchen Buntschuh to develop such fascinating research questions as: *The Mathematical Implications of Chaos Theory*, *A Comparison of Women's Roles in Lenin's Russia and Mussolini's Italy*, *The Cultural Impact of Video Games* and even an *Investigation of the Instrumental Choices in John Williams' Film Scores*.

Sturgis Starts a Jazz Band: Eleven students have joined our first jazz band. The group practices every Wednesday a.m. at 7:30 and is directed by Andrew Fietek, an instrumental music teacher with extensive experience. If any more students would like to join the jazz band, they should see Ms. Sitarz for details.

Visitors from Honduras: Once again, Sturgis is hosting students and two teachers this week from the American School in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, as part of our school-to-school partnership. The visitors are attending classes at Sturgis in addition to touring colleges, Plymouth, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the JFK Library, and Boston. Sturgis students will participate in the other part of the exchange when they go to Honduras in February or March for an Operation Smile community service project.

Student Council: The Student Council has made a monumental shift this year, from a non-hierarchical organization to a model based on the parliamentary procedures of Robert's Rules of Order. A student-written constitution was signed last week, and by the end of October a council of 19 elected representatives will be meeting twice a week to make decisions to enhance the spirit and community at Sturgis. All students are welcome at meetings, to help plan fun events like Spirit Week, and also to voice any concerns or make suggestions.

Cheerleading: After an excellent first season and hard work this summer at cheering camp, the Sturgis cheering team is ready to made its stunting and tumbling debut during the winter athletic season. The team will cheer for varsity basketball and compete with other cheering teams in the local leagues and conferences. The girls have put in unbelievable amounts of work to make this team a reality. Come support them at our home court, Cape Cod Community College!

Destination Imagination Volunteers Needed: Sturgis is looking for a couple of parents who would be interested in supporting a Destination Imagination team. No previous experience is necessary. If you might be interested in supporting this fascinating activity, please call Rachel in the student office.

IB History: Standard Level IB History seniors will be working for most of October on their Internal Assessments. The Internal Assessment is an individually-done historical investigation by the student that represents 25% of the student's entire IB mark for the course over the 2 years. They will be mailed overseas for moderation in March of '08.

Sturgis Theater Classes: The Junior and Senior SL and HL Theater classes recently had the opportunity on Sept 26 to attend the Harwich Winter Theater's production of *The Lear Project*. This unique production is a modern retelling of the classic Shakespearean tragedy *King Lear* utilizing an all female cast. Not only was the production a wonderful chance to see and review great theater, but we were able to see outstanding performances by Sturgis student teacher Anna Heick, and Sturgis students Mia McLellan, Marik Hirsch, and Emma Lass.

Sports Update: Our Fall Sports Banquet will be on Thursday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Federated Church Fellowship Hall. Details about the event will be sent in the coming weeks.

The Boys Soccer team set a single-season record when it beat New Testament, 3-0 on Friday October 5th for its fourth win of the season. Congratulations to coach Brian Hastings and the players who have worked so hard this season.

Girls Cross Country star Hannah Lonergan has won several races so far this season, and both the boys and girls teams swept to victory in a recent meet against Old Colony. Nick Ailes has been the top boys runner, also winning several races. Thanks coach Mike Beckner for all the great work he's put in this season.

If you would like further information about any of the events or activities described above, please call the Sturgis school office.

Eric Hieser
Executive Director