

Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

Executive Director's Newsletter

December 12, 2008

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.

Sturgis in Session on December 22-23: Sturgis will be having regular classes on December 22-23. The first day of the holiday break will be December 24, and we will return to classes on Monday, January 5

Alumni Meet with Seniors: We have invited all of our Sturgis alumni to return to Sturgis on Tuesday, December 23 from 10:15-12:30. The schedule for the event will include a coffee hour, a meeting with seniors to share perspectives on college life, and a pizza party. If you know a Sturgis alumnus, please encourage him/her to join us for this reconnecting and sharing memories.

Hiking and Backpacking Club: Our most recent hike was from Sagamore Hill to Sandwich High Saturday, Nov. 22nd. This is the first of a series of hikes the Hiking and Backpacking Club plans that will allow us to hike from the Canal to P'Town this year. Larry Pannell, the parent of Justin Pannell, is our planner and leader for this series. Kelea Silva's mother, Carol Tinkman, hiked with us that day also.

Yearbooks on Sale: Yearbooks will be on sale until January 23rd. If you want to reserve a book, you must purchase one by that date. There will be no extra books for sale in the spring. The yearbook is in full color and costs \$40. It can be purchased with cash or check at the main office or online at jostensyearbooks.com.

IB Workshop Leader Training at Sturgis: On December 5-6, Gloria McDowell, IB North America Diploma Manager, and Jessica Arnold, IB North America Access Project Manager, trained 21 Sturgis teachers and administrators to become IB workshop leaders for new and experienced IB teachers. The workshops led by Sturgis faculty will be scheduled across North America starting in January of 2009. This training was a wonderful opportunity in helping Sturgis prepare to disseminate best practices to other IB schools for opening access to the IB for a much broader segment of the student population in North America.

Prom: The 2009 prom committee is planning a luncheon at Outback to take place on Saturday, February 7th. This is shaping up to be a fun event which will include entertainment by various Sturgis students, door prizes and raffle opportunities. Tickets will be going on sale soon, so stay tuned for details. Check the prom blog at sturgisprom2009.blogspot.com for upcoming information regarding this and other prom related news.

The prom committee will continue to sell raffle tickets for the very desirable 2008 championship basketball signed by Paul Pierce until January 23rd. You can purchase them for \$2 each, \$10 for Julie DelleFemine's arm length, or \$20 for her wingspan length (makes this fair for everyone). Stop by the main office during school hours and I'll be happy to help you. Thanks to all who have shown their support to the Juniors and Seniors for their 2009 prom fund raising efforts.

IB News: C.A.S is one of the central components for participating in the full Diploma Program. Creativity, Action and Service was created by the I.B. to foster in students an understanding that knowledge doesn't always come from the pages of a book. In years past, students would have had to complete 50 hours over two years in an endeavor that was creative, action oriented and that promoted service in the community, totaling 150 hours by their senior year. This year, the I.B. has altered how students approach the CAS requirement. Jeff Hyer, the CAS coordinator at Sturgis believes that in the past, students were too consumed with fulfilling the hours. Students now have to complete long term projects in each of the CAS elements. Mr. Hyer believes that this year, "students can really focus on their projects, without watching the clock. Their final goal has become more tangible and meaningful." In order to assess student involvement, each Diploma candidate must exemplify certain learning outcomes like self Awareness, Collaboration and Global Importance with each CAS project and document their participating through journals and photographs. "What is wonderful about CAS, is that it pushes the student beyond their comfort zone" explains Mr. Hyer. "This year, we had a student participate in soccer because he needed to fulfill the CAS requirement. That student hadn't played sports for years." Sturgis has seen a boon in the number of student run clubs and activities as a result of the changes in the CAS requirements. The Sturgis Organic Initiative (S.O.I.), the Literary Journal, Sturgis Stompers and the Hiking Club are a few of the new activities that have come to fruition since August. Even if a Sturgis student is not a full Diploma candidate, they can still take advantage of the opportunities for growth that are offered through Sturgis extra curricular activities.

Music Department News: Congratulations to all students who participated in the Winter Concert on Dec. 10 at Pope John Paul High School! Members of the Sturgis Chorus, Sturgis Singers, String Ensemble, and Jazz Band, as well as individual soloists, entertained the audience with a program of holiday music and other favorites.

The Sturgis Singers will be going to Thirwood Place in South Yarmouth on Dec. 17 to perform for the residents.

Congratulations to the following students for having successfully passed the audition for the All-Cape Music Festival! Emma Capello, David Faulkenberry, Emily Fink, Seth Gable, JustineBelle Lambright, Liz Laprade, Reuben Walton, and Victoria Whipple.

Congratulations also to Jasper Leavitt, David Faulkenberry, and JustineBelle Lambright for successfully passing the audition for the Southeast Music Festival!



The Hyannis Christmas Stroll: The stroll was a joyous event with several Sturgis students, parents and faculty involved. SPA involvement, led by Dee Moynihan and Deb Kochka, was key in the success of several events including the cookie contest. Thirteen dozen cookies of delectable variety were enjoyed here at Sturgis! In addition, Gordon Bellemer led a student/faculty chorus on a wintry stroll down Main Street. Students volunteered as face painters and assisted with the hayrides while the cast of Harvey paraded in character to advertise their upcoming play this winter. It was a great day to kick off the holiday season.

IB Theater: The Junior IB Theatre Class is currently working on the very funny play, Harvey, by Mary Chase. Harvey will be performed at Pope John Paul II High School on January 16th and 17th at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door. The theatre students want to thank all the Sturgis friends and family for their continued support for the arts and hope to see everyone on the 16th or 17th.

School Closings Due to Inclement Weather: If Sturgis makes a change in the normal school hours due to inclement weather, notification will be given to WHDH Channel 7 TV and to Fox Channel 25 TV. The notifications will also be posted on the following websites for these two TV channels: <http://www3.whdh.com/stormforce/> & <http://media.myfoxboston.com/schoolclosings.html>.

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