

# Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

## Executive Director's Newsletter

November 7, 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.

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>.

Professional Half Day Changed to Allow For IB Training: We have changed our Professional Half Day from February 6, 2009 to Friday, December 5, 2008. Students will be dismissed from school at 11:45 on Friday, December 5.

The reason for this change is for 20 Sturgis faculty to be trained by IB in presenting IB teacher and administrator training workshops in North America. IB North America will be sending a workshop leader consultant to Sturgis on December 5-6 to train faculty to present IB workshops starting in the 2009-2010 school year. We are currently beginning the preparation of ten IB workshops, which will have a major focus on "IB for All", enhancing access to more students.

Sturgis Presentation to New England College Admissions Conference: Chris Andre and Peter Steedman were requested to give a presentation to the Annual Conference of the New England Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers on November 7 in Manchester, NH. The Sturgis presentation focused on an overview of the IB Diploma Programme and the "IB for All" curriculum at Sturgis.

Dissemination of Best Practice: Teachers and administrators from Smith Academy in Hatfield, MA visited Sturgis in October to find out more about the "IB for All" program at Sturgis. Then, last week Eric Hieser led an "IB for All" workshop for the Smith Academy faculty on their professional development day.

IB News: Major components of the Diploma program are now complete for seniors. As we head into the second quarter, Group 4, The Extended Essay, History Internal Assessments, and English World Literature Papers have all been handed in. Theory of Knowledge will finish up at the end of term with a paper and a presentation. All of these internal assessments represent major hurdles to students wishing to complete the full Diploma Program. The fact that so many are due at a time of college applications, athletic competitions and theatre performances make adherence to I.B. deadlines all that more challenging. What makes Sturgis unique is that besides the Extended Essay, CAS and ToK, ALL students at Sturgis must complete these internal assessments in order

to be eligible to take the exam in May. Exam registration is underway and the early data suggests that we will have more students taking more IB exams than ever before in Sturgis history.

Drama Club: The new Sturgis After School Drama Club, S.T.A.G.E (Sturgis Theatre Arts Group of Entertainers) has successfully put on their first show! Last Thursday and Friday, the group of approximately 50 student members put on a Haunted Pirate Ship throughout the halls of Sturgis entitled, *Tides of Terror: Beyond the Grave, Beyond the Sea*. The school was open for tours both nights and saw masses of people (both students and community members alike) lined up on Main street. The publicity put out by the group in both cape newspapers and radio stations is much to thank for the success as the production reeled in approximately \$850.00, proceeds to help future S.T.A.G.E. productions. Thanks to all who helped and donated!

Fundraising for Darfur: The Singer Advisory raised money for the American Refugee Committee to support their relief work in the Darfur region of Sudan. The student bake sale raised \$40. They sold many delicious sweets and even a healthy item - organic apple sauce.

SPA: The Sturgis Parents Association (SPA), open to all parents in the Sturgis Charter School community, continues to meet the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. November 10<sup>th</sup> will mark the first meeting with our new officers and chairs. We will be discussing several important events: The Spring Auction fundraiser, The After-Prom Celebration, and The Christmas Stroll. New and returning parents are warmly encouraged to attend!

SPA Auction News: The yearly auction is our school's primary fundraiser. Proceeds benefit the Sturgis Foundation for Education and help to pay for teaching materials, field trips, social events, and traditions that enrich our students' high school experience. This year's chairperson is Krsana Henry, and our auction will be held in the Spring. There is much work to be done and so...

At the November SPA meeting, a core committee will be selected (assembled). This core group will meet once a month (one hour prior to the SPA meeting) and will work together to make this year's auction a success. If you are interested in being on this committee, please attend the SPA meeting or contact Krsana: 774-238-6565 krsana@comcast.net

AUCTION DONATIONS: Past years have shown that we need to solicit donations early ---ideally in November and December! Donations should be new items, services, or gift certificates. A letter to businesses and donation slips are available at the school. The business letter is also available for download on the parent website [www.sturgischarterschool.com](http://www.sturgischarterschool.com) under the parent link. We are asking that each family solicit at least one donation. Please direct any questions and turn your donations in to Rachel Todoroff at the Sturgis School Office [rtodoroff@sturgischarterschool.org](mailto:rtodoroff@sturgischarterschool.org) 508-778-1782.

To make this year's event a success, your involvement is vital!

Health Office: The health office will be providing vision and hearing screening to the 11th grade students some time in the month of November. If any junior has not had a height and weight recorded from a recent physical exam, this will be completed as well. The Department of Public Health recommends that these services be provided in the public school setting. Patty O'Toole, Sturgis School Nurse, will notify parents if any abnormal results are found. If any parent is interested in receiving more information, such as the BMI (Body Mass Index) calculation, please free to request the results from the health office.

MIT Splash Program Options: Each fall MIT offers a unique opportunity to high school and middle school students, in which MIT students and community members teach them short classes

on just about anything you can think of! Sturgis students who have attended in previous years have found it fun and informative and plan to return again. The classes range from computer languages, science, current events, literature, dance and duck-tape design. This year Splash! takes place on November 22 and 23. Check it out at <http://esp.mit.edu/learn/Splash/index.html>

Spirit Week Food Drive: Mr. Hyer's U.S. history students contributed 69 non-perishable food items to the food drive that was organized by Sturgis' chapter of Key Club. Not only do less fortunate families benefit, but so did the students. For their efforts, students who contributed received a few bonus points and competition points for their entire class during Sprit Week.

Hiking & Backpacking Club: The Sturgis Hiking & Backpacking Clubs had its first outing on October 24th- 25th. 6 students and 6 adults headed to New Hampshire to climb Mt. Moosilauki. Thanks to Mr. Patterson, they had an overnight stay at a wonderful log cabin, and started out early for the 8 mile hike. Racing against the forecasted rain, they made the climb in record time. A special thanks to Justin Pannell for starting up the club and to Mr. Patterson for supervising it.



Yearbook: The Yearbook is now on sale! This year's book will be the best yet. We have an enthusiastic committee that is excited to begin production on our full color yearbook created with a new program that allows great design options. An order form is enclosed in this mailing. You may fill out the form and bring it to the main office by January 30<sup>th</sup> with cash or check made out to Sturgis Charter Public School. You now also have the option to order on-line with a credit card. Simply go to [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com) to place your order. Coming soon...view selected yearbook photos on our school website, and upload photos for our consideration.

Parents of Seniors: An offer to put an ad in the yearbook to congratulate your child will be sent home soon. Also, seniors need to have their portraits submitted (hard copy or digital) along with a baby picture before Winter Break. For more information, contact Rachel Todoroff in the main office, 508-778-1782.

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