

Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

Executive Director's Newsletter

December 18, 2009

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: In the event of inclement weather causing the closure of school, Sturgis will notify parents via Fox TV Channel 25 and NBC TV Channel 7 by 6:00 a.m. You can also access school closings at <http://www1.whdh.com/stormforce/> or http://www.myfoxboston.com/subindex/weather/school_closings

Sibling Applicants for Grade 9 or 10: Sturgis parents who have students currently in grade 8 or 9 should be sure to file the Sturgis application and registration forms by no later than January 8 if they plan for these siblings to attend Sturgis for the 2010-11 school year.

Alumni Reunion and Meeting with Sturgis Students: On Wednesday, December 23, Sturgis alumni will be meeting with Sturgis juniors and seniors at the Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Alumni will share their reflections on college and beyond in addition to answering questions from current students. The schedule will begin at 10:00 a.m. for coffee at Sturgis followed by the meetings at the church from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

IB News: As we approach the vacation, the seniors have completed a number of major I.B. components, including Group 4 Projects, World Literature Papers, and Internal Assessments in Latin, math and history. As the philosophy of Sturgis promotes the idea of "IB for All", all students must complete these Internal Assessments in their respective courses. The papers, projects, orals and presentations required by the IB differentiate the Sturgis senior experience from those of local towns. Our students achieved these milestones while participating in various activities such as trips with the Hiking Club, advancing to the state tournament with Boys Varsity Soccer, and performing to sold-out crowds in the S.T.A.G.E.'s production of Dino. This stands as a testament to the tenacity and perseverance of this senior class.

Numerous students have also completed their Extended Essay. This 4,000 word essay is a requirement of the full IB diploma program and must be completed in addition to their regular course work. Some of the titles from this year include:

History: The Effects of the Reforms of the Derg on Social Mobility and the Working Class in Ethiopia.

What Factors affected the Famine Relief Available to the Irish during the Potato Famine between 1845-1849?

Math: Which Method is More Useful For tabulating Alternating Knots: Conway's or Dowker's Notation?

English: A Comparative Study of Vampire Motifs in the Early Graphic Works of Neil Gaiman.

Physics: Determining the Mathematical Models Appropriate for Calculating the Change in the Total Gravitational Force Acting on a 1kg Particle of Gas Within the Atmosphere of a Non-rotating Planet, for Three Different Particles in Different Positions within the Atmosphere, as the Planet Approaches a Three Solar Mass, Stellar Black Hole, with Respect to the Gravitational Force of the Black Hole.

While many more assessments await the seniors including English Orals in January, Foreign Language Orals in March, the completion of CAS and the final IB exams in May, the seniors will be relaxing over their well-deserved holiday break.

Winter Concert: The Music Department will present its Winter Concert on Monday, Dec. 21 at Pope John Paul H.S. Performers include the Sturgis Singers, 9th, 10th and Lunch Choruses, Faculty/Parent Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and Jazz Improvisation Combo. Admission is free!

Model UN: More than 20 students will travel to New York in March to participate in the National Model United Nations event. Sturgis was assigned three countries this year with several of them high profile in the Middle East, including Turkey, which sits on the Security Council (the most powerful and always a coveted committee), Syria, very central to Middle Eastern politics and peace and Macedonia to balance out two Muslim countries with a Greek Orthodox. As a package, these represent a really nice mix. Practice debates and paper writing have begun. Everyone is pumped.

Advisory Community Service Activity: The sale of consignment items for "The Emancipation Network" has been very successful so far. Two Sturgis advisories have been selling handcrafts made by the survivors of slavery (mostly women and children from Asia and Eastern Europe who had been trafficked into brothels, factories, and domestic slavery). The items are sold here to help the survivors become self-supporting and remain free. There are still about one third of the consignment items available and they can be viewed in the display case near the PIT. This has been part of an IB profile discussion about "Caring".

Yearbook: Buy now! Sales end January 31st. Purchase online at jostensyearbooks.com, or send \$40 cash or check c/o Yearbook.

Parents of Seniors: Senior pictures and baby pictures must be turned into the yearbook ASAP! It can be in digital or print form. If digital, should be at least 300 dpi. If hard copy, please 4x6 size.

Holiday Stroll: Sturgis was quite festive and very involved during the Hyannis Christmas Stroll on Saturday, Dec. 5th. Thanks to the SPA, we were able to give away over 24 dozen tasty homemade cookies and plenty of hot chocolate. This year, Sturgis was also the site of Santa's Workshop where our very own elves helped kids find the lost key to Santa's Sleigh. As the last stop on the Stroll Scavenger Hunt, children and parents were then able to decorate their own cookies with our elves before claiming their prizes (candy and small toys) at the Candy Shop. The Key Club decorated our windows, at least 14 theater students dressed as elves and the Sturgis Chorus sang carols up and down Main Street, even in the rain. Sturgis school leaders and faculty were also a strong presence throughout the stroll as they greeted numerous families and shared with them good cheer and information about Sturgis from 11:00 - 4:00.

Parents of Young Men 18 years or Older: Registration with the Selective Service is required within 30 days of turning 18. It is a legal responsibility. Registration provides eligibility for programs and benefits connected to college loans and grants and government jobs. The website for more information is <http://www.sss.gov>.

IB History: Mr. Barrasso's Senior History Classes enjoyed a visit from WWII Bomber Pilot Bob Stewart back in early December. Capt. Stewart shared his experience as a pilot flying missions over Germany in 1944 and also took questions from the students. This was part of the "Practices of World War II" Unit the classes were studying.

Sturgis Academic Team: The Academic Team recently competed in the Knowledge Master Open, a computerized competition for schools all over the world. Sturgis scored 1067 out of a possible 2000 points, putting us in the middle of the pack for all schools—a good effort for the first time competing in this test.

The Academic Team will be on television! We're not sure when, but we are going to Boston on January 30 to play Hingham High School in a "College Bowl" type tournament. Matches will be shown on WGBH in the spring, but we are sworn to secrecy until the show airs. When we find out the broadcast date, we'll let you know!

Hiking Club: Our third try at the final hike of our Canal-to-P'Town series was on Saturday, Nov. 21st. The hike was from the National Seashore's Highland Light in Truro to the Province Lands Visitor Center in Provincetown. It was about 10 miles and took us about 6 hours. It was along sandy paths and roads.



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