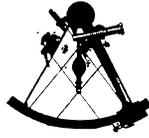


Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

Executive Director's Newsletter

May 8, 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.

Cape Cod Schools Visit Sturgis: Eight teachers and administrators from Cape Cod schools visited Sturgis during the last week of April to learn more about the Sturgis "IB for All" program and how they might be able to use some of the strategies in their schools. In addition, six teachers and administrators from Nauset Public Schools will be visiting Sturgis on May 22 as they explore if the IB might be a good match for their school.

Sturgis Parents Rally for Charter Schools at the State House: Six Sturgis parents joined Executive Director Eric Hieser on a visit to the State House in Boston on April 29 as charter school supporters from across the Commonwealth let their voices be heard. The group attended a rally in Gardner Auditorium and met with legislators and staff, advocating for charter school funding and raising the cap on charter schools. Thanks to Krsana Henry, Vanessa Verkade, Amy Tagliaferri, Diane Dauwalder, Stephanie Miles, and Joyce Feverstein for participating in this very important event for charter schools in MA.

Presentation to the Joint Committee on Education: The Massachusetts Charter Public School Association has asked Sturgis Executive Director Eric Hieser to give a presentation to senators and representatives at a hearing of the Joint Committee on Education on May 12. The presentation will highlight the extensive dissemination of best practice that Sturgis has done throughout the state and across North America.

Awards Ceremony: The annual Awards Ceremony will be held at Tilden Auditorium at Cape Cod Community College on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. We always look forward to this opportunity of recognizing and celebrating the many outstanding successes that our students have achieved this year. Invitations to the parents of award winners will be sent out next week.

Graduation: Our seniors and their parents are looking forward to a momentous occasion early next month. Graduation will be held at Aselton Park adjacent to the Hyannis harbor on Sunday, June 7 at 2:00 p.m. Seniors have already received invitations to the ceremony that they will distribute for family and friends. We also look forward to celebrating this time of passage with our students and families.

Semester Exams & Last Day of School: The semester exams for grades 9-11 will be given on June 9-12, and June 12 will be the last day of school for 2008-09!

IB News: Starting this week, our seniors begin their final International Baccalaureate exams. You might see our students heading down to the First Baptist Church on Main Street to complete nearly a month of testing. Imagine spending your senior spring taking a History exam in the morning for two hours, then returning in the afternoon to take a Biology exam for two hours, then returning the next morning to take another Biology exam for an hour and then returning in the afternoon to take a Math exam for two hours. Exhausted yet? Well, this is what our seniors will do for three weeks. It is one of the final stages of their journey through Sturgis and it is an enormous undertaking. This experience is unique compared to other high schools on the Cape or in Massachusetts as a whole. As usual, our seniors are taking on this challenge with enthusiasm and a determination to overcome the challenge. Parents are always amazed at what Sturgis requires of the seniors. However, as Mr. Pontes explains, "it is a wonder why the easiest year of high school in the U.S. should be senior year. It is like asking the Red Sox to take off the month of March to relax, but to still be prepared to play the Yankees on Opening Day." It would be foolish to ask the Local Nine to start off the season unprepared. Likewise, we want to send our Sturgis students off to college ready to take on the next challenge of their academic career. So, when you see a senior this month, congratulate him or her on a job well done.

Placement Test for Incoming Grade Nine Students: Placement tests in math, Latin, French, and Spanish will be given to our incoming grade nine students on Saturday, June 6 beginning at 8:30 a.m. During the placement tests, parents of incoming students are also invited to meet school and Sturgis Parents Association leaders and to get acquainted with other parents. We hope that all new parents are able to join us on June 6.

Junior and Senior Parents: The 2009 Prom is just around the corner. The deadline for your student to purchase prom tickets and to turn in completed guest forms (if bringing a guest who does not presently attend Sturgis) is May 15th. Tickets are \$60 each. Also, we are looking for a few more volunteers to help tear down the decorations at the SeaView at the conclusion of the prom at 11:00 p.m. If you will be chaperoning the After-prom party and have a vehicle that would hold many balloons, these prom decorations can be transported there. Please let me know ASAP if you are able to help. Thanks. -Denise Hyer, Prom Advisor

Open Mic Night: Ms. Carman's Pro-Literacy advisory held an Open Mic Night on Thursday, April 30th at Sturgis. There was quite a variety of student music, singing and poetry as Sturgis students displayed immense talent! We raised \$220.00 for the Literacy Foundation of Cape Cod and great time was had by all.

From the Music Department: The Music Dept. has scheduled two more concerts for the end of the year. These will be held during Lunch on Tuesday, May 26 and Thursday May 28 and will include the Sturgis Singers, 9th Grade Chorus, 10th Grade Chorus, Lunch Chorus, Jazz Band, Jazz Improv Lab, and String Ensemble. Each concert will last from 11:45-12:25. We don't yet know which groups will be playing on which days. We will know what the program order is during the prior week, so feel free to email me at ldavis@sturgischarterschool.org for further information.

After-Prom Party: Transportation from the after-prom party at Willy's Gym in Eastham may be a concern for some parents since students are not allowed to drive themselves. Please consider carpooling with other parents who will be able to pick up students at 5:00am or combining resources to hire transportation services. This is an important event that is designed to keep students safe on a night that is statistically proven to be one of the most dangerous for young people who are driving themselves after prom is over._

Hiking and Backpacking Club: The fifth hike of our Canal-to-P'Town series was held on Saturday, April 18th. We hiked from Rt. 137 in Brewster to the National Seashore Salt Pond Visitors Center in Eastham . Larry Pannell was again our guide for this hike, which was about 11 miles and took us about 5.5 hours. This was an interesting and varied hike that included a little bit of everything (woods trails, power lines, beach walking, bike trail, marsh walking, even a boardwalk through a red maple swamp...). We walked the Brewster Flats along Cape Cod Bay for a couple of miles. We timed our hike for low tide, but we got our feet wet!



Trip to Germany: 8 students will be traveling to Germany for two weeks from June 19th to July 4th. They will be hosted by students from a school in Mannheim. Highlights of their tour will include a STASI prison/museum in Berlin (East German Secret Police during the Cold War era), the wall, some Nazi sights in Nurnberg, and a tour of the fully automated Mercedes Benz Plant in Stuttgart.

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