

SPA AUCTION

This year, the annual Sturgis Auction will be held at Tommy Doyle's restaurant on Main Street in Hyannis. **The date is set for Sunday, March 20, 2010!** This is the one and only way that we earn money for the students and staff of Sturgis. We need you! Please join us at our next SPA meeting on Tuesday, Jan 11, 2011 to help with the up-coming auction. If you can not to make the meeting, please email me at smiles@falmouth.k12.ma.us to let me know how you can help. Help can be done in so many ways: phone calls, organizing of appetizers from the freshman, sophomore, junior and/or senior parents; collecting donations from various businesses and organizations, setting up, helping during, and/or cleaning up after the auction itself on March 20th. You might think of other really great ways to help too. Please email me or join us at the SPA meeting. The auction is a big endeavor and well worth the effort. It can bring in good amounts of financial support for Sturgis.

Stephanie Miles, Auction Co-Chair, SPA Vice- President



DECEMBER 17, 2010

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 with a question.

IB NEWS

There has been a flurry of activity the past few weeks. On top of the basketball games, Winter Strolls, college applications, music concerts and dramatic productions, seniors are in the midst of putting the final touches on major requirements for their IB classes. This year, Sturgis will give more IB exams than ever before and we have more students attempting the full diploma program as well. As we head into the Winter Recess, Internal Assessments like the Group 4 project, Historical Investigations, Math projects and English World Literature papers have all been handed in. Many full diploma candidates are also in the process of completing their Extended Essay.

In the Theory of Knowledge, students are currently writing their final paper. They are given a choice of ten questions, on which each student must 1600 words. Some of the questions include:

*"Doubt is the key to knowledge" (Persian proverb). To what extent is this true in Areas of Knowledge such as Science, Math, History and Art?*

*"Art is a lie that brings us nearer to the truth" (Pablo Picasso). Evaluate this claim to a specific art form (for example, visual arts, literature, theatre).*

*Discuss the roles of language and reason in history.*

*To what extent do we need evidence to support our beliefs in different Areas of Knowledge like Science, Math and the Social Sciences?*

Completing this assignment requires that Theory of Knowledge students reflect on their own experiences within the IB program to justify their claims. Internal assessments like the ToK paper are mandated by all Sturgis students in order to sit their IB exams in May. It requires a great deal from student and teacher alike, but the rigor of the IB is what distinguishes Sturgis from other schools on the Cape and even New England. Considering all of their accomplishments, the seniors will be looking forward to a well deserved break.

FIRST ENROLLMENT  
PERIOD FOR 2011-12

The first enrollment period for next year's 9th and 10th grade classes runs through **January 7th**. Siblings of current students are given priority, but must still submit an application. We have already received more than 170 applications for grade nine, so don't miss the January 7 deadline.

Applications are available on the [school website](#).

**YEARBOOKS**

**ON SALE**

A quick and easy option is to go to [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com) to place your order. You may also mail in your \$40 check to the school c/o Yearbook. Order by January 31, 2011. The price will increase, and availability is not guaranteed after this date.

**Parents of Seniors:**

Yearbook Recognition Ads are also on sale now! They allow you to create a lasting message and memory for your Senior student which will be published in the 2010-2011 yearbook. Space fills up quickly, so get your order in ASAP! Paper copy order forms were sent home with first quarter report cards. If you're interested in ordering, but have misplaced this form, keep your eyes out for an upcoming "yearbook reminders" e-mail with the form attached.

**CYBER-BULLYING PREVENTION  
AND INTERVENTION  
PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS:**

Over the past few months, Sturgis' students, staff, and parents crafted our Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, teachers have been trained to detect (cyber)bullying and learned effective responses for intervention, and students and staff collaborated in planning an appropriate and meaningful bullying-related advisory curriculum for the new year. On January 11th, Stephanie Fanning, an expert in bullying and cyber-bullying from Bridgewater State's noted MARC program, will give a presentation for parents at Sturgis from 7-9 p.m. We hope that you can join us.

**Student Exchange Visit to Honduras**

Sturgis is planning a student exchange visit to the American School of Tegucigalpa during February vacation. The visit will include staying with host families, visiting cultural and historical sites, and participating in community service projects. Students who are interested in participating on the trip please see Mr. Hieser or Mrs. Todoroff to pick up information about the trip or download the information from the school website.

**Holiday Stroll a Success**

On December 4th, Sturgis participated in the Hyannis Holiday Stroll in a fun and festive effort. Thanks to the SPA and several parents for baking cookies for the cookie contest. There was plenty of yummy treats and hot chocolate for parents and children as they participated in the scavenger hunt which ended in the Sturgis lobby as it was transformed into Santa's Workshop. Student elves were abound helping kids to find the key to Santa's sleigh and passing out toys for their efforts. Parents also received small gift certificates to local businesses on Main Street. Sturgis singers were heard caroling up and down Main Street with the guidance of Gordon Bellemer. It was a great way to kick

**RELAY FOR LIFE**

The Sturgis Relay for Life Team is in full swing for the June 17-18 Relay event. R4L is a yearlong fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. At the Relay itself, teams camp out at D-Y for 24 hours and keep one person walking on the track at all times to demonstrate that cancer never sleeps. The team has 30 members and two faculty advisors; the team has raised \$100 so far. Before winter break they will write and send emails and letters to family and friends requesting donations in the spirit of holiday giving. The team is running school

-wide fundraisers, such as a "Hat Day," allowing students to wear hats in school for a small donation, and a "Guess the Teacher" contest, requiring students to name the teacher in a baby photo for a small donation. The team has set a goal of \$300 per member, \$10,000 total which will go towards the American Cancer Society. The team hopes to recruit more students for this CAS and community service activity; students should see Ms Fenney to get involved.

*Are you looking for a club to be involved in? Check out the [Activities Page](#) on our website. All our clubs are listed along with advisor's name, meeting times and place.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Reunion  
Dec. 22nd , 10AM

Winter Break:  
Dec. 23– 31

Enrollment Period  
for 2011-12 ends on  
January 7th.

SPA Meeting:  
January 11, 6PM

Presentation on Bully-  
ing Prevention:  
January 11, 7PM

No school in honor of  
Martin Luther King  
Day: January 17th

Mid-Term Exams:  
January 18-21

If you have an Apple I-phone, I-pad, I-pod, you have the ability to access the Sturgis Charter School Reference Room databases and/or any public library within 10 miles of your location. For access go to:

Apple applications web site and click on the green button that says "Access my library" (school edition is the green button but you could download the other application for public libraries within 10 miles of location). Let that download and **leave** for 30 minutes then click on the application, click on State (MA), then City (Hyannis), then school (Sturgis Charter Public School). Once you click on Sturgis, you will get a message that says, Authorization Required.Type in hyan\_ib

Right now, the application is just for Apple products, but the Gale products will be coming out with an application for the Android phones. Stay tuned.The public library access works the same way! ENJOY!

## CLASSROOM AND CLUB NEWS

### Singer Advisory:

The Singer Advisory would like to invite everyone to check out [www.madebysurvivors.com](http://www.madebysurvivors.com) to find great items for holiday gifts while helping former victims of modern slavery stay out of brothels and other situations of exploitation.

### New from the Music Department:

Monday, Dec. 13, was the annual Sturgis Winter Concert at Pope John Paul H.S. The concert featured the Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Sturgis String Ensemble, 9th and 10th grade Chorus, the Sturgis Singers, and the Faculty/Parent Choir. Rehearsals for these groups will resume after the winter break. There are still openings in the Faculty/Parent Choir for anyone who is interested. The ability to read music is not required! Rehearsals are Monday afternoon from 3:20-4:15.

### Sturgis Ski Club:

The Sturgis Ski Club had its first trip of the season this past Saturday to Mt. Wachusett. Twenty six skiers enjoyed the near perfect conditions under sunny skies with no lift lines! Some of the students made nearly twenty runs during the course of the day. Our next trip will be to Mt. Sunapee on January 29. Be sure to book early as we expect this trip to sell out (limited to 40 skiers) quickly. We will forward specifics and accept deposits after the Holiday break.

If you would like further information about any of the events or activities described in this newsletter, please call the Sturgis school office, 508-778-1782

We are on the Web!  
[Sturgischarterschool.org](http://Sturgischarterschool.org)

## GUIDANCE NEWS

### Parents of Freshmen:

The Guidance Department will be offering a Study Skills Seminar to take place each Tuesday at lunch after the holidays. Freshmen can sign up using their Managebac accounts. This ten week seminar will include: Testing Taking Skills, Essay Writing, Working in Groups, Note-taking, SQ3R: (survey, question, read, recite, and review), Tips for Foreign Language Learning, Organizing Binders, Creating Study Time (Time Management), Sleep, Diet and Exercise. Students should bring their lunches are get ready to learn how to get more from their studies!

### College Admissions:

We are pleased at the record numbers of seniors who have submitted early applications and are already hearing from colleges. Let's keep the ball rolling.

### PSAT Score Review:

Sophomores and Juniors will be meeting with counselors in groups this week and after the holidays to learn how to read their PSAT score reports and use the test booklet as a study guide. If you did not receive the score report by mail, please let your child's counselor know.