

# Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

## Executive Director's Newsletter

April 4, 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.

SPA Meeting Presentation: At the SPA meeting on Monday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Sturgis, Peter Steedman and two IB seniors will be making a presentation to parents about the IB Extended Essay. Please join us to find out more about the IB Extended Essay and how to help your student be successful with this major aspect of the IB Diploma.

Art Competition Awards: Congratulations go to the following students whose work placed in The Cape Cod Art Association's annual student show "Beginnings":

First Place prize, Vernique Meriot  
Second Place Prize, Kaylee Bosen  
Honorable mention, Nicole Fishkind  
Honorable Mention, Courtney Spencer

Sturgis Prom: The 2008 Junior/Senior Prom will be held on Friday, May 30th from 6:00-11:00 p.m. at the New Seabury Country Club in Mashpee. Tickets for the event are \$60 per person and are on sale now at school during lunch and from Mr. or Mrs. Hyer. Any student who is inviting a guest who is **not** a Sturgis student must have a "guest form" filled out and returned to Mr. Andre for approval before a ticket can be purchased for their guest. Please carefully read the form and be sure to provide the identification required. Please purchase tickets as soon as possible to assist us in making our arrangements. Thanks. Also, if your student has not yet purchased their prom dress or rented their tux, they still have time to take advantage of 30% off specials from London Bridges Women and Plush and Plunder, both on Main Street in Hyannis near the school, and Dennis-John Formals on Enterprise Road, behind the mall, who is offering \$35 off tux rentals plus a \$5 donation to the prom fund per each tux rented. These offers are valid through April 7th and for Sturgis students only. They must show their student ID.

Athletic Department News: The first-ever Sturgis Softball Game was played by the Sturgis Junior Varsity Girls Softball Team Tuesday, April 1st against Upper Cape Tech. Along with cheerleading, it's the second major sport Sturgis has added in the past two years. After one year at the JV level, we plan to play a varsity schedule in 2009. Thanks to coaches Brian and Kelly Bondarek for all their hard work in getting the team started.

Destination Imagination: In its 2nd year, our Sturgis Destination Imagination Program was once again a huge success. This year we fielded two teams with two parents, Mrs. Fratus and Mrs. Kochka, acting as coaches. One team was comprised of students with no prior DI experience, and the other was a veteran team with a number of years of experience. On Sunday March 30th, after months of hard work and preparation, the teams competed with great success at the DI Region Competition held at D-Y High School. Our first-year team finished with a very respectable third place ribbon in their challenge, while our more experienced team took first place in their challenge and will be moving on to the State Tournament being held on April 12th at Worcester Poly Tech. If they win their next challenge at this tournament, they will be moving on to compete in Tennessee at the DI Global Tournament.

News from the Health Office: Scoliosis Screenings will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The screening is a state-mandated program for all ninth grade students. The purpose of the exam is to find early signs of possible spinal problems. It is not a diagnostic service, but a program to identify young people who should have further medical evaluation. Notices for parents are being given to students to take home. The form only needs to be returned if the student will not be participating. Call the health office if you have any questions.

IB Planning: IB Panel Discussions all week (week of 3/31) long in sophomore and junior classes:

- Seniors sharing IB experiences and perspectives with sophomores as they prepare for course selection next year
- Senior IB Diploma Candidates sharing IB experiences with junior IB diploma bound students - offering insights, perspectives, and lessons learned

The panel discussions were facilitated by counselors Bev Fogg and Carol Vari.

IB News: In the IB class, *Information Technology in a Global Society* or *ITGS*, students are asked to explore the role that technology and computers play in their lives. In class this week, students analyzed the potential ethical implications of having technology that allows one to set up a video camera at home and watch the footage live on a cell phone. This technology might help a parent keep tabs on a new babysitter, but what does it do to our rights of privacy? It is these types of on-going conversations that engage students as they apply their knowledge of technology to real world situations.

*IB Theatre:* The 13 Seniors in the *IB Theatre* class have completed 3/4 of their IB "exam" and are looking forward to completing the last 1/4 this week. The IB theatre final is unique in that there isn't a set exam, but four separate components. The first is the Research Commission Report; this is a research paper on an unfamiliar world theatre tradition, which we just mailed off to Paraguay this week! The second component is the Practical Play Analysis which is a taped oral exam on an unfamiliar play text chosen by the IB - Our CDs were mailed off to the UK this week too! The third component is an internal grade based on their involvement and commitment to performance over the last two years, and the last part, which we are working on now, is an edited version of their IB journals which they have been writing in for the past two years chronicling their journey as actors. We are anticipating being done with this lengthy process and plan to spend the rest of the semester working on our last play of the year "Dinner and a Murder."

Sturgis Presenting at Three National Conferences: Sturgis has been invited to give presentations at three upcoming national conferences. The Latin Department was chosen to present a workshop on “IB Latin for All” at the American Classical League Conference in New Hampshire in June. Chris Andre, Peter Steedman, and Paul Marble will be giving a presentation entitled “IB for All—Implementing and Sustaining a Non-Selective IB Programme” at the National Charter School Conference in New Orleans in late June. Eric Hieser will join Chris Andre, Peter Steedman, and Paul Marble for a presentation entitled “Success Strategies for Non-Traditional IB Students” at the IB North America Annual Regional Conference in San Francisco in July.

Visiting Sturgis This Month: Ten teachers and administrators from Merrimack Valley Schools (NH) visited Sturgis on April 4 for as they explore the viability of applying for IB authorization. Another group of teachers and administrators from Bedford Schools (NH) will be visiting Sturgis on April 10. Bedford Schools just received their authorization to offer the IB, and they are visiting Sturgis to gain insight on how to effectively implement their IB Programme.

Sturgis 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Mark your calendar now! Sturgis is planning a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for Friday, June 6 on the Barnstable Town Green. Alumni, former and current Board members, students, parents, Community Advisory Board members, and friends of Sturgis will all be invited to join the festivities. We plan to have speakers representing the groups noted above in addition to displays and performances of student work. This occasion should be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this significant point in our history. We hope that you can join us!

Sturgis Arts Festival: Another date for your calendar!! The Sturgis Arts Festival will be held at the Cotuit Center for the Arts throughout the day on Saturday, May 24. The program will include a student art show, theater and music performances, plus an international food buffet for lunch. The Sturgis Arts Festival is always a wonderful event that showcases the talented artists, musicians, and thespians that we have in our school. Please plan to join us for the day!

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