

Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

Executive Director's Newsletter

May 9, 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.

Exams & Last Day of School: The last day of school will be on Friday, June 13. Exams for students in grades 9-11 will be administered on June 10-13.

Awards Ceremony: The annual Sturgis Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tilden Auditorium at Cape Cod Community College. This is a wonderful event as we are able to recognize so many outstanding Sturgis students for their contributions and excellence throughout the year. The parents of students who will be receiving awards will be notified in advance. We encourage you to join us for the Awards Ceremony.

Arts Festival: The Sturgis Arts Festival promises to be an exciting display of the artistic talents of our student body this year. It will take place on Saturday, May 24th from 10:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at The Cotuit Center for the Arts on Route 28 in Cotuit. The day long festival will include two plays, two music concerts and a visual art exhibit in the Main Gallery. There will be an International Lunch Buffet provided by the SPA at the cost of \$5.00 donation per plate. All donations will be gratefully appreciated to support the Sturgis Arts programs.

Graduation: Graduation will be held on Sunday, June 8 at Aselton Park starting at 2:00 p.m. All of our seniors and their parents, relatives, and friends are looking forward to this major event in their lives. We look forward to sharing the day with our seniors!

MassBioEd Grant: Congratulations go to Sheila Gilligan and Johanna Kehoe for gaining a competitive grant of \$28,000 to support science and technology education. The grant will provide professional development for science teachers, curriculum for biotech labs, and materials and equipment to enhance the biology classes at Sturgis. Sturgis is one of only fifty schools in MA to receive this grant.

Presentation to Boston Public Schools: On May 15, representatives from IB North America in New York will be joining Sturgis Executive Director, Eric Hieser, to give a presentation to the high school leaders of the Boston Public Schools. The focus of the presentation will be an overview of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and guidance on implementing a successful IB Programme.

Guidance News: During the month of May, our guidance counselors will begin formal meetings with Sturgis juniors to discuss their plans for “life after Sturgis.” As most, if not all of our students, plan to go on to college, many of the discussions will focus on where students stand in the college search process, as well as on gathering information to assist us in writing the school/counselor recommendation required by many colleges. Parents are welcome to participate in this process. Should you have questions, or if you would like to meet with your child’s counselor, please feel free to contact Bev Fogg (last names A-K), 508-778-1782, ext. 230, *OR* Carol Vari (last names L-Z), 508-778-1782, ext. 234.

Prom & Senior Class Trip: The 2008 Junior-Senior Prom, "Old Hollywood" is fast approaching as is the annual Senior Class trip. Few reservations have been made at this time for either event. We need to let the prom venue know sooner than later how many will be attending. The deadline for prom ticket purchases is Friday, May 16th. They are \$60 each. Prom will be held on May 30th at New Seabury Country Club in Mashpee.

The Senior Class trip is June 4th to Six Flags New England. Again, it is important that reservations are made now so that we can book our bus transportation. The price is \$50 if paid by May 23rd and \$55 if paid by May 30th. These prices include discount rates offered by Six Flags as well as the bus company. However, without student reservations, we can't secure our transportation. With current gas prices continually rising, the cost for the trip can only increase the later.

Please, encourage your students to make their prom and/or Six Flags reservations this week.

Grade 10 Math & History MCAS: Our grade 10 students will be taking the Math MCAS exams on May 21 & 22 and the History MCAS on May 28. Please remember that students must pass the Math and English Language Arts MCAS to graduate from a public school in Massachusetts.

Grade 9 & 10 Science MCAS: The grade 9 & 10 Science MCAS exams will be given on June 3 & 4. Parents are asked to ensure that their students fully prepare for these important tests. Also, please note that teachers are available to help any/all students wishing to improve their achievement. Students must also pass the Science MCAS to graduate.

Celebration Coffeehouse: Many thanks to all our amazing Sturgis poets and musicians for making the fifth annual Celebration Coffeehouse a great success. Also a huge thank you goes to all the families that baked delicious desserts and provided drinks. Sturgis is a wonderfully supportive community and we are all lucky to be part of it. The coffeehouse made \$350 which will be donated to the Cape Cod Literacy Council, Hyannis Public Library Verizon Family Literacy Center and ProLiteracy Worldwide. The mission of these organizations is to help people improve their lives by learning to read and write. The ability to read may be a skill that many of us at Sturgis take for granted. By donating our proceeds in equal shares to these organizations, we hope to assist the estimated 30,000 Cape Cod residents who are unable to read and adult learners in 59 developing countries who try to improve their lives. Marion Weeks and Sara Hannegan, Librarians

Visit and Exchange: This month teachers and administrators from Brockton High School will visit Sturgis to gain further insight and support for implementing their IB Diploma Programme. Peter Steedman and ten IB juniors will also be visiting Brockton High School as a support for their IB Diploma students who are in the school’s first year of offering the program.

Music: The Sturgis Singers will be performing at the Great East Music Festival on May 9th where they will be evaluated by judges, work with clinicians, and spend the rest of the day celebrating at Six Flags! The Chorus, Jazz Band, Sturgis Strings, and various other solo performers and small groups are working hard to prepare for the Arts Festival on May 24th.

Main Street Clean-up: Sturgis student advisory groups participated in the Hyannis Main Street Clean-up last week. The advisory group of Patty O'Toole and Hanna Starck spent a couple of hours in the morning assisting other community volunteers throughout central Hyannis on this community service endeavor. Advisory groups led by Robin Singer and Peter Steedman also contributed to the effort in the areas directly adjacent to Sturgis.

Ultimate Frisbee: The Ultimate Frisbee Club has been having a lot of fun working out on the Town Green, and we'll be meeting a challenge from the Hillebrand advisory as soon as the weather cooperates!

Sturgis 10th Anniversary Celebration: Mark your calendar now! Sturgis is planning a 10th 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!

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