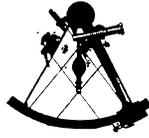


# Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

## Executive Director's Newsletter

June 17, 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.

Newsweek Ranks Sturgis #27 in Top 100 U.S. High Schools: The Newsweek rankings for 2009 were just announced, and Sturgis Charter Public School was ranked #27 in the top 100 U.S. high schools! You can access the list at: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/201160>.

You might also be interested to know that Sturgis ranked #1 in Massachusetts. In the top five schools in MA, the first three were charter schools. You can access the ranking of MA schools at: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/201160/?s=MA&q=2009/rank/1>

Congratulations go to Sturgis alumni, students, faculty, parents, and Board members for this outstanding recognition!

Sturgis Presents at Quebec IB Conference: Paul Marble, Mark Blake, and Eric Hieser were selected to give a presentation entitled IB Access for All: Providing Supports for Diverse Learners at the IB Americas Conference that will be held in Quebec City from July 9-12. Peter Steedman, Julie Carman, and our new counselor, Sue Whalley, will also be attending the IB Americas Conference.

IB Students Finishing Strong: When the IB exams were completed, the seniors were given many opportunities to finish their Sturgis career in a unique way. After spending a day with team building activities at Camp Burgess, the class divided up to participate in a day of service followed by a day of learning and fun. The seniors made their selections based on personal interests. The service day involved our seniors clearing brush, mulching and other beautification efforts at a Provincetown art gallery, the JFK Museum on Main Street Hyannis, CapeAbilities Farm in Dennis, and the Ecumenical Council for the Homeless in Orleans. The day of learning and fun included a trip to the JFK Library and Constitution Museum, a block printing class in Provincetown, a canoe trip and even an adventure with Paint Ball. The opportunity for students to spread out throughout the Cape and Boston allowed for the seniors to finish Sturgis in a celebratory fashion, while simultaneously giving back to the larger community.

Harvard Presentation: Eric Hieser has been asked to give a presentation about "IB for All" at the Charter School Leaders Institute at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in July.

Host Families Needed: Sturgis will once again be hosting students from Mannheim, Germany, in October 2009 followed by a trip to Germany in the Spring of 2010. We are looking for families who would like the opportunity to host a student for a two week period. We are in need of 20 host families this year. All traveling students speak English and all of their excursions are arranged by the tour company, Carousel Student Tours. If you are interested in participating this coming year, please contact Priscilla Mariani at 508-398-8427 or email at [feb7mama@aol.com](mailto:feb7mama@aol.com).

IB Site Visitor & Consultant Training: Sturgis Associate Director Chris Andre will be attending an IB workshop in Puerto Rico later this month. The workshop will train Chris to become an IB Site Visitor for schools applying to offer the IB and to mentor schools as an IB Consultant during their applications for IB authorization.

IB News: If the Chinese government uses Google technology to monitor and/or censor its citizens, to what extent is Google responsible? Should color photographs of Hitler be released, or does it encourage sympathetic feelings for the Fascist dictator? Did Obama use ambiguous and emotionally laden language in his Cairo speech and what implications does this have for the Middle East peace process? What is the precise definition of Art?

These were just some of the numerous questions that Theory of Knowledge students investigated last week for their final exam. Each ToK candidate had to analyze a current event in light of what they have learned in the course. With each topic, the students had to investigate how those involved used Language, Perception, Emotion and Reason to justify their claims. The ToK students provided thought-provoking analysis coupled with spectacular graphics via power-point. Most students left the presentations with more questions than answers, but it was clear that their use of inquiry and reflection contributed to an enlightening experience in ToK.

Information about the IB C.A.S. Program: If you or your student has questions about the C.A.S. program, please visit the C.A.S. website. Go to: [jhyer.com](http://jhyer.com) and follow the C.A.S. link. You can also sign-up for the C.A.S. blog by visiting [sturgiscas.blogspot.com](http://sturgiscas.blogspot.com). Enter your e-mail address in the box on the right side of the page.

Prom and Senior Trip Wrap-up: Prom night 2009 was a global success as 145 students and 9 chaperones got a taste of flavors and dance from "Around the World" reflecting the theme of the evening. Tables were brightly decorated with balloon arrangements representing the flags of 15 different countries selected by the students as their top choices of places to study, work, or visit. The Senior trip to Boston was a gorgeous day once we left the drizzle behind on the Cape! The animals were out in force and active at the Franklin Park Zoo, and the New England Aquarium had so many great exhibits everyone had a different favorite. We wrapped up the evening with shopping and a fun dinner at Dick's Last Resort at Faneuil Hall. Waiters were relentless in their good-natured "insults" and our Seniors gave it right back! A good time was had by all. Planning for next year will begin in September when we start prom meetings again with some fresh Junior class participants along with our Seniors.

From the Reference Room: Many thanks to all of you who contributed food and support to the 6th Annual Sturgis Poetry Coffeehouse. Your contributions helped make the evening a great success. We heard poems read in four different languages by Sturgis students and faculty. We enjoyed a musical interlude by five faculty performers. The money we raised at this event combined with the money raised by Julie Carman's Literacy Awareness Advisory open mike nights made it possible to contribute a total of \$700 in equal shares to the Cape Cod Literacy Council and Hyannis Public Library's Verizon Family Literacy Center.

If you should find any books belonging to Sturgis Reference Room or any of the public libraries, please return them to us and we will make sure they find the right home. Have a great summer!

Coaches Sought: Sturgis is seeking applicants for the following sports coaching positions: Varsity Field Hockey, Girls Junior Varsity Volleyball, Junior Varsity Golf, Varsity Girls Lacrosse. If you know of qualified candidates, please encourage them to send a resume and cover letter to Jim Barrasso at [jbarrasso@sturgischarterschool.org](mailto:jbarrasso@sturgischarterschool.org).

Foreign Language This Summer: The Foreign Language Department recommends that all students go on the school website at [strugischarterschool.org](http://strugischarterschool.org) and find this list of websites for French and Spanish language practice for the summer.

From the Health Office: Look for health forms this summer on our new website. Parents of new students will need to review the medication and physical exam policy and complete a health questionnaire. The medication consent forms will also be available on our website.

SAT Prep Course: Limited space is available in the summer SAT prep course. The course begins on June 18 and ends on July 23. A vacation make-up session will be arranged. Please email Ms. Alicia Fenney at [afenney@sturgischarterschool.org](mailto:afenney@sturgischarterschool.org) for details about the course and registration.

If you would like further information about any of the events or activities described above, please call the Sturgis school office.

Have a great summer!!

Eric Hieser  
Executive Director