

Sturgis Charter Public School



An International Baccalaureate Diploma School

Executive Director's Newsletter

October 16, 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.

Bus Transportation: The Sealine Breeze bus has added a late bus stopping at Sturgis on its 5:30 route from Hyannis to Woods Hole.

Curriculum Support: There is now an After School Help Schedule posted on our website. Curriculum support is available Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays after school. Every teacher is available for help at other times as well by appointment.

Parent Newsletter via Email??: Parents willing to receive this Parent Newsletter electronically are asked to contact Rachel Todoroff(rtodoroff@sturgischarterschool.org). You should also be aware that the school frequently sends email to parents about upcoming events. If you have NOT been receiving emails and would like to, please contact Rachel.

Spirit Cards: Spirit Cards are now on sale at the main office. See the list of participating vendors on the SPA website: sturgisparents.com.

Reference Room News: The Reference Room is extremely busy with student research projects. We recently completed a week of Freshmen Orientation workshops covering Sturgis resources, information literacy, and research strategies. To help inform students about plagiarism, all freshmen have signed up for Turnitin.com accounts. Turnitin.com is a software resource widely used by IB Schools to prevent plagiarism. Freshmen English classes are now researching various aspects of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and Elizabethan England. Thanks to English faculty members Marsha Yalden, Anna Botsford and Steve McDowell for collaborating on this effort to help develop freshmen research skills.

On the other end of the spectrum, we are working with seniors on scientific research for the Group 4 project, Extended Essays and Internal Assessments in all subjects. Juniors are researching apartheid in conjunction with Nadine Gordimer's work. In addition, art students are studying worldwide shrines as they prepare to make their own shrines. The range of Sturgis student research is fascinating. With the help of Hyannis Public Library, we are able to expand our resources with hundreds of books from the CLAMS system for these projects.

We are very pleased to have two gorgeous 5'x5' paintings reproduced by Class of 2009 and 2010 Sturgis students in the Reference Room: Mary Cassatt's "Young Girl Reading" and Vincent Van Gogh's "Fritillaries in a Copper Vase." These paintings are the product of a sophomore art

project called "Cut-Up Masterpieces." Each student is given a one inch square section of a masterpiece without seeing the entire painting. Students are asked to enlarge the small square to the size of one foot squares using oil pastels. Once completed, the class pieces the puzzle together. The overall effect is a collection of uniquely individual interpretations that create a beautiful whole. Special thanks go to Dawn Cope for contributing the paintings and all the Sturgis students who participated in the project. Last but not least, we thank Chris Atsalis of Marjon Print and Frame Shop in Hyannis for mounting and framing the two collages. He gave Sturgis the gift of his labor and skill which resulted in making the project affordable and successful.

Music Department: Students are busy getting ready for the first Open Mic Night of the year to be held in the music room on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6:00 p.m. The event is open to any performer from grade 9-12 and proceeds from the evening will benefit the Music Dept. Poets are welcome as well!

Yearbook: The Yearbook is now on sale! An order form is enclosed in this mailing. You may fill out the form and bring it to the main office by January 30th with cash or check made out to Sturgis Charter Public School. You now also have the option to order on-line with a credit card. Simply go to jostensyearbooks.com to place your order.

Parents of Seniors: An offer to put an ad in the yearbook to congratulate your child will be sent home soon. Also, seniors need to have their portraits submitted (hard copy or digital) along with a baby picture before Winter Break. For more information, contact yearbook advisor Chloe Roselanderginn at croselanderginn@sturgischarterschool.org.

Sturgis Teacher Returning from Iraq: At the end of October, Sturgis Latin teacher, Travis Andrade, will be returning from his military deployment to Iraq. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Mr. Andrade back to Cape Cod and to Sturgis!

StormWatch: In the ongoing effort to keep up with emerging trends in digital communication, *StormWatch* is making the transition from solely a print publication to a multimedia publication on the internet with an exclusive URL at www.sturgismedia.com. The move will not eliminate the print publication. However, there will be far more content found online that will not be printed. All stories and photos will be archived. There are several options to get a free digital subscription to *StormWatch*: Go to the website and use the RSS feed, or sign up for e-mail, become a fan at Facebook, or get tweets by following at twitter.com/sturgismedia.

Prom: The 2010 Sturgis Prom will be held May 29th at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis. The prom committee has begun its fund raising efforts to help pay the expenses of decorations, entertainment, invitations and favors. Many thanks to everyone who contributed during the Open House. Only 16 raffle tickets remain for the Panera Bread / Brazilian Grill gift cards valued at a total of \$150. Get yours before they're gone for a \$20 donation. Great odds -1 in 25 to win!! The next event will be a Tag Sale on November 23rd during Parent-Teacher Conference Day. Bring small household items you wish to donate for the sale to room 111 by Nov. 13th. Then check out the treasures and wheel and deal on the 23rd. The members of the junior / senior prom committee appreciate your support. Denise Hyer – Adviser

Sturgis Athletics: The Sturgis Volleyball team, playing as a JV team this season, won its first-ever match, 3-1, over the Upper Cape Tech Varsity on Oct 7th. Congratulations to coach Brittany Enz and Patrick O'Kane, and veteran players Murylo Batista, Barbara Davis, Blake Tower, Ali Prendergast and so many others - too many to name - who have grown this program over the past year! Keep it up!

The Sturgis Girls Cross Country team is one of the best on Cape this fall, carrying a 7-1 dual meet record through three quarters of the season. Freshmen Corrine and Alaina Ohm and veterans Hannah Lonergan and Marjorie Palmeri are all running well for coach Mike Beckner.

Sturgis Alumni Ryan Potter (Head Golf) and Tim Barr (Assistant Girls Soccer) are doing an excellent job coaching our athletes this fall!

French Language Trip to Martinique: Sturgis is pleased to announce an exciting trip coming up during the February break, February 11th to February 17th, 2010. We will explore the island of Martinique, the flower of the Caribbean. Martinique is an island with French flair and is truly a little bit of France in the Caribbean Islands, blending French and Caribbean influences.

In keeping with its own traditions, this vibrant island stirs the passions with awe-inspiring natural beauty, a rich cultural history, distinctive culinary delights, warm smiles and so much more. Martinique is located in the eastern Caribbean Sea and is an integral part of the Windward Islands, also known as the Lesser Antilles. It is an overseas region of France with its official language being French. Martinique is part of the European Union, and its currency is the Euro.



While there we will explore the beauty of this volcanic island, meet with high school students from the Lycée Acajou, visit museums and the residence of Josephine (the first wife of Napoléon Bonaparte), adventures park, live craftsmen making pottery, the beach etc. We will also take part in Martinique's Mardi Gras festivities, and learn traditional dances of the island etc.

Model United Nations Media Team: For those not quite sure what the Model United Nations Team does when it travels to New York City every year are now in luck. For the first time, a team of four students are traveling with the MUN delegation to report on its activities. Jeff Hyer, who advises the media club, will mentor two photographers and two students to create a print and visual documentary of the delegation's activities. The goal of the project is to submit it into journalism competitions.

IB News: The students enrolled in the full diploma program have done their best to disseminate best IB practices across the region. As the I.B. Coordinator, Peter Steedman struck by how impressive our student work is in Creativity, Action, Service (CAS), Theory of Knowledge (ToK) and the Extended Essay (EE). We have already had a number of visitors in ToK class, where teachers and administrators alike left the discussion impressed with the complexity of the arguments under discussion. Some students even took a break from their summer vacation to travel to new IB schools in Massachusetts to talk to rising juniors about the benefits of the IB. Justine Ashley, Chandler Mitchell, Joseph Gallo, Dylan Buotte, Marissa Barmash and Marjorie Palmeri traveled to the Abbey Kelley Foster Charter School in Worcester this July and explained to their students about how they have grown as IB students. One major question that came up in the discussion was CAS. Our students report that although keeping up with the CAS journals can be challenging, their documentation of their field hockey games, theatre rehearsals or service at an organic farm has set them apart from their peers in other schools. The International Baccalaureate recently recognized Jeff Hyer, our CAS coordinator, and stated that Sturgis is: “a model programme that has already embraced the changes introduced in the new guide.” In a few weeks, our full diploma students will be submitting their final drafts of their EE. Considering that our full diploma students maintain their enthusiasm and love of learning while meeting the rigorous demands of ToK, CAS, EE, it is no wonder that students, teachers and administrators from across New England are taking the time to listen to their story.

German Student Exchange: Sturgis families are hosting a group of 18 German exchange students from 10/9/09 to 10/24/09. Be sure to say hello if you see our visitors! Sturgis students will have the opportunity to travel to Germany this spring, so be on the lookout for announcements!

Hiking Club: Upcoming Truro-to-P'Town Hike (Canal to P'Town Series): The date for the eighth and final hike of our first Canal-to-P'Town series will soon be announced. We'll hike from the National Seashore's Highland Light in Truro to the Province Lands Visitor Center in Province Town. This hike is about 10 miles and should take approximately 6 hours. It will be along smooth trails and roads, no bushwacking this time. Students interested in participating should see Mr. Patterson.

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