

Upcoming IB Information Sessions

Tuesday March 15th, IB Information Sessions for Sophomores and their Parents: In April students will be asked to sign up for next year's classes. As this course selection opportunity is almost upon us, on Tuesday, March 15th, 7:00 PM, at the First Baptist Church – Fellowship Hall, 486 Main Street, Hyannis, we will be offering an IB Information Session for sophomores and their parents. Designed to help students make informed decisions about their respective paths within the IB Programme, this evening provides (1) more detailed information about the IB Programme presented by our IB Coordinators, (2) a chance to explore current students' personal experiences with the IB Programme offered by a panel of Sturgis seniors, and (3) a glimpse into how some colleges factor the IB into the admissions process, given by Kathy Strand, Associate Director of Admissions at Simmons College in Boston. We hope that you will join us, for parents play an important role in supporting their children during this decision making process. To ensure that all sophomores have a chance to explore current students' personal experiences with the IB Programme, they will meet with our panel of Sturgis seniors, Wednesday morning, March 16th, during the first period double block. Parents who cannot attend Tuesday's evening session are welcome to join us at 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.



March 4th, 2011

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IB Information Night for sophomores /parents:
March 15, 7:00PM
at First Baptist Church

1/2 day for students:
Friday, March 11th

SPA meeting:
March 14th, 6:00PM

SPAuction:
Sat., April 9th, 5-10:00
Tommy Doyle's Irish Pub,
Main Street Hyannis

Arts Festival:
Saturday, April 30th
Cotuit Center for the Arts

Sturgis Spirit Afternoon:

On Friday, March 18, we will hold the first ever Sturgis Spirit Afternoon. We have taken the idea of our annual Student/Faculty basketball game and made it even better! The afternoon starts with a presentation by motivational speaker, Jeff Yalden from 2:40-3:10 at the Hyannis Youth and Community Center. Immediately following this, students will be encouraged to remain for an afternoon of activities

featuring a dodge ball tournament, cheerleading and Stompers presentations, a three-point shooting contest, two basketball games featuring mixed squads of faculty and varsity basketball players, and of course, our world famous faculty dance team. Admission for non-students is \$3.00. Activities start at 3:30 and last until 7:00. So please plan on joining us on March 18th for an afternoon of entertainment and fun for the entire Sturgis community!

IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

We are on the Web!
SturgisCharterschool.org

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

SAT Prep Course

We are pleased to offer a **summer SAT prep course** led by Sturgis teachers Dr. Sheila Gilligan (math) and Alicia Fenney (critical reading and writing). The 6-week comprehensive course for sophomores and juniors offers an overview of the SAT and ACT, strategies in test-taking, and skill-building specific to the math, reading, and writing sections.

As an added bonus, students may sit for a **timed practice SAT** that will diagnose areas of concern, and may attend a **fall review session** immediately before the October SAT.

The class meets **at Sturgis once a week** (day TBD) from **5:30-8:30p.m.** and includes a **make-up session** for any absence (or those who want the added practice).

Course fee is **\$375**, which includes the price of a SAT prep book, **OR \$385**, for the book AND a bonus writing-skills session devoted to mastering the essay! Private tutoring from either Dr. Gilligan or Ms. Fenney is also available.

To Pre-register, please send an email expressing your interest to: afenney@sturgischarterschool.org. **The first 5 students to pre-register will receive \$25 off!**

IB NEWS

A number of Sturgis seniors are donning peculiar attire in recent weeks. One can see the reflection from the bright star worn like a medallion around the neck of many students and their smiles are equally glowing. Written on the star is the phrase: I just handed in my Extended Essay! This labor of love began last May, when as juniors, students in the full IB Diploma program began library workshops on how to choose a suitable topic for their research.

4,000 words and numerous hours in the library later, students have completed a mandatory component of the full IB Diploma program. They have worked with a teacher supervisor for these past few months, but the Sturgis teacher does not give the final grade for this paper. Physics essays will be sent to Malaysia, Spanish essays to Indonesia and Math essays to France where they will receive their final IB mark. The titles of the essays are

varied and demonstrate a remarkable degree of scholarship. We have, for the first time in Sturgis History, students writing the Extended Essay in Spanish. Some of the titles include:

*Spanish: Literature and culture

¿Qué papel desempeñan las ideas socialistas en la poesía de Pablo Neruda, y en qué medida su poesía aumentó al crecimiento del socialismo en su patria, Chile?

*History: Duvalier's consolidation of power in Haiti
To what extent did "Papa Doc" Duvalier's use of Voodoo aid in consolidating economic, political, and social power within the years of 1955-1965 in Haiti?

*Biology: Sequential Hermaphroditism in *Crepidula fornicata*

*What factors affect the stacking behavior in the common slipper shell, *Crepidula fornicata*?*

*Music: A Study in Modern Choral Compositional Technique: Harmonic and Textural Innovation in Three Works of Eric Whitacre

How are 'arpeggiated' chords used as devices of musical expression in choral works throughout the career of Eric Whitacre?

*English: Modernism in one English language work and one Japanese work in translation

To what extent do the Japanese and English variations of literary modernism, as portrayed in the two selected works, share common techniques, ideas and motivations?

Completing the Extended essay is an enormous accomplishment for the seniors involved in the full Diploma program. They should be immensely proud of their efforts.

CLASSROOM/CLUB NEWS:

Junior and Senior IB Art:

All IB Art Juniors and Seniors have just received a demonstration and chance to try out Monoprinting, a fast, colorful way to turn a sketch into a print with a soft edge. IB Art Seniors are doing their second practice Oral exam. in preparation for the real deal next month.

Programming Club News:

The programming club has begun issuing a web site package and account to members. The TRworkbench software provides tools and a space for members to design web pages. This was funded by a grant from the Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank.

Blood:Water Mission:

The Sojourners Bible Club is once again raising funds for Blood:Water Mission, a grass-roots organization that empowers communities to work together against the HIV/AIDS and water crisis in Africa. The club will be selling water and challenging students to drink only water for 40 days and contribute their savings to this cause.

DONATIONS OF CASES OF WATER WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Please bring water to the main office or contact Rachel Todoroff for more information,
rtodoroff@sturgischarterschool.org

To find out more about this fundraising effort, see bloodwatermission.com, "40 Days of Water" project.

Arts Festival

The Sturgis Arts Festival will be held at The Cotuit Center for the Arts on **Saturday, April 30th**. It will include several music concerts including our Sturgis Singers, Chorus and Strings and Jazz Ensembles. There will be two major theatre productions originating from our IB Theatre classes. Student visual artwork will also be displayed in the Cotuit Gallery. The day would not be complete without our traditional International Luncheon Buffet provided by SPA. It truly is a wonderful day to celebrate the Arts and to enjoy family and good friends.

Inspirational Sturgis Teacher Remembered



Freshman, Brittany Gayton recites her poem

Thursday, February 10th, Sturgis Charter School students that had participated in the Poetry Out Loud competition recited their selections in a Poetry Celebration orchestrated in memory of Gretchen Buntschuh. Gretchen worked at Sturgis as an English teacher, associate director of the school, a grant writer, and International Baccalaureate Extended Essay adviser. She passed away last February. The students stood in front of a stained glass window constructed by Patrick Todoroff made in Buntschuh's honor.

Gretchen's daughters live far from Sturgis and were unable to attend the Celebration of Poetry. (Ingrid lives in New York, Erika in Germany and Lise has moved recently from Paris to Marrakech.) They wrote the following letter which they asked Marion Weeks to read at the event:

Dear Patrick,

There are so many memories of our mom, Gretchen Buntschuh. Spring, Mom's favorite season, is just around the corner. Life, growth, vibrant colors of spring flowers and the first greens shooting into a waking-up world. How could that NOT have been her favorite? And all of those things, plus much more, are depicted in your window creation.

I'm sitting here now at my desk, thinking of Mom and looking at a photograph of the window in the Sturgis Library. What I see are rich true colors, those of the earth and of the forest. I see the curves of the earth, but also of thoughts, long romantic, poetic ones, breaking up the straight lines of life, of reason. And delightful pebbles, small, happy-go-lucky but sturdy and enduring as the rocks they are made of. Or are they bubbles of ideas, getting ready to grow and float gently in the breeze? The words are too small for me to read, but I know what they say. Words of wisdom, of love, of sadness, of reflection, of life. Everything about this window is beautiful.

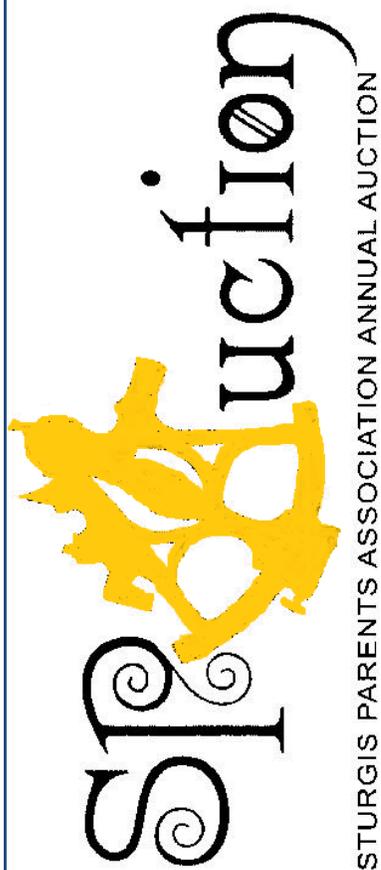
Thank you, Patrick, for this amazing window you have created and commemorated to our mom. All of those who spend their time at Sturgis are very lucky to be able to look at such a treasure. My sisters and I are unfortunately not able to be at Sturgis for the Celebration of Poetry just a year after our mom passed away. But we thank you from the bottom of our hearts that you make it possible for her spirit to live on, a window between the world outside and the world of books. What better place to remember her.

Wishing you all the best,

Erika, Ingrid and Lise Buntschuh

Celebration of Poetry DVD

Thanks to Amy Peterson and Joe Roderick we now have a DVD of the Celebration of Poetry in Honor of Gretchen available for check out in the Reference Room.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Date: Saturday, April 9th

Place: Tommy Doyle's Irish Pub

Time: 5:00—10:00

AUCTION EVENT TO BE A GREAT PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

On Saturday, April 9th, all Sturgis Parents are invited to spend a great evening of fun and merriment at the Annual Sturgis Parents Association (SPA) Auction and Event at Tommy Doyle's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 334 Main St, Hyannis. Festivities will begin at 5:00pm. "We chose Tommy Doyle's because it's a great location for all the Sturgis parents to get out and have a good time socializing while contributing to a great cause," remarked SPA President, Tom Fink who is also an Auction Event co-Chair.

This year's Auction Event will feature live entertainment, special surprise performances, games with prizes, a silent and live Auction, hors d'oeuvres, homemade desserts and a cash bar. All of this for a mere \$10 per person donation! All proceeds will directly benefit student programs through the Sturgis Parents Association.

Among the evenings highlights are the silent and live auctions. Caught soliciting donations on Main Street, Event co-Chair Stephanie Miles remarked, "We have some unique and wonderful auction items this year including a tropical island vacation, a cup-of-coffee-a-day for a year from a local Café, autographed memorabilia and much, much more. There will definitely be something for everyone!"

When asked what parents can do to help, Stephanie obliged, "Lots of simple things – help us get some donations for the Auction, help us with the website or set-up, make a dessert, but most importantly buy tickets and show up the night of the Event to help us support all of our wonderful kids at Sturgis!"

Tickets are available at the school office or by contacting Stephanie or Tom. Advance purchase is recommended as there is limited space at Tommy Doyle's. There are also volunteer opportunities still available if you would like to play a role in this outstanding annual event.

Mark your calendar and get your tickets now! You don't want to miss this social event of the season. Where else can you have a great night on the town, catch up with wonderful new and old friends, enjoy great food and drink and snap up some wonderful bargains – all for ten bucks? And don't forget to remind the kids that you are doing it for them!

Auction Event co-Chair Contacts:

Tom Fink
(508) 776-1988
tomfink@aol.com

Stephanie Miles
(508) 813-3124
smiles@falmouth.k12.ma.us