



Executive Director's Newsletter

Sturgis Charter Public School—West Campus October 2014

Best Results Ever on the 2014 MCAS!



The Sturgis 2014 MCAS English and Math scores for the grade 10 students and also those for Science taken by grade 9 students last spring were the best results that Sturgis has ever achieved. Due to these strong results, Sturgis was named a Level 1 school by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the highest rank that is awarded by the DESE. In the specific subjects, Sturgis ranked #1 in English out of the 290 school districts in MA, #8 in Math, and #3 in Science. Congratulations to the 2013-14 grade 9 & 10 students and their teachers for these outstanding results.



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.

OECD Test Based on PISA--More Outstanding Results!!!

Approximately 75 Sturgis West and East students who were age 15 on February 7, 2014, took the OECD Test Based on PISA at the request of the National Alliance of Public Charter Schools. The design of OECD Test is based on the PISA test, which is administered once every three years as a means of comparing students on their skills in Reading, Math, and Science in countries around the world. Sturgis 15 year-olds achieved very strong results, scoring in the top 10% of U.S. schools in all three subjects. If Sturgis results were considered as a country's results, the school would have ranked #1 in Reading in the world, just ahead of schools in Shanghai, China. Sturgis would have ranked #2 in Science in the world behind schools in Shanghai, China, and #3 in the world in the world in Math behind schools in Shanghai, China and Singapore. In the areas of Student Engagement and Learning Environment, Sturgis ranked in the top 10% of schools for Disciplinary Climate and Teacher-Student Relations, and was one of the very top scoring schools in student Self-Efficacy. Without question, Sturgis is very proud of the results that our students gained when compared to students and schools around the world!!

Sturgis Mentoring an IB Candidate School

Sturgis school leaders and faculty will be mentoring their counterparts at the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy in Elizabeth, NJ as they prepare their curriculum and policies for their IB Application for Authorization. This mentoring process will include a good deal of communication via phone and email in addition to a two-day onsite visit by their Sturgis consultant.

Sturgis Soundings



Another way to stay informed is through our digital magazine. *Sturgis Soundings Magazine* explores the interests and enthusiasms of the Sturgis community through academic news, interviews, creative ventures and cultural soundings.

Recent articles include:

[Freshman Orientation Combines Teambuilding and Maritime Traditions](#) *To help incoming freshmen get to know each other, they attend a day-long team-building program at Camp Burgess in Sandwich followed by the annual ceremony at Hyannis Harbor where they learn the history of William Sturgis, sign the Sturgis log book and ring the ship's bell. A slideshow of photos from Camp Burgess and Hyannis Harbor is included.*

[Welcome Aboard! A New Year Begins at Sturgis](#) *A great deal transpires in the month between Convocation and Open House. We hope to document some of the highlights by providing the full text of Convocation speeches by Eric Hieser, Jenn Kirk, Paul Marble and Cindy Gallo along with a slideshow of photos from Convocation, Opening Day and Open House.*

[Welcome New Faculty!](#) *We invited new staff and faculty to provide a photo and tell us a bit about their background and path to Sturgis.*

Notes from the Classroom

East and West students are currently working together on their fall production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare. Rehearsals are underway and students are doing diligent and creative work! The show will be performed at Harwich Junior Theatre on November 21, 22, and 23rd and is sure to be an excellent experience!

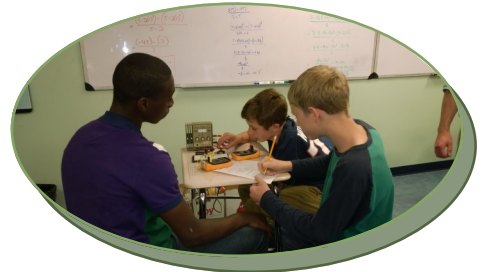


This is a group in Ms. Singer's Algebra 1 class at Sturgis West, collecting data on the linear relationship between voltage and current across a resistor.

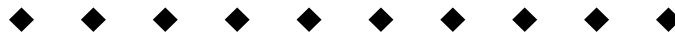
They use a Geogebra spreadsheet to plot the points and they determine the slope of the line after finding the line of best fit.

They see that the slope of the line is associated with the resistance measurement of the resistor and the y intercept is related to the voltage value of the batteries in series with the power supply.

They enjoyed using the electronics and they like the real world applications.



The students in Jolanda Ferguson's 9th grade English classes at West have been practicing the art of writing and reading like a writer in their short story unit. Students will soon be concluding the unit with a creative short story of their own. We hope to see some of these creative endeavors in the next issue of "The Current".



IB Theatre students from both East and West are attending a trip to New York City this month, where they will attend workshops and live performances through ISTA, the International Schools Theatre Association. This is a great opportunity to meet IB Theatre students from across the country and around the world, as well as work with professional theatre artists and see a variety of performances!



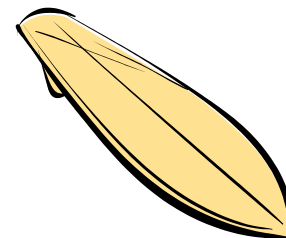
Peter Richenburg and Ann Forget will be attending the I.B. Visual Arts round table discussion at Cheshire Academy on October 16. The Visual Arts Departments of East and West are planning trips to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Gardner Museum later next month.



The Yearbook staff at West is already hard at work planning out a great publication for this year. We invite the wider Sturgis community to contribute photos of any Sturgis events and activities for consideration in this year's yearbook. The following link will allow you to do this: www.replayit.com. Follow the prompts to sign up for an account under Sturgis West.



The Sturgis Surf Club will be going to Panama during the February break! Students will be staying at the Beach break Surf Camp in Playa Venao, Pedasi. Beach Break Surf camp has 14 beachfront rooms right in front of the beach we will be surfing! The trip will include a visit to the Panama Canal as well as daily surf lessons for beginner and intermediate surfers, boards, snorkeling, as well as some opportunities to Kayak, Fish or Stand up Paddle board (SUP). Breakfast, Lunch, Airfare, Housing and airport transfer from Airport to Surf Camp are all included in the \$1900.00 price. We will travel, as a group for dinner each night. Students should have their \$500.00 deposit in this asap and make payments beginning on the second Friday of November, December and January (\$500.00, 450.00 & 450.00). If you would like to hear more please contact Rich Mathews (rmathews@sturgischarterhschool.org), Marsha Yalden (myalden@sturgischarterhschool.org) or Jim Albrecht (jalbrecht@sturgischarterhschool.org). We still have 7 seats available for the East & West Students.



Ms. Most, our Chemistry teacher, took an enthusiastic group of students from Science Club Kayaking on the Westport River. We were all taught basic kayaking maneuvers and led by a couple of experienced Kayak enthusiasts as we made our way down the river toward the channel. Ms. Carah, the Librarian, was invited to come along and follow the students with her camera.

Dear Sturgis Parents,

On October 8th, the Sturgis Parents Association presented a check for \$20,000 to Sturgis Public Charter School's Executive Director, Eric Heiser, to fund this year's "Wish List". This donation helped fund:

- The Benevolent fund, which funds field trips and activity participation of students who are on free and reduced lunch
- Purchase of audio books, internal assessment & extended essay materials, and additional research resources for the Library
- Festival audition music, ensemble music, piano tuning, IB Music Resources, instrument accessories, acoustic guitars, sound equipment, guitar wall hangers, steel drum kits, and a choral riser for the Music Department;
Professional development workshops, learning style inventories, reference books, senior banner/bookmarks, office conference tables, and computer desk chairs for the Guidance Department
- Special lab resources and supplies, including electric balances and binocular microscopes for the Science Department
- MA and International Theatre Memberships, a color printer, a paper cutter, play tickets for IB Students, and Library of Plays for the Theater Department

We could only make this happen through the generous contributions and financial support from parents, alumni, Sturgis friends and business associates. Unfortunately, after funding this year's wish list, we are left with minimal available funds for on-going programs and future requests. We need your participation and support more than ever!

We are asking all Sturgis parents to please participate by **joining or renewing your Sturgis Parents Association annual membership**, so that we may continue to provide funding for these important programs. Please remember our children benefit DIRECTLY from your donation and without your membership and Annual Auction support, we could not provide the funding that makes these programs possible.

Membership forms for both East and West are located at sturgisparents.com.

Please join us at our **next monthly meeting on November 3rd** at the West Campus. Thank you again for your partnership and support.

Sturgis Parent Association

Why do our kids get to have ALL the fun?

The Sturgis Parents Association
invites you to a
Fall Parents Social at
Sam Diego's in Hyannis
Saturday, October 25, 2014
7:00-10:00pm



Drop off your child(ren) at the Homecoming Dance and then come over to join us for a drink and to meet other Sturgis parents. Sam Diego's is located at 950 Lyannough Rd, Hyannis about 1/4 mi down from the Holiday Inn (where the Homecoming Dance will be taking place).

Upcoming Events

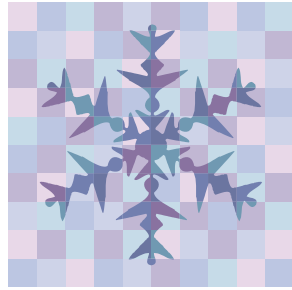
October 13—Columbus Day: No School

October 15th—PSAT for 10th and 11th graders

October 24th—Homecoming Soccer Games

October 25th—Homecoming Dance

November 9th—Picture Retake Day



The Annual Winter Concert is Thursday, December 11 at 7PM at the Federated Church in Hyannis. Jazz Band, Sturgis Strings, Choir 9/10, A Capella Groups and IB Students will be performing.

Help Wanted: The health office is looking for any available Registered Nurse's to join our Substitute List. Anyone interested should contact Patty O'Toole, RN at [508-778-1782](tel:508-778-1782).



The Homecoming DANCE will be Saturday, Oct 25 at the Holiday Inn in Hyannis. Tickets will be \$15 a person and go on sale next Monday. Space is limited to 200 Sturgis East students and 200 Sturgis West students so students should get their tickets early to guarantee not to miss this not-to-be-missed event of the year.

Sturgis Annual Appeal is Coming Soon! We hope to mail the appeal by the end of October and would love to have parent volunteers help fold letters and stuff envelopes during Spirit Week, October 28 - 31. It will be a great way to show your spirit and meet other parents.

If you would like to volunteer a couple of hours or more, contact Marion Weeks, Community Outreach Coordinator, mweeks@sturgischarterschool.org.



[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

To gain an understanding of Sturgis "IB for All" culture, follow us on Facebook for the latest updates on Sturgis news, activities and community involvement.