

STURGIS SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Registration
Free Preschool Registration
Summer Activities
Free Lunch/Breakfast
Camp Fort Hill

Summer 2011





The Sturgis Middle School eighth grade math team of (L-R) **Kelsey Metzger, Charlie Larson, Avery Peterson, Khushi Vakharia, and Jenneka Lund** placed third overall at the Tri-County Math Meet.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Sturgis Public Schools, in partnership with parents and community, is to ensure each student has the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary for a successful transition to the next educational stage ultimately leading to a productive and satisfying life.

Board of Education*

LeeAnn McConnell.....	President
Geoffrey D. Smith.....	Vice President
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Ann Bird.....	Treasurer
Ray Sterling.....	Trustee
Frank J. Kalasky.....	Trustee
Kerri Millett.....	Trustee

*The public is welcome to attend the monthly Study Sessions and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education. The Board meets at 5:30 for the Study Session at the Sturgis Central Commons Board Room on the second Tuesday of each month. On the third Tuesday of the month the Regular Meeting is held at 5:30 p.m. in different schools in the District. Please see the schedule of the meetings posted on the Sturgis web page at www.sturgisps.org under the Board of Education menu listing.

Cover: SMS teacher **Jim Yunker** leads Wall School second grade students **Trenton Harker, Caleb Hendricks, and Ana Alcantar Soto** on a guided hike to the observation tower at Camp Fort Hill.

“Starving the Beast”

School Funding and Politics

“Starve the beast”... a strange slogan, but one that summarizes the current state of school funding affairs in Lansing. This concept drives the attack on public school funding and will define how, and what, all public schools will offer students well into the foreseeable future.

“Starving the beast” means to deprive public schools of the necessary funding that communities depend on throughout the State. They “Starve the Beast” to impose “reforms”- some good and some bad - that support a political and ideological agenda of those in power. Coupled with legitimate legislative action to reform problem rules and regulations, the use of “budget as a weapon” is now the favored change tactic used by politicians. In Michigan and other Midwestern states, the concept is used to deny or diminish the rights of school employees that came from collective bargaining agreements developed over decades. It is simple, yet effective - especially if those responsible control, literally, all branches of state government.



Robert Olsen
Superintendent

In Sturgis, our Board of Education and school administrators worked diligently over the years to prepare for the inevitable downturn in the economy. We built a strong fund balance (savings account) and established sound business practices to weather any financial “storm”... or so we thought. If it had been a simple thunder storm, even a small tornado, we could withstand the effects. What we are now in the midst of is akin to a “funding tsunami” - a storm so strong it threatens to destroy all of the gains and many programs developed and designed to support Sturgis students.

Here is what we face. At a minimum, the proposed \$455 per pupil reduction, combined with the \$230 per pupil cost of the MPERS (retirement) rate increase, will leave us with a \$685 per pupil loss. This means a loss of funding of approximately \$2,260,000 in Sturgis. There is no doubt that a diversion of school aid dollars of this magnitude greatly increases the number of deficit districts and leaves Michigan schools vulnerable to teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, and fewer opportunities for students. We are fortunate that we have prepared for that economic storm... yet, due to the size of the funding cuts proposed by our Governor and supported by our Legislature, we will only be able to stave off a deficit for a year or so. Yes, even though we are among the top 10% of

see “Starving the Beast” on page 7

District News

Free Preschool

Sturgis Public Schools is offering **free** Great Start Readiness Preschool this fall. Qualifying children must turn four, but not be five years old, as of December 1, 2011. Morning and afternoon sessions are available with free bussing provided. To apply, you must bring your child's birth certificate, shot record, proof of income, and proof of residency to the Community Education Office at Sturgis Central Commons. Sturgis Central Commons is located across the street from the Sturgis District Library and accessed at the south entrance which faces the library. Please call 659-1540 for more information.

Sturgis Community Pool

Registration for summer swim lessons at the Sturgis Community Pool will begin on Tuesday, June 8th. Both day and night swim lessons for children and adults will be offered. For more information about the Sturgis Community Pool Summer hours, see page 6 of this newsletter.

SPS Summer Library

Summer reading is the single activity most strongly and consistently related to summer learning (Heyns)

Not reading over summer vacation can cause a one-to-two-and-a-half month (or more) loss in academic growth. Students that read during summer vacation return to school academically where they were and sometimes **ahead**.

The following school libraries will be open this summer from **June 13 to August 25** to allow all Sturgis Public School students to choose books to read.

Congress School (M & W)	8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Eastwood School (T & TH)	8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Wall School (M & W)	8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Wenzel School (T & TH)	8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Free Breakfast and Lunch

Starting June 13th, free breakfast and lunch for any children, ages 1-18, will be served at Thurston Woods Park and at Congress, Eastwood, Park, Wall, and Wenzel Schools.

Breakfast: 9-10 a.m. (Eastwood 8:30 - 9:30)

Lunch: 12-1 p.m. (Eastwood 11:30 - 12:30)

The program will run from **June 13th to August 19, 2011**. It will be **closed from July 4-8th**.



Left: **Grace Botel Rubio** sees a rabbit. Below: **Olivia Miller, Alex Oldenberg, Ethan Smith, Jose Huerta Segura, and Pheobe Meeks** look at the goats



The Sturgis Schools Great Start Readiness Program took a field trip to a farm in May. The preschoolers were able to go on a wagon ride and see a variety of farm animals.

Camp Fort Hill Day Camp

If your child has a lot of energy and likes the outdoors, Camp Fort Hill Summer Day Camp is meant for him or her. Camp Fort Hill has been providing the best daycamp around for years for children. Campers aged 7-12 participate in swimming, nature walks, arts and crafts, archery lessons, bog walking, working on a challenge course, and much more. There will be three sessions of day camp: **June 20-24, June 27-July 1, and July 25-29**.

The daycamp is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Free transportation is provided. The bus will leave from the north end of the High School parking lot, across from the Community Pool. The cost of each session is \$80 and there are scholarships available based on need. To get a registration form, call the Sturgis Community Education Office at 659-1540. Children who have an immediate family member in the military or national guard are also eligible for a scholarship.

Sturgis High School Top 25 Seniors

Annamarie Arseneau	Molly Marshall
Alexander Balzer	Caitlin Palasinski
Tyler Book	Kristin Pierucki
Ryan Bowen	Connor Render
Mary Boyd	Kayla Richardson
Joseph Clark	Rachel Smith
Benjamin Crites	Ellen Stimson
Marissa Downing	Hayleigh Thomsen
Luke Eichorn	Zachary Wickline
Ana Garcia	Teresa Williams
Ashley Giggy	Brooke Wohler
Hannah Gooch	Trevor Wuori
Tyler Luce	

* Using a **75% GPA** and a **25% ACT Composite Score**

Elementary Schools

Eastwood School

Jump Rope for Heart

Eastwood students raised \$4,079 by participating in the American Heart Association's *Jump Rope for Heart* during their PE class. The proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards heart education, awareness, and research. They also learned about exercise, nutrition, and living tobacco-free.

Congress School

ACES Day (All Children Exercise Simultaneously) was celebrated at Congress School (and 1,000 other Michigan schools) last month. Project ACES, was created by physical education teacher, **Len Saunders**, in 1989 as a method of motivating children to exercise and is now referred to as "The World's Largest Exercise Class" by the media. **Ms. Brooks**, Congress School's physical education teacher and organizer of the event, had all the children gather on the playground and line dance to three songs as a fun way to exercise.



Congress first grade students **Kobe Mullins** and **Matt Wynes** line dance as part of ACES day.

Wall School

Wall School second grade students spent a day at Camp Fort Hill rotating through a variety of activities and experiences designed to enhance the students' observation skills, appreciation of nature, and awareness of the conservation of our natural resources. Many parents, staff members, retired teachers, and volunteers were on-hand to lead activities and help the students. Sturgis fire fighters came out later to guide the children as they roasted marshmallows over a campfire.



Eastwood *Jump Rope for Heart* top fundraiser students (L-R): **Avery Brown**, **Martin Nalepa**, **Kierstyn Fritz**, **Angelica Soto**.
Back Row: **Brooke Bodi**, **Hannah Massey**, **Justin Bell**, **Zachery Chapman**, and **Kody Schaeffer**. Missing: **Kody Wood**.

Wenzel Elementary

It was a beautiful sunny day in-between many rainy days last month when Wenzel students participated in Project ACES (All Children Exercising Simultaneously). **Mr. Keim** set up six stations for the students to complete in three minutes each. They could jump rope, hula-hoop, run, skip, walk, do exercises, bounce a ball on a tennis racket, take a ride on a swing, and climb on the slides. Everyone, especially the teachers, loved all the excitement of seeing all the students on the playground at one time!



Wenzel students participating in ACES day (clockwise top left) **Mackenzie Priest**, **Brenda Garcia**, and **Jerardo Munoz**.

Jr./Sr. High News

Sturgis Middle School

Advanced Art Classes Visit Art Institute

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Sturgis Middle School advanced art class students took a field trip to the Kalamazoo Art Institute. They also visited the West Michigan Area Art Show and the 2011 Young Artists of Kalamazoo County Art Show. Students enjoyed viewing all of the galleries, as well as playing in the interactive gallery. Prior to the trip, the students tie-dyed t-shirts to wear for the trip.

SMS Math Teams Place at Tri-County Meet

Congratulations to the Sturgis math teams who recently competed in the Tri-county Middle School Math Meet with 20 other schools. The eighth grade team took third place overall; first place in *Patterns, Functions and Algebraic Operation*; and first place in *Number Operations and Theory*. Team members were **Avery Peterson, Khushi Vakharia, Jenneka Lund, Charlie Larson, and Kelsey Metzger**.

Sturgis seventh graders took fourth place overall and first place in *Probability and Statistics*. Team members were **Kayla Thornton, Patrick Andersen, Taylor Clark, Jarrett Delarye, and Emma Robertson**.

Sturgis sixth graders took fifth place overall; second place in *Patterns, Functions and Algebraic Operation*; and third place in *Number Operations and Theory*. Team members were **Kyle Bueno, Jeremy Frohriep, Wilson Bird, Matt Polzin, and Evan Radtke**.



Sturgis Middle School advanced art students visit the Kalamazoo Art Institute. Left: **Jacquelyn Allan** admires a robot. Right: **Kari Lemmerhart** sketches on a computer screen.

Sturgis High School

Trojan Times Takes Awards

The *Trojan Times* staff brought home 14 individual awards (a *Trojan Times* record) and a silver level award from the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association's (MIPA) annual school newspaper competition held in Lansing last month.

Individual awards for writing and design were awarded to **Ann Marie Arsenau, Kelsi Caywood, Laura Cobb, Jacqui French, Shayna Hovarter, Cody Johnson, Sami Lesniak, Kelsey Meese, Alex Scheske, Rachel Smith, Larry Weitting, Logan Wyatt, and Jas Zimmerman**.



*Painting II and Art Appreciation (a GOCC humanities dual enrollment class) students enjoy a break from museum hopping at Millennium Park. They are gently cooling their heels on Chicago's famous "Bean" sculpture by **Anish Kapoor**.*

Other Happenings

Wall of Fame Started

The computer-aided design (CAD) students of Sturgis High School were asked to design a wall to honor all of the previous academic scholars of Sturgis Schools. Over 60 different designs were submitted for the new “Academic Hall of Fame.” After weeks of meetings and discussions, Emily Kirsch’s design was chosen as the winning design and quickly approved by the Sturgis School Board of Education. Her plans are currently being implemented outside the main offices of Sturgis High School.

Orchestra News

As the year winds down and the orchestras prepare for their final concerts, the High School Symphony Orchestra took time out to go on their annual day trip to Chicago to attend an open rehearsal of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. This year was a special treat as the soloist rehearsing with the CSO was world famous cellist, **YoYo Ma**. The Sturgis High School students observed the two-hour rehearsal, under the direction of their new conductor, **Ricardo Muti** – one of the top musicians and conductors in the world. After the rehearsal, CSO bassist **Stephen Lester** and YoYo Ma hosted a question-and-answer session and performed an additional duet for bass and cello. The entire experience was rounded-out for the group when Ma gave an autographed photo inscribed to the students of the Sturgis High School Orchestra.



Dustin Krontz, Caleb Stluka, and Cobi Simonson were chosen as the “2011 Millionaires for the Day” at Wall School. Sturgis Bank and Trust Company selects students based on essay entries from each elementary school every year. The “Millionaires for the Day” took a limousine ride to Binder Park Zoo for the day. **Taeler Bohm, Ella Nelson, Samantha Garcia Carmona, Alexis Blake, Jaden Simonson, Isaac Broom, Joshua Hendricks, Evelyn Bucio and Justin Gamez.** were also chosen from Congress, Eastwood and Wenzel schools.

Technology Devices Needed

The Computer Information Technologies (CIT) class at Sturgis High School needs unused, old, and/or unwanted PC and Apple/Mac computer laptops and desktops. They would also like used and/or unwanted video cameras, camcorders, and digital still cameras. All of this equipment will be used for spare parts. Please contact **Kris Leach** at kleach@sturgisps.org or (269) 659-1500, ext 1619 if you have anything to donate to the program.

Sturgis Pool Hours

Open Recreation:

Monday through Friday 1 - 5 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday 2 - 5 p.m.

Parent & Child:

Monday through Friday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Outdoor pool only)

Adults Only:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Cost:

Youth - \$3.00, Adults \$4.50, and Senior Citizens (62+) \$4.00

Sturgis Stingrays summer program: starts May 16th and runs through July 16th.

For Lessons*, rentals, and scuba information call (269) 659-1585

**United Fund sponsors free swim lessons - ask about qualifying information.*



First grade Congress student **Katie McCullum** studies a monarch caterpillar that will soon turn into a butterfly as part of her science lesson for **Ms. Mettler's** class.



Other Happenings

“Starve the Beast” Continued

school districts in Michigan based on fund balances, we are facing a funding cliff that could easily push us into deficit.

When voters approved Proposal A in 1994, they wanted the School Aid Fund to be protected for kids. Talk with any of the legislators who authored Proposal A and they will tell you that they voted to preserve funding for K-12 public schools. The proposed new budget steals these funds and transfers almost \$900 million through community colleges and universities to help balance the general fund budget. This is the largest proposed cut to education by any governor or legislature in history.

We’ve heard a lot about “shared sacrifice,” but schools are facing a 7.3 percent cut. This is the largest of any budget except the Department of Education. Meanwhile ten other budgets, including the Department of Corrections, will see increases. Whatever happened to the political rhetoric about the absolute importance of strong K-12 public education as being one of the most important essentials of a strong state and nation?

No one is arguing that our economy is healthy and able to continue functioning as it has. No one is suggesting that there doesn’t need to be funding cuts. What we are suggesting is that the reduced funding levels we have already endured over the past 10 years cannot be sustained unless we are willing to start providing substandard educational opportunities for our children - we are not willing to do that!

Just this week, the Spring Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference among the Governor, the House, and the Senate informed us, that the increase in revenues to the School Aid Fund and the General Fund were sufficient to virtually eliminate the need for the proposed drastic cuts. Yet our leaders seem bound and determined to proceed down this reckless “starve the beast” path.

If this proposed K-12 education budget is enacted, the ramifications will be severe and will directly impact our state’s future. Representative **Matt Lori** and Senator **Bruce Caswell** are good men who are trying to do the right thing for our children and our state. However, I urge you to make contact and encourage them to reverse their position to protect the promise of Proposal A and keep School Aid Fund dollars for K-12 education.

Representative Matt Lori can be reached at MattLori@house.mi.gov, and Sen. Bruce Caswell at SenBCaswell@senate.michigan.gov.



Sturgis Trojan Summer Camps

Girls Basketball

Brian Beebe: 659-1500 ext. 1661 or bbeebe@sturgisps.org

- June 14 – 17 at Sturgis High School - \$30
- Grades* 3, 4, 5 – 10:00 am – 11:15 am
- Grades* 6, 7, 8 – 11:30 am – 1:00 am
- Grades* 9-12 – 1:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Boys Basketball

Keith Kurowski: 659-1500 ext. 1635 or kkurowski@sturgisps.org

- June 13 – 16 at Sturgis High School - \$40
- Grades* K-2 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am
- Grades* 3-5 – 9:00 pm – 10:30 pm
- Grades* 6-8 – 11:00 pm – 1:00 pm
- Grades* 9-12 – 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Football Camp

Bill Keim: 659-1500 ext. 3322 or bkeim@sturgisps.org

- July 11-15 Sturgis High School
- Grades* 7-8 - 1:00-3:00 pm - \$60
- Grades* 9-12 - 8:30-Noon - \$70

Volleyball Camp

Von Metzger: 659-1500 ext. 1641 or vmetzger@sturgisps.org

- July 18-21 Sturgis High School - \$40
- Grades* 7-8 - 2:00-5:00 pm
- Grades* 9-10 - 5:30-8:30 pm

Road Runners Cross Country Camp

Andy Boyd: 659-8048 or 651-6776

- July 11-15 Sturgis Middle School
- \$30 (\$60 family maximum)
- Grades* K-7 - 6:00-7:30 pm

Download registration form from www.sturgisps.org.
Sturgis High School
Athletics
Athletic Home Page
Trojan Summer Camps

* Denotes Grade for 2010-2011 School Year

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for children entering Kindergarten in the Fall (child must be five years-old by December 1, 2011) will take place at Wall Elementary School, 702 E. Lafayette Street, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the months of June and August. The Office is closed during the month of July.

Hospital Health Fair

Are your child's immunizations up to date? Sturgis Hospital invites you to attend its 3rd Annual Health Fair on Saturday, August 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Medical Commons Building, located at 1717 East Chicago Road in Sturgis. The event is presented in cooperation with the Saint Joseph County Health Agency and other local area partners. The fair will feature free screenings and health assessments, child and adult immunizations, and the opportunity to speak with physicians and pharmacists about a variety of health issues. Activities will be available for children.

For more information, log on to www.SturgisHospital.com or call **Phyllis Youga**, Marketing Manager, at 269-659-4385.

Tell Us What You Think

Sturgis School News welcomes letters, comments, and critiques. All correspondence should be sent to Editor, Sturgis School News, 107 W. West Street, Sturgis, MI 49091. We can be reached by phone at 659-1542 or by e-mail through our web site at www.sturgisps.org.

Sturgis Public Schools

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Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 659-1500

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2010-11 School Calendar

June

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September

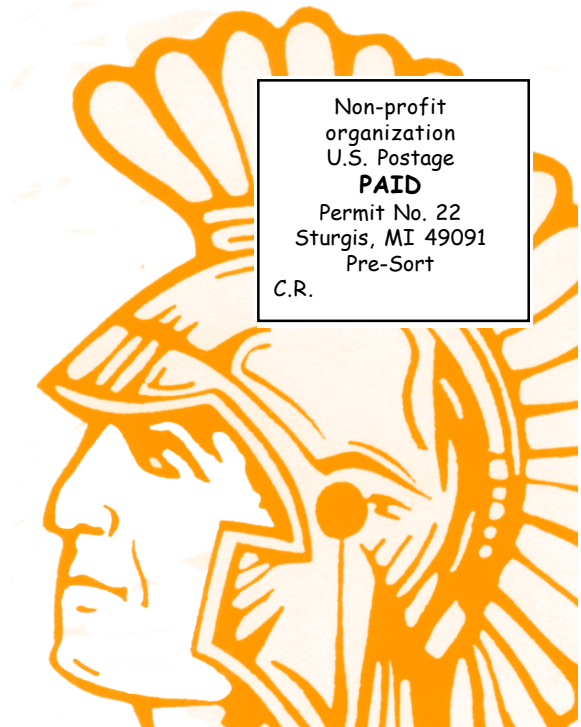
5 Labor Day - No School

6 First Day of School - Half Day

19 Fair Day - No School



Mr. Losinski's fourth grade Eastwood class collected pop tabs all year as a fundraiser for St. Jude's Hospital.



Conceive It...Believe It...Achieve It...At Sturgis Public Schools