

# STURGIS SCHOOL NEWS

School Cancellation Criteria  
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Kindergarten Registration  
What is the *Legion*?  
Winter Sports Schedules

Winter 2015



## Kids Safety Our First Priority

Dr. Thomas M. Langdon  
SPS Superintendent

I would like to share a post (with a few modifications) that we put on the school's Facebook page a few weeks back. It deals with Sturgis Public Schools' procedures regarding cold weather and school closings.

As you know, Sturgis Public Schools has closed several times because of the extreme cold. As a parent or community member you deserve to know why we decide to call school on days like these.



*Continued on Page 2*

# District News

## Superintendent's Corner

(continued from front page)

Here is an article that was put out by St. Luke's Hospital (St. Louis) on Jan. 6th of this new year:

*ST. LOUIS — The two big issues with cold weather exposure: frostbite and hypothermia. Both are serious, and both occur with prolonged exposure to the cold. That said, both can occur very rapidly. For example, hypothermia will occur rapidly from falling through the ice on an icy pond. Frostbite can occur in less than 30 minutes with bare skin exposed to air below five degrees Fahrenheit.*

*What is frostbite? It's the freezing of water in the cells of our blood and skin. It's our skin freezing. It can happen to exposed skin in less than 30 minutes when the temperature is below five degrees or the wind chill at minus 15 or colder.*

*What is hypothermia? It's the lowering of our body's core temperature below 95 degrees. Its effects are system wide. Shivering, hunger or nausea, confusion or lack of coordination or trouble speaking, increased heart rate and breathing are all first signs of mild hypothermia. It's when shivering stops and motor skills and mentation worsens that severe hyperthermia is setting in.*

While the above article cites five degrees ambient (actual air temperature) and -15 degrees windchill as the danger zone, many other sources state that 0 degrees ambient and -20 degrees wind chill are solid numbers to regard when looking at the "danger zone" with temperatures and young ones.

What's even more sobering is the fact that many of our students don't always dress properly, skip breakfast, or may have complicating diseases such as diabetes, etc. Any one of those factors can bring on more danger of frostbite. Special needs students also have a higher risk factor when it comes to bitterly cold weather.

So if I see that the next day's temps (ambient and/or wind chill) are going to be in the listed danger zone, I would rather call it the night before so that arrangements can be made for our students (especially our younger ones). Snow and ice are unpredictable; cold weather predictions are usually accurate.

At the time I made the last cold weather call we were already in the danger zone the night before. The next morning

(Keeping Kids Safe Continued on page 3)



**Katie Svoboda's** Middle School students recently submitted this mural that they created to the Wyland Foundation for a contest.

## 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\*

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\*The public is welcome to attend the monthly Study Sessions and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education. The Board meets at 5:30 p.m. for the Study Session at the Sturgis Central Commons Board Room on the second Monday of each month. On the third Monday 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](http://www.sturgisps.org) under the Board of Education menu listing.

**Cover:** Students in **Jeni Taylor's** Wall School class pose with new hats and gloves which were donated by the Student Government and Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society) of Trine University in Angola, in conjunction with the Trine student teachers at Wall, Wenzel, and Congress this year. Every Sturgis Public School K-2 grade student received free hats and gloves.

# District News

## Annis Receives Oster Award

Congratulations to **Kim Annis** for receiving the 2014 John Oster Award at a recent Rotary Club presentation. The award honors one teacher each year based on their outstanding teaching and community service.



**Kim Annis**

**JoEllen Oster** established the memorial fund in 1981 in honor of her late husband John, who strongly believed that there should be some type of recognition and reward for an excellent Sturgis teacher. The award is administered through the Sturgis Area Community Foundation.



**Nicole Airgood**, principal of Wall and Jerolene Schools, is honored at a Wall School Assembly for receiving her Regional Principal Award.

## Keeping Kids Safe (Cont. from page 2)

at the time the buses were to pick up students we were still in the danger zone, as we still were at 10:00 am, which would have been well beyond the parameters of a two-hour delay for most students.

I've continually said that student safety is my first priority. Before making any significant decision I ask myself, "Is it good for kids?" Secondly, I ask, "If we wouldn't let kids out at recess in this kind of cold for 20 minutes, why would we expect them to walk to school, or wait for a bus that could be late or mechanically compromised because of the weather?"

I apologize if you've already read a version of this letter on our Facebook page, but I wanted to reach a broader audience through this Newsletter. It should be noted that the responses to the Facebook posting were overwhelmingly positive, with nearly 100% stating that student safety comes first. It goes to show just how awesome parents and community members are in Sturgis.

Even though this article is about cold weather - hang in there because spring is right around the corner.

## Change in School Cancellation Notices

Parent notification of school closings are now given through PowerSchool and posted on the Sturgis Public Schools website in the district calendar (right side of opening page). Students also receive an email to their school account.

Parents can log into PowerSchool and follow the prompts to determine how they want to receive their announcements. If you check the Text, Email, and Voice options, you will be notified by each of these.

We hope these changes will give you options that best suit your preferences and simplify our notification process.

Also, please note that while Sturgis Public Schools does send out Facebook and Twitter updates, the official notification will be on our website. Always check the website for the most accurate information.

## Spring 2015 Student Testing

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) is Michigan's new assessment system. It was developed by the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Standards and Assessment and builds upon Michigan's historically strong student assessment program.

M-STEP replaces the forty year-old Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and moves test administration from the fall to the spring of each school year. This will allow student measurement to be based upon current versus prior year learning.

The M-STEP includes summative assessments designed to measure student growth effectively for today's students. English language arts and mathematics will be assessed in grades 3-8, science in grades 4 and 7, and social studies in grades 5 and 8. It also includes the Michigan Merit Examination in 11th grade which consists of the ACT Plus Writing, WorkKeys, and M-STEP summative in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The new assessment meets all of the requirements put into law by the legislature; that it be an online assessment with a paper-and-pencil option; aligned to the state standards; expanding writing assessments to additional grades; providing an increased number of constructed response test questions so that pupils can demonstrate higher-order skills such as problem solving and communicating reasoning; and pilot tested before statewide implementation. The Spring 2015 assessment will include Michigan-created content, as well as content developed by the multi-state Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. Educators from Michigan public schools helped develop and write test content that will appear on M-STEP.



# School News

## Wenzel School

Last month Wenzel School celebrated Author's Day by hosting two children's book authors, several former Wenzel teachers, and some special community guests.

**Carrie Pearson**, author of two books and the recipient of the Gelett Burgess Award, read *A Winters Tale*, while some students performed a theater version of the story. **Eric Thomsma**, author of five children's books and several adult science fiction books, read his newest book *Everyday Wonders*, which explains why some people need glasses to help them see. The children used magnifying glasses to help them understand how the lens in glasses help people see more clearly. Two of Thomsma's books have received the KART Kids Booklist Award.

Between author presentations, students met with a variety of special guests to participate in activities related to books, writing, and creating.

**Sarah Herblet** had them create with recycled materials, **Liz Arseneau** taught the children animal songs, **Mary Craybeek** encouraged the kids to write and illustrate their winter activities, and **Marie Scheske** wove adventure stories using each student in the classroom as a character.



Wenzel School Principal, **Nick Herblet**, reads a story to Wenzel School Children.

## Eastwood School

### Families Adopted for Christmas

Eastwood fifth-grade students adopted three needy families for Christmas. The children picked items off the giving tree, bought the gifts, and wrapped them themselves.

Left: **Seth Falkenstein, Ana Munoz, and Nayeli Camacho**, fifth grade Eastwood students from **Mrs. Keesler's** class, wrap presents for one of the families that their class adopted.

## Wall School

**Jami Miller's** first grade class at Wall School enjoy a Thanksgiving meal in their classroom.



# School News

## Sturgis High School

### STEM Students Design Golf Course



STEM (Science Technology, Engineering Math) students are designing a new putt-putt golf course for Stateline Golf Range in Sturgis. Students built models of their proposed putt-putt holes.

### CTE Students Build a House

The Career Technical Education (CTE) 2014-15 project for students from Sturgis and Centerville is to build a house on Sand Lake for the Lennon family. Twenty-one students are participating on the project. *Below: Framing the roof of the house.*



## Sturgis Middle School

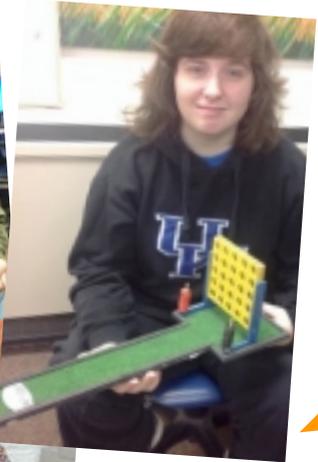
### Eighth Grade Students Job Shadow

Last month all eighth-grade Sturgis Middle School students had a chance to job shadow in the community. The students picked their job shadow opportunity by evaluating their skills, interests, hobbies, and future educational plans. Using five buses, four teachers' cars, and one suburban, the Middle School was able to take all 240 students to spend time on-the-job at one of 34 employer sites in nine different cities.

This in-person experience will help students make decisions about which high school classes to take, what kind of college they might want to attend, and how they can create their future.

Thanks to the Sturgis Area Business/Education Alliance for coordinating this and all of the employers and employees who helped make this a great day for our students.

*Sturgis Middle School student, La Teria Walton, helps Brad Donmeyer in the kitchen of the Sturges-Young Auditorium.*



*Clockwise from upper left: Doug Brazo, Lexi Wyatt, and Kyra DeLoach show their proposed putt-putt greens for Stateline golf. The green on the far left was built by Cole D'Haese.*

## Great Start Readiness Preschool

The Sturgis Public School Great Start Readiness Preschool program has expanded from three part-day classrooms to six full-day classrooms. Four classrooms are located in Jerolene and two in Central Commons. Here are some excerpts from a day in the life of a Great Start preschooler:

**Breakfast/Lunch/Snacks** - Assist in serving family-style meals; help with cleanup; occasionally assist in preparing snacks.

**Morning Meeting** - Participate in activities and songs.

**Small Groups** - Explore and work based on learning needs.

**Choice Time** - Learn compassion, creativity, and critical thinking through play; learn self-awareness, humor, and resilience through play.

**Outside Time** - Explore the environment and work on gross motor skills; play games.

**Rest Time** - Sleep, look at books, and/or listen to soft music.

## Good Behavior Bus Rewards

3,400 students attend preschool through 12th grade at Sturgis Public Schools. More than 1,000 of them ride the bus on one of our ten different routes. Students who show good behavior on the buses will soon receive "bus tickets" that can make them eligible for bi-weekly reward drawings.

At Sturgis Public Schools we believe that promoting positive behavior on the bus can also - hopefully - influence positive behavior in all aspects of their lives.

# Other News

## SHS State-Bound BPA Qualifiers

Congratulations to the following Sturgis High School Business Professional of America students who will compete at the State level from March 19-22:

**Administrative Support** - Hannah Bowen, Baleigh Brazo, Janeht Carrasco, Brookelyn Wheeler

**Advanced Accounting** - Meg Warner

**Advanced Interview Skills** - Elle Bowman, Jacob Haas, Cleanna Crabill, Shawna George

**Computer Animation Team** - Clinton Andrews, Quentin Potts, Gabriel Steele, Nathan Wood

**Economic Research Team** - Alaina Cholometes, Morgan Pueschel, Kayla Thornton

**Extemporaneous Speech** - Noah Kinsey, Nick Franks, Cleanna Crabill

**Fundamentals of Web Design** - Erick Montoya

**Graphic Design Promotion** - Jocelyn Montoya

**Human Resource Mangement** - Elizabeth Romero

**Interview Skills** - Dylan Kunce

**Legal Office Procedures** - Sarah Miller

**Medical Office Procedures** - Sarah Miller

**Parliamentary Procedure Team** - Nick Franks, Allison Harker, Avery Peterson, Meg Warner, Taylor Williams

**Payroll Accounting** - Morgan Pueschel

**Prepared Speech** - Matthew Polzin

**Presentation Management Team** - Elle Bowman, Shawna George, Brooke George, Aaron Rueppel

**Small Business Mangement Team** - Javier Fortoso, Jacob Haas, Matthew Polzin, Courtney McClain

**Video Production Team** - Dylan Kunce, Jon Thoms, Austin Trine

**Visual Basic / C# Programming** - Patrick Anderson

**Computer Programming Concepts** - Patrick Anderson, Hersh Vakharia

**Financial Math and Analysis Concepts** - Avery Peterson

**Management, Marketing, and Human Resources Concepts** - Taylor Williams

**Parliamentary Procedure Concepts** - Meg Warner, Nick Franks, Avery Peterson, Allison Harker

**Business Mangement Concepts** - Taylor Williams

## Orchestra & Band News

### Orchestra Goes to Chicago for Opera

The Sturgis High School Orchestra will be traveling to Chicago to enjoy the *Opera Tosca*, followed by dinner in the Italian Village. Thanks to the Sturgis Band and Orchestra Boosters for helping to fund and coordinate this seventh annual trip.

### HS and MS Bands Prepare for Festival

The Sturgis High School Band will perform for Festival at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, February 27 at Three Rivers High School. The Sturgis Middle School Band Festival will be at Harper Creek High School on Saturday, March 14th. The seventh and eighth grade students will perform at 1:20 p.m.

In addition to our festivals, several High School students are preparing for Solo and Ensemble on February 7th.



The Sturgis High School Orchestra performs at Nottawa School.

## Arts/Culture Trek Grants

Sturgis Kindergarten through second grade children will travel to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA). In addition to hundreds of exhibits, they will also see special works like *Wired and Wrapped*, a sculpture by **Seungmo Park**, a contemporary Korean sculptor; *Redefining the Multiple*, by a Japanese artist with formal training in printmaking; and *2nd Sight/Insight II*, which are selected works from the KIA collection that are accompanied by the literary responses of local poets.

“This is a fabulous opportunity for our students,” says **Gail Suess-Brandow**, the K-2 art instructor who wrote the grant that will pay for the trip. Students will draw and/or write about their favorite piece(s). Also, later this Spring they may have the opportunity to create a bowl in the style of glass artist **Dale Chihuly**, who they will learn about during this field trip. If anyone would like to contribute funding to buy supplies for this project, Brandow is seeking funding through [“DonorsChoose.org.”](http://DonorsChoose.org)

High School students in **Sally Baldwin**’s sculpture class will soon visit *Meijer Gardens* in Grand Rapids, thanks to a grant from *Arts and Culture Trek*. After they return, they will complete a sculpture inspired by what they viewed.

*This activity is supported by Michigan Youth Arts and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.*



# Other Happenings

## SAT Trumps ACT

All Michigan high school juniors, including Sturgis High School juniors, will begin taking the SAT as the state-administered college assessment exam, beginning in 2016. The College Board administers the SAT, a globally-recognized college admission test that lets students show colleges what they know and how well they can apply that knowledge in subject areas like reading, writing, and math.

“The College Board’s SAT test is respected and used around the country,” said Michigan State Superintendent **Mike Flanagan**, “and Michigan high schools work with them now through their Advanced Placement program that helps students earn college credits while in high school.”

The move from testing with the SAT instead of the ACT will save the State millions of dollars, while providing valuable assistance to Michigan educators, students, and parents.

Other benefits reaped from switching to the SAT are:

- The College Board will provide all schools and students with free test prep materials and online practice tests to help students prepare for the redesigned SAT in 2016.
- In-person and technology-based training for local test administrators, proctors, and technology coordinators will be provided.
- Professional development will be offered for teachers, students, and parents in understanding the new SAT and in analyzing test results, including how to use the data/resources for admissions and financial aid decisions.
- The SAT will be aligned to Michigan content standards, evidence-based design.
- There will be testing beyond multiple choice options.
- Reports will be available online.
- There will be no need to reapply for testing accommodations if a student is already approved for the Advanced Placement Program or the PSAT testing for National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test
- The college entrance exam and work skills assessment will be given free to approximately 115,000 Michigan high school students each year.

## eCademy Congratulations!

Congratulations to eCademy Students of the month:

**September - Tyler French and Maria Garcia-Carmona**

**October - Tyler Merkle and Regenea Gale**

**November - Mark Duffy II and Stephanie Rumzie**

Sturgis eCademy is an alternative high school program offering an online/blended learning experience. This is the second year for eCademy.

## Winter 2015 Varsity Schedule Home/Post-Season

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

1/23	Allegan	Home	7:15 PM
1/30	Otsego	Home	7:15 PM
2/10	Harper Creek	Home	7:15 PM
3/03	Coldwater	Home	7:15 PM
3/05	(Crossover) TBA	Home	7:15 PM
3/11	Districts (vs Coldwater)	Coldwater	7:30 PM
3/13	Districts	Coldwater	7:00 PM
3/16-18	Regionals	Comstock	TBA
3/24	Quarter Finals	Marshall	TBA
3/24-28	State Finals	Breslin Center	TBA

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

1/23	Allegan	Home	7:15 PM
1/30	Otsego	Home	6:00 PM
2/16	Comstock	Home	7:15 PM
2/17	Dowagiac	Home	7:15 PM
2/20	Plainwell	Home	7:15 PM
3/4	Districts (vs Edwardsburg)	Vicksburg	5:30 PM
3/6	Districts	Vicksburg	7:00 PM
3/10-12	Regionals	Hopkins	TBA
3/17	Quarter Finals	Eaton Rapids	TBA
3/19-21	State Finals	Breslin Center	TBA

### BOYS VARSITY SWIMMING

1/27	Allegan	Home	6:00 PM
2/05	Bridgman	Home	6:00 PM
2/10	Otsego	Home	6:00 PM
3/13-14	State	Oakland University	TBA

### GIRLS VARSITY COMPETITIVE CHEER

1/31	Sturgis Invitational	Home	10:00 AM
2/21	Districts	Mattawan	TBA
2/28	Regionals	Thornapple-Kellogg	TBA
3/6-7	State	Delta-Plex Grand Rapids	TBA

### BOYS VARSITY WRESTLING

2/04	Quad	Home	5:30 PM
2/12	Team Districts	Three Rivers	6:00 PM
2/14	Individual Districts	Vicksburg	TBA
2/18	Team Regional	Mattawan	TBA
2/21	Individual Regional	Eaton Rapids	TBA
2/27-28	Team State	Kellogg Arena	TBA
3/5-7	Team State	Palace of Auburn Hills	TBA

### BOYS/GIRLS VARSITY BOWLING

2/27-28	Regionals	Vicksburg	TBA
3/6-7	State	Waterford	TBA

# 2014-15 Kindergarten Orientation & Registration

Sturgis Public Schools will be holding a Kindergarten Orientation for parents of all children entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2015. Children must turn five-years old on-or-before SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 to enroll. This meeting is for PARENTS ONLY and will be held on Monday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wall School Gym. Kindergarten Registration packets will be distributed at this meeting.

Registration will be held at the Wall School Gym from 1-7:00 p.m. on both Monday, April 21st and on Tuesday, April 22nd. Free vision and hearing testing by the Health Department will be offered at these registrations sessions, or you may choose to make an appointment for screening on a day and time outside of Kindergarten Registration.

Parents will need to bring the following documents to Registration:

- Completed registration packet received at Orientation
- The original state-certified Birth Certificate
- Immunization Record
- Vision & Hearing Record, if available
- One Proof of Residency listing parent name and address (such as driver's license, utility bill, rental receipt, etc.)

For more information about Kindergarten Orientation or Registration, please call Congress school at 659-1565, Wall School at 659-1570, or Wenzel School at 659-1575.

## Little Shop of Horrors

Sturgis High School will be performing *Little Shop of Horrors* on February 6-8th at Sturges-Young Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Seniors tickets for Sunday's performance are only \$4.

## 2015 School Calendar

<b>January</b>	
5	School Resumes
23	Half Day - End of First Semester
<b>February</b>	
13-16	No School - Mid-Winter Break
<b>March</b>	
23-27	Parent Teacher Conference Week - Grades K-5
25-26	Parent Teacher Conferences - Grades 6-12
<b>April</b>	
3	No School - Good Friday
6-10	No School for Students - Spring Break
<b>May</b>	
25	No School for Students - Memorial Day
<b>June</b>	
11	Last Day for Students - Half Day

## Parenting Fair

Sturgis Youth and Family Council will sponsor its annual Kiwanis Parenting Fair on Saturday, February 21st from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sturgis Middle School. **Patti Kelley Criswell**, a clinical social worker, author of award-winning American Girl Books, and a Professor of Social Work at Western Michigan University, will be the keynote speaker, presenting sessions entitled *Fostering Emotional Well Being in Families* and *Stand Up For Yourself and Your Friends*.



**Patti Kelley Criswell**

The Fair will also feature mini-parenting sessions, various vendors, information about local clubs and businesses, and numerous door prize drawings. The best thing - everything is free, including admission, and childcare (for the first 100 children). The first 400 attendees will receive a wrist band for a free lunch. Everyone else can eat for \$3 per person.



Sturgis High School "Legion" members cheer for the basketball team. The Legion is a dedicated group of high school students committed to making one of the best cheering sections to ever exist at Sturgis High School.

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