

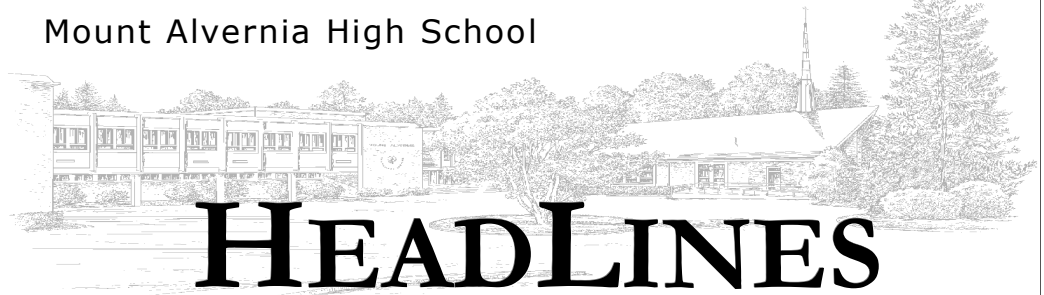
March, 2010

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790 Centre Street
Newton, MA. 02458

Phone: 617-969-2260
Fax: 617-969-4246

Mount Alvernia High School



Dear Parents,

“Not too soon and not too late; the secret of education lies in choosing the right time to do things.”

Natalia Ginzburg*

As I watch and listen to the seniors work their way through the *Senior Symposium* process, I am struck again as I have been since 1994 by the excitement, diligence and ownership I see in their bulging book bags and hear in their conversations. I also see shadows of them as the smaller, more tentative students they were in the earlier grades. Since then they have worked their way through countless hours, many classes and a wide range of assignments. All the learning they have accomplished, all the teachers they have encountered, and all the disciplines they have studied have contributed to the mindset and the skill set required for this experience.

The *Senior Symposium* is truly the capstone project of a Mount Alvernia education and the timing of this “academic boot camp” is optimal. The seniors are almost ready to leave the world of high school and not quite college students. This process offers them the opportunity for a formal closure of secondary school. In other words, they can say, I have come this far. I am able to work independently and leave a legacy of quality work in a volume in my school library. These papers, this web site page and this oral presentation before parents, faculty and guests are all proof of my accomplishment.

There is concentration, deliberation, a healthy apprehension and also pride as they tackle each new idea and the questions that arise from their reading and writing. They solve textual and technical problems and master citing sources, compiling annotated bibliographies and composing footnotes. When they choose a writer to analyze and a topic to research, they are on the way to becoming “resident experts.” The weekly research logs and reflection papers, the tutorial sessions with Dr. Heim and Ms. McLaughlin and their own personal intellectual explorations are proof that they are meeting this challenge at the right time in their lives.

This last semester at MA is without doubt difficult and very different from the senior spring other students in other schools may be living. However, without exception every graduate has returned from her freshman year in college, admitting that she was prepared because of the education she received here. The curriculum at MA is designed, adopted, monitored, evaluated and altered through a deliberate process. Its goal is this kind of preparation, independence and achievement. I have enclosed a list of this year’s writers and history topics for your review.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Kent".

Kathleen Kent
Head of School

*Italian writer and political activist (1916-1991), and the focus of Kassie Tosiello’s ‘02, symposium.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Friday, March 5 11:30 a.m. Faculty meeting

NO SCHOOL DAY

The school will be closed on Friday, March 19.

NEW STUDENT INFORMATION NIGHT

On Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. newly accepted students for the 7th and 8th grade are invited to attend an information night in the student dining room. This evening is designed to give the parent and student all the information they need to help them make a decision about enrolling here for next year.

GRADES/REPORT CARDS

On Thursday, March 11 grades will close for the senior class. On Wednesday, March 31 grades will close for the rest of the students. Quarter Three report cards will be mailed to senior parents in the vicinity of March 22. Quarter Three report cards will be mailed to all other students' parents in early April.

GRADE 9 RETREAT

On Tuesday, March 16, grade 9 will go on retreat to the Espousal Center in Waltham.

GRADE 10 FIELD TRIP

On Tuesday, March 23, grade 10 students will go to the Boston University Medical School CityLab as part of their Biology program. Permission slips will be sent home soon.

REMINDERS

UNIFORMS

All students should be in the regular school uniform on March 1. This consists of the skirt, sweater, uniform shirt, navy blue opaque tights and flat, dark shoes.

STUDENT TRIPS

Mount Alvernia High School does not support or endorse any trips involving students traveling alone during vacations. Of course, we always enjoy hearing about family vacations.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

All tuition matters should be handled through Mrs. Morley at extension 12. If you have any questions, please call her.

Payment of tuition deposits for next year for students currently in grades 7, 9, 10, and 11 will be due on April 15. The bills will be mailed on March 15. The grade 8 student deposits have already been paid.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The newest members to the National Honor Society will be inducted on Thursday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served and the induction ceremony will follow.

NATIONAL EXAMS

On Thursday, March 11 students enrolled in Latin will take the National Latin Exam. We wish them the best of luck.

THEATRE PRODUCTION

On Friday, March 12th, "Macbeth" will be presented to students in grades 10 through 12 in the gym. This will take place in the morning.

PROM FASHION SHOW

Monday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m. we will present our 21st Prom Fashion Show. Tickets will be on sale in the development office and they must be purchased in advance. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.** Plan to join us for a fun night for all. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Riley.

JUNIOR INFORMATION NIGHT

A meeting for juniors and their parents will take place on Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is mandatory for all juniors and their parent(s). It represents the "official" beginning of the college search and application process.

COFFEE WITH HEAD OF SCHOOL

Please join Mrs. Kent for coffee and conversation on Friday, March 12th from 8:30 to 9:30. All are welcome.

ART SHOW

Please refer to enclosed flyer.