

November 2009

Volume 11, Issue 2

790 Centre Street
Newton, MA. 02458

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

Mount Alvernia High School



Dear Parents,

My October newsletter shared with you some of the strategies we have adopted to sustain and grow Mount Alvernia during these economically and demographically challenging times. One year after our NEASC self-study ended, we embarked on another one.

The “branding” process we began last spring has yielded many tangible results—a new MA logo, designed by a Westminster Abbey calligrapher, a new web site, and junior and senior ambassadors in special gray sweaters who will represent MA at fairs, elementary school visits and act as guides on shadow days. We also have new stationary, a colorful new view book and our Open House this year, which has always been noted for its warmth and hospitality, will offer an even more vivid glimpse of life at Mount Alvernia.

However, the intangible rewards of these incredibly time consuming months are even more impressive. The meetings, surveys, research, conversations, interviews, writing and photographs have pushed us to be more thoughtful and articulate about this very special school. The words and phrases in the new materials as well as the images capturing who we are and what we do tell the compelling story of Mount Alvernia.

When you read our view book, you will see phrases like *encouraged to believe, driven to excel, desire to compete, freedom to express, opportunity to achieve, inspired to give, prepared for life*. You will also see this question, “*Is an all-girls Catholic education still relevant in the 21st century?*” and our answer –

We would argue that it’s never been more so. While some of the challenges young girls face today are timeless, others are unlike anything previous generations have encountered. We feel it is not enough to simply prepare the next generation of women with a foundation of rigorous academics; we must also provide them with the confidence and the moral compass they will need to navigate through a lifetime of unique trials. Honoring the Franciscan tradition of service, we have dedicated ourselves to the task of instilling the spiritual and intellectual values that enable our students to become strong, self-assured women. And that is perhaps our proudest legacy

I look forward to sharing more of our story with you.

As Thanksgiving approaches I am reminded of how grateful I am for your involvement and support.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Kent
Head of School

NO SCHOOL/EARLY DISMISSALS

Friday, November 6 EARLY DISMISSAL
Faculty Meeting

Wednesday, November 11 NO SCHOOL
Veterans Day

Thursday, November 19 EARLY DISMISSAL
Report card conferences 11:30 a.m.

Friday, November 20 NO SCHOOL
Faculty Retreat

Wed., Nov 25 - Fri., Nov 27 NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break

THEATER PRODUCTION

On Tuesday, November 10, the New Rep Theater will come to Mount Alvernia and present a performance of "Animal Farm". The performance will take place in the morning. All grades will attend this performance.

WINTER WINDFALL

Our eighth annual Winter Windfall kicks off on November 18th. Calendars will remain at \$10.00 each. Each family will be asked to purchase a minimum of 10 calendars. They make great stocking stuffers or holiday gift tags.

COFFEE WITH HEAD OF SCHOOL

On Friday, November 13th parents are invited to come to the school for informal conversation with Kathleen Kent, Head of School from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Entrance Testing for students who want to apply to Mount Alvernia for grades 7, 8 or 9 next year will be administered on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Students applying for grades 7 or 8 may also take the test on Saturday, December 5, 2009. If you know a family who may want to apply here, please have them contact the admissions office for details.

RETREATS/FIELD TRIPS

The students in grade 8 will go on their class retreat on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at the Espousal Center in Waltham.

On Monday, November 16th Grade 12 will go to the State House.

REPORT CARD CONFERENCES

Report card conferences are on Thursday, November 19 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Parents may pick up student report cards in the chapel foyer during this time. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for brief conferences. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 on this day. **Report cards will not be available until 12:30. There will not be an afternoon study hall on this day. The building will close at 12:00 noon. Please plan accordingly.**

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Please remember that no student will be allowed to take semester exams in January unless all financial obligations have been met. Tuition payments for the second half of the year will be due on December 15, 2009. Invoices will be mailed in November. Please contact Mrs. Patricia Morley at extension 12 if you have any questions.

*Happy Thanksgiving to all of
our students and their families*

