

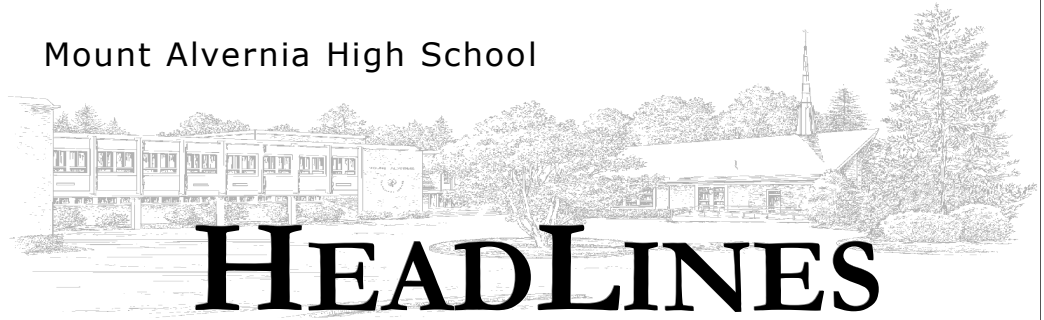
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790 Centre Street
Newton, MA. 02458

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

Mount Alvernia High School



HEADLINES

Dear Parents,

*At Christmas I no more desire a rose
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season grows.*

Shakespeare
Love's Labour's Lost I, i, 100-105

To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring.
George Santayana

During these final days at Mount Alvernia, I find myself thinking often of seasons - of the natural year, the school year and of life. The words of both Shakespeare and Santayana wisely advise valuing the qualities of each natural season. Fall's color precedes winter's monochrome beauty, which finally yields to spring's blossoms and the fullness of summer. We might extend their observations to the rhythm of an academic year and the phases of an individual's life. The school year opens with possibility inherent in each new September, proceeds through the steady tasks of winter and should give way to a sense of accomplishment in June.

The seasons of a year are also an apt metaphor for a lifetime. I was fortunate to know from the time I fell in love with words that I wanted to be a high school English teacher. I am at heart an optimist or perhaps a better phrase would be an idealistic realist. The lessons imbedded in literature over the years have challenged me, comforted me and inspired me.

It has been a joy to share with so many students - Macbeth's terrible temptation, Hamlet's angst, the epiphanies of Joyce's *Dubliners*, the melancholy of Arnold's *Dover Beach* and Hardy's *The Darkling Thrush*, the energy of Tennyson's *Ulysses*, Jane Austen's ironic observations of human nature and the timelessness of Sophocles' *Antigone*. Their responses to the characters, themes and styles of countless writers have energized me and confirmed my career decision of long ago.

I recently encountered a new form of literary criticism "neuro-lit crit," that combines cognitive science and literary theory. This approach asks the basic question - why do human beings write stories, and like to read them? Does story telling have some evolutionary advantage? What are the personal and social benefits of reading about characters that have never really lived?

I am intrigued by this new area of inquiry and the questions it raises about how the mind works and what might be another intrinsic value of literature. As I anticipate more time to read, to think, to write and ponder the deeper questions of life, I am reminded of other wise words about seasons.

To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The seasons are what a symphony ought to be: four perfect movements in harmony with each other.

Arthur Rubenstein

In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.

William Blake

While Ecclesiastes captures the rhythm of all life, Blake's observation seems to mirror best a teaching one. I look forward to enjoying wonderful memories from my years in education.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Kent

Kathleen Kent
Head of School

FINANCIAL MATTERS

All tuition balances for the 09-10 school year must be paid before final exams begin. **NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO TAKE FINAL EXAMS UNLESS ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS HAVE BEEN MET.**

Seat deposits and enrollment contracts for next year were due April 15. If you are planning to re-enroll but have not returned the contract and seat deposit, please contact Mrs. Morley as soon as possible.

For the 10-11 school year there will be two payment options – the traditional 2-payment plan with due dates in July and December as well as the 10-month budget plan administered by FACTS. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER UNLESS TUITION PAYMENTS ARE UP TO DATE AND SIGNED ENROLLMENT CONTRACTS ARE ON FILE.**

FINAL EXAMS

Final exams for students in grades 7 through 11 will be on June 10, 11, 14 and 15. Final report cards will be mailed by June 25. The prayer service and awards ceremony will take place after the final exam on Tuesday, June 15.

The computer lab and library will be open until 1:00 p.m. on June 10, 11 and 14. The school will close promptly at dismissal on June 15th as faculty and staff will be leaving the building to attend an end of year luncheon.

REMINDER

ALL CO-CURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE FILLED IN ORDER TO TAKE FINAL EXAMS.

8TH GRADE PRAYER SERVICE

On Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 1:15 p.m. the eighth grade will have a prayer service. The service will be followed with a small reception in the foyer. All parents are invited to attend.

GOODBYE

On Saturday, May 22, 2010, 48 seniors will be graduated from Mount Alvernia High School. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors and we hope that they will visit often. The Senior Symposium will take place on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Prior to the symposium, at 6:30 p.m., the senior art students will have all of their work on display. The Baccalaureate Mass will take place on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Graduation will be held on Saturday, May 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

START OF SCHOOL NEXT YEAR

The start of school next year is as follows:

Thursday, September 9	Grades 7, 8 and 9
Friday, September 10	Grades 10, 11 and 12

Both days are full days of school. Casual dress will be allowed both days. Please refer to your student handbook for dress code guidelines. School pictures will be taken on both days. On Monday, September 13 all students will attend in full uniform. **Please watch your August mailing for full details about the opening of school.**

UNIFORMS

The uniform price list for next year will be mailed with quarter 4 report cards. Please order your uniforms early from J. B. Edwards so that you will have everything you need in time for September 13th. You can also order on line at jbedwarduniforms.com

EARLY DISMISSAL/NO SCHOOL

Friday, May 14 Early Dismissal 11:30

Faculty Meeting.

The building will close at 11:45. There will not be an afternoon study.

Monday, May 31 Memorial Day **NO SCHOOL**

Wednesday, June 9 Early Dismissal 11:30 exam preparation

In June, report cards will be mailed along with an end of the year letter.

In August, a summer mailing will be sent to everyone. It will include the beginning of the year information as well as the student contract and various other items. Please look for that in early August.

The school offices will be closed for the month of July and will reopen on August 10th on a part time basis.