

Letter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students, and Friends,

Welcome to the 2006-2007 school year. As always, September is a month of anticipation, discoveries and new beginnings for me. How I wish for the same to transform the dreadful turmoil in parts of the Middle East, as well as Boston's own violence.

Even with all of the grim news stories, the start of this school year holds promise. September always means a clean slate as well as continuing work from the previous year, which leads to school goals that I will discuss in more detail next month. As I try to remember so many new students' and parents' names, however, may my slate not be too clean.

I am also a little sad about the start of the year because it means that long summer days are fading and with them my chance to read as many good novels as I can. Reading for me is the most wonderful form of travel I know. I love to travel—by plane, train, bus, boat, car, bike, whatever mode of transportation, but for me there is nothing quite like traveling through books.

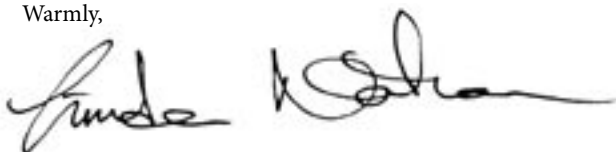
This summer I entered into the world of Peekay, a young white boy who became a champion boxer in pre-World War II South Africa in Brice Courtenay's novel Power of One. Through the boy's story, I traveled through his country and learned about the horrors of apartheid (although that word wasn't even in vogue then) and the salvation of love. Then, I crossed into Luis Urrea's fantastic work of fiction called The Hummingbird's Daughter, which is set in the later 1800s and early 1900s in Mexico before the Revolution.

While each of these books weaves captivating stories with colorful and imaginative characters, it was the landscape that compelled me through the pages. I felt as if each story led me to different discoveries about myself and others through the way the protagonists interacted with the landscape. I could feel the aridness of the Mexican countryside with the mountains looming in the distance. I could sense the desire of the characters to one day feel the ocean that they never would see. I could climb the cliffs that Peekay climbed with an Afrikaans doctor who befriended him, and I wandered through their cactus garden meticulously tended under the hot sun.

I am eager to hear about the books you have read and the journeys you have taken. I hope you have made some thoughtful discoveries. Perhaps some of you have had epiphanies about the coming school year as you have read. I look forward to reading your essays that are due September 11 to your seminar teacher. I also truly hope you have had a safe and productive summer.

The pointing on the walls and the windows is almost finished so the next Nor'easter rains and winds won't dampen our spirits. The custodial staff is doing everything to make the building sparkle for you. Faculty and staff have finished intense days of curriculum planning and discussion for the year. Now all we need is you so we can begin!

Warmly,



Linda Nathan
Headmaster

Important Dates

- Tuesday, September 5**
Parent/Caregiver Orientation:
Music and Dance, 6-8 pm,
see details in Newsletter
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Wednesday, September 6**
Parent/Caregiver Orientation:
Theatre and VA at Mass Art, 6-8 pm,
see details in Newsletter
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Thursday, September 7**
Opening Day of School
Term 1 Begins
Honor Roll Term 4 by Major Rally
- Monday, September 11**
Summer Reading Assignment Due
- Tuesday, September 12**
SAT registration deadline,
see details in Newsletter
- Wednesday, September 13**
Senior Night, 6-7:30 pm
see details in Newsletter
- Monday, September 18**
Student Govt. Service week
- Tuesday, September 19**
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Wednesday, September 20**
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Thursday, September 21**
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Friday, September 22**
Thompson Island Outward Bound,
Grade 9
Grade Level activities, Grades 10-12
- Monday, September 25**
Student Govt. Elections
- Tuesday, September 26**
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Wednesday, September 27**
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Friday, September 29**
Red Sox game at 7:05 pm
- Thursday, October 5**
Open House
Parent Workshop
- Saturday, October 14**
SATs
- Saturday, October 21**
PSATs

**Calendar events are subject to change.
Please call to confirm times and dates.*

Required Parent/Caregiver Orientation Meetings

Please make every effort to attend the parent /caregiver orientation meetings. Each arts major has special requirements and important dates to keep in mind. Family involvement is a very important part of our students' success. We look forward to meeting new faces and reconnecting with familiar ones!

Tuesday, September 5 6-8 pm

For parent/caregivers of Music and Dance students,
at **Boston Arts Academy**

Wednesday, September 6 6-8 pm

For parent/caregivers of Theatre and Visual Arts students
at **Massachusetts College of Art**, 621 Huntington Ave, Boston

Summer Reading Assignments

Completed assignments are due on Monday, September 11. These will count as the first seminar grade.

SAT Registration Deadline

The deadline for SAT registration is Tuesday, September 12. For on-line registration, go to www.collegeboard.com. Payments can be made with a credit card. For a fee waiver, please see Ms. Hairston (ext 121) before the deadline.

Senior Night

Wednesday, September 13 6-7:30 pm

at **Boston Arts Academy Assembly Hall**

Planning for college begins tonight! Families and students should attend this important meeting to learn about deadlines and application requirements for college enrollment. Local college representatives will be on hand to answer questions.



Members of BAA's 2006 graduating class at our commencement ceremony at Symphony Hall

Photo by Phyllis Bretholtz

**Congratulations to
Boston Arts Academy
Class of 2006!**

**Over \$1,400,000 in
grants and scholarships
were awarded to our
2006 senior class!**

A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
FOR THE VISUAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS
*Boston Arts
Academy*
174 Ipswich Street
Boston, MA 02215