



"I believe that love isn't divisible, it's exponential."

my story

I live on the North Shore in Massachusetts, roughly 40 miles north of Boston.

My home is in a quiet residential neighborhood about three miles from the beach, so I am fortunate to be able to go there often - it's where I find the most peace.

I moved out to this area about 20 years ago, after attending college in Connecticut. I am originally from not-so-upstate New York. I was raised with a humble, family-centered lifestyle in a small rural town.

This is my 20th year in the field of education. I am an Assistant Principal at a public high school in northeastern Massachusetts.

I live a healthy, full life with many cherished friends and beloved family members.

My name is Alyssa.



FUN FACTS:

1. I have a three-year old yellow Labrador named Ryman. She is a dream that came true for me. (And she's great with kids!)
2. I love being outside in any weather!
3. I ran the Boston Marathon in 2006.
4. I have two godchildren; Molly (24) and Shane (7).
5. I love to work in my yard, and don't mind mowing my lawn! (Really!)
6. My sister, Julie (39), and I are very close. She moved to this area about 10 years ago, and lives close by.
7. I played Division I volleyball for Quinnipiac University.
8. My parents have a home in southern Maine. Some of my favorite memories have been made there.
9. This summer, I am learning to paddle board.
10. The most treasured things in my life are my relationships.





so much love



sisters

our family

The love I have been given in my life is no doubt what has made me the person I am today, and it is that love that I have to give that drives me. I was born in "upstate" New York in 1981. My parents are Charlene and John. I have a sister, Julie, who was born in 1984. My mom, dad, younger sister and I have always been a close-knit family unit. I was brought up in an exceptionally loving and supportive household. My mom is a pediatric physical therapist and my dad is a police officer. My parents have been married for 44 years, and together for 50! For many years, they worked opposite shifts, which meant that one of them was always home for my sister and I. I was always surrounded by love and support, and have favorite memories of my family (sometimes as many as 20 people) cheering me on as I played on the court.

I consider myself so fortunate to have my mom and dad as my parents; they created a home that was nurturing and caring, but not without boundaries and age-appropriate consequences. I feel extremely fortunate to have learned from them, and to be loved by them, and they still serve a critical role in my adult life. I still love spending time with my parents and my sister; we are often in Maine together on the weekends and my family has become family to many of my friends and their children. They can't wait to officially become grandparents!

The kids in my life already call my sister, "Auntie Ju".



LOVE
grows
HERE

When friends are *family*



I have a close group of friends who have become family. Every summer, our gang visits my friend and her family at their house in southern Maine for a couple days. The kids have a blast at the beach from the early morning hours until sunset, and we have a tradition of ordering local fried seafood for dinner. The pictures tell the sweet (and sometimes chaotic) story.



More about me



I loved my high school experience, academically, athletically and socially. I have always been a good student, someone who loved school at all ages. I graduated from KHS in 1999. In fact, I loved school so much that my path led me to become a high school biology teacher. I went to college from 1999 to 2003 and played college volleyball. I loved my teammates, and my experiences as a college athlete taught me so much. I graduated in 2003 with a BS in Health Science. I went on to graduate school in MA to pursue a Master's Degree in the fall of 2003, and graduated with a Master's in Education in 2005. I was hired as a high school biology teacher at SHS in the fall of 2004. My student teaching was on-the-job-training in every sense, as I immediately was given my own 100 kids to teach! There I met a great crew of young and veteran teachers, and continued my love of learning.

I took a job as a biology teacher at a different high school in the fall of 2007. I loved my time with students in my classroom, and was the head coach of the volleyball program for 11 years. In 2013, I graduated with a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS, similar to a second Master's degree recognized by other professions), with a concentration in School Administration, grades 9 to 12. While I was not ready to leave the classroom at that time, I wanted to begin to think about my future in public education. In the spring of 2017, due to an unforeseen vacancy, I was asked to take on the role of Assistant Principal for grades 9 and 10 at MRHS, a role I still enjoy today. I have had many great mentors throughout my athletic, academic and professional careers, and I feel so lucky to have met and been guided by some really influential people along my journey.

I was raised in a Catholic family who attended mass together every Sunday. While I still believe in being a good Christian person, I no longer regularly attend Catholic mass. I have never been married. I have dated a few guys, but unfortunately, I never met my soulmate. I am not someone who just "settles". I tried various platforms of online dating, but never felt like I was able to meet the right person, or connect for the right reasons. I am still hopeful that I will meet the right person, someday soon.



adventures

My mom is on the right. Her good friend, D, is on the left.

Maine FUN in EVERY Season!





These pictures were taken at our dock in Maine to kick off the summer of 2022.



This is my crew!



Annual pumpkin carving party and
Hocus Pocus outdoor movie night in my yard!



I couldn't ask for a better, more supportive group of friends!



We certainly have a lot of fun together too!



I have so much fun with
these little buddies.
I absolutely

LOVE

hanging out with them.
They are a huge part of

my life

Family Traditions

For the past several years, we have celebrated Thanksgiving in Maine. On the day after Thanksgiving, we go find our Christmas tree at a farm in Maine. We decorate for Christmas that day too. My sister has an unmatched love for Christmas! She is quite the little elf!

Christmas has always been one of our most special traditions. My sister and I both travel home, and spend a week or more with our family. We have a Christmas Eve dinner with my mom's side of the family, and spend Christmas Day with my dad's side of the family. We host a brunch on Christmas morning for my Uncle Mark, and my cousins, Molly and Emily. (Their mom, Aunt Lisa, passed away in 2016, but she was a big part of our family tradition as well.) My mom researches themed games for us to play, and we enjoy being together. We typically have quite a photo shoot too!

JOY
hope
LOVE





COLD
AIR
→ →
WARM
FIRE



we are family

My support system is incredible. In addition to my parents and my sister, I have a network of friends who are like family. While I have not yet met my spouse, I have been so fortunate to meet and maintain close friendships with people I've met since high school. In particular, I have a group of friends that I have been working with for the past 15 years, with whom I am lucky to share my life. They all have children of their own, and I enjoy my role as being their "aunt". My good friend Karyn's kids, M (9) and S (6), call me "Anyia", because when M was a baby, "Auntie Alyssa" was too difficult to say. "Anyia" is one of my most treasured titles. I have spent a lot of time with them since they were infants. M had her first sleepover at my house when she was one year old. Sometimes they accompany me to Maine for the weekend, and there they are doted on by my mom, dad and my sister. S often says "Anyia, when can we go to Maine again?" All four of us share a very special relationship with them.



One of My Favorite Traditions with Friends:



After our adventure on a horse-drawn carriage, we had an EPIC spontaneous evening snowball fight right there in the snow.



Happy

New Year's Eve in North Conway, NH with all the kids!



new
year



When we got back to the house, the kids had a dance party and did their own kids' countdown to celebrate the new year!



Work Life

I have been an athlete all of my life, and truly loved being coached. I loved coaching the girls' volleyball program at MRHS. In some ways, now my role is still to coach, but instead of coaching athletes on a court, I often feel like I am "coaching" the high school students and teachers with whom I spend my days at school. I find this to be some of the most rewarding experiences in my adult life, when I can positively guide, mentor and influence others and see them celebrate their successes in the process.

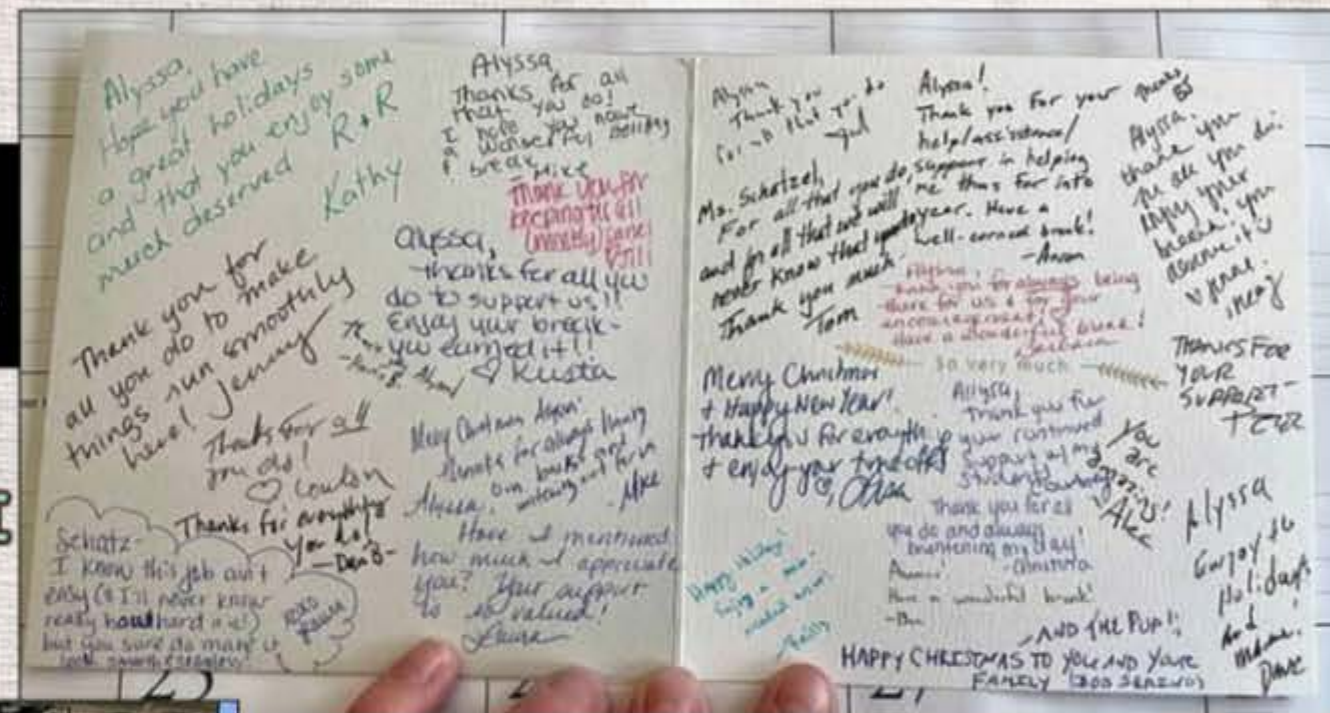


We went axe throwing for my birthday this year! What a blast!
These are many of my work-friends and their spouses.

ENJOY EVERY MOMENT



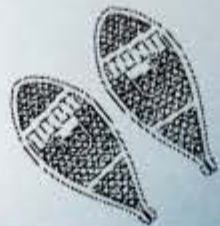
I am in charge overseeing the ninth and tenth grade students. This thank you card was from the teachers with whom I work closely. It meant the world to me.



Spending my work days with people who I respect and love has such a positive effect on my life. These folks are so much more than colleagues to me. I feel so fortunate to work with such dedicated, hard-working, loyal people, and there is no shortage of laughs either!

Dreams for my child:

I have always wanted to be a mom. I love my relationships with the children in my life, and I have always wanted to raise a child of my own. In the absence of meeting the right person, I have thought about my options for quite some time, and decided at the age of 40 that I wanted to adopt. In January 2022, I started to research the process and learn about different agencies that could help me make that happen. I was connected with Wide Horizons in Waltham, MA in February and started the local home study process. The more I came to know and understand about adoption, the more I realized how important pursuing an open adoption was. Some of my extended family, despite being close to them in my early years, are more like acquaintances now. Some of my friends are more like sisters and aunts and cousins. With that said, I think your family is who you choose to spend your life with; who you support, and feel supported by, who you connect with, who you stand by and who stands by you in the worst of times and in the best of times. Because I define family this way, I think a birth family can become an extension of my current family. In terms of open adoption, I see so much value in having a relationship with my child's birth family. I think having an open relationship with defined expectations leads to a healthy relationship between the birth family, child and the adoptive family and allows for trust, respect, and even admiration to exist. Quite honestly, I think open adoption is the only way.



I hope that I will have an open and honest relationship with my child and their birth family. I would like to foster a rich environment that leads my child to feel loved, confident, able, and willing to try new things, and meet new people. I feel like since I am an older person becoming a mom, I have had the benefit of watching my close friends become moms, and have been "taking notes" along the way with all of the trials and tribulations of being a parent. I feel ready and am committed to take on becoming a parent, and plan to seek out advice and help when I need it. I am so excited for this next chapter of my life. I once read a quote that I love, "I believe that love isn't divisible, it's exponential. And I have so much love to give!"





My greatest satisfactions stem from my relationships, both professionally and personally. I am proud to be a devoted daughter and sister, and I take pride in and hold my friendships close to my heart. I am proud of my career in education, and that I can provide for myself. I am proud to own and take good care of my own home. I enjoy learning new things, and on a silly level, I enjoy taking care of my grass and the flowers in my yard! Ha! I find the hard work and the fruits of my labor to be very rewarding, and it's also a great stress-reliever for me. I also love to kayak, grill good food, and sit by the campfire. My time with family and friends is my favorite.



LIFE IS GOOD



SUN SAND SEA

This is a note from the former principal at my high school. He was a great mentor to me. I enjoyed working with him and learning from him. He knocked on my door in March 2017, and my world was forever changed.

Alyssa,
There are sooo many things I
Could thank you for over the past
5 years, but I'd need 5 cards to
capture it all. But the one constant
they'd all share in common is thank
you for friendship through all of them.
I couldn't have asked for a better
Assistant Principal. If I had to do
the past 5 years over again,
I'd knock on your door every time!!
You are smart, a good listener (thanks
for listening to all my stories), caring,
thoughtful, dedicated, loyal and
hard working. You are one of the
pillars that MASCO rests on. I know
that can be a heavy load/burden
but you are uniquely qualified to
carry the load!
I knew last summer what
I would give you as a thank you
gift. Your friend... with much gratitude,
Pete Play Well !!!





together
we grow



"She is mine in a way that she
will never be hers, yet she is
hers in a way that she will never
be mine, and so together we are
motherhood."

- Desha Wood

