



# Presentation of Mary Academy

## December 2007 Newsletter

182 Lowell Road Hudson, NH 03051

Visit us on the website.

www.pmaschool.org

### *A Reflection from One of Our Poets in Grade 8*

I, being human, am walking to a place. I do not now where that place is, Nor do I know when I will get to that place, but I know it is there, and I know it is real. So, here I am, here an I, walking down a narrow path, and I stop, as I come to a fork in the road.

One path is smooth, not a pebble or a tree stump, not a hill, or even so much as a bump. Footprints cover every inch. Footprints of those before me. Then I look at the other path. Gnarled and twisted. There are hills and mountains, rocks and boulders, trees and branches, littering the path, but most of all, there is only one set of footprints.

Yet, somehow, this path, this long, bumpy, difficult path, seems right to me. I take a look back to the first path. It seems so simple to choose, the easier way. But I am caught between what seems right, and what is easy.

Suddenly, I feel a hand on my shoulder. I turn around, and there is a man, neither young nor old, of no nationality, race, no shape or size, yet he is there. Standing in my midst, he smiles at me, calmly, proudly, as if I am his own.

He speaks my name, and lightly grasps my hand. He

leads me ever so carefully towards the twisting, winding, bumpy path. I am frightened, and doubt strikes me. For a moment, I pull my hand away, and demand a name from this unknown figure. He turns once again to me, and with a kind face, he answers, "I Am."

His answer is short, quite bewildering, and something that somehow I know that I cannot understand. Yet, I trust this man, for reasons I cannot explain. I once again take his hand, and he continues to walk with me.

Down the path. I start off nervous, and cautious of every move I make, but soon I am at ease, sauntering down the path. Stepping over the pebbles and branches with great ease. But then, I come to a mountain. It seems so large, so terrifying the kind man warns me to stay with him, but I am too terrified of what will happen if I choose to go the way this man wants. I release my grip on his hand, and rush across to the path.

The smooth one, the easier one, I look behind me and see that the man is not following. I do not see him on either of the paths. Suddenly I feel incredibly lonely.

I worry that I will not be able to reach the path all by myself. But then I hear his voice, soft and soothing, calling my name.

I follow His voice until to my great joy, I am back on the path, standing before the same mountain, the one that had troubled me before and the kind man is by my side. He takes my hand once again, and the mountain seems to shrink in size. Suddenly I am not so scared. Then, inch by inch, step by step, stride by stride, I walk with him until I am over the mountain and the man is by my side.

Then my previous question returns to my mind. Again, I ask this kind stranger his name and again he responds, "I Am". I look at him with eyes full of questions, but he only smiles his proud, gentle smile, and he puts his hand around my shoulder. I take another step on the path and he is right there with me. And although I have left the path, the difficult one many times, to choose what is easy, I always find my way back following the sound of his voice. There are now two set of footprints on that path, and although I cannot fully comprehend who He is, where He is taking me or when I will get there, I will always know one thing for sure. He is. "I Am."



By: Kate Mosca, 8MD



**December 12, 2007  
Advent Concert  
for PMA Students  
in Grades 1-3  
Chorus and Flutist:s**

**Wednesday,  
January 2, 2008**  
Classes Resume at PMA

**REGISTRATION FORMS**  
Registration Forms Due on  
January 4, 2008

**Catholic School Week 2008**  
January 27 - February 2

#### **PLEASE SAVE**

- ◆ Box Tops for Education
- ◆ Campbell Soup Labels
- ◆ Used Printer Cartridges
- ◆ Old/Used Cell Phones
- ◆ Caps from Aluminum Beverage Cans

#### **PLEASE SAVE**

- ◆ **YARD SALE ITEMS:**  
As you clean up for the holidays, please consider saving your treasures for our **SPRING YARD SALE!**
- ◆ Used **GIFT BAG**  
Needed-any size, shape, style!

#### **Information Session for New Incoming Parents**

Friday, January 11  
11:30AM - 12:30PM  
Spread the word to  
prospective Parents!

# Calendar of Events for December 2007—Mark Your Calendars!

## **November 26– November 30 BOOK FAIR:**

For your shopping convenience, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open during Parent/Teacher Conference Day from 9 am to 7:30 pm! Do your Christmas shopping early. Books make great Christmas gifts!

## **Friday, November 30 (6:30 until 9:00 PM):**

**Moms Night Out!** Moms, come and share a relaxing evening with other PMA moms away from the children and family obligations. Bring your favorite appetizer along with a bottle of wine to share with other moms!

## **Wednesday, December 5:**

- ◆ PMA Faculty Meeting from 2:50 - 4:30 P.M.
- ◆ Parent Group meeting in the cafeteria at 7:00 P.M. All welcome to attend.

**Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19:** After School Volley Ball for students in Grades 6,7,8 from 2:40 until 4:00 PM.

## **Thursday, December 6:**

### **Feast of Saint Nicholas and Advent Stroll:**

- ◆ In honor of this great Saint, the Parent Group will be treating all the students on Thursday, December 6th.
- ◆ Mass for Students in Grades 1-3 at 1:00 PM. Parents welcome!
- ◆ The PMA Advent Stroll: Come and join us for this memorable occasion when we will walk together as a faith community on our beautiful grounds getting our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus. We will sing Christmas carols, light the Advent wreath, and conclude the evening with cookies and hot chocolate outdoors. All PMA families are encouraged to join us for this prayerful evening.

## **Friday, December 7**

Mass for Students in Grades 4-8 at 10:00 AM. Parents welcome!

## **Wednesday, December 12 from 6:30 – 7:30 P.M.: Advent Concert**

All the students in grades 1-3, the chorus and flutes will perform in the Advent/

Christmas Concert. Students attendance at the concert is essential, since all students have prepared



for weeks for this special event. The absence of one student impacts the entire performance. If for some important reason, your child is not able to attend the concert, please inform the office as soon as possible. All students must report to the school cafeteria by 6:15 PM on December 12th using the cafeteria entrance. The Chorus and flutes must report to the music room by 6:00 PM

### **DRESS ATTIRE FOR ADVENT CONCERT**

**Please Note: For the concert, the students are asked to wear Uniform Slacks or Jumpers with red, green, or white turtle necks.**

**SPECIAL REQUEST: We need every student in grades 1-3 to bring in 2 AA batteries for the concert. We will be using the batteries for a candle lighting ceremony during the concert.**

### **Progress Reports :**

All the students will receive their progress reports on December 12th. Please remember that this is a progress report and is not THE QUARTERLY REPORT CARD. The progress report reflects 5 weeks of school work since the last quarter ended. It serves to alert parents of a child's steady progress or the need for improvement while there is time.

A special request regarding report cards and progress reports: Parents, please refrain from filing complaints and concerns about your child's report card with the Principal before addressing the concerns with the classroom teacher. Your child's teacher is the best resource person for addressing questions or issues regarding your child's academic progress. A conference with the Principal is most appropriate when, after meeting with the teacher, you still have concerns regarding your child's progress.

## **Friday, December 14:**

All Lottery calendar ticket stubs and money are due in the school office. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need more calendars! Help us to reach our goal of \$10,000. The money raised through this fundraiser will be added to the PMA technology fund.

## **December 21:**

Red and Green 2.00 Dress Down Day for Technology! It's time to wear your favorite Christmas Colors!

## **December 24-January 1:**

Christmas Break—No School

### **New to PMA MONDAY IS FAMILY NIGHT at 142 Lowell Rd. in Hudson!**

Beginning Monday, December 10th, dinner at Valentino's will benefit the technology Program at PMA. For every dollar you spend at Valentino's, the owners will donate 20% back to PMA. Eat lunch Monday through Friday and we receive 10% back for our technology program! Invite your extended family to join you for supper! Please be sure to sign the back of the receipt with "PMA SUPPORT".

### **SCHOOL UNIFORMS & SCHOOL SHOES**

We have contracted with a new uniform company. Beginning in December, PMA families will be able to purchase their uniform items at Educational Outfitters, located at 14A Broad St. in Nashua, NH. Look for more information and a brochure that will be sent home next week.

Our contract with Harvey Uniforms will expire on June 1st. Harvey Uniforms will continue to carry a limited number of PMA uniform articles until June 1st.

Ecco shoes are still available for purchase through the school office. If you have any questions in regards to purchasing Ecco Shoes, please call Nancy Phaneuf in the school office at (603) 889-6054 x200.

## Lego League News

Congratulations to our Lego League Teams for their performances at their recent competition. Robo-Tech, the newer PMA team, was awarded 3rd place for Research and Project Presentation. The Majigerz, PMA's veteran team, took home the Champion's award. The Majigerz, will now advance to the state competition which will be held on Saturday, December 8th, at Nashua North High School.

A special thanks to our dedicated coaches; Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Urbach and Mr. Eckley

## "The Kids Go Shopping Christmas Boutique"!!

The In-School Holiday Shopping Store! It's Fun for Everyone!

The holidays are near and as a special service to your child, PMA will transform our present school store to a "The Kids Go Shopping Christmas Boutique"!! Children will have the opportunity to pick out their own inexpensive, "high quality" gifts for family and friends.

The store will be open every Monday and Friday during lunchtime for the students to do their Christmas shopping. Most gifts are priced between \$1.00-\$5.00.

The "The Kids Go Shopping Christmas Boutique" is designed to be a safe, child-centered experience where children can learn how to budget and spend wisely, while experiencing "the gift of giving."



## Thank You from Knights of Columbus

The Hudson Knights of Columbus are very grateful for your contributions to our Make a Difference Day Drive. The items that your students and staff collected helped stock the shelves at the St. Vincent DePaul Society Pantry. Many families in Hudson will be able to get the items that they need for their daily lives. Your school did a wonderful job. Please be sure to let your families and staff know that we really appreciate their efforts this year.

John Pierog, Chairman,  
Hudson Knights of Columbus



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS



In the event we experience inclement weather and it is necessary to either delay the opening of school or cancel the school day, the information will be posted on WMUR - NH channel 9, or WZID - FM 95.7. Please remember to look and listen for the Presentation of Mary Academy. PMA is listed separately from the Hudson school system. You can also call the school holiday/closing line at (603) 889-6054 ext. 456.

School opening delays will be implemented when deemed appropriate. In the event that there is a delay, the Before School Program will automatically be cancelled that morning. The After school program will still be offered in the afternoon.

The following is the expected arrival times for students for the various delay opening times:

Delay	<u>Gr. 6-8</u>	<u>Gr. 4-5</u>	<u>Gr. 1-3</u>	<u>Pre-K &amp; K</u>
1 hour	8:30am	8:45am	8:55am	9:15am
90 Minute	9:00am	9:15am	9:25am	9:45am

## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY PARKING:

We would like to remind PMA families, if you have a student that is enrolled in any of the activities that take place after school hours, i.e.: cheerleading, Lego league, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Art, Battle of the Books, etc., parents should not park and wait for their child/ren in the inner circle of the carline/pickup area. A "wait to pick up" line should begin at the top of the driveway and continue down the driveway, or parents can wait in the parking lot. Parents should only enter into the carline/pick-up circle area when the students leave the building and are present in the carline area. The inner circle of the carline/pick up area is reserved for the after school program families from 2:45pm to 6:00pm. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## REMINDERS

### Local Grocery Store Programs

#### HANNAFORD SCHOOL DOLLARS

Program ends on Saturday, December 1st. Please be sure to send in your school dollar receipts to the office by December 12th.

#### STOP & SHOP

#### BONUS BUCKS PROGRAM

This program runs through April 3, 2008. If you have not registered your Stop & Shop Card yet, you can stop by any customer service counter, submit your card ID number to Mrs. Phaneuf in the school office, or go on-line at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) to register. The PMA ID number is 04707.

#### STOP & SHOP and

#### SHAW'S CERTIFICATES

May be purchased through the business office all year long. PMA receives 5% on all certificates purchased through this program.

#### News from the PMA Alumni Committee

We are happy to announce that the PMA Alumni has donated a new flag pole for our grounds. The flag pole was erected last weekend! On Friday, December 7 we will host a special flag ceremony with NH Veterans to RAISE THE AMERICAN FLAG on the PMA Grounds. The flag pole is located behind the Statue of Mary in the