



Presentation of Mary Academy

February 2008 Newsletter

182 Lowell Road Hudson, NH 03051

Visit us on the web site.

www.pmaschool.org

Preparing Before Lent Begins

Taking some time to get ready for Lent will ensure that we aren't going to miss the first week or two of Lent, because we are just getting started. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, but we want to be ready to really take off on that day, rather than just beginning to think about Lent on that day. Part of what makes a vacation or a special anniversary so special is the build-up to it.

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and we should start with some preparations. "What does God want to give me this year?" This question may require that I slow down a bit and listen to my inner spirit. For example, even if I'm very busy, I realize I'm hungry when I hear my stomach start "growling." "What am I going to be doing on Ash Wednesday?" Too often, Ash Wednesday is like every other day, except that I manage to get to church and get ashes on my forehead. Is there anything else I can do on Ash Wednesday? How will fasting and abstaining happen for me, for my family on that special day?

It doesn't take a lot of time to prepare for the beginning of Lent. It just takes desire and focus. God can do so much with that. We can give God more of a space to touch our hearts if we begin to establish some simple patterns. We could wake up each morning, and for something like a half a minute to a minute, stand by the edge of our beds, and just ask the Lord for the grace to let this day be one in which I long for the beginning of Lent. Perhaps we need to ask for specific helps or graces to get ready to begin Lent. Whatever we try to say, our Lord can understand the Spirit trying to speak through our simple words. And all it takes is the time to find and put on our slippers. And each night, in the days ahead, we can practice giving thanks to God before I go to bed. This simple pattern, in the morning and evening can stir our spirits to look forward to and prepare for Lent, as a season of grace.

May our Lord bless us all on this journey ahead.

*Taken from the Praying Lent pages of Creighton University's Online Ministries web site:
www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with Permission.*

"Speaking about God is happiness for me."

Marie Rivier - Feast Day February 3

REGISTRATION FORMS AND DEADLINE

Parents, if you have not returned your child's registration form, please call the office and make arrangements with Mrs. Nolet about your intentions for your child's education for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Registration Forms & Fee
were due at the school office
on January 4, 2008.

Please Save

- ◆ Box Tops for Education
 - ◆ Campbell Soup Labels
 - ◆ Used Printer Cartridges
 - ◆ Old/Used Cell Phones
- Please visit
www.fundingfactory.com
for a complete listing of
qualifying items.
- ◆ Caps from Aluminum cans

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IS
JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2**

PMA: Lights the way!

*We have many spirit building
activities scheduled for
Catholic Schools Week!
Mark your calendars, and
join us for a fun-filled week!*

IMPORTANT REQUEST

Parents: when making payments to PMA for various items such as monthly lunch orders, after school payments, or other school events, we ask that you please pay each with a separate check or correct cash amounts for each item. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated

Calendar of Events for February 2008 and Catholic Schools Week!

Catholic Schools Week

January 27 - February 2, 2008

Theme: PMA - Lights the Way

Please don't forget to mark your calendars for Catholic Schools Week activities. The students, faculty and staff at Presentation of Mary Academy invite parents and friends to celebrate Catholic Schools Week at our school by participating in the activities scheduled for the week of January 27th through February 2nd.

Sunday, January 27: Parish Talks (Snow Day: Sunday, February 3)

On January 27, we will have students and parents promoting the school at St. Kathryn's and St. John's Parishes in Hudson during the regularly scheduled Sunday liturgies.

Parents, we need your help to promote our wonderful school to possible new parents and students. Spread the word, invite people you know to visit our school.

Monday, January 28:

- ◆ **Grades 4-8: Opening of the Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service** at 8:10 A.M. in the chapel for students and parents.
- ◆ **Grades 1-3: Opening of the Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service** at 8:30 A.M. in the chapel for students and parents.
- ◆ **Catholic Schools Button Check**
Classroom teachers will be doing a routine "**Button Check**". Students who wear their Catholic Schools Button during Catholic Schools Week will get a **Dress Down Day** on Friday, February 22, 2008! Be sure to purchase a **Catholic Schools Week Button** (\$1.00) before January 25, 2008. You must wear your **BUTTON** during Catholic Schools Week in order to qualify for the **DRESS DOWN DAY** in February!
- ◆ Grade 4 -Tea with PM retired sisters at 1:30pm

Tuesday, January 29:

- ◆ **Mass for Students in Grades 4-8 at 10:00 A.M.** Parents, please join us for the celebration of the Catholic School Week Liturgy.
- ◆ **Student and Staff Appreciation Breakfast** sponsored by the PMA Parent Group!

Wednesday, January 30:

- ◆ **Moms and Muffins, Breakfast with Your Daughters:**
It's MOM and Daughter Appreciation Breakfast! All moms and daughters are invited to come and have a muffin, coffee, and juice at school. Muffins will be served from 7:00 until 7:30 A.M.! Come and join other PMA families for breakfast! The Breakfast is sponsored by the PMA Faculty and Staff!

Please feel free to have your child accompanied by a special friend or relative if mom cannot make it for breakfast!

- ◆ **PMA Spelling Bee:** Students in grades 4-8 will participate in the annual Spelling Bee. The bee will take place in the Auditorium at 9:00 A.M. Parents welcome! The top student will represent PMA in the Regional Spelling Bee in March.
- ◆ Grade 1 Talent Show 1:30pm
- ◆ Grade 8 trip - Young Catholic Leadership Conference at Trinity High School, Manchester

Thursday, January 31:

- ◆ **Dads and Donuts, Breakfast with Your Sons:**
It's Dad and Son Appreciation Breakfast! All dads and sons are invited to come and have a donut, coffee, and juice at school. Breakfast will be served from 7:00 until 7:30 A.M.! Come and join other PMA families for breakfast! The Breakfast is sponsored by the PMA Faculty and Staff!

Please feel free to have your child accompanied by a special friend or relative if dad cannot make it for breakfast!

- ◆ **PMA Student Enrichment Program: Laser Show:** The PMA Parent Group will be hosting this enrichment program for all PMA students.
- ◆ **PMA Roller Kingdom Night 6:30-8:30 P.M.:** The Parent Group is sponsoring a fun night of roller skating at Roller Kingdom for all PMA students and parents. You don't want to miss this fun evening at Roller Kingdom. The arena has been reserved exclusively for PMA families and students.

Roller Kingdom Admission is \$3.00 in advance or \$4.00 at the door.
F.Y.I parents: Roller Kingdom now offers free wireless internet access.

Friday, February 1:

- ◆ **PMA Health Awareness Day:**
Only healthy foods allowed into the building today! No junk food! Salad on the House for all students at lunch time. All students must wear their PMA gym outfits today! All the students will participate in a mini-aerobics class at various times throughout the school day!

Friday Evening Fun: It's Bingo Night At PMA!

Another fun event sponsored by the PMA Parent Group! Come and play Bingo with other families at PMA (6:30-8:00 P.M.) in the school cafeteria! Prizes will be homemade treats supplied by the PMA Faculty. More information to come home in January!

February Events

Wednesday: February 6:

- ◆ Ash Wednesday: Mass at 10:00am for grades 4-8.
Prayer Service for Grades 1-3 1:00pm
- ◆ Faculty Meeting in the Library from 2:50 - 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, February 9:

- ◆ Father/Daughter Valentine Dance at St. Kathryn's. 6:00-8:00pm.

Wednesday, February 13:

- ◆ Parent Group Meeting at 7:00 P.M

Thursday, February 14:

Happy Saint Valentine's Day! Let's honor St. Valentine by wearing our favorite red **shirt or sweater** with the **school uniform!**

Friday, February 15:

- ◆ Session 2 of Enrichment Courses ends for the Junior High

Monday, February 18:

Presidents Day! PMA **will be in session** on Monday, February 18, 2008.

Friday, February 22:

Students who wore their Catholic Schools Button during Catholic Schools Week will receive a **Dress Down Day** on Friday, February 22, 2008!

February 25-29: No School! Vacation Week! ENJOY!

Hello from the Parent Group:

Next Parent Group Meeting: Wednesday, February 13, at 7:00 P.M. in the cafeteria.

- ◆ Skiing at Pats Peak!! Lift tickets are \$19 for juniors, and \$25 for adults. For a lift and rental ticket the cost is \$33. For more information, please call Lisa Garand or Kim Coumas.
- ◆ Teacher Appreciation Breakfast during Catholic Schools Week. This will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 29th. Thank you to all those who volunteered to help deliver breakfast to over 400 students and faculty members.
- ◆ Family Bingo Night to conclude Catholic Schools Week on Friday, February 1st. Come and win a delicious homemade treat made by the PMA Faculty.
- ◆ Father/Daughter Dance on Saturday, Feb. 9th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm at St. Kathryn Parish. Tickets are on sale. For more information contact Chris Thompson.
- ◆ PMA night at Roller Kingdom, Thursday, Jan. 31st. 6:30 - 8:30. Flyers to purchase tickets went home last week. Be sure to order your tickets in advance and save \$1.00.
- ◆ Plan Ahead: The 8th Grade Graduation Dance will be held on Friday, May 23rd.

Parent Group Contact Information:

**Lisa Garand (603) 886-1174 or
momof2girls@comcast.net**
Chris Thompson (603) 505-0031
Kim Coumas (603) 881-9341
Patty Sherburne (603) 886-7168

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

**Important dates and events
to help you plan ahead!**

Entrance Testing for Grade 1 -
Friday - March 14th

ATTENTION PRESENT

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS:

There will be no school for present Kindergarten students on March 14th due to entrance testing for grade one.

On May 9th, the Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:30 A.M. due to the open house scheduled in the afternoon for the kindergarten students entering our school in the fall. The after-school program will not be available for the kindergarten students on May 9, 2008.

**FREQUENTLY USED PMA PHONE EXTENSIONS
(603) 889-6054**

Extension

- 200 - School Secretary - Mrs. Phaneuf
- 201 - Principal - Sr. Maria Rosa
- 202 - Vice Principal - Sr. Claudette
- 203 - Admissions - Mrs. Nolet
- 204 - Business Office—Mrs. DesRuisseaux
- 207 - Extended Day Program - Ms. McManus
- 455 - Absentee or Tardy Arrival Reporting
- 456 - School Closing or Delay Information Line

AFTER-SCHOOL PICK-UP & CAR LINE REMINDERS

- ◆ Any student left at PMA after the 2:45 designated end of car line time will be sent to the after-school program. Parents who arrive late to pick up their child/ren will need to sign their child out with after-school program personnel and will be charged the appropriate fee.
- ◆ When picking up students from programs that are conducted after school, (ie. Cheerleading, Art, Martial Arts, etc.) we ask that parents **do not** park in the circle to wait for their dismissal. **The circle is reserved for the after-school program only** after 2:45pm. Parents can either wait in the parking lot and walk over to get their child or park in a line going down the driveway and proceed into the circle only when the children come out for pickup.
- ◆ We ask that parents do not leave their vehicle unattended at any time when they are located in the line of flow for car line. If for any reason you need to leave your vehicle to come into the school, please park your car in a parking space. We have noticed a number of vehicles being left in car line unattended and it disturbs the flow of car line. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- ◆ Parents should not wait outside the locker room entrance to pick up their child. All students are sent to the car line pickup area and parents should drive into the circle to pick up their child.
- ◆ Please remember when driving up the school driveway that it is a school zone, and speeds should be kept to a maximum of 20mph.

If you have any questions about car line and pick up procedures, please call Mrs. Phaneuf in the school office (603) 889-6054 ext. 200.



**INCLEMENT WEATHER
SCHOOL CLOSING & DELAY REMINDERS**

School closings or delays will be displayed on WMUR - NH Channel 9 and will be announced on WZID, FM - 95.7. A message will also be left on the PMA school closing and delay line (603) 889-6054 ext. 456. When viewing the listing on WMUR or listening to WZID, please be sure to look or listen for the Presentation of Mary Academy. PMA is listed separately from the Hudson School system. The information is also carried on the WMUR website under school closings.

IMPORTANT: IN THE EVENT OF A DELAYED OPENING, THE BEFORE-SCHOOL SERVICE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. Please check the December newsletter for arrival times if there should be a school delay. Thank you.

Ash Wednesday "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps." (Luke 9:23)

Reflection.

WHAT TO GIVE UP . . .

- Give up complaining.focus on gratitude.
- Give up pessimism. become an optimist.
- Give up harsh judgments . . .think kindly thoughts.
- Give up worry.trust Divine Providence.
- Give up discouragement. . . .be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness.turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred. return good for evil.
- Give up negativism be positive.
- Give up anger. be more patient.
- Give up pettiness.become mature.
- Give up gloom.enjoy the beauty that is all around you.
- Give up jealousy. pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping. control your tongue.
- Give up sin. turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up. hang in there!

Lenten Action.

Think of a person with whom you have a strained relationship and make some gesture toward improving that relationship.

Prayer

Direct our actions, Lord, by your holy inspiration and carry them forward by your gracious help, that all our works may begin in you and by you be happily ended. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.
Amen

**The Foundress of the sisters of the Presentation of Mary:
Blessed Anne Marie Rivier
"I feel such zeal to work for the Glory of God!"**

Marie Rivier was born 1768 in Montpezat, France. A bad fall at 16 months of age left her unable to walk. Marie's mother carried her to the statue of the Pieta daily. Little Marie believed: The Blessed Virgin will cure me and I shall gather little ones and tell them to love her! **Sept. 8th, 1774:** 4 years later, Marie was healed. These years of schooling **at the feet of the statue of Mary** marked Marie's life forever.

By age 18: Marie devoted herself entirely to evangelization and care of the poor. At this time, the French Revolution broke out and terror reigned. Priests were executed, religious communities dispersed. Religious action was deemed suspicious. Despite this, Marie continued to preach Jesus Christ at the peril of her own life. At the height of the Revolution, against all rules of human prudence, Marie Rivier founded her institute.

Nov. 21, 1776: on the Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple, Marie and 4 companions, consecrated themselves to God. The new community **grew quickly** despite great poverty.

Feb.3,1838: Marie Rivier died. Her boundless zeal led Pope Pius IX to call her The Woman Apostle. Pope John Paul II beatified her May 23, 1982. During her lifetime, Marie Rivier founded 141 houses. She had predicted: My daughters will sail the oceans! This prediction **came true in 1853** when the Sisters arrived in Canada. Today, the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary serve in 18 countries of the world.



PRAYER
**to obtain favors through the
intercession of
Blessed Marie RIVIER**

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the extraordinary gift of faith of your servant, Marie Rivier.

By her untiring zeal to make you known and loved, grant us the favor we humbly seek of your all-powerful love.

Lord Jesus, we praise you for the unfailing trust in your Providence of your servant, Marie Rivier. By her lifelong desire to bring all things under your Lordship, grant us the favor we humbly seek of your merciful heart.

Holy Spirit, we praise you for the outpouring of your love upon your servant, Marie Rivier, and for the endless favors granted her. By her one desire that your will be done on earth as in heaven, grant us the favor we humbly seek of your loving kindness.

Most Holy Virgin Mary, we praise you for the love and protection that surrounded Marie Rivier and her Community. By her filial love for you look upon us with mercy and obtain from the most Holy Trinity the favor we humbly seek.